

Agua Caliente Adds Fifth Star to its Forbes Four-Star Triple Win

Forbes Travel Guide (FTG), the only global rating system for luxury hotels, restaurants and spas, recently offered a sneak peek at select winners from its upcoming 2021 annual Star Awards. Sunstone Spa at Agua Caliente Resort Casino Spa Rancho Mirage, in Rancho Mirage, CA, earned a new Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star Award and will be showcased with other honorees on *ForbesTravelGuide.com*. The Forbes Four-Star Agua Caliente Resort Casino Spa Rancho Mirage was recently bestowed three prestigious *Forbes Travel Guide* Four-Star Awards for their luxurious resort hotel, the holistically indulgent Sunstone Spa, and the exclusive The Steakhouse. Now, the resort takes their serene spa to the next level with this impressive Five-Star Award, in addition to, an already stellar four-star repertoire. The world-class service provided by this talented and professional spa team ensures guests always feel like they are a world away, and the decadent surroundings seduce every sense. Zero gravity chairs provide a calming affect that readies spa guests for a personalized treatment, and the aromas of sage and lavender sooth the soul from the moment you enter.

“I am enormously proud of the Agua Caliente team for being a Forbes triple winner for the second year in a row. We have been awarded Four Stars for our resort and our steakhouse, and Five Stars for our spa. It is an incredible achievement to be a triple winner, and now we have added a fifth star to our accolades. Only through passion and commitment can an achievement of this magnitude be possible, and our team members strive every day to create the ultimate guest experience at Agua Caliente,” said Saverio Scheri III, COO of Agua Caliente Casinos.

Circling Raven Garners Prestigious Ranking in *Golfweek’s Best 2020 – Best Courses You Can Play List*

Coeur d’Alene Casino Resort Hotel recently announced that Circling Raven Golf Club, the resort’s acclaimed championship course designed by Gene Bates, has garnered elite ranking in *Golfweek’s Best 2020 – Best Courses You Can Play by State*, the media company’s annual compendium of America’s finest playing venues.

Owned and operated by the Coeur d’Alene Tribe, Circling Raven sprawls expansively across 620 acres of gorgeous Palouse Region topography, part of the tribe’s ancient ancestral homelands in the Idaho Panhandle. It is one of many highly regarded amenities of the Coeur d’Alene Casino Resort Hotel. The course has ranked No. 1 or No. 2 virtually every year since it opened, and it has been cited as one of the top public, resort, and casino courses in the country by *Golf*, *Golfweek* and *Golf Digest* on numerous occasions.

Every year, *Golfweek’s* elite team of course raters, which



currently boasts more than 850 evaluators, surveys more than 3,600 courses – grading each nominated course on *Golfweek’s* 10 strict standards of evaluation.

“The Coeur d’Alene Tribe is proud to receive distinction for Circling Raven. We strive to exceed our guests’ expectations on and off the course,” said Laura Stensgar, MBA, CDA Casino Resort Hotel CEO and tribal member.

Circling Raven measures 7,189 yards from the rear tees. Many who play Circling Raven, which includes a nationally honored retail shop and the excellent Twisted Earth restaurant with bar, claim it as an immediate member of their all-time best golf experiences.

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Awarded Conquer LA’s Corporate Champion Trophy for Participation in the Los Angeles Marathon

Team members employed by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians were given the opportunity to train as a team and run in the 35th Annual Los Angeles Marathon operated by the McCourt Foundation. Ninety one San Manuel team members and tribal citizens recently finished the race earning them top spots in two categories of the marathon’s corporate challenge. They earned first place in the “Fittest Company” category for having the largest team and third place in the “Fastest Company” category for having the top five best finishing times for both males and females.

“It’s rewarding to have earned first place in the LA Marathon’s Corporate Challenge, especially in our very first year,” said Brigitte Saria, Chief People and Infrastructure Officer of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. “It’s the perfect representation of the teamwork, commitment and gratitude of this team.”

San Manuel provided employees with training resources to help them prepare for the 26.2 mile course, such as a paced training schedule, a professional running coach and the comradery and motivation of a team with a shared goal. Over the course of 20 weeks, San Manuel had 160 team members and their families who took part in training and



practice runs with the team. Together they trained a total of 1,820 hours in preparation for what would be the longest run the majority of them had ever done.

On race day, 91 team members completed the Los Angeles Marathon and ran a total of 2,384 miles. San Manuel sponsored the Los Angeles Marathon and running team in commitment to their Health and Wellness initiative.

Trilogy Group Joins Forces with TFA Capital Partners to Bring BetMGM Sports Betting to Tribal Gaming Casinos

Trilogy Group, a native woman managed company, have extended their existing relationship with TFA Capital Partners to include sports betting.

“Sports betting has grown exponentially since the repeal of PASPA, and with it a need for quality competitive solutions,” said Valerie Spicer, Founding Partner of Trilogy Group. “The combination of the joint venture between MGM Resorts and GVC, BetMGM, gives tribal gaming operators a highly sophisticated offering in a very competitive space.”

Trilogy Group has worked diligently on tracking and cultivating the advancement of sports betting across the country, all while working to play a role in ensuring that tribes possess up to date information from which to make informed choices.

“Working as a seamless team, the combination of Trilogy and TFA helped bring together two of the preeminent names in gaming – the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde’s Spirit Mountain Casino and BetMGM,” offered Kristi Jackson, Chairwoman of TFA Capital Partners.

The Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde recently announced that they selected BetMGM as the operator of their sports betting platform. Sports betting in Oregon has been live since the summer of 2019, with both the Oregon Lottery and tribal operations accepting bets.

“Trilogy and TFA give BetMGM valuable insight into how to develop partnerships with Native American tribes that respect both tribal culture and economic objectives,” said Witek Wacinski, BetMGM’s VP of Strategy and Development.

“We believe the long-term objectives of our tribal partners, as well as BetMGM’s shareholders, are well served by working closely with our associates at Trilogy and TFA.”

Spirit Mountain’s General Manager, Stan Dillon, expects to commence sports betting through BetMGM’s sports betting platform in August.

Fantasy Springs Participates in Filming of the Action Picture ‘Take Back’

Fantasy Springs Resort Casino recently welcomed the stars of the upcoming action film “Take Back,” including Mickey Rourke (*The Wrestler, Sin City*), Michael Jai White (*The Dark Knight, Blood and Bone*), Gillian White (*Never Back Down, Days of Our Lives*) and James Russo (*Donnie Brasco,*



Django Unchained), as well as producer Mike Hatton (*Green Book*) and director Christian Sesma – both of whom have strong ties to the Coachella Valley. In addition to housing cast and crew, Fantasy Springs provided a safe and secure environment for production meetings, rehearsals, script revisions and the film’s wrap party.

“Making an independent action movie under the best circumstances is no easy task, so I’m extremely grateful for the team we assembled to make this happen,” said Hatton. “Getting a film of this caliber shot during a pandemic could only be done with an amazing cast and crew, and with the support of valued partners like our friends at Fantasy Springs. Even though the resort doesn’t appear in this movie, it played a vital role.”

“Take Back” is the first independent film to successfully wrap principal photography following California’s shutdown order due to COVID-19, which has affected the entertainment industry on a global scale. The film was shot on location in the Coachella Valley at breakneck speed while adhering to strict guidelines set forth by local, county and state agencies. However, Sesma and Hatton devised an even stricter COVID playbook to ensure the safety and success of the production, including frequent testing throughout pre-production and production, mandatory wearing of masks, and quarantine of remote crew.

“The safety of the cast and crew should be just as important as the quality of the movie,” Sesma said. “In this new era of filmmaking, I’m proud that Mike [Hatton] and I and our amazing team were the first to get one done.” The film was shot on location in the Coachella Valley and features several scenes at Fantasy Springs. ♣