

## 2015 Best Of Our Valley Winners: Stay & Play

Written by Suzanne Koch  
Tuesday, 12 May 2015 15:34 -

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### Stay & Play

Looking for the cha-ching of a slot machine or the ooh-aah of a cushy hotel suite? When it comes to free-time pursuits, the Valley is checking in and checking out these resorts, movie theaters and more.

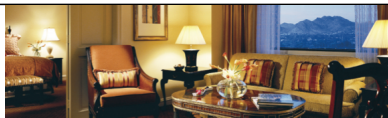
BY MELISSA LARSEN



#### BEST RESORT & RELAXING RESORT POOL

>>FAIRMONT SCOTTSDALE PRINCESS

"Summer at the Princess" activities (think dive-in movies and on-site zip-lining) and kids' dining specials for family-friendly fun. Romance and sophistication (like a rum tasting at the resort's new Toro Latin Restaurant + Rum Bar) for couples' retreats. Amazing treatments and fitness classes (hello, aerial hammock yoga) at Well & Being Spa for a girlfriends' getaway. Thanks to the long to-do list and gorgeous, comfy accommodations at Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, the resort is a favorite of locals, as well as visitors seeking just about any kind of escape. [scottsdaleprincess.com](http://scottsdaleprincess.com).



2014 WINNER

#### BEST LOBBY BAR & MOST LUXE ACCOMMODATIONS

>>THE RITZ-CARLTON, PHOENIX

With a four-star, four-diamond rating, it is no surprise that The Ritz-Carlton, Phoenix boasts some of the Valley's most deluxe accommodations. With luxurious marble bathrooms, 400-thread-count sheets and stunning mountain or city views, the Phoenix-based hotel impresses even the most experienced travelers. Guests gather in the welcoming lobby lounge, decked in elegant Southwestern décor, to enjoy light bites, cocktails and live entertainment. [ritzcarlton.com/phoenix](http://ritzcarlton.com/phoenix).

2014 WINNER

#### BEST MOVIE THEATER: DINE IN

>>IPIC THEATER

Not only do movie-goers at Scottsdale Quarter's iPic Theater get to enjoy a flick in the comfiest seats possible, but they get to dine on more than just Junior Mints and Red Vines. iPic Express offers fresh, chef-prepared grab-and-go food that is permitted in the cinema, while The Bar at iPic creates delicious cocktails with local ingredients and custom house-made infusions. [ipictheaters.com](http://ipictheaters.com).

#### BEST DOWNTOWN PHOENIX HOTEL & BEST PARTY RESORT POOL

>>KIMPTON'S HOTEL PALOMAR PHOENIX

Kimpton's Hotel Palomar Phoenix is best described as an urban retreat that beautifully blends the energy of its city setting and the desert's laidback lifestyle. Plus, it is a convenient spot to call home while taking in a concert or ballgame downtown. Though there are plenty of spaces in which to relax at Hotel Palomar Phoenix, the third-floor outdoor pool terrace is the top spot for gathering with friends and grabbing a stellar cocktail at the adjacent LUSTRE Rooftop Garden. [hotelpalomar-phoenix.com](http://hotelpalomar-phoenix.com).

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#### BEST MOVIE THEATER

##### >>HARKINS THEATRES

Since its debut in Arizona in 1933, Harkins Theatres has delighted audiences in five states at 30 locations with its friendly service, comfortable seating, ample movie times and, of course, finger-licking-good popcorn. Programs like Summer Movie Fun— during which kids can enjoy one previously released movie a week for 10 weeks for less than \$1 per film— are especially popular. [harkinstheatres.com](http://harkinstheatres.com).

#### BEST CASINO

##### >>HARRAH'S AK-CHIN CASINO

This Maricopa-based casino celebrates more than 20 years in the Valley. In addition to live entertainment and a variety of dining options, Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino has the largest selection of the latest reel and video slots in a range of denominations, as well as popular statewide progressives and live- action poker, blackjack and more. Plus, Harrah's hosts 300 luxurious resort and tower guestrooms and a swimming pool with a swim-up bar. [harrahsakchin.com](http://harrahsakchin.com).



#### BEST PET RESORT/ BOARDING FACILITY

##### >>RAINTREE PET RESORT + MEDICAL CENTER

For 27 years, the staff at Raintree Pet Resort + Medical Center— which includes a licensed veterinary medical director and certified veterinary technicians— has met the needs of clients and patients, whether they be cats, dogs or exotic and small pets. The resort includes a backyard splash pad, a heated in-ground pool, spacious suites with TV's and beds and more to provide a loving home away from home for furry, four-legged or feathered friends. [raintreepet.com](http://raintreepet.com).