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Artsy BOUTIQUE ESCAPES SOCALSTYLE

BY LINDA LANG

THERE ARE MEGA-RESORTS, LARGE AND MEDIUM-SIZED luxury hotels, and then there are small boutiques and B&Bs. All can be five-star and offer a complete menu of luxurious perks. While the larger properties are often part of a top-name chain with a long list of amenities, most boutiques are individually-owned and, due to the smaller number of guests, are able to connect with you more personally, more quickly. The décor is decidedly individual, usually reflecting the area's historical ambience blended with the decorative ideas of the owners and their professional designers.

As this issue is dedicated to things artistic, we decided to check out some of SoCal's artsy boutique properties and discovered a considerable selection of excellent, individually-designed smaller hotels providing distinctive character, laid-back sophistication and all the amenities required to make your getaway totally terrific. 🍷



Moroccan tile enriches the lobby ambience at Casa Laguna.

© COURTESY OF CASA LAGUNA HOTEL & SPA

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LAGUNA BEACH

→ Perched high above the Pacific is **CASA LAGUNA**, one of Laguna Beach's most beautiful historic gems. Dating back to the early 1900s, the hotel's Mission-style buildings were updated frequently during several ownerships, but it wasn't until 1946 that it debuted as Casa Laguna.

In 1977, the hotel was converted into a B&B and, in 2000, the buildings were restored to their original Mission-style and Casa Laguna was named a "Registered Historic Structure" by the City of Laguna Beach. In 2014, it was purchased by a PRG partnership that restored the Spanish Colonial architecture and redesigned the inn as a luxury boutique hotel. Designer Martyn Lawrence Bullard oversaw an extensive restoration of the 23 guest rooms and lobby and in April 2016, the hotel reopened with Moorish tiles and ceramics complementing custom fabric prints and an eclectic array of furnishings. The striking spa features indoor and outdoor services, and in addition to a spa menu, Casa Laguna offers a daily complimentary continental breakfast featuring homemade breads and pastries, muffins, and quiches.

There's no better time for art aficionados to visit Laguna Beach than during the summer's Festival of the Arts and its internationally-renowned Pageant of the Masters July 5 – September 1. The town is alive with visitors perusing the shops and galleries, meeting with artists, and recapping the day over music in the patios of the wide variety of excellent restaurants, watching blazing sunsets slip into the sea.

casalaguna.com | 949.494.2996



© COURTESY OF CASA LAGUNA HOTEL & SPA



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Each room has its own décor; Simple touches can be useful as well as decorative; Guests enjoy a tranquil pool area amid lush gardens overlooking the Pacific; All bathrooms have been redesigned with creative touches; The grounds are designed to complement the Spanish Mission architecture; The spacious suites feature every amenity.



ENCHANTING ESCAPES



Whimsical Holiday in PALM SPRINGS

→ In downtown Palm Springs is **HOLIDAY HOUSE PALM SPRINGS**, a 28-room, adults-only boutique hotel designed by renowned architect Herbert W. Burns, a leading influencer in creating the iconic Palm Springs mid-century modern style. When Holiday House opened in 1951, it was known as the newest luxury hotel in Palm Springs and for years catered to an exclusive clientele.

After numerous ownership changes, Holiday House Palm Springs re-opened in 2017 after being reconceived by a team headed noted interior designer Mark D. Sikes. Today, the property embodies its original spirit with mid-century-inspired elements accented by whimsical touches. Throughout are various works of art including some by David Hockney, Roy Liechtenstein, Herb Ritts, Alex Katz and Mr. Brainwash, and a garden sculpture by Donald Sultan.

To encourage the communal environment, there's a lovely pool, shuffleboard court and lots of outdoor seating. None of the guest rooms have TVs or phones. Each is limited to two guests and has been totally redone with oversized showers, custom textiles, curated art collection, and extensive mini bar. The Pantry, open daily from 11 am - 4 pm, features simple breakfast, lunch and brunch menus. The bar remains open until 11 pm nightly.

holidayhouseps.com | 760.320.8866 ❖



© COURTESY OF HOLIDAY HOUSE PALM SPRINGS



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Creative attention embraces every room element; Art collections include works by David Hockney, Roy Liechtenstein, Herb Ritts, Alex Katz and Mr. Brainwash; Small kitchen nooks are as artistic as useful; Each guestroom has its own furnishings and décor; Blue tones create a dramatic theme throughout the interior and exterior; The signed sculpture, Big Red Poppies, by Donald Sultan was added in 2016; The pool is a popular area for socializing with other guests.