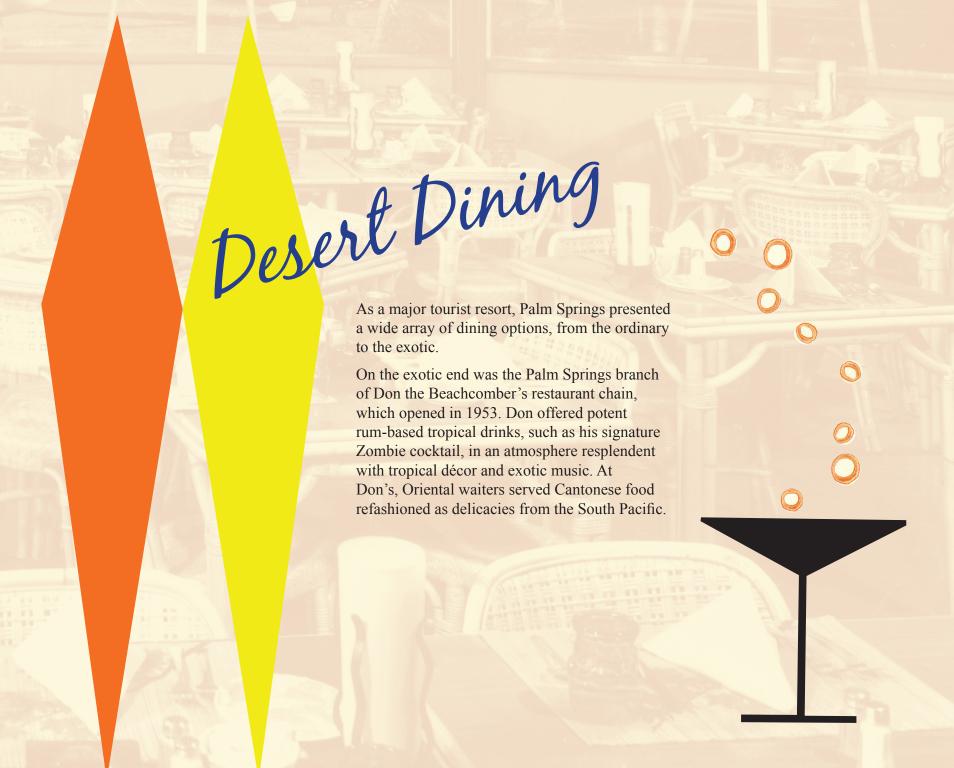




Contents

| Acknowledgments | 6 |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Introduction | 7 |
| Early History | 8 |
| The Original Hotels | 20 |
| Arrival of the Spanish Style | 32 |
| The Desert's Gambling Dens | 44 |
| The Postwar Tourist Boom | 56 |
| Your Own Slice of Paradise | 68 |
| Shopping | 80 |
| The Palm Springs Hotel Explosion | 92 |
| Desert Dining | 104 |
| The Chi Chi | 116 |
| Desert Modern | 128 |
| Palm Springs Aerial Tramway | 140 |
| Going Down Valley | 152 |



irone'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.

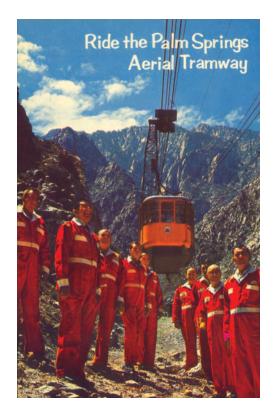
RIGHT: The short-lived Cirone's.

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.



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.



