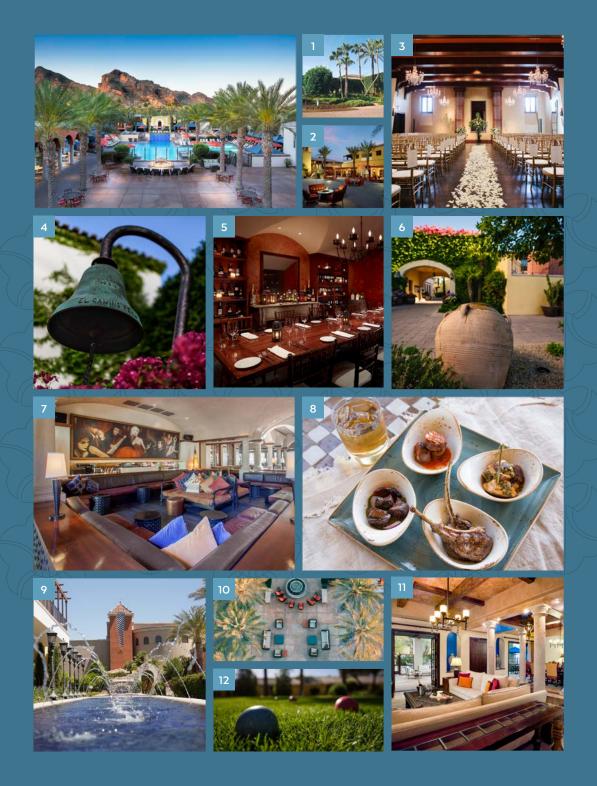
## OMNI MONTELUCIA Walking tour



### OMNI RESORTS montelucia | scottsdale

#### WHERE MONTELUCIA GETS ITS NAME

Montelucia is the Spanish translation for "mountain of light" which refers to the warm glow that radiates off Camelback Mountain as the sun sets behind it. In 2004 ownership of the property changed hands and that's when the transformation began. The new owner, accompanied by his architect and visual consultant, traveled to Spain and Morocco. There, they soaked up the sights, textures, aromas, the old-world history and unique culture of those timeless lands, brought those elements back and infused it into every authentic, hand-crafted detail.

#### X-TREES

For centuries, Spanish explorers ventured to the Southwest in search of treasure. Upon finding such riches, they left behind clues and markers to remind themselves where each prize was hidden. Today, a new kind of explorer comes to the Southwest, searching not for material riches, but for a place to create memories. Travelers arrive in search of unparalleled experiences never seen or felt before, and each time someone arrives at Omni Montelucia, they find that "X" truly does mark the spot and the treasures they have been searching for will be discovered.

#### 2 CORTIJO PLAZA

A Cortijo is a large country house or farm, often with outbuildings, and is a typical architectural style of the Andalusia region of Southern Spain. This description accurately represents the arrival plaza and the outbuildings housing the front desk, retail, café, bar, restaurant, wedding chapel, wine room, and second-level guest rooms and suites. This plaza is just one of the many areas in the resort designed to create an inviting, neighborhood feel. Cortijo Plaza is a gathering and meeting place for all people just like a plaza found in a small Andalusian town.

#### **3** CASTILLO LUCENA

Featuring hand-crafted antique wood doors from 16th century Lucena along with a "Puerto de postigo" (door-within-a-door), this venue accommodates guests under a cathedral ceiling accented with wood beams and one-of-a-kind architectural details. The second largest city in the province of Cordoba in Andalusia, Spain, Lucena features castles – Castillos – that have survived many centuries of occupation. Ideal for wedding ceremonies, this venue was inspired by one of the grand salons of the world-famous Hotel Cipriani in Venice, Italy.

#### 4 EL CAMINO REAL BELL

El Camino Real, "The Kings Highway," linked 21 missions, pueblos and four presidios from San Diego to Sonoma. The El Camino Real was the first roadway in California. Originally, there were 370 bells along the route, but because of theft and vandalism, the number has dwindled to about 75. The dates displayed on the bell are 1769 & 1906. The 1769 date refers to the founding of the first mission in San Diego, California, and the 1906 date refers to the placement of the first El Camino Real Bell in Los Angeles.

#### 5 KING FERDINAND'S CELLAR

Prado's secluded wine cellar boasts hand carved doors from the ancestral birthplace of King Ferdinand of Spain, husband of Queen Isabella of Castille. This couple is credited with having brought stability to the regions that came under their rule. Queen Isabella was instrumental in the exploration of the Americas. Along with the King, she commissioned three ships, supplied a crew, and financed the exploration of the New World by Christopher Columbus in 1492. Spanish winemaking was accelerated by the King and Queen in the same decade.

#### 6 OLIVE OIL JARS

Outside Prado stands two handcrafted terracotta "tinjas," which each held 1,000 gallons of olive oil both of which were found on a Cortijo (farm) near the historic renaissance town of Ubeda in rural Andalusia. Located near Crave Café stands a large, 19th century handcrafted, ribbed terracotta jar from the village of L'Amettla de Mar, located on Spain's eastern Mediterranean Coast. Also, located here, is a four handle, semi-glazed terracotta jar from the Provence of Tarragona, which was handmade by the Miravet family – famous pottery producers from Spain.

#### 7 HISTORY OF PRADO

Prado is named after the National Art Museum of Spain ("Museo del Prado") located in central Madrid. It features one of the world's finest collections of European art, dating from the 12th century to the early 19th century, based on the former Spanish Royal Collection. Both the interior of the restaurant and al fresco terrace is inspired by the architectural design of the Villa San Michelle, designed by Michelangelo in Tuscany, Italy. The artwork within the lounge area was created by California resident artists mirrored after the collection by Juarez Machado of Brazil.

#### 8 LEGENDS OF TAPAS

Original tapas were slices of bread or meat that sherry drinkers in Andalusian taverns used "to cover" their drinks between sips in order to keep away fruit flies. Spaniards, when not enjoying a home cooked meal, would head out with friends to meet at tapas bars, where they may bar hop, eating and drinking different tapas before they settle into their restaurant for the evening. Visit any traditional wine bar in Andalucia and you'll discover tapas small plates of hot and cold food, best accompanied by glasses of dry Spanish sherry or draft beer.

#### 9 ALHAMBRA WALKWAY

This enchanting walkway and fountain connects the Montelucia villa neighborhood to the resort and leads those who follow its soothing waters – representative of the source of life – to the courtyard of Joya Spa. The Alhambra walkway is modeled after the Generalife Gardens in the Alhambra in Granada, Spain. The walkway led to the Minaret, or spire, of the temple of the Alhambra in the same way the walkway leads to the spire of the sanctuary of the resort – Joya Spa. The spire atop of Joya is registered as the tallest building in Paradise Valley.

#### 10 KASBAH

Kasbah also known as a "central part of a town or citadel," was a place for the local leader to live and it also acted as a defense when a city was under attack. The high walls of a Kasbah are usually built without windows and sometimes built on hilltops so that they could be more easily defended. Having a kasbah built was a sign of wealth of some families in the city. When colonization started in 1830 in northern Algeria, there were a great number of Kasbahs that lasted for more than 100 years.

#### 11 PRESIDENTIAL SUITES

Montelucia is home to two 2,800 sq. ft, standalone villastyle presidential suites that focus on elevated architecture, design and service. Rich with culture, and exotic in style, both Camelback Villa and Andalusian Presidential Suites are the essence of a sun-drenched villa in southern Spain and have been the retreat for many visiting dignitaries, presidents and celebrities. Both feature luxurious design details including stone columns, candelabra lighting, Spanish antiquities and even a soaking tub crafted from a single slab of marble.

#### 12 BOCCE BALL

The game was thought to have originated around the Nile Delta in the 5th Millennium BC, around the same time the wheel was invented, initially throwing polished stones in order to play. It slowly became a common game in the Middle East and the surrounding region, making its way over to Greece, Italy and England, where the game was eventually banned. It regained its popularity during the Renaissance period in France and Italy with everyone playing the game. Today, it attracts people from all over the world, in over 30 countries.

# THE LEGENDS OF THE DESTINATION



#### 13 JOYA SPA

Joya was designed by Sylvia Sepielli, the visionary behind some of the world's most celebrated spas and is known as the crown jewel of Omni Montelucia. The word "Joya" is the Spanish word for jewel. Joya jewels, imprinted within the cobblestone throughout the property, are used as directionals to Joya's courtyard where guests are encouraged to rinse their hands with water from the fountain to wash away their worries prior to entering. Once inside, guests are greeted by the grand staircase, where everyone begins their Joya journey.

#### **14** JOY OF INTENTION (BENEDICTION DE LAS GEMAS)

Upon entering the spa, guests are asked to choose a stone and place it in the blessing bowl to set their intention for what they want to create in life. Guests are also provided the option to voice their intentions outloud inside the echo dome, releasing their intentions into the universe. Each stone represents the following:

- Tigers eye clarity, focus, grounding, protection
- Sodalite intuition, truth, meditation, calm
- Aventurine prosperity, career steadiness
- Rose quartz heart, love, healing, purity
- Amethyst spirit, balance, peace transformation

#### **15** JOY OF PURIFICATION (LA FUENTE DE LA PUREZA)

Step under the night sky and look up to find 888 twinkling lights which represent the constellation in Granada, Spain on 08-08-08, the original date that Montelucia was set to open. The number eight stands for infinity and the gold bands around the room represent the directions in life, North, South, East and West. Since ancient times, quartz is said to posses healing properties. Place your hands on the 55lb quartz crystal while breathing deeply to help release stress and negativity.

#### 16 HAMSA - HAND OF FATIMA

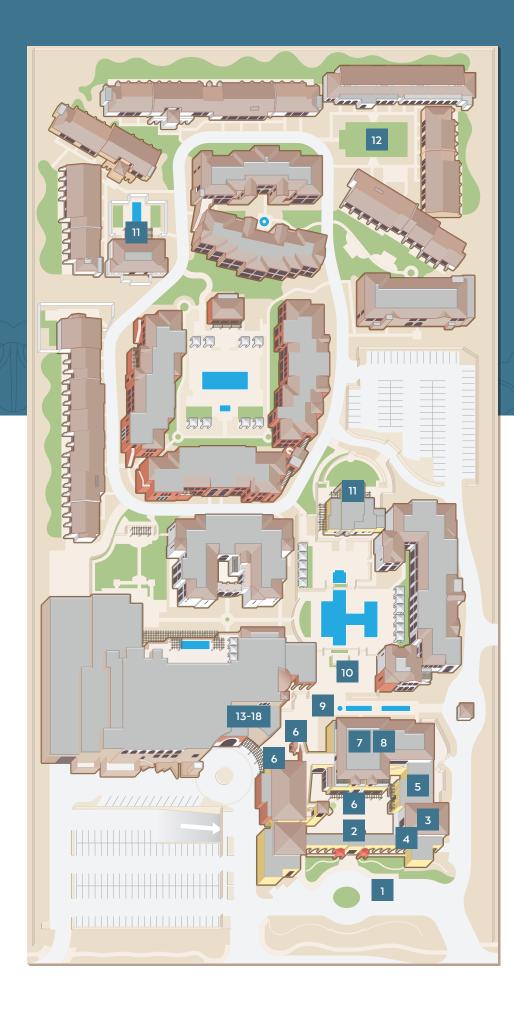
The Hamsa, also known as the Khamsa, the Humes hand, the Hand of Fatima, and the Hand of Miriam, is a popular symbol found throughout the Middle East and northern Africa. It is an ancient Middle Eastern amulet symbolizing the Hand of God, is one of the national symbols of Algeria, and a revered symbol of protection in Morocco. Represented by amulets, wall and door hangings, it has become a symbol of healing and well being. Hamsa Hands are hung outside treatment rooms during a spa service to bestow blessings, power and strength on each guest.

#### 17 TREATMENT ROOM NAMES

Each treatment room is named after a Moroccan dance. Music and dance are an integral part of Moroccan life and is home to over a dozen dances such as the Haouara, Tissint, and Skikat. During a trip to Morocco, visitors may witness processions of dancing villagers parading through the streets, or may be kept awake late at night by the sound of rhythmic drums and the sounds of wedding celebrations. While music and dance in Morocco can usually be categorized as Berber or Arab, you will also see and hear African, European, and Jewish influences.

#### 18 HAMMAM BATHING RITUAL

Joya Spa is home to Arizona's only authentic hammam experience. This ancient ritual is a Moroccan tradition which has endured for centuries. It takes place in a humid steam chamber, where a Tellak (a hammam attendant), douses the body with water before applying black herbal soap to the skin. Afterwards, the body is exfoliated with a brisk scrub while using a kassa cloth. Guests may then choose to continue their venture with a self-guided journey through the steam room, whirlpool and cold deluge which opens and closes the pores for a deeper cleaning.



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