



The Renaissance Esmeralda Resort and Spa at Indian Wells in Greater Palm Springs

by Alexandra Cohen

For many years I heard such wonderful things about The Greater Palm Springs (GPS) region, which continues to evolve as one of the world's most enticing resort destinations. We were fortunate enough to find accommodations at the Renaissance Esmeralda Resort and Spa at Indian Wells for a wonderful seven day stay

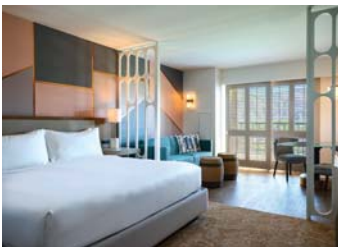
The resort, located 16 miles from Palm Springs Airport, underwent a multimillion-dollar redesign a few years ago, including new guestrooms and suites, a new multi-story lobby, an olive tree grove and new food and beverage areas and menus.

A brand of the Marriott International, Inc, this is a distinctive desert resort with a nod to the hotel's storied legacy and star-studded history. Guests can experience a sense of adventure through recreational activities ranging from high-energy to relaxing with options such as the intimate, full-service Spa Esmeralda; a state-of-the-art fitness center; tennis courts; two 18-hole championship style golf courses; bike rentals; and more.

The resort features spacious and beautifully appointed rooms and suites designed to complement distinction with comfort and convenience. Guests enjoy a selection of 560 rooms, including 103 suites, ranging from 420 to 2,879 square feet all with balconies and breathtaking views of the mountains, pool or golf course.

The resort boasts activities for every member of the family, from adventure seekers to those seeking a relaxed environment. Sample activities available to guests include swimming in the largest pool in the desert, a sandy beach, a fitness center with state-of-the-art facilities (including Peloton bikes), golf and tennis facilities and private pool-side cabanas. We experienced the latter for one day and it was nothing less than a piece of heaven. The same goes for the spa.

As for the poolside, the seating arrangements were extremely comfortable and water temperature just perfect. Pool staff could not do enough for us. We ordered drinks and lunch each day from our section.



Finally, a word on the dining experiences at the hotel. We enjoyed Cava and the Place Lobby Bar, both of which feature fresh and locally grown ingredients with seasonal menus. ■

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Barceló Hotel Group Opens a 5-star Hotel in Malta, *Barceló Fortina Malta in Sliema*

Barceló Hotel Group announced the management of Barceló Fortina Malta, a modern, avant-garde design hotel owned by the Maltese company Fortina Investments Limited, in the Mediterranean archipelago of Malta. This is an iconic establishment located on the promenade of Sliema, which has been completely renovated and transformed into a modern 5-star hotel with 183 rooms and opened its doors as a 5-star hotel operated by the Barcelo Hotel Group on September 18, 2023.

A design hotel with spectacular views of Valletta

Located on the promenade of the town of Sliema, Barceló Fortina Malta is characterized by its modern and elegant architecture, as well as its panoramic views of the Mediterranean Sea and the fortified city of Valletta, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1980.

The hotel opened its doors after an extensive renovation and expansion of the original facilities, which transformed it into a modern 5-star property with 183 rooms. The newly renovated five star property includes an Ina wellness center, reflex gym and a heated indoor pool, along with a stylish newly-built lido featuring two restaurants and a lounge bar which are additions to the culinary offerings available within the establishment. The hotel is conveniently located within walking distance of Malta's largest shopping center.

Barceló Fortina Malta will have six meeting rooms with a capacity of up to 250 people, fully equipped to host any type of event. This makes it the ideal hotel for those travelers visiting Malta for business purposes and wishing to extend their stay to enjoy the historic city and the hotel's facilities. ■

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