



MAKING A SPLASH
From top: The El Presidente pool at La Quinta Resort & Club can be heated or cooled depending on the ever-changing desert weather; the Smith & Firestone-designed Arzner Suite (from \$759 per night).

PALM DESERT

GORGEOUS GETAWAY

Garbo came here. So did Gable. Frank Capra made it his home. Since 1926, the Gordon Kaufman-designed **La Quinta Resort & Club** has been an oasis in the desert, drawing sun worshippers, tennis and golf aficionados, and food lovers alike. This winter, the resort marks a new milestone: a multimillion-dollar renovation of the property's casitas, villas and guest suites, as well as a serious upgrade of its swimming pools, now chilled and heated as weather dictates. L.A.-based design firm Smith & Firestone was tapped to transform the place, giving the space a more contemporary vibe while still maintaining its historical character. "La Quinta Resort is among the many beautiful things that have acquired more value with age," says Kara Smith, the firm's president. "Living in the 21st century while maintaining a respect for rich history means taking the best from our historic properties, and then adding a fresh, contemporary edge." The designers used a palette pulled from the desert surroundings,



emphasizing chocolates, ivories and terracottas, with bursts of blue and orange mixed in. Maple furnishings and vintage bathroom tile work make for elegant yet cozy surroundings. In addition to its interior overhauls, the Starlight Casitas (from \$359), coveted for their mountain views, gained new fire features, comfy couches and tables on their patios. The lush grounds have been made over as well, with bougainvillea, citrus trees and roses sprinkled around the resort's 45 acres. It's postcard-perfect desert bliss. *Rooms from \$219, 49499 Eisenhower Drive, La Quinta, 760.564.4111, laquintaresort.com*
—Lisa Bingham Dewart

LOS ANGELES & SAN FRANCISCO

Pattern Play

When the world's leading purveyor of fine antique and contemporary rugs debuts new designs, take note. Mansour, the family-run firm that earned a Royal Warrant from the Prince of Wales in 2002, has long been a favorite of international designers. Now, through its contemporary division, **Mansour Modern**, the latest line of inspired rugs is available at the Kneeder Fauchère showrooms in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Visitors now find a collection built with novel materials like silk-and-wool blends, mohair and cashmere alongside luxury lines from designers like Kerry Joyce and Michael Smith. One of the new lines, Swedish (price upon request), puts a fresh spin on antique patterns with a modern palette and larger sizing. As with all Mansour Modern rugs, each design is customizable, allowing you to create an heirloom rug of your very own. *Pacific Design Center, 8687 Melrose Ave., Suite B600, L.A., 310.855.1313; San Francisco Design Center, 101 Henry Adams St., Suite 170, San Francisco, 415.487.6180, kneederfauchere.com*
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UNDER THE RUG The Burg rug (\$8,800 for 8 feet by 10 feet) is made of handwoven luxe mohair and inspired by vintage Swedish floor coverings.

LA QUINTA RESORT & CLUB PHOTOS BY DAVID O. MARLOW; MANSOUR PHOTO BY GREY CRAWFORD