

Best Luxury Gay Resort 2026 – North America & LUXlife
Personalised Hospitality Excellence Award 2026 – North America

The Hacienda at Warm Sands

Palm Springs, California, is one of the world's most welcoming destinations for the LGBTQ+ community. Among its many accommodations, one exceptional resort caters to gay men seeking privacy, luxury, and personalized service. Widely regarded as one of the finest and most intimate gay resorts in North America, The Hacienda at Warm Sands offers a tranquil escape framed by breathtaking mountain views and personalized service delivered with impeccable attention to detail. Following its recognition in the Resorts & Retreats Awards 2026, we spoke with co-owner Maurice Minno about the extraordinary experience awaiting guests at this private, clothing-optional sanctuary.

Just minutes from downtown Palm Springs, The Hacienda at Warm Sands has earned a reputation as one of the most luxurious gay men's resorts in California—and arguably in all of North America. With just nine spacious suites and one guest room, the resort combines intimacy with an exceptional level of comfort, service, and attention.

While boutique in size, The Hacienda delivers amenities and hospitality that rival the world's finest luxury properties. The resort boasts an impressive 60% guest return rate and maintains a perfect 5-star rating on TripAdvisor, supported by more than 680 outstanding guest reviews.

Guests return because a stay at The Hacienda is never ordinary. The resort is renowned for creating what staff affectionately call "Hacienda Moments"—personalized touches that transform a memorable stay into an unforgettable experience. These thoughtful gestures have become a hallmark of the resort and are central to its longstanding reputation for delivering warm, attentive, yet unobtrusive service.

“Our guests dream of returning to The Hacienda at Warm Sands because of their Hacienda Moments.”

One such "Hacienda Moment" involves a longtime couple who frequently stay at the resort and deeply miss their dogs whenever they travel. Prior to one of their visits, the staff sourced photos of their beloved pets, had them professionally framed, and displayed them throughout the couple's suite before arrival.

The gesture left them speechless. What truly elevates this experience, however, is that each time the couple returns, those same framed photographs are carefully placed throughout their suite once again. It is



this level of genuine personalization that makes The Hacienda at Warm Sands so distinctive.

Returning guests are celebrated in many ways, including through the resort's signature Pillow Club. Upon arrival, every guest is presented with a pillow menu offering a selection of sleep pillow preferences. Returning guests receive an additional surprise: decorative suede pillows embroidered with their first names, prominently displayed on their bed prior to their arrival. This thoughtful welcome creates an immediate sense of familiarity and appreciation rarely found in luxury hospitality.

From the moment guests arrive, they are immersed in the resort's lush landscaping, serene atmosphere, and unmistakable sense of tranquility.



Nestled within Palm Springs' historic Warm Sands neighborhood, The Hacienda enjoys a spectacular setting with beautiful vistas of the San Jacinto Mountains.

The experience begins the moment guests pass through the resort gates. Although located close to the energy of downtown Palm Springs, The Hacienda feels worlds away. Guests are welcomed directly within their suite or room, setting the tone for the personalized experience that follows.

Unlike many hotel "suites" that offer little more than an oversized room, The Hacienda's accommodations are authentically spacious and thoughtfully designed. Whether staying in a Grand Deluxe Suite or the Patio Room, guests enjoy generous living spaces and upscale amenities.

Each suite features a separate living and dining area, private bedroom, kitchen/bar equipped with a refrigerator, microwave, toaster, and blender, Smart TVs, and luxurious Tuscan-inspired spa showers. Most importantly, every accommodation except for the Patio Room overlooks the resort's beautifully landscaped grounds and dual swimming pools. It is unique for a boutique resort with ten accommodations to offer two swimming pools, with one pool maintained at ambient temperature while the second is seasonally chilled for guest comfort.

Despite its intimate scale, every suite enjoys convenient access to all resort amenities, allowing guests to move effortlessly between their private retreat and the resort's social and relaxation spaces.

Discussing these amenities, Maurice explains:

"The resort is known for its tranquil water features, extensive Saltillo-tiled patios and walkways, outdoor fireplace, large whirlpool spa, and two separate swimming pools."

He continues:

"Guests enjoy complimentary breakfast and lunch - an expanded continental breakfast each morning, followed by a restaurant-crafted lunch featuring gourmet sandwiches, fresh salads, and wraps, served poolside or in-suite. Lunch is accompanied by a selection of beverages, including wine, freshly brewed iced tea, and lemonade."

Another distinguishing feature of The Hacienda at Warm Sands is its remarkable one-to-one room-to-staff ratio, a level of service typically associated only with the world's most exclusive luxury hotels. This allows the team to anticipate guest needs and create highly personalized experiences before their arrival.

Many guests contact the resort in advance with requests for favorite foods, beverages, flowers, snacks, or special amenities. Upon arrival, they find every detail thoughtfully arranged and waiting for them.

The Hacienda's commitment to creating unforgettable experiences extends beyond everyday stays. The resort has proudly hosted numerous same-sex wedding ceremonies, some officiated by Palm Springs' mayor. These celebrations reflect not only the resort's dedication to exceptional hospitality but also its longstanding role as a welcoming and affirming destination for gay travelers.

We share that admiration and are delighted to recognize The Hacienda at Warm Sands for a sixth consecutive year in our Resorts & Retreats Awards. It remains one of Palm Springs' most treasured hidden gems—a destination where exceptional accommodations, lush surroundings, and genuinely personalized service come together to create something truly extraordinary.

For those seeking an exceptional and distinctly personal world-class luxury resort experience unlike any other, The Hacienda at Warm Sands offers more than a stay. It offers an experience guests long to relive.

“More than a stay—an experience you crave.”

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