

Cognoscenti magazine

Because life is short

THE GOLD ROOM At the Westward Look Resort Tucson, Arizona

The **Westward Look** is one of Tucson's original leisure resorts. The passage of time has had its beneficial effects, giving native trees and plants on the verdant 80-acre property ample time to mature. Strolling through its maze of beautiful botanical gardens, guests discover a veritable paradise of native Sonoran Desert plants, with more than 250 different species represented. Bungalow-style lodgings are sensitively scattered around the property, the lush foliage serving to buffer guests from the outside world's harsher realities.



breast was accompanied by sun-dried tomatoes, mashed potatoes and steamed vegetables. Better were the pastry chef's productions, including an ultra-decadent "Chocolate Bombe" and a delicate "Poblano Chili crème brûlée."

This article was written by Nicole Medvecky-Riggs and Jeffrey Riggs, Contributing Editors to *Cognoscenti Magazine*. Photo courtesy of *The Westward Look Resort*.

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The resort's signature restaurant, **The Gold Room**, presents a southwestern menu with continental influences. On fine days (and Tucson is blessed with many of them!) diners may elect to take their meals outside on the spacious, sun-dappled patio—as did visiting **Cognoscenti Magazine** editors during a recent visit.

In terms of flavor, contrast, and aesthetic presentation, we found lunch dishes from the kitchen of Executive Chef Jason Jonilonis to be relatively unsophisticated. A black bean bisque was tasty and unexceptional. Corn and black-bean chowder was creamy and pleasant. Mahi-mahi came with a good *chanterelles* sauce; an unsurprising pan-seared chicken

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