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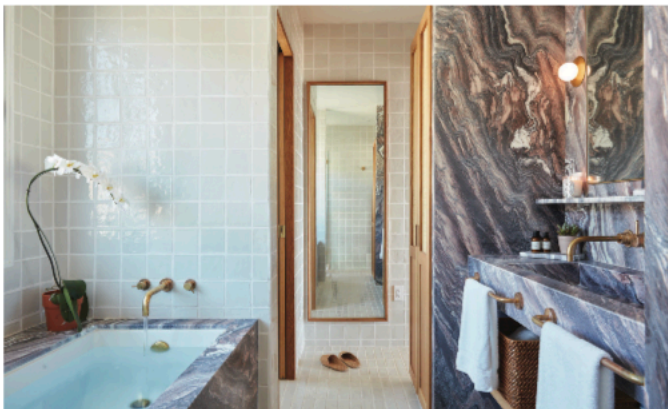
Opened just a few months ago, Hotel Joaquin is a boutique property along the coast inviting visitors to enjoy the charm of Laguna Beach in a stylish environment.

by Karine Monié

images courtesy of Hotel Joaquin

A motor lodge that dates back to the 1930s has been transformed into the Hotel Joaquin, a chic and exclusive destination thanks to the vision of Paul Makarechian, owner and CEO of Auric Road, and the interior design of Robert McKinley, founder of Studio Robert McKinley.

"The resort's location is especially nostalgic, as I grew up diving the coves along Pacific Coast Highway," says Makarechian. "It really speaks to the heritage of Laguna Beach, while paying homage to the laid-back elegance of the California and Mediterranean coastlines."



With only 22 rooms—all free of television—the hotel provides a unique atmosphere where guests enjoy turntables and a selection of vinyl records rather than cable. The property also features pool and views of the ocean, which make up the perfect, personalized atmosphere to relax and unplug. In the lobby, guests can read books and savor a cocktail in a cozy ambiance. Chef Leo Bongarra offers a French-Mediterranean menu at Saline, the restaurant, which uses vegetables and herbs from the outdoor on-site garden.

Designed by Studio Robert McKinley, the spaces reflect influences from St. Barts combined with a California bungalow vibe. “Materials are very clean and minimal, but organic and textured—hand-oiled white oak throughout, natural linen shades on lighting, and cane-lined closets,” McKinley says. “Bathrooms feature handmade Mexican clay tile and veined marble. Much of the

furniture and materials were sourced and built by local artisans.”

In terms of color palette, the interior designer chose neutral tones to give the feeling of peacefulness. “We also couldn’t compete with the incredible natural setting in Laguna,” he confesses. “With that said, we mixed in some vintage pieces and work by California artists like Daniel Fuller and Sean Spellman to give the property some additional layers of interest.”

Yoga classes and an all-access pass to the Adventure Garage—that houses surfboards, hiking and diving gear, and bicycles—complement the experience.

Hotel Joaquin goes back to the essentials: reconnecting and spending quality time in a refuge where every detail matters and plays its part in the whole story. ■

<https://hoteljoaquin.com>

