

LOS ANGELES CONFIDENTIAL

THE
REAL ESTATE
& DESIGN
ISSUE

KIMORA LEE
SIMMONS
ON HAVING IT ALL

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MATT KEMP, TAMARA
DANICA PATRICK, JOSH
AND OLIVIA



DESERT ROSE

A quick frolic from LA, Palm Springs epitomizes elegant relaxation. *By Syeda Ali*

AS YOU HEAD DEEP into the desert, you'd be forgiven for mistaking Palm Springs for a lovely, sun-drenched mirage rising from the sand. This glittering city brings retro-glam and luxe living to the Coachella Valley.

WHERE TO STAY

Budget bohemians flock in droves to the über-hip **Ace Hotel & Swim Club** (760-325-9900; acehotel.com), which debuted just last year with chic midcentury-modern accommodations starting at a surprisingly wallet-friendly \$109. Book a room with a private patio and a quirky igloo-shaped fireplace, then get ready to rock 'n' roll because the options for fun abound at this summer camp for grown-ups. Play Ping-Pong on the porch and grab a drink at the Caravan bar; if you want to do a little shopping, pedal into town on a free bike. Prefer to lay low on-site? Let the Ace staff set you up with all the fixin's for your own barbecue in front of one of the outdoor fire pits. Be dazzled by the rhinestone-encrusted pool

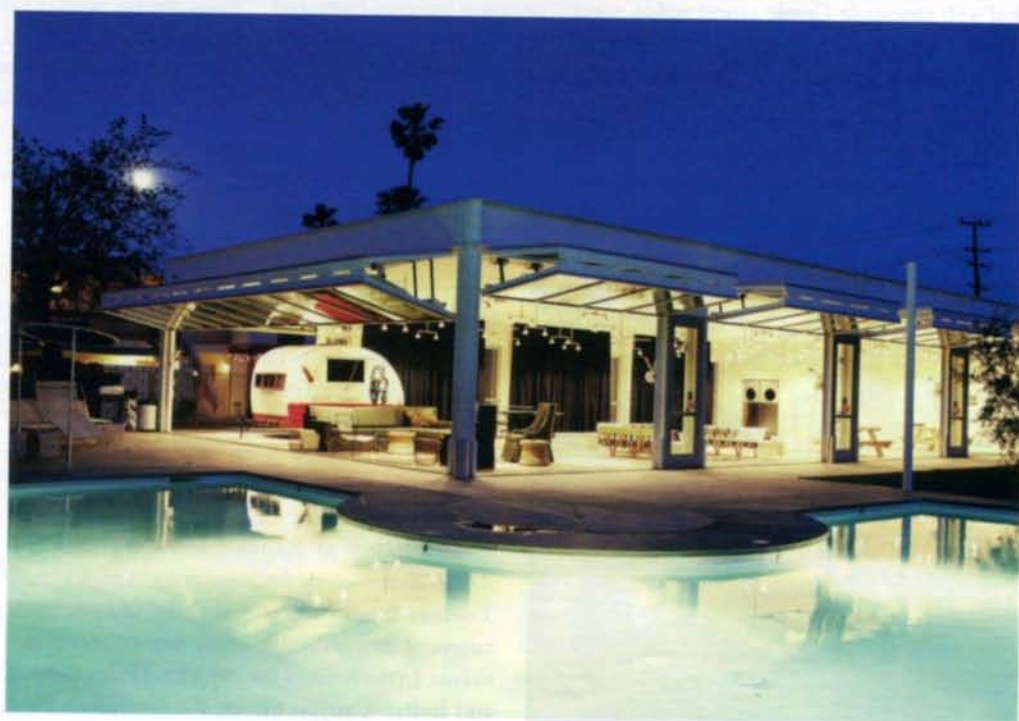
table in the glittering lobby of the **Riviera Resort & Spa** (866-588-8311; psriviera.com), which transports old Hollywood glam to the sunny locale. Curl up on a mod sofa under one of the Rat Pack images adorning the nooks, sunbathe by the pool next to a retro poster of bikini-clad pinup girls lining the cabanas and send your worries away while unwinding at the Buddha Lounge at the mammoth palm-tree-studded SpaTerre. Try to score a patio room with a hammock at the **Parker Palm Springs** (760-770-5000; theparkerpalmsprings.com); all rooms have Hermès and Molton Brown products and whimsical Jonathan Adler décor. In addition to the requisite tennis, nearby golf course and swimming,



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Riviera Resort & Spa; Parker Palm Springs; Ace Hotel & Swim Club



the Parker also offers croquet and petanque, but for a really quaint experience, order the signature muddled lemonade at the old-fashioned stand by the pool. The lush grounds of the **Viceroy Palm Springs** (760-320-4117; viceroypalmsprings.com) make it a chic desert oasis. The Hollywood Regency-style property has elegant villas with private patios, ideal for large groups. The sleek **Hotel Zoso** (760-325-9676; hotelzoso.com), just a stone's throw from downtown Palm Springs, is a swanky 162-room boutique property with unbelievably spacious accommodations, sexy red and black décor, piles of luscious pillows, rain showers and funky, colorful artwork scattered throughout.



WHAT TO DO

Believe it or not, despite its desert setting, Palm Springs is a golfer's paradise. Check in to the **Desert Springs JW Marriott Resort & Spa** (800-331-3112; desertspringsresort.com), where the lush, Ted Robinson-designed fairways wind their way around a series of picturesque waterways.

If you can afford the membership (or are lucky enough to have the right kind of friends), hit the links at the **Bighorn Golf Club** (760-341-4653; bighornclub.com). Members have free reign over a 40,000-square-foot clubhouse, a spa and salon, tennis courts, five restaurants and private-jet access. If you really take a liking to the property, you can even invest in a second home here: The Bighorn residences showcase distinctive architecture against stunning natural beauty. If fees aren't your thing, a worthy public course is the 36-hole **Indian Wells Golf Resort** (760-346-4653; indianwellsresort.com), home of Clive Clark's Celebrity Course. The resort's 53,000-square-foot IW Club is also a marvelous event venue—destination wedding, anyone?

The 2,200-acre **The Club at PGA West** (800-742-9378; pgawest.com) has three private courses and three public courses, all of which are world class. Given Palm Springs' prime golf real estate, it's no wonder the area is host to the **Bob Hope Classic** (bhcc.com) each winter at local courses. Go see some of the best ladies in the sport when the **Kraft Nabisco Championship** (760-324-4546; kncgolf.com)—the first major LPGA Tour tournament of the year—takes place at the Dinah Shore Tournament Course at Mission Hills Country Club March 29–April 4.

From April 9 to 11, sip great vino at the **Coachella Wine Festival** (760-799-7076; coachellawinefestival.com) at the Miramonte Resort & Spa. Attendees sample boutique wines from California and beyond as they nibble on bites from the valley's renowned chefs.

Palm Springs is also an unexpected cultural haven. The annual **Palm Springs International**

Film Festival (psfilmfest.org) brings such A-list stars as Leonardo DiCaprio, Anne Hathaway, Sean Penn and Clint Eastwood to the desert at the beginning of each year, and coming up from April 16 to 18 is the renowned annual **Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival** (coachella.com). This year's lineup includes Jay-Z, Gorillaz, Pavement, Thom Yorke and Muse. And in May the **Arthur Lyons Film Noir Festival** (arthurlyonsfilmnoir.com) at the Camelot Theatre celebrates its 10th anniversary.

If you're in the mood for some relaxation—albeit with a twist—schedule an appointment at **Palm Springs Yacht Club** (760-770-5000; palm Springs-yachtclub.com) at the Parker Palm Springs. Fresh from a revamp last year, the PSYC bills itself as the spa that “takes itself less seriously.” Its manifesto declares, “We believe you are only young once... but you can be immature forever.” Words we can easily live by. For true decadence, take a session in the open-air yoga studio in a sumptuous maharaja-style tent, indulge in the Creature from the Blue Lagoon seaweed wrap, then finish your day with tea and sandwiches at the Deck outdoor café.

When the sun goes down, the nightlife keeps things plenty hot in Palm Springs. At **Dink's Restaurant & Ultra Lounge** (760-327-7676; dinksrestaurant.com) the drinks are divine, the majestic mountain views are sublime and the private cabanas add a touch of romance. **Costas Nightclub** (760-341-1795; costasnightclub.com) was named the area's nightclub of the year, and it's easy to see why given the sizzling dance music and long lines to get into the packed space. For an evening with that special someone, head back to the Viceroy Palm Springs to sink into the leather seats at the **Citron Bar** (760-320-4117; viceroypalmsprings.com). Sip a Chili Martini (vodka, Grand Marnier, white pepper, raspberry purée and pepper flakes) in the lemon-hued bar or step outside to relax by the fire pit. ★



FROM ABOVE: Desert Springs JW Marriott Resort & Spa's golf course; Parker Yacht Club spa in Palm Springs; the crowd at Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival. LEFT: A newly remodeled home at Bighorn Golf Club