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PROMENADE

WINTER 2009

* inside
the Holiday
Gift Guide

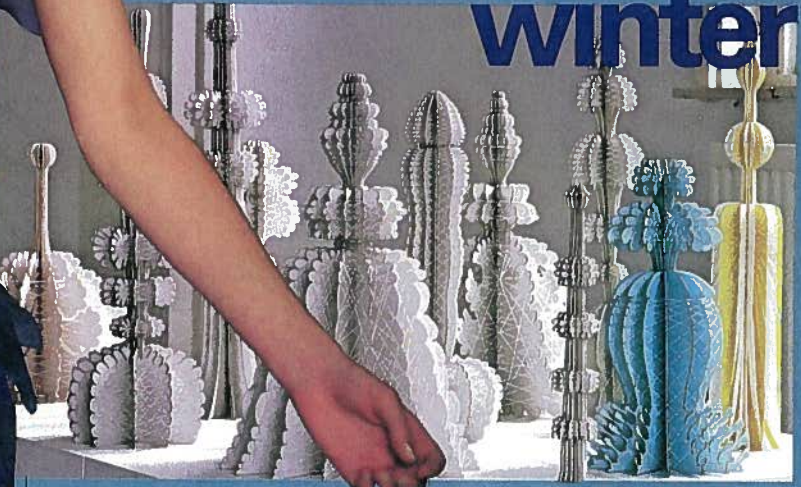


theatre

a New York

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style



art

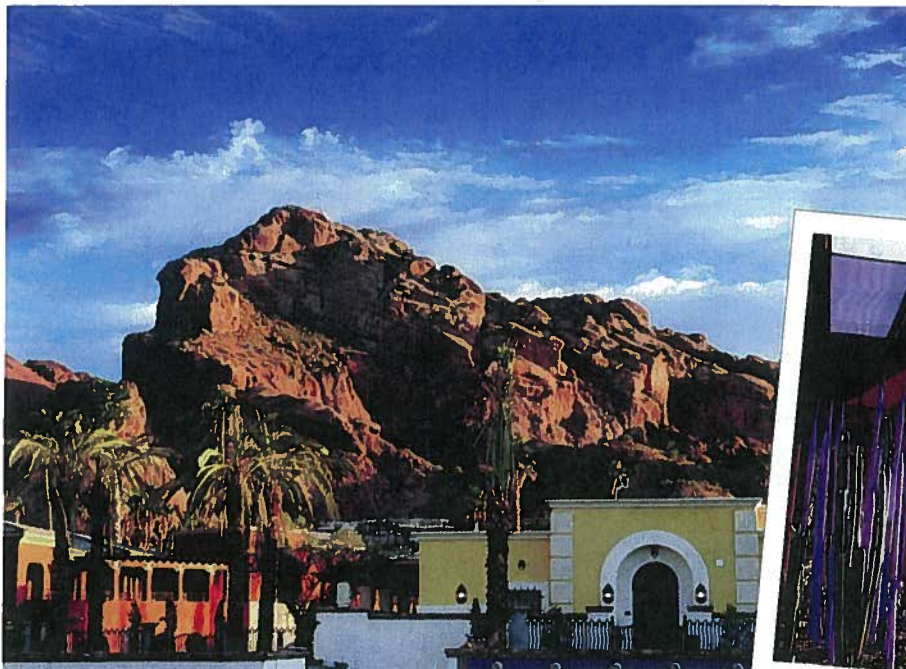
hopping

Fifteen Dollars



dining





[Left: The InterContinental Montelucia at the foot of Camelback Mountain
Below: Dale Chihuly lavender "flora" compliment live cacti Desert Botanical Garden]



Scottsdale:

Eye-candy scenery, culinary delights,
and a luxury spa in America's Southwest

White truffle French fries tossed in Reggiano. Banana French fries with Malaysian sauce. Moroccan French fries with cilantro and babaganoush dip.

These are but three of the dozen tantalizing, exotic styles of French fries served at the poolside Kasbah restaurant in the freshly minted InterContinental Montelucia Resort & Spa in picture-postcard-perfect Paradise Valley near Scottsdale. Indulge yourself (remember, it's a vacation), with any of the other mouth-watering delectables at another of the hotel's eateries, the Crave Café. It's aptly named: Most of the tempting menu items seductively hypnotize diners with food groups that are—let's just say—at the polar extreme from cruciferous vegetables on a nutrition chart. But, hey, you can always work the carbs off at the resort's 31,000 square-foot gym/spa/wellness center. (And, yes, the Montelucia does have restaurants that specialize in nutritious, Mediterranean-inspired cuisine!)

Spread out across 34 acres, at the foot of scenic Camelback Mountain, the 293-room, \$300-million-dollar resort seduces with endless four-star amenities: Five pools, six restaurants, and striking architecture that resonates with the tones and textures of Southern Spain, with a mix of Roman, Greek, and Moorish influences. It's Andalusia in the American Southwest, replete with spa treatments that are more Moroccan than Main Street.

And if the spa and the on-premises activities (the children's facilities are excellent here) don't keep you tethered to a poolside *chaise longue*, there is plenty to do in nearby Scottsdale, including top-flight golf everywhere. The Desert Botanical Garden is a must-see, with its extraordinary Dale Chihuly glass cacti at the entrance to its 50 acres of mesmerizing outdoor exhibits of desert plants (including 139 rare or endangered species). For nearly the entire month of December, *Las Noches de las Luminarias* will be staged, in which thousands of luminarias illuminate the Garden.

While you might have missed the largest hot rod and custom car show in the world (November 20-22), you can check out "transportation" of another sort later in the season—when the 50-year-old Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show comes to town, in mid-February. Also that month is the weeks-long *Parada del Sol*, a celebration of Western influences, kicking off with a wondrous event, the Hashknife Pony Express, featuring two dozen riders delivering 20,000 first-class letters the old-fashioned way! ■

For more information:
icmontelucia.com; scottsdalecvb.com; dbg.org;
scottsdaleshow.com; paradadelsol.org