

Palm Springs 6

Region: Palm Springs Bedrooms: 2 Sleeps: 7 Bathrooms: 2 Area: 2221 sq.ft

This villa is an artistic high-desert retreat formerly owned by TV personality Huell Howser. A rare example of mid-century modern architecture deep in the California desert, the 2,221 square-foot ranch sits on 12 acres of untouched desert near both entrances of Joshua Tree National Park, offering a feeling of total seclusion less than an hour from Palm Springs with 360-degree mountain and desert views.

An avid collector of found materials and repurposed objects, Howser turned quarry stones into yard sculptures and industrial elements into lighting fixtures. Five large millstones, each more than 100 years old, surround the full-length backyard pool, giving the home its name. In the early 2000s, Howser added a sunroom extension, created by panels of etched glass, and a separate living room and dining area in the same industrial style, making the home further suited to large gatherings.

Now owned by an artist, the home has preserved the industrial qualities that Howser introduced, while incorporating personally created pieces that mirror his style. The light-filled living room, features three owner-created pieces, including a triptych on plywood, a unique wood-based tripod lamp, and a sunset-hued tree light.

The gourmet kitchen features a four-seat breakfast nook, stainless steel appliances, the original 50s stove and plenty of counter space, with a door leading directly outside for easy alfresco dinners. A mid-century dining area features a marble top table with six Eames shell chairs and sliding glass doors that open onto the zero-scaped patio.

Two spacious bedrooms create an indoor/outdoor feeling with big picture windows, sliding glass doors and minimalist decor.

- Master Suite King bed Chaise-style daybed, which comfortably sleeps one additional person and an en-suite bath features a unique sink made of an old street lamp glass.
- Second Bedroom Queen bed with picture windows and a shared bath with the original 50s green tile and fixtures.

A den, featuring a large-screen TV and writing desk, provides additional accommodations with a queen sleeper sofa, allowing the home to comfortably sleep 7 guests.

Outside are the elements that truly set the home apart. Howsers industrial accents remain decades after installation, creating the feeling of a modern sculpture garden. An architect designed paneled steel fence surrounds the perimeter, each piece thoughtfully laid in the ground at the same angle as the mountains beyond. The back patio opens to a full-length swimming pool with baja tanning shelf and outdoor spa surrounded by chaise lounge chairs. Please note the pool is not heated; however, the spa is heated. A vintage two-seat swing, nestled just off the living area, offers the perfect place to take in the views. Also outside is a 12-seat alfresco dining area, which converts into a ping-pong table. A gas BBQ grill and indoor/outdoor stereo system complete the ultimate desert entertaining experience.





