

# Living

DIANE CARMONY  
Features Editor  
778-4544, Fax: 778-4654

## A stroll through history

**Hideaways:** Inn tour offers peek at Palm Springs landmarks.

By JAMIE LEE PRICER  
The Desert Sun

One of Palm Springs' classiest neighborhoods will give up its quiet elegance for three hours Thursday evening.

The historic tennis district of small exclusive hideaway inns nestled at the base of Mount San Jacinto will resound with the sounds of church bells pealing holiday music and strolling musicians and singers. Hundreds of people, bundled up against the expected 43-degree chill, will jostle through the three-square-block area, enjoying minitours of 16 inns, the Community Church of Palm Springs and the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum — all decorated for the holidays.

That will be the scene at the third annual Walking Tour of the Inns, hosted by the Historic Tennis Club District Association.

"It's grown every year, it's getting very popular," says Frank Tyson, who owns Casa Cody, one of the inns on the tour.

**REPUTATION BUILDER:** Citing articles in glossy upscale magazines including *Architectural Digest*, *Conde Nast*, *Gourmet*, *Country Inns* and *New Yorker*, he said, "The inn district is helping put Palm Springs back on the map. We've begun to be recognized nationally and internationally."

"This tour is an opportunity for people in the valley to get to know something about their own back yard."

Typically, each inn will show off at least one room and part of its grounds. Most will serve refreshments.

"Everyone is very excited about doing the tour again," says event chairman Elissa Goforth. "Lots of people called last year to tell me they had a good time and that they are coming back this year."

In 1997, the inns hosted 700 to 1,000 visitors each.

This year, groups asked to participate, including the museum and the Tuesday Musicale, a troupe of singers and musicians led by Mary de Pascale.

"I'm looking forward to having the singers and musicians strolling around in Dickens-type attire," Goforth says.

The museum will also join the open house celebration.

"We're decorating for Christmas," says museum curator Ginger Ridgway, "and we have new desert landscape murals and a new pottery exhibit to show off."

In addition, tribal members have been donating ornaments for the museum's Christmas tree.

A strong sense of neighborhood draws visitors to the inn tour, Goforth says.

"There are not a lot of places left where you can live and actually know your neighbors. People are



Max Ortiz/The Desert Sun

**Come on in:** Don Kuzma, co-owner of the Coyote Inn, and his cat, Barbara Goldstein, are ready for visitors at the Palm Springs getaway. The inn is part of Thursday's tour.

starved for that," she says. "We have that here with our inn group. It's a really nice neighborhood. Hopefully, it will permeate into the rest of the city."

**TOWN'S FOUNDATION:** And people are curious.

"These inns are very private hotels, but they also are part of the history of Palm Springs," she says. "At one time, they were Palm Springs."

Tyson credits Palm Springs businesswomen Diane Matzner and Sue Bennett with creating the tour in 1996.

"They recognized the value of the inn district," he says. "It's a strong reminder of Palm Springs' village days."

You might think the association's big issue would be how many cookies to order, but Goforth says foot traffic is a stronger concern.

"At our last meeting, we talked ... how to rope off areas of our hotels where we don't want people to wander. We don't want someone's kid falling in the pool."

### Taking the tour

**What:** Third annual Walking Tour of the Inns, free, self-guided tour of 16 inns, a church and a museum, with holiday music by strolling musicians and refreshments served at some sites

**When:** 5-8 p.m. Thursday

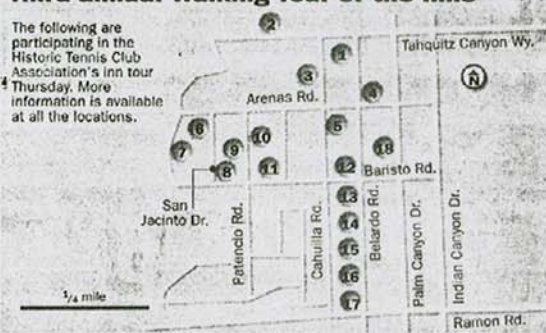
**Where:** Palm Spring's Historic Inn district, bounded by Ramon Road, Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Canyon Drive and the mountains; the sites can be visited in any order. Stop No. 1 on the map below is the Palm Mountain Resort/Holiday Inn, 155 S. Belardo Road.

**Route:** A brochure with a tour map is available at each inn, Palm Springs City Hall, Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce, Palm Springs Visitors Center and at the Thursday night street fair on South Palm Canyon Drive.

**Information:** 320-9346

### Third annual Walking Tour of the Inns

The following are participating in the Historic Tennis Club Association's inn tour Thursday. More information is available at all the locations.



1. Palm Mountain Resort/Holiday Inn
2. The Willows Historic Palm Springs Inn
3. Casa Cody B&B Country Inn
4. La Palmier
5. Desert House Inn
6. Desert Hills Apartment Hotel
7. Palm Springs Tennis Club
8. Four Seasons Apartment Hotel
9. Korakia Pensione
10. Coyote Inn
11. Community Church of Palm Springs
12. Orchid Tree Inn
13. San Marino Hotel
14. La Serena Villas
15. Sky Jordan Inn
16. Estrella Inn
17. Ingleside Inn
18. Agua Caliente Cultural Museum

Geoff Cantrell/The Desert Sun