

**FOOD
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the romantic destinations issue

letter from the editor



Most people would probably consider my husband and me losers when it comes to playing the romantic card. It's been more than 20 years since we went out on Valentine's Day; the crowds and two-hour wait past our reservation time finally did us in. I usually cook a favorite meal, open a bottle of wine, and put candles on the table, but before we finish, we've probably turned the lights back on so we can stab our forks into our food instead of into our hands.

The same goes for presents. I prefer to buy my own clothes; I'll take Brighton and Pandora over gold and diamonds; and I would definitely choose the newest technology—camera, iPhone, Macbook, Apple Watch—over chocolates (more useful, fewer calories). And, to tell the truth, I'd give that all up for an adventure to one of our favorite places—Bologna, Abruzzo, the Cotswolds, Guernsey, Barcelona, Helsinki, Toronto, Stockholm, Dublin, Cork.... Wouldn't we all?

In this issue, our writers take us to some of their favorite romantic places. Join them as they head to Rome, Cape Town, and Heidelberg; the Grenadines, Blue Ridge Mountains, Lake Louise, and Bainbridge Island. Join a safari in Botswana or on the Kariega Game Reserve. Enjoy wine on the Rhine or Cape Town, a cocktail (or two) in New Mexico, and special dinners in The Woodlands and San Diego.

We hope you enjoy our journeys and can take your own soon.

Stay safe.

Chris

Christine Cutler
Executive Editor



On the cover:

The iconic studentenkussor sign at Chocolaterie Knosel @Jane Simon Ammeson.

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Romantic Luxury at La Posada

By Joeann Fossland

There are wonderful old hotels and then, there are hotels that retain an old charm yet kick it up a notch to offer a romantic respite from the fast-paced world. La Posada, in Winslow, Arizona is a fine example of the romantic luxury the latter affords. Just off the old Route 66—now Interstate 40—the small town of Winslow offers more than just a guy “standing on the corner” (although the Eagles song blares from a loudspeaker at a downtown corner that includes an old red flatbed Ford).

Rich History

In the 1880s, the railroads came through Winslow with pioneers and gold diggers.

Entrepreneur Fred Harvey saw an opportunity and began to populate the stops along the line with fine dining and iconic hotels.

La Posada, the last of these historic hotels, opened in 1930, designed by talented architect, Mary Jane Colter. The timing saw its ups and downs and finally, the hotel was scheduled to be torn down. But then... enter Allen Affledt, his wife, artist Tina Mion and friend, Daniel Lutzick. The team negotiated and fundraised for three years, finally saving La Posada from its planned destruction in 1997. Lovingly restored, the historic hotel is now a jewel in the middle of the desert.

Entering the open lobby, you immediately slip into a slower, calmer world. Tiled floors, ceilings with exposed vigas, intimate seating areas, and old and new artwork (including a gallery of Mion’s art) create an atmosphere reminiscent of yesteryear. Romance. Did someone say romance?

Fittingly, La Posada translates to “Resting Place.” Large bedrooms, named for celebrities that have visited, sport high ceilings, couches to relax or read on, and tall windows that stream in an abundance of bright light.

Each room is unique. Some feature the original 1930s black and white mosaic tile bathrooms with six-foot cast-iron tubs. Others have modern whirlpool tubs.

If you’re game, nestling in for days with your sweetie could reward you with a feeling of timeless indulgence.

For those who love to read, bookshelves in the halls and the bedrooms are packed with books and the bedroom’s comfy sitting area offers the perfect place to be transported to another world.



La Posada front entrance



Photos (top from left): La Posada Porch facing the railroad tracks and Museum; La Posada lobby common area; Indian Rugs in La Posada's gift shop; (bottom from left): Ponderosa Pine Bed; Upstairs Gallery with Tina Mion's artwork; Mobile Shrine in the Route 66 Art Museum

Trains and History

These days, Affledt delightfully continues the expansion of the hotel and the grounds. The newly restored La Posada Depot has been transformed into Route 66 Art Museum, by The Winslow Arts Trust (WAT). I spent hours here absolutely captivated by the stories, pictures, and displays from the early days. Twice a day, Amtrak passenger trains still stop at this depot.

Organic Southwestern Cuisine

You don't even have to leave the hotel to experience the yummiest food around. Located in the lobby, The Turquoise Room serves breakfast, lunch and dinner and has been recognized as one of the top restaurants in Arizona.

Have you been hankering' for Bison and Elk Meatballs with a mint, tamarind and green chile aioli? Ah, perhaps not, but once you try them, you will be in the future! Menus here are a mashup of brilliant creations prepared with local organic foods and some of the Fred Harvey's original standbys.

Even if you are just passing through Arizona on

I-40, it's worth a stop to enjoy this tasty unique Southwestern cuisine. Last year, they added three raised beds between the hotel and the museum as a chef's garden, and they now provide an impressive host of fresh produce for the restaurant.

What's Next?

The hotel has grown over the last 20 years, from 10 rooms to 54. Further expansion is underway adding five new deluxe suites in the area beneath the current ballroom. Dubbed "The Grotto," the area is accessible via a long stairway that leads down to a large sunken lobby with a fireplace and streaming daylight. These suites, due to open later this year, surround an elegant common area. I can't wait to go back to stay in one.

A Bucket List Trip

One of my future bucket list items is a return to La Posada with my grandkids and then ride the train over to Las Vegas, New Mexico and spend a night in another Harvey hotel restored by Affledt—La Castenda. Hopefully, in the next year, we can expand our romantic stay for two into a family adventure for 11. ♡

