

BEST PLACES TO LIVE: For Good Reason

Like most Valley dwellers, you've already decided that plentiful sunshine and endless shopping, spa and dining selections are for you. But choosing between up-and-coming neighborhoods, high-rise condominiums and luxurious master-planned communities can be difficult. For years, *AFM* has found the very best spots in the Valley to call home in our annual Best Places to Live feature. Whether you're an Arizona native looking for a new niche or a family relocating from afar, this roundup of the best places in town—and our top reasons for making the move—will help you narrow the search.

Story by Caley Goldblatt, Claire Perkins, Cassandra Weinman and Christine Whitton



MIRABEL

Reason to Live Here: World-Class Lifestyle

Known for its award-winning golf and country club, Mirabel, one of Scottsdale's foremost luxury retreats, sits 3,000 feet in elevation above the Valley. Commanding awe-inspiring views of the Sonoran Desert, the community offers potential homeowners a lifestyle affixed with world-class dining and resort-friendly amenities. The members-only Tom Fazio golf course, full-service day spa, state-of-the-art health and fitness center, championship-per tennis garden and luxe swimming facilities offers residents a bevy of activities. Moreover, the full-time concierge-style member services affords privacy and insight into the Valley's "it" spots. Custom homes (and homesites) within this hidden haven, priced from \$995,000 to more than \$5 million, are inspired by the desert's Southwestern style and are designed to blend indoor and outdoor living. Furthermore, each home encapsulates beautiful desert views, masterfully designed layouts and the use of natural materials. **866.647.2235, www.mirabel.com**. —Christine Whitton

www.AZFootHills.com

ENCANTERRA

Reason to Live Here: So Close, Yet So Far

Hit the road, Jack. If wide-open space is key and bumper-to-bumper traffic cramps your style, the private refuge of Encanterra in the Southeast Valley is the perfect choice for you (and your convertible). The secluded community is positioned between the breathtaking Superstition Mountains and San Tan vistas with open air all around—yet it remains only a short jaunt from the I-60 and 202 freeways. New homes (ranging from the high-\$100,000's to the mid-\$400,000's) are Shea Green Certified, eco-friendly and energy-efficient; wide open floor plans, close attention to detail and customizable interiors make it easy to see why Trilogy by Shea Homes has such high customer satisfaction ratings. The centerpiece of the property, Encanterra's 60,000-sq.-ft. La Casa Clubhouse, is designed by world-renowned architect Bing Hu. The resortlike atmosphere will hold the interest of the entire family, boasting three beautiful pools, four amazing restaurants, a signature Tom Lehman golf course, a full-service spa and fitness center, a special event space and courtyards for relaxing. **800.924.4581, www.encanterra.com**. —C.P.



ONE LEXINGTON

Reason to Live Here: Urban Living

If bright lights and the hustle and bustle of midtown Phoenix get your pulse racing, One Lexington is the preeminent hot spot to consider when making this urban lifestyle your own. Formerly Century Plaza, this loft-style high-rise on Central Avenue features 130 available units ranging from cozy one-bedrooms for \$150,000 to 2,865-sq.-ft. luxury penthouses for \$1 million. All 17 floors share the same sophisticated style, soaring ceilings, wall-to-wall glass windows and luxury finishes. Balconies with floating tempered glass make for unobstructed panoramic views of the Valley. Owners receive access to the building's fitness center, sun deck and pool, professionally landscaped gardens, lounges and putting greens. Best of all, the building offers easy access to the light rail, countless eateries and trendy downtown districts.

**602.277.8500,
www.onelexington.com**. —C.P.