

PSSST!

THE BEST OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY AND BEYOND

Red, White, and GREEN

The owners of Trio Restaurant in Palm Springs have planted more than 3,000 trees since their opening day (Sept. 17, 2009). That does not mean that Tony Marchese and Mark Van Laanen have been shoveling dirt and relandscaping their yard in their spare time. And much of the credit for the thousands of new trees rightfully goes to guests — specifically, those who have enjoyed Trio's house wine.

By designating Trinity Oaks as its house wine, Trio has partnered with St. Helena-based Trinchero Family Estates in the winery's commitment to plant one tree for every bottle it sells under the Trinity Oaks label. Since July 1, 2008, Trinchero has planted some 4 million trees. Both Trinity Oaks and Trio include "tree counters" on their websites, so wine drinkers can keep track of the good they're doing for the environment.

— Janice Kleinschmidt





BEST OF THE BEST

You picked 'em!

Each year, *Palm Springs Life* readers weigh in on their favorite people, places, and things in the Coachella Valley that make the desert special. We call these the "best of the best." For 2010, we added several categories at readers' request for a total of 72 entries covering everything from restaurants, spas, and resorts to favorite singles bars and best places for a first date. And you, the reader, responded enthusiastically, with hundreds of votes tallied from online and paper ballots.

The following pages feature the results of our annual readers' choice awards, your picks for the desert's **Best of the Best**.

"PALM SPRINGS:
CHARM AND EASE,
GRACE AND FUNK,
OLD AND YOUNG,
LIFE AND BEAUTY."
— ERIC DE JONG



PALM SPRINGS AERIAL TRAMWAY

Best of the Best **TOURIST ATTRACTION**

People love the **Palm Springs Aerial Tramway**, easily one of the most popular desert attractions. Since this "Eighth Wonder of the World" opened in 1963, more than 16 million riders have made the trip up the mountain as thick cables pull slowly rotating cars almost 6,000 feet up the sheer cliffs of Chino Canyon. Once on top, the 14,000-acre Mount San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness Area beckons with 54 miles of hiking trails, camping, picnicking, snowshoeing (in winter), and more. Fine and casual dining are also available. As for the 17-minute ride lifting you through five life zones, it's truly a one-of-a-kind experience. 1-760-325-1391; www.pstramway.com.

PEOPLE WATCHING

- 1. **Downtown Palm Springs**
- 2. The River at Rancho Mirage
- 3. El Paseo

PLACES TO SPOT A CELEBRITY

- 1. **El Paseo**
- 2. TIE: Palm Springs International Film Festival/ Downtown Palm Springs
- 3. Parker Palm Springs

FIRST DATE LOCATION

- 1. TIE: **Spencer's Restaurant/ Le Vallauris Restaurant/ The River at Rancho Mirage/ Jackalope Ranch/Riviera Resort & Spa**
- 2. Tie: Las Casuelas Terraza/ Copley's on Palm Canyon
- 3. Palm Springs VillageFest

TOURIST ATTRACTION

- 1. **Palm Springs Aerial Tramway**
- 2. The Living Desert
- 3. Palm Springs Art Museum

NEW THING IN THE DESERT

- 1. **Cooking with Class**
- 2. TIE: The 3rd Corner Wine Shop and Bistro/The Blue Pear Texx Mexx and The Pool House
- 3. TIE: Al Michaels Eterna Salon & Medical Day Spa/Aunt Effie's Garden/Morgan's in the desert/The Show at Agua Caliente Casino • Resort • Spa / **Trio Restaurant**