
HOTEL SAINT AUGUSTINE

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Image: Bill Rebholz

"In play, there are no limits, no borders, and no age. Play is where we get to be who we truly are."

— Diane Ackerman

Diane Ackerman, in her exploration of "deep play," describes it as an ecstatic form of expression that elevates the participant to intense and transcendent heights, highlighting a state where individuals experience clarity, wild enthusiasm, and wonder. Such play, Ackerman suggests, awakens the most creative, sentient, and joyful aspects of our inner selves, contributing significantly to human growth and sublimity.

Hotel Saint Augustine integrates a sense of play at almost every turn in its design and architecture, featuring interconnected buildings linked by boardwalks and bridges, fostering a sense of exploration and whimsy. The intersection of play and the realm of music is particularly evident in spaces that encourage communal and immersive experiences, like the Augustine Lounge that creates its own bridge between individual expression and the collective enjoyment of its patrons.

This music update is teeming with tracks that celebrate play and creative exploration, like the song "[Octopus Dance](#)" by French artist Graham Mushnik. Showcasing Mushnik's knack for blending infectious rhythms with a psychedelic edge, the song draws from cumbia and other global influences to create a sound that feels both timeless and propulsive. With its driving percussion, shimmering guitars, and layered keyboards, the "Octopus Dance" evokes a sense of joyful movement, as if inviting us to come along on an underwater fantasy ride.

Oracle Sisters' new song "[Marseille](#)," released as part of their 2025 album *Divinations*, captures a dreamy, transcendental vibe that reflects the band's nomadic spirit and eclectic influences. Born in the vibrant city that gives the track its name, "Marseille" blends tambourine-driven rhythms and lush vocal harmonies to create a psychedelia-pop sound that feels both sincere and otherworldly. Highlighted by its summery breeze and introspective depth, the track once again showcases Oracle Sisters' ability to weave personal storytelling with a classic, almost mystical quality, making it a standout moment on the album.

"[Kabaluere](#)" by Antonio Carlos & Jocafr is a certifiable banger that embodies the duo's signature blend of psychedelic Brazilian funk with infectious rhythms and rapturous backing vocals. Driven by heavy drums, guitars, and a contrasting chorus that delivers a relentless hook, the song showcases the group's ability to fuse Latin and funk influences into a groove that lingers long after the music stops. Complete with surreal vocal chants, "Kabaluere" transports listeners to another realm, cementing Antonio Carlos & Jocafr's reputation as staples in Brazilian music canon.

Finally, Maribou State return with their mesmerizing track "[Remember](#)," encapsulating the group's blend of soulful electronica and rare groove. Released earlier this year, the song features pulsating beats, ethereal-gospel vocals, and a melancholic yet hopeful tone, drawing on influences from UK garage and downtempo. The lyrics, with their repetitive refrain of, "Oh, I remember, and again tomorrow," evoke a sense of nostalgia and fleeting moments, creating a meditative soundscape that feels both personal and universal.

So perhaps it's not just the sound of play we're drawn to—but the sensation of becoming unbound. In the soft flicker of the Augustine Lounge, where laughter skips across wood floors and basslines shimmer like light on water, the soundtrack becomes more than music—it becomes moments of wonder made audible. And like all true play, they ask nothing of us but presence. Just for now, the world bends, and time lets go.
