



March 1, 2012



ROOM REPORT

Splashy Spring Break Hotels

Just as the thaw begins and winter gives way to snippets of spring sunshine—and the accompanying desperation to fly somewhere beachy—a bunch of new hotels have opened in sunny U.S. cities. The **Palihotel Melrose**, debuting this month in Los Angeles, could be in a Wes Anderson movie: The sixties-style lobby is furnished in floral-print chairs and tufted leather banquettes, and you can picture Jason Schwartzman donning drawstring pants for a Thai massage in the simple, six-bed parlor on the second floor (323-656-4100; doubles from \$250). In the hot, hipster-filled desert, Palm Springs' **Saguaro** is a vibrant-colored oasis with a pool surrounded by beds of bright desert flowers. Its restaurant, **Tinto**, plates tapas—like spicy tomato-topped octopus and mussels with chorizo—by chef José Garces (760-323-1711; doubles from \$189; tapas from \$6). **SLS Hotel South Beach** opens in April in Miami Beach with help from lots of notables. Lenny Kravitz designed the penthouse, Philippe Starck did the rest of the interiors, and chefs Katsuya Uechi and José Andrés will helm the restaurants. The latter's inventive fusion dishes include Japanese tacos stuffed with eel, shiso, wasabi, and chicharrón (phone and prices unavailable at press time). A few miles north, you'll find Jean-Georges Vongerichten at the **St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort**, an oceanfront hotel that's home to a massive spa and 243 rooms with balconies and water views (305-993-3300; doubles from \$809).

The Saguaro Palm Springs.