



# Remote Resorts

GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL DOESN'T HAVE TO MEAN GETTING OUT OF ARIZONA ENTIRELY. CHECK OUT THESE SECLUDED IN-STATE SANCTUARIES.



**W**HEN IT COMES TO STAYCATION options, Phoenicians are spoiled for choice. But can you really recharge your batteries when your boss is a text message and a traffic jam away? To really decompress, you need a place where the cell phone reception is sketchy and the scenery, service, sunsets and silence are a sure thing. Thankfully, Arizona is blessed with backcountry bolt-holes where the itineraries feature a single magic word: relax.

## Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain

The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain is slated to open this December 18 near Marana, a prospect that seems at first blush like casting the Queen of England in *Blazing Saddles*. And it might have been, 20 years ago. But since then, both the emblematic hotel brand and the Tucson environs have reinvented themselves.

Gone is the Ritz's red velvet-and-crystal elitism; here to stay is understated, comfortable luxury that harmonizes with the surroundings. "This is not your mother's Ritz-Carlton. It will be accessible, welcoming, casual," says Jennifer Pelczarski, the hotel's director of public relations.

Meanwhile, nearby Tucson is looming larger on the traveler's map, attracting art lovers, foodies and world-class events. The Ritz's Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course, for example, is the site of the Accenture Match Play Championship, when Tiger Woods and company battle for world domination every February.

The 250-room, boutique-y property is secreted away on 850 acres of ochre-colored hills teeming with saguaros. Great effort went into preserving the Old West flavor inherited from the land's latest owner, cattle rancher-cum-cowboy poet Cush Cayton, and its original owners, the Hohokam. Local art, artisans, stone and woodwork are incorporated into the design. From the tanning island in the center of the pool, you can gaze at a petroglyph-covered mountain, and kids' programs will include a make-your-own-petroglyph class.

In keeping with the welcoming vibe, the restaurants, spa and 20 miles of *National Geographic*-mapped hiking trails all will be open to the community. This new lower-key atmosphere will embrace girlfriend getaways and family get-togethers. But if Ritz habitués miss the exclusivity, they'll still find luxury: outdoor treatment rooms at the swish spa and a young but



**Opposite page:** La Posada hotel, Winslow **This page:** The View Hotel, Monument Valley (top); Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain golf course and room



# Great Escapes Remote Resorts



**From top:** Tubac Golf Resort & Spa's hacienda room with sunken living area; the resort's championship golf course.



genteel staff that treats its “ladies and gentlemen” (yes, they use that phrase) “in a way that’s elegant but not intrusive,” Pelczarski says.

At the four restaurants and wine bar, you’ll have access to a 3,500-bottle wine cellar featuring many recession-friendly bottles. And Chef Joel Harrington’s seasonal, desert-meets-sea menu will change as often as the color of his mohawk. We told you this wasn’t your mother’s Ritz.

## La Posada, Winslow

La Posada is the type of retreat where would-be novelists could spend a week and come away with a manuscript. It has that aura of nostalgia, idiosyncrasy and charm that inspires literature. But even if authorship is not on your agenda, this museum-like inn is a fascinating place to poke around.

Railroad restaurateur and hotelier Fred Harvey hired architect Mary Jane Colter (of Bright Angel Lodge and Phantom Ranch fame) to design an inn at a stop on the Santa Fe Railway. Author-like, she conceived it as a fictional family’s hacienda. The dapper celebrities and

tourists it attracted during the ’20s and ’30s sadly dwindled with the decline of train travel, and the hotel fell into disrepair.

Enter Winslow Mayor Allan Affeldt, who restored La Posada and reopened it in 1997. Now it’s a potpourri of historical and modern treasures: Paintings by Affeldt’s wife, Tina Mion, add a Frida Kahlo-esque quirkiness to the antique Southwestern furniture, hand-painted glass windows, tin chandeliers, vintage photos and Native American handicrafts.

After sampling the various sitting rooms and strolling the gardens, head to the Turquoise Room restaurant. Begin with yin-yangish black bean and corn soups poured into the same bowl, proceed to any of the fabulous Southwestern entrées, and whatever you do, save room for the prickly pear cornbread pudding.

While in Winslow, make a rock ’n’ roll pilgrimage to Standin’ on the Corner Park, an ode to the Eagles’ song *Take It Easy*, where you can stand on the famous corner next to a mural of a girl, my Lord, in a flatbed Ford. And just a short drive away, Meteor Crater is such a fine sight to see.

## Tubac Golf Resort & Spa, Tubac

The pace of choice in Tubac is the mosey, whether it be promenading between art galleries in the colorful town, strolling down the golf course that had a cameo in the movie *Tin Cup*, or ambling in the footsteps of the founder of what would become San Francisco.

The place to kick up your feet is Tubac Golf Resort & Spa, once the Otero family hacienda and the first land grant in the region (from the King of Spain in 1789). The 98-room property was spruced up to the tune of \$40 million in 2002 but still honors its ranching roots with red-tile roofs, wood-beamed ceilings, brick archways and beehive fireplaces.

Its 27-hole, Red Lawrence-designed golf course stretches across the sycamore- and cottonwood-studded river valley, where cattle graze within slicing distance. Non-golfers can go koala-slow

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and I trust it to Dr. Kotoske.”

- Terri Ouellette - actual patient
- Emmy award winning television personality
- featured guest on Discovery, \$%T&
- host of “(raftin! it) Terri O” on \*&

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at the spa in the eucalyptus steam room, then ease into the outdoor whirlpool tub and listen to wildlife. At night, put on the nosebag in Stables restaurant, housed in a rock-and-adobe horse barn, then stargaze at nearby Whipple Observatory.

Outdoorsy types will find plenty to do outside the resort. Birdwatch at Madera Canyon, then meander alongside the Santa Cruz River on the Anza Trail, named after Spanish explorer Juan Bautista de Anza, who led an expedition along this route in 1775. Keep following the trail and you'll eventually reach the city by the Bay. Then again, maybe just mosey back.

## The View Hotel, Monument Valley

Come winter, nothing beats cozying up to a fire with a pair of 1,000-foot-tall mittens. Thanks to The View Hotel's balcony, and the dearth of tourists in Monument Valley this time of year, you'll have panoramas of The Mittens practically to yourself.

Until recently, the only hotel in the vicinity was Goulding's, which has all the appeal of last week's frybread. But last December marked the arrival of The View, which earns its title by featuring balcony-based vistas in all 95 rooms, plus top-floor rooms with panoramas of the starry night.

Set high on a bluff, the facade blends rather than competes with the scenery. The hotel is Navajo-owned, Navajo-run and Navajo-decorated with handmade rugs and paintings by local artists. This means it's rooted in local values: It's not posh (there's no spa), but it is eco-friendly, dishing out organic coffee and all-natural toiletries.

A dramatic stone fireplace dominates the towering lobby, which leads to a multi-level deck decked with candle lanterns overlooking a cinematographic scene worthy of a John Ford Western.

This is the only hotel within Monument Valley, so adventure is a stone's throw away. Trundle the backroads in your own vehicle, or take a Navajo-guided four-wheel-drive tour along more remote tracks, where you can shape-spot among Seussical sandstone spires.

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**From top:** View from the balcony of The View Hotel in Monument Valley; The View Hotel's lobby



## Sleep & Stay

### Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain

15000 N. Secret Springs Drive, Marana,  
520-572-3000, [dovemountain.com/ritz](http://dovemountain.com/ritz)

### La Posada

303 E. Second St., Winslow,  
928-289-4366, [laposada.org](http://laposada.org)

### Tubac Golf Resort & Spa

1 Otero Road, Tubac,  
520-398-2211, [tubacgolfresort.com](http://tubacgolfresort.com)

### The View Hotel

Monument Valley (no address),  
435-727-5555, [monumentvalleyview.com](http://monumentvalleyview.com)