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ARIZONA

HIGHWAYS

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SALT RIVER CANYON

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Way Down!

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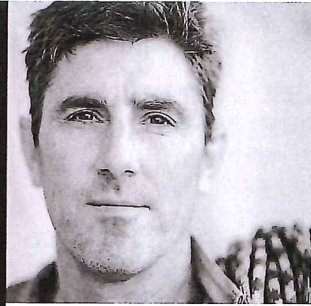
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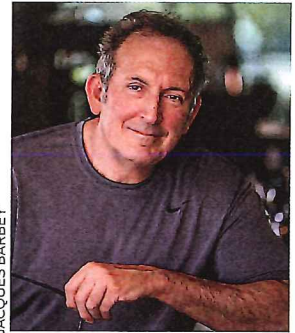
JOHN BURCHAM

Photographer John Burcham has been in Flagstaff for 20 years and hiked "a fair amount" in the Grand Canyon, but he'd never been to Phantom Ranch before going there to photograph the ranch staff (see *Desert Oasis*, page 34). "A lot of visitors just see them in the background," Burcham says, "so it was cool to hang out with the people behind the scenes and see how they keep things running." Burcham's other assignment for this issue took him down south, where he

helped document restoration efforts along the Santa Cruz River (see *Cruz Control*, page 28). "We went to four different sections of the river, in places like Tucson and Tubac," Burcham says. "A lot of it is really pretty, and I enjoyed tagging along with these biologists and watching them do their stuff." Burcham is a regular contributor to *Arizona Highways*, and when we spoke to him, he was preparing for a shoot on the Grand Canyon's North Rim for a story in the magazine next year.

PAUL MARKOW

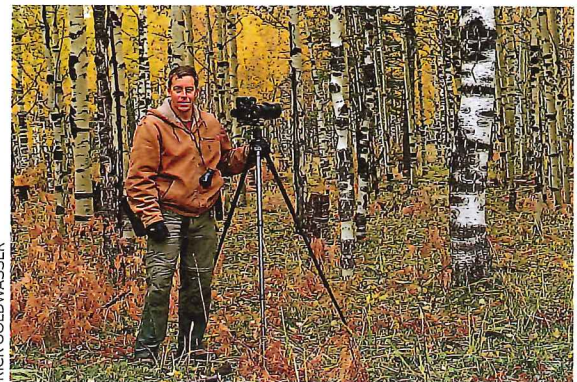
Paul Markow admits he's not much of a foodie: "My favorite restaurants have drive-up windows," he jokes. But that didn't stop him from driving nearly 6,000 miles over a five-month period in 2014 to make all of the photographs in *Arizona's Best Recipes*, our new cookbook. You can see some of those photos, along with a few recipes from the book, in this issue (see *Local Flavor*, page 48). Markow grew up working for his father, Robert, who founded Phoenix's first custom photo lab and has been called the "Dean of Arizona Photographers." From there, the younger Markow says, the family business grew into his passion. He first photographed for *Arizona Highways* in the mid-1970s and is a regular contributor today, in addition to being a successful commercial photographer. Shooting a book, though, is a "bucket list" item that he hopes will stand the test of time. "Ad campaigns come and go," Markow says, "but a book will always be around."



JACQUES BARBEY

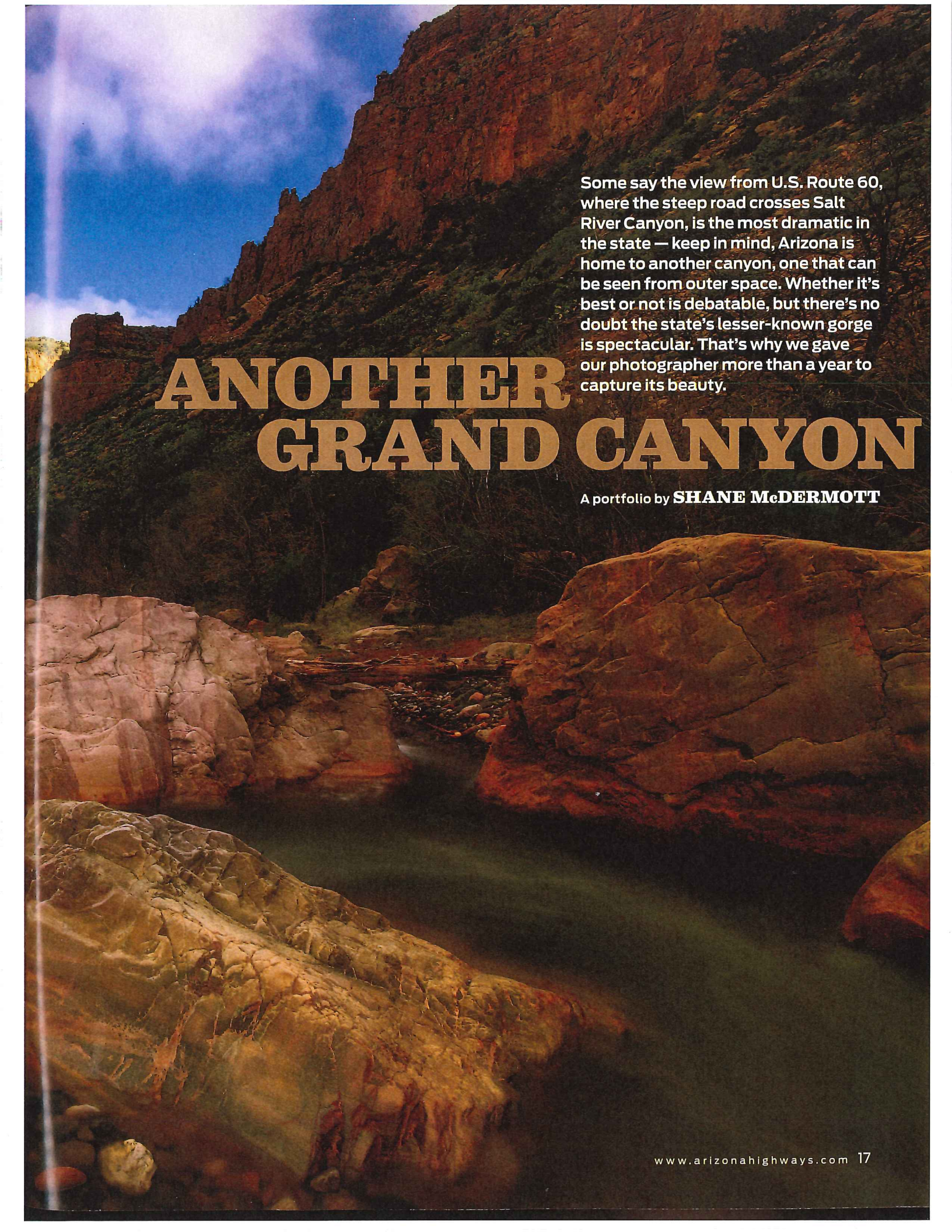
SHANE McDERMOTT

Shane McDermott's portfolio in this issue (see *Another Grand Canyon*, page 16) began as a conversation with Photo Editor Jeff Kida in June 2014. "Jeff said he and Robert [Stieve] had been pondering a portfolio of Salt River Canyon for a while, but they couldn't find a photographer who was the right fit," McDermott says. "The more Jeff and I talked, the more it became obvious he felt I was the right fit." McDermott does most of his work in Northern Arizona and had never been to the canyon, but he quickly became acquainted with its sprawling geography and relatively unexplored nature. He visited the canyon seven times between September 2014 and May of this year, photographing a different area each time. "By going there in different seasons, I got to see it in different conditions," McDermott says. "But I never realized just how big the place is. I could have used a couple of years to photograph it." Salt River isn't the only canyon close to McDermott's heart: He's in the process of donating photos to the Grand Canyon Trust for use in a campaign against the proposed Grand Canyon Escalade project.



RICK GOLDWASSER

— NOAH AUSTIN

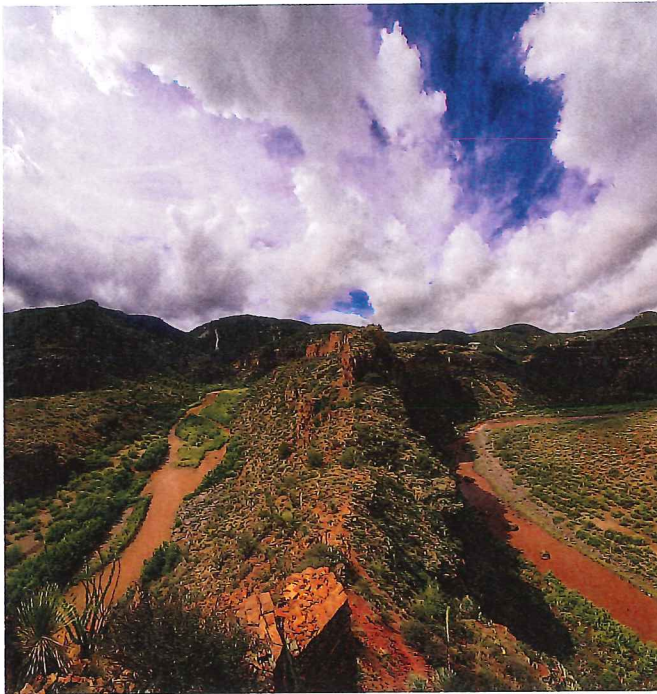


Some say the view from U.S. Route 60, where the steep road crosses Salt River Canyon, is the most dramatic in the state — keep in mind, Arizona is home to another canyon, one that can be seen from outer space. Whether it's best or not is debatable, but there's no doubt the state's lesser-known gorge is spectacular. That's why we gave our photographer more than a year to capture its beauty.

ANOTHER GRAND CANYON

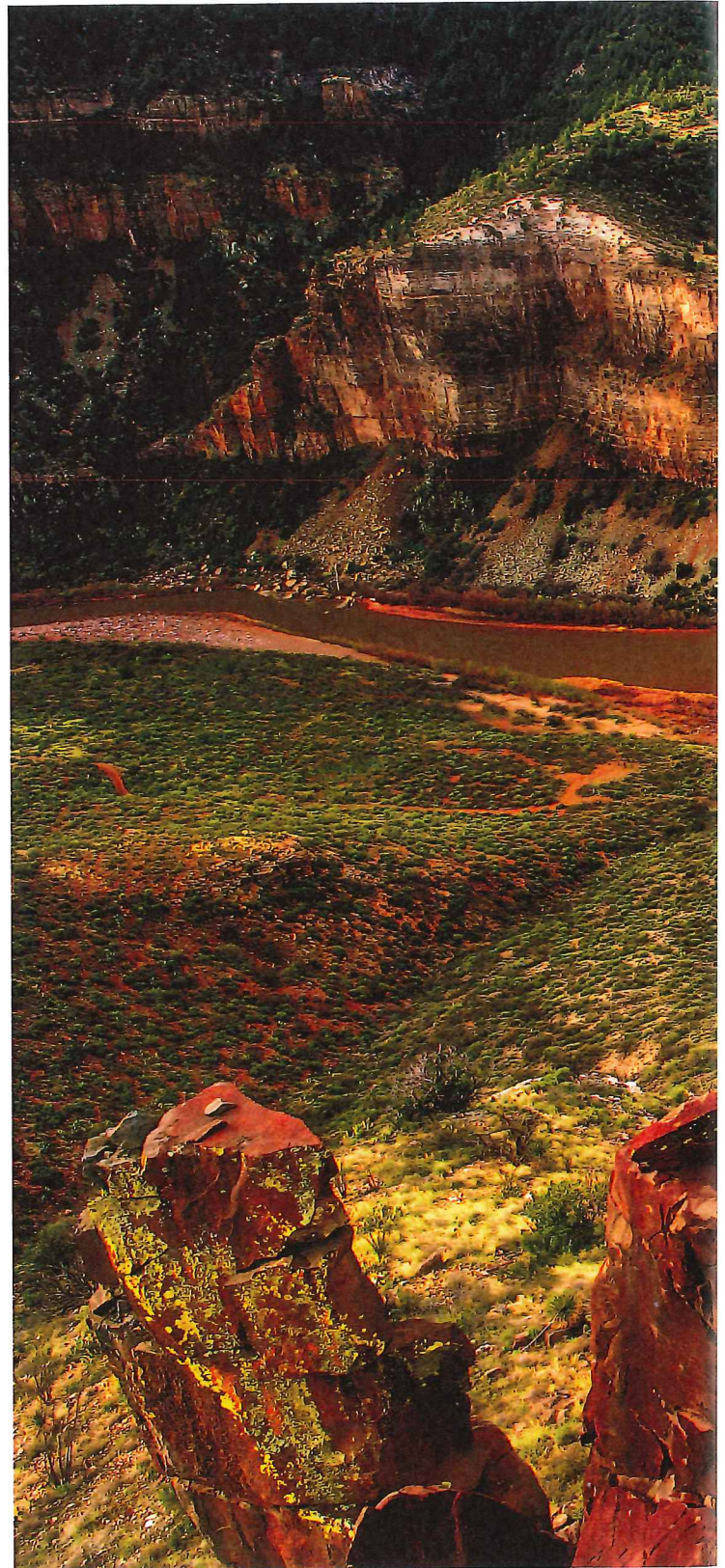
A portfolio by **SHANE McDERMOTT**

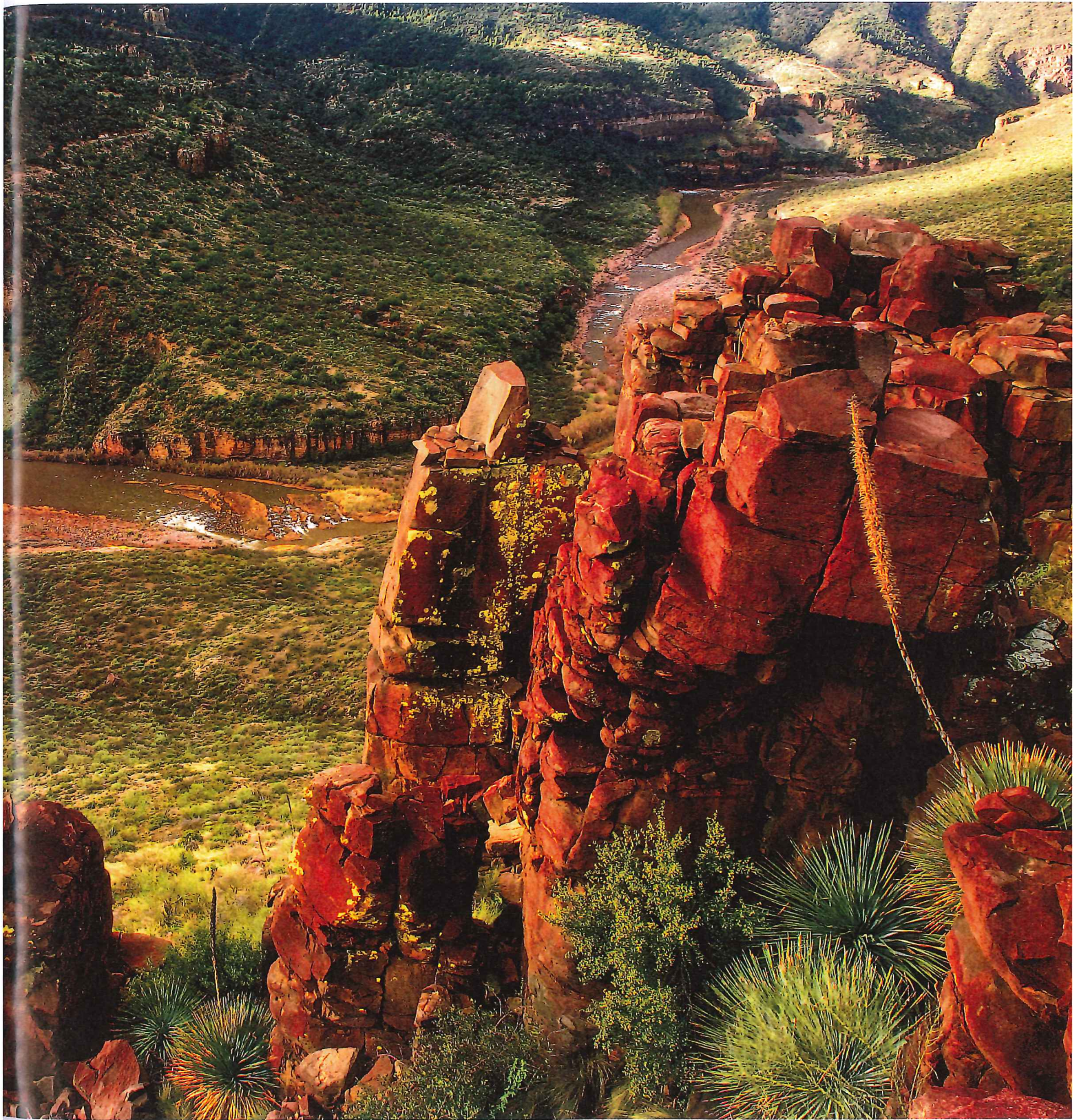
Preceding panel: Cibecue Creek, a major Salt River tributary, joins the river at the bottom of Salt River Canyon. "I made this photo in early spring," photographer Shane McDermott says, "but I didn't know it was Cibecue Creek at the time. I wanted to hike up the creek, but the debris from the spring runoff was too big and the water was too deep and fast. I got about two-thirds of the way to Cibecue Falls before turning back."



Above: The brown water of the Salt River winds around one of the river's many bends. "This was my very first trip to the canyon, in the fall of 2014," McDermott says. "This vantage point isn't far from U.S. Route 60, but it's tricky to get to. That whole trip, the skies were just awesome, and I photographed numerous nice rainbows."

Right: Lichen-covered hoodoos rise from a hillside overlooking the river. "I found these using Google Earth," McDermott says. "To reach them, I had to go past the hoodoos, then back up and around, before following a tiny dirt track to a mesa where I could access them. I camped up there for a couple of nights."

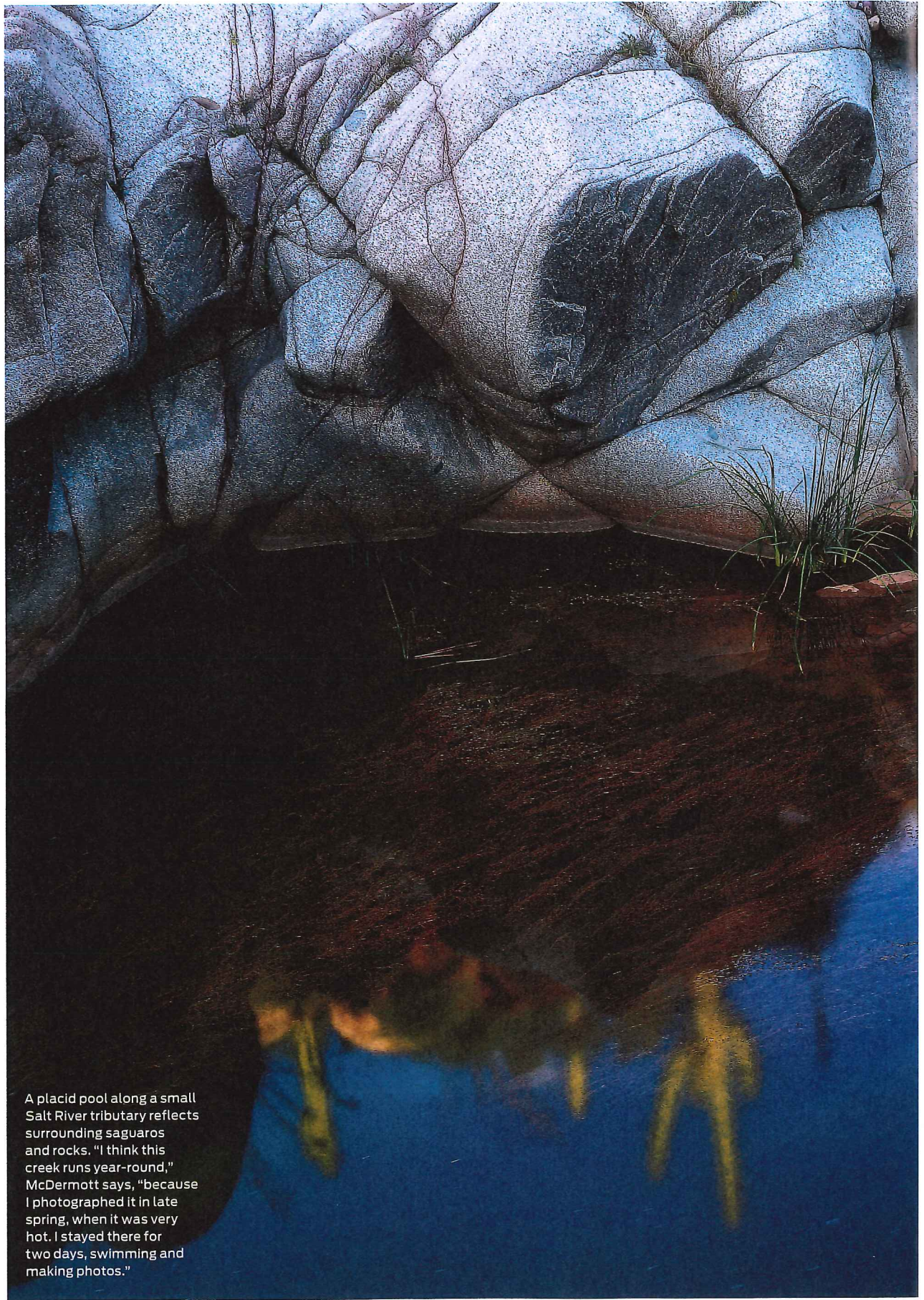




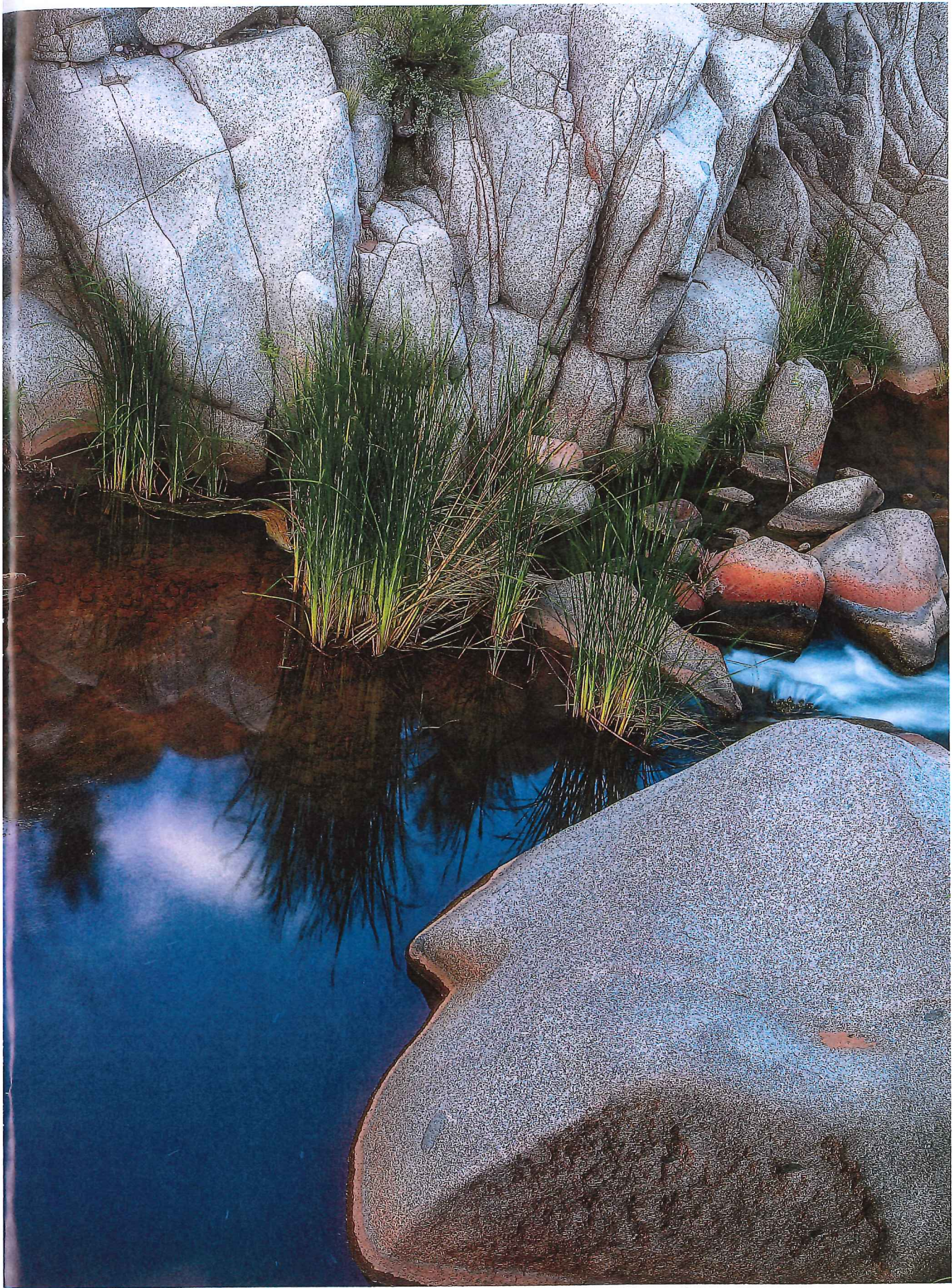
The Colorado isn't the only Arizona river with a Horseshoe Bend, as McDermott discovered. "I consider this one of the 'gem' finds from this project," he says. "This was at sunrise, and the light made it so dynamic. I explored this whole area, including beating my way through tamarisks with a machete to get to the orange cliffs on the left side of the photo."





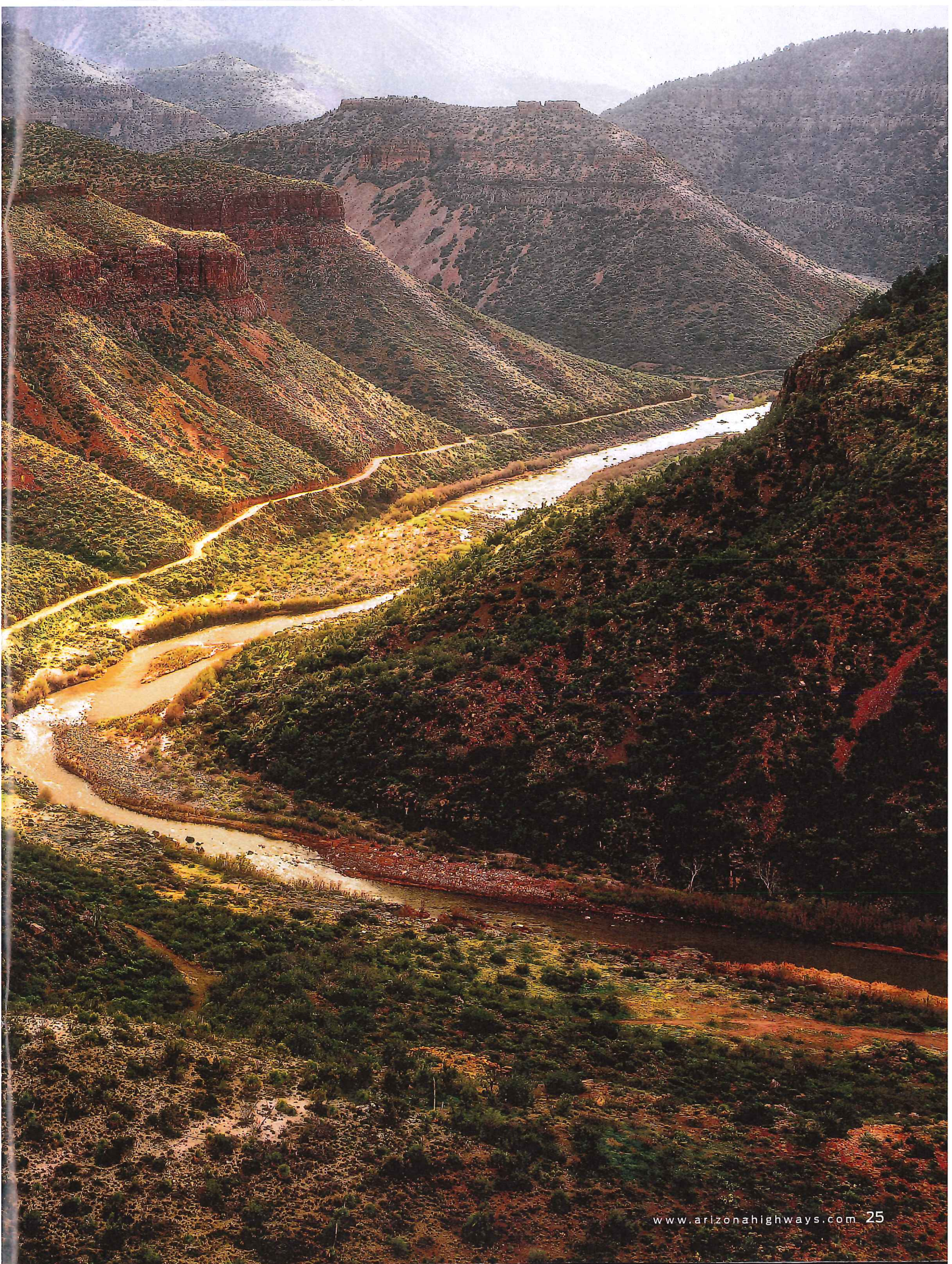


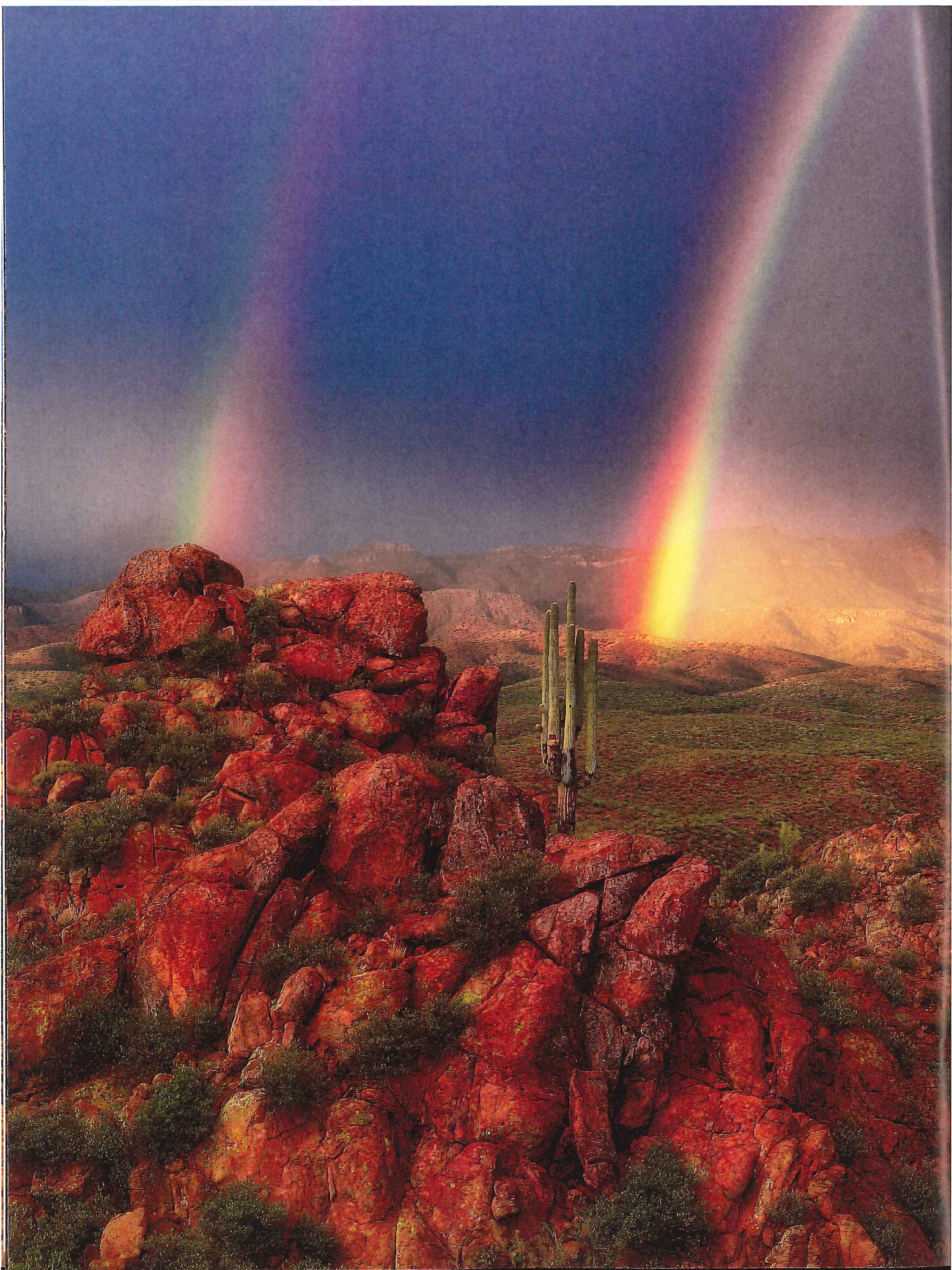
A placid pool along a small Salt River tributary reflects surrounding saguaros and rocks. "I think this creek runs year-round," McDermott says, "because I photographed it in late spring, when it was very hot. I stayed there for two days, swimming and making photos."



"I'm a sucker for big vistas," McDermott says. "I made this shot about 7 miles from U.S. 60. I liked how the dirt road followed the river around the bend."









Left: McDermott made this photo while he was on his way to the canyon from Globe. "I was going down U.S. 60, watching the clouds and hoping for a rainbow," he says. "When I saw this, I stopped and ran across the highway. The saguaro in the foreground caught my eye, so I backed up a little to adjust the shot and incorporate the saguaro into the composition."

Above: On McDermott's final trip to the canyon, in May of this year, he finally made it to Cibecue Falls. "I'm so glad I didn't see photos of this before I visited it," he says. "I wanted to discover it for myself — not just set up my tripod in everyone else's holes. The big overhangs close to the waterfall give a sense of being deep in the canyon. I'd love to do it again when the water is clearer, but I still think it's really cool." **AH**