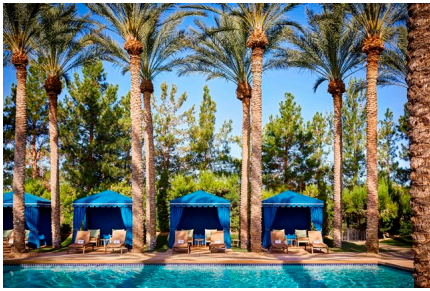


4 Reasons For a Grown-Up Staycation at JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa

Written by Melissa Larsen

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[JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa](#) has long been a Valley favorite for families, in the summertime especially. With four acres of pools, a lazy river, the winding Serpentine waterslide, endless poolside games (like duck races and whipped cream-eating contests), the kids are equipped with endless fun in the sun. But what about Mom and Dad? Well, the Phoenix resort has them covered too. Here are four reasons (not including tee time on the course or a pamper sesh at the spa) to make JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa an adults-only end-of-summer escape.



Lounge away on the lazy river. Sure, you'll find plenty of kiddos having the time of their lives splashing along the lazy river. However, once you prop yourself up on a cushy tube and have a cocktail in hand, close your eyes, lay back and let the current drift you away. Floating along the lazy river can provide the ultimate in relaxation, especially if you head there first thing in the morning.



Winner dinner at stonegrill. On its Southwest-American menu, the resort's signature restaurant serves up flavor-packed dishes each with a beautiful presentation, to boot. The AZ cheddar fondue, with crispy Spanish chorizo, is utterly addicting. Creamy, spicy, crunchy (it is paired with tortilla chips), this dish is a crowd-pleaser and the perfect one to order when chip-hungry kiddos are not around. The crispy chili lime calamari is a unique take on a traditional dish, made bright and refreshing with cilantro crema. For the main event, dig into the delicious shrimp and grits, with Pacific prawns (this dish doesn't skimp of the shrimp!), stoneground grits, roasted butternut squash and smoked chile oil, or the braised chicken mole, with black beans, chimichurri rice and Mexican squash. Both entrees are hearty and filling, packed with good-for-you veggies and impart a smokey, scrumptious flavor.



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Have a toast at stonegrill bar. Before or after dinner at stonegrill, cheers to one another with a tasty tippie from stonegrill bar. Sip on the fruity, sweet prickly pear margarita (pictured) or go for the spicy cucumber-serrano to wake up the taste buds. For a unique and refreshing offering, the Gingered Bourbon features Buffalo Trace bourbon, lemon juice and ginger beer in a spicy, summery cocktail. (Plus, take this time to explore the expansive lobby—or just find a quiet corner to hang out and people watch.)



Brand-new poolside noshing. Just A Splash poolside bar was recently renovated and is now a sleek, comfortable area for taking a break for grub—or perhaps a little break from the kiddos. The new wraparound bar allows seating for 120 people, with a view of the pool, while the lounge-y bench seating that surrounds the bar area is a great spot for taking in the big game (thanks to nine huge flat-screen TV's) while enjoying a cold beer. For a shareable dish, the nachos are delish, and the ultimate poolside snack. If you don't want to be away from the aquatic fun for too long, grab a \$5 slice from the new grab-and-go area.

Wanna stay? The Come to Life Golf package (rates from \$179) includes unlimited golf for four and resort discounts while the Come to Life Spa package (rates from \$199) includes a 50-minute massage, among other perks. Packages are valid May 25 through Sept. 9.