

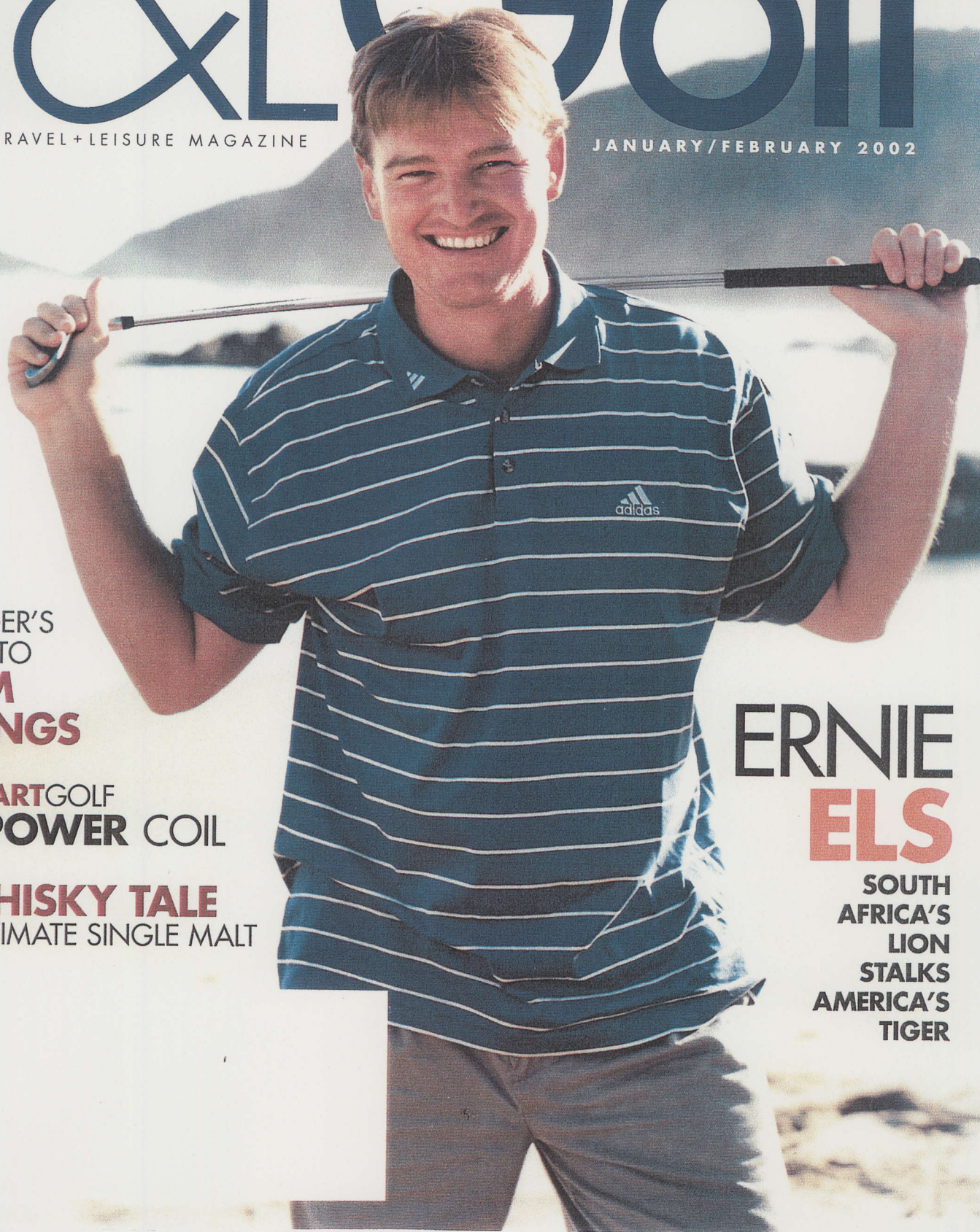
**BEST BUDDY TRIPS: WHERE TO GO NOW**

# T&L Golf

**STEEL CLUBS  
THAT PLAY LIKE  
TITANIUM**

A TRAVEL+LEISURE MAGAZINE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2002



THE  
SWINGER'S  
GUIDE TO  
**PALM  
SPRINGS**

T&L **SMARTGOLF**  
THE **POWER COIL**

**A WHISKY TALE**  
THE ULTIMATE SINGLE MALT

[tlgolf.com](http://tlgolf.com)

**ERNIE  
ELS**

**SOUTH  
AFRICA'S  
LION  
STALKS  
AMERICA'S  
TIGER**

## THE WILLOWS HISTORIC PALM SPRINGS INN

412 West Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs; 760-320-0771, 800-966-9597 (thewillowspalmsprings.com). ROOMS: \$225-\$550.

The Willows is for serious romantics. The small hotel, built in 1927 and beautifully restored in the mid-nineties, is so private, guests can spend a weekend and not see another soul. In its original incarnation, the Mediterranean-style villa in the heart of Palm Springs played host to Albert Einstein, Marion Davies and a honeymooning Clark Gable and Carole Lombard. It still has old-world refinement and charm with crystal chandeliers, sleigh beds, vaulted ceilings, floors recycled from old churches and exquisite handmade tiles throughout. It has personality, too. The Rock Room has an overhead shower that splashes onto a boulder protruding into the bathroom, which also features a separate two-person bathtub. The Library, where Gable and Lombard slept, has a coffered ceiling and a private garden patio.

## THE BEST OF THE REST

The **Ritz-Carlton Rancho Mirage** (68-900 Frank Sinatra Drive, Rancho Mirage; 760-321-8282) offers hypnotic views and legendary Ritz service with the added bonus of a Frank Sinatra Drive address. The **Westin Mission Hills Resort** (71-333 Dinah Shore Drive, Rancho Mirage; 760-328-5955) is a Moroccan-style resort on 360 acres with killer golf packages, and the pools and other activities make it perfect for the kids. Play the putting course at **Marriott's Desert Springs Resort** (74855 Country Club Drive, Palm Desert; 760-341-2211) after your round at Shadow Ridge, and if you're not ready to hit the spa, circle the 884 rooms on the three-and-a-half-mile walking trail.

## PALM SPRINGS NIGHTLIFE

If only to honor Sinatra's memory, at least one martini is a must. Here are a few good places to have it.

### BLUE GUITAR

120 South Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs; 760-327-1549.

Owned and operated by partners Kal David, a renowned blues guitarist who played backup for the likes of Etta James and John Mayall, and Lauri Bono, an ex-backup singer for Bette Midler, this in spot serves up excellent martinis set to good live music.

### MELVYN'S RESTAURANT AT INGLESIDE INN

200 West Ramon Road, Palm Springs; 760-325-2323.

Waiters in white linen jackets serve perfect martinis, just the way Frankie used to like them, here at one of the country's last great old-school piano lounges. They go nicely with the *doobedoobedoos*.

### MURIEL'S SUPPER CLUB

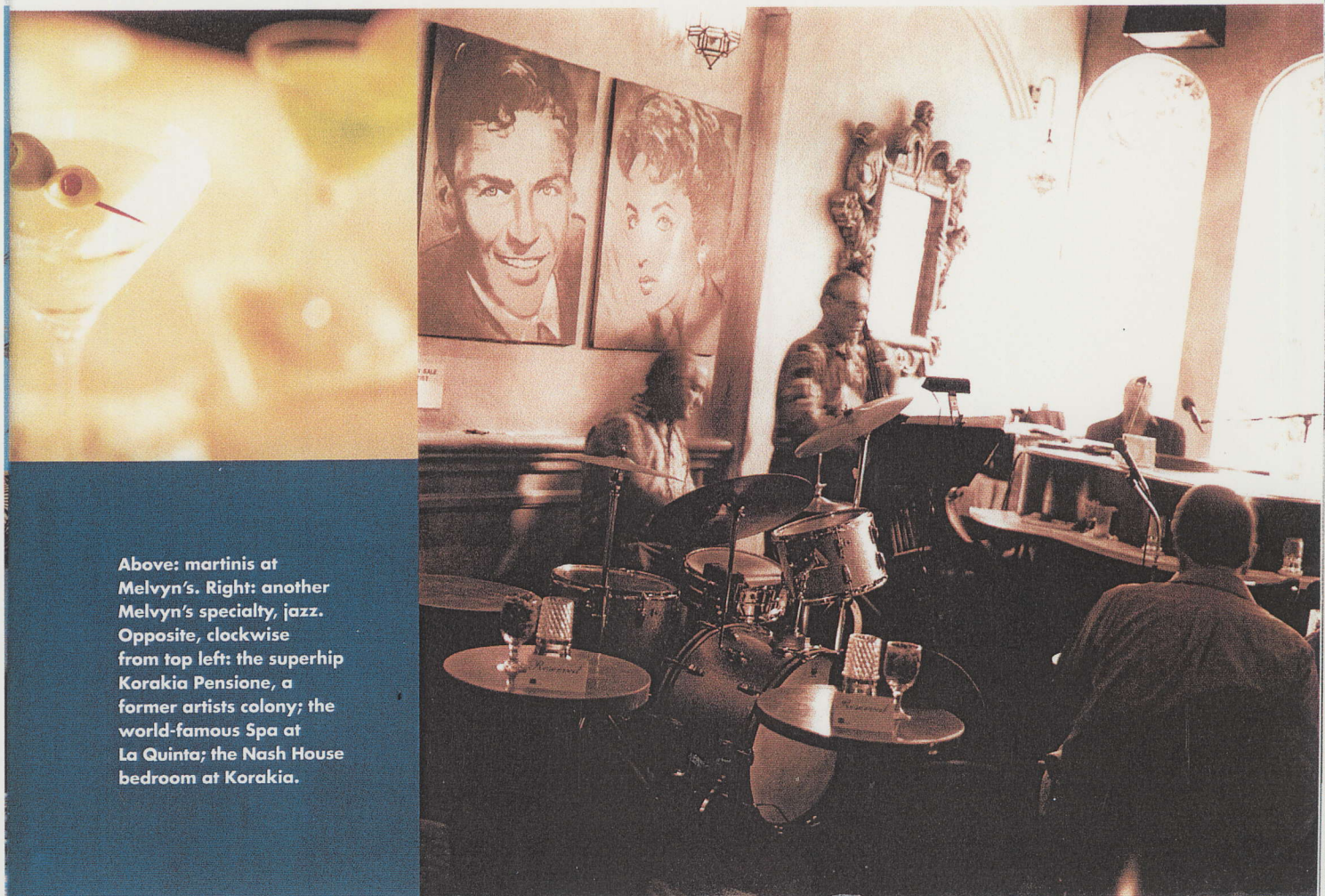
210 South Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs; 760-325-8839.

This is an upscale jazz and swing club with tasty desserts and spaced-out furnishings that seem straight out of *The Jetsons*.

### VILLAGE PUB

266 South Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs; 760-323-3265.

An eclectic beer menu and live music make this homey joint a local favorite. There's a cigar bar upstairs complete with a couch-filled lounge, pool tables and a very large television.



Above: martinis at Melvyn's. Right: another Melvyn's specialty, jazz. Opposite, clockwise from top left: the superhip Korakia Pensione, a former artists colony; the world-famous Spa at La Quinta; the Nash House bedroom at Korakia.