



**NICOLE VAISMAN**  
**META SKIN STUDIO**  
 PALM SPRINGS

Walk into Nicole Vaisman's South Palm Canyon studio, and immediately you're immersed in sleek, clean vibes. White, Scandinavian-style chairs pop with grey pillows, and her exclusive line of anti-aging and hyperpigmentation products gleams on the wall. With more than 15 years of experience in the beauty industry, Vaisman is at the top of her game when it comes to skin care. She currently serves as lead esthetician at Ace Hotel & Swim Club and decided to launch her own business to help clients

achieve "noticeable results." In the industry, resort-style facials are referred to as a "fluff and buff." Here, she offers long-term care for better skin.

"I feel like no matter how much you weigh or what situations you're in in life, you can always look better with good skin," Vaisman says.

GET IN TOUCH  
 121 S. Palm Canyon Dr., Ste. 206  
 (by appointment only)  
 metaskinstudio.com  
 760-835-2004

Meta is derived from a word that means "turning post" in Latin, and Vaisman wants her clients – both local and long-distance – to turn a corner. She offers facials, peels and waxing, as well as more dedicated programs for acne and aging. And when she says "dedicated" she means it: Clients are booked for bimonthly appointments and sign paperwork agreeing to follow her rules at home.

A Quintessence Skin Science national educator and Face Reality certified acne expert, Vaisman treats all grades of acne by working closely with the client, and giving them enzyme and mild chemical peel treatments every two weeks, along with LED light therapy. She also helps them make lifestyle adjustments, like foods to avoid. An easy tip? Don't use products with coconut oil or shea butter, which clog the pores. Instead, she says, try products with clinical actives, like high concentrations of vitamin C, retinols, peptides or antioxidants.

Her Skin Transformation Facial, in particular, is a good place to start. During the 90-minute treatment, Vaisman assesses your skin and does "whatever it takes to improve" it, from nano-needling to her micro-current machine (a great Botox alternative for firming and lifting). If you're lying there on the half-hour, the clock tower that stands just outside her window will play a soothing jingle. "I really care about my clients, and I care about their skin," Vaisman concludes. "I am always fully invested in them."

# facial FOCUS

TWO ESTHETICIANS – ONE IN PALM SPRINGS AND THE OTHER IN JOSHUA TREE – RECENTLY LAUNCHED SKIN CARE SERVICES, SO YOU HAVE OPTIONS FOR TLC NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE IN THE DESERT.

WORDS BY KRISTIN SCHARKEY  
 PHOTOGRAPHS BY GEORGE DUCHANNES



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**MEGAN HUTCH**  
**THE POINTED PEARL**

JOSHUA TREE AND SURROUNDING AREAS

You may know Megan Hutch as the bluesy, blonde folk singer crooning on stage at the Joshua Tree Music Festival. Others know her as an esthetician “on the edge.” Through her recently launched business, The Pointed Pearl, she travels to homes and Airbnbs in the high desert to offer facials and massage services that “renew your skin” and “relax your mind.”

“I can guide you and help you make the choices that will make you feel good about yourself, which is the end result,” Hutch explains. “You want to feel good about yourself. It’s the most important freaking thing. Confidence comes in a lot of forms.”

Using products from The Body Deli, her facials start at 60 minutes and include a natural date palm peel paired with a hand and foot massage, as well as an “age balancing” treatment featuring an Ancient Organics Ghee mask applied to the face and massaged into the feet and hands. She also offers custom facials based on skin type, and extended 90-minute versions – plus, hard and soft waxing. Her services are also available at the Joshua Tree Retreat Center.

“The Pointed Pearl” refers to wild pearls, which, unlike farm-grown styles, are rough and jagged, and come in different shapes and sizes. “We are imperfect,” Hutch says, “but that’s what makes us beautiful. That’s what makes us unique. That’s what makes us sought after, and it’s something to be cherished. The beauty industry wants everything smooth, shiny and plucked to perfection. I love seeing a nice full brow.”

Her services translate to a full-ranging sensory experience in self-care – from food-grade products and aromatherapy, to breathing techniques, music and nutrition (Before moving to the desert, she was a chef in the Bay Area).

“Sometimes, [confidence] is not very pretty,” says Hutch, who trained at Elite Cosmetology School in Yucca Valley. “It’s always changing, too. But it’s that still, silent gravity that will keep you there. You don’t have to worry about if you get a pimple. I get pimples! We females have hormones, we have cycles, we get pimples. It’s OK! That’s what petri oil’s for. That’s what witch hazel’s for.

“It’s a tough freaking world sometimes, it’s hard to be human!” she adds. “... We can’t rely on anything except for that gravity, that balance, that confidence.”

It’s a visceral feeling she exudes herself, imparting to clients – and those around her – that life “is a matter of progress, not perfection.” In the end, she says, it’s worth it. And sitting across from this impassioned esthetician, it’s easy to believe her. 🌱

GET IN TOUCH

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