

CHRISTENE
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spotlight

Palm Springs Eternal

In this timeless town, vintage scores abound. Here, the top six shops.
By **Christene Barberich**

One of those cities that seem to be in a perpetual state of reinvention, Palm Springs is embracing a new side of itself: a sunny, suddenly affordable center for high-quality thrift shopping. A number of stylish, low-priced hotels like the Ace Hotel & Swim Club have recently arrived, bringing with them a fresh crop of travelers to the area's secondhand shops. Stocked with everything from 1970s couture to mid-century modern furniture, the following six stores are worthy of a pilgrim in their own right.



BEST FOR WHIMSICAL HOUSEWARES

THE SHOP Angel View Thrift Mart

THE FINDS Prominent racks of sparkly, \$10 party dresses are the first thing you'll see in this downtown Palm Springs shop. But in the back, a veritable wonderland of offbeat housewares awaits. Think chunky, geometric glass ashtrays and a \$4, three-piece tea set (1) bearing colorful, Scandinavian-inspired graphics. 454 N. Indian Canyon Dr., Palm Springs, 760/322-2440.

BEST FOR CONTEMPORARY AND MODERN ART

THE SHOP The Estate Sale Company

THE FINDS With a warehouse's worth of furniture, paintings, and objets d'art to explore, tackling the Estate Sale Company store can easily occupy a full afternoon. The reward for such perseverance? Unearthing anything from a Calder lithograph to a Baldessari print. Works by lesser-known artists start at just \$20. 4185 E. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs, 760/321-7628.

BEST FOR MID-CENTURY FURNISHINGS

THE SHOP Vintage Oasis

THE FINDS More showroom than thrift shop, this modernist mother lode might contain brushed-brass Sputnik chandeliers, neon diner signs from the 1940s, and museum-quality Breuer chairs (2) for \$200, all at once. About 50 bucks buys a single Eames-era wall sconce, but rarer pieces can go much, much higher. 373 S. Palm Canyon Dr. #A, Palm Springs, 760/778-6224.

BEST FOR VINTAGE ACCESSORIES

THE SHOP Nu4u Thrift Store

THE FINDS Amid the well-worn clothing and board games at this Rancho Mirage outpost is a gold mine of affordable, on-trend accessories. A recent visit turned up two designer handbags (3): a chain-strap Lanvin purse (\$15) and a Bruno Magli number with subtle braid details (\$10). 69550 Hwy. 111, Rancho Mirage, 760/770-7786.

BEST FOR DESIGNER CLOTHING

THE SHOP Resale Therapy

THE FINDS It's easy to imagine 1950s Hollywood starlets sneaking off to Palm Springs for a little R&R—and heading directly to Resale Therapy to browse its Givenchy runway samples and vast collection of old Louis Vuitton luggage. There are even a few relative bargains in the mix—like a pair of floral Moschino trousers for \$60. 4109 E. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs, 760/321-6556.

BEST FOR USED BOOKS

THE SHOP Revivals

THE FINDS Carefully curated displays and an uncommon attention to organization make the secondhand books (4) section at this Cathedral City shop a secret strength. Titles are sorted by author and subject, and prices remain firmly in the single digits—from \$1 for a paperback copy of *Oliver Twist* to \$5 for a glossy coffee-table book on Chicago. 68-401 E. Hwy. 111, Cathedral City, 760/969-5747.

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