





Photos: Courtesy of Paradise Valley

DESTINATIONS



MOUNTAIN SHADOWS

Paradise Valley, Arizona

BY RENEE BRINCKS

In the 1950s, as Hollywood's elite famously escaped to the sun-splashed playground of Palm Springs, an under-the-radar celebrity hideaway emerged in the Arizona desert.

Mountain Shadows opened just north of Scottsdale in 1959, occupying pretty Paradise Valley real estate between Camelback Mountain and Mummy Mountain. The following year, crews arrived at the property to shoot "The Brothers Brannagan." A young Burt Reynolds appeared in one installment of the television crime drama, which starred Stephen Dunne and Mark Roberts. "Squad Car," another early 1960s show, also used Mountain Shadows as a set. Davy Jones and Micky Dolenz of The Monkees were later on site for an episode of their Primetime Emmy-winning series, and some of the most iconic names in stage and screen generated additional buzz for the resort.

"We know that Sammy Davis, Jr. stayed here. We know that John Wayne stayed here. We know that Bob Hope stayed here. We've got photos of Lucille Ball getting out of a helicopter and driving around in a golf cart. This was that kind of place, back in its heyday," says Andrew Chippindall, Mountain Shadows vice president and general manager.

Today, vintage photos displayed near the property's Arizona-focused art gallery document those famous old-Hollywood guests. The backdrop itself, however, is completely new. Mountain Shadows reopened in 2017, after a 13-year closure and \$100-million rebuild that remade the resort from the ground up. Since its reintroduction, led by the Westroc Hospitality team that is also behind Scottsdale's Hotel Valley Ho and the Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain, the 183-room getaway has earned a four-diamond rating from AAA and numerous national media mentions.



ceilings, so they're very spacious. The interiors are very cool and contemporary, with hints of mid-century and Southwest style done in a modern way," Chippindall says.

In addition to standard guestrooms and suites, the resort houses 41 residences that range in size from studios to three-bedroom homes. Stylish and sun-drenched with huge windows of their own, the luxury dwellings come with preferred golf tee times, cabana rental discounts, full



(Top) A mid-century modern/contemporary guest room at Mountain Shadows. (Below) The Short Course at Mountain Shadows was ranked in the "best par-3 courses in America" by Golf.com and "renovation of the year" by Golf Inc.

"When it comes to location, there's nothing better than these mountain and desert views," says Chippindall. "Our resort architecture has a mid-century modern feel, drawing on the look of the original Mountain Shadows, but we've put a more contemporary twist on things."

Subtle Southwestern-inspired patterns and low-key colors create a fresh, modern look in rooms and suites, while metallic accents and "Mad Men"-worthy cocktail carts add a playful edginess to the interiors. Curtains separate huge glass showers from the rest of the interior

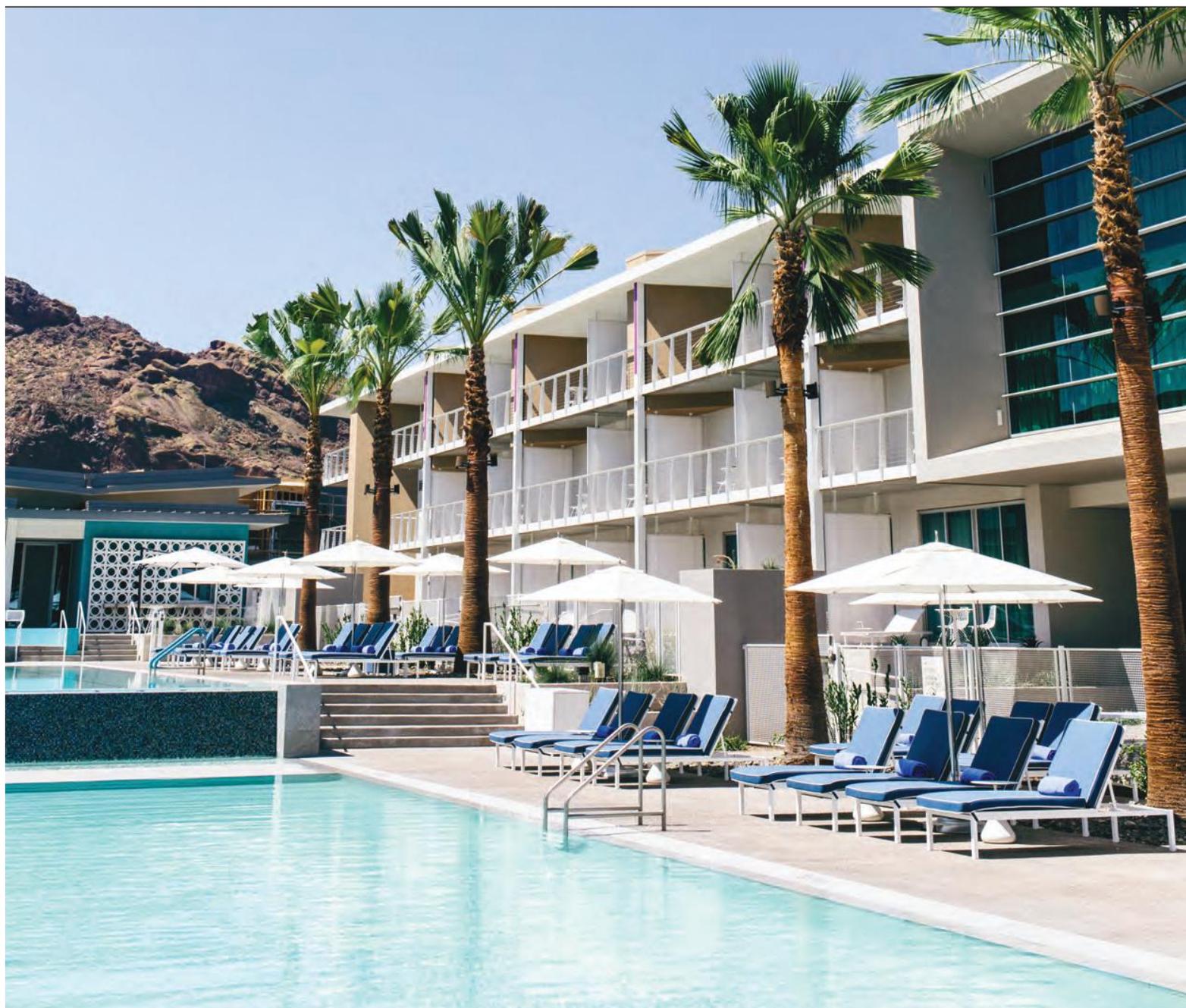
space. Accommodations also feature oversized marble vanities, spacious desks, flat-screen televisions and daily turndown service.

Guest rooms at Mountain Shadows are awash in natural light, thanks to floor-to-ceiling windows that face the resort's palm tree-flanked pools and fairways. Upper-floor accommodations have large private patios perfect for enjoying the views. Downstairs, open floor plans and structural choices contribute to a similar sense of airiness.

"The ground-floor rooms all have 13-foot

access to resort amenities and specials at Mountain Shadows' three dining venues.

At Hearth '61, Mountain Shadows' main restaurant and bar, Chef Charles Wiley hosts monthly Sunday dinners with thoughtful tasting menus and wine pairings. The standard daily menu spotlights seasonal ingredients from several local partners. Flavorful ancient grains served in cast iron might be presented with shiitake mushrooms and roasted asparagus; line-caught swordfish and Niman Ranch beef are fired in a stone oven, which adds a subtle smokiness.



Seasonal creative fare, wine, beer, and craft cocktails can be enjoyed at **Hearth '61**, while casual food and beer is served at **Rusty's**. Poolside, organic juices and light bites are served by the **Citizens Club**.



Mountain Shadows Resort in Paradise Valley opened in 1959. The Arizona resort was entirely rebuilt, with a contemporary design that reflects the former era. Celebrities like John Wayne and Bob Hope popularized the original property.

Sleek furnishings and simple, sophisticated fixtures fill the Hearth '61 dining room, a chic space with slate, teal and walnut hues that carry through to the adjacent cocktail bar. A wall of windows connects the venues with a large outdoor seating area overlooking the surrounding desert landscape. Next to the bar, a cozy living room-style lounge is a popular spot for post-dinner drinks and late-night conversations.

Guests and residents also gather at the Citizens Club, the wellness facility at the heart of the resort. Large windows front the fitness center, a bright room with Precor machines, TRX suspension equipment, weights and other gear. Individuals can take part in personal training sessions and a range of classes that includes Pilates,

aerial yoga and barre workouts. Seasonal sunrise and moonlight yoga sessions set up outdoors, as well, and twin 75-foot outdoor pools accommodate aquatic exercise classes.

Eight poolside cabanas can be rented for private use, with package options that bundle a

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bottle of rose, a six-pack of beer, fresh fruit or other amenities. Staffers deliver smoothies, snacks and cocktails from The Juice Bar's pool menu to patrons relaxing in the cabanas and on chaise lounges that line the water.

Some guests prefer to bask in the Arizona

sunshine while playing the Short Course, the resort's 18-hole, par-three golf facility. Golf designer Arthur Jack Snyder outlined the original layout in 1961. His one-time student, Forrester Richardson, led a recent course redesign headlined by three tee-off options per hole, a hop across the Mountain Shadows pond on hole seven, a bunker within the dual green at holes 13 and 14, and Camelback Mountain views throughout.

The combination of distinct features and short yardages creates a destination that's accessible to

novice golfers but also promises engaging challenges for more experienced players.

"Traditionally, golf requires a time commitment that many people don't have anymore," says Chippindall. "On the Short Course, you can tee off at 7 in the morning, eat breakfast by 9 or

9:30, and still have your whole day ahead of you.”

Players who choose an afternoon tee time might follow their round with a cocktail at Rusty’s, the course bar and grill that Chippindall recommends for its sunset views. It’s his second favorite scene on the property. The first is in the main lobby, near the front desk.

“When you look through those beautiful glass windows, across the wedding lawn, and stare directly at Camelback Mountain, that’s really the ‘wow’ moment for people,” he says. “It is absolutely amazing.”

To learn more about dining, golf course and wellness programs, and luxury accommodations at Mountain Shadows, or to make resort reservations, please visit www.mountainshadows.com. ■



Mountain views, excellent dining, a warm climate, golf, swimming, and plenty of other wellness activities make Mountain Shadows a popular location for meetings, getaways and weddings. There are also 41 residences and lofts on site.