



Where to Eat and Drink Around Palm Springs, Spring 2016

By Lesley Balla

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Zagat says:



Weekend jaunts to the desert are an Angeleno's rite of passage. Sometimes they're planned, other times it's just on a whim: "Let's get out of town. Now." Winter and spring are the great times to take in the area's sites and indulge in hot spring dips and leisurely spa treatments and — thanks to Palm Spring's constantly evolving food scene — explore the city's many great places to eat and drink.

Some of the culinary push in Palm Springs comes from a hotel resurgence, which only boosts the culinary options; after all, with hotels come restaurants and bars vying to become the next hot spot. Look for new offerings at the highly anticipated Arrive in the hip Uptown Design District (Ezra Callahan, Facebook's sixth employee, is one investor); designer Steve Hermann's L'Horizon Hotel, a fabulous refurbished 1950s icon, reopened with all the glamour one would expect; and the tony Ritz-Carlton Rancho Mirage, which has some of the best service and best views in the Valley, among others.

If you're going Coachella (April 15-17 and 22-24) or Stagecoach (April 29-30 and May 1), plan on being overrun everywhere in town, even during the week — people need a place to crash and play between the two weekends, after all. When in the relaxing mode of summer, there are great deals, especially during Restaurant Week (June 3-12). In high season, which begins during the holidays and runs right through important happenings like the Palm Springs International Film Festival (January) and Modernism Week (February), the hotels and restaurants are bustling. Whatever the game plan, here are newcomers and perennial favorites for sustenance.



Elixir Pool Bar & Grill

Opening Coachella weekend at the new V Palm Springs Hotel, this poolside restaurant and bar features Polynesian-inspired fare and cocktails that combine a little throwback vibe with contemporary panache. You'll find sharable snacks like green curry guacamole and tuna tartare cigars, and larger plates like fried rice noodles with vegetables and kombu-infused ponzu, plus cocktails like the Cucumber Crush made with citrus-infused vodka, cucumber juice, Velvet Falernum and pineapple, frozen drinks and things served in coconuts. Paper umbrellas are de rigueur. The hotel's main restaurant, Solstice, opens later this summer.

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