



CASTLE HOT SPRINGS

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SUSTAINABILITY ALLIANCE AWARDS ARIZONA'S HISTORIC CASTLE HOT SPRINGS WITH CONSERVATIONIST/BRONZE SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS CERTIFICATION

Amidst Growing Awareness in Sustainability Efforts Around The World, The Award-Winning Resort Establishes Itself As A Leader in Positive Environmental Impact & Wellness Tourism



The historic Castle Hot Springs adds a new accolade to its portfolio with Conservationist/Bronze Sustainable Business certification; the Farm team at Castle Hot Springs

PHOENIX, AZ—December 16, 2020—With growing global awareness of [environmental sustainability](#) and regenerative travel picking up steam, the tourism sector is increasingly finding ways to do its part in advancing conscious, planet-friendly travel habits that leave a positive lasting impact on their local communities whilst creating engaging experiences for guests. As a travel industry leader since the late 19th century, **Arizona's historic [Castle Hot Springs](#)—the state's first luxury and wellness resort, established in 1896**—has reached yet another milestone as a **Conservationist/Bronze Sustainable Business Certification recipient from the [Sustainability Alliance](#)**, furthering its efforts in cultivating the sprawling 1,100 acres it encompasses in the Sonoran Desert. Located just north of Phoenix, they are the first certified business at the southern end of Yavapai County.

The current owners have made extensive upgrades to Castle Hot Springs since purchasing the property in 2014. “Our guests are really a driver for our sustainability efforts,” cites Josh Chance, Farm Manager and Sustainability Coordinator. The resort is developing a plan to incorporate sustainability into every component of the resort’s programming and Departments. Josh Chance will work with liaisons across the operation to train employees and implement these into actionable plans throughout the next year.

Castle Hot Springs' Sustainability Program

- Most of the produce at the resort comes from their [onsite farm](#), and employees can sign up for a weekly produce share to minimize food waste.
- Heat from the eponymous hot springs warm the greenhouse, and all the water used onsite comes from the ancient source.
- The resort focuses on effective water use by using drip irrigation on the landscape plants and on the farm.
- Transportation matters too. Many employees live onsite as part of their compensations. Those who live off property can use a shuttle for their commute and are offered an incentive to carpool to the shuttle pickup.
- Approximately 80 percent of the golf carts used on the property are electric.



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- Car charging stations are available for guest's electric vehicle use.
- Around the grounds they use a practice called Integrated Pest Management which focuses first on prevention and non-toxic control measures. Synthetic chemicals are used rarely and only as a last resort. For example, they use no Roundup (Glyphosate), preferring instead to hand-weed and use beneficial insects purchased from ARBICO Organics, an Arizona company.
- Castle Hot Springs also participates in the County's flash flood communication system.
- There are no municipal recycling services in the area, so they have taken the initiative to hire a private recycling company, Parks and Sons.
- They also focus on minimizing waste by composting all green waste, providing reusable water bottles for guests, and purchasing products in bulk. They plan to begin tracking waste to improve their performance further.
- All full-time employees are offered healthcare benefits, including family leave as well as meals as part of their compensation. Throughout the Covid shutdown, the resort also continued to pay many team members.

For more information and to see other business entities that are certified by the Sustainability Alliance, please visit www.sustainabilityallianceaz.org.

Castle Hot Springs is located amidst the stunning landscape of the Sonoran Desert and Bradshaw Mountains, just 50 miles north of the Phoenix metro area. Recently named one of Conde Nast Traveler's 2020 Hot List destinations, USA TODAY's 10Best All-Inclusive Resorts of 2020, Forbes' Top Spa Resorts in America, and recipient of the 2020 Emmy for Best Historical Documentary, the historic resort is inspired by the West's natural elements and mineral-rich hot springs that are situated at the heart of the sprawling 1,100-acre property. Established in 1896 as Arizona's first luxury & wellness resort to rival the tony thermal pools abroad, the retreat quickly became frequented by America's captains of industry including the Cabots, Vanderbilts, Wrigleys, Roosevelts, and Astors. The iconic resort—made up of 30 standalone bungalows, cabins, and cottage—also boasts a world-class culinary experience, an impressive agricultural program based off a 'Flavor Farming' philosophy (fun fact: Castle Hot Springs grows more than 500 varieties of vegetables, fruits, herbs, and florals), and a thrilling adventure program inclusive of Arizona's first Via Ferrata.

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