

LOS LAGOS NEWS

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Announcements

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, January 26 at 10:00am at Avail's office: 51350 Desert Club Dr, Suite 4, La Quinta. If you haven't voted already, please mail your ballot this week.

Gentle Reminder

Please ask your visitors to park their cars in your driveway or, if that's not possible, on the street. There should be no residents' cars parked on our streets.

Pickleball

Players meet every Sunday at 11:00am.

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Snowy Egrets

Have you seen them? They return each evening about dusk to their nesting or roosting tree near our Cook Street entry. You may be able to see them flying high before they descend to land for the night. Their snow-white feathers make them visible even as they try to hide in the midst of the multi-branched palm tree south of the Los Lagos sign.

Snowy white egrets are small herons that forage for food in shallow water. In California, they are most likely to be seen on the coast. They sometimes seek small fish in the Los Lagos waterways, but the colony that nests near our entrance evidently includes some who forage elsewhere and then fly "home" at night. If you see them standing out of the water, you will be able to see that they have black legs and bright yellow feet – golden slippers!

Snowy egrets have nested in the same Los Lagos tree in some prior years, but we have no guarantee that they will return. They are said to change nesting grounds for no evident reason. They are also said to display very showy courtship behavior, but no Los

Community column

Things to do

The Pink Cabana

The author of the article at right was in town for Modernism Week and wrote a review of the **Sands Hotel** and the **Pink Cabana** restaurant for *Diablo Magazine*, in the San Francisco Bay Area.

In the spirit of supporting local business, we included the restaurant review here – with permission of course.

Reader Survey

Thank you for your overwhelming response in December – we received a total of 36 surveys and learned some surprising answers to the question, “How do you read the News?”

For example, 31% of respondents said they use a smartphone exclusively to read our newsletter; a higher score than any other device. Computers are not disappearing however, as 58% mentioned using them, though just 25% use a computer exclusively. Another 25% mentioned a tablet; 6% a tablet exclusively.

Reading the printed page is diminishing, as only eight percent mentioned reading a printed version; none exclusively.

Lagos resident has reported having seen such a performance. Keep watching. You may be the lucky one.

By Herb Costner

The Pink Cabana at the Sands Hotel in Indian Wells.

Even if you don't stay at The Sands, you must visit its restaurant, The Pink Cabana; every in-the-know desert local is talking about it, and for good reason. Executive chef Jason Niederkorn—who worked under legendary chef Jeremiah Tower at Stars restaurant in San Francisco (Tower visited, and cooked with, his onetime protégé at the Sands last fall)—has created a unique, Mediterranean-style menu with nods to Morocco. Fresh day-boat catches are flown in from Hawaii twice a week; the “grilled yogurt naan” (pillowy, yogurt-infused flatbread) that arrives with a meze platter takes two days to make, and it's out-of-this-world even without dips or spreads. Indeed, many of Niederkorn's signature creations are prepared masterfully and burst with layers of flavor. The intricately spiced lamb tagine is so tender, it melts in your mouth.

The Pink Cabana's bar program deserves special attention, too. Hospitality experts and cocktail enthusiasts alike rave about Food and Beverage Director Mollie Casey's creative twists on classic libations, such as the Jalisco Sidecar, made with tequila, pear, ginger, and fresh lemon juice; or the Fig Orange Old Fashioned, which mixes Japanese whiskey with orange-fig marmalade and bitters. Casey—like Niederkorn, a San Francisco transplant—is a trained sommelier with a deep knowledge of vino, so her esoteric wine list contains dozens of unexpected and tantalizing selections.

Add in star designer Martyn Lawrence Bullard's updated take on throwback tennis-club chic—complete with a palm fern-leaf motif and classic photos of the hoi polloi frolicking in Palm Springs' midcentury heyday—and a professional, accommodating waitstaff, and The Pink Cabana amounts to a desert hot spot that's not to be missed. sandshotelandspa.com.

By Virginia Shannon