

Labor Day Staycation Steals

Written by Nadine Toren

[Television](#) personality and AZfoothills.com columnist Nadine Toren is scouring the area, finding savvy Valley features, bringing readers “on the scene.” Every day she'll introduce you to [celebrities](#), [athletes](#), and give you an inside look into local events and hot spots. She'll touch on topical issues, and keep AZ fans posted on all the big talkers around town.



Does money grow on trees in your neck of the woods? Well, if it doesn't, you can still celebrate Labor Day like an A-list celeb. Check out these amazing staycation deals at the hottest spots in town.

The Valley is home to the ultimate of hot spots; luxurious resorts, amazing golf courses, the best in fine dining, and an array of a vibrant nightlife scene. That's why there's nothing like sticking close to home this holiday weekend—Labor Day: the perfect opportunity to stay-vacay. While many Valley guys and gals seem to be made of green, others are nickel-and diming, sticking to a stiff budget. But it turns out there's a way us middle class men and women can have an elite vacation experience, thanks to a handful of hotels offering amazing deals.

Get this: you can stay at what I call Arizona's Beverly Hills Hotel: The Phoenician, for quite a steal. The AAA Five Diamond resort is offering a special end-of-summer package starting at \$179. This price requires a 2-night minimum and includes a daily \$50 resort credit...not so bad for the lap of luxury.

The Phoenician offers golf-lovers Arizona's only sand-island green on its 27-hole course. There's also a tennis complex, a plethora of pools, and a Four-Star Centre for Well-Being spa. And you won't want to miss the hotel's famed (and award-winning) Afternoon Tea. Your Phoenician stay-cay is surely fit for any Phoenix princess.

For more information, visit: www.thephoenician.com.

But if you want convenience close to shopping (Labor Day sales!), head to North Scottsdale. That's where you'll seek affordable haven at the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa. For \$169 a night, AZ residents can enjoy a 2-night minimum holiday weekend escape, and that includes a \$50 food and drink credit.

The AAA Four Diamond Resort features a full-service serene spa, an awesome golf course, and tasty dining options. The spacious guestrooms boast a balcony or patio perfect for watching the Valley's picturesque sunset. However, the pool is definitely the property's main attraction, offering a major Adventure Water Park. It includes a 900-foot lazy river, 110-foot waterslide, and a children's play area. But if you're ditching the kids this weekend, get some sunny R&R at the adults-only pool. And if you really want to woo your woman, treat her to a lovely cabana.

For specials, visit: www.ilovekierlandresort.com.



And here's another reason to splurge this weekend, even if you're not a lucky AZ resident with a fat wallet. Check out The Royal Palms in Phoenix—a AAA Four Diamond property with a rich history. It was originally a 1920s mansion, belonging to New York industrialist and financier Delos Cooke, the nephew of J.P. Morgan. (Bet you wish you were born into that family!)

The resort is located at the base of Camelback Mountain, boasting a Spanish Colonial-styled physique. The 119 exquisite villas, casitas, and guestrooms are designed and decorated with detail amidst the 9 acre ground of lush flower gardens and exotic plants. There's a serene pool and must-try spa; The Alvalora Spa is actually one of the only four-star spas in Arizona. Plus, you can treat your tummy to an amazing dinner at AAA's Four Diamond T. Cook's restaurant. Holiday weekend specials start at \$159 a night.

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To book, visit: www.royalpalmshotel.com.

And while this next place is usually quite pricey, you can get a decent deal choosing one of their unique packages. Nestled among 12-million-year-old boulders is the fittingly named Boulders resort in the Carefree foothills near Scottsdale. The AAA Four Diamond Boulders Resort, The Waldorf Astoria Collection has been named America's Top Resort for 17 consecutive years, and is one of the country's most prestigious resort destinations. Intrigued? (I know I am!)

The magnificent, majestic property will definitely sidetrack you from everyday life, giving guests an elite experience they're sure to never forget. Treat yourself to an end-of-summer massage at the Golden Door Spa, a 33,000-square-foot facility offering the ultimate of pampering. Post-massage, detox in the calming steam rooms, saunas, and the O'furo Japanese bath. Meditate in the signature labyrinth, or rejuvenate poolside. Yep, the place has four crystal blue pools, tennis courts, and 2 Jay Morrish-designed golf courses. You can also indulge in some serious grub at the resort's handful of A-list restaurants. Try the tasty "Boulders Burger infused with gruyere cheese" at the Latilla restaurant.

For more information, visit: www.theboulders.com.



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