

# TRAVEL

DOUG AITKEN's  
"Mirage" installation  
outside Palm Springs  
was built in partnership  
with **DESERT X**.

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**Burn Notice** The HIGH DESERT is now the site of a one-of-a-kind contemporary ART event and myriad new hotels and restaurants—propelled by the area's world-famous MUSIC festival >



From top: **TRUSS & TWINE** serves drinks and small bites up to last call. **JENNIFER BOLANDE**'s "Visible Distance/Second Sight" is part of **DESERT X**. Chef **CARLOS SALGADO**'s mole de pollo taco. Salgado is the new chef at Ace Hotel & Swim Club's **KING'S HIGHWAY**. The Spanish-style **LA SERENA VILLAS**' pool and bungalows.



> While Lady Gaga and Radiohead dazzle at **Coachella** ([coachella.com](http://coachella.com)), **Doug Aitken** creates a more meditative spectacle with "Mirage" (on display through October), conceived and built in partnership with **Desert X** ([desertx.org](http://desertx.org), [dougaitkenmirage.com](http://dougaitkenmirage.com)). For another unique experience that's part of Desert X's site-specific programming, head to the Annenberg Retreat at Sunnyslands, where Santa Monica-based interdisciplinary artist **Lita Albuquerque**'s "hEARTH" brings uncharted sculptural and aural dimensions to the historic site, through April 30.



To immerse yourself in desert ambiance with a dose of heady California romance, you can't do better than **La Serena Villas** (from \$399/night; 339 S. Belardo Rd.; [laserenavillas.com](http://laserenavillas.com)). Lars and Kelly Viklund, owners of the adjacent Del Marcos Hotel, enlisted May Sung of SUBU Design Architecture and Avenue Interior Design to refashion the 1930s-built Spanish-style bungalows into 18 deluxe guest rooms with private patios and fire pits, as well as the property's Whispers Spa and Azucar restaurant. Next on the design-forward boutique hotel scene: the Kimpton brand comes to town this summer.

Gripping about limited food and drink options in the desert is a thing of the past. At the always-buzzing **Ace Hotel & Swim Club** (701 E. Palm Canyon Dr.; [acehotel.com/palmsprings](http://acehotel.com/palmsprings)), Carlos Salgado has overhauled the menu at the resort's King's Highway restaurant, as well as other culinary options **Continued on p.126**

WRITTEN BY JESSICA RITZ. TRUSS & TWINE: AUDREY MA. JENNIFER BOLANDE: LANCE GERBER. CARLOS SALGADO (2): ANNE WATSON. LA SERENA VILLAS (3): KELLY PEAK/PEAK PHOTOGRAPHY.

