

FACT SHEET—THE SPRINGS RESORT



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History:

The Great Pagosa Hot Spring draws its name from the Native American tribes who discovered early on its therapeutic and healing qualities. “Pagosa” is derived from the native term “Pag Osah,” which is said to mean “healing waters.” The spring was discovered by the white man in 1859, and became part of the worldwide spa movement that celebrated the mineral baths and their waters as curative for any number of physical ailments.

Transformation:

Though the springs are naturally-occurring and have always existed at the site, when Matt Mees and Bill Dawson purchased the 30-acre property in the early 90s, it was merely a boarded up motel and 4 plastic soaking tubs with garden hoses serving as pool plumbing.

Over the past 12-plus years, Matt and Bill have implemented their vision to reconstruct the springs as a “natural” environment, reminiscent of the setting that is likely to have existed when the Native Americans utilized the spring. January 2005 saw ownership of the resort hotel and soaking pools change to the Whittington family of Albuquerque New Mexico and the parent company known as GulfStream Worldwide, Inc. Gulfstream owners, Nerissa Whittington and Keely Whittington-Reyes, share the vision and commitment to excellence that Mees and Dawson possessed.

In recent years, as The Springs Resort has undergone transformation, so has Hot Springs Boulevard, the artery that connects The Springs Resort to Colorado Highway 160 and loosely parallels the San Juan River. The Town of Pagosa Springs, in need of new public and commercial facilities to

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to accommodate a growing population, has implemented a long-term development plan for the boulevard. Private businesses are moving in as well, and eventually the boulevard will be lined with multiple-use buildings including restaurants, retail shops, professional offices and more. The Springs and Visitor's Center are the northern-most anchors to the development, and the entire effort is tied together with the paved riverwalk stretching through natural terrain, all with the backdrop of the majestic Rocky Mountains peaks.

Hot Springs Features:

The Springs is an authentic spa, built around naturally-occurring, therapeutic mineral hot springs. The actual pools, though man-made, draw inspiration from nature and are constructed to be as natural as possible.

Our 20 pools are a variety of sizes and locations along the riverfront property, and feature different ambiances – and that was by design. Instead of following the easy route and building one big swimming pool-type bath, the pools are situated on different levels, some bordering the river, some tucked against interesting rock formations now coated with the residue from the hot, mineral-rich water cascading from fountains into the pools. The latest addition to the pools “family” is an “L-shaped” non-mineral lap pool surrounding a 15’ x 15’ Jacuzzi jet pool. All pools are merely steps from the river, naturally chilled from its origins high in the San Juan Mountains, allowing guests to enjoy both bathing experiences. The water comes out of the aquifer at approximately 144 degrees, though it drops about 20 degrees as it travels through the system that heats the buildings. The springs are entirely natural, with no chemicals added, and the water is constantly circulating through so that each pool enjoys a continually fresh in- and out-flow of water. Pools are physically drained and cleaned on a rotating schedule, five days a week, and a hydrologist is retained to monitor the health of the Great Spring. Approximately 375-400 gallons of water are cycled through The Springs every day.

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All pools are named – such as Tranquility, Sunset Social Club and Lobster Pot – and the temperature of each is measured and posted hourly. The pools are maintained at different temperatures to accommodate every desire.

Maximum capacity in the various pools ranges from about nine adults to 100, allowing for different experiences – from intimate bathing, to a party gathering after a long day on the ski slope. The entire springs can accommodate 175-200 comfortably.

Bath House Features:

Capturing the feel of the Mediterranean, where luxuriating at a first-class spa is prized, our Bath House features about 5600 square feet of interior public space, plus additional outdoor decks. The facility includes generous men's and women's dressing rooms, with showers, laundry and a small conference room upstairs, overlooking the springs, available for public rental.

The entire building utilizes geo-thermal power, incorporating an intricate heat exchange system to facilitate in-floor heating and hot water for the showers and laundry. Plus, the exterior walkways and handrails are heated to encourage snow-melt. The Department of Energy has visited the site, studying the waterworks system that runs everything off what are considered low-temperature geo-thermal springs. Traditional boilers run off approximately 180 degree water. Engineers, interested in the unique water system, frequently visit The Springs for a look behind the scenes.

The dressing rooms are equipped with swimsuit spinners to instantly dry a suit for packing. The showers adjust themselves automatically to utilize the geothermal heat, encourage conservation and avoid any problems with scalding

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Hotel Features:

The 50-room hotel is what we like to call a boutique property— small, but emphasizing luxury and comfort. In keeping with the Mediterranean theme of the Bath House, the rooms are undergoing a successive redecorating effort to transform the entire hotel into a taste of Tuscany. Emphasis is on a room's amenities, offering thick mattresses and fine linens, plush robes to wear to The Springs, and welcome gifts.

The hotel is all geo-thermal, with water from the Great Pagosa Hot Spring feeding the showers and other hot water needs. So as not to exploit the aquifer, water from the originating spring is piped through the hotel, supplying heat, and then it travels on for therapeutic or recreational use at The Springs.