

"All the News  
that's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times

National Edition

Southern California: Clouds and sunshine. Passing showers near the coast. Snow showers in northeast Nevada. Highs in middle 30s to 70s. Details in SportsSunday, Page 8.

CLXVIII . . . No. 58,255

© 2019 The New York Times Company

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019

Printed in California

\$6.00



MINZAYAR GO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

## er Threat, and Struggling to be Seen

nic Rakhine man in Myanmar. Persecution of the Rakhine has been overshadowed by the plight of the Rohingya people. Page 6.

## el's Riddle: Behind Illicit Massage Parlors, a Vast Crime Web

## Trump-Kim Talks Undone By Big Egos and Bad Bets

### Proposal to End North Korean Stalemate Brushed Aside Decades of History

By DAVID E. SANGER and EDWARD WONG

HANOI, Vietnam — As President Trump settled into the dining room of a French-colonial hotel in Hanoi on Thursday morning, the conversation with Kim Jong-un, the North Korean leader with whom he had struck up the oddest of friendships, was already turning tense.

In a dinner at the Metropole Hotel the evening before, mere feet from the bomb shelter where guests took cover during the Vietnam War, Mr. Kim had resisted what Mr. Trump presented as a grand bargain: North Korea would trade all its nuclear weapons, material and facilities for an end to the American-led sanctions squeezing its economy.

An American official later described this as "a proposal to go big," a bet by Mr. Trump that his force of personality, and view of himself as a consummate deal-maker, would succeed where three previous presidents had failed.

But Mr. Trump's offer was essentially the same deal that the United States has pushed — and the North has rejected — for a quarter century. Intelligence agencies had warned him, publicly, Mr. Kim would not be willing

to trade his nuclear arsenal for a trading company, nearly a year of optimism and flattery was left poolside at the Metropole, steps from a meeting room with two empty chairs and flags that had been carefully prepared for a "signing ceremony."

Mr. Trump and senior diplomats say they hope negotiations will continue, though nothing has been scheduled. Mr. Kim has promised not to resume weapons testing, and the Pentagon continues to hold off on large-scale military exercises with South Korea.

In interviews with a half-dozen participants, it is clear Mr. Trump's failed gambit was the culmination of two years of threats, hubris and misjudgment on both sides. Mr. Trump entered office





**STON** The city's population is diverse, and so is the food.



**4 COLORADO** Trying to get Snowmass's visitors to stay awhile.



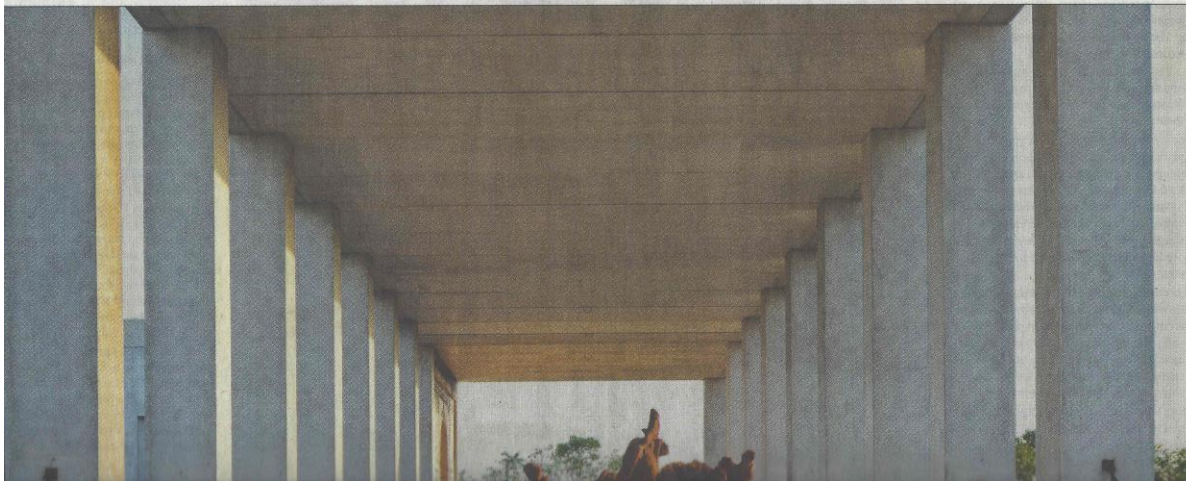
**10 BELGIUM** 36 Hours amid the canals and spires of Ghent.

VERY | ADVENTURE | ESCAPE

# Travel

The New York Times

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019



CHECK IN

HOTEL JOAQUIN, LAGUNA BEACH, CALIF.

## Echos of Hollywood Glamour Days, With a Modish Twist

**Rates**

Rooms start at \$239.

**The Basics**

Carved out from Orange County by cliffs that slope down to the sparkling Pacific, Laguna Beach is a wildly popular bolt-hole for all manner of Californians, from Tesla-entombed tech worthies vaping down the freeway from Los Angeles to burbling families in boxy Odysseys looking for relief from the San Fernando Valley's canned heat. It is also now home to the Hotel Joaquin, which opened in September after a gut-renovation of the shabbily serviceable Motor Inn at Laguna Beach. The Joaquin comes under the Auric Road corporate umbrella, which includes other swank "petite resorts" such as the Korakia Pensione in Palm Springs and the Lone Mountain Ranch in Big Sky, Mont. The airy redesign, featuring exposed rafters, oiled white oak ceilings, turntables instead of TVs, and vintage furniture from France, was the concept of the modish New York-based studio of Robert McKinley, whose other laurels include the Surf Lodge in Montauk and the Hall in Miami.

**The Location**

The eight-mile stretch of Laguna Beach, with over 20 beaches and coves, three summer arts festivals, 50-plus art galleries and a population of eco-obsessed locals, was a favorite refuge for Bette Davis, Errol Flynn, Bing Crosby, Mary Pickford and fellow members of Hollywood royalty who lived, tumbled or trysted amid the town's fragrant eucalyptus groves. Other notable residents have included the Harvard psychologist Timothy Leary, who commended the "Orange Sunshine" LSD brewed by a shaggy local outfit calling itself the Brotherhood of Eternal Love, and more recently, the billionaire Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban.



HOTEL JOAQUIN



The 22-room Hotel Joaquin, which is perched along the North Coast Highway and has ocean views and salty breezes. Above, the retro vibe of the "Living Room."

The three-tiered, 22-room Joaquin is perched along the North Coast Highway, providing ocean views and salty breezes from several of its rooms, and is a reasonable walk or short drive to all of the town's surfing or paddling beaches, boutiques, galleries and restaurants.

**The Room**

Despite being on the lowest of three levels, my garden-side room had ample natural light and was invitingly divided by a couch to provide lounging space. I skipped the minibar, which had pre-mixed bottles of Negroni and Ginger Buck, and, turning to the Marantz turntable, ended up supplementing the in-room vinyl — the Beach Boys' "Good Vibrations," Carole King's "Tapestry" — with the Thelonious Monk Quartet's "Monk's Dream" from the hotel's stash. Books also furnished the room, including the poems of Rumi and a deckle-edged paperback of Kerouac's "On the Road." My off-season room cost \$239; I would highly recommend reserving one of the several rooms with an ocean view, which off-season start at \$389. In-season, ocean-view rooms begin around \$522.

**The Bathroom**

The bathroom was spacious, with a marble double-sink and large shower tiled in a soothing pale gray.

**The Dining**

The hotel's Mediterranean-inflected restaurant, Saline, serves a good breakfast (included with your stay) featuring such items as house-cured salmon and Berkshire pork sausage, as well as lunch and dinner; so far, it is open to hotel guests only. At dinner, I ordered the charred artichoke with garlic aioli, dill and caper oil (\$12) followed by the black sea bass (\$25), and both did credit to the Argentine chef, Leo Bongarra. The cocktail list leans toward health-conscious

inebriation; the "Saline g&t" contains Orinental spiced gin, Junipero gin, artisan tonic syrup, soda, lemongrass, aloe v and star anise, for \$14. For the teetotal there's the "No Booze Cruise," a concoct of Seedlip Garden, Fever-Tree Mediteanean tonic, ginger and pineapple at \$11. sparse wine list features under-aged California pinots and lesser cabernets, wit few obligatory bottles of southern Fre reds.

**The Amenities**

Walking into the "Living Room," the hot sun-streaked lounge, can feel like walk into an old (and rich) friend's beach ho. A retro vibe announces itself by the tu table and collection of vinyl records. G tening water dispensers hold teardr shaped vials filled with gems, promiss qualities such as "Love," "Fitness" i "Forever Young." (Make mine a double!) night, the hotel acquires the martinis-a midnight-swim mood of a chic midcent California motel, updated for the hy generation. By day, the hotel provides "adventure guru" who will outfit you free charge with surfboards, kayaks, pad boards, bikes and even diving gear, s point you toward the miles of nearby hik in the Laguna Beach Wilderness Park, t ing trails such as the Rock-It/Cholla Lo or surf breaks like Brooks Street Bea where the 1960s surf champion Corky C roll had many epic afternoons.

**The Bottom Line**

For a taste of one of Southern Californ most storied and charming beach tow Hotel Joaquin works hard to evoke a gla orous yet grounded experience, and succeeds. PETER STEVENSON

Hotel Joaquin, 985 North Coast Highway; 949-494-5294; hoteljoaquin.com