

# THE *Hollywood* REPORTER

WHAT'S BLOCKING  
*BRIDESMAIDS 2*

SEACREST OUT  
AT *IDOL*?

## THE GUILT & GLORY OF HOUSEWIVES

**HOUSEWIVES' ALL-STARS**  
from left:  
*Vicki Gunwoalson,*  
*Ramona Singer,*  
*Caroline Manzo,*  
*NeNe Leakes* and  
*Kyle Richards.*

HOW THE ONE-PERCENTERS (AND WANNABES)  
WHO POPULATE THE *REAL HOUSEWIVES* FRANCHISE  
HAVE TURNED BEING BAD INTO BIG BUSINESS  
FOR BRAVO — AND THEMSELVES

The colorful facade of The Saguaro, bowing in February, initially raised red flags with locals.



# THE HOT SPOTS OF PALM SPRINGS

On the eve of the town's film festival, a look at the sexiest places to sleep and eat in the desert oasis (with a few secrets from industry fans)

By Leslie Bruce



Norma's dinner menu offers elevated comfort fare, including a short-rib patty melt.

**W**ITH THE PALM SPRINGS International Film Festival set to run Jan. 5 to 16 — and with the annual Coachella music and arts fest coming in April — it's high season for visiting the desert city 116 miles outside L.A., which is growing in popularity every year. Virgin America recently launched direct service from San Francisco and same-plane flights from JFK. (United Airlines long has run a costly L.A.-to-Palm Springs flight, but producer Jerry Weintraub — who winters at his estate in the posh Bighorn community in nearby Palm Desert — says he travels by private jet.) The area also is heating up with a slew of new or soon-to-open hotels, from design-centric boutiques to a long-awaited luxury resort.

Set to bow in February is **THE SAGUARO** (rooms from \$169, 1800 E. Palm Canyon Drive), from the developers who opened Palm Springs' hipster-heavy **ACE HOTEL & SWIM CLUB** in 2009. A former Holiday Inn, the 249-room property boasts 14 vibrant exterior colors inspired by the area's flowers, a scheme

that initially set off alarms with city planners as being too flashy. (They have since approved the plan.) The Southwest-inspired resort will be home to the first California outpost for Food Network's *The Next Iron Chef* winner **Jose Garces**, owner of the Philadelphia destination restaurant *Amada*.

Eleven miles away in Desert Hot Springs, interior designer **Tracy Beckmann** and furniture designer **Ryan Trowbridge** have transformed the Desert Hot Springs Motel, built in 1947, into **HOTEL LAUTNER** (from \$200, 67710 San Antonio St.) after a 3½-year renovation. Originally meant to anchor a community designed by **John Lautner**, the four-unit hotel allows architecture buffs to spend the night in a miniature version of the futuristic concrete spaces the master is known for, such as the privately owned Elrod House nearby, famous for its cameo in the film *Diamonds Are Forever*.

After a four-year delay, **THE RITZ-CARLTON RANCHO MIRAGE** (68900 Frank Sinatra Drive), about 10 miles southeast of downtown Palm Springs, will open in fourth-quarter 2012.



Hathaway

Formerly The Lodge (site of the 2003 ABC miniseries *Trista & Ryan's Wedding*), the luxury resort will feature a restaurant from chef **Joachim Splichal** (who owns the L.A.-based Patina

Restaurant Group, which includes popular LACMA hangout Ray's and Stark Bar), a La Prairie spa and will even offer guests a stargazing constellation concierge and hiking butler. Veteran film publicist **Jeff Hill** recommends "hiking in Indian Canyon above the town. The trails are spectacular because they're untouched and have breathtaking views. The best ones are Palm, Murray and the Andreas Canyon trails."

Still to come: **THE MONDRIAN** at the corner of Calle Alvarado and Amado Road. The Palm Springs City Council approved the development in 2007, but the project was put on hold during the economic downturn. In December, the council approved the land sale with the stipulation that construction begin by January 2013.

Look for three newly erected poolside cabanas at downtown Palm Springs' **COLONY PALMS HOTEL** (from \$159, 572 N. Indian Canyon Drive), part



Weintraub

FRONT TOP: PAUL DYER/COURTESY OF THE SAGUARO; PALM SPRINGS: COURTESY OF THE PARKER PALM SPRINGS; STEPHEN LOVEN/GETTY IMAGES; FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES

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The Colony Palms Hotel, in business since 1936, has received a renovation from Martyn Lawrence-Bullard.



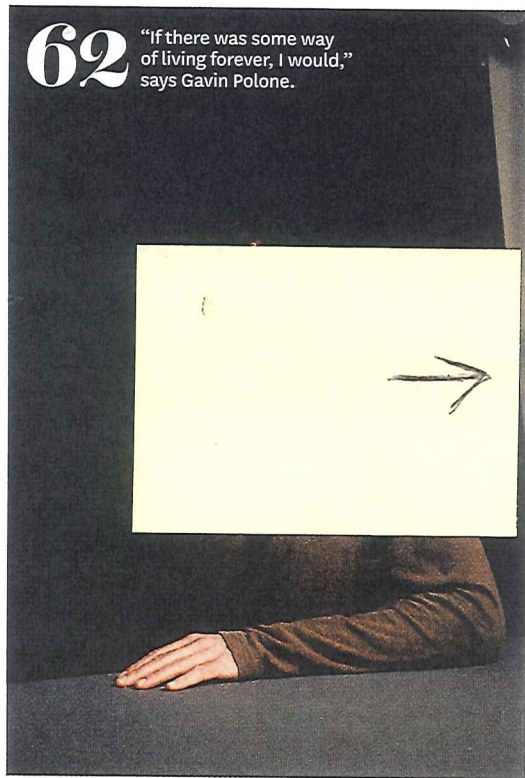
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Carrot juice from PRESSED Juicery is designed to cleanse the system.



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"If there was some way of living forever, I would," says Gavin Polone.



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Three foreign-language Oscar contenders



**CORRECTIONS** A photo of Band of Outsiders designer Scott Sternberg was mistakenly used instead of one of TV producer Scott Sternberg (left). ... Albert Brooks did not receive a SAG nomination for *Drive* (*THR* 12/23-1/5).

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: RIGHT: FREDERICK K. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES; JOE PUGLIESE; RAPHAEL LASIC; COURTESY OF COLONY PALMS HOTEL