



  
THE  
SPRINGS  
R · E · S · O · R · T

PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO

*“Naturally Hot Therapeutic Mineral Water”*



Welcome to The Springs Resort!

Thank you for your interest in our mineral hot springs and adjacent hotel and health facilities.

Please peruse these pages to find general press information designed to provide you with interesting facts and features about The Springs – more than the average visitor to our web site can glean, and perhaps more unusual information that would be of interest to your readers.



We encourage you to review the information and formulate questions that would allow you, and ultimately your readers, to enjoy an expanded understanding of our facility following an interview with one or both of our owners (the visionaries of The Springs), which I would be happy to arrange. I personally am happy to also be of assistance providing a tour, booking a stay at the hotel, or gathering additional information about The Springs or the town of Pagosa Springs in general, so please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

The Springs Resort is wonderful in its current form, but we also have many plans for future expansion, information about which is not yet included on these pages. Please ask us about them for an inside look at The Springs Resort of tomorrow.

Thank you again for your time and interest, and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

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## “Naturally Hot Therapeutic Mineral Water”



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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. Standard, Deluxe and Suite accommodations are available with custom design southwest furnishings. Emphasis is on the room amenities, offering thick mattresses and fine linens, plush robes to wear to The Springs, and welcome gifts. Hotel Guests enjoy 24-hour complimentary access to the soaking pools.

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.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON HOT SPRINGS OR “SPAS”



*In ancient times, **Adsullata** was the Goddess of Hot Springs who came to Brittany from Celtic Gaul.*

Spas, or those incorporating the healing waters into common practice, are thought to date back thousand of years. Though the Romans are well known historically for their “baths,” evidence exists that the Greeks, Egyptians, Mesopotamians and Minoans had also discovered the benefits of hot mineral baths. And given that the early Britains and Celts revered a hot springs goddess (see above), the Northern European tribes likely had knowledge of and enjoyed the benefits of therapeutic mineral pools as well.

The word “spa” is derived from the Latin verb “spargere,” or “to pour forth.” Roman legions purportedly established their military camps at hot springs (such as the village of Spa in Belgium), where the healing waters were said to “pour forth” and maintain the health and fitness of the troupes. Also, it is said, *salus per aquam*, or health through water, and its acronym SPA was inscribed on the walls of Roman bathing facilities. In the mid-1500s, the first sulfur springs were discovered at Tewhit near Harrogate, England, and were compared to those renowned in Spa, Belgium – thus the evolution of the English term spa.

In the Americas, tribal history records that the Native Americans throughout the “new world” enjoyed the benefits of hot spring therapy to enhance their physical and spiritual health. The legends of these healing springs drew the Spanish conquistadors, such as Ponce de Leon, in search of the so-called fountain of youth. This was further substantiated by Walter S. McClellan, MD, the first medical director at the Saratoga Spa in Saratoga Springs, NY, who took a more clinical view of the healing waters and administered them under medical control.





## **Background Information.....cont'd**

The Mohawk tribe, however, were the people who first christened Saratoga Hot Springs “the place of the medicine waters of the great spirit” long before McClellan came along.

“Taking of the waters” has emerged through history as fully experiencing the waters through soaking, bathing, drinking and more, and evolved into the modern day spa, where one goes to relax, regenerate the body and restore the soul through association with the healing waters.

The hot springs generated by the Great Pagosa Hot Spring create, by definition, an authentic “spa,” for the waters remain completely natural, without additives, and have been analyzed to reveal the extensive mineral content. Contemporary research reveals that all minerals found in the waters at The Springs are known to have healing and restorative properties for the human body (visit [www.pagosahot springs.com](http://www.pagosahot springs.com) and click on “About our Water”).

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## FOR GENERAL RELEASE



### AN INTRODUCTION

PAGOSA SPRINGS, Colo. – Nearly 150 years have passed since The Great Pagosa Hot Spring was discovered by the white man, yet its healing powers were surely known for centuries before to Native American tribes who inhabited the region. It is from these early inhabitants that Pagosa draws its name – Pagosah, or “healing waters.”

Today visitors annually find a 30-acre complex, including 18 mineral pools, a non-mineral lap pool and Jacuzzi, bath house, hotel and health facility featuring massage, a salon and more. Frequented by those who live regionally and travel to Pagosa specifically to treat themselves to a soak in the therapeutic pools, The

Springs Resort is now just emerging as one of the top hot springs in the world.

Visitors to The Springs Resort create their own experience, be it intimate or convivial, but every visit is about the water. Naturally rich, with no additives, the hot water that bubbles up from magma-heated aquifer contains generous amounts of sodium and sulfate, similar in content to sea water, which leaves the skin soft and hydrated. Other therapeutic benefits of the minerals found at The Springs include musculoskeletal improvement, a boost to the immune system and enhanced brain activity – not to mention the stress reduction associated with a good soak.

The Springs Resort is set on the banks of the San Juan River, which flows from the peaks of the majestic San Juan Mountains that provide the backdrop for Pagosa Springs. As the resort has expanded, every emphasis has been made on creating a relaxing retreat in a healthful, natural setting.

The variety of pools, which sport names indicative of the “experience” one might enjoy once



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### **GENERAL RELEASE...cont'd**

bathing, stretch from the river up the gentle sloping bank, and are situated to provide the greatest amount of privacy possible. In recent years, extensive landscaping has been installed, including a number of shade trees, which can shelter those who wish to avoid the harsher rays of the brilliant Colorado sun. But sunbathing along the river banks is also a treat throughout the summer.

So mineral rich is the water that The Springs as it matures sports an ever changing landscape. As water streams from the fountains and cascades into the pools, it deposits its residue, resulting in unusual visual formations, bespeaking the geo-thermal activity ever-present deep within the earth's crust.

A total Springs experience can include a rejuvenating massage, deep sleep on the new, deep plush mattresses, and visit to the therapeutic juice bar. But Pagosa Springs is also filled with interesting shops and galleries, fine restaurants and invigorating outdoor experiences in the San Juan Mountains – everything from fresh Colorado powder skiing at nearby Wolf Creek Resort, to a summer time hike or horseback ride on the plethora of National Forest trails surrounding the town.

A visit to Pagosa Springs and The Springs Resort could be considered a combination of personal pampering and personal achievement, which equals pure enjoyment.

For further information on The Springs Resort, visit [www.pagosahot springs.com](http://www.pagosahot springs.com) on the web, or call, 800.225.0934.

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