



## #INSTACRUSH

### @meganjennifer

**WHO:** Phoenix resident Megan Gilroy, an Arizona State University student whose engaging content aligns with her design and fashion style.

**WHAT:** Expect to see artistic shots of the desert, dreamy decor in soothing spaces, snaps from her travels and healthy doses of coffee and cat pics thrown in for good measure. Gilroy has a knack for drawing out the beauty in unexpected everyday locales.

**WHY:** Gilroy's feed presents a cheerful and calming vibe through bright white and crisp images, achieved occasionally thanks to the S2 filter on the VSCOCam app.

**IN HER WORDS:** *"The desert is filled with endless inspiration—the color palette is stunning, and the way the light lingers in the sky at sunset makes my heart skip a beat. I even have a little saguaro cactus tattoo on my wrist as a tribute to my home in the Sonoran Desert."*

## CHECK IN

### ANDAZ SCOTTSDALE RESORT & SPA

Desert creatives have an ideal spot to bed down at the Andaz Scottsdale Resort & Spa. Designed by Novato, California-based EDG Interior Architecture + Design, the 201-room hotel plays off the local art scene of the 1950s, when Georgia O'Keeffe, Alexander Girard, Paolo Soleri and others produced works inspired by the desert surroundings. The firm's take on modern bungalows outfitted with midcentury furnishings and vibrant art are meant to portray an artist colony for a new era, says Jennifer Johanson, CEO of EDG. "We had envisioned the public spaces as design ateliers where the creative traveler could find new perspectives and space for expression," she says. Craftsmen from nearby Cattle Track Arts Compound display their works throughout the resort and, as part of the hotel's artist-in-residence program, lead events, concerts and classes for guests. [andazscottsdale.com](http://andazscottsdale.com)



## THE INSIDER

LEAH AND MATT THEODOSIS

When they were planning their wedding, Chandler residents Leah and Matt Theodosis couldn't find wooden benches to rent as seating, so they ended up building their own. This task would lead to another big step they would take together: opening Tremaine Ranch, a staging, design and furniture rental company based in Tempe. Founded in 2013, their business offers handcrafted and antique furniture and decor that has a distinct rustic feel. "We try our very best to thrift and antique our pieces so we can give them a second life and create a smaller carbon footprint on our planet," Leah says. "The thrill of the hunt makes it worth the time." Here, the couple discuss their favorite local shops and artists who inspire them. [tremaineranch.com](http://tremaineranch.com)

**Where to shop:** Merchant Square Antique Marketplace, a 58,000-square-foot mall in Chandler; Call It New/Call It Antique, a thrift shop in Mesa with beautiful vintage and specialty finds; and the Main Street Antique Mall, a Mesa store that has treasures around every corner—we go to walk around and feel inspired.

**Local home decor find:** Standard Wax, a Tempe-based candle company that strives to bring art into everyday life. These ceramic vessels are made with the intention of being repurposed and poured in house. Standard Wax even makes custom candles featuring signature scents and personalized labels.

**One to watch:** Phoenix florist Malori Maeva. She owns multiple companies, including two floral studios, Hoot & Holler and Noir; Oh Hell Yes, a business consulting brand; Phoenix Flower Crowns; and Lola & Pine, a line of handmade planters. She inspires us to do great work and run a great business, and she works smarter, not harder—which isn't always easy to do.

# DATE BOOK

BROOKS VITALONE

Next year marks Brooks Vitalone's 20<sup>th</sup> year as principal of her Paradise Valley design firm, a milestone marked by an array of experiences. Years earlier, the Arizona State University grad honed her skills studying fine and decorative arts in European epicenters like Paris, Florence, Amsterdam and Athens, Greece. She returned stateside intending to teach fine art but instead began working for a San Francisco paper company, a job that gave her the business skills she still applies today. Still, she always found ways to keep her passion alive. "My every free moment was spent going to antiques shops, design boutiques or showrooms," Vitalone recalls. "It was easy to fuel my flame." After getting into home remodeling and then working at Sloan Miyasato, Vitalone settled in Arizona and launched Brooks & Company in 1998, bringing her sense of vibrancy and character to desert homes. "I like our design community," she says. "There's enough work to go around and a lot of talent here, which is healthy. It's fun to be among that group." Below, Vitalone spends a day showing us some of her local favorites. [brooksvitalone.com](http://brooksvitalone.com)

**10 a.m.** Start with brunch at El Chorro, where I usually order the shrimp cocktail. The history and setting of this enchanting enclave—which was a school in the 1930s—only enhance the French chef-driven gastronomy.

**11 a.m.** Pop into two of my favorite galleries: Costello Childs Gallery and Gallery Russia. Costello is constantly bringing in current national and local artists to the design community, while Gallery Russia represents more classical artists. It's nice to view a mix of both.

**12 p.m.** Stroll around at the Scottsdale Quarter. It's a compact area with the latest stores, and it feels like a little European town. Stop in Paper Source, which is great for gifts.

**1 p.m.** For lunch, the café at Arcadia Farms continues to be a hit. It has a charming, cozy atmosphere, especially when the weather permits sitting on the patio underneath a plethora of umbrellas. My go-to

dishes are the pesto grilled shrimp or the crab and avocado tower.

**2 p.m.** It's time for shopping. My favorite showrooms include The Collector's House, Savale Flowers Antiques, Brady Gray, Dean-Warren, John Brooks Incorporated and Paradise Valley Estate Sales, Auctions & Consignment. What I love about all of them is their ability to inspire anyone; there's incomparable quality and originality to be found at each.

**4 p.m.** Visit the Phoenix Art Museum (I love the building's architecture) or the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art. Both are manageable to walk around, so you can quickly get a big dose of what's going on in the arts scene.

**6 p.m.** Have dinner at Veneto Trattoria Italiana. The atmosphere is the closest thing to being in Italy—how could it not be when all the waiters speak with thick Italian accents? I recommend trying one of the daily seafood pasta specials.



DATE BOOK PHOTOS: PORTRAIT, HOLLY SCHUMACHER; PHOTOGRAPHY, BEDROOM AND PATIO PHOTOS, WERNER SEGARRA; BATHROOM PHOTO, PLAN JANE PHOTOGRAPHY.



**7 p.m.** If you're in town on a Thursday, check out the Scottsdale ArtWalk, a two-hour event in which galleries in the Scottsdale Arts District are open later to the public. It's a wonderful way to open up your imagination during an evening's stroll.

**9 p.m.** Need a late-night bite? Stop into Malee's on Main for delicious Thai fare. The Tom Ka Gai soup is absolutely fabulous—it has a coconut milk base, and it's ordered spicy on a scale of one to five.

