



Hotel Congress

TUS

TUCSON

Hip hoods and native foods are making this cool desert city hotter than ever.

Why Now: Tucson's designation as a UNESCO World Heritage City of Gastronomy may have launched the Old Pueblo into the spotlight, but beyond its edible backstory, this vibrant Sonoran burg bursts with art, culture and captivating Arizona flair.

Where to Go: Hotel Congress has grown from railroad stopover

to downtown Tucson's most happening hub. Stay in vintage digs complete with iron bedsteads and rotary phones that connect to an actual switchboard. To ensure a super restful night, book a Cactus Garden room. Greet the day downstairs at Cup Café or head further afield to Franks Restaurant. The sign out front proclaims "Elegant

Dining Elsewhere," but don't judge—Franks' überfriendly staff has delivered old-school diner perfection for almost 50 years. Work off your huevos rancheros at Sabino Canyon. Surrounded by cacti of every variety, the park's trails radiate beauty. Or pedal past street art and historic neighborhoods with Jimmy Bultman of Tucson

Bike Tours. Afterward, grab classic Sonoran hotdogs from Percheron at The Boxyard, a new food court constructed from repurposed shipping containers. The container concept continues at MSA Annex in the Mercado District, where local artists hawk handcrafted homewares at Mesa and desert-centric clothes and curios convey a sense of place at Why I Love Where I Live. Later, toast the day under the Tucson sun on the patio at Westbound. You can't go wrong with a bright pint of Dragoon Brewing Company's Santa Cruz'R ale. — **GINA DECAPRIO VERCESI**

HIT THE TOWN

- 📍 **Mission Garden**
Learn about Tucson's heritage food story.
- 📍 **Whiskey Del Bac**
Taste mesquite-smoked whiskey at one of the few single-malt distilleries in the states.
- 📍 **Iron John's Brewing Company**
On tap: beers brewed with saguaro and prickly pear.



La Calenda

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Have a royal stay at the just opened **Legoland Castle Hotel** in Billund, Denmark, choosing from princess-, dragon knight- and wizard-themed rooms • Can't make it to Denmark? Its hallmark pastries have landed in NYC at an outpost of revered Copenhagen bakery **Ole & Steen** • Chef Thomas Keller and partners celebrate the flavors and artisans of Mexico at their latest eatery, **La Calenda**, a low-key (read: affordable) spot in Napa Valley • Views of the Forbidden City beckon from throughout the **Mandarin Oriental Wangfujing Beijing**, including from many of the spacious rooms • Local flowers and herbs work their way into several of the treatments at the spa at the new **Miraval Austin** resort, the first outside of Arizona.

HOT LIST

GREEN LIVING

THE SPROUT PENCIL

Watch more than just your ideas spring to life when you use this graphite pencil. After writing, drawing or doodling to your heart's content, plant the stub and be rewarded with fresh herbs, vegetables or flowers. **\$.12.95/five**



UNCOMMON GREEN CITY MAP INSULATED HYDRATION BOTTLE

Show off your city every time you take a sip with this made-to-order water bottle. Choose from thousands of towns across the U.S. and even add a personalized message to the BPA-free, 21-ounce container. **\$34.50**



TUMI VOYAGEUR HAGEN BACKPACK

This stylish yet durable backpack lets you can get back to nature while also giving back to nature. It's made from recycled water bottles and nylon and has spots for all your stuff, including a padded laptop pocket, so you can be green on the go. **\$375**



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