

# THE RADAR TRAVEL

BY KRISTIN VIOLA



## SUITE SPOTS!

Five fierce new L.A. hotels roll out the welcome mats

Playing as pair to out-of-town house guests? Leave the duvet fluffing and room service to the pros. These new (or newly revamped) hotels are primed and ready for arrivals. Here's how they stack up.

**MALIBU BEACH INN** **THE BUZZ:** David Geffen pumped \$10 mil into a rundown motel on the Malibu shores. **THE LOOK:** Muted tones and streamlined design allow breathtaking ocean views to speak for themselves. **THE COOLEST THING:** Next month, the hotel begins offering memberships to its private beach club. **THE BOTTOM LINE:** The loudest noise you hear is the crashing of the waves. It's a very romantic hideaway. Unfortunately, there isn't a pool, but when the beach is your playground, does that really matter? Rates from \$175. 22878 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu, 310.454.4444, [www.malibubeachinn.com](http://www.malibubeachinn.com).

**PALHOUSE HOLLYWOOD** **THE BUZZ:** The first of three locations under the Palhouse name, this "apartment" hotel hopes to become the next Chateau Marmont for a less spendy clientele. **THE LOOK:** Old-school French Quarter meets new-school Hollywood, complete with overstuffed furnishings, Carrera marble and quirky knickknacks. **THE COOLEST THING:** A smart lobby lounge keeps the energy high with a DJ booth that welcomes all aspiring turntablists. **THE BOTTOM LINE:** The minimum stay is seven nights, but the polished pads are well-suited for savvy young players who don't actually live in L.A. Rates from \$249. 4443 Hollywood Dr., West Hollywood, 323.454.4100, [www.palhouse.com](http://www.palhouse.com).

**SUNSET MARQUIS** **THE BUZZ:** After 35 years of discreetly housing the biggest names in Hollywood, this landmark city hotel enters a new era as it emerges from one of the priciest (and slowest) revamps in recent memory. **THE LOOK:** Towering palm trees and exotic flora and fauna, not to mention a koi pond, create a mirage of serenity just steps from the Strip. Rooms are outfitted with earth tones and luxe materials like marble and Murano glass, and there's ample space to party like a celeb. **THE COOLEST THING:** The subterranean recording studio attracts the likes of Aerosmith, Justin Timberlake and Madonna. **THE BOTTOM LINE:** This old Hollywood star is once again ready for her close-up and, judging by her timeless beauty and chic new look, she'll be relevant far longer than some rehab-bound starlet. Rates from \$485. 1200 Alta Loma Rd., West Hollywood, 310.877.1333, [www.sunsetmarquishotel.com](http://www.sunsetmarquishotel.com).



**IN-LAW OPTIONS** Clockwise from top left: The Whiskey Bar at Sunset Marquis in West Hollywood; Malibu Beach Inn at Carbon Beach; Hotel Oceana in Santa Monica; the "living room" at Palhouse in Hollywood; a guestroom at Thompson Beverly Hills.



**THOMPSON BEVERLY HILLS** **THE BUZZ:** New York hipster hotelier Jason Pomeroy flipped a dumpy Beverly Hills budget hotel into a magnet for the jet set. **THE LOOK:** Dodd Mitchell has infused the space with edgy, dirty lit, glam rock attitude. The staff is fittingly dressed to kill, donning uniforms by Jenni Kayne and Rachel Zoe. **THE COOLEST THING:** NYC's swanky BondSt sushi restaurant, if you can get in. **THE BOTTOM LINE:** This sister to the Hollywood Roosevelt lets us embrace our inner pop stars, though the diva in us would like to see more luxury trimmings. Rates from \$149. 9340 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, 310.273.1400, [www.thompsonbeverlyhills.com](http://www.thompsonbeverlyhills.com).

**HOTEL OCEANA** **THE BUZZ:** An already popular beachfront hotel just got a seriously chic makeover courtesy of design star Chris Barrett. **THE LOOK:** From the vibrant, eye-popping décor of the suites to the sunny Euro-style courtyard, the hotel feels like a private beach house. **THE COOLEST THING:** The bathrooms. They're enormous. Some come with two-person tubs. **THE BOTTOM LINE:** Our favorite of the lot. With the ocean across the street and the Promenade (and Montana) around the corner, Oceana offers the best of both worlds. Rates from \$395. 849 Ocean Ave., Santa Monica, 310.393.0486, [www.hotelocenasantamonica.com](http://www.hotelocenasantamonica.com).