

# PALM SPRINGS



## SPLASH HOUSE

Palm Springs  
June 13-14, Aug. 8-9  
[splashhouse.com](http://splashhouse.com)

## ENTER THE SPLASH ZONE

*A pool party-meets-EDM festival, Splash House is determined to bring a younger crowd to the desert heat* **By Lydia Siriprakorn**

If you feel like you've been hearing a lot about Palm Springs lately, get used to it, because the desert destination is experiencing the ultimate revival. Between longstanding events like White Party, Restaurant Week, numerous film festivals and newer parties on the scene, more and more young people are finding reasons to head back to Palm Springs long after Coachella.

Even during the desert's traditionally slower months, this once-sleepy town is now as full of life as ever. "Summertime has notoriously been a time for Palm Springs to shut down," says **Kelly McLean**, co-founder of Splash House, a one-of-a-kind pool party and electronic music festival that will take place at three resort pools June 13-14, and then again August 8-9. "Recently we've seen a resurgence. A lot of our friends were always talking about how they want to come back. People have always mentioned that and asked, 'What do we do in Palm Springs besides come out for Coachella?'"

That's always been a burning question, and these days there are more options than ever. McLean and her brother, both of whom grew up in Palm Springs, knew firsthand what it was like to look for something to do during the summers, and then decided to simply create it themselves.

"Music is always a great reason to drive somewhere or get in the car and experience something unique and fun," she says. "Splash House has three locations, which are basically like three separate stages at any music festival, running at the same time. We have set times throughout Saturday and Sunday, and people can pool-hop essentially by jumping on one of our shuttles to the next location."

Performances will take place at Saguaro Hotel, Hacienda Beach Club and Palm Springs Hilton. Now in its third year, the event has

partnered with Goldenvoice, which also produces Coachella and Stagecoach. But with a maximum capacity of 4,000 people, the Splash House experience is completely different and much more intimate. "At any given time, you can be almost up to the stage, seeing that person face-to-face and really experiencing something different than a 100-to-200,000-person music festival."

Splash House isn't Coachella by the water. Check the lineup and you might not recognize a lot of the artists, and that's what McLean was going for. "It's different than a Las Vegas pool party," she says. "It's not Skrillex, although all of those artists are amazing. They're headliners for these huge music festivals, but we wanted something a little bit different, a little bit more 'boutique, fun, independent artists' type of feel."

There's no better way to check out new DJs and enjoy drinks by the pool than by giving someone else the keys. Splash House's shuttles run non-stop between the three locations, all of which are within a mile of each other. "It doesn't take more than 5-10 minutes to walk out of one location and get to the next. We try to make it as fast as possible and as seamless as possible to move to another location," says McLean.

And the party isn't put on pause during the shuttle rides. "The shuttles themselves take on a life of their own. They are transit-style shuttles with people standing, so it gets really packed in there. We decorate the shuttles. We kind of give them a theme and play some fun music. It's honestly wild parties inside."

Pool parties, drinks and electronic music? It sounds like McLean and her brother have found a foolproof formula to bring young people back to Palm Springs in the summer. ■