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A Culinary Christmas In California (PHOTOS)

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Everyone knows that the East Coast and snow immediately conjure up cozy winter images that set the seasonal tone. Yet some folks prefer a toastier time to take in their holidays. So, if you're heading west to soak in the So Cal sun and that cool California culture, here are 10 haute hotels throughout the City of Angels that will put you in the holiday mood, a la Hollywood.

Rest assured that these sophisticated spots are serving up some serious dishes on the foodie front. So, if you want to get Christmas cozy in your room or around the fire or if you simply don't want to venture off the property, the plates, pours and atmosphere alone promise to be plenty festive.

This holiday season, check into Hotel California. Of course you can check in any time you like -- but you may never leave.

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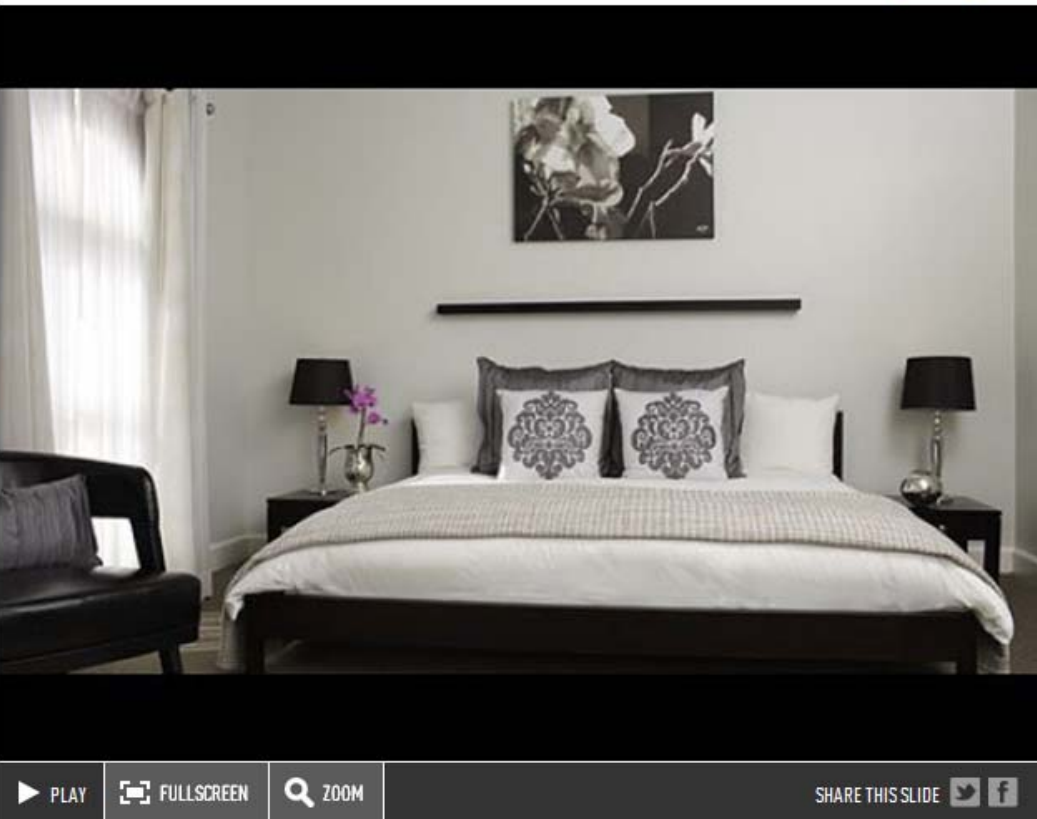
Crescent Hotel

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The hip Hollywood hideaway will appeal to all your senses and sensibilities. For you art, architecture and design buffs, this art deco designed property built during the golden era of Hollywood once provided housing for studio stars. It has since been through several incarnations, the most recent a redo by LA designer Dodd Mitchell. More renovations are underway with one of Frank Gehry's famed architects at the helm.

It's easy to see how starlets called The Crescent home as you won't want to leave once you arrive. A

It's easy to see how starters called The Crescent home as you won't want to leave once you arrive. A carefully curated playlist of tunes will seduce you as you enter your room. Early morning coffee and fresh baked breads will taunt that sleepy head. They can be enjoyed on the serene sunlit terrace surrounded by palm trees.

As the sun sets, so does the tone. There's a great mix of edgy agents from neighboring talent agency Paradigm, cool California locals in the know and a mad mix of New Yorkers and Japanese fashionistas around the bar.

The stunning chef Lenore honed her culinary skills at the iconic Guy Savoy at Caesars, Las Vegas. She will weaken every knee with her culinary creativity. This is the unsung foodie find and foodie hero in LA. So, take advantage of the adventure with her succulent brunch, which alone will make you want to slap somebody, if not everybody on that patio.

Go family style with a friend and order the brunch sliders served on a fresh baked brioche bun and made with turkey breakfast sausage, smoked maple aioli and a sunny-side up quail egg. Follow with the steak hash with hanger steak, pee wee potatoes, spinach, two poached eggs and chipotle hollandaise and finish with the kabocha squash omelette with kale, tomato confit, goat cheese and corn avocado relish. (Trust me on this.) It will have you clicking your well-heeled foodie feet saying, "There's no place like The Crescent."

