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AGILITÉ BEAUTÉ ROCHET

HOW **LUBOMIRA ROCHET** IS DRIVING L'ORÉAL'S DIGITAL REVOLUTION

California Dreaming: Where to Stay, How to Eat and What to Drink

A beachside boutique hotel, a hidden Japanese gem and a vegan cookbook (restaurant coming soon) are among Southern California's summer do's.



A rendering of the Hotel Joaquin pool.

Timothy Leary and his artist cohorts knew what they were doing when they built beach bungalows in north Laguna Beach to escape **Los Angeles**. Nestled along the Laguna coastline, the 22-room Hotel Joaquin, opening Aug. 13, is a designer sanctuary that connects adventure and respite with the tranquility of the beach.

The latest property in Auric Road's petite resort collection, which includes Korakia Pensione in Palm Springs and Lone Mountain Ranch in Big Sky, Mont., the name Hotel Joaquin is derived from the original land grant of Rancho San Joaquin, which encompassed much of present-day Orange County.



"I'd been looking for a decade for a historic property that had lost its luster, that I could bring back for a new Laguna, where you still have a connection to the history of the place," said chief executive officer Paul Makarechian.

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The private beach oasis, designed by Robert McKinley of Surf Lodge fame, features small-batch in-room amenities, sweeping views, a serene pool and resort-style service with a St. Barth's vibe. Guests are encouraged to get out and take advantage of what Laguna Beach has to offer with an all-access pass to the "Adventure Garage" that has surfboards, hiking and diving gear, bicycles and playful outdoor accessories. Guests can enjoy a fully unplugged atmosphere with television-free suites outfitted with vinyl record players and a curated music collection.

"Every detail has meaning and intention designed to inspire our guests," said Makarechian. "The resort is set on a bluff above Shaw's Cove, which is especially nostalgic, as I grew up diving the coves along Pacific Coast Highway. It's known for its crystal-clear water and it's protected by tide pools that are rich in marine life."

The hotel's restaurant Saline is a Mediterranean dining experience that is designed with couples in mind. As a playful nod to its name and the Pacific, Saline offers guests a creative salt program to accompany each dish.

985 North Coast Highway, Laguna Beach, Calif., 92651. hoteljoaquin.com, info@hoteljoaquin.com. Room rates start at \$395.