

Define your style

Enjoy people-watching poolside and think more is merrier? Go with one of the larger chain hotels. The Wyndham, with 410 rooms, has the largest pool deck area in Palm Springs. The Riviera has even more rooms (477) and a mammoth pool.

Want just the opposite? La Mancha is the place for privacy. Many of the units on this 20-acre property have private pools, surrounded by very high walls. Donna Summer and Penny Marshall are regulars here — but guests might never see them. The inn has a romantic, seven-table restaurant, but many guests prefer to dine in their villas.

La Mancha owner Ken Irwin's favorite unit is the honeymoon suite that he modeled after Jack Lemmon's date lair in the 1963 film, "Under the Yum-Yum Tree." It has a fireplace, stereo, star-gazing deck, private outdoor hot tub and sits behind 6-foot-high walls. During summer, it's available for \$595 for three nights (\$100 more if a weekend's involved).

Those who prefer more action and enjoy Las Vegas-style gambling can stay at the Spa Hotel & Casino. The casino, which opened in April 1995, operates around the clock. Gamblers can play poker, "spa-21" (black jack against other players instead of the house — with a fee to the house) and "video lottery," more commonly called "video slots."

"The only thing that's missing is the all-you-can-eat buffet," said Carol Root from El Cajon.

(The casino resort complex is owned and operated by the Agua Caliente band of Cahuilla Indians — who own 32,000 acres in the desert valley. The federal government established the property lines — in a checkerboard pattern — in 1876. The Southern California Railroad got the odd-numbered sections of land; the Indians got the even-numbered sections. Many of the city's hotels are on property leased from the Indians, but the Spa Casino is the only hotel the Indians own and operate outright.)

Here's the rub

Spas are big in Palm Springs. Lots of hotels have some version of them, and many, including the Spa Hotel & Casino, open their doors to the public for day use. (Casey Olsen, who ran the spa at La Costa from 1979 to '86, runs the spa and says 60 to 70 percent of their business comes from outside the hotel.)

The most spectacular of Palm Springs spas is the newest: the Givenchy Hotel & Spa, which opened in

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Hotels

Ask for rate discounts, especially on weekdays

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And occupancy is lowest on weekdays.

"If you come on a Tuesday in August, you start at \$10 and negotiate from there," joked Mel Haber, owner of the Ingleside Inn.

Before booking a room, check out the city's free brochure on summer deals, "Fun Days Free Nights." It lists summer bargains all around town, including hotels that are offering free nights with minimum stays.

Choosing lodging

Lodging in Palm Springs is available not only in every price range — but in every size and style. More than 100 of the city's hotels have fewer than 25 rooms.

There are full-service resorts, spa hotels (for weight loss and/or pampering), mid-size hotels that cater to families, small B&Bs, romantic boutique hotels and specialty hotels that serve a specific market — including clothing optional resorts and hotels that cater to gay clientele.

And if that's not enough, consider a weekend at Liberace's old, four-bedroom home (at \$500 a night this summer), or in Elvis' old, five-bedroom, six-bath Palm Springs spread (with its 12-person hot tub) for \$2,000 for a summer weekend. Groucho's five-bedroom home (previously owned by Mario Lanza) and its four-bed pool house go for \$3,200 for four nights. And Betty Davis' old hangout, with its Olympic-size pool and tennis court, rents by the week for \$8,000.

The four homes are among celebrity estates rented out by McLean Company Rentals. For mere mortals on tighter budgets, the company's rental range starts with one-bedroom condos for \$50 a night.

"In effect, we are a 500-room hotel with 500 separate room owners in 500 separate locations," said Michael McLean, the rental company's owner. "All we do is provide the infrastructure."

DESTINATION: PALM SPRINGS

January. Like the original Givenchy spa at the Trianon Palace in Versailles, France, this is the place to indulge in relentless pampering. There's a fitness center here, but Givenchy is for people who want to get off the treadmill — not on it.

For those more interested in working out than vegging out, The Palms at Palm Springs is the place to go. The daily regimen includes 14 classes, most of them sweat-inducing, and 1,000-calorie meals (the restaurant is open to the public). The place is informal. There are few frills, but with rates starting at \$120 a day per person, including lodging, classes and meals, it's far more affordable than most weight-reduction spas.

For those who want to sample the ambience of Old Palm Springs, consider lodging near the old tennis club in the city's historic district, between Tahquitz and Ramon, east of Palm Canyon Drive. A cluster of Spanish bungalow-style hotels here, built in the '20s to '40s, once catered to all manner of Hollywood glitterati.

Many of the hotels retain a sense of that old glamour: valet parking; locals in linen and chic straw hats lunching on the patio; mid-week fashion shows; sturdy, wood chaise lounges and complimentary iced tea poolside; dancing nightly in the lounge, no cover charge. And the *owner* on duty.

That was the scene when I visited the Ingleside Inn, where Garbo and Gable used to stay.

Among other hotels in the district that evoke nostalgia: Casa Cody, the Orchid Tree Inn, and the Estrella Inn. "Our name means 'the stars inn,'" said Pauline Winblood at the Estrella. "This is where they stayed."

And where are they staying now? One of the hippest hangouts is still in the historic district — a Moroccan-style inn called Korakia. Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen announced their engagement here. Recent guests have included Timothy Hutton, Elisabeth Shue, Jennifer Jason Leigh and photographer Annie Leibovitz.

"It's a goofy, funky hotel," said Korakia owner Doug Smith. But everybody seems to love it. Publications as varied as *The London Times* and *Conde Nast Traveler* have listed Korakia among the best small hotels in the world.

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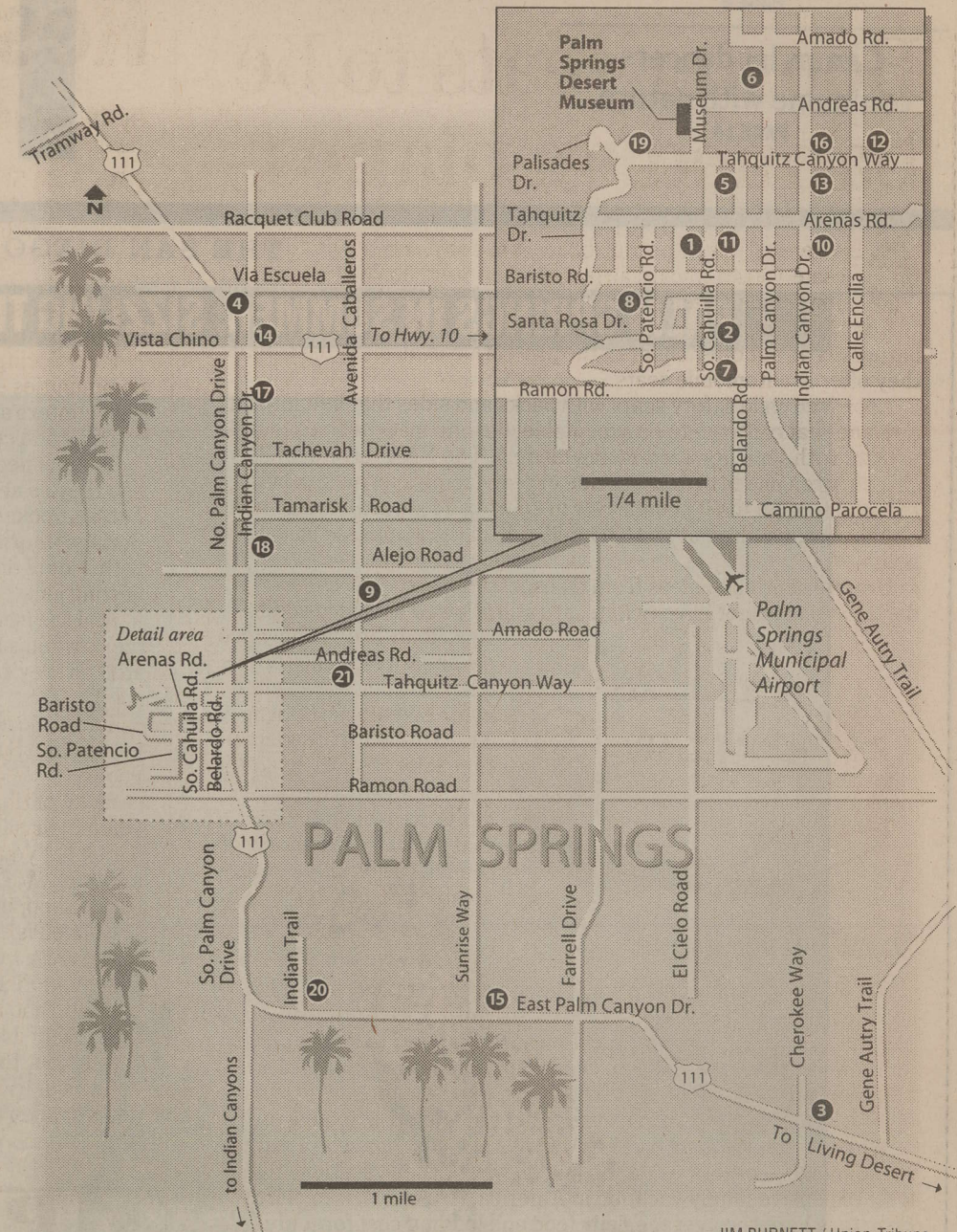
The newest entry in the nostalgia neighborhood is The Willows, which had a soft opening this weekend and is expected to officially open on July 1. Two Los Angeles emergency room physicians, Tracy Conrad and Paul Marut, bought the dilapidated winter estate of former U.S. treasury secretary Samuel Untermyer and turned it into a lavish, eight-room inn. (The place was also the former home of Marion Davies, a hide-out for New York mayor Jimmy Walker, and Einstein once slept here.)

The owners hope eventually to operate a dining room at the inn. But in the meantime, they're looking for an edge against upscale competitors in the neighborhood and have cut a deal with Le Vallauris across the street, one of the top restaurants in town. Dinner for two is included on one of the two nights guests stay at the inn.































And finally, the place for budget nostalgia: The Mira Loma, built in '38 at the north end of town. There's traffic noise here, and the neighborhood could use revitalizing, but the room rate may be the lowest in Palm Springs this summer: \$49 for two nights.


























The price is the same for every room — and many have avocado-green kitchens with '50s appliances. Gloria Swanson and Marilyn Monroe are among glitterati said to have stayed here. Monroe reportedly was something of a regular and always stayed in the same room — number 3, with its mirrored dressing room and small, private patio.

"She (Monroe) walked right where you're walking now," said manager Mandy Kitagawa, who showed me around. "And you know she wasn't here alone. Who knows who else was in here with her? Bobby or Johnny?"



Palm Springs Lodging:

1	Casa Cody 175 South Cahuilla Road (800) 231-2639						1	23				\$49 - \$85	\$69 - \$135	Summer rates start July 5. Southwest decor; ceiling fans and tile floors. Three buildings (constructed in 1930s and '40s); two pools. Kitchens in 21 units; many with fireplaces. Quiet. Bring your own shampoo.
2	Estrella Inn 415 South Belardo Road (800) 237-3687						20	2	62			\$89 - \$250	\$140 - \$350	Pay \$65 with AAA, Entertainment or Quest cards. Contemporary decor in 1970s hotel complex; '20s style in 14 bungalows. On three acres; three pools. Outdoor barbecues, shuffleboard, volleyball. Discounts for golf, tennis, Palm Springs Athletic Club.
3	Givenchy Hotel and Spa 4200 East Palm Canyon Drive (800) 276-5000		2	 24 hrs.			86	3	96			\$275 - \$550 **	\$275 - \$550	Desert's newest spa hotel on 14 meticulously landscaped acres. Sumptuous full-service spa (massage, \$85*). Gym, four pools (two indoor), tennis (\$20/hour), golf discounts. **Summer rate includes breakfast and 30-minute spa or fitness sessions for two.
4	Hampton Inn 2000 North Palm Canyon Drive (800) 732-7755						40	84	1	96		\$54 - \$69	\$79 - \$129	Consumer Reports gives it high marks among economy hotels. All rooms were completely renovated nine months ago. Pay \$5 extra for a room with a fridge. Free use of outdoor barbecues and lobby microwave.
5	Holiday Inn Palm Mountain Resort 155 South Belardo (800) 622-9451		1	 7am-4pm			70	1	122	At pool		\$55 - \$91	\$119 - \$135	Rooms are light and airy with Southwestern decor, Berber carpets; all have microwave ovens. Discounts at Palm Springs Athletic Club and four area golf courses.
6	Hyatt Regency Suites 285 North Palm Canyon Drive (619) 322-9000 or (800) 233-1234		3	 6am-12am	 M-F 4 - 7pm		108	1	192	At pool		\$85 - \$145	\$239 - \$249	All units are suites, with terraces overlooking San Jacinto Mountains. Atrium lobby. Small exercise room. Chic shopping at adjacent indoor mall, Desert Fashion Plaza. Golf discounts at Rancho Mirage Country Club.
7	Ingleside Inn 200 West Ramon Road (800) 772-6655		1	 7am-11pm					1	30		\$71 - \$289	\$95 - \$385	Summer rates start July 7. All units have steam showers, whirlpool tubs, minibars stocked with free juices, soft drinks. "Old Palm Springs" ambience. Jam sessions, 3-7 p.m. Sundays at Melvyns; entertainment nightly. No cover.
8	Korakia 257 South Patencio Road (619) 864-6411									16		\$49 - \$120	\$79 - \$169	Summer rates start July 7. Stay in original villa; six-unit addition across the street. Ethnic antique furnishings. All units have feather beds; 13 have full kitchens. Bring your own shampoo. Hip hide-out for Hollywood glitterati. Closed in August.
9	La Mancha 444 Avenida Caballeros (800) 255-1773		1	 7:30am-9:30pm				33	42	66		\$130 - \$850	\$185 - \$1,250	Gated; very private. On 20 acres. 53 walled units; one- to three-bedroom villas with private pools, spas or both. Gas barbecues. Some with kitchens. Gym, massage (\$65*), tennis (\$5), paddle courts (\$5), croquet, 1-acre practice golf, discounts at nearby courses. Ask about three-night packages.
10	Las Brisas 222 South Indian Canyon Drive (800) 346-5714				 4 - 7pm			72	1	90	At pool	\$79 - \$109	\$129 - \$159	Best Western hotel. Summer weekend rate with Entertainment card: \$54. Suites with in-room whirlpool spas: \$89 on July, August weekends. Smallish pool for number of units. Discount at Palm Springs Athletic Club.
11	Orchid Tree Inn 261 South Belardo Road (800) 733-3435							12	2	33		\$75 - \$195	\$110 - \$290	Each unit has a different decor; 30 units have kitchens. On three acres; three pools. Rates are firm; no bargaining. Quiet. 1930s historic character. Lush landscaping; trellised walkways. Same owner for 45 years. Discounts: tennis, golf, Palm Springs Athletic Club.

12	Palm Springs Hilton Resort 400 East Tahquitz Canyon Way (800) 522-6900	1	 6am-10pm	 M-F 4-7pm	Suites only		210	2	260	At pool bar	\$69 - \$400	\$205 - \$695	Summer rates start July 8. Ask about packages: \$50 with Entertainment card. "Bounce Back" (\$69) includes breakfast for two. Unsupervised activities for kids. Spa services (massage \$60*), video-game room, tennis (\$12/hour), gym.	
13	Palm Springs Marquis 150 South Indian Canyon Drive (800) 262-0186	2	 24 hrs.			Suites only	43	2	262	At pool	\$79 - \$103	\$169 - \$210	Lots of package deals. Suites have kitchens. Kamp Wannakombak (ages 2-12) is the only free, supervised kids program at a Palm Springs hotel. Gym, two pools, full-service spa (massage \$60*), tennis (\$12/hour), golf discounts. Underground parking \$6.	
14	Palm Springs Riviera Resort and Raquetball Club 1600 North Indian Canyon Drive (800) 444-8311	2	 6:30am-10pm		Must ask		88	2	477		\$69 - \$119	\$129 - \$159	Palm Springs' biggest hotel. Check on which convention is in; it's a favorite of party animals. On 24 acres with two pools, tennis (\$12 / hour), putting course; discounts at area courses. Closed Aug. 4-29.	
15	Ramada Resort Inn & Conference Center 1800 East Palm Canyon Drive (800) 245-6904	2	 7am-11pm	 4-6pm			150	2	250		\$79 - \$84	\$129 - \$159	With Entertainment card, pay \$49; \$129 for a two-bedroom suite. Rooms have been renovated within last six months, and all have balconies or patios. Sauna, gym, guest laundry. Live entertainment, Tuesdays through Sundays.	
16	Spa Hotel & Casino 100 North Indian Canyon Drive (800) 854-1279	3	 24 hrs.	 5-7pm			150	2	230	At Rest-rant	\$64 - \$94	\$134 - \$199	Owned by Agua Caliente band of Cahuilla Indians. Casino is open 24 hours, with card games and video slots. Renovated guest rooms; Southwestern decor. Two outdoor thermal mineral pools. Gym, full-service spa (massage \$60*, plus \$10 spa admission fee).	
17	The Mira Loma 1420 North Indian Canyon Drive (619) 320-1178					6		All	13	At pool	\$49 Two nights	\$45 - \$90	Second night is free. Spend a weekend here for \$49. An older hotel (built in 1938). Elisabeth Shue did publicity photos here for "Leaving Las Vegas." Marilyn Monroe was a regular, incognito guest. Six units with kitchens. Some traffic noise.	
18	The Palms at Palm Springs 572 North Indian Canyon Drive (800) 753-7256	1	 All meals					All	1	37	At pool	\$120 - \$205 per person	\$152 - \$250 per person	Full-service fitness spa. Rates are per person and include meals, snacks, 14 classes per day. Nurse on staff. Massages, facials \$50*. Renovated '30s bungalows. Must be at least 16 years old. Two-night minimum; 14 percent service charge. Weekly discounts.
19	The Willows Historic Palm Springs Inn 412 West Tahquitz Canyon Way (619) 320-0771			 6am-10pm	 4-7pm		4	All	1	8		\$175 - \$400 ***	\$250 - \$700 ***	Palm Springs' newest luxury inn officially opens July 1. Gorgeously redone Italianate villa with its own waterfall. Antiques throughout. ***Two-night minimum; rates include multicourse dinner for two on one night of stay at Le Vallauris restaurant across the street.
20	Villa Royale 1620 Indian Trail (800) 245-2314	1		 11:30am-2pm 5:30-10pm		17	17	10	1	34		\$69 - \$189	\$75 - \$250	Units individually decorated to represent a European country; half have kitchens, half have fireplaces. Eight have private hot tubs. Quiet. Lush landscaping. Golf discounts. Romantic, award-winning restaurant "Europa."
21	Wyndham Palm Springs 888 Tahquitz Canyon Way (619) 322-6000 or (800) 996-3426	2	 6am-11pm				354	2	410	At pool bar	\$55 - \$130	\$85 - \$210	Large convention hotel is adjacent to the Palm Springs Convention Center. Request an odd-numbered room; they face the 5,000-square-foot pool. Spa services (massage \$60*), gym, sauna. Tennis and golf discounts.	

The San Diego Union-Tribune is not responsible for changes in rates or amenities.

*Rates listed are for one-hour massages.

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