



JDV's First Hotel Outside of California, The Saguaro, is Now Open



Where: 4000 N Drinkwater Blvd, Scottsdale, AZ, United States, 85251

Fresh off the news that **Joie De Vivre Hotels** has merged with **Thompson Hotels**, the California-based hotel collection has just announced the opening of its very first hotel outside of the Golden State-- **The Saguaro** in Scottsdale.

Previously, this hotel was to be called The Drinkwater but the owners changed the name to Saguaro to reflect the hotel's tie to the Southwest region and the experience that will be offered to guests. Also, saguaro is a type of cactus and is prominently featured on the hotel's website and throughout the hotel.

Now, just in case you are keeping track, this hotel is on its fifth name in six years. It started out as The James, before becoming The Mondrian, then Hotel Theodore before briefly being called The Drinkwater. And now it's The Saguaro. But it's safe to say that all traces of its former hotel identities have been eradicated, thanks to the colorful design team of Peter Stamberg and Paul Aferiat of **Stamberg Aferiat Architecture**.

In a recent Q&A with the NYT's T Magazine: the duo talked about their signature use of color and how they made it work at The Saguaro. Stamberg says:

One of the big challenges was going to be color in Scottsdale. It is written in the building code that everything you do has to be natural and about the nature of the desert. That is why everything there is beige and sand color. That's when we went to the planning department and said we would like to use 12 different colors and we would like them to be based on Arizona wildflowers, and here are the 12 wildflowers....

And the reason we chose 12 colors is that the hotel is in six different wings and the rooms are in clusters, and the longest is 12 rooms.

So clever! And it obviously paid off, look at how bright these rooms are. And so much more inviting than that whole heaven and hell bit from the Mondrian.

Aside from lots of color, each room at the Saguaro (there are 194 of them) features contemporary and natural furnishings in wood and leather and hand-crafted pieces imported from Mexico as well as all the hotel goodies we love like 42" wall-mounted flat-screen TVs, iPod docks, free internet for Joy of Life members and either an outdoor patio or step-out balcony.

Rounding out the services and amenities at the rest of the hotel are two outdoor heated swimming pools with cabanas, a full-service spa, the Old Town Whiskey bar, the Garces Trading Company Coffee-to Go from Chef Jose Garces who also runs the hotel's signature restaurant, Distrito which will showcase the street food of Mexico City.

Rates for a Stetson City View room with double beds starts at \$189 a night.