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Trendy Saguaro updates its meeting space

Skip Descant, The Desert Sun 12 p.m. PDT October 7, 2016



(Photo: Submitted photo: Saguaro)

After four years on the Palm Springs scene, the Saguaro hotel is getting a bit of a make-over by improving its meeting space with new colors and an outdoor terrace.

The 244-room hotel is creating a second story outdoor patio called the Sago Terrace off its Sago Ballroom. The terrace will accommodate up to 75 guests for a reception or 40 for a seated dinner. It will be equipped with a retractable awning to guard against the blazing sun and the occasional shower.

And in true Palm Springs indoor-outdoor living style, new sliding glass walls will seamlessly join the terrace with the adjacent indoor ballroom.

“The investments we are making to our event spaces will enhance the guest experience for those attending conferences, weddings, and social gatherings at the Saguaro,” T. Blake Danner, senior vice president and chief operating officer of Sydel Group, said in a statement. “We’re creating flexible space with outdoor access that takes advantage of the beautiful year-round Palm Springs weather and will appeal to social groups as well as a broader midweek corporate audience.”

RELATED SAGUARO COVERAGE: [SummerTramp pool party heads to Saguaro Palm Springs \(/story/money/business/tourism/2016/05/11/summertramp-pool-party-heads-saguaro-palm-springs/84251520/\)](#)

The broader appeal to the group meeting business is a bit of a shift for The Saguaro, known largely for hosting music DJ events like Splash House or SummerTramp, a Los Angeles-based gay pool party. The hotel is also taking a diversion away from its Kodachrome color scheme to one that’s warmer and more subdued.

The ballroom is also being renovated “to present a modern venue in a neutral color palette,” reads a hotel press release. Expect to see a raised ceiling, exposed trusses and painted mechanical elements which will make the room feel more open and contemporary. New custom pendant lighting with acrylic shades are being added and wood plank flooring with custom carpet insets will complete the look. A new sound system is also being installed for both the Sago Ballroom and Sago Terrace, which will have a total 3,039-square-feet with a capacity of 203 guests.

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The pool at The Saguaro Palm Springs is one of the largest in the city and the focus of this 1977 hotel. (Photo: Desert Sun file photo)

The hotels pre-function space linking the Agave and Sago ballrooms is also getting a re-do with new flooring, ceiling and the harmonious warm color palette.

The improvements are set to be completed in December.

The Saguaro opened in February 2012 after a bold renovation by architects Peter Stamberg and Paul Aferiat, giving the 1977 motel new life. The renovation and re-branding helped to create a trend seen in south Palm Springs where old, tired motel properties became re-imagined as trendy settings for the style-conscious. Properties like the Ace Hotel & Swim Club, V Palm Springs or Sparrows Lodge are all remakes of old motel-ish lodgings that are now the sort of destinations that easily fetch rates north of \$250 a night.

Lets say you do not have tickets to Desert Trip this weekend. That's no reason to stay home. Head down to the Palm Springs Convention Center for [Quiltfest](http://www.quiltfest.com/) (<http://www.quiltfest.com/>), where you can "explore the world of 21st century quilting."

If you'd like to hear some music, check out the 11th annual Joshua Tree Music Festival, which runs through Sunday. See bands like Dynohunter, jazz musician Mark Farina or Adam Freeland. Single day pass tickets are \$90. The festival is at Joshua Tree Lake in Joshua Tree. For more information go to <http://www.joshuatreemusicfestival.com/>

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