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## **New in Cochise County: October 2009**

**COCHISE COUNTY, ARIZ.** (Oct. 14, 2009) – The spirit of Cochise County is being reborn in more ways than one. New “hearse” tours explore the spirits of Bisbee, while a new guest ranch that just broke ground in Tombstone will honor the spirit of the Chiricahua Apache Indians. Plus, there are new restaurants and a wild birds of prey show that make Cochise County worth another visit.

### **Apache Spirit Guest Ranch breaks ground in Tombstone**

A Chiricahua Apache blessing of land was performed during a groundbreaking ceremony held on Oct. 11, 2009. The Apache Spirit Guest Ranch, situated on 270 acres two miles west of Tombstone, will open its first phase in 2010 with 17 well-appointed guest quarters, a banquet facility, as well as stables and horses. Finally, having now been on location that it will be located just east of the Ed Schieffelin Memorial Monument The guest ranch is the idea and dream of German businessman Peter Stenger. He and his family have been frequent visitors to Arizona and New Mexico learning more of the history of the Apache Indians and the American West. Stenger will share his knowledge of the Apache’s spiritual values with guests of the ranch. It is located east of the Ed Schieffelin Memorial Monument.

**Info:** Tombstone Chamber of Commerce, 1-888-457-3929, [www.tombstonechamber.com](http://www.tombstonechamber.com)

### **Old Bisbee Hearse Tour**

Guests of the Bisbee Hearse Tour will drive through Bisbee in an authentic 1983 Cadillac Hearse. Seats and windows have been added to accommodate living guests. Renee Gardner, owner of Old Bisbee Ghost Tours and paranormal enthusiast, developed the tours. Gardner is a professional paranormal investigator who painstakingly researched every ghost story on the new Hearse Tour by interviewing Bisbee locals and visitors who have experienced the town’s paranormal phenomena.

**Contact:** 520-432-3308 or [www.HearseTour.com](http://www.HearseTour.com). Reservations must be made in advance. Tours run every Friday and Saturday at 9 p.m. Additional tours will be added during the busy season.

### **Best Western Douglas Inn & Suites to open in November**

Visitors have a new modern option in Douglas. The newly built 67-room Best Western in Douglas will open to guests some time in November.

**Info:** 199 East 7th Street, Douglas, 520-364-5000

### **‘Hell’s Kitchen’ winner, Michael Wray, to open restaurant in Sierra Vista**

If Michael Wray can survive the heat of Gordon Ramsay’s Hell’s Kitchen, surely he can thrive in Sierra Vista, Arizona. His new restaurant, **HK One**, will open later this year featuring fresh, local ingredients and wines from Arizona’s heartland. Since coming out on top in the dastardly Hell’s Kitchen reality show, Wray launched a chef’s knives company called Skull and Cleavers. The opening date is yet to be determined.

**Info:** HK One, 590 East Fry Blvd., Sierra Vista

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### **Another ‘Wray’ of sunshine in Sierra Vista restaurants**

Michael Wray’s brother, Zeke, opened his restaurant, Sophia’s Italian Ristorante, in summer 2009, giving Sierra Vista another “Wray” of sunshine in its restaurant scene. Featuring handmade pasta and mozzarella, the northern Italian restaurant uses chopped tomatoes rather than tomato sauce. Wray uses fresh, locally grown vegetables whenever possible to create an outstanding dining experience.

**Info:** 1630 E. Fry Blvd., Sierra Vista; 520-452-0622

### **Wine Festival in Willcox marks 2<sup>nd</sup> year**

Eight Arizona wineries are gearing up for the Willcox Wine Festival, a two-day event in Railroad Park on Railroad Ave. in historic downtown Willcox. The event will include a juried art show of 30 artists, five food booths, music and a wine tasting area that will feature Arizona farm wineries. Wine tasting will be \$10 for those over 21 and includes six tasting coupons and a commemorative Arizona Wine glass.

**Info:** Oct. 17 & 18, Attendance and parking at the festival is FREE and open to the public.

### **Papouli’s becomes Irene’s in Benson**

Papouli’s has moved and reopened as “Irene’s” featuring the same Mediterranean and American favorites they used to serve. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner beginning at 8 a.m.

**Info:** Irene’s, 687 W. 4th St., 520-586-9190

### **Wild Sky Productions presents Birds of Prey Show in Tombstone**

New to Tombstone is the Wild Sky Birds of Prey Show. Three daily shows demonstrate free-flight birds of prey. The fun encounter for the whole family is designed to reveal the environment through imaginative presentations. Show times are daily, 12:15 p.m., 2:30 p.m. & 4:30 p.m. at the corner of First & Fremont Streets.

**Info:** [www.tombstonechamber.com](http://www.tombstonechamber.com)

*Located in southeastern Arizona, Cochise County is one of the most culturally, historically and geographically diverse areas in the American Southwest. Its legendary communities—Benson, Bisbee, Douglas, Tombstone, Sierra Vista and Willcox—were strategically located less than a day’s journey by stagecoach and are now just a short drive from one another. For more information about Cochise County, contact the Cochise County Tourism Council at 1-800-862-5273 or visit their website at [www.explorecochise.com](http://www.explorecochise.com).*

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