

**FOR: MIRAMONTE RESORT & SPA CONTACT: Kristin Yantis**  
45-000 Indian Wells Lane  
Indian Wells, CA 92210  
760.341.2200/800.237.2926  
[www.miramonteresort.com](http://www.miramonteresort.com)  
**Malen Yantis Public Relations**  
**(775) 351-7904 Office**  
**www.myprco.com**

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**MIRAMONTE RESORT & SPA BRINGS THE VIBRANT SPIRIT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN TO THE CALIFORNIA DESERT**

*Located just minutes from Palm Springs, this intimate AAA 4-Diamond resort exudes a romantic atmosphere and provides guests an oasis where they can truly get away from it all*

(INDIAN WELLS, CA; January 2009)—Evoking the warmth and elegance of a Mediterranean estate, Miramonte Resort & Spa, a Destination Hotel & Resorts property, sits nestled against the majestic Santa Rosa Mountains in the California desert community of Indian Wells. A region to which travelers have long flocked in search of peace and tranquility, Miramonte inviting atmosphere encourages guests to leave their everyday concerns far behind and embrace the sunny, warm climate and the pleasures of a luxurious getaway.

A collection of villas set amid 11 acres, guests enter the resort through the marble-floored lobby that evokes the grand entrance of an Italian mansion and are drawn outside to the manicured lawns and a spectacular view of the property's lush landscape framing the mountains soaring skyward in the distance.

Pathways meander throughout the grounds of the resort, leading guests to their accommodations, which are located in buildings situated around two swimming pools—the luxurious Miramonte Pool, flanked by a cascading fountain, flagstone deck, intimate cabanas, and chaise lounges, and the Piedmont Pool, a secluded oasis for adults only. Vivid hues of bougainvillea grow around archways and over balconies, and a multitude of flower and herb gardens accent each villa, creating the perfect spaces for guests to lounge, whether on the manicured lawns or in one of the hammocks sprinkled across the grounds. The aromas of citrus, rosemary, lavender, and roses perfume the air, while the sounds of gently cascading water from the many fountains create a feeling of serenity.

Within the villas are 215 generously sized guest rooms and suites, each with a private terrace. Decorated in warm terra cotta and cream colors with olive green accents, each room provides comforts that allow visitors an idyllic escape—from extravagant bathrooms complete with marble vanities to signature Desert Dream beds, a superior mattress that features six layers of specialized foam within the pillow top, made complete with the softest down bedding. Among

the many other room features are fully stocked minibars, terry bathrobes and slippers, Tarocco Personal Care Collection bath amenities, and 24-hour room service, all accentuating Miramonte's commitment to personalized service. Staying connected, however, is still easy, thanks to the 42-inch flat-panel TVs in each room. Business travelers, in particular, will also appreciate complimentary high-speed wireless Internet access available to all guests on property.

Those seeking the ultimate escape can reserve the Villa d'Este, a private enclave that houses four one-bedroom suites that can be reserved individually, as well as a 3,000-square-foot Presidential Suite with separate living room and dining areas. The 7,800-square-foot building offers all the comforts of the Miramonte guest rooms, as well as living rooms and Jacuzzi tubs with separate showers.

No stay at Miramonte would be complete without a visit to THE WELL Spa, the Coachella Valley's only Mobil-rated spa, which was also chosen as one of the top 10 resort spas in North America by *Condé Nast Traveler* readers in 2008. Reminiscent of an Italian home, this intimate retreat has become the centerpiece of the resort, and treats guests to a rejuvenating experience. Unique among Southern California spas for its attention to detail, THE WELL offers the ultimate in relaxation and retreat, with five outdoor and nine indoor relaxation suites, and two signature river benches, as well as a Watsu pool. The spa's services incorporate techniques inspired by the Mediterranean way of life, and utilize a diverse array of enticing ingredients—from wine to therapeutic muds, locally grown herbs, and handcrafted essential oils.

Among the distinctive features at THE WELL is the Bagno Vino (wine bath), and wellness classes such as Hydro Yo Chi, an integration of yoga and tai chi taught in the 98-degree pool adjacent to the spa. The soothing treatment rooms boast details such as Vichy showers with tables built from 100-year-old acacia trees and carved in the shape of mangrove leaves. In addition, the Waterfall Grotto allows guests to lie upon a sculpted stone chaise lounge immersed in a shallow stream of water much like lounging in a natural riverbed. A beverage bar offers spa guests light and healthful refreshments.

Additional refreshments can be found at Grove Artisan Kitchen, which serves fresh farm-to-table cuisine, featuring ingredients from local artisan growers simply prepared with time honored techniques. Chef Robert Nyerik dazzles the palate with layers of flavor as the fresh, quality ingredients—including those he picks from Miramonte's own herb garden and citrus grove—blend in a culinary melody highlighted by signature balsamic vinegar, aged 18 years, and specially blended olive oil. Named after the citrus and date groves that once flourished years ago on the very land the resort rests upon, Grove Artisan Kitchen celebrates the rich history of the

desert, honoring local artisan growers fortunate for the natural waters that made Indian Wells famous. For lighter fare, The Grove Lounge offers cocktails, appetizers, and entrée selections. Alternatively, dinners for up to 10 guests can also be arranged in the cabanas at the Miramonte Pool.

For those coming to Miramonte for combination of work and pleasure, the resort offers a dazzling variety of unique spaces at which to hold meetings and other functions. Outdoor weddings and banquets are especially popular on the Miramonte Lawn, with views of the majestic mountains in the background. For an intimate event, the fragrant Citrus Herb Garden is ideal, as is The Piazza, a stunning, second-floor outdoor terrace that offers panoramic views of the pool, gardens, and surrounding mountains. The picturesque setting of the space includes a large fireplace that provides warmth and ambience on cool desert evenings.

On the west end of the enchanting resort, the brand-new Mediterranean Ballroom has changed the entire exterior design. A remodeled entrance, akin to a small charming house, welcomes corporate meeting and incentive groups to take advantage of the relaxing, residential-like meeting spaces. The addition of 6,000-square-foot ballroom brings Miramonte's total available meeting and function area to more than 18,000 square feet, with a group capacity of 800. Specializing in corporate and association meetings, as well as rewarding incentive programs and special events, Miramonte is home to some of the finest meeting facilities in California, and offers guests a personalized experience that cannot be found elsewhere in the region.

In encouraging guests to relax and live well, Miramonte is the perfect place to combine poolside sunbathing and spa-going with other activities. Bicycling, bocce, lawn chess, croquet, and a variety of fitness activities, such as yoga and pilates, are available year round, and the 24-hour, on-site fitness center is equipped with the latest treadmills, Stairmasters, and free weights, as well as multiple televisions for personalized viewing. Sessions with personal trainers can also be arranged upon request.

While the sanctuary-like embrace of the resort may tempt guests to stay within its reach, a venture out has its own rewards. Nearby, 36 holes of championship golf beckon at the Clive Clark and John Fought-designed Indian Wells Golf Resort, which offers preferred pricing and tee times to Miramonte guests. In addition, the world-famous Indian Wells Country Club, home to the PGA Tour's Bob Hope Classic, is adjacent to the resort, and Miramonte's golf concierge can arrange preferred tee times at over 100 of the Coachella Valley's best courses, including PGA WEST, Desert Willow, Landmark, and Trilogy, to name a few. Tennis enthusiasts, meanwhile, can play at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, where the world's top players compete in the annual

Pacific Life Open. Those who prefer pursuits less athletic can visit El Paseo, the “Rodeo Drive of the Desert,” with its exclusive shops, restaurants, and galleries, just minutes away.

Miramonte Resort & Spa brings the spirit of the Mediterranean to the California desert community of Indian Wells, just minutes from Palm Springs. The intimate village, featuring THE WELL Spa and Mediterranean-inspired Ristorante Brissago, offer guests an unforgettable experience in an extraordinary environment. Whether a stay at Miramonte Resort & Spa is for serious business or pure pleasure, it is sure to be a memorable one. For more information or to make reservations, please visit [www.miramonteresort.com](http://www.miramonteresort.com) or [www.thewellatmiramonte.com](http://www.thewellatmiramonte.com).

**THE WELL SPA AT MIRAMONTE RESORT ENCOURAGES  
GUESTS TO LIVE LA BELLA VITA**

*Voted one of North America’s best spas by Condé Nast Traveler, and the only Mobil-rated spa in the Coachella Valley, THE WELL entices visitors with unique treatments and unparalleled service*

(INDIAN WELLS, CA; January 2009)—Hundreds of years ago, native peoples discovered natural wells in the desert region now known as the Coachella Valley. These vital sources of water helped communities prosper in the arid landscape and provided welcome relief for weary travelers passing through the area. Today, visitors from around the world continue to gather in Indian Wells at THE WELL Spa at Miramonte Resort & Spa, a destination that offers the ultimate in relaxation and rejuvenation and is consistently rated one of the best spas in the country.

Built as the centerpiece for the Mediterranean-inspired Miramonte Resort, THE WELL Spa is reminiscent of a beautifully appointed Italian home and invites guests to step inside and shed the concerns of everyday life. The 14,000-square-foot, two-story building encompasses a variety of intimate spaces, including five outdoor and nine indoor relaxations suites, which boast details such as Vichy showers with tables built from 100-year-old acacia trees, carved in the shape of mangrove leaves. Outside, a waterfall grotto allows guests to lie upon a sculpted stone chaise lounge immersed in a shallow stream of water much like lounging in a natural riverbed, as well as a 98-degree Watsu pool and a 102-degree salt water Jacuzzi. Four private poolside cabanas, each with a private patio, sit adjacent to the pools and are ideal for couples treatments.

In keeping with the resort’s inspiration, visitors to THE WELL are encouraged to “live the good life,” says Spa Director Jennifer Di Francesco. “The meaning of the word “spa” has historically referred to, health by water,” she notes, “and the Mediterranean mind-set is one that encourages

individuals to find balance and contentment in life. We incorporate these ideas into everything we do at THE WELL.”

This integration is apparent the moment one enters the spa. Immediately enveloped in the serene, calming atmosphere, guests are greeted by the staff and welcomed to begin their own “sensorial journey.” Following a brief tour of the space, visitors are given a coin to toss in the well and asked to be mindful of their intention as they enjoy their spa experience. After being shown to a changing area, guests slip into luxurious robes and are offered lavender-infused chamomile tea or mint, melon, and cucumber water to sip, either in the indoor relaxation room or outside on the sunny poolside patios. In another nod to the spa’s Mediterranean influence, guests may also enjoy a glass of wine while relaxing before or after a treatment.

Among THE WELL Spa’s many unique qualities are two simple actions that illustrate how the smallest gestures can impart the greatest meaning. Before a treatment begins, guests are offered a velvet bag that contains numerous stones within it and asked to select one. Bearing words such as “Relax” and “Let Go,” the stones are reminders for guests to focus on what brought them to the spa and enjoy the experience. At the end of a treatment, instead of telling you it’s done, therapists simply ring Tibetan bells softly three times—an aural cue that doesn’t disrupt the guest’s blissful state.

In selecting their treatments, guests at THE WELL have a multitude of luxurious massages, body and skin treatments, baths, and rituals from which to choose. Before beginning, guests can indulge in a 15-minute Foot Ritual, which helps relax the body and mind, preparing one for a treatment. Paying careful attention to an often-neglected part of the body, this foot wash utilizes rose petals, Comfort Zone products, and music selected by the individual to alleviate stresses and restore positive, life-giving energy (\$30). THE WELL also offers the Bagno Vino (Wine Bath) to guests before a massage, facial, or body treatment. Guests soak in a potent wine mixture rich in vitamins, which hydrates the skin, and those choosing a 45-minute treatment experience an underwater massage and exfoliation or lotion application (15 or 45 minutes, \$45-120).

Among the body treatments that are unique to THE WELL are the Maestro (30-90 minutes, \$80-200), a guest-guided massage that targets sore or tired muscles, and the Aroma for Life massage, which begins with a 20-minute foot ritual consultation to create an aromatherapy recipe specific to each guest. The blend of essential oils is then used in a 70-minute massage and any remaining oil is given to the guest to use at home (\$190-205). One of only two spas in the Coachella Valley to offer Watsu, THE WELL’s Aqua Well massage is performed in the pool, with the

guest experiencing an innovative massage and yoga-like stretching in a weightless state of surrender (60 minutes, \$130-145).

The Lemon Vitale body scrub incorporates a raindrop Vichy shower with an exfoliating treatment created with jojoba beads and essential oils crafted at the spa (\$105-120). Those seeking a distinctive, healing body wrap can try the Monticelli Mud treatment, in which a creamy mud, rich in Italian thermal waters, is applied to the body. During the wrap, a face and scalp massage is performed, and the application of milky massage oil completes the experience (90 minutes, \$180-195).

THE WELL's facial treatments have been designed to protect the skin from everyday stress and environmental exposure as well as to cleanse and rejuvenate. Several are available for all types of skin, including the Watersource Facial (60 minutes, \$130-145), a collagen-infused anti-aging facial and the Renaissance Man Facial (60 minutes, \$130-145), created especially for male clients, which treats sensitivity due to shaving and utilizes a customized clay mask to extract facial impurities.

Renowned for its innovative and romantic couples treatments, THE WELL is a perfect spot for side-by-side massages or a bath for two on a private balcony looking out toward the majestic Santa Rosa Mountains. Among the most indulgent and fun of the spa's offerings, the Pittura Festa, or "painting party," uses colorful, therapeutic muds and clays that are brushed on the body, face, and hair. Guests can develop their artistic and romantic side with a significant other by applying vibrantly colored muds to each other and letting them dry in the warm desert sun before enjoying a couples massage. This very interactive treatment is also perfect for bachelorette parties and girlfriends getaways (45-90 minutes, \$145-\$335).

Additional treatments at THE WELL include manicures, pedicures, waxing services, and makeup application. The spa uses an exclusive selection of distinctive, professional product lines, which are also for sale. These include Comfort Zone products, which were created in Parma, Italy, by a team of cosmetologists, aromatherapists, and dermatologists working closely with experienced beauty therapists, as well as MD Skincare from New York, and Ultraceuticals, a renowned Australian line.

Guests staying at Miramonte may also wish to join any number of the complimentary wellness classes led by Di Francesco and her staff at the spa. Led daily, these "journeys," as they are known on property, teach guests ways to slow down and enjoy life while also promoting health and well-being. Among those offered are yoga and Hydro Yo Chi, which integrates yoga and tai

chi based exercises in the 98-degree spa pool and is ideal for building balance and flexibility. Also available is the innovative Neuromuscular Integrative Action, a cardiovascular workout that incorporates elements of martial arts, dance, and healing arts to build strength, flexibility, and balance.

Miramonte Resort & Spa brings the spirit of the Mediterranean to the California desert community of Indian Wells, just minutes from Palm Springs. The intimate villa offers guests an unforgettable experience in an extraordinary environment. Whether a stay at Miramonte Resort & Spa is for serious business or pure pleasure, it is sure to be a memorable one. For more information or to make reservations, please visit [www.miramonteresort.com](http://www.miramonteresort.com) or [www.thewellatmiramonte.com](http://www.thewellatmiramonte.com).

### **GROVE ARTISAN KITCHEN OPENS AT MIRAMONTE RESORT & SPA**

*Within a casually sophisticated atmosphere, the new Grove Artisan Kitchen celebrates a seasonal and artisanal approach to Southern California dining*

(INDIAN WELLS, CA)—Grove Artisan Kitchen is now open at Miramonte Resort & Spa, presenting a fresh farm-to-table dining experience, featuring ingredients from local artisan growers simply prepared with time honored techniques. Formally Ristorante Brissago, the refreshed atmosphere and new culinary concept of Grove Artisan Kitchen is set to become a destination for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and socializing, tempting visitors and locals alike with an array of creative seasonal California cuisine.

Named after the citrus and date grove that once flourished years ago on the very land the resort rests upon, Grove Artisan Kitchen celebrates the rich history of the desert, honoring local artisan growers fortunate for the natural waters that made Indian Wells famous. “Our goal with the restaurant refresh and new culinary concept is for Grove Artisan Kitchen to become a destination restaurant for both locals and resort guests. Our philosophy is to provide a stellar dining experience in a simple and uncomplicated manner.” says Stan Kantowski, General Manager.

Grove Artisan Kitchen embraces sleek contemporary design elements blended with timeless Italian and Spanish influences. The dramatic interior design offers many organic materials and textures such as natural stone, distressed wood, etched glass, and soft drapes. The impressive exhibition kitchen will be the main focal point, permeating energy throughout the dining room.

Magnificent mountain views and beautifully landscaped grounds serve as the backdrop to the signature outdoor patio. Large French doors spanning the length of the restaurant, embrace the outdoor courtyard, which serves as the resort’s centerpiece. The courtyard creates the spirit of a gathering place, filled with activity and complimented by dramatic stone water fountain.

Now at Grove Artisan Kitchen, Chef Robert Nyerick’s fresh and seasonal farm-to-table California cuisine features organic produce, “home grown” fresh herbs, farm raised meats and poultry, fresh seafood, house-made pastas, prime dry-aged meats, and innovative vegetarian dishes. Nyerick imaginatively enhances these farm fresh and organic ingredients in dishes such

as Orange Kumquat Glazed Long Island Duck Breast (\$26); House made Sweet Pea Primavera Ravioli with Roma Tomato Vodka Cream (\$16); Grove Paella with Georges Bank Scallops, Jumbo Shrimp, P.E.I Mussels, Manila Clams, and Saffron Risotto (\$28). Additionally, Chef Nyerick will be offering monthly farm-to-table specialties from local and regional farms and ranches including: Organic Kenter Farms Baby Greens, Ruby Grapefruit, Jumbo Asparagus, Avocado, and Citrus Mustard Vinaigrette (\$8); Brandt Beef Winter Ale braised Short Ribs, mashed Yukon Gold Potatoes, and Baby Carrots (\$26); and Cironi Farms Fuji Apple, Brown Butter Tarte with Brandied Caramel Sauce (\$9).

For those looking for an after work cocktail or a more casual dining experience, the Grove Lounge will be serving artisan tapas, innovative cocktails, as well as a refined wine collection. Chef Nyerick's extensive tapas menu can be enjoyed separately or as a precursor to an extraordinary dinner at Grove Artisan Kitchen.

Grove Artisan Kitchen is located at 45-000 Indian Wells Lane in Indian Wells, CA. The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. The Grove Lounge is open seven days a week from 10:00 a.m. to midnight. Valet parking is available. Reservations, which are recommended, can be made by calling 760.341.2200.

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Miramonte Resort & Spa is one of more than 30 independent, upscale hotels, resorts and conference centers by Destination Hotels & Resorts, the fourth largest independent hospitality management company in the country. To protect and preserve the unique communities in which the company operates, Destination launched Destination Earth, an environmental sustainability program in 2008. New for 2009 is the 582-room Terranea Resort situated on the Palos Verdes Peninsula in southern California. The 102-acre ocean front resort will feature a 25,000-square-foot destination spa, three swimming pools, three restaurants and a Todd Eckenrode-designed par three golf course. In addition to Terranea in the greater Los Angeles area, Destination operates properties in key metropolitan areas and resort markets including Washington, D.C., Denver, San Diego, Santa Fe, Aspen, Palm Springs, Houston and Lake Tahoe. Destination is a subsidiary of Los Angeles-based investment, development and management firm Lowe Enterprises. For more information on the properties in the Destination Hotels & Resorts collection, please visit [www.destinationhotels.com](http://www.destinationhotels.com).

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Kristin Yantis (775) 351-7904, [www.myprco.com](http://www.myprco.com)**