

Made in the Shade: A Local Guide to Luxury Pool Cabanas

By Tiffany Owens

With comfy chaise lounges by the water and frosty beverages, gourmet fare and relaxing massages on speed dial, these luxury resorts offer a wide range of lavish amenities to ensure that cabana dwellers are by far the coolest at the pool. While most cabanas are maintained exclusively for resort guests, the following six also allow non-guests to rent cabanas.

Hotel Valley Ho

Up to six guests can relax in one of eight private cabanas that surround the martini-shaped Oh Pool. Each cabana features hip pool furniture, a fire pit and water feature, spa Jacuzzis, plus a curtain for privacy. Guests can also order massage and nail services en suite. Each guest receives a choice of three of the following: Fiji bottled water, fresh fruit plate, HVH playing cards, chips and salsa, Kids Pool Pack (water toys), two fruit smoothies, or handmade potato chips. Daily cabana rentals are \$149, Mon.-Thurs. and \$249, Fri. and Sun., through September 1st. 6850 E. Main St., Scottsdale; hotelvalleyho.com; 480-248-2000.

Mondrian Scottsdale

Four private, poolside cabanas offer the utmost in luxury for up to six guests. Each open-sky cabana features a fireplace, inside and outdoor lounge furniture, a flat-screen TV, ceiling fan, plus heavy canvas curtains for privacy. The two middle cabanas were designed with a "sexy open plan" to enjoy couples' massages and other spa treatments. Other included amenities are Fiji bottled water, a fruit platter and "telephone service directly to the bar." The BLUE pool and cabanas are open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The price for a full-day rental is \$500, (does not include bottle service, 20 percent automatic gratuity or tax). 7353 E. Indian School Rd., Scottsdale; mondrianscottsdale.com; 480-308-1100.

Fairmont Scottsdale Princess

Six brand-new cabanas inhabit the Fairmont's main South Pool, with three each on the east and west sides of the pool respectively. Amenities include 27-inch plasma TVs, ceiling fans, chaise lounges and a sound system for iPods and CDs. Also included is a small refrigerator stocked with non-alcoholic beverages, plus a fresh fruit plate. Cabana rentals for up to four people are \$100, Mon.-Thurs. and \$125, Fri.-Sun., with an additional charge of \$15 per person per day for each additional guest. Cabanas are available year-round from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., daily; in summer, hours may extend into evening. 7575 E. Princess Dr., Scottsdale; fairmont.com/scottsdale; 480-585-4848.

Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs

The Tapatio Cliffs offers your choice of 23 cabanas at two separate pool areas, with easy access to the Falls Water Village. Each cabana comes with padded furniture, ceiling fan, TV with remote, telephone, data port, table and four chairs, playing cards, newspaper and a mini-fridge stocked with bottled water and fruit. Cabanas can be rented by non-guests on weekdays only (excluding holidays), from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., for up to six people. Summer cabana rental rates are \$40 for the Grotto Pool and \$60 for the Geyser Pool through Sept. 15. Half-day cabana rates are also available for \$30 after 1 p.m., but cannot be reserved in advance. 11111 N. 7th St., Phoenix; pointehilton.com/indextc.cfm; 602-588-7965.

Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa

These spacious, luxurious cabanas have full baths (with sink, shower and toilet), plus a telephone, ceiling fan, pay-per-view movies, board games, misters and a refrigerator, as well as a table for four and two reserved lounge chairs. Amenities include chilled, scented grapefruit facial towels, two bottles of Fiji water and frozen treats ranging from seedless grapes to sorbet. Summer rental rates (July 16-Sept. 30th): Classic cabanas are \$80/weekdays, \$145/weekends; Premier Cabanas are \$165/weekdays and \$220/weekends – both for up to six guests. Fiesta Cabana Suites can accommodate eight people and are \$275-330/weekdays, \$355-410/weekends. Prices are significantly higher on holiday weekends. 2400 E. Missouri Ave., Phoenix; arizonabiltmore.com; 602-955-6600.

Westin Kierland Resort & Spa

The Kierland's Adventure Water Park has 13 cabanas, a 110-foot slide, a 900-foot lazy-river ride, sloped entry for toddlers, weekend "Poolside Movies," a children's play area and pool, fully-equipped playground, daily family activities and fun clubs for tots and teens. Nine cabanas are also offered at the quieter, adults-only Aguamiel pool. Each cabana includes a TV with DVD player, bottled water, fresh fruit and fresh-baked cookies. Rates are \$65, Mon.-Thurs. and \$90, Fri.-Sun. 6902 E. Greenway Pkwy., Scottsdale; kierlandresort.com; 480-624-1000.