

Tucson's Arizona Inn Celebrates 85 Years

Written by Emily Glynn



First impressions are often fickle, promising one thing and delivering another. Such is not the case with the Arizona Inn.



With the passing of its 85th anniversary this past December, the boutique hotel is as transparent as ever, an oasis of calm nestled amongst the residential properties in Tucson's historic Blenman-Elm neighborhood. Once inside the pink-washed adobe walls, the hustle and bustle of the city, though just a short streetcar ride away, instantly dissipates, making way for privacy, comfort and sunshine – three tenets set forth by the Inn's tenacious founder, Isabella Greenway.

A stroll through the grounds of the sprawling, 14-acre resort, overflowing with perfectly coifed springtime flowers, reveals little surprises here and there: garden croquet on the immaculately kept lawn; clay tennis courts and badminton tucked behind trimmed hedges; and of course, the Inn's legendary 60-foot heated pool. The intimate alcove, with its rows of canary yellow chaises and complimentary ice cream sundae bar – a seasonal treat set and served in a newly appointed indoor pool lounge – provides an idyllic escape from the oppressive summer heat.



The Inn effortlessly retains its original Old Hollywood glamour, an effect that many contemporary hotels attempt to recreate. And yet, despite an impressive collection of vintage armoires and mantled fireplaces, a quick thumb through the guest service guide provides a gentle reminder that this famed retreat has all the amenities of a modern resort.

Each of the 92 uniquely decorated casita-style rooms and suites feature complimentary Wi-Fi, flat-screen televisions with DVD players and daily delivery of the New York Times. Other thoughtful details, like fluffy bathrobes and nightly turn-down service, heighten the experience. The more deluxe accommodations boast private patios adorned with retro umbrellas and aromatic citrus trees.

Award-winning cuisine is served in the Main Dining Room, though guests can opt for a more casual setting at the Audubon Bar & Patio, which overlooks the lush, sun-kissed gardens of the main courtyard. The bar, famous for its classic, refreshing cocktails, will offer four variations on its signature margarita this summer, in addition to a minty mojito and zesty Moscow mule.

Also new this summer is a special series of cocktail and wine dinners, inspired by the hotel's recent anniversary. The ongoing series, which kicked-off in April, features local liquor purveyors and unique menus crafted by the Inn's executive chef, Sam Allison.

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