

805 LIVING

HOME + GARDEN



By Erin Rottman



A recent Martyn Lawrence Bullard revamp of the Sands Hotel & Spa in Indian Wells, redefines modern desert glamour with playful uses of patterned tile, such as in a patchwork framing a lobby window (far left), and Moroccan arches, gold metallics, and flashy mirrored surfaces in spaces like the spa lounge (left).

DESERT ROSE IN INDIAN WELLS

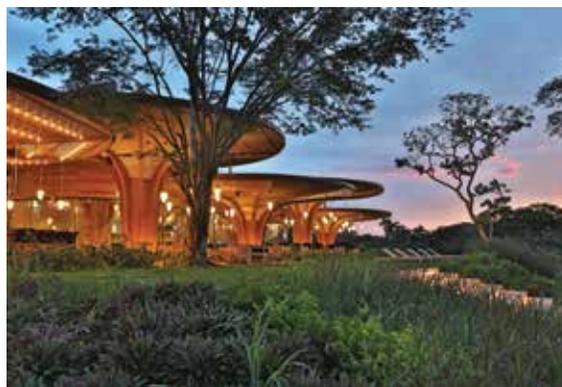
Interior designer Martyn Lawrence Bullard has left his mark on California destinations like Casa Laguna Hotel & Spa and Hotel Californian in Santa Barbara. Now, he's completed another boutique property in the desert: the **Sands Hotel & Spa** (sandshotelandspa.com; from \$249) in Indian Wells. The 46-room Sands, in an area typically known for its chain hotels, features Moroccan-inspired tile, bold patterns, and a mixture of emerald green, deep blue, and dusty rose hues.

"I love all the eclectic use of tile at Sands," Bullard says. "Many exotic patterns were mixed in random ways for the entry, making a patchwork of pattern."

The play on pattern extends into The Pink Cabana restaurant, which serves a Mediterranean-influenced menu of shared plates, sustainable seafood, and California produce. Led by executive chef Jason Niederkorn, formerly of Aspen's Hotel Jerome, the restaurant recalls the country clubs where stars flocked in the 1940s and '50s, Bullard says. Other highlights at the Sands are the pool, lined with palm trees and striped cabanas, and the Moroccan-style spa with couples treatment rooms.

HOT TIP Exclusive to *805 Living* readers, **Red Mountain Resort** (redmountainresort.com; from \$335 per person) near St. George, Utah, is offering 15 percent off the Essential Retreat package, which includes a rotating lineup of wellness activities like guided hikes through the surrounding red Navajo sandstone cliffs, meditation and yoga, and cooking demonstrations. The package covers accommodations and three meals a day at the resort, which recently built a new gathering space overlooking black lava fields and Snow Canyon State Park. Use code 805LIV for travel through September.

Lit by fixtures set within towering wooden structures designed to resemble Guanacaste's namesake trees, the new W Costa Rica's indoor-outdoor lobby is open to the surrounding nature reserve.



THE W ZIPS INTO COSTA RICA

The new **W Costa Rica** (wcostarica.com; from \$389) in Reserva Conchal, Guanacaste, sits within

a 2,300-acre nature reserve with views of the ocean, the surrounding jungle in which howler monkeys make regular appearances, and a zip line that stretches from the center of the hotel to the pool area, known as Zona Azul Beach Club.

"My favorite part of the hotel is its adventurous spirit," says Gina Conejo, W Costa Rica concierge. Conejo books interested guests on the Land & Sea tour, which starts with ATV rides on dirt roads through the jungle, stops for a refuel at a local beachfront seafood restaurant, and ends with a Jet Ski back to the hotel. "It has wonderful scenery," she says of the excursion, "as well as the rawness of the surrounding

areas from the dirt houses to the oceanfront mansions."

The hotel also organizes private surfing lessons, horseback riding, snorkeling, and catamaran rides. For a bit of evening adventure, the Zona Azul Beach Club provides a party-like atmosphere each night, with high-energy DJs and late-night cocktails. >

CHARACTER AND COMFORT ON SAN DIEGO'S NORTH COAST



When a recent restoration of **The Fin Hotel** (thefinhotel.com; from \$99) in Oceanside was in progress, workers found a box of tiles left over from the original lobby floor—a valuable discovery for owners who were trying to preserve as much as possible of the 1927 building. It took two guys two months to restore the mosaic floor, composed of dark brown, red, and gray tiles. When they finished, only six pieces were left unused.

The Fin is also lucky to have the original cherry wood staircase, Tiffany windows, and exterior stucco, which combine with the new guest rooms to create a place with both character and comfort. Five blocks from the beach, the boutique hotel, geared more toward couples than families, sits in a neighborhood that has seen a growth in shops and

restaurants over the last decade, says general manager Matthew Higgins, who also notes that the central location allows guests to walk the area like locals.

“People think of San Diego and they think of Mission Bay. They think of Coronado Island,” Higgins says. “Word’s getting out that there’s a great mellow beach town called Oceanside.”

The restored 92-year-old building housing The Fin Hotel in Oceanside is now fresh and modern (clockwise from far left)—from the entrance, to the new guest rooms, to the lobby, where newly laid original tiles provide a glimpse of its past.

GARDEN TO TABLE IN NAPA

After a renovation of its stand-alone rooms and an expansion of its spa, Napa’s 28-acre Carneros Inn is now the **Carneros Resort and Spa** (carnerosresort.com; from \$525); however, in the wake of the makeover, one thing remains unchanged: executive chef Aaron Meneghelli’s creative freedom at the resort’s three restaurants.

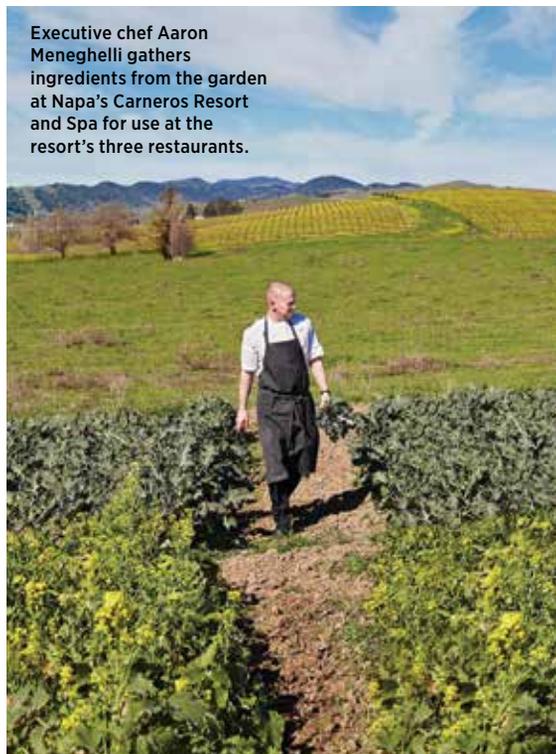
Meneghelli has fun playing with tasting menus that focus on a single ingredient, which is included in each course, changes every two weeks, and is driven by the season—fava beans and cherries are expected this spring. “People are intrigued by it,” says the chef, recounting a night when the focus was on peas. “When we’ve done more of a savory ingredient, it’s a big surprise

come dessert.”

The resort’s culinary garden, greenhouse, and chicken coop all play a part in the tasting menus and the meals in the resort’s three restaurants. Meneghelli has expanded his use of microgreens, trading typical mixed green salads for a blend of sweet, spicy, and bitter greens and focusing on raw garnishes of flowers and herbs harvested when they’re young and tender.

For a special splurge, book the two-night Wine & Away package (from \$18,900), which includes roundtrip private jet transportation, lodging at one of the resort’s six private luxury homes, use of a pool cabana, two facials, two body treatments, and an in-home culinary experience with Meneghelli and the resort’s sommelier. ♦

Executive chef Aaron Meneghelli gathers ingredients from the garden at Napa’s Carneros Resort and Spa for use at the resort’s three restaurants.



TOP, TOP LEFT, AND CENTER: VISIT OCEANSIDE/FIN HOTEL; BOTTOM: CARNEROS RESORT AND SPA