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Whisper it at (602) 444-8668.

The Name Game

What's going on with the changes of ownership—and names—of some of the most notable hostilities in the neighborhood? It's getting to where you can barely tell the players without a program.

Take the old, 1960s-vintage Executive House Arizonian, on the corner of Scottsdale Road and Chaparral, for instance. It later became the SunBurst Resort, went through several more incarnations and then—once more, with feeling—ended up as the Balinese-themed Caleo Resort & Spa.

Now Caleo has been purchased by The Kimpton Hotel & Restaurant Group and, although Kimpton says it plans to retain the Caleo name, the hotel's spa and restaurant will soon be doing business under other appellations. OK, we can follow that, we suppose.

Then there's the trendy James Hotel in Old Town Scottsdale (which we just got used to calling the James, by the way), which formerly was a Holiday Inn, and before that a couple of other long-forgotten hotel properties. It's changed hands and is now under the



ownership of New York-based Morgans Hotel Group. The James will soon be known by its new, impossibly L.A. chic name, Mondrian Scottsdale.

So, inquiring minds are asking, will the swanky J Bar in the James soon be dubbed the "M Bar?" Stay tuned for further details.

As if that isn't enough, Phoenix's sacrosanct Arizona Biltmore recently changed hands and is now under the ownership and management of Beverly Hills-based Hilton Hotels' new Luxury Waldorf-Astoria Collection (Phew! Another mouthfull). Couple that with the recent razing and planned conversion of two of the Valley's resort mainstays—La Posada (soon-to-be Montelucia) and Mountain Shadows in Paradise Valley—and it's enough to bring on a major case of resort-identity angst!

Our recommended cure: Mai-Tais served poolside, at any of the afore-mentioned hot spots. And quick.

Two Minutes with Debbie Waitkus

Spring has sprung and there's no better time to play 18 holes. Camelback sat down with an Arcadia resident who helps folks turn golf into a business tool and gives back to the community, too.



Q: You started Golf for Cause in 2001 to help organizations and people—especially women—demystify the game and “turn golf into gold.” What does that mean exactly?

A: We're in a community where golf opens a lot of doors. I think that a lot of women don't take advantage of golf for business purposes or even to grow themselves personally because, for the most part, it's not a world that we've been part of. The idea is to be able to leverage golf and business together.

Q: Do you think people really need to be coached on how to make the connection between playing golf and doing business work?

A: If you're looking to improve yourself or increase your odds, you can enhance your opportunities tremendously. This is especially true for women who are intimidated—as most of us are—to go out into that environment. We women have worked really hard to be on par with our male counterparts in a corporate environment. Our games need to be up at the same level as our perception of where men's games are.

Q: So you obviously must believe that the number of women who play golf to “network” is on the rise.

A: Absolutely. Those statistics are available through the National Golf Foundation as well as the Growth in Executive Women's Golf Association.

Q: How long have you yourself been golfing?

A: Fifteen years. I was pregnant with my daughter when a friend dragged me out on the golf course.

Q: What's your handicap, may we ask?

A: Right now my handicap is at 11.0. I love to play and I can play with anybody, from a beginner to a scratch golfer. I have a game that can travel, if you will!

Q: Many of your “Golf for Cause” programs are charitable fund-raisers; what organizations do you support?

A: A whole bunch of them; SAARC [the Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center] is one of them. This week, we're doing something for Desert Mission Food Bank.

Q: Any favorite local courses?

A: I like several for a variety of different reasons. Among my favorite public courses are ASU (Arizona State University) Karsten, the Camelback Golf Club's Resort Course, Eagle Mountain, Kierland. I love Mountain Shadows—I think it's a great executive course—and Papago. It's the course that I learned to play on.

Q: On a completely frivolous note, have you ever played golf with a celebrity?

A: I have. I played golf with Hal Emdin in Alice Cooper's tournament. Of course, I had to call my mother to tell her and she said, “Oh! He's got great legs!”

For more info, visit www.golfforcause.com or call (602) 840-0601.