

# Close escapes

## A 'staycation' can turn out to be the best kind of vacation

By Allison Hurtado

AHWATUKEE FOOTHILLS NEWS

The heat is coming, kids are getting ready to be out of school and chances are they're talking with their friends about summer vacations. For many parents going away to another state or country over the summer may not be an option but there are plenty of deals at resorts surrounding Ahwatukee Foothills that can make a short vacation possible — minus all the headaches of a long car or plane ride.

### Arizona Grand Resort

The Arizona Grand Resort, Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa and The Buttes in Tempe all offer summer deals for a spa getaway, as well as family packages, and each are just a short drive from Ahwatukee.

The Arizona Grand, 8000 S. Arizona Grand Parkway, is known for its large Oasis Water Park for guests. The park includes a lazy river, wave pool, slides and a kiddy pool. The resort also contains a spa and fitness center, golf and dining.

The resort's Summer Splash Package offers families a deal for getting away. It includes a \$50 nightly resort credit to

use on dining, spa and golf as well as a stay in a Resort King Suite for \$169 a night. This deal begins May 27 and applies to stays Sunday through Thursday.

The Grand Choices Package, starting at \$399 per night, offers guests a choice of golf for two, a \$100 dining credit, 50-minute massage or 50-minute facial. Guests may choose two items per night.

The Girls Grand Getaway includes four 50-minute spa treatments, 50-minute custom facial, or manicure and pedicure. Margaritas will also be delivered to the suite with homemade chips and salsa. The package includes a \$100 dining credit and a late checkout of 4 p.m. Rates start at \$679 per night.

Arizona Grand Resort has » See Staycation on page 26

» From page 24 also kicked off its Facebook sweepstakes. The winner will receive a two-night stay at the resort, a \$250 dining credit, daily family passes to Oasis Water Park and a complimentary 18-hole family golf outing. The sweepstakes goes through June 12. To enter the contest, visit <http://www.facebook.com/ArizonaGrandResort>.

For more details on these

packages and availability, visit [arizonagrandresort.com](http://arizonagrandresort.com) or call (602) 438-9000.

### Sheraton Wild Horse Pass

Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa, 5594 W. Wild Horse Pass Blvd. in Chandler, offers dining, golf, a full salon and pool. They have many different packages to take advantage of this summer.

The Spa Sanctuary includes breakfast for two at one of the resort's restaurants and a lunch for two at the spa. The offer also includes a 50-minute spa treatment for two per day and complimentary use of the fitness room and indoor and outdoor pools.

The Love Your Family package guarantees connecting rooms when available and includes a \$100 daily resort credit.

The SunSational Savings package includes a \$100 food and beverage credit, complimentary upgrade at check in when available, and the fourth night of your stay is free.

The resort also has summer deals for teachers. For more information on these packages, visit [wildhorsepassresort.com](http://wildhorsepassresort.com) or call (602) 225-0100.

### The Buttes

The Buttes, 2000 Westcourt Way, a Marriott Resort in Tem-

pe has resort dining, fitness and recreation centers and a spa. It's located near Tempe Diablo Stadium.

Through June the resort is offering packages that include a breakfast buffet for two adults and two children starting at \$144.95.

The resort also offers a romantic getaway for two with champagne and chocolate-covered strawberries, as well as breakfast for two and a late checkout of 2 p.m.

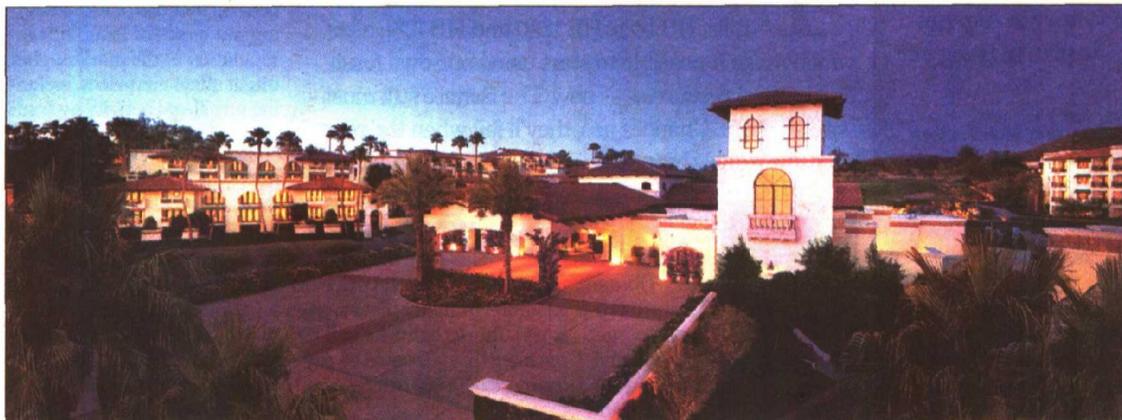
The Family Package offers a \$50 gas card per night and 20 percent off all spa services.

For more information on The Buttes, visit <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/phxtm-the-buttes-a-marriott-resort/> or call (602) 225-9000.

Planning a stay close to home is not only good for the budget but also for the city. The tax dollars spent on staycations stay in the area.

"Vacation ideas and deals are easy to find right here in Phoenix," said Sina Matthes, public information officer for the city of Phoenix. "With a little planning, a staycation in Phoenix can be your best vacation yet."

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The young ones in the family will love to play in the pool at any of the local resorts, like the Oasis Water Park at the Arizona Grand Resort. [Submitted]