

30 GREAT INNS

THE MOJAVE

PALM DESERT, CA | What could be better for a desert getaway than a low-slung, renovated mid-century motel? Built in the late forties, when Palm Springs (just a two-hour drive from Hollywood) became a movie-star playground, the Mojave closed briefly for a makeover last summer, reopening in September. The 24 rooms are done up in ocher and tomato-soup orange, with French Moderne repro furniture and mini-bars stocked with retro snacks (remember Necco wafers and Nehi soda?). The central garden has a pool, spa, and several citrus trees. So what if the poolside continental breakfast is as minimal as the décor—the grapefruits were picked right here! Just a block away from El Paseo, the Rodeo Drive of Palm Desert, and a stone's throw from the Living Desert wildlife sanctuary, the Mojave delivers low-budget panache.

73721 Shadow Mountain Dr.; 800/391-1104 or 760/346-6121, fax 760/674-9072; www.hotelmojave.com; doubles from \$99.



The poolside cabana for outdoor massages at the Mojave in Palm Desert. OPPOSITE: A Mojave guest room.