

MAY 2021

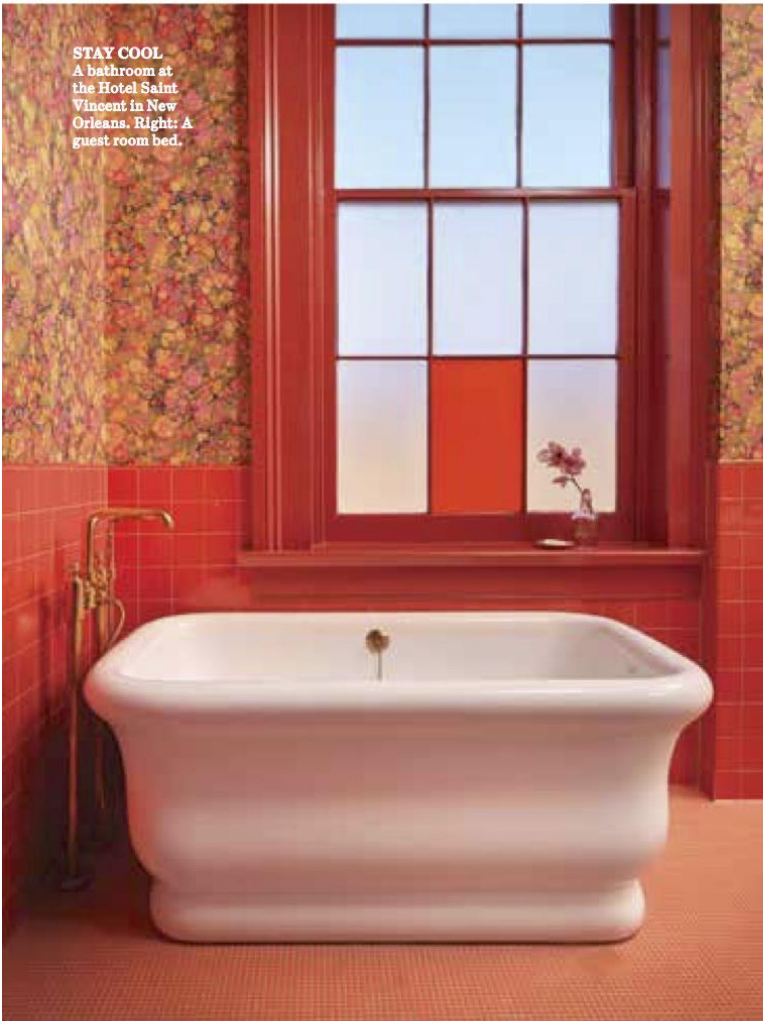
# WSJ.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL MAGAZINE



## BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD

WITH CAROLYN MURPHY,  
SHALOM HARLOW  
AND AMBER VALLETTA



**STAY COOL**  
A bathroom at the Hotel Saint Vincent in New Orleans. Right: A guest room bed.

HOT PROPERTY

## BAYOU BET

Hotelier Liz Lambert's new hospitality firm launches with a debut in New Orleans.

**T**HIS SPRING'S opening of the Hotel Saint Vincent, in New Orleans's Lower Garden District, represents a next act for hotelier Liz Lambert, who left the hospitality company she founded, Bunkhouse Group, in 2019. It's the debut project for McGuire Moorman Lambert Hospitality, the firm she recently formed with her longtime friends, Austin hospitality veterans Larry McGuire and Tom Moorman. The Texas-born Lambert, who made her name with places like Austin's Hotel Saint Cecilia and Marfa's El Cosmico, first noticed the building that would become the new 75-room hotel in 2014. "It took my breath away," she says. Built in 1861, Saint Vincent's Infant Asylum operated as an orphanage and home for unwed mothers until the 1970s. When Lambert came across it, it had become a "dicey" guesthouse, she says, but its intricate brickwork and handwrought iron balconies intrigued her. Rather than restoring it entirely to its 19th-century origins, Lambert says she found it "interesting to

imagine an old manor taken over by the kids in the 1960s or '70s." The building's historic Italianate details mingle with the interiors' new art deco and 20th-century Italian aesthetics. "The property feels like a grand old resort," says McGuire. A pool now adjoins the brick courtyard—not far from San Lorenzo, the hotel's Italian restaurant, as well as an outdoor bar and a grotto housing a statue of the Virgin Mary. "We showcase what we find really charming, exceptional and magical," says Lambert. "That's the fun part." [saintvincentnola.com](http://saintvincentnola.com)  
—Andrew Sessa

