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# Palm Springs HOLIDAY

This is the story of Palm Springs in its golden years, a city that had it all, including fabulous fly-in hotels, marvelous mid-century Modern architecture, Hollywood stars and starlets, and a swinging nightlife.

Through vintage photographs and postcards, *Palm Springs Holiday* recalls this famous vacation resort from the beginning of the twentieth century through the 1960s.

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Palm Springs  
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A Vintage Tour from Palm Springs to the Salton Sea

PETER MORUZZI





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# Desert Dining

As a major tourist resort, Palm Springs presented a wide array of dining options, from the ordinary to the exotic.

On the exotic end was the Palm Springs branch of Don the Beachcomber's restaurant chain, which opened in 1953. Don offered potent rum-based tropical drinks, such as his signature Zombie cocktail, in an atmosphere resplendent with tropical décor and exotic music. At Don's, Oriental waiters served Cantonese food refashioned as delicacies from the South Pacific.



Cirone's Bit of Italy was a lovely Italian restaurant that moved across the street in the mid-1960s to become Banducci's Bit of Italy.

RIGHT: The short-lived Cirone's.

BELOW: Mama Banducci greets her guests in 1968 with menu in hand.



Banducci's, with its piano bar, was one of the last old-time Palm Springs restaurant and lounge combinations when it closed in 2004. Lyon's English Grille just down the street from the former Banducci's remains one of the best examples of midcentury dining and entertainment in Palm Springs.



Ride the Palm Springs  
Aerial Tramway

Visitors could enjoy an afternoon riding on the Aerial Tramway or soaking up some rays, while the evening was usually spent dining and dancing at clubs like the famous Chi Chi, which played host to Bob Hope, Jack Benny, Sammy Davis Jr., and many others.

