

Travel + Leisure

# Discoveries

A GLOBETROTTER'S GUIDE TO THE LATEST IN TRAVEL

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## Scottsdale's Moment in the Sun

In the cactus-studded desert east of Phoenix, this buzzy city is blooming as an arts and design destination. **BY MADELINE BILIS**



SEAN DECKERT/COURTESY OF SCOTTSDALE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

▲ Knight Rise, one of James Turrell's "Skyspace" installations, at the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art.

WE ALL KNOW SCOTTSDALE'S reputation as a laid-back retreat for retirees seeking Arizona sunshine. But as the trend cycle has come back around to all things Midcentury Modern, this resort town's architectural treasures and vibrant arts scene have attracted a younger generation of travelers and transplants. Now, with new restaurants, hotels, and cultural attractions, it's indisputable—Scottsdale is a bona-fide desert design capital.

A huge part of the area's draw: high-style hotels like the two-year-old **Mountain Shadows** ([mountainshadows.com](http://mountainshadows.com); doubles from \$219), in adjacent Paradise Valley. After a decade in disrepair, the property was rebuilt in 2017 to mimic its original 1959 footprint, with butterfly roofs, Modernist guest wings, and a pool area framing views of Camelback Mountain. The same owners perfected their vintage-meets-modern sensibility at Scottsdale sister spot **Hotel Valley Ho** ([hotelvalleyho.com](http://hotelvalleyho.com); doubles from \$229), a 1950s icon that once hosted Bing Crosby and Zsa Zsa Gabor, which just rolled out an architecture tour of notable buildings like the **Price House** ([pricehousefoundation.org](http://pricehousefoundation.org)), Frank Lloyd Wright's largest project in Arizona. Nearby, the **Andaz Scottsdale Resort & Bungalows** ([andaz.com](http://andaz.com); doubles from \$289) has unveiled its 16 Cattle Track Suites, whose guests have exclusive access to workshops with local painters, potters, and photographers at the famed **Cattle Track Arts Compound** ([cattletrack.org](http://cattletrack.org)). And next year, the 215-room **Ritz-Carlton, Paradise Valley** ([ritzcarlton.com](http://ritzcarlton.com)) will debut on more than 20 sprawling acres of desert splendor.

More dramatic design awaits at the **Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art** ([smoca.org](http://smoca.org)), home of the James Turrell "Skyspace" *Knight Rise*. After a spin through the galleries, drive 20 minutes to the home and studio of one of Scottsdale's most influential residents, Frank Lloyd Wright. **Taliesin West** ([franklloydwright.org](http://franklloydwright.org)), with Wright's trademark open floor plans and warm-hued interiors, is part of a new UNESCO World Heritage site celebrating his oeuvre. Back in town, immerse yourself at **Wonderspaces** ([wonderspaces.com](http://wonderspaces.com)), a 16,000-square-foot gallery of interactive art exhibits. And through May 2020, the **Desert Botanical Garden** ([dbg.org](http://dbg.org)) is home to "Wild Rising" by the collective Cracking Art, with more than 1,000 colorful animal sculptures lining the trails.



## On Our Radar

Opening in New York City's SoHo this month, the **Jackie Robinson Museum** ([jackierobinsonmuseum.org](http://jackierobinsonmuseum.org)) pays tribute to the life and legacy of the athlete who became Major League Baseball's first African-American player when he signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.



Staple restaurants like **FnB** ([fnbrestaurant.com](http://fnbrestaurant.com); entrées \$26–\$36) still wow—FnB's Charleen Badman just nabbed the James Beard Award for Best Chef: Southwest—but don't overlook the newcomers. Indulge your red-sauce-and-parm weakness at the airy **Fellow Osteria & Pizzeria** ([fellowosteria.com](http://fellowosteria.com); entrées \$13–\$22), serving classic pastas and pies. Sample Arizona wines (Shiraz, Barbera, and Viognier thrive in this climate) at **Merkin Vineyards'** just-opened tasting room in Old Town ([merkinoldtownscottsdale.com](http://merkinoldtownscottsdale.com)). Or visit **Maple & Ash** ([mapleandash.com](http://mapleandash.com); entrées \$18–\$69), former resident Danny Grant's first outpost of his acclaimed steak house.

▲ From top: the Garden Room at Taliesin West, Frank Lloyd Wright's Scottsdale home and studio; the Hotel Valley Ho, originally opened in 1956.