



THE ART OF THE MOVEMENT

What is about Palm Springs that keeps driving waves of pleasure-seekers looking to slow down, drop out, go a little wild? **Tina Alexander** meets the latest arrivals who are reinventing the desert oasis all over again. | Photographs by **Chris McPherson**



PARKER PALM SPRINGS

Palm Springs is reachable by plane, but everyone who visits on their first visit you should probably drive. There are a few reasons, the primary one being the windmills. Right before you get off the plane, there are hundreds of them, maybe thousands. From there they look like cranes on a hill, up close, the plane propellers on wheels. Driving through the wind farms, you've got to be careful and stay above the road by the Santa Ana winds. Power radio stations jam and turn to static. Soon you're surrounded by six-foot-tall, man-made machines planted like crops across a wide expanse of unshaded desert. The sight, simultaneously ominous and beautiful, makes you hold your breath. But then you arrive in Palm Springs proper and exhale, because here in the tranquil, hot valley—a strange little civilization inhabited by very tanned Midcentury Modern homes, and spend their days in pools with the same time and devotion that people elsewhere consent to ignore. The overall effect is like passing through a time warp and touching down in a colony left over from the 1940s.

"This is Mary," John says. I meet John in the shallow end of the pool at L'Horizon, a newly opened hotel along Palm Canyon Drive. John's hair and skin are golden, his teeth and tennis visor very white. John works in men's apparel and is one-fourth of two couples that drive from L.A. on a steady weekend. The women in John's group are both named Stephanie. One of the Stephanies is wearing a strange-looking suit and reading a pink book. (I open closer examination: Canadian author's *Killing Marvin*.) This Stephanie moved to L.A. from Wall Street eight years ago. "And this is our fourth time here," she coos from her lounge chair.

John and Stephanie are part of what the locals are calling the renaissance of Palm Springs. Once a sanctuary for the Hollywood set, the city is again attracting the sorts of people who have the unique power to chart destinations and lead their followers into the desert. Two years ago Leonardo DiCaprio bought a house here. Last May, Nicolas Cage, the creative director of Louis Vuitton, staged the brand's most show at Bob Hope's former estate. That same weekend Thomas Middleditch, the star of HBO's *Silicon Valley*, was seen lounging by the pool at the Parker Palm Springs. Days before I



A view of the Sun Jambalaya from the Parker.

...and the rest of the world, not to mention, and Sweden escaping harsh winters back home; retired actresses and modern tech moguls. "You have the gaps, the gaps, and everyone in between," says Patrick Jordan, a real estate broker who shows me Bob Hope's Lantier-designed spa of a house—currently on sale for \$25 million—perched high above the city.

IF THE NEW PALM SPRINGS HAS A SET OF AMBASSADORS, they might be the three P's. They don't call Texas Turk; as the best climbs, you retreat to the pool in aid of sunning and behind the other pool people; in the afternoon everyone lides out in air-conditioning for spa treatments, also very applicable. (Continued on page 117)

THE DETAILS Where to stay, eat, shop, and drink, page 117



A view of the Sun Jambalaya from the Parker.

the Details

Our guide to this month's featured destinations, including the best places to eat, sleep, and explore.

SVALBARD, NORWAY
(Art in the Arctic p. 45)

GETTING THERE
Finnair, SAS, and Norwegian Air fly to the Longyearbyen airport via a stopover in Oslo, Tromsø, or Helsinki.

TOUR OPERATOR
Red Savannah A six-day tour of the main island includes snowmobile rides, polar bear sightings, and accommodations in an abandoned radio station. redsavannah.com; from \$5,995 per person.

RESTAURANT
Huset An old mining complex was transformed in 1977 to create this excellent restaurant serving reindeer, seal, and other seasonal fare. longyearbyen.huset.com; price free \$60.

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES
Galleri Svalbard A space that shows works by Norwegian artists like Kåre Tveit as well as maps and lithographs used in an 1838 expedition. longyearbyen.galleri-svalbard.no
Kulturhuset This Longyearbyen cultural center hosts various concerts, lectures, and festivals throughout the year. kultursentrum.no
Munshill Svalbard The world's northernmost art museum shows contemporary works like Joan Jonas's *Glozier*, which was inspired by the Arctic landscape. longyearbyen.munshill.no
Svalbard Museum Opened in 1970, this space features exhibits on whaling, mining, and the region's eclectic history. longyearbyen.svalbardmuseum.no

RESTAURANTS
Edinbane Inn Scottish cuisine and twice-weekly jam sessions bring cheer to all who dine here. edinbaneinn.co.uk; entrées \$19-\$32
Kinloch Lodge Marcella Tully's tasting menus feature Scottish classics updated with Brazilian flourishes that reflect his upbringing. kinloch-lodge.co.uk; price free \$100.

ISLE OF SKYE, SCOTLAND
(Of Earth and Skye p. 82)

HOTELS & HOUSES
Cullin Hills Hotel A lovely inn overlooking Portree Bay, with gorgeous views of the Red Cullin hills. cullinhills-hotel-skye.co.uk; doubles from \$115
House Over-By Six upscale suites overlooking the sea, right next to the Three Chimneys restaurant. threechimneys.co.uk; doubles from \$525
Kinloch Lodge Rooms at this refurbished property in Skye offer super-king-size beds with lamb's-wool blankets. kinloch-lodge.co.uk; doubles from \$300
Skeabost House Hotel This Victorian hotel is on Loch Snizort and offers daily trips on the owner's luxury yacht. skeabost-hotel.co.uk; doubles from \$240
Skeabost Wood Cottage One of the many rustic houses in Skye built by Rural Design Architects. holidaylettings.com; from \$120 for up to four.

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RESTAURANTS & BARS
Bar Cabinet Mile End's upscale craft-cocktail destination with expertly mixed drinks (left) has patrons begging to stay past its 2 a.m. closing time. barcabinet.com
Buvette Chez Simone Delicious tapas and a comprehensive wine list make this wine bar a must-visit. buvettechezsimone.com; tapas \$10-\$25
Casa del Popolo Part music venue, part vegetarian café, this

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Head of the Moment (p. 88)

RESTAURANTS & BARS
Birba A busy garden eatery with a well-priced farm-to-table Italian menu. birba.com; entrées \$10-\$22
Boatlegger TIM A dimly lit "lunch" bar owned by photographer Jaime Kowall (left). boatlegger.com
Melvin's Come for the Bamble Bamble and furore-dad waters; stay for dancing in the Casablanca lounge. melvins.com; entrées \$23-\$43
SO PA Giacomo Pettinari, an alum of Spain's El Bulli, mans L'Horizon's open-air restaurant. horizonpalmssprings.com; entrées \$27-\$55
Workshop Kitchen & Bar A minimal space where the fries are cooked in duck fat. workshopkitchen.com; entrées \$22-\$32

HOTELS
L'Horizon Celebrity designer Steve Hermans has reimaged postwar bungalows by renowned Midcentury architect William Cody. horizonpalmssprings.com; doubles from \$665
Parker Palm Springs A lush compound with playful Jonathan Adler-designed rooms. parkerpalmssprings.com; doubles from \$425
Sparrows Lodge Modern rustic cabins for laid-back but aesthetically inclined travelers. sparrowslodge.com; doubles from \$199
Two Bunch Palms A tranquil hideaway in nearby Desert Hill Springs with restorative, lithium-rich waters. twobunchpalms.com; doubles from \$229

ZIMBABWE
(Heavenly Creatures p. 104)

GETTING THERE
Most major airlines fly into Johannesburg, South Africa. From there, travelers can connect either to Harare or to Victoria Falls.

VISAS & SECURITY
U.S. citizens can obtain a single-entry visa valid for 30 days for \$30 on arrival at the airport. Although the U.S. State Department warns that Zimbabwe "should avoid all crowds, public demonstrations, and protests," the country is safe for visitors, particularly on safari.

TOUR OPERATOR
Expert Africa Guests on this nine-day safari stay at the Linkwasha Camp, Ruckomechi, and Victoria Falls Safari Club. expertafrica.com; from \$5,457 per person

HOTELS & CAMPS
Amanzi Lodge A 16-room boutique hotel surrounded by gardens and waterfalls. amanzilodge.com; from \$300
Banfi Lodge Eleven rooms in a historic building in Bulawayo. banfilodgehotel.com; doubles from \$122
Wilderness Safaris Linkwasha Camp An airy luxury camp (right) with a pool and tents overlooking a water hole perfect for year-round game viewing. wilderness-safaris.com; from \$572 per person
Victoria Falls Hotel An Edwardian structure that served as lodging for workers on the never-completed Cape-to-Cairo Railway is now one of the most luxurious stays in Zimbabwe. victoriafallshotel.com; doubles from \$305

Crystal Cruises The largest luxury passenger ship ever to sail through the Northwest Passage arrives this summer. The voyage departs from Anchorage and ends in New York City. crystalcruises.com; from \$21,755
One Ocean Expeditions Choose from an array of activities, from wildlife encounters to history lessons. oneoceanexpeditions.com; from \$5,195
Polar Cruises Offers a range of Northwest Passage trips through operators like One Ocean Expeditions. polarcruises.com
Quark Expeditions The Arctic Circumnavigation tour is the most ambitious Northwest Passage cruise offered. It lasts 75 days, with 18 in the Passage. quarkexpeditions.com; from \$83,995



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