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A HIDEAWAY IN THE MIDDLE OF PHOENIX: Pointe Hilton Resort At Tapatio Cliffs/Lookout Mountain Golf Club

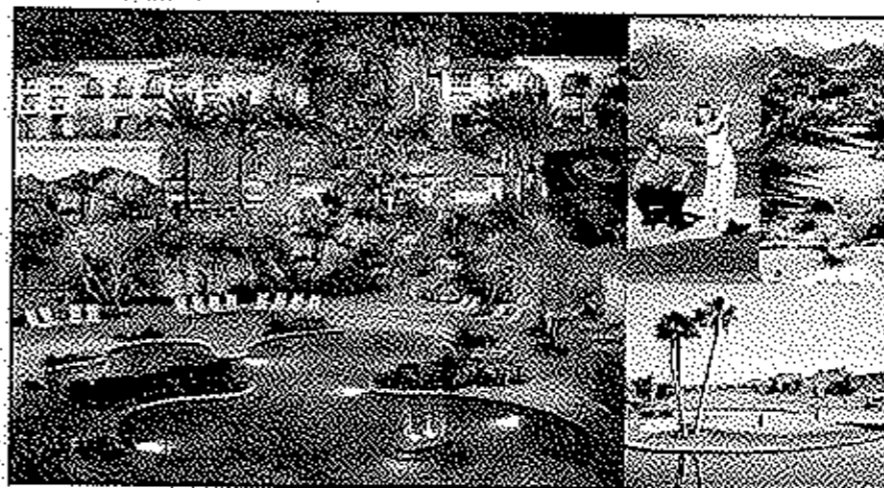
By Bob Weisgerber

As you approach the site of the Pointe Hilton Resort at Tapatio Cliffs, you can't help but wonder, can this be right? For what you see is a small, ragged mountain rising from the surrounding city. And YOU have to watch carefully or you might miss the Resort's turn-in off at 11111 7th St., which traverses the mountain north and south. But sure enough, there it is, the Resort bursts into view, climbing the hillside like a layered cake. And that is just the first impression!

You will likely be staying in one of the suites near the main building (it's an all-suite resort), but it makes no difference really because shuttles run constantly. All you have to do is tell the desk that you'd like to go from place A to place B and you'll get shuttled promptly. For example, there is a night club called A Different Point of View at the top of the hill (to which you do *not* want to walk) that offers a scenic view of the city lights.

Of course, one of your reasons for coming here is GOLF! You go to the pro shop at the hotel and they'll get you to the course, called Lookout Mountain Golf Club. Designed by PGA Professional Bill Johnston in 1989, it is rated one of the best courses in metropolitan Phoenix. It has recently been renovated at the cost of nearly a quarter million dollars.

Holes most affected include holes two, (two new bunkers), five (drive and approach shots), hole eight has a new teeing area, and holes four, six, and eleven held onto championship tees. The course measures



6535 yards from the back tees. The rating/slope is 70.1/131. The Director of Golf is Leo Simonetta, and the phone number for the pro shop is 602 866 6356.

Each hole on the course is named, and most are reminiscent of the old west. For example, there is Six Shooter (#6), Coyote Canyon (#8), Gunslinger (#14), and Waterin' Hole #16.

And what features does the course present that make particular holes demand attention?

The first hole opens up straightaway, but the green is angled to the right, so you should play for left of center to open up the approach, or risk the long bunker that guards the green. It is handicap 13, so you can take advantage of this hole. But hold onto your hat, because the #1 handicap hole is the

next one, Thunderbird. It is a dogleg right, requiring a desert carry on the tee shot, and in the manner of a reverse cape hole, entices you to cut off as much of the corner as you think you can carry.

The 10th hole, Point of No Return, is one to admire. It teases you with a great view, but requires a carry to the fairway in the valley 175 feet below, the green is hunkered on three sides and the green is slightly elevated on this #4 handicap hole.

The eighteenth hole, called The Cliffs, doesn't have any cliffs but gives you a view of them from the tee. What it does have is a green mostly surrounded by water, which makes you choose if it is worth the risk of trying for the green on a par five in two shots or playing it safe.

A practice area is conveniently located and instruction is offered by professional staff. Want to get the secret to recovering from bunkers? Just ask Jeremy Hainline, the Director of Instruction. He'll save you from yourself.

In fact, you might want to consider the five-day, six night package that includes three days of personalized golf instruction, food and other amenities included in the package. Other packages are available. One that might

catch your fancy is the "Swing of Romance" which will get you in suite sparkling wine, chocolate covered strawberries and rose petals on the bed at turndown. Now what couple can resist that?

Andee Oleno, who handles Public Relations, can guide you to make the choice that's right for you or for a group if you plan on bringing one. Contact her at Andee_olenno@hilton.com, she is most helpful.

The course is bordered by the Phoenix Mountain Preserve, which leads to some challenging but fair shots. Allow some time for a visit to the spa if you can, nice to get those kinks worked out. Or if you are a fitness buff try the fitness center or go for some tennis on the lighted courts. Or (horrors) you are "working" while playing, visit the business center.

The suites are comfortable and well equipped with two dual line phones with data port, high speed internet access, two 27 inch TVs, and other amenities.

The Falls Water Village is three acres of wetness—swimming pools, waterfalls, travertine pools and a 138 foot waterslide, plus poolside cabanas. If you have a great bod and don't mind the attention, head for the Adult pool near the resort lobby. (But behave yourself!) And don't forget to come up for air!

Hungry? They can handle that at the Pointe in Tyme Grille and Tavern. The wait staff is efficient and guess what, the food is tasty!

Have I forgotten anything? Sure I have—like the Tapatio Cliffs has a sister property just a few miles away—the Pointe Hilton Squaw Creek Resort where the water features just keep flowing with Hole in the Wall River Ranch. This property is also home to the Coyote Camp for Kids will be fun for them while you head to the adjacent Slim Pickens Grille for whatever brings you a smile. *One thing more*, the Resort's summer rates are a real steal, so plan accordingly.

Check it out on line at www.pointehilton.com. ■

