

THE 2010 AWARDS

TENNIS

10
WAYS
TO PLAY
BETTER
DOUBLES
PAGE 34

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Rafael Nadal

It's His World Now



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010
\$4.99US



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FOUR SEASONS HUALALAI



LA QUINTA RESORT



RANCHO VALENCIA

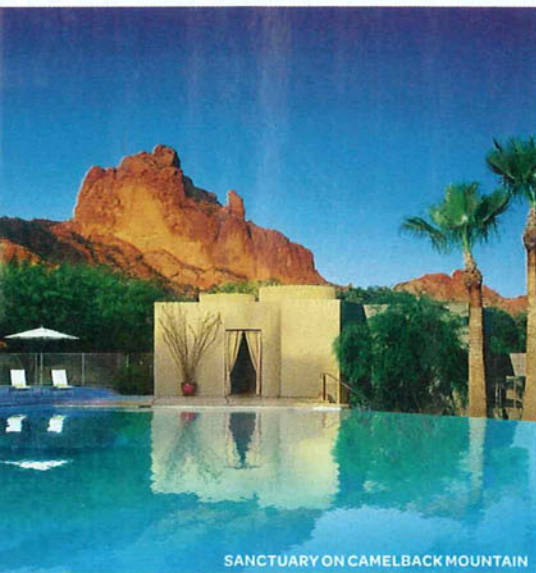
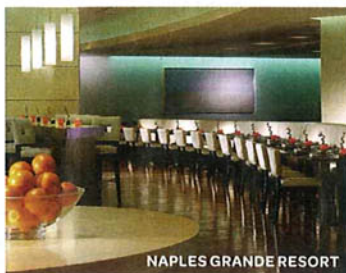


THE BROADMOOR



SADDLEBROOK





RANCHO VALENCIA: DAVID ROSENBERG

THE TOP 50 TENNIS RESORTS IN THE U.S.

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Any of us here at TENNIS Magazine would be eager to spend a vacation at any of these resorts, honing our strokes and meeting fellow fans. They all have their strong points, they all have well-maintained courts, and they all have teams of dedicated pros who still get a charge out of coaching even after years of plopping balls across the net to people who have never before held a racquet.

But a few of these resorts stand above the others because of a combination of factors. It comes down to such things as ratio of pros to players in clinics, ratio of courts to guests, cost of court time, plus a few intangibles like dependability and respect for the game. Since our readers let us know they come with distinct preferences and demands beyond tennis, our final selection also factors in such attractions as comfort, amenities, dining, spas and other diversions.

We use a dollar-sign system to indicate room rates, partly because of the maze of details (think seasonal discounts, room taxes, resort fees, surcharges) but also because so many hotels and resorts these days are offering a jumble of special packages to lure recession-weary vacationers back to their properties. The dollar signs are no more than a guideline (\$ up to \$150 per double room, \$\$ for \$150 to \$300, \$\$\$ for \$300 and up) based on a median of the lowest room rate in the low season and the highest rate in the peak season. Browse carefully among the rates and fine print and you'll find many ways to get the tab down to a more manageable figure.

When doing your research, you may have as many quandaries choosing your spot as we did putting this list together, but ultimately you'll have fun picking and then enjoying your favorite tennis resort.



RANCHO VALENCIA

Rancho Santa Fe, California

MATCH-UPS "I believe we are 98 percent successful in arranging matches," says tennis director John DeLille (but don't assume you'll be partnering with fellow guests like Bill Gates or Cindy Crawford).

FLAKE & BAKE Under the Southern California sun? No, in the spa's Terra Cotta Couples Clay Bake — you and your significant other alone in a garden pool in a secluded corner of the hacienda.

ENJOY, ENJOY "I look for just two things when guests are done with a clinic or a

lesson," DeLille says. "Are they smiling and sweating? If I see those two things, I know everything is good."

TIP Stay in a suite near the Rose Garden, a short stroll through the Citrus Grove to tennis courts surrounded by tall, aromatic eucalyptus. Even a deep breath between sets is therapeutic here.

COURTS: 18 hard **COURT TIME:** free for registered guests **LODGING:** 49 suites, 3 villas, 1 hacienda **(\$\$\$) INFORMATION:** (800) 548-3664; www.ranchovalencia.com.

