



DADDY, ARE WE THERE YET?

Palm Springs, California

As the Ace Hotel & Swim Club comes into view, it may not immediately inspire your fantasies — five barrack-style buildings sitting in an unpretentious part of Palm Springs. But then a waiter, headed to the pool, swooshes by on a skateboard. An antique ice-cream cart has been repurposed to dispense handmade tamales, a vintage '60s hippie van becomes your new “ride” while you’re in town, and the sound of dogs meeting and greeting each other in the Ace’s nearby dog park is a fun part of the ambience.

This newly reopened hotel is nothing less than a four-plus-decades-old Howard Johnson that died and went to hell and back, re-imagined by a too-cool-for-school group of designers who teamed with new

owners with a new vision. The Ace is a fun, anachronistic amalgam of new and old. Vintage National Geo mags sit on the nightstand with an HDTV hung on the wall. Speaking of those walls, the pictures are hung on S-hooks, encouraging guests to bring and hang their own art for their stay. Wi-Fi is ubiquitous, even out by the barbecues, where the hotel is happy to provide food, a chef and instructions. There are two saltwater swimming pools and seven outdoor communal “living rooms” with fireplaces, providing a relaxed venue to get to know other adventurers who have selected the Ace for a unique and memorable getaway. For more, click AceHotel.com/palmsprings or call 760.325.9900. Arrivals: Palm Springs International Airport (PSP).