



california

meetings + events

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Water Wise

How to make
drought-conscious
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and educate groups **p. 24**

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ROOM WITH A VIEW »

ITALIAN PERSPECTIVE

Mr. C Beverly Hills updates its rooftop ballroom.

BY KATHY A. MCDONALD

The 158-room Mr. C Beverly Hills embodies Venetian style. Teak floors, nautical architectural details and white-jacketed waiters are among the hallmarks of the property from Venice, Italy's famed Cipriani family of hoteliers. Recently, the hotel's 12th-floor, 5,000-square-foot Starlight Ballroom (50-350 capacity) received a palette redo ensuring a view-rich, blank canvas for events. Flooring is now neutral, walls are a fresh brilliant white and designer sconces complete the décor upgrades.

The Starlight Ballroom views are enviable: a panorama that stretches from Santa Monica's beaches to downtown Los Angeles with the Hollywood Hills framing all. The wrap-around, outdoor teak deck has room for an extra bar; inside, large windows allow for an abundance of natural light and stargazing at night. A spring relaunch showcasing the makeover was a festive night for event planners, co-hosted by Revelry Event Designers and Empty Vase florals, among others. mrchotels.com

NEW VENUE SPOTLIGHT »

Engaged & Connected

Welcome to Hotel Irvine, a new lifestyle hotel in Orange County.

Bold shades of orange and red greet guests at the completely renovated 536-room Hotel Irvine (a former Hyatt), located in a 405-free-way convenient office park in Irvine, a fast shuttle ride from the John Wayne Airport. From the Irvine Company, owners of the Island Hotel Newport Beach and The Resort at Pelican Hill, the remade property is designed to keep guests engaged. Connectivity is the underlying theme to the new design; there's free Wi-Fi throughout and the lobby shifts gears throughout the day from a place to gather for continental breakfast (included in the room rate), to space for midafternoon client meetings to a red-hot bar and lounge area (pre-wired for DJ) at night.

All of the hotel's 50,000 square feet of event space have been updated (the ballroom is one of the largest in Orange County) and



there's now an expanded outdoor venue named the Backyard, which features a 6,000-square-foot tented pavilion and an expansive lawn. Guest rooms have workspaces to spread out, ergonomic desk chairs and refrigerators that can be stocked from the Marketplace downstairs with a wide range of healthy snacks and comfort foods. hotelirvine.com —Kathy A. McDonald