

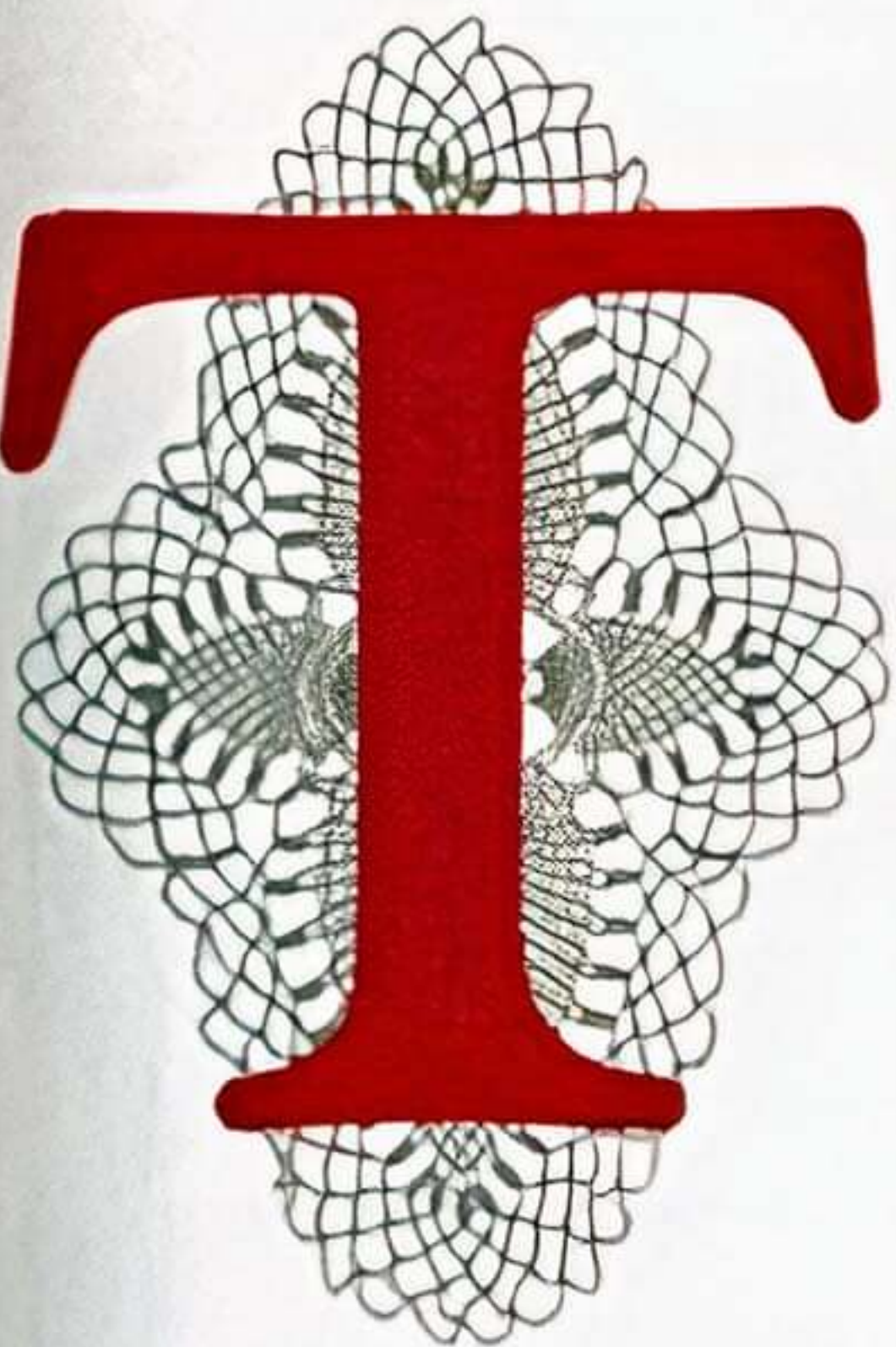


# ROMANCING THE STONES

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## Canyon Villa

*Sedona, Arizona*

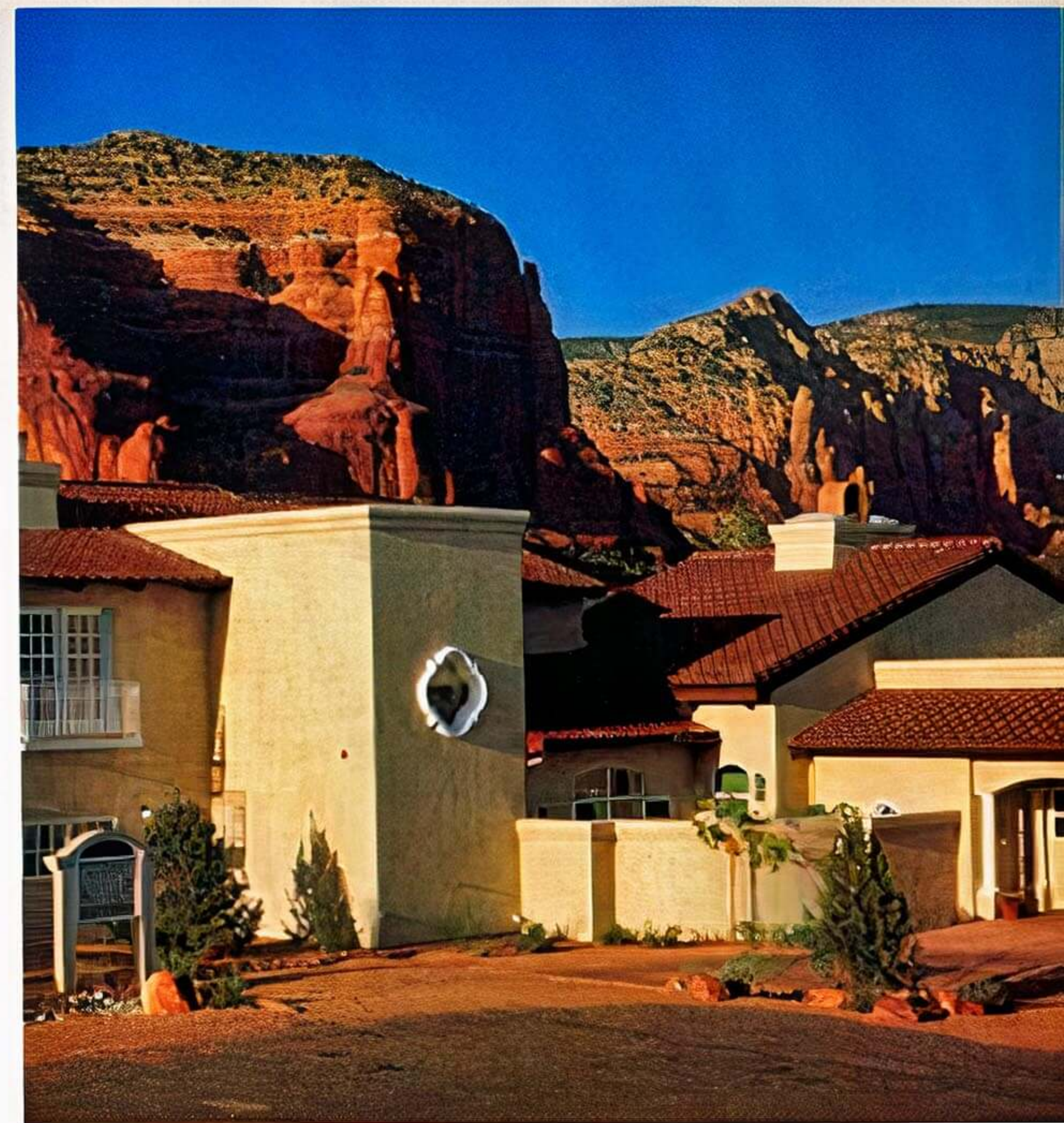


THE SKY was a cornflower blue and the sun a brilliant spotlight on the rich red rock formations of Sedona. We were looking for a new inn in the foothills of one of nature's most curious and intriguing regions. Here, fiery terra-cotta ridges, formed at a time I cannot even comprehend, are sculptures with telltale names: Cathedral and Courthouse Rocks, to name a few.

We wound our way through Sedona's swanky but quaint shopping village and soon reached the inn. And what a site! One of the famous formations, Bell Rock, stood majestically in back of the inn. Canyon Villa, washed in sandy vanilla walls, appeared with its mission-style peaks and dark, Spanish roof, as if it were a cutout in a 3-D picture, chiseled out of the rock.

Canyon Villa is one of America's newest bed-and-breakfasts, built from the ground up by Chuck and Marion Yadon. As new kids on the block, these novice innkeepers opened in June 1992 and are already role models not just for hospitality and decorating ideas, but as innkeepers. If you're thinking about opening a B&B and want to see how it's done with sophistication yet charm, professionalism yet freshness, and talent yet unpretentiousness, this is the place to tutor yourself through observation. Or, if you're not interested in being an innkeeper but want to be surrounded by some of the neatest rooms and best breakfasts in America, buy your plane ticket now. Canyon Villa has it all and then some.

Marion and Chuck named their ten guest chambers after native flowering bushes, which were drawn by an artist, framed and hung on



◀ *The inn's signature cinnamon rolls and red rocks*

▼ *The tiles of Canyon Villa. Miles of decorative tiles accent this lovely inn.*



room doors. Indian Paintbrush, Claret Cup, Gold Poppy, and Strawberry Cactus are a few examples.

“Whenever you think about building a home, location is everything,” says Chuck, “and even more so if you want to open a bed-and-breakfast.”

No kidding, Chuck took his own pontificating quite literally. Chuck and Marion, who were in property sales and management in their native Tulsa, Oklahoma, searched for years for just the right piece of land. Imagine living with views of these historic rocks right in your living room, dining room, and bedrooms. That’s just the way it is at the inn whose south wall is practically all glass with clerestory and arabesque windows stretching everywhere.

Bedrooms were decorated with the rocks in mind. Colors and styles were chosen to complement the outdoors. Marion loves all styles and added Victorian as well as American and French country with accents of family heirlooms and fine art.

When you aren’t looking at the rocks, you may well be raising one of Marion’s sumptuous cinnamon rolls in your hand. (See recipe, page 220.) Either way, how sweet it is!

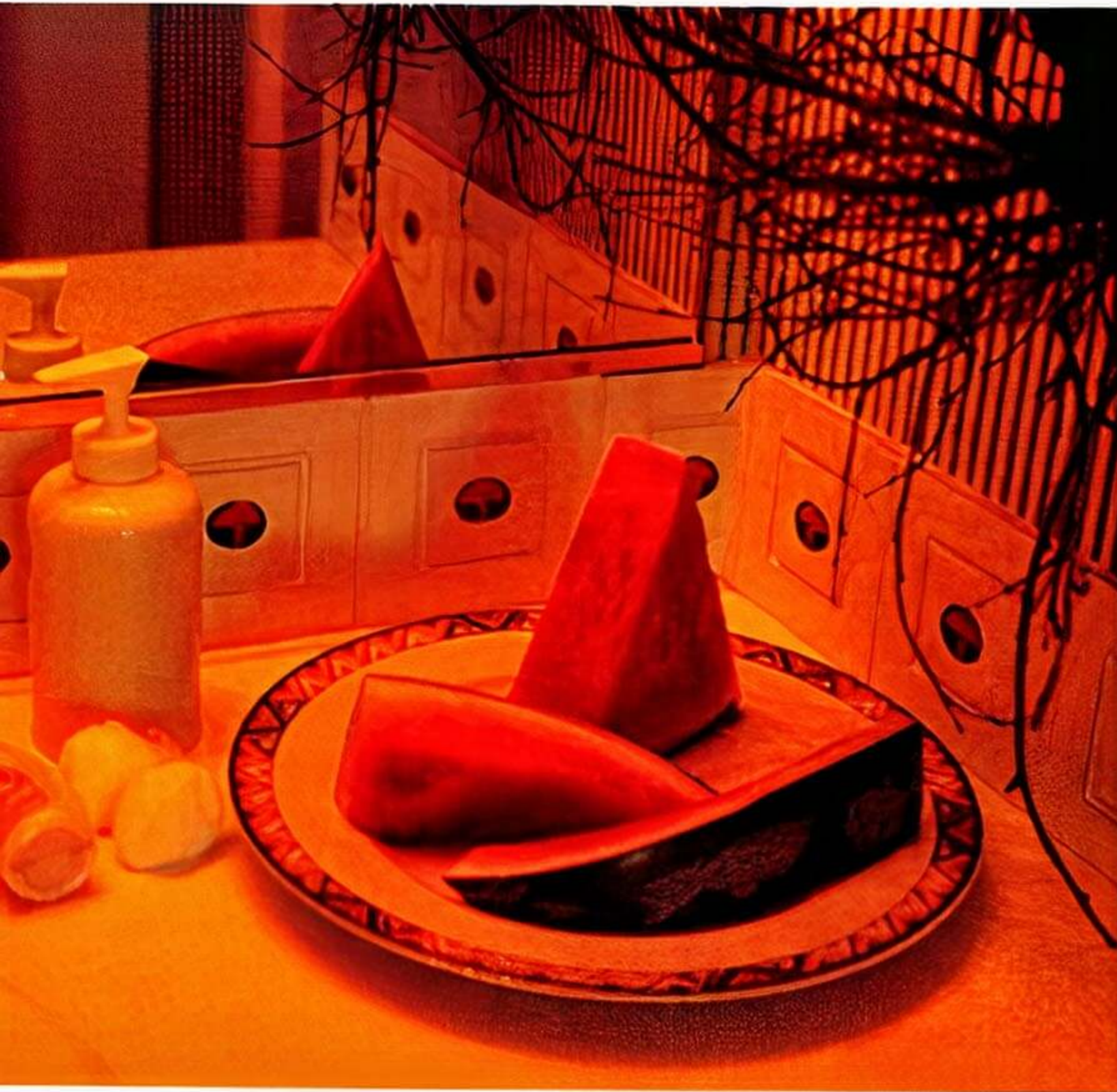




◀ Colors for the inn were chosen to complement the view of red rocks outside each window. This gathering of breakfasters sits on tapestry chairs, selected for their earthy tones and the fiery purples and blues that echo the sunsets beyond the rocks.

▲ No, this is not a postcard. Famed Bell Rock sits smack in the middle of the patio door from this vantage point in the Spanish Bayonet Room (so-called in honor of a native wildflower). The painting above the mantel sets jewel tones for the room.

► *Creating vignettes in decorating is fun, such as this one that includes red hot chili peppers and bright lemons. Even the gold around the picture frame meets its match in the brandy on the table.*



► *The soft arch of this folk art room at the inn complements the half circle of the watermelon at the window. A geometric twist on the bedspread just makes this a happy room to visit, and the bathroom tiles carry out the look.*





◀ *A touch of Santa Fe makes its way to Canyon Villa in this contemporary rendition. Very little in the way of curtains are hung at this inn to allow for complete views. To make this simple tailored and versatile Stagecoach Valance for any style room, see page 267.*