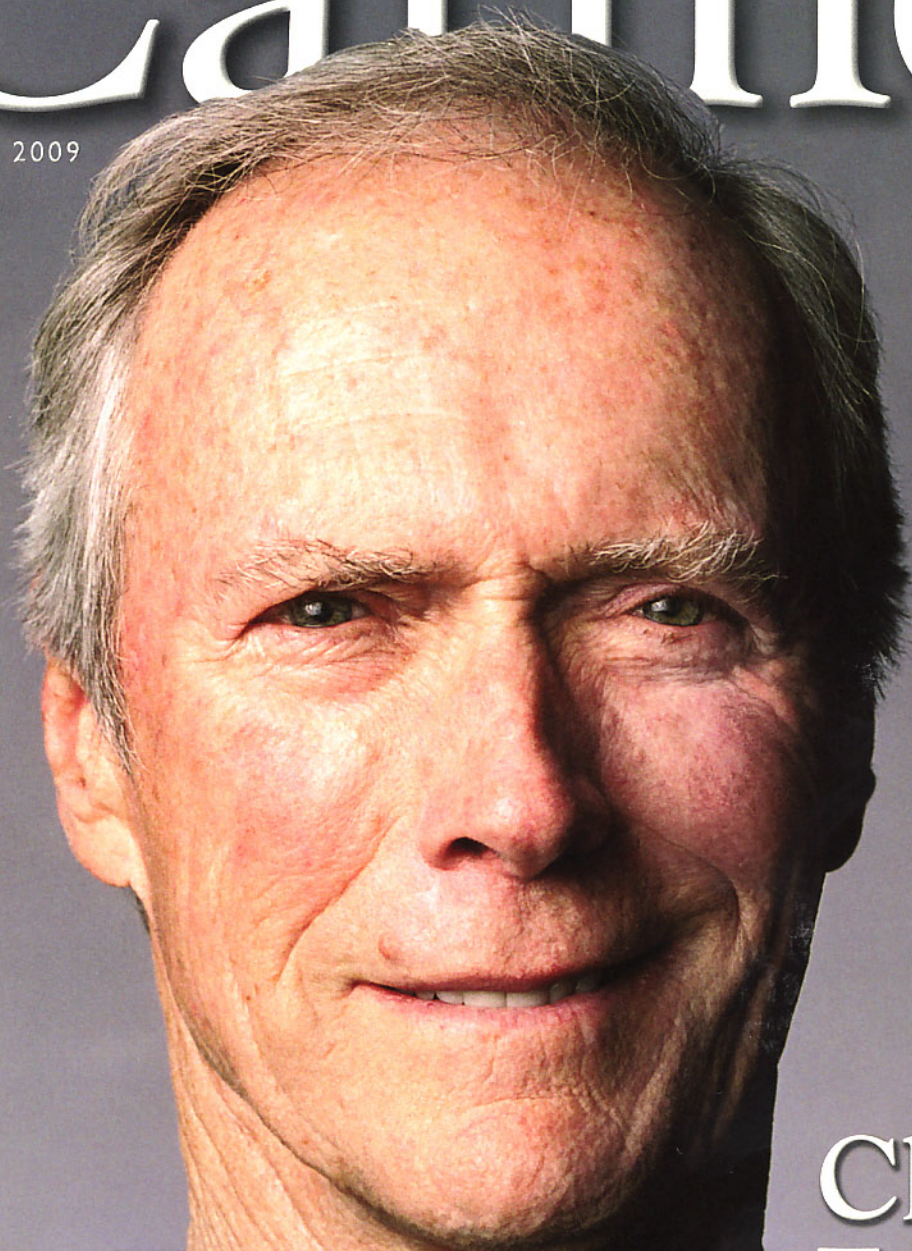


Carmel

The Lifestyle Magazine of the Central Coast

Winter 2009

magazine™



Clint Eastwood

Carmel's Favorite
Legend is at the
Top of His Game

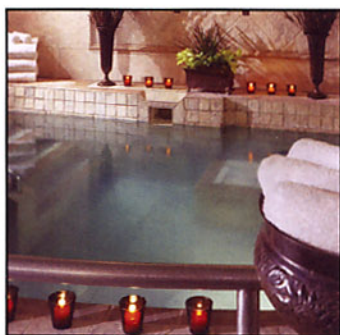
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Photos: Courtesy Barton Creek Resort & Spa

DESTINATIONS



BARTON CREEK RESORT & SPA

Austin

BY SABRINA SPEIDEL

Austin pulses with warm Southern hospitality and the legendary music scene that permeates every corner of the city. Funky, colorful storefronts outfitted with larger-than-life signs (a giant rabbit, a boot, an enormous cupcake) mix in with barbecue joints, tattoo shops, Western gear, Southwestern restaurants, antique stores, hip clothing establishments and unusual gift shops. Live music from emerging artists pours out of happening bars, often with outdoor seating in the typically comfortable climate. A relaxed crowd gathers for meals at attractions such as The Oasis at Lake Travis, a multi-level bar/restaurant that seats more than 2,000 people with breathtaking views over the lake.

The Congress Bridge, home to approximately 1.5 million Mexican free-tail bats, the largest bat colony in North America, attracts crowds as well. From spring to fall, the bats come out each evening in an amazing display of beating wings against darkening skies. Nearby, bicycle and kayak rentals are available for visitors wanting to check out the city on trails or by water. Whatever is happening in Austin, it is often outdoors and invariably interesting.

A short drive from downtown, at the award-winning Barton Creek Resort & Spa, luxury blends with the natural setting and the casual atmosphere. Outdoor paths on the 4,000-acre property lead to fun discoveries such as forts, tipis and a ropes course in the middle of the woods, and golf, tennis, swimming, miniature golf and an enormous fitness center keep guests in shape. The recently remodeled elegant guestrooms offer tranquil views of Texas Hill Country, and the friendly staff, with a "yes ma'am" and a "yes sir," seem to always have smiles on their faces.

A varied kids' program keeps little ones busy while parents play too. A trip to the decadent spa gets the kinks out after a day of activity, while an evening at one of the four resort restaurants provides treats like the Southwestern Chicken Tortilla Soup, Cherry Bourbon Glazed Smoked Baby Back Ribs, Macadamia Nut Crusted Sea Scallops and Grilled Mahi Mahi Fish Tacos.

An Owner's Club at Barton Creek offers three-bedroom homes on the property with preferred treatment such as grocery shopping and concierge-arranged tee times and appointments. Other activities arranged by the concierge for Barton Creek guests include limousine trips to watch tango



Congress Bridge in downtown Austin is the site of the largest urban bat colony in North America. At sunset, huge groups of bats take flight to search for food.

performances at an intimate performing arts venue; romantic occasion trips, like Valentine's Day breakfast in bed followed by a trip to Tiffany & Co. with a prix fixe choice of jewel-

ry; local winery excursions; gourmet picnics; couple's massages; and private four-course dinners for two with private service and a piano serenade.

The capital of Texas, frequently voted "Best Big City to Live," has an eclectic and welcoming mix of football fans, college students from the University of Texas, musicians, families and politicians. Whether lounging at the upscale but relaxed Barton Creek Resort, or exploring the reasons behind the slogan "Keep Austin Weird," a trip to the "Live Music Capital of

the World" is well worth it.
Barton Creek Resort & Spa, 8212 Barton Club Drive, Austin, Texas 78735. 866/572-7369 or www.bartoncreek.com

