

# TRAVEL News

**Luxe redux; turning water into wine; and travel on the run.**

**By Frances Hibbard**



Clari  
fea  
of H<sub>2</sub>O. So  
bo  
Elsenham  
sourc  
aquifer  
Hertford  
mineral c  
curativ  
Michela  
Fiuggi  
has it cov  
for Aus  
Oxyge  
more oxy  
it's pe



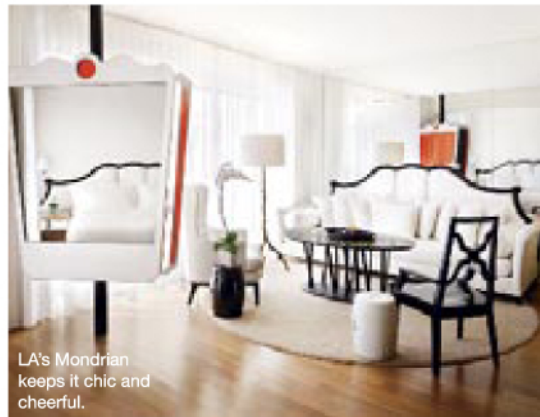
## THE REBIRTH OF COOL

When Morgans opened in 1984 in New York, other hoteliers scrambled to imitate the non-formulaic formula, spawning a genre of accommodation that today sets a stay in the city apart.

And this month the "godfather" of the boutique hotel movement reopens after a lavish refurbishment by its original designer, Andrée Putman.

Putman, now 82, retained Morgans' signature chic monotone palette, adding original black-and-white shots from photographer Robert Mapplethorpe and an ever-changing art installation by French design collective Trafik on the lobby ceiling.

Over on the West Coast, hipster hangout Mondrian Los Angeles reopens its doors after an 18-month reworking of the Philippe Starck-crafted hotspot by designer Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz. The perennially pumping Skybar remains, as does Starck's fantastical foyer, which is now embellished with gold-leaf vines across walls and ceilings. Upstairs, huge white-framed mirrors in guest rooms not only hide flatscreen TVs but further push the hotel's "look at me" theme. Glamourama indeed. [www.morganshotelgroup.com](http://www.morganshotelgroup.com); [www.mondrianhotel.com](http://www.mondrianhotel.com)



LA's Mondrian keeps it chic and cheerful.

The original boutique beauty: Morgans in NYC.

