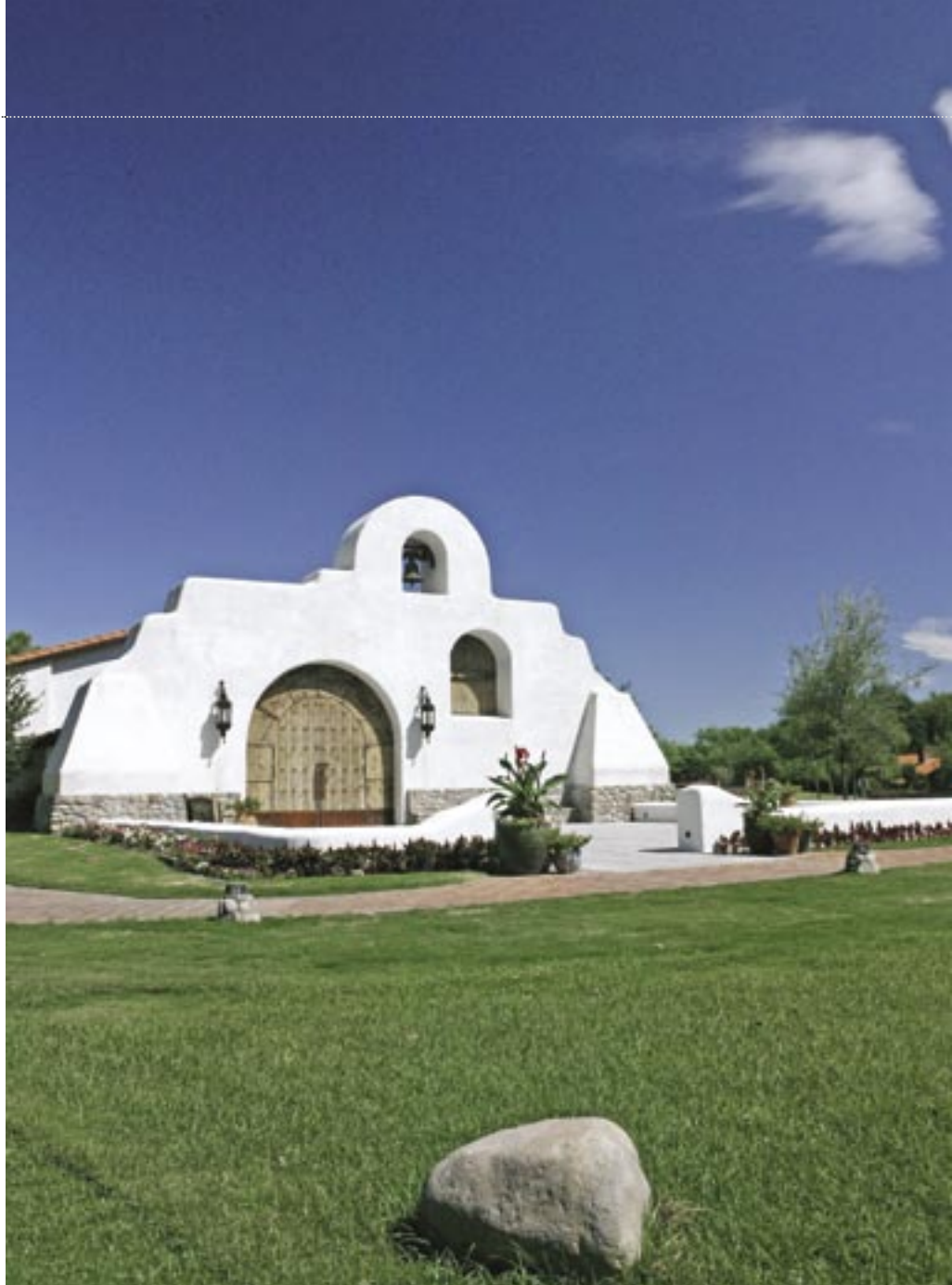


Tubac Golf Resort and Spa

Where History and
Luxury Meet



Sedona's too New Age-y, Flagstaff is too cold, Prescott's too boozy and Yuma is out of the question. So where's an overworked, stressed-out Phoenician to go to get away from it all? The answer is waiting 35 minutes outside of Tucson in the artist enclave of Tubac.

On what was once a land grant given by the king of Spain way back in '89 (that's 1789) sits the Tubac Golf Resort and Spa. The property, which has at various times functioned as a working ranch, Bing Crosby business venture and Kevin Costner movie location, is the perfect weekend escape. The intimate resort only has 68 rooms and offers all the creature comforts travelers expect, plus a few surprises.

At the tail end of an extensive \$40 million expansion and careful renovation, the resort

has at once updated and preserved its historic feel. Reminiscent of a sprawling Spanish hacienda, the grounds hold two restaurants, a retail village, a bar, a wedding chapel, golf and tennis facilities, a brand-spanking new spa, meeting rooms and several different types of guest accommodations. From the Otero House (a three-room suite), roomy and posh Casita and Hacienda suites, to the standard Posada rooms, all are well-appointed while maintaining the resort's charming Old World feel. Thick, whitewashed stucco walls, rough-hewn exposed beams and beehive fireplaces are but a few of the rustic touches found within. All the modern conveniences are offered as well. (Workaholics can still check in with the office as all rooms feature high-speed Internet access.)

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+ **Writing** | Laurel May
944.com/laurelmay

+ **Photography** | Eric Cassée
944.com/eric25

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A golf lover's dream, the resort offers an 18-hole championship course designed in 1959 by Red Lawrence. In 2006, nine new holes designed by Ken Kavanaugh were added. The Santa Cruz River is a feature on the course, as are the many stands of mature mesquite trees that dot the property. The No. 4 hole on the Rancho course was even featured in the 1996 movie *Tin Cup*, however, the course's most unique feature (and photo op) are the cows. As a nod to the resort's cattle ranching past, they graze along the banks of a lake just below the course's final green. The golf center and pro shop echo the resort's overall aesthetic, with dramatic mesquite wood lockers and fixtures.

Guests who prefer a day of pampering to a day on the links have plenty to occupy them as

well. The newly constructed spa is an exercise in indulgence, featuring full massage, body, nail and facial services, along with sauna, steam room and open-air Jacuzzi. The spa offers all of the standard escapes, plus many imaginative signature treatments exclusive to the resort. The Tui-Na Five Elements Massage balances the body, utilizing light touch combined with aromatherapy oil, a specially designed granite stone and even a copper "singing bowl." The Cleopatra Experience utilizes the queen of the Nile's very own beauty secret: milk. And chocoholics will appreciate the delicious Chocolate Chip Cookie Retreat, in which cocoa bean husks and plants are used to exfoliate and moisturize the skin. Men aren't left out, either. The spa offers services specifically designed



While in Tubac Don't Miss ...

Tubac Culinary School

Grab a seat in the demonstration kitchen for a breakfast, lunch or "Dinner with the Chef" class. Chefs Noah Aguilar, Naomi Ley and Alicia Hernandez share tips and tricks of the trade on preparing and presenting a fabulous multi-course meal, while students feast on the delicious results. Small classes of 15 or less, along with the wine pairings, ensure an educational and entertaining experience.

www.tubacculinaryschool.com

Yard Woman

Stop by this herb and homeopathy shop and pick up gifts for the poor stressed-out saps left behind in Phoenix. Knowledgeable and friendly owner Sharon Sevara can assist with selecting a dream pillow, detox bath, medicinal tea or even a custom-blended fragrance oil to ease the pain of big city life.

www.yardwoman.com

Newby Gallery Sculpture Garden

Veer away from the Mercado de Baca, cross a rickety footbridge and enter what must be the state's trippiest collection of sculptural whirligigs and totemic creatures. Stay away from the brown acid.

www.newbygallery.com

Cowboys Sweetheart

Carrying high-end casual wear for women and children, along with one of kind handbags, belts and jewelry, this chic boutique could easily go toe-to-toe with any of Scottsdale's finest. Bring a high-limit credit card.

4 Plaza Road | 520.398.0400



for the fellas, including pre- and post-golf massage treatments.

After a hard day of relaxation, there's only one thing left to do: eat! Stables Restaurant serves "American fare with regional flair" at breakfast, lunch and dinner, while the more casual Dos Silos keeps it real with traditional Mexican specialties. (The tortilla soup is a must-try.) All of the resort's bars and restaurants offer patio seating to take advantage of Tubac's much cooler, high-desert weather.

More adventuresome guests won't be disappointed, either. More than four miles of the famous Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail — the first overland route to San Francisco — is easily accessible to bikers and hikers staying at the resort. Other nearby historical pit stops include Tumacacori Mission and Tubac Presidio State Historic Park. During the warm summer months the nearby Whipple Observatory is open to the public, and what's a trip to Southern Arizona without a little run to the border? No, not Taco

Bell, but Nogales, which is just a quick drive away.

Kartchner Caverns are close, as well as the Titan Missile Museum, but guests should spend at least one afternoon exploring the sleepy little artist community of Tubac's Old Town. There are a few charming cafés and retail shops, but the real draw is the art. There's a gallery or studio at every step, displaying something to please every taste: old western-style oil paintings, clay pottery and works in glass, even modern surreal and abstract paintings and sculpture. The town bursts at the seams each February when 30,000 art lovers and collectors converge on the tiny town during the Tubac Festival of the Arts.

With a residential development planned in and around Tubac, and Tucson continuing to move south, the little town's growth is inevitable, but at the Tubac Golf Resort and Spa — where history is savored — time stands still.

To schedule a visit call 520.398.2211 or visit www.tubacgolfresort.com