



**THE MOTHER OF ALL HOT SPRINGS IN PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO**  
**World's Deepest Geothermal Spring Feeds 24 Hot Soaking Pools Terraced on a Resort's Riverfront**  
**Democratizing Wellness with Visitors Invited to "Take the Waters" Starting at \$32 a Day**

Pagosa Springs, Colorado – (March 2020) -- With the world's deepest geothermal hot spring at its core, Mother Nature is the star at The Springs Resort & Spa located in a quaint Western town nestled along the banks of the San Juan River. At over 1,002 feet\* deep, "The Mother Spring" not only provides geothermal energy to The Springs Resort & Spa – constantly feeding mineral water to 24 smaller pools terraced along the riverbank, with water temperatures ranging from 80 degrees to 114 degrees – but also provides heat to schools, many municipal and county buildings and breweries in the town of Pagosa Springs. Overnight guests at the 79-room, pet friendly riverfront resort enjoy a special perk: 24/7 access to its varied and wondrous steamy soaking pools, creating their own magical mist-ery tour with every visit.

With new ownership, The Springs Resort & Spa is poised to cast a keen eye on the health benefits that hot springs have been providing for centuries as a natural, healing antidote to the stresses of modern living. With day passes starting at just \$32, good health becomes attainable to a broader audience, further underscoring the idea of the "democratization of wellness." And, The Springs is on the right track as the global wellness economy is booming. According to the [Global Wellness Institute](#), the leading nonprofit industry research authority, wellness tourism is currently a \$639 billion global economy with hot springs accounting for a \$58.2 billion portion of that market.

The terraced riverside pools of the resort evoke the dramatic landscape of the ancient caldera that gave birth to the geothermal spring eons ago. The therapeutic and rejuvenating waters in these pools – which are the only soaking pools in Pagosa to get water directly from the naturally occurring artisanal Mother Spring -- contain 13 different nutrient-rich minerals, including lithium, potassium, iron and manganese. This unique mineral composition is said to have many health benefits such as: ridding the body of toxins, reducing blood pressure, improving digestion, boosting brain activity and building musculo-skeletal health. However, for many hot spring soakers, the most immediate response is pain relief and relaxation due to the sulfur content in the water which acts as an anti-inflammatory.

The word SPA is said to have derived from the Latin *solus per aqua*, or "health by water," and for centuries cultures around the world have practiced "contrast bathing" – hot or warm soaks or steams followed by immersion in cold water or cold air-- to aid in everything from building the immune system to treating allergies. The cool water of the

San Juan River and the chilly mountain air make for wonderful contrast bathing between Pagosa's warm therapeutic mineral pools in any season.

The Springs is a year-around resort offering relaxation during all four of Colorado's gorgeous seasons. Après ski soaking is a favorite for winter visitors to the Wolf Creek Ski Area, only 30 minutes from Pagosa and renowned for Colorado's deepest snowpack. Wildflowers begin to bloom in the sunny springtime and by summer the soaking pool area is blanketed with hollyhocks, daffodils, and daisies in every color. Some of the most striking features during any season are the mineral formations beside the soaking pools, created as the geothermal water leaves its mineral-rich story in the form of travertine mounds and cones of dissolved quartz (called tufa) creating a prehistoric yet inviting look in the landscape. Interestingly, it was travertine mounds that also created the river bend the resort overlooks.

**P-AH-GOSA SPA:** Beyond the irresistible soaking-pools-with-a-view there is also a full-service spa at the resort, offering a range of massages – many using essential oils made from local plants and flowers – and sophisticated facial treatments. A bonus: each 60-minute spa treatment includes an all-day, General Admission Soaking Pass.

The spa's not-to-be-missed experience is the outdoor *Aqua Zen Therapy* by David Dolan, trained in cranial sacral massage at the famed Upledger Institute. The treatment takes place in an upper level VIP pool, with the guest floating in a face-up position as David guides a gentle underwater massage that helps lengthen the spine and rejuvenate both the central nervous and immune systems -- while stresses melt away in the warm, buoyant mineral water.

**ROOMS:** Guests can choose from Classic, Deluxe and Luxury room and suite categories, divided among three distinct buildings. The resort's original building was opened as a motor lodge in the 1950's and offers quaint and updated accommodations where crisp white linens are juxtaposed with historic sepia toned photos. The newest is a three-story, 29-room building called The Lodge, – the first Gold LEED Certified hotel building in Colorado – which houses the new check in and reception area and a three story atrium style Great Room with the Phoenix Bar along it's back wall.

**ACTIVITIES:** Boasting 300 days of sunshine, Pagosa Springs offers year-round renewal in what has been called "Mother Nature's Water Park" since it features the most geothermal pools in one location in Colorado. The Springs offers a "beach vacation in the mountains" where old and young, couples and singles, are invited to soak...renew...and repeat. There are also a range of après soak activities just minutes away -- rock-climbing, hot air ballooning, fly-fishing, horseback riding, hiking, rafting and floating the San Juan River, plus skiing and a variety of winter activities.

A foot bridge connects the resort to bars, restaurants, breweries and shops located in the heart of downtown Pagosa Springs. A year- round calendar of events including: *Backcountry Film Festival, Pagosa Folk & Blue Grass Festival, Pints and Pools Craft Beer Fest, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Carnival and Rodeo, and Skis & Saddles Skijor*, offer something for everyone in this picturesque mountain town 50 minutes east of Durango, Colorado and approximately 3 hours from both Santa Fe and Albuquerque, NM.

**DINING:** Overlooking the river, *The Café* is ideal for breakfast and lunch, offering breakfast burritos, sandwiches and snacks and specializing in sweet & savory crepes. The casual, open-air *Barefoot Grill* overlooks the terraced soaking pools and the river and serves burgers, wraps, salads, chicken, fries, local beers and more.

**HISTORY:** The ancient Anasazi tribes were the first to use the waters of Pagosa Springs. The Ute tribe gave the springs the name "Pahgosa" which means "healing waters." In the 1860's the rights to the spring were disputed by the Ute and Navajo tribes and -- as visitors can read about on plaques by the Mother Spring -- an army officer,

Col. Albert Pfeiffer helped the Ute's win access rights. When the Mining Act of the 1870's was passed and gold was discovered in the nearby town of Summitville, soaking in the waters of the springs became popular with settlers, eventually ending Ute use. Ten years later, the first bathhouse was constructed by Thomas Blair and eventually Pagosa Springs became commercialized.

1950s: The original hotel, called The Spring Inn was constructed as a classic Western motor lodge.

1970's-1980's: The "hippie dip" era of the hot springs.

1990's: The Deluxe building was added to the property. Modern day Pagosa Springs is born. River restoration project began, and a River Walk was created. Highway 160, leading to Wolf Creek Pass straightened and improved and The Springs Resort area is developed. Soaking pools are created -- coinciding with the birth of the modern spa industry.

2000's: The Lodge was built on property, the private, VIP upper level pools were added, and the depth of The Mother Spring was first measured.

2013: First brewery opens in Pagosa using geothermal energy for "earth powered beer."

June 2018: The Springs was purchased by two men from Texas, Charles Leddy and David Dronet. In 18 months, ownership remodeled The Bath House; built The Café and The Barefoot Grill and relocated and rebuilt the Lobby in The Lodge building, directly in front of The Mother Spring, enhancing the guest arrival experience.

**OWNERSHIP:** Principals, David Dronet – a real estate developer and extreme mountain climber – and Charles Leddy – a former executive at McKinsey and Starbucks and current CEO of Presidian Hotels -- met at a leadership conference before they began working on projects together. Only after they first discussed the opportunity to purchase The Springs Resort & Spa did they realize that they both spent time in Pagosa annually and both felt a special connection to the place. The Springs became their passion project and they both began to understand the local saying, "You don't choose Pagosa ... Pagosa chooses you."

**MANAGEMENT:** Presidian, a San Antonio, Texas, based hotel management/ownership company. Presidian is passionate about its stewardship of the landmark resort and is committed to honoring the past, present and future of this mountain town and its famous hot springs.

*The Springs Resort & Spa, 165 Hot Springs Blvd, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.  
www.pagosahotsprings.com, 800-225-0934*

*\*But no one really knows just how deep The Mother Spring is since it no plumb line ever reached the bottom! As a comparison, at 1002 feet, it is deeper than the Empire State Building, the St. Louis Arch or the Pyramids are high!*

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