



Step Back in Time and Unwind at the Tubac Golf Resort and Spa

By Carol A. Wilcox

Arizona is one of the most multifaceted states in the country. People who have never visited Arizona tend to think that it's all brown, hot and dry; but in fact, Arizona is full of color and texture. And, there aren't a lot of places where you can go from rough desert terrain to pine trees and cool breezes in a matter of hours and still be in the same state.

One area of Arizona that seems to be a world away is the tiny [Village of Tubac](#) and the [Tubac Golf Resort and Spa](#). Tubac is located about 35 minutes south of Tucson International Airport and about 30 minutes from the Mexican border. Following Interstate 19 will take you to Chavez Siding Road. Go through the archway and head down Otero Road to the resort.

You won't find valet parking or bellhops here but walk into the rustic reception building and you'll feel as if you're in a Spanish hacienda. The warm wood tones, leather chairs and colorful woven rugs beckon you to relax and enjoy a less hurried pace reminiscent of times gone by. In fact, this resort sits on the former Otero Ranch, with some of the original structures over 200 years old still in place.

Rooms here are simple, spacious and decorated hacienda-style. Floors are Saltillo tile and each room has a private patio with chairs. You can overlook the beautiful grounds or the golf course. Watch cattle graze in the pasture. Birds are plentiful here and a variety of trees dot the property. There's even a Spanish-style chapel on the property ideal for weddings or anniversary celebrations. The cooler temperatures make it enjoyable to sit outside even in the middle of summer.

On a visitor's third visit to the resort, there were some subtle changes, all for the better. The most notable change was in the resort's [Stables Restaurant](#). New management is evident here. The menu and offerings have expanded immensely and the service has improved. Jason, the Food and Beverage manager, was enthusiastic and personable and went out of his way to explain about some of the history of the building that now houses the restaurant. One server, Monica, was especially attentive and accommodating and provided excellent service one evening when visitors requested a table in the bar area of the restaurant to have dinner while listening to live music.

Summertime can be quiet for resorts in Arizona and the economy certainly doesn't help to attract tourists, but during a two-night stay in the middle of summer, the [Tubac Golf Resort](#) was fairly full, thanks in part to a wedding and a writer's conference.

There are many full time residents in the Tubac area and resort management has taken special care to attract the locals during the off-season months with dinner specials and live entertainment. Visitors and locals alike were treated to some excellent talent on two summer evenings.

One evening there was live Jazz music by [Amelia Doll and the JSB Trio](#) in the bar area of the restaurant. This talented ensemble has only been working together for a little over a year, but their sound was excellent and well balanced. Amelia Doll is a young woman with a powerful and mature voice. Listening to her belt out tunes like "Black Coffee" and "Fever" made listeners feel as if this was top talent from Las Vegas. Hopefully management will recognize the value of this talented group and will invite them to play at the resort regularly.

The following evening, there was country music provided by [Beau Renfro and Clear Country](#). This group drew a large crowd, in part because they played outdoors on the patio, but also because Renfro has been a Tucson favorite for many years. It was overheard that some local residents said that they heard music coming from the resort and felt compelled to check it out. This band had many patrons up on their feet and dancing. An added treat in the audience this particular evening was [Ron Neuman](#), a good friend of Beau Renfro. Neuman was one of the original members of the 50's group, The Diamonds. Their hits included tunes such as "Little Darlin'" and "The Stroll."

[The Tubac Golf Resort and Spa](#) offers a relaxing respite from the hectic lifestyle many people seem to experience nowadays. The surrounding area offers many interesting pockets of places to explore including the Tubac Village, area wineries and historic buildings. If you have a chance to visit Arizona, or if you're fortunate enough to live in this beautiful state, take the time to visit the [Tubac Golf Resort and Spa](#), step back in time, unwind and enjoy!

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