

Desert

March 2013

magazine

Caroline's Revenge

She wants her
BNP title back



**LPGA'S STACY LEWIS
AND POLO'S
NACHO FIGUERAS**
play in the desert
this month

AND

A fantasy
swimming pool,
plus the house
that goes with it

2011 BNP Paribas Open
Women's singles champion
Caroline Wozniacki

10 places to go after your game



bluEmber

After a wonderful (or even not so great) game of golf or tennis, it's hard to beat a relaxing meal or drink with friends, while you replay the outing. Here are a few of our favorite spots where you are welcomed directly from the greens or court in your play clothes.

BLUEMBER RESTAURANT AT RANCHO LAS PALMAS

Boasting "a contemporary spin on classic California cuisine," this restaurant offers cozy dining inside, but your better choice is the relaxed ambience of a patio table with terrific views of the golf course and several outdoor fire pits. There's live music Wednesday–Sunday, with signature drink specials. 41-000 Bob Hope Dr., Rancho Mirage; (760) 862-4581; RanchoLasPalmas.com.

ESCENA LOUNGE & GRILL

Aside from the California-fusion cuisine, there's the undeniable appeal of the eye-popping design with a playful, retro vibe. But even beyond that, the spacious indoor and outdoor dining areas frame unbeatable panoramic views of the majestic San Jacinto Mountains.

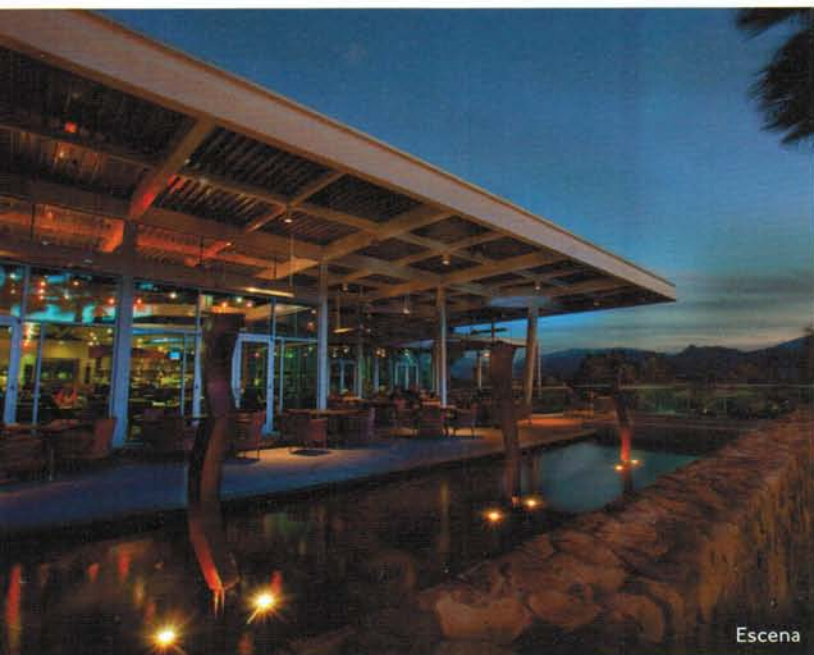
Many of the menu items can be prepared gluten-free. Old-school favorites like oysters Rockefeller and the once-legendary Brown Derby Cobb are offered, along with an extensive salad selection, sandwich board and burger

gallery—with superb table service and everything prepared up a notch from ordinary. (If you value your waistline, don't dare dip into their fresh-made potato chips.)

Escena Lounge & Grill is located within the Escena Palm Springs community and is connected to the Escena Golf Club. Dining and golf are open to the public year-round. There's breakfast and dinner, as well as lunch, which is served Monday–Saturday, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Enter from Vista Chino, 200 yards east of Gene Autry Trail. 1100 Clubhouse View Dr., Palm Springs; (760) 992-0002; EscenaGolf.com.

LAKEVIEW TERRACE RESTAURANT AT DESERT WILLOW

With a massive patio and the golf course practically at your feet, Lakeview Terrace Restaurant is a worthy destination even if your game was played somewhere else. Lunch is served 11 a.m.–3 p.m. and there's a lobby bar with a menu if you're in the mood for something lighter. The lunch menu offers an extensive collection of



Escena



Lake View Terrace



Arnold Palmer's



Cliffhouse Grill & Bar

salads, including the Desert Willow Cobb. You'll also find sandwiches—even the classic Monte Cristo—as well as burgers, fish tacos, a healthful Veggie Napoleon and signature dishes including Lobster Mac and Cheese, which comes topped with bread crumbs, along with a side of walnut pear salad. 38-995 Desert Willow Dr., Palm Desert; (760) 346-7060; DesertWillow.com.

ARNOLD PALMER'S

With a slogan of "Taste the good life," and filled with memorabilia of namesake Arnold Palmer, there's not a more appropriate place to head after a game of golf to keep that "19th-hole" mood going. They serve up New American cuisine, including some of Arnie's favorites. Food is also available in Arnie's Pub and the outdoor patio.

The menu ranges from meatloaf sliders to "Prosciutto di Palmer" California anti-pasto rolls. Other offerings include salads, calamari, their famous Pub Chips, ribs, fish and chips, spring rolls, burgers, prime rib dip and sandwiches. Bring your putter for some extra practice on the restaurant's green. Happy hour, with a special \$6 menu, runs 3–6 p.m. daily. 78-164 52nd Ave., La Quinta; (760) 771-4653; ArnoldPalmersRestaurant.com.

CLIFFHOUSE GRILL & BAR

Perched only five minutes' drive from the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, on a rock outcropping at historic Point Happy in La Quinta, the newly re-imagined Cliffhouse Grill offers spectacular views in the dining room and lounge, or on an outdoor patio with waterfall and massive stone fireplace. Stop by for happy hour and bar menu specials beginning at 3:30 p.m. or all night on Sunday. Or come for dinner, which begins at 4:30 p.m. and features classics with a twist, plus a nice focus on seafood. Crab-stuffed shrimp is a favorite and there's live entertainment on Friday and Saturday evenings. 78-250 Hwy 111, La Quinta; (760) 360-5991; CliffhouseGrillandBar.com.

JACKALOPE RANCH

Sitting on six and a half gloriously landscaped acres, this "lodge" offers authentic



Jackalope



Las Casuelas

California Ranch cuisine and classic barbecue, as well as an indoor saloon, outdoor palapa bar and evening entertainment. Lunch is served 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., and offers unique options including Portobello Fries and the Jumbo Lump Crab Meat & Avocado Tostada alongside favorites like their Smoked Brisket Salad and World Famous Jackalope Prime Rib French Dip. 80-400 Hwy 111, Indio; (760) 342-1999; RestaurantsofPalmSprings.com.

LAS CASUELAS

With their most noted outposts in Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage and La Quinta—each offering a welcoming outdoor patio—Las Casuelas is a local culinary institution that serves Mexican favorites and an array of margaritas, all presided over by the Coachella Valley's Delgado family for more than 35 years. Lighter salads are available along with classic offerings, and happy hour and live entertainment add to the appeal. Las Casuelas Terraza, 222 S. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs; (760) 325-2794; LasCasuelas.com. Las Casuelas Nuevas, 70-050 Hwy 111, Rancho Mirage; (760) 328-8844; LasCasuelasNuevas.com. Las Casuelas Quinta, 78-480 Hwy 111, La Quinta; (760) 777-7715; LasCasuelasQuinta.com.

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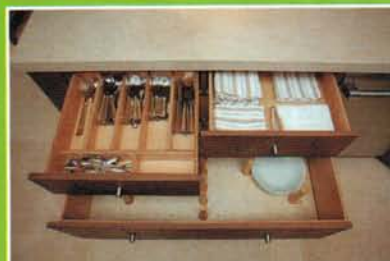
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IW CLUB

With a magnificent waterfall entrance, the IW Club beckons those wishing to relax post-game in style. Choose a deep booth or table in the curving dining room, or dine outside on the extensive second-story patio with a stunning view of Eisenhower Mountain. Lunch is served 11 a.m.–3 p.m. each day, with happy hour offered 3–6 p.m. The Trio of Sliders featuring Angus beef, chilled lobster combined with shrimp salad, as well as Portuguese sausage, is a favorite, as is the Papaya Chicken Tower. You'll find several dishes with less than 500 calories, as well as a nice selection of artisan sandwiches and burgers. The must-try is the Truffle Lobster-Shrimp Mac 'n Cheese with gluten-free Fusilli, imported truffles, gratin crust and IW 5 cheese sauce. 44-500 Indian Wells Lane, Indian Wells; (760) 834-3800; IWClub.com.



IW Club



Spencer's

SPENCER'S

No place mixes stylish elegance and comfortable informality like Spencer's, named by owner Harold Matzner after his beloved dog. Tucked into the base of the San Jacinto Mountains and adjacent to the courts of the Palm Springs Tennis Club, this restaurant and patio are shaded with trees and warmed by a welcoming fire pit, making it a "see and be seen" location whether it's day or night.



Wallaby's West

While there's breakfast and dinner, lunch is served 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. The menu is American cuisine with a French-Pacific Rim influence. A must-have that will draw "aahhs" is the Signature Colossal Shrimp Cocktail, and there's an extensive menu of salads, burgers, sandwiches and entrees that offers comfort foods like meatloaf and corned beef hash alongside sautéed shrimp, lobster raviolis and sautéed panko-crusted tofu. 701 W. Baristo Rd., Palm Springs; (760) 327-3446; SpencersRestaurant.com.

WALLABY'S WEST

For comfort food with an upscale twist, served up with a panoramic view of the Santa Rosa Mountains, stop by Wallaby's at the Greg Norman Clubhouse at PGA WEST. Lunch highlights include the soups and the Tasmanian Turkey Club, fish and chips, chili, salads, sandwiches, wraps, hot dogs and quesadillas, served 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Breakfast is 7 a.m.–11 a.m., and the patio is pet friendly. Monthly sunset barbecues are also popular. 81-405 Kingston Heath, La Quinta; (760) 564-3919; LaQuintaResort.com.

—LEA GOODSSELL