

CABANA-RAMA

MADE IN THE SHADE: OUR GUIDE
TO OUR FAVORITE CABANAS

By Laurel May

Relaxing poolside sans cabana is like a chicken without a bicycle. Do chickens need bikes? Well, no, but studies have shown that most poultry would really, really enjoy having one. While cabanas may not be necessities for us humans, they definitely optimize the lazy pool day experience. Providing one of the desert's most precious resources (namely shade), the ensconced lounge can set aside fear of third-degree burns and heatstroke and focus on what really matters: frosty adult beverages and everyone's favorite spectator sport of bikini watching. Valley resorts offer a wide range of amenities and options to ensure that cabana dwellers are by far the coolest fools at the pool.

The Mondrian Scottsdale has loads of prime real estate, but most coveted by far are the four cabanas at this resort's BLUE Pool area. Available to the general public, as well as guests, competition for these puppies is never less than fierce, so smarties will book well in advance. Amenities offered: seating for six, flat-screen television, dedicated V.I.P. service, fireplace, two large bottles of Fiji water, fruit platter and a phone that dials directly to the bar (cocktail 911?). This scene-y pool has been the celebrity jump off in recent months, so keep those eyes peeled for A-listers. Rates begin at \$500 per day.