

NOW OPEN

thick as thieves

This new Palm Springs boutique offers contemporary Americana décor we've been waiting for.

WORDS BY KRISTIN SCHARKEY
PHOTOGRAPHS BY LANCE GERBER

"If I had asked people what they wanted, they would have said faster horses." This quote by Henry Ford is the "guiding light" for husband-and-wife duo Jeremy Smick and Samantha Caltagirone, who opened Palm Springs home décor boutique, Thick as Thieves, this summer.

The teeny tiny shop in La Plaza is where whimsy meets Americana, with shelves sporting fine ceramic dinnerware sets alongside slingshots and wooden arrows "for anyone stealing from the rich and giving to the poor," the couple jokes on the shop's Instagram.

The pair wants "to carry things that you don't know that you need yet," Caltagirone says, in their carefully curated collection. Ethereal necklaces by Tel-Aviv-based jewelry designer Shlomit Ofir sparkle in the sunlight while books range from Emma Sibley's "The Little Book of Cacti and Other Succulents" to "Cabin Porn," by Zack Klein, Steven Leckart and Noah Kalina. You can also find blankets, candles, pottery and more.

But head back past the bar set-up in the hallway, and you'll find an artfully appointed event space for intimate gatherings that doubles as a clothing store with racks of "capsule" apparel items that can easily be mixed and matched – think tops, bottoms and sweaters for effortless yet comfortable California style. Balinese furniture and macramé hangings on the ceiling come together in perfect harmony, and it's easy to see the couple's resume at play. They arrived in Palm Springs by way of St. Louis, Mo., where they say they worked on events such as the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner, the ESPYs and the Emmy's. It was during the fall of 2016, a "transitional time for the country," when they, too, felt a shift and decided to take a leap of faith.

So, they sold their house and drove across the country, with a business plan they drafted on a previous stay at the Saguaro. For six weeks, they cleaned and scrubbed and restored their Spanish bungalow to its former glory – the shop name came from a line in the Amazon Video show, "Sneaky Pete." But it's evolved to represent the couple themselves, a "Bonnie and Clyde" sort of thing, Caltagirone explains. They share a special kind of serendipity that comes with leaving one life to jump into another. But don't worry, Smick says, there hasn't been any thieving yet. 🍀



SHOP LOCAL
For store hours and location, check out Thick as Thieves on Instagram @shopthieves.



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