

FLAGSTAFF



HOTEL
MONTE VISTA

AN UNEXPECTED SUI GENERIS EXPERIENCE..

From guests returning from as far back as 1950 to guests that checked in for the first time, the stories within these walls are awe inspiring to say the least.

I slowly slid the key into the lock and opened the door into a breathtaking room; its charm transported me to feeling as if I were walking into my favorite aunt's house for a relaxing vacation. The violet and gray flowered bedspread cast a warm calm hug around me as I took in the soft lavender and rose aromas. The bathroom adorned a lovely little sink with adorable little soaps, beautifully arranged in front of the window, looking over the people casually walking below.

The idea and desire to travel to Flagstaff, Arizona on a hot summer day-118 degrees to be exact in Phoenix-is not a unique or novel one, so when I found myself checking into the Hotel Monte Vista and then later sitting at a bar top window stool in The Rendezvous, enjoying a cool 77-degree breeze coming in the open

door, nursing the drink special of the day, a Mojito, I was mesmerized by this captivating place to say the very least. **The eclectic crowd makes people watching a premium at The Rendezvous**; some are locals that come regularly to this bar to casually catch up with some friends and others find their way to a seat with a view and enjoy their surroundings for the first time.

The spirits here are flowing and sprinkle positive energy on everyone from the very busy staff to the guests listening to classic rock reverberating around the room. The spirits flow across the polished light golden wood bar top, over the cold mugs of beer resting on colorful coasters, up into the crown molding, through the tulip shaped chandelier and finally through the live plants that hang from the plant shelves.



This is a great little place; it is bright, airy and alive. So strange and ironic since it is situated in The Hotel Monte Vista, a historic hotel that has a reputation for being one of the most haunted hotels in the United States.



This is not the standard hotel that looks the same in every city. Every inch of the hotel is intriguing with a sense of deep history and unique stories behind every detail.

First thing in the morning, the smell of coffee carried me down the four flights of stairs to the now very quiet Rendezvous tearoom. Quite a contrast to the previous afternoon's light rock crowd. This delightful little place transformed into a cozy cafe hosting people from all over the world while we all sipped on a craftily made mocha. The soft jazz tune *Bistro Fada* by Stephane Wrembal serenaded the room. I couldn't help but wonder, "Are we suddenly in Arizona's own version of Paris?"

Jimmy Cravens, the hotel owner, joined me and I was happy to discover that he is equally as charming as the hotel that he so proudly opens his doors to guests each day. I asked him if he could tell me his favorite thing about The Hotel Monte Vista. He smiled and quickly said, "**I love being able to have a place that brings people together. People come from all over the world to stay here and there is just something exciting about knowing that someone may have woken up in Europe**

this morning and are staying here tonight."

There are many lodging options for guests visiting Flagstaff, so why should you choose the Hotel Monte Vista? **Simply put, but not so simply explained, each room is extremely unique and holds its own story.** The history behind the hotel is evident in every corner of every room, from the John Wayne room, which he stayed in several times and reported seeing the Bellhop ghost, to the infamous Jon Bon Jovi room, where there have been several reports of a rocking chair that quietly rocks in the morning hours.

The next time you are in the heart of downtown Flagstaff, don't miss out on the opportunity to visit the small, locally owned businesses including **Blendz**, a full bar with the option of blending single varietal wines into your own personal blend and wrapping it up with a label that you design, as well as **WHyld Ass**, a coffee shop with the most amazing organic plant based food on the planet.



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