

November/December 2010

THE 2010 AWARDS TENNIS

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WAYS
TO PLAY
BETTER
DOUBLES
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**Rafael
Nadal**
It's His World Now

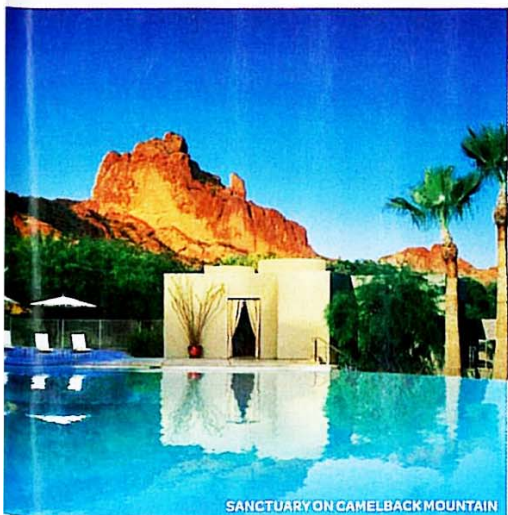


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THE TOP 50 TENNIS RESORTS IN THE U.S.



RANCHO VALENCIA: DAVID ROSENBERG

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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.



NAPLES GRANDE BEACH RESORT

Naples, Florida

SEASIDE POSH A member of the Waldorf Astoria Collection, the Naples Grande offers private balconies with views of the Gulf of Mexico, three pools, a Golden Door spa, as well as entry to the private Naples Grande Golf Club.

WELCOME Brazil's Fabio Vasconcellos, one of the Peter Burwash International's most experienced and personable pros, has taken over the tennis program at this beachside highrise. You get 12 hours of clinics and four round robins every week.

WALK THE PLANK The 23-acre resort's boardwalk weaves through a private mangrove estuary to three miles of white, powdery sands and a slew of water sports action.

LOOK LIVELY Golden Door's Just "Fore" Gents involves three hours of Foot Ritual, Therapeutic Massage and Gentleman's Mangrove Restorative Facial to produce a new you with a spring in your step—and even a little flexibility in your calves and shoulders.

COURTS: 15 clay (5 lit) **COURT TIME:** \$15 singles, \$25 doubles per hour **LODGING:** 395 guestrooms, 29 suites, 50 bungalows (\$/\$/\$) **INFORMATION:** (888) 722-1267; www.naplesgranderesort.com



JW MARRIOTT DESERT SPRINGS RESORT & SPA

Desert Springs, California

GRAND SLAM Peter Burwash's man at the Tennis and Lawn Club is veteran Jim Leupold. His twice-weekly Grand Slam Round Robin gives every player a chance to sample the surfaces—clay, grass and hard—encountered at Roland Garros, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

GRAND TOUR The resort is as strung out as its name! It uses canopied launches to float guests around on lagoons that link the cavernous lobby with the upgraded guestrooms, renovated spa, half-a-dozen restaurants, bars, lounges, and shops.

CARNIVAL The traditional Saturday PBI Tennis Show and Tennis Festival is instructive and fun (and, if you happen to win one of the dozens of prizes, rewarding), but if you come in February, the event takes on the atmosphere of a midwinter carnival.

TIP Pick a quiet time of day for your game, when the pros are not too busy with clinics and lessons, and one of them may appear at your court to offer a few pointers on your game. PBI calls this Quick Tip, and it's complimentary.

COURTS: 15 hard (6 lit), 3 clay, 2 stadium grass courts **COURT TIME:** \$12-\$20 in summer, \$25-\$35 in winter hourly per court **LODGING:** 1,734 hotel rooms and villas (\$/\$/\$) **INFORMATION:** (888) 538-9459; www.desertspringsresort.com

STRATTON MOUNTAIN RESORT

Stratton, Vermont

NEW FACES The Cliff Drysdale Tennis School now runs the year-round program here, with New Zealander Scott Colebourne heading up a team of 10 teaching pros. Try their weekend programs, ranging from two to five days or, if you have a family, the junior program.

WORK OUT, HEAD OUT The Stratton Sports Center's 15,000 square feet keep you in shape with weights, a stretching room, cardio machines, swimming pool, hot tub and steam room. Plus, you're surrounded by glorious mountain trails for hikers and bikers.

OPTIONS Stratton's wide range of lodgings gives you a choice of moderately priced rooms (from just \$69 in low season) to spacious condos with full kitchens and washers/

dryers, perfect for tennis-loving families.

TIP There are plenty of events in summer, on court and off, so call Scott at (802) 297-4236, tell him what you expect from your stay, and he'll set up a schedule.

COURTS: 8 clay, 8 hard (2 indoor) **COURT TIME:** Free to registered guests and school participants **LODGING:** 400 plus inns, condos and villas (\$/\$) **INFORMATION:** (800) 787-2886; www.stratton.com



DESERT SPRINGS: DAVID ROSENBERG