

# DREAMS

Lifestyle • Travel • Entertainment

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December 2003

## Palm Springs Valley

*Class and cool have joined  
hands resulting in a  
vibrant, multifaceted city.*



# Palm Springs Valley

By Maggie Espinosa

## *This Hot Destination is Way Cool*

**T**he Palm Springs Valley is experiencing a mid-life crisis, and I love it! Dilapidated buildings from yesteryear are being restored to recapture the glitz and glamour of the desert's heyday. Class and cool have joined hands in matrimony, resulting in a vibrant, multifaceted city. Film-festivals, world-class sporting events, award-winning restaurants, unique accommodations...you name it, this oasis has it.

The following is a snippet of the many marvelous opportunities available for an ideal getaway.

### *Where to Stay:*

*The Ballantine's Hotel*  
1420 North Indian Canyon Drive  
Palm Springs, CA 92262  
Phone: 800-485-2808  
[www.ballantineshotels.com](http://www.ballantineshotels.com)

Kitschy chic hits the desert at this 1950's style hotel that reaches out and touches yesterday. The "totally retro" enclave takes you on an odyssey to a different America when time was serendipitous. A unique courtyard clad with blue-chaises, pink-plastic flamingos and colorful rafts lazily floating in the pool, plays host to thirteen rooms. Ella Fitzgerald and Sinatra tunes sprinkle the air, inviting guests to tap their foot to the beat. Keeping with the lite-hearted feeling, each room has whimsical, theme decorations. Choose from The Rebel Studio, 50's Musicals or Hawaiian Surf - none will disappoint. Complimentary breakfast opens your peepers with the smell of dark java surging like a lava lamp.



*The Lodge at Rancho Mirage.*

For those guests who are tethered to 2003, a business center and high-speed wireless Internet are available. A round of rousing applause is due for this hotel's uniqueness. You can't help but to feel cool when staying at The Ballantine's Hotel; like you're hanging with the "in crowd."

*The Lodge at Rancho Mirage*

68-900 Frank Sinatra Drive  
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270  
Phone: 760-321-8282  
www.rockresorts.com

This hillside resort perched 650 feet above Palm Springs, boasts spectacular views of the Santa Rosa Mountains. A long, scenic driveway crescendos at the hotel entrance as blooms of pink, white and red begonias greet guests. Situated on a Bighorn sheep reserve, the 240-room, four-star hotel combines casual elegance and natural beauty. Spa treatments, golf, tennis, a croquet lawn and children's programs make The Lodge a perfect place for a family getaway.

*Sagewater Spa*

12697 Eliseo Road  
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240  
Phone: 800-600-1668  
www.sagewaterspa.com

Tucked away in an unassuming neighborhood, this seven-room simple haven sits on an acre of secluded bliss. Open only two years, it is already known as the "spa to the stars." Celebrities and non-celebrities come to soak in its healing mineral-water pools. A staff of six massage therapists, four yoga instructors and one aesthetician cater to guest's aches and pains. The house specialty - Sagewater Fusion - is a medley of therapies, which may include Deep Tissue, Shiatsu or Swedish massage. All rooms have fully equipped kitchens, cable TV and luscious Frette linens. Guests are required to bring their own food. Communal barbecue grills are provided in the courtyard, offering a novel approach for guests to mingle. Nightly libations of vodka, fresh lime and sugar over ice, animate dinner conversations. After all, one can't take this spa thing too seriously.

**Palate Pleasers:**

*The Falls Martini Bar*

155 South Palm Canyon Drive  
Palm Springs, CA 92262  
Phone: 760-416-8664



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[www.jonesagency.com](http://www.jonesagency.com)

### **Sierra Window Concepts**

[www.sierrawindowconcepts.com](http://www.sierrawindowconcepts.com)

### **Turtle Bay Resort**

[www.turtlebayhotel.com](http://www.turtlebayhotel.com)

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[www.woodworkcreations.com](http://www.woodworkcreations.com)

### **Shadow Mountain**

#### **Resort**

[www.shadow-mountain.com](http://www.shadow-mountain.com)

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### **NeuImage**

[www.neu-image.com](http://www.neu-image.com)

### **Sunrise Balloons**

[www.sunriseballoons.com](http://www.sunriseballoons.com)

### **Lifeline Imaging**

[www.lifelineimaging.com](http://www.lifelineimaging.com)

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Beyond-a-doubt, this place has major "wow factor." Birdbath sized Martini's are served smokin' and bubblin'. Divulging the secret to this shivering cauldron is a no-no. Pink, blue and yellow drinks with names like "Bikini tini" and "Hollywood tini" amuse regulars of all ages as they imbibe the fruity mixtures. At \$7 a pop, people don't complain. It only takes one to get your happy-gene activated.

### *Kaiser Grille*

205 South Palm Canyon Drive

Palm Springs, CA 92262

Phone: 760-323-1003

This informal eatery located on a corner in downtown Palm Springs has a wrap-around, outdoor patio, making it great for people watching. Micro-misters keep diners cool and hanging plants are vibrant green. The appropriately named tuna melt elicits pleasing groans. Lighter fare includes hearts of romaine with citrus blue cheese dressing. Southwestern Focaccia bread is a staple at all tables. Happy hour begins at 4 pm, Sunday through Friday.

### *Blame It On Midnight*

777 East Tahquitz Canyon Way Suite #101

Palm Springs, CA 92262

Phone: 760-323-1200

Catering to the desert's gay population, "Blame" is a hip spot, which draws a dressed-up crowd. Red velvet curtains and mannequins adorned with theater-style accoutrements, give it a cabaret feel. The grape flavored "Midnight Martini" is a favorite with the patrons. The eclectic food menu is an entertaining read with names like "Whistle a Happy Tuna" and "If I Had A Hammer." Happy hour is seven days a week from 5 pm till 7 pm. Every Friday and Saturday evening live music rocks the exclusive watering hole. This place is perpetual fun.

### *Roy's Restaurant*

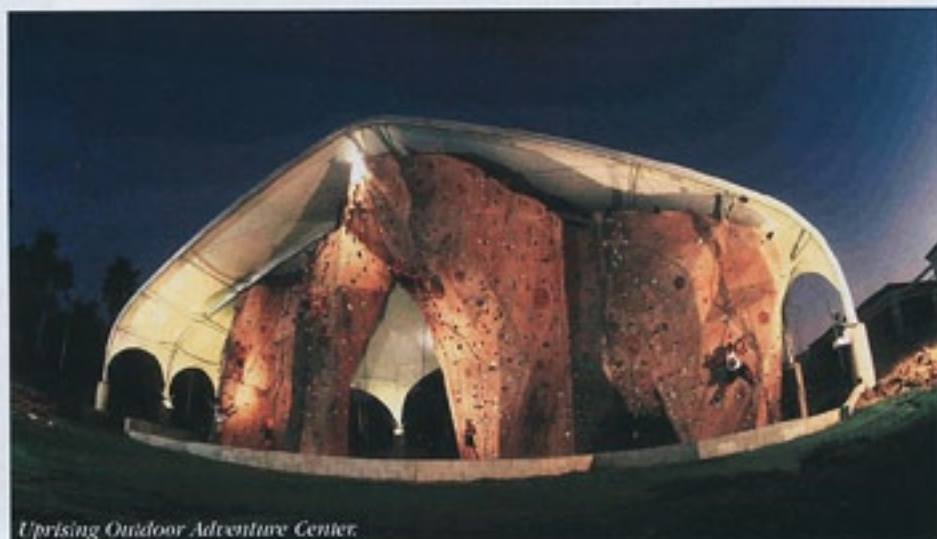
71959 Highway 111

Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Phone: 760-340-9044

[www.roysrestaurant.com](http://www.roysrestaurant.com)

Delicious, Hawaiian Fusion cuisine. Roy's is committed to using the freshest local ingredients, European sauces and bold Asian spices. Being a James Beard



*Uprising Outdoor Adventure Center.*

Award winner, it's no wonder there are 30 locations world-wide. Opened in 1988 by Roy Yamaguchi - a family man - the restaurant caters to kids by offering a "keiki's" - children's - menu. A wood-beam ceiling, burnt-orange walls, hibiscus flower paintings and tiki torches add to the charm. Menus change daily. Locals say the Classic Roasted Macadamia Nut Mahi Mahi is not to be missed.

**Fun For Everyone:**

*Sky Watcher Star Gazing Tours*  
44489 Town Center Way  
Suite D-PMB 200  
Palm Desert, CA 92260  
Phone: 760-345-2363  
[www.sky-watcher.com](http://www.sky-watcher.com)

Fun doesn't begin to describe an evening stargazing with owner Craig Herkimer. Greek mythology and Native American tales come alive as the sky morphs into a storybook. The unfettered luminaries with names such as Cassiopeia, Altair and Pegasus summon guest's curiosity. A high-powered telescope seems to bring the moon's desolate beauty an arm's-length away. The endless universe is oblivious to mediocrity. The indelible experience will leave you dumbfounded, as it has the 400,000 previous guests in the past five years. Nightly group tours are available at countless locations throughout the desert.



*Uprising Outdoor Adventure Center*  
1500 South Gene Autry Trail  
Palm Springs, CA 92264  
Phone: 760-320-6630  
[www.uprising.com](http://www.uprising.com)

America's only outdoor rock climbing center, Uprising gratifies thrill junkies from ages 6 to 106. Rock climbing areas for all levels of ability are open day and evening. With walls ranging in height from 15 to 50 feet and lessons available, Uprising is the perfect family activity. Break away from the mundane and sample the fun side of life. Team-building corporate packages are also offered.

*Palm Springs Art Museum*  
101 Museum Drive  
Palm Springs, CA 92262  
Phone: 760-325-7186  
[www.psmuseum.org](http://www.psmuseum.org)

Opened in the late 1930's, this nationally accredited facility is a complete cultural center featuring art and natural history exhibitions, performing arts and educational programs. Docent tours familiarize museum-goers with indigenous American

# DREAMS

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Indian artifacts. Permanent collections include selections from the William Holden Collection, 20th Century Art and Desert Life: Night and Day. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday.

### *How Much is That Bauble in The Window?*

#### *Mosaic*

155 South Palm Canyon Drive  
Suite A-1  
Palm Springs, CA 92262  
Phone: 760-322-3485

Eclectic funk is the best way to describe this incongruous juxtaposition of wonderfulness. Lucile Ball PJ's hang beside staid Brighton handbags. Glass jewelry, sushi plates, picture books, frames studded with palm trees...etcetera. Mosaic's will somehow tickle your funny bone. A real treat.

#### *Palapas Art Gardens & Nursery*

3255 East Palm Canyon Drive  
Palm Springs, CA 92264  
Phone: 760-416-1818  
www.palapas.net

Nestled in Araby Cove, this delightful landmark has been in business for nearly 50 years. Trademark thatched huts dot the serene, 14-acre setting, which is home to the valley's oldest garden center and unique hands-on artist's colony. Guests stroll at a pleasing pace while enjoying the copasetic union of art and nature. Demonstrations of weaving, glassblowing and tile-painting - to name a few - are available throughout the day. Trickling waterfalls and tropical foliage make it popular for parties, tours and retreats.

#### *El Paseo Drive & The Gardens On El Paseo*

Highway 111 and El Paseo  
Palm Desert, CA 92270  
Phone: 760-862-1990

Think of this as the Rodeo Drive of the desert. A collection of 22 exclusive shops line El Paseo Drive and lush-landscaping regales at The Gardens two-level shopping center. A sign reading "El Paseo...treasure every step of the way" greets shoppers on each end of this fashionable drive. Escada, J.Jill and St. John mingle among Brooks Brothers, Tommy Bahamas and Banana Republic. Modern bronze sculptures pepper the grassy median running down the center of this pocket of exclusivity. Delightful restaurants and shaded parking make this the ultimate shopping destination.



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## "My Favorite Photo"



Having just turned 2, and donning her new "pack-pack" and sunglasses, Larissa is ready to "Go Climb A Rock" on a beautiful August day in Yosemite National Park. She actually did have her first rock climbing lesson that day, and we blew bubbles from the top of the rocks and watched the wind carry them over the valley. We will, however, be saving Half Dome until she's at least 6.

*Bill & Becky Heatley  
Oak Park, CA 91377*

Send entries to "My Favorite Photo" c/o Dreams, 1300 Specialty Drive, Vista CA, 92081. Please include your name, address, caption and phone number. Entries will be returned only if you enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. By submitting a photo, senders are agreeing that DREAMS may reproduce photos in any format or media. Amateur photographers only.

For advertising information call Chris Semerou at 1-866-640.3900

## Golfing a Round:

**Westin Mission Hills**  
71333 Dinah Shore Drive  
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270  
Phone: 760-328-5955  
[www.westin.com](http://www.westin.com)

One look at The Westin Mission Hills Resort golf courses, and it's easy to see why the desert is touted as "the golf capital of the world." Not one, but two superlative courses offer the finest selection in golf. Choose from The Gary Player Signature Course or The Pete Dye Resort Course. Golf Magazine and Golf Digest award winners, these long fairways, elevated trees and strategically placed bunkers are sure to challenge the best golfers. Golf clinics and packages are available.

**Desert Willow Golf Resort**  
38-995 Desert Willow Drive  
Palm Desert, CA 92260  
Phone: 760-346-7060  
[www.desertwillow.com](http://www.desertwillow.com)

With two 18-hole championship courses, Desert Willow is one of the finest public golf facilities in the area. Both the Firecliff and the Mountain View test the skills of each player. The unique and challenging Firecliff was recently selected by Golf Digest as one of "the places to play." Unlike its more difficult predecessor, Mountain View is designed with wider fairways, making it easier to maneuver. A Clubhouse and locker rooms for men and women are available.

