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Todd Helton at the Mack and Jonnie Day Golf Facility at the University of Tennessee. Photograph by Donald Page.



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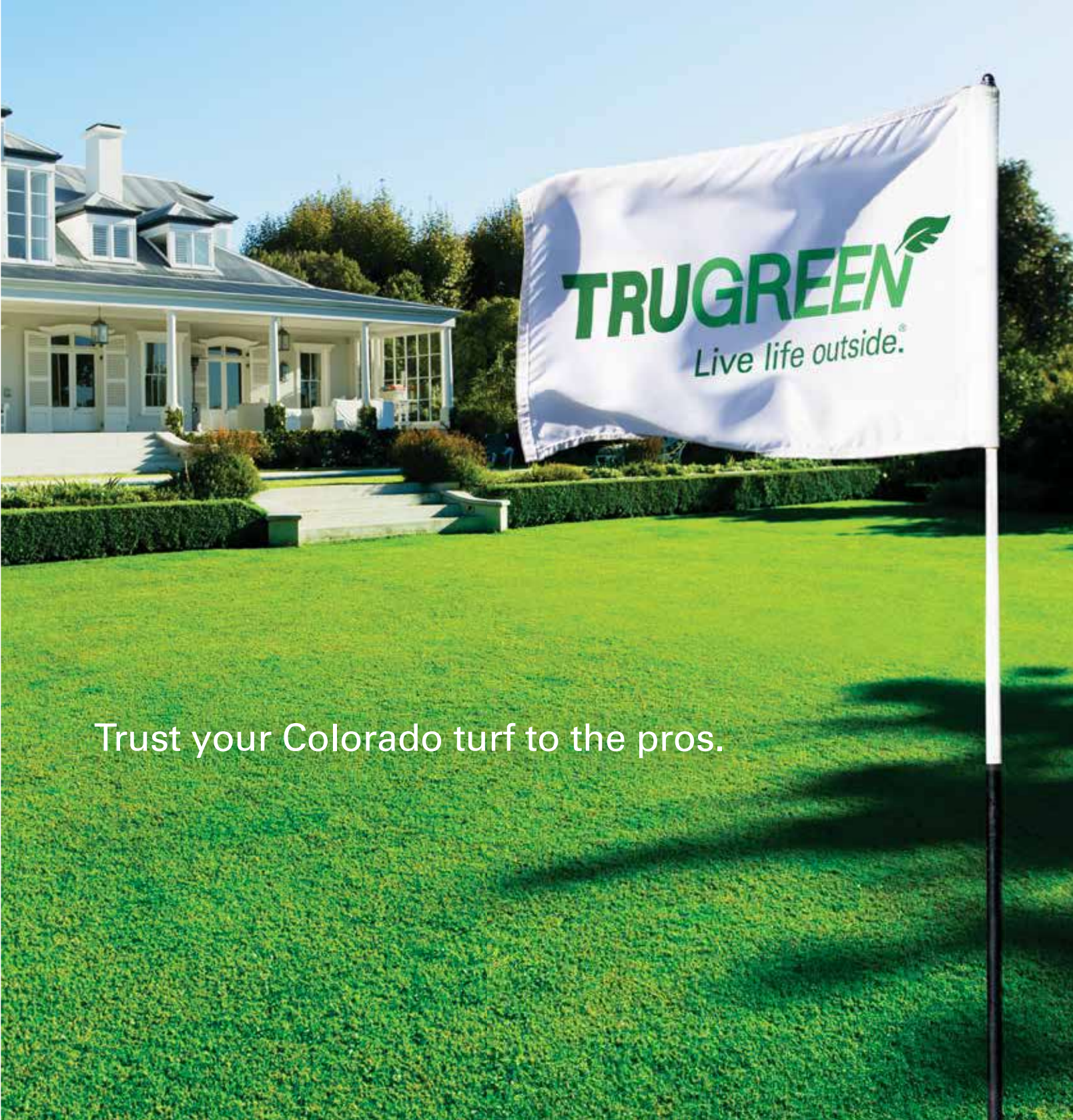
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Forethoughts

Blowing Out 15 Candles



PHOTOGRAPH BY LARRY LASZLO

WHO'S THE DUDE? Yes, that's me during the launch of *Colorado AvidGolfer* exactly 15 years ago—a bespectacled, smiling scrivener with hopes as high as my handicap.

We debuted with our April 2002 issue featuring Rockies star Todd Helton on the cover, and over the ensuing years we have repeated the process 129 times before closing the circle with an encore appearance by the now-retired first baseman.

The Toddfather looks different now than he did then. We all do. But whereas he has more hair than he had in 2002, I have less—and the remaining strands get grayer by the day.

Of course, the differences between 2002 and 2017 go beyond the semiotics of aging.

Back then, America was still getting over the shock of 9/11; today, we're still coming to grips with the news of 11/9.

Back then, we had a product called The Passport to Free Golf, which offered Monday-Thursday rounds for the price of a cart rental. Today, The Golf Passport features 66 golf courses with fewer date restrictions—all of which include a cart fee in their greatly reduced rate. (For more on the Golf Passport, turn to page 13.)

In our first issue, we wrote of Nike Golf's new Forged Titanium driver: "David and Tiger have it in the bag—and no one is pickier than those guys." Today, Nike no longer makes golf clubs, and no one is picking David or Tiger in their fantasy league or Masters pool.

Our inaugural edition also announced that 72-year-old Green Gables Country Club had approved a multimillion-dollar golf course renovation. It happened. But so did a recession, and today, instead of 450-yard holes, 450-odd homes have begun to populate the 150 acres known now as Green Gables Reserve.

Everything changes over time. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram didn't exist in 2002. We made due with a magazine and website. We now deliver content on multiple channels.

Staples held together the 68 pages of our first issue. We eventually grew a spine, and 15 years later, you're holding a perfect-bound, 108-page edition. These pages celebrate our milestone with past-and-present stories of seven cover subjects from our first year (p. 88). And since this is our crystal anniversary, we also peer into the future with "Colorado's 15ers," profiles of four ascendant golf prodigies who share our birth year (p. 94).

Nike obviously doesn't appear in our 2017 Gear Guide (p. 27). But there you'll find the latest in clubs and balls, as well as a first-person account of the differences between local clubfitters (p. 31) and the latest trends in golf attire (p. 34).

A directory of clubs of a different kind begins on page 49. Our 39-page Private Club Guide profiles more than a dozen members-only venues—many of which are upending the traditional club paradigm, and none of which is in danger of becoming a "reserve." The guide also includes the initiation, dues and amenities for the state's 53 private golf and country clubs.

Looking at the above photograph, which accompanied the press release announcing the debut of the magazine, I'm reminded that I still have a face for radio. So, like last year, I'll be a weekly guest on "Morning Cup of Golf" with PGA Professionals Stan Fenn and Doug Perry on Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Tune in to 600 KCOL on your AM dial or stream it on iHeartRadio.

The photo also reminds me of the surfeit of 5x7s that used to fill my desk drawer. I would jokingly autograph versions of it for new employees. I'd inscribe some treacle ("Best wishes," "You rock!") followed by a stern "Get back to work!"

With hopes still high, I've followed that final directive—getting back to work—for the 15 years. Some things don't change. — JON RIZZI



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Follow the New Rules

IN AN EFFORT TO REVITALIZE the game and attract younger players, the USGA recently unveiled a raft of proposed changes to make the often byzantine rules of the game easier to understand and apply. The proposed changes cover eight categories and include 33 items to be reviewed. Professional players—including Tom Watson and Tiger Woods (above)—and many in the golf community have taken to social media to laud the changes in the proposal. What do you think of the changes? Share your thoughts with us at coloradoavidgolfer.com or on social media.



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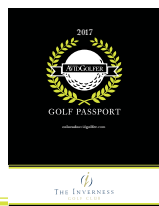


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Applewood , Golden	\$30	\$30	\$30	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12	Yes	2
Breckenridge , Breckenridge*	\$75	\$99	\$75	SS: M-Sun, any time. PS: S-Th after 12	Yes	3
The Bridges , Montrose*	\$35	\$49	\$35	Any day after 11	Yes	3
Broadlands , Broomfield	\$40	\$40	\$40	M-Th after 12	No	3
Broken Tee , Englewood	\$33	\$33	\$33	M-Th after 12	No	3 P/S = 9
Buffalo Run , Commerce City	\$41	\$41	\$41	M-F any time, S-S after 2	Yes	3
Cedaredge , Cedaredge	\$35	\$40	\$35	Any day, any time	Yes	Unlimited
Cheyenne Mountain Resort , Colorado Springs* EXCLUSIVE	\$60	\$75/\$95	\$60	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 1	Yes	3
Coal Creek , Louisville EXCLUSIVE	\$40	\$50	\$40	M-F after 11	No	3
Colorado National , Erie	\$45	\$49	\$45	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12	Yes	3
CommonGround , Aurora* EXCLUSIVE	\$49	\$49	\$49	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12	Yes	3
Country Club at Woodmoor , Monument EXCLUSIVE	\$36	\$45	\$36	Any day after 11	Yes	2
Deer Creek , Littleton	\$35	\$40	\$35	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 2	Yes	2
Devil's Thumb , Delta	\$30/35	\$30/35	\$30/35	Any day after 10	Yes	2
Eagle Ranch , Eagle EXCLUSIVE	\$35	\$55	\$35	Any day after 11	Yes	2
Eagle Trace , Broomfield	\$30	\$30	\$30	M-Th after 11, F-S-S after 12	Yes	3
EagleVail , Avon*	\$69	\$69	\$69	SS: M-Sun any time. PS: M-Sun after 1	Yes	3
Family Sports , Centennial	\$19	\$21	\$19	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 11	Yes	Unlimited
Fitzsimons , Aurora EXCLUSIVE	\$27/\$31	\$27/\$31	\$27/\$31	M-F after 11, S-S after 1	Yes	1 P/S = 3
Foothills , Denver	\$36/\$51	\$36/\$51	\$36/\$51	M-Th before 8; after 1, F-S-S after 1	Yes	4
Four Mile Ranch , Cañon City	\$35	\$38	\$35	M-F any time, S-S after 1	Yes	3
Fox Acres , Red Feather Lakes	\$50	\$60	\$50	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 11	Yes	Unlimited
Fox Hollow , Lakewood	\$48	\$48	\$48	M-Th after 1, F-S-S after 2	Yes	Unlimited
Golf Granby Ranch , Granby*	\$25	\$54	\$25	Any day after 11	Yes	Unlimited
Grand Elk , Granby	\$32/\$39	\$45/\$54	\$39/\$45	M-Th after 11, F-S-S after 12	Yes	3
Grand Lake , Grand Lake*	\$35	\$55	\$40	M-Th after 11, S-S after 12	Yes	3
Green Valley Ranch , Denver EXCLUSIVE	\$39/49	\$49/59	\$39/49	Any day after 12	Yes	1 P/S = 3
Haymaker , Steamboat Springs	\$57	\$77	\$57	Any day, any time	Yes	Unlimited
Heritage at Westmoor , Westminster	\$45	\$45	\$45	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 1	Yes	Unlimited
Heritage Eagle Bend , Aurora	\$34/\$40	\$50/\$56	\$34/\$40	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 11	Yes	3
Highland Meadows , Windsor*	\$34	\$44	\$34	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12	Yes	3
Highlands Ranch , Highlands Ranch	\$48/\$59	\$58/\$69	\$48/\$59	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12	Yes	SS: 2, PS: 1
The Homestead , Lakewood	\$38	\$38	\$38	M-Th after 1, F-S-S after 2	Yes	Unlimited
The Greg Mastriona at Hyland Hills <i>Gold Course</i> , Westminster EXCLUSIVE	\$42	\$42	\$42	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12	Yes	3

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Indian Tree, Arvada EXCLUSIVE	\$37	\$37	\$37	Any day after 12	Yes	3
The Inverness, Englewood*	\$60	\$80	\$60	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12	Yes	3
Keystone Ranch, Keystone*	\$75	\$105	\$75	Any day after 11	Yes	Unlimited
Kings Deer, Monument EXCLUSIVE	\$25	\$40	\$25	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 11	Yes	2
Legacy Ridge, Westminster	\$45	\$45	\$45	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 1	Yes	Unlimited
The Links, Highlands Ranch	\$34/\$39	\$38/\$43	\$34/\$39	M-Th any time F-S-S after 12	Yes	1 P/S = 3
Littleton Golf and Tennis Club, Littleton	\$29/\$31	\$34/\$36	\$29/\$31	M-Th after 11, F-S-S after 1	Yes	3
Lone Tree Golf Club & Hotel, Lone Tree	\$56	\$64	\$54	M-Th after 11 F-S-S after 12	Yes	3 P/S
The Meadows, Littleton	\$40/\$54	\$40/\$54	\$40/\$54	Any dayafter 1,	Yes	4
Murphy Creek, Aurora EXCLUSIVE	\$37.50/\$45	\$37.50/\$45	\$37.50/\$45	M-F after 11, S-S after 1	Yes	1 P/S = 3
Omni Interlocken, Broomfield*	\$60	\$70	\$60	M-Th any time, F before 12 S-S after 12	Yes	3
Pelican Lake Golf Club, Windsor*	\$45	\$60	\$50	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12	Yes	3
Perry Park Country Club, Larkspur EXCLUSIVE	\$89	\$89	\$89	T-Th after 11:30	No	2
Pine Creek, Colorado Springs	\$39	\$44	\$39	M-Th after 12, F-S-S after 2	Yes	2 P/S = 6
Pole Creek, Tabernash	\$50	\$50	\$50	M-Th after 11. F-S-S after 12	Yes	Unlimited
Quail Dunes, Fort Morgan	\$20	\$25	\$20	Any day, Any time	Yes	4
Raccoon Creek, Littleton	\$39/\$45	\$39/\$45	\$39/\$45	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12	Yes	4
The Raven at Three Peaks, Silverthorne*	\$55	\$89	\$55	Any day after 12	Yes	Unlimited
Redlands Mesa, Grand Junction EXCLUSIVE	\$50	\$55	\$50	Any day, after 12	Yes	2
The Ridge at Castle Pines, Castle Rock* EXCLUSIVE	\$50	\$60/\$75	\$50	M-Th any time, F- S-S after 1	Yes	1 P/S = 3
The River Course at Keystone, Keystone*	\$75	\$105	\$75	Any day after 11	Yes	Unlimited
Saddle Rock, Aurora EXCLUSIVE	\$39.50/\$47	\$39.50/\$47	\$39.50/\$47	M-F after 11, S-S after 1	Yes	1 P/S = 3
South Suburban Par 3, Centennial	\$9	\$9	\$9	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12	Yes	Unlimited
Sumo Golf Village, Florence	\$25	\$30	\$25	Any day after 12	Yes	2
Tiara Rado, Grand Junction	\$35	\$35	\$35	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 11	Yes	3
Todd Creek, Thornton EXCLUSIVE	\$40	\$45	\$40	M-Th after 10, F-S-S after 12	Yes	Unlimited
Vail, Vail	\$50	\$89	\$50	Sun-Th after 1	Yes	2
Walking Stick, Pueblo*	\$32	\$32	\$32	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12:30	Yes	Unlimited
Yampa Valley, Craig* EXCLUSIVE	\$30	\$30	\$30	M-Th after 11, F-S-S after 12	Yes	2

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* Some seasons may vary

This Championship Season

Mark your calendar for another year of great tournament golf. By Ryan Smith

THE COLORADO GOLF ASSOCIATION has crowned state amateur golf champions for 102 years. Our championship season provides single-digit handicap players a forum to play against the best players in Colorado at some of the state's finest facilities. With the 2017 schedule now completed, we encourage Colorado golfers to take the next step and compete in our championships and qualifiers. Additionally, for players ready to test themselves on a national level, Colorado will hold seven USGA Qualifiers—including three Local Qualifiers for entry into the U.S. Open at Erin Hills Golf Club in Wisconsin. With registration well underway for upcoming events, spots for all events are going fast.

Here are some highlights of this championship season:

The first of the four major events for the 2017 championship season, the 117th Match Play Championship, will be held June 19-23 at The Club at Ravenna. Three qualifying events will take place at Spring Valley Golf Club, Saddleback

Golf Club and CommonGround Golf Course.

The 81st CGA Amateur is set for August 3-6 at the Sonnenalp Club in Edwards, west of Vail. This marks the first time since 2003 the tournament will take place in the mountains. The seven qualifying events will be at Columbine Country Club, Collindale Golf Course, Fort Collins Country Club, Tiara Rado Golf Course, Country Club of Colorado, Buffalo Run Golf Course and CommonGround Golf Course.

The 31st Mid-Amateur will be contested September 8-10 at Keystone Ranch Golf Course. Mid-Am participants (ages 25 and older) can begin qualifying August 15 at the following six participating clubs: Highland Meadows Golf Course, Bookcliff Country Club, Walking Stick Golf Course, Murphy Creek Golf Course, Broadlands Golf Course and CommonGround Golf Course.

The 46th Senior Amateur Championship, (ages 51 and older), will conclude the Championship season September 19-21 at Meridian Golf Club. Six qualifying events will be held at

Colorado Springs Country Club, Bookcliff Country Club, Walking Stick Golf Course, The Olde Course at Loveland, Flatirons Golf Course and CommonGround Golf Course.

In 2017, the state will also host three Local Qualifiers for the 2017 U.S. Open Championship: May 8 at Walnut Creek Golf Preserve (formerly known as Heritage Golf Course at Westmoor), May 15 at CommonGround Golf Course and May 16 at Collindale Golf Course. The CGA will also hold one final-stage U.S. Senior Open qualifier on June 8th at Meadows Golf Club in Littleton, as well as conduct local qualifying events for the U.S. Amateur, U.S. Senior Amateur and the U.S. Amateur Four-Ball.

To become a CGA member and participate in these events, or to find detailed information about each event, visit the tournament section at coloradogolf.org, or contact Director of Rules and Competitions Robert Duke, at 303-366-4653 or rduke@coloradogolf.org.



2017 CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

	DATE	ENTRY DEADLINE	SITE
Senior Four-Ball Championship	May 1-3	April 21	Broadlands GC, Broomfield
Four-Ball Championship	May 5-7	April 25	CommonGround GC, Aurora
Super-Senior Match Play Championship	May 22-25	May 12	Coal Creek GC, Louisville
Parent/Child Championship	June 3-4	May 24	Frost Creek, Eagle
117th CGA Match Play Championship	June 19-23	May 22	The Club at Ravenna, Littleton
Senior Match Play Championship	June 27-30	June 16	Blackstone CC, Aurora
Western Chapter Championship	July 15-16	July 1	Tiara Rado GC, Grand Junction
81st CGA Amateur Championship	August 3-6	July 1	Sonnenalp Club, Edwards
Super-Senior Stroke Play Championship	August 22-23	August 11	Buffalo Run GC, Commerce City
31st CGA Mid-Amateur Championship	September 8-10	August 9	Keystone Ranch GC, Keystone
46th CGA Senior Amateur Championship	September 19-21	August 9	Meridian GC, Englewood

REGISTER AT coloradogolf.org



2017 USGA QUALIFYING SCHEDULE

	DATE	ENTRY DEADLINE	SITE
U.S. Open Local #1	May 8	April 26	Walnut Creek Golf Preserve, Broomfield
U.S. Open Local #2	May 15	April 26	CommonGround GC, Aurora
U.S. Open Local #3	May 16	April 26	Collindale GC, Ft. Collins
U.S. Senior Open	June 8	May 10	Meadows GC, Littleton
U.S. Junior Amateur	June 27	June 7	The Fox Hill Club, Longmont
U.S. Amateur #1	July 3	June 21	Columbine CC, Littleton
U.S. Amateur #2	July 13	June 21	Ft. Collins CC, Ft. Collins
U.S. Senior Amateur	July 24	July 12	Colorado Springs CC, Colo. Springs
U.S. Mid-Amateur	August 29	August 9	Murphy Creek GC, Aurora
U.S. Amateur Four-Ball	October 5	August 16	Lake Valley GC, Niwot

REGISTER AT usga.org

A golfer in a teal shirt and white pants is captured in mid-swing on a golf course. A glowing, fiery graphic of a human spine is overlaid on the golfer's back, extending from the neck down to the lower back. The background is a soft-focus view of a golf course with trees and a body of water under a warm, golden light.

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Doing Right by the Women

ON MARCH 2, one year and one day after doubling the purse in the CoBank Colorado Open, the Colorado Open Foundation announced the **CoBank Colorado Women's Open** would follow suit. As of this year, the total purse in the Aug. 30-Sept. 1 event at Green Valley Ranch Golf Club will jump from \$75,000 to \$150,000, making it the wealthiest women's state open in the country.

Moreover, the first-place finisher in the tournament will receive \$50,000, nearly quintuple 2016 winner Lauren Coughlin's payday of \$11,000. That amount is now second-place money.

"We wanted to do right by the CoBank Colorado Women's Open and distance ourselves from other state opens," explained Colorado Open Golf Foundation CEO **Kevin Laura** during a press conference at Topgolf in Centennial. Joining him were the main catalysts behind the purse increase—Oakwood Homes CEO and COGF Founder **Pat Hamill**, retired CoBank CEO **Bob Engel**, COGF Chairman **Chris Nordling** and Vice-Chairman **Alex Ringsby**.

"We also wanted to put ourselves on par with the Symetra Tour events," Laura adds, referring to the LPGA's developmental tour. "Our first-place money is \$13,000

higher than their biggest event's, and only six events have a larger total purse. We're in the big girls' game from now on."

"We have LPGA players coming and stealing our money on the Symetra Tour," quipped Littleton's **Ashley Tait**, who has made the cut in 10 Colorado Women's Opens. "Now the Symetra Tour players can do that in Colorado."

Tait appeared with 2005 champion **Erin Kerr Houtsma** and 2013 champion **Becca Huffer**. The three all talked about the life-altering impact \$50,000 would have on their careers. Houtsma, who recently had her amateur status reinstated, joked that she was suddenly having second thoughts about the decision. After all, it took her

11 years to become the event's all-time leading money winner with \$31,325; it will take the next champion three days to eclipse her.

Laura announced that the purse for the pro-am portion of the CoBank Colorado Women's Open will remain at \$15,000. He also announced that there will be an August 28 qualifier at CommonGround Golf Course, with 10 spots available. coloradoopen.com



Hamer Was a Gamer

Hall of Famer **John Hamer** passed away February 8 at his Arizona home. He was 74.

As a member of the University of Colorado golf team from 1962 to 1964, Hamer never competed on the same CU squad as **Hale Irwin**.

But he faced Irwin, who'd just graduated from Boulder High, in the '63 Stroke Play Championship. After finishing 15 shots behind the 18-year-old, Hamer decided against going on the PGA Tour.

"John was one of my first golfing friends when I moved to Colorado," Irwin, a three-time U.S. Open champion, recalled via email. "He inspired me to play better than I really knew how. We have all lost a real friend."

Hamer took the 1969 and '70 CGA Stroke Play (now known as the State Amateur Championship), and in the 1969 Colorado Open, he was the only player among the top 10 finishers to break par in any round, finishing third overall. The CGA named him its 1969 Player of the Year.

Hamer also won the 1992 and '96 CGA Senior Stroke Play championships and six team titles. Three of them came with fellow Hall of Famer **Gary Potter**, who is organizing a "Celebration for John" Scotch tournament at Boulder Country Club—where Hamer won 15 club championships—tentatively scheduled for August 3. Net proceeds will go towards establishing a scholarship fund in Hamer's name for the golf team.

For information, contact garytpotter59@gmail.com; 303-885-4538.



RUN WITH THE PAC: Ethan Freeman, Jeremy Paul, Roy Edwards, Yannik Paul (left to right).



Buffalo-Style Hot Swings

LAST YEAR, Boulder Country Club staged the PAC-12 Women's Golf Championship. This year, it's the men's turn. Hosted by the University of Colorado, which Golfstat ranked 21st in the nation as of February 28, the **PAC-12 Men's Golf Championship** takes place at Boulder Country Club April 28-30. The field includes four other schools in the Top 25: USC (7), Oregon (8), Stanford (10) and Arizona State (25).

Stanford has captured the last three PAC 12 Championships and currently features **Maverick McNealy**, the leading golfer in the World Amateur Golf Rankings. Meanwhile, the University of Oregon is coming off the first NCAA DI national title in program history. The Ducks return last year's NCAA DI Stroke Play Champion, **Aaron Wise**, and have added redshirt senior **Wyndham Clark**, the highly decorated Denver native whose 69.13 stroke average (as of March 2) ranked second in Division I—just ahead of freshman teammate **Norman Xiong's** 69.22. At age 16, Clark captured the 2010 Colorado Golf Association Stroke Play championship at Boulder Country Club.

Don't count the Buffs out. CU Head Coach **Roy Edwards** will field six players from one of his most talented squads. Seniors **Jeremy Paul** and **Ethan Freeman** lead the Buffs in stroke average, with Paul on pace to shatter the all-time career record of 72.90 set by **Kane Webber** (1999-2004). Jeremy's twin, **Yannik Paul**, a redshirt junior, and true juniors **John Souza** and **Spencer Painton** have all played solidly, helping the team to no worse than a fifth-place finish in any tournament since the fall season began. Sophomore **Wilson Belk** and freshman **Morten Toft Hansen** will likely vie for the sixth spot.

The par-70 course will play between 7,000 and 7,100 yards, with greens Stimping around 12 and rough grown to about three to four inches. Admission is free. cubuffs.com/mgolf

The Honour Is Theirs

TOMMY'S HONOUR, the screen adaptation of **Kevin Cook's** award-winning book of the same name, will debut in theaters April 14, one week after the Masters. It concerns Scotsmen Old Tom and Young Tom Morris, seminal figures in the history of golf. But to say the film is about golf is like saying *Field of Dreams* is about baseball or *Seabiscuit* is about a horse. The movie vividly evokes the challenged relationship between the father and son who won eight of the first 12 Open Championships, with the junior Morris capturing four consecutive titles—still a record—between the ages of 17 and 21. Young Tom remains the youngest champion in the event's 156-year history; his father is still the oldest, taking it at age 46 in 1867.

But as the narrative unfolds, success strains their bond. Thanks in large part to young Tom's talent, refinement and raffish looks, the sport's popularity grows wildly. So does the money involved with it, attracting wealthy gamblers and amplifying the class distinctions of Victorian Scotland. Despite being a champion, Old Tom accepts his station as the caddy-master, greenkeeper and club and ball maker at St. Andrews. Young Tom, however, bristles against such circumscription. He shuns the Royal & Ancient's narrow-mindedness as well as his parents, who disapprove of his love interest in the older, "unvirtuous" woman who becomes his wife.

Directed by Jason Connery—himself the son of the great Sean Connery—*Tommy's Honour* captures the rugged beauty of Fife, as well as the tweedy traditions of the early game. Moreover, he captures the despondence of Young Tom, who dies on his 24th Christmas—just months after his wife's death during childbirth—and the heartbreak of his father. *Tommy's Honour* won the British Academy's Scotland Award for Best Feature Film. tommyshonour.com



Adam Scott Comes to Colorado

The University of Colorado-Colorado Springs has a new director of its PGA Golf Management (PGM) program. Not to be confused with the 2013 Masters champion of the same name, PGA Professional **Adam Scott** hails from Mississippi State University, from which he holds an M.B.A. and where he served as the assistant director of the PGM program. He takes over for **Mollie Sutherland**, who helmed the program for four years and won Colorado PGA's 2014 Horton Smith Award for outstanding and continuing contributions to professional education. UCCS's School of Business runs the PGM program, which since 2003 has graduated more than 100 future PGA members. Students work to satisfy the requirements needed for PGA Membership—including playing aptitude, 16 months of internships, seminar attendance and hands-on experience in club repair, instruction, running tournaments and more—in conjunction with the prerequisites to obtain a bachelor's degree.

uccs.edu/business

Overland Rocks?

Denver's 122-year-old **Overland Golf Course** could soon welcome the non-golf talents of Lady Gaga and other entertainers if a proposal for a three-day Coachella-like music festival gets approved. The Rocky Mountain branch of AEG Live and the Superfly marketing and event company are looking for a four-year deal beginning in 2018. Between 40,000 and 60,000 people a day will descend on the course, which would have to close for five weeks each year. This is not by any means a done deal, but it comes on the heels of the city's plan to close City Park Golf Course for all of 2018 and part of 2019 in order to convert 138 acres into a stormwater detention area. "We will not do this festival here if the community does not want it," AEG representative David Ehrlich repeated during a January 30 public meeting at the Overland clubhouse. A second meeting took place March 14. denvergov.org/specialevents



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PHOTOGRAPH BY E.J. CARB

Where the Wild Things Par

HOME TO BIRDIES: Walnut Creek Golf Preserve's finishing hole.

THE NAME OF the Heritage Golf Course at Westmoor has gone the way of the triceratops on its logo. This month the City of Westminster, which has owned and operated the 215-acre facility since it opened in 1999, will officially rechristen it as **Walnut Creek Golf Preserve**.

According to Walnut Creek's PGA Head Golf Professional **Brian Carlson**, the new moniker represents more than just a simple name change: "While we've always enjoyed our reputation as one of Colorado's most scenic and affordable courses, over time we've strengthened our commitment to

sustainability as well as the preservation of the unique biodiversity evident amongst our native flora and fauna."

One of only two Audubon Certified Signature Sanctuary courses in Colorado—Haymaker Golf Course in Steamboat Springs is the other—and one of only 73 in the world, Walnut Creek Golf Preserve received that designation in 2002. Since then, it has sustained and supported more than 77 wildlife species as well as a staggering variety of native plants. The course's diverse bird population includes bald eagles, great horned owls and more than 50 other avian species.

And it has achieved all this while hosting multiple state championships and USGA qualifiers.

Walnut Creek Golf Preserve's natural areas comprise more than half of the property and are non-irrigated and only mowed once a year for the sole purpose of seed propagation. The staff, directed by Superintendent **Paul Sibley**, relies upon state-of-the-art monitoring equipment to replace only the exact amount of moisture lost due to sun and wind. Drought-resistant vegetation landscapes the clubhouse, and the club currently recycles more than 90 percent of its waste.

Carlson recycled the dinosaur-logo merchandise by selling it off. Everything in the golf shop now features the new logo, which will be on full display June 5-8, when Walnut Creek welcomes 96 of the best boy and girl players (ages 12-19) to the **AJGA's Hale Irwin Colorado Junior Presented by Transamerica**. ci.westminster.co.us; 303-469-2974



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Put On a Grassy Face

A **PENINSULA GREEN**, lakeside holes and a potential Champions Tour stop aren't the only exciting aspects of the **TPC Colorado** under construction in Berthoud. Course architect **Arthur Schaupeter** has incorporated links-style stacked-sod bunkers into the design. "Combined with more traditional American-style bunkers, the Scottish links-style pot bunker gives the course a unique look and golfers a chance to experience true links-like challenges," he explains. "Each bunker will have its own identity and will eventually develop its own reputation with players." The steep-angled, sod-faced pot bunkers can present maintenance challenges due to erosion and exposure to the elements. But the TPC overcame these by utilizing a product called Dura-bunker, which employs recycled synthetic material to build highly resilient, cost-effective revetted bunkers in any climate. Whereas standard sod-faced bunkers often require reconstruction after two years, these bunkers last for at least 20. durabunker.com; tpc.com/colorado

A Ladies' First

IN AN EFFORT TO honor and promote its members clubs' community involvement, The **Colorado Women's Golf Association** has instituted a Club of the Year Award, which recognizes the charitable contributions of a women's club at a particular course, as well as a club's innovation and commitment to growing the game. At this March's annual meeting, two clubs with long histories of service received the inaugural honor: The **Fitzsimons Women's Golf Association** (FWGA) and **Patty Jewett Women's Golf Club** (PJWGC).

For more than a half-century, Fitzsimons Golf Course's connection to the now-closed Fitzsimons Army Hospital led to the FWGA's involvement in supporting convalescent soldiers. The FWGA last year paid tribute to its 12 "80s Ladies"—many of them CWGA champions—who have selflessly served as doctors, nurses and military wives, and who have kept alive the FWGA and its spirit of community service. For the past five years the FWGA has sponsored golf events for The Komen Foundation and Colorado Alzheimer's Chapters.

Representing the Colorado Springs course that hosted the first-ever CWGA meeting in 1916, the PJWGC won last year's CWGA Club Team Championship. The 96-member club also distinguished itself at its annual July benefit by raising \$9,000 for the Women's Resource Agency, an organization that teaches, empowers and advocates for women and girls of the Pikes Peak region to attain and maintain personal self-sufficiency and

QUEENS OF CLUBS: Tracey Hess of Patty Jewett (left) and Liz Sanchez of Fitzsimons.



economic independence. Additionally, during its holiday party, the PJWGC raised \$1,792 for the Urban Peak Colorado Springs emergency shelter.

Women's clubs also receiving consideration for this year's award came from Brighton's **Riverdale Golf Courses** and Pueblo West's **Desert Hawk Golf Course**—which respectively raised \$7,000 and \$28,330 at Susan G. Komen Rally for the Cure tournaments—and Delta's **Devils Thumb Golf Course**. coloradowomensgolf.org

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2017 GEAR GUIDE

By Ted Johnson

TECHNOLOGY continues to improve the performance of golf clubs. Despite USGA limits, club designers are finding new ways to make the ball leave clubfaces at ever-faster speeds. Iron faces are getting thinner and thus “springier.” Golf balls have softer covers to produce stop-fast control but fly even further. Milling techniques produce more spin and buttery sensations of “feel.”

The 2017 *Colorado AvidGolfer* Gear Guide lists clubs and balls that can increase your enjoyment of our favorite pastime. Our selections help narrow the number of products you should try and see for yourself.

The club manufacturers stress the need for “fitting” to help us achieve greater consistency. Quantitative analysis does enable us to achieve better results, but remember you can't just buy a better game. Lessons and practice are also rumored to help.

DRIVERS



Callaway Epic \$500

- Thinner face over wider area
- Two titanium bars add strength so more thin face in hitting area
- Face is at USGA limit, like competitors



Callaway Big Bertha Fusion \$400

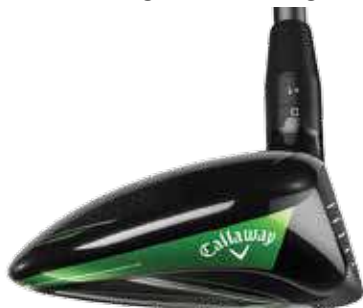
- 65% lighter than titanium
- Carbon composite panels add amazing stability = down the middle
- 44.5-inch version for shorter people



Cobra F7 \$350

- Easy adjustability to fit you
- Lofts range from 9-12 degrees and easy to see on hosel
- F7+ version for low handicaps, \$50 more

FAIRWAY METALS + HYBRIDS



Callaway Epic \$280

- Thinner face over wider area
- Carbon fiber crown lowers Cg = higher launch
- Henrik Stenson uses it



Tour Edge Exotics X11 \$450

- Thin face for more ball speed
- Ti alloy frame + tungsten weight in sole for high ball flight
- Performance has its price



Knuth High Heat \$300

- Advanced spring-like affect
- Beta ti face is wider yet provides hot ball speed; hybrid coming soon
- 3-wood not lower than 15 degrees

IRONS



Mizuno MP-25 \$1,200

- Classic blade look hides tech
- Boron-infused steel = thinner face, more distance
- Best-looking clubs in the club



Wilson Staff FG V6 Tour \$1,000

- Shotmaker's club
- 8620 steel 4 ultimate soft feel, center-of-face mass for draws & fades
- Shape it both ways



Srixon Z765 \$1,000

- Performs without intimidation
- Tungsten sole weight + unique leading edge produces clean contact
- 12-18 handicappers take a look

WEDGES



Cleveland RTX-3 \$130

- Choose from 3 sole grinds
- Classic shape, new Rotex micro-milling on face = pull-it-back shots
- Get the "raw" finish like your PGA pro



Ping Glide 2.0 \$140

- More spin from sharper edges
- More volume in grooves + more edges on 56 degrees & up = control
- Use it for shots from fairway, too



Wilson FG Tour PMP \$100

- Custom-bending = 97 lofts
- More micro edges between wider grooves = more contact for spin
- Classic Wilson shape and great price



Bridgestone XD5 \$700

- X3 easy to hit; X7 has pear shape
- 460cc head with flat head, shallow face = high launch on draw bias
- Fitting required at Bridgestone center



Tour Edge XJ1 \$700

- 9-1-1 Ti head lighter, stronger
- Easier to generate higher swing speeds with hot face for high flight
- Pricey, but top performance



Wilson D3 \$350

- Lightest driver on the market
- Redesigned head reduces aerodynamic drag for better impact speed
- Stronger players might overswing



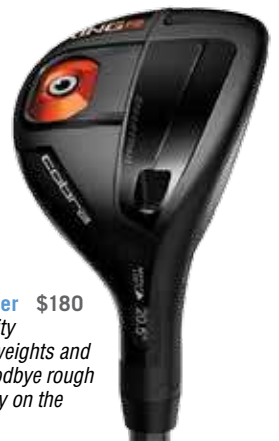
TaylorMade M2 \$250

- Continues popular wood line
- Slot in sole across entire face = flex at USGA limit
- Tour pros love it



Callaway Apex Hybrid \$220

- Thin, strong steel face
- Higher ball flight + shaping shots = bye bye long irons
- Compact shape may intimidate some



Cobra F6 King Baffler \$180

- Rails for escapability
- Moveable interior weights and rails on sole = goodbye rough
- Easy to adjust, easy on the wallet



Callaway Steelhead \$800

- To reintroduce veritable classic
- Favorite head now has wraparound face, Cg low & back
- Great deal if a little too retro for some



Wilson D300 \$800

- Hot face for distance
- Supreme perimeter weighting, thin face and high ball flight
- Good set for novice to avoid beginner



Cobra F7 One Length \$800

- Every club cut to 7-iron length
- Consistency from same address & same swing on every shot
- Getting fit helps, but brings confidence



Callaway Mack Daddy \$160

- Cg goes up in higher lofts
- Phil Mickelson drives his wedges, as higher lofts bring lower flight
- Aggressive sole appeals to better player



Hogan TK 15 \$150

- Each loft has unique weighting
- Low lofts have weight on edges and higher = more forgiveness
- Requires great insight into your game



Cobra King Pur \$120

- Induces clean contact
- Sole cutout allows for myriad lies and tight set-up at address
- Yes, even you can hit the flop now

PUTTERS



Carbon Project Roulette Ringo \$340

- 3 milling options for sound/feel
- Made to appeal to how you hear impact, sound being feel
- Feel ensures confidence on fast greens



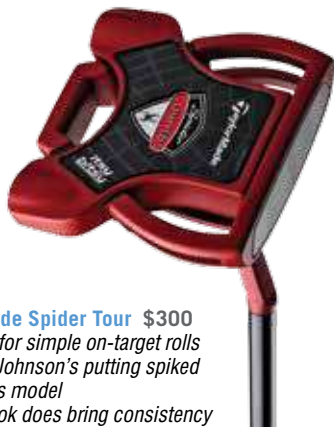
Cleveland Huntington Beach \$100

- A steal of technology for price
- Milled face is deeper, resulting in cushioned sensation at impact
- Better on fast, rather than furry, greens



Odyssey O-Works \$230

- No. 1 head type on PGA Tour
- Semi-mallet has steel-elastomer grooves for pure roll
- Amazing balance, huge sweetspot



TaylorMade Spider Tour \$300

- Design for simple on-target rolls
- Dustin Johnson's putting spiked with this model
- Boxy look does bring consistency



Odyssey Toulon Design \$400

- Crosshatch milling for pure roll
- Former head of TaylorMade club design unveils personal putter line
- Flying wings for the eye-opening price



Wilson 8802 \$170

- Retro classic makes list again
- Rear-shafted & milled blade for those who "feel" their putts going in
- Arnold Palmer played it; why not you?

BALLS



Callaway Chrome Soft \$40

- 3-piece ball growing in popularity
- Low compression, but SoftFast core returns to shape faster = low spin
- DuraSpin cover softest in Callaway line



Costco Kirkland \$15

- 3-piece ball too hot to sell
- Reviews said it compares to ProV1s but at one-third the price
- Sold out at Costco; check eBay



Bridgestone B330 \$45

- High performance 3-piece ball
- Tiger plays it; pros like performance and durability & high spin
- B330S model softer



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- 3-piece & special cover coating
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Wilson Duo \$27

- Very low 35 compression
- Soft but cover-core combo creates high launch, no spin for added distance
- Great price for the performance



Titleist NXT S \$34

- Best deal in Titleist line
- Same core as ProV1 but firmer cover for less spin off driver
- Slower swing speeds still get Titleist grab

Revival of the Fittest

If the sticks fit, you've got a better chance of finding the sweet spot. Here's why custom clubfitting is thriving, and what it can do for you.

By Andy Bigford

NO WONDER this game is so frustrating. I need to turn up the Smash Factor while controlling my Spin Rate, but my shafts aren't even "pured." My 3-wood is too stiff, my 4-wood is actually a 5-wood, and my wedges aren't properly gapped. As for my volatile 21-degree hybrid? Despite having a shaft that is emblazoned with a big "S" for stiff, its whippy flex is better suited for a beginner.

Those are just a few of the things I learned in a whirlwind immersion into the high-tech world of custom clubfitting (along with discovering that my right arm is a half-inch longer than my left). It's a near certainty that many and perhaps most of the 14 clubs in your bag are not fit properly. Visiting a vendor-agnostic custom clubfitter and builder—who has access to multiple brands and shafts—can lower your score. Whether you are looking for new clubs, dialing in an adjustable driver to offset a slice and maximize distance, or just trying to make sense of your current bag, a clubfitting session can help pinpoint your problems and resolve them.

Custom clubfitting dates back to Old Tom Morris, but it was introduced to the broad market a couple of decades ago by companies like Hot Stix and Cool Clubs. With ever-improving technology and a broadening appeal to savvy customers, it's enjoying a boom nationwide and in Colorado,



where options are increasing dramatically.

Club and ball-tracking simulators (TrackMan is the frontrunner) utilize Doppler radar to record a litany of swing traits, and to essentially identify your golf DNA. The most critical is usually the Smash Factor, expressed as the ratio of ball speed to clubhead speed, because it measures your ultimate efficiency. But the tracking software also spits out columns of other important data, including club delivery, launch angle, spin rate, shot dispersion, carry and total yards.

Clubfitters follow a basic protocol of first learning about your game, then matching those characteristics to the right shaft (and grip) and then clubhead. Shaft variables include weight, length, flex and flex profile, and finding the right clubhead means dialing in the appropriate loft, lie and swingweight.

Your club pro, favorite golf retailer, or the brand reps at the demo day at your local range might all utilize launch monitors to help with fittings. But investing in a custom clubfitting, which can cost upwards of \$350 if you go all out for a three-hour, full-bag process, takes it to the PGA-Tour-player level in terms of expertise, experimentation and options. With an inventory of most club brands, shafts and grips—up to 35,000 options in some cases—custom clubfitters can dramatically increase your odds of finding the best needle in a haystack.

Gott takes a distinctly different approach from the other fitters I visited. He resists working inside, needing to see turf interaction with grass rather than on a synthetic surface, and he wants to see your ball flight with his own eyes. He asks about my game, but embraces entering our process “blind” in order to reach his own observations and opinions.

In a two-week period, I visited four custom clubfitters in the Denver area. While the goals and tracking data are fairly consistent across the spectrum, approaches can vary significantly from shop to shop. My clubfitting journey took me from the veterans at D’Lance to the new Fitting Van at the PGA Superstore, and from newly opened Club Champion Golf in Highlands Ranch to the range at CommonGround Golf Course with Gott Golf. Here’s what I learned along the way:

D’LANCE GOLF, Englewood

Dan Sultz, a chemical engineer by training, is the godfather of Colorado clubfitting. He’s fitted more than 10,000 golfers since he opened shop in 1996, and is headquartered in an office complex next to the Inverness Golf Club. D’Lance was voted as the Best Golf Store in the 2017 CAGGY Awards, and his system is the most detailed and systematic of any outfit I visited, primarily because he set out to make it repeatable, and not subject to the whims of an individual clubfitter. Called BGF (Better Golf...Faster), it’s licensed to the Golf Etc. retail chain. D’Lance (the name

combines the founder’s first initial with the name of his son) has been named a Golf Digest Top 100 Clubfitter every year since 2011, and Sultz also mentored a half-dozen other fitters who went on to make the list.

Sultz starts with a detailed questionnaire on background, ability, rounds played, practice habits, strengths, weaknesses, mental approach, current clubs, ball type and even arm measurements. This information, along with swing data from TrackMan and a Mizuno Shaft Optimizer, allows him to establish a profile that he will then begin to match, by trial and error, with the correct shafts, clubheads and set-up.

After measuring my current bag, Sultz delivers the bad news on my fairway woods and, most distressingly, the verdict on my supposedly stiff-shafted 21-degree hybrid, which is actually the equivalent of a soft regular (no wonder it’s been the most inconsistent club in my bag).

D’Lance is old-school, believing that a graphically attractive simulator screen is merely “entertainment,” and even a distraction. So I hit balls into a net; the four bays here are actually open 24/7 for practice. We eventually dial in on a driver shaft, but it’s pricey at \$450. Using his proprietary technology, Sultz quickly finds another shaft with the same characteristics and half the price. D’Lance keeps all its customers’ records and recommendations on file, so if their game changes, they can return for an update via D’Lance’s lifetime fitting guarantee.

PGA SUPERSTORE FITTING VAN, Greenwood Village

The PGA Superstore is a growing national chain (28 stores and counting) owned by Arthur Blank, founder of The Home Depot and owner of the Atlanta Falcons. The Fitting Van segment is essentially a “store within a store,” opening a year ago under the auspices of nine-year-fitting veteran Blake Miles.

While retail customers at the Superstore have access to their own fitting bays and staff help, the Fitting Van segment gives you Miles’ undivided attention and expertise, and dramatically expanded options. Similar to other clubfitters, a customer might choose shaft options that cost the same as the original equipment in a purchase, or choose to upgrade and pay the difference.

Miles, quickly assessing my capabilities and preferences, steers me toward a shaft made by Boulder-based KBS, the creation of shaft guru Kim Braly, who pioneered the stepless RIFLE shaft. Noting my affinity for my classic, 12-year-old Taylor Made RAC LT irons, Miles suggests today’s equivalent from the TaylorMade family, the PSi. Miles also explains a simple fact in the iron evolution, that lofts have been strengthened across the board in recent years, so my old 31-degree RAC 6-iron is roughly equal to the 31.5-degree PSi 7-iron. The clubs feel good, and the expanded on-screen graphics at the Fitting Van, showing where the ball hits on the face, are the most impressive I would see on my tour.

Matt Corey, the Atlanta-based chief marketing officer for PGA Superstore, notes that every Superstore is designed around technology first. The store’s goal is to find the gear “that’s best for you,” and none of the employees work on commission. It’s also the clear value leader: The \$99.99 full bag fit is less than a third of what other premium clubfitters charge.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY SHAW WELSEN



Fits to be Tried

Club Champion

2670 E. County Line Rd., Suite A2,
Highlands Ranch
clubchampiongolf.com
720-638-4633

D'Lance Golf

14 Inverness Dr. E,
Englewood
dlancegolf.com
303-730-2717

Gott Golf Clubfitting

CommonGround Golf Course
10300 E. Golfers Way,
Aurora
gottgolf.com
303-345-5442

PGA TOUR Superstore

9451 E Arapahoe Rd.,
Greenwood Village
pgatoursuperstore.com/Denver
720-266-2400

GOTT GOLF, COMMONGROUND, Aurora

Is clubfitting a science, art or a little bit of both? Brian Gott, who is based on the practice range at CommonGround Golf Course, can go either way, but seems to prefer to approach it as art.

Gott, who was the 2016 Callaway Clubfitter of the Year and is also a PGA certified professional, takes a distinctly different approach from the other fitters I visited. He resists working inside, needing to see turf interaction with grass rather than on a synthetic surface, and he wants to see your ball flight with his own eyes. He asks a few questions about my game and goals, but embraces entering our process “blind,” preferring to reach his own observations and opinions. He also dismisses the Club-Connex type system that



VARIETY HOURS: Club Champion offers more than 35,000 hittable head and shaft combinations.

is the foundation of the clubfitting world, allowing fitters to quickly snap iron clubheads into different shafts during the fitting process. The system adds a few grams of weight, and Gott prefers his own cart of a few dozen “glued” Callaway club-head-shaft options (he also fits and builds Pings and Mizunos).

After watching me hit balls with my own clubs, Gott begins with bookend shafts—one feather-light, the other heavy—before honing in to the target weight, flex and profile. His recommendation falls in line with what fitters concluded elsewhere, though Gott never even turns on his TrackMan, which he says is not uncommon. “I can see it,” he says. Gott’s reputation and clientele speak for themselves; former Denver Nuggets coach George Karl is behind me in line as Gott’s next appointment.

Before I depart, I show Gott my new Titleist 917 D2 driver; I’d had an inch taken off the shaft, then added weight fore and aft to the sole to restore the swing weight. He signals his approval, noting that the 46-inch drivers often sold at retail might initially produce prodigious drives, but that a shorter club will be much more controllable and consistent in the long run.

CLUB CHAMPION, Highlands Ranch

This Oak Brook, Ill.-based outfit presents an impressive, complete package for the serious golfer seeking a modern, resource-laden experience. Beyond the David Leadbetter TV commercials and the limited-time 50-percent discount coupon the company offered to all Colorado Golf Association members when its Highlands Ranch store opened in January, Club Champion displays a core commitment to quality, service and detail.

The knowledge and passion of Master Fitter and Builder Mitch Anderson is immediately apparent. After spending a decade fitting clubs at retail, Anderson is ecstatic about the resources he wields here, especially after spending a month training at the company’s headquarters in Oak Brook, where the club builds are performed for the group’s 17 stores. “I feel like I’ve gone from the minors to the major leagues,” Anderson says.

“The shaft is your engine,” Anderson says as he guides me through the first step of the fit process, and then tells me about Club Champion’s commitment to “puring” all its shafts. Shafts begin as sheets of steel, which are then cut and rolled to a seam to create a shaft. The seam is fused, then buffed clean so it’s not visible. But this “pure line” is the strongest part of the shaft, and should be facing the target. Most shaft producers don’t mark the pure line, so Club Champion does it in-house. We also utilize the on-site SAM PuttLab, which quantifies some 28 elements of the stroke and roll, and determine that I have the right putter type but would benefit from a larger grip.

Club Champion books fittings by appointment only. A 3½-hour full-bag fitting runs \$350.

All told, my sojourn into the once-mysterious clubfitting world served as the most eye-opening gear education of my 40-plus years as a golfer. The recommended clubs helped me hit the ball farther, higher and straighter with more confidence, and I now have a clear plan of what clubs to buy next and—just as importantly—why. 

CAG contributor Andy Bigford is the editor of Ski Inc. (skiamondconsulting.com).

Wearing It Well

Sophisticated fabrics and bright colors highlight this season's golfwear.

By Suzanne S. Brown



HOW THE WEST IS WORN Who says all polo shirts are built alike? Not Mike McCrae, founder of **QED Style**. The boutique men's line, headquartered in Salt Lake City, features subtle western styling such as piping, yokes and snap closures. The Provo polo (above right, \$105), comes in a brown or blue paisley print, while the slim-fit Sugarhouse polo, \$125, has a denim print and jean-style detailing including pocked rivets and triple needle stitching. qedstyle.com

PRINTS CHARMING Solids are a staple in golfwear but upping your game is easy when you add some pattern to your wardrobe. **Ellabelle**, started in Colorado by Heidi Ehrlich and Lisa Holste four years ago to add more feminine styling and fit to on-course clothing, expanded its spring line with a dress in a bright confetti print and also uses the pattern in its signature ruffled "Flirt" skirt. The dress with mandarin collar and tiered skirt is \$100; skirt, \$90; and shorts to wear underneath either piece, \$25. ellabelle.com



All Dialed In

Shoelaces are so last year. The biggest innovation in performance footwear is the lacing system created by Denver-based **Boa Technology**. Originally used in snowboard boots, the system makes sense for golf as well. It works like this: you slip your foot into the shoe and turn a dial (on the tongue or heel) to adjust the strong, lightweight wire laces and get a secure, comfortable closure. When it's time to take them off, you simply pull up on the dial for a quick release. The only drawback is that you'll pay more than for shoes with standard lacing. Models from Adidas Golf, Ecco, FootJoy and Nike range from \$155 to \$230. boatechnology.com





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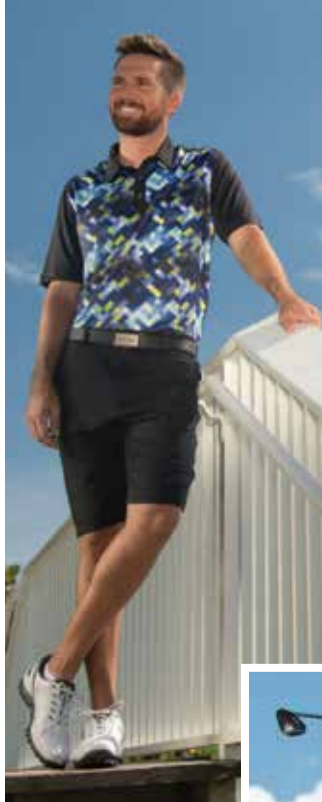
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MULTITASKING FASHION Golfino knows men and women want styles that can go seamlessly from the office to outdoors. The German company produces such items as a women's wind-protection microfiber vest, \$299. It's worn here over a short-sleeved polo, \$129, and stretch cotton Capri pants, \$189—both of which could be teamed with sportswear and be perfect for traveling. The brand is sold at a number of area country clubs, including Castle Pines, Cherry Hills, Denver and Glenmoor. golfino.com



CUT TO THE CHASE

Fabric innovation is a signature of **Chase54**. Designer Lulu Faddis introduced reflective technology to fabric used in polo shirts so that they emit a glow in the low light of either morning or evening. The polos come in ombre prints such as the Equinox (below), or color-blocked Spectre (left) designs with patterned front and solid sleeves and back, both \$79.50. The Pioneer Trekker shorts, \$79, are made from the company's moisture-wicking Dryfuzze material. chase54.com



DRESSED TO IMPRESS

Sleek, stretchy and comfortable, Tail Activewear's Maceo dress is part of its Botanica collection featuring tropical prints and solids in black, white and pink. Made of polyester-spandex blend with UPF 50 sun protection, the palm-patterned dress has a zipper placket and pockets and built-in shorts, \$99. tailactivewear.com

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TOP PERFORMANCE Lakewood-based **Bette & Court's** Cool Elements women's shirts pack an impressive list of features. The nylon-spandex fabric blend has a UPF 50 sun protection rating, is cooling, moisture-wicking, fast-drying and anti-bacterial. There's mesh under the sleeve for added air circulation, \$76. The long-sleeve tops come in a dozen colors. The company has other versions in prints and with different collar treatments, including a crew-neck style that would be as perfect for a yoga class as it would 18 holes of golf. bette-court.com

SAVE IT FOR A RAINY DAY

Afternoon rainstorms don't have to be round-killers. **Footjoy's** lightweight, stretchy and 100 percent waterproof DryJoys Tour LTS jacket reduces the number of panels and seams to make it lighter and improve mobility, while its Ther-molite liner helps regulate body temperature. The jacket, \$285, and pants, \$210, will be available starting in July. footjoy.com



Suzanne S. Brown is the former fashion and features editor for *The Denver Post*. She also contributes to *Mountain Living* and *Colorado Expression*.



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17 for '17, Cont.

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DRIVE THAT TEE INTO THE SAND

Most amateurs who struggle with greenside bunker shots release their wrist angle too soon and either hit the sand too early and leave the ball in the bunker, or they bring the club in too shallow and hit the ball instead of the sand, which rockets the ball into the lip or completely over the green. Greenside bunkers require a high soft shot in order to keep the ball on the green. To accomplish this, establish a nice setup with the ball positioned a little forward of center. Make sure to set the angle of your wrists on the backswing and maintain that angle as you approach the sand with your club. To remind yourself of this, stick a tee in the end of your grip. As you make your downswing, drive that tee towards the sand for better bunker shots.

—Doug Perry, PGA Professional, City Park Nine, Fort Collins & Co-Host, "Morning Cup of Golf," 600 KCOL Radio

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TIM O'HARA

STOP SCOOPING

For more consistent pitch shots around the green, don't try to "help" the ball into the air by flipping your wrists at impact. To break the habit, slip an alignment stick into your grip so that it extends upward on the same angle as the club. When making your pitching motion the alignment stick should not touch your body at any time during the motion from waist high on the backswing to waist high on the followthrough.

This drill will keep you from breaking your wrists while pitching which allows the club to contact the ball on a downward motion producing elevation of the ball with spin and a soft controlled landing. This practice will also help train your upper torso and shoulders to finish through the shot so you are contacting the ball first, not scooping your shots around the green. The drill also requires you to begin your pitching motion with your hands in front of the ball and keeps them in front of the clubhead through the contact area.

—Stan Fenn, PGA Director of Instruction, Golf Academy of Northern Colorado at Harmony Club, Timnath, & Co-Host, "Morning Cup of Golf," 600 KCOL Radio





STRING TRAINING

To become a great short putter, you need to commit to your intended line, aim the ball on your intended line and start the ball on your intended line. And what better way to see that line than with a taut piece of string?

To execute this drill, tie two knitting needles to opposite ends of 10- to 12-foot elastic string or cord.

For straight putts: Set one knitting needle into the green anywhere between six and eight feet from the hole, put the second knitting needle a couple of inches directly behind the hole.

For right-to-left breaking putts: Place one knitting needle anywhere between six and eight feet from the hole and the second needle to the right of the hole, the amount you decide it will break from right to left. It's just the opposite for a left-to-right sloping putt. This is a great way to determine and practice slope and speed.

Set the ball directly underneath the string, inside the two knitting needles at your desired distance.

Aim the putter directly along the string.

Check that your eyes are over the ball. Look at the hole, train yourself to see the line.

Start the ball on the intended line (this will give you great feedback of how square the face is at impact).

—Elena King, LPGA Professional, ExperienceGolf, CommonGround Golf Course, Aurora



LOOK AHEAD

This tip regarding putting is a bit like when Jordan Spieth looks at the hole while putting. One principle of putting is to keep the body still and only swing your arms and shoulders. A great way to learn to do this is to look straight ahead and swing your putter. You will realize you have created perfect pace doing this drill. The putter swings through the ball with no hesitation or “hit” of the putt, just a perfect stroke. Your contact of the ball is solid and it is so easy for your brain to absorb the feel of good pace. Distance is the key to putting and this will help you judge the correct distance with ease.

—Ann Finke, PGA Director of Instruction, Country Club of Colorado, Colorado Springs



TAKE IT INSIDE

You can improve your short game indoors. Perhaps the most important factor in helping your touch around the greens is hitting the ball solid. To practice solid contact, hit a table tennis ball off the carpet. Pay attention to what you hear. Listen for the simultaneous thump of the wedge's sole on the carpet and the click of crisp contact with the ball. Hearing those two sounds simultaneously ensures you have made solid contact—whether indoors or out. If you hit the ground first you will hear the thump and then the click. That's a “fat” or “chunked” shot. If you don't hear the thump and all you hear is the click, you've bladed the ball. At least with a Ping-Pong ball, you won't break a window.

—Andy Hilts, GolfTEC, Centennial

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AT THE PLATE: Clockwise, from left, Tavern Downtown's setting; wings, pizza, sliders; Otra Vez's Margarita de Casa and Pork Belly, Chicken Tinga, Vegetal Tacos; Tavern Downtown's patio.

Eating Leadoff

Every day is like Opening Day at the Tavern Downtown—one of the 14 restaurants in power hitter Frank Schultz's THG lineup. By Gary James

BASEBALL SEASON IS UPON US, and pending the inevitable August-September collapse, there's no better place to enhance a Colorado Rockies game-day experience than from a rooftop at—or across the street from—Coors Field. While other LoDo sports-viewing spots have come and gone, the comfortable Tavern Downtown has stood the test of time.

The Tavern Hospitality Group (THG) currently operates nine neighborhood Taverns (including the beverages-only Tavern Ballpark inside Coors Field and Tavern Mile High at Sports Authority Field at Mile High), plus Whiskey Tango Foxtrot, Chopper's Sports Grill, Cowboy Lounge, the Soiled Dove Underground and the new Otra Vez, but the mini-empire of establishments isn't

a chain—no two spaces are exactly alike. The Tavern Downtown provides a destination for sports enthusiasts, with a *yuge* patio and eight-foot projection screens catering to fans convening from all over the country. And while it's one of Denver's most acclaimed sports bars—numerous HD TVs and friendly service—it places equal focus on serving quality food.

"People may stop in to a Tavern just for drinks, but we get them to stay by offering great menu options," says Frank Schultz, the colorful owner of THG. "With new bars and restaurants opening daily in Denver, you really have to step it up and evolve with the times."

When he was a novice restaurateur, Schultz's fortunes turned for the better when he hired folks like Bill Schallmoser (formerly of the Denver ChopHouse) and Tim Hudon (a Culinary Institute of America grad) to oversee his menus. By placing importance on purchasing fresh high-quality ingredients, incorporating local products whenever possible and preparing most everything from scratch, they elevated basic bar food to upscale American-style cuisine.

THG has an entire culinary team that oversees the menus, tasting, point of sale, buying, etc., for all of the properties—and the Tavern Downtown benefits from their ideas and research. So while there's a focus on the wings-burgers-and-fries classics, there's nothing boring about items like the Asian Lettuce Wrap, Grilled Fish Tacos and a variety of Italian Pies ("fancy flatbreads").

The Tavern Downtown does earn the ultimate compliment for a sports bar—they do a great burger. All variations are made from local beef; the favorite is the Volcano Burger—pepper jack cheese, honey peppered bacon, chipotle BBQ sauce and aioli with crispy, spicy fried jalapeño coins, served on a brioche bun. Other popular sandwiches include the Ham & Cheese Pretzel (grilled ham and Swiss with thyme butter, served with beer mustard on a pretzel roll), the Avocado Chicken



A New Mexican

Schultz describes **OTRA VEZ**, the Tavern Hospitality Group's new bar/restaurant between California and Welton on the 16th St. Mall, as a "twisted Mexican concept." Pouring 200 tequilas, Otra Vez dishes up the inspired creations of chef Dasha Perez-Haney, whose take on Mexican fare comes with a South American influence. Previously THG's executive chef at Whiskey Tango Foxtrot, she recently competed in an episode of Food Network's "Chopped."

OTRA VEZ PHOTOGRAPHS BY ASHTON RAY HANSEN



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Side Bets | FAREWAYS



PLACES LOADED: The bustling Tavern Downtown; Whiskey Tango Foxtrot's Pork Wings and Foxtrot Fried Chicken.

(a seared thigh—power to the dark meat!) and the Tavern Croissant Club.

The “Let’s Call These Entrees” section of the menu features the Ultimate Mac, macaroni and cheese done as well as anywhere—shell pasta, grilled chicken and bacon, tomatoes and green onions for color and crunch, in a sharp, rich cheddar cheese sauce.

Finger foods (classified as “Friends of Beer” on the menu) are de rigueur sports party supplies—you know, to leave one arm free to hold a drink or shake a hand or fist bump—and the preparation of the Tavern Nachos is engaging in that each individual chip is topped with an amount of all ingredients (refried beans, pepper jack cheese, green onions and jalapeños and a choice of grilled chicken, shaved beef or vegetarian, served with sour cream and salsa).

And there’s recourse for those who prefer to pair a healthier choice with their beer(s). The Buffalo Cauliflower—lightly breaded and roasted, tossed in buffalo sauce and served with ranch dressing—revamps the “tastes good, good for you” model. Gluten-free menu items abound, while soups and salads go under the tongue-in-cheek heading “Obligatory Healthy Stuff.”

“That kind of trendiness seems to be a goal for a lot of places,” Schultz says with a shrug. “By definition, trendiness eventually goes out of style. We’re here to stick around.”

1949 Market St.
tavernhg.com; 303-299-0100

Read more of Contributor Gary James’ Fareways columns on coloradoavidgolfer.com.



Rockie Road

Schultz’s assessment of the **ROCKIES’** chances for the 2017 season? “Expect the worst and hope for the best!” he says with a laugh. “They still draw. It’s when people leave the game—they don’t want a drink when the team loses.” Speak for yourself!



WTF?

The other Tavern property that’s great for hanging out before, during or after Rockies games? **WHISKEY TANGO FOXTROT**, just down the street from Coors Field at 20th and Chestnut. A rooftop patio offers a view of the ballpark, and the “home-style with a twist” cuisine is imaginative—try the signature Foxtrot Fried Chicken with a Honey Sriracha Drizzle.



Mastering Beer Styles

Hunkering down to watch the first of the four majors? If you want to make it to Sunday, here's some local knowledge. By Cody Gabbard



WITH ALL DUE RESPECT to wraparound-season events, the Masters will always signal the beginning of the golf season. In preparation for some weekend binge-watching, you'll want some beers you can enjoy all day without filling up or tipping over. Lucky for us, breweries are rebooting classic light lager styles that are widely available, including the following Colorado-made beers.

AMERICAN PALE LAGERS

A general term for all-malt, low alcohol lagers produced in the US, American Pale Lagers are usually similar in design to European versions, but with American characteristics. APLs forsake taste- and body-thinning adjuncts such as rice or corn, which usually results in more complex, full-bodied flavor. They typically have higher hopping rates and a more resinous flavor than their herbal

and spicy counterparts across the ocean.

If you're a Coors devotee, then look for its AC Golden brand, which brews beers more associated with craft culture, namely the **Colorado Native** lagers. Coors' Native series is brewed with 100% Colorado-grown and sourced ingredients. Golden Lager is ultra-drinkable and has a bit more malt flavor than its Banquet and Light cousins. It still features some of the astringency you find in macro-produced lagers, but is great for those looking to try an all-malt brew without veering too far away from more commercial light products.

A great standby is **Upslope Brewing Company's Craft Lager**. Clean, crisp and refreshing, Craft Lager can be drunk by itself all day or enjoyed with pretty much any meal. Made with all-malt and no adjuncts, it isn't filling and stores well in eco-friendly cans.

Upslope donates one percent of all revenues to local chapters of Trout Unlimited to protect watersheds, so you're drinking for a good cause.

BOHEMIAN PILSENER

The original pale lager created in 1842, Bohemian (or Czech) Pilsener remains the most copied and popular beer on the planet. It's characterized by a crisp yet complex flavor and valued most for its refreshing qualities. The Plzen region in which it was originally brewed is known for its low-mineral water, which lends well to a soft hop profile.

The best versions will have a spicy hop aroma and flavor with a dense, creamy head.

For a local version try **New Belgium's Pilsener**. Grainy malt and herbal hop aromas lead the way for a slightly sweet malt flavor and mild to moderate bitterness. The flavorful malt and dry crispness make it perfect for sticky chicken wings and other rich party dishes.

GERMAN PILSENER

The Germans adapted Bohemian Pilsener to Bavarian brewing conditions. German water contains a higher percentage of sulfates than that found in the Czech Republic, so hops are featured more prominently in these versions. German Pilsners will also be more highly attenuated (more of the sugars fermented out) and thus drier and crisper. The Beer Judge Certification Program sets the standards for beer styles and offers examples of commercial beers for each, with **Left Hand Brewing Company's Polestar Pilsner** listed right next to the finest German versions. Left Hand uses American hop varieties in Polestar, but you won't find a finer example of this most classic of beers. German Pilsners are great with spicy hors d'oeuvres and Mexican dishes. The clean malt cuts through the heat and herbal hops complement earthy flavors.

MUNICH HELLES

Where Pilseners balance towards hops and bitterness, Munich Helles lagers showcase delicate malts. They evince a grainy sweetness with a bit more body and smoothness. German imports dominate this style, but Tivoli Brewing's namesake beer draws on 150 years of history to continue producing this elegant lager. **Tivoli Beer**, their German-style Helles Lager, is made with all-barley malt using the original recipe from the 1800s. At a recent beer festival, Tivoli's Helles provided a welcome respite amidst a



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Side Bets | TAPPING IN

distraction of overly complicated beers that were no more complex or rich in flavor. The bread-yeast-like flavors of a Helles will pair best with similarly flavored dishes, so if party subs and sandwiches fill your Masters Sunday table, Helles should accompany them.

KÖLSCH

Fermented at higher temperatures than lagers, Kölsch-style beers are like Pilsener's slightly tangier cousins. A range of hop bitterness and fruity yeast character falls within the style parameters, so Kölsch-style beers can vary brewery-to-brewery. Brewed in Poncha Springs, **Elevation Beer Company's 8 Second Kölsch** is available throughout the state. It's an easy-drinking beer with just a touch of lemon zest-like tang and biscuity malt to differentiate it from most low-bittering pale lagers and ales. The hint of fruitiness makes it a perfect companion to salads, especially with tart vinaigrettes. If you want to try something other than a mimosa with brunch, Kölsches will also be perfect with light dishes such as omelets.

CREAM ALE

A truly American creation originally produced to compete with lagers in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, Cream Ales use many of the same ingredients as their lager counterparts, including adjuncts such as rice and corn. This often results in small degrees of sweet corn aroma and flavor. Without a specific type of hop required to adhere to style, breweries have taken liberty in using all types of varieties including dry-hopping to accentuate aroma and flavor. **Denver's Station 26 Brewing Co.'s Colorado Cream and Tangerine Cream** are great examples. Colorado Cream is perfectly smooth and thirst-quenching. It's mostly malt-forward with a luscious body for such a delicate beer. Station 26 uses brown rice to lighten the body and Colorado-grown barley and hops. The fairly neutral flavors are a great canvas for experimentation, with Tangerine Cream utilizing orange zest and vanilla for a slightly sweeter and creamy version of the original.

Whatever your proclivity for beers is, don't limit your high-volume drinking to "light", "lite" and purportedly low carb beers unless you're willing to sacrifice some flavor. Low alcohol and lower calorie beers are abundant if you're willing to understand some basics of the underlying styles. So cheers to another majors season and extended playoffs that offer an excuse to grab another cold one. 🍷



Read more of Contributor Cody Gabbard's Tapping In columns at coloradoavidgolfer.com.

Snap To It!

A former nursery, Augusta National boasts a different flower name for each hole, and the 19th could very well become "**SNAPDRAGON.**" A modern spin on the Azalea Cocktail, the Snapdragon comes from Nicole Laurita, bar manager at Denver's Williams & Graham (named best American Cocktail Bar in 2015 by the Spirited Awards).

Ingredients

1.5 oz Basil Hayden's Bourbon
.5 oz Fresh Lemon Juice
.5 oz Grenadine Syrup
.25 oz Fresh Pineapple Juice
.25 oz Aperol (Italian aperitif made with bitter orange, gentian, rhubarb and cinchona)
2 Strawberries

Directions: Muddle one strawberry and save one for garnish. Add all other ingredients and shake. Double strain into a cocktail glass. Garnish with a strawberry.





ALFA ROMEO GIULIA TI Q4

The Value of Strong Euros

Why Alfa Romeo, Maserati and BMW are worth the investment. By Isaac Bouchard

2017 ALFA ROMEO GIULIA TI Q4

EPA ratings: 23/31mpg; 26mpg combined

0-60mph: 5.1sec

Price as tested: \$50,190

Long in gestation and worth the wait is an accurate summation of the stunning new sedan from Alfa, which, like Maserati, is part of the Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) conglomerate. Its voluptuous skin harkens back to the glorious Alfas of yore and stands starkly against the oft-overwrought styling from some other companies. Spec the Ti package and its included 19-inch telephone-style spoked wheels and this Giulia could easily be mistaken for the flagship 505hp model.

Ferrari's technical director, Philippe Krief, honed the Giulia's all-new platform, which will underpin many other forthcoming FCA products expresses itself in the way the Alfa moves. Aside from a bit of jitter which the low-profile tires can't filter out, the ride quality is supple in either suspension setting and the handling is joyful and exuberant in a way that Audi and BMW have

seemingly exorcised.

The ultra-quick steering rack's 2.3 turns lock-to-lock mean the Giulia corners almost instantaneously, which can take some getting used to. There's incredible composure to the body's motions in all directions, and the Q4's AWD system ensures the tail won't swing out despite the sharp reflexes.

Braking is stout and the 2-liter four has enough power to test the chassis' innate abilities. While its 280hp/306lb numbers and lack of lag are commendable attributes, the low redline and fairly restrained soundtrack mean BMW still has the edge here. The only transmission is a slick 8-speed automatic, whose giant, fixed metal paddle shifters transmit the driver's commands with an addictive amount of tactile feedback.

While the Giulia cockpit doesn't display the depth of material quality of an Audi, at least it doesn't use the Chrysler switches and controls that Maserati employs. Its dash design is compelling, with a cut-back top and deeply cowed instruments. The infotainment system is nicely handled, fast and intuitive, if not quite up to the level of tech displayed in the latest 330i



MASERATI LEVANTE S

or A4. Front seat room is generous and the Ti's sports seats offer a snug embrace; back seat room is more in line with the Cadillac, Lexus and Mercedes junior sedans.

Alfa Romeo stands proudly at the front of the pack dynamically, meaning that some of its more "characterful" traits are more easily overlooked. And for those who are tired of losing their own car in a parking lot full of 3-series, the Giulia's aesthetic merits make it very compelling.

2017 MASERATI LEVANTE S

EPA ratings: 14/19mpg; 16mpg combined

0-60mph: 5.1sec

Price as tested: \$86,575

Maserati has been back on these shores for many years now, but the Levante crossover is the vehicle will almost certainly cement its success. The squinting lights and gaping grill give it the correct amount of lane-clearing aggression, and its stance and hips clearly signal its Italian heritage—while also reminding us how far ahead of its time Infiniti's 2003 FX35 midsize crossover was.

Inside the Levante is roomy for passengers and cargo, having an even longer wheelbase than the current Porsche Cayenne (never mind the Macan) and the ambiance is upscale with lovely leather adorning the seats and stitched materials wrapping the doors and dashtop. The infotainment system is a graphically updated version of Chrysler's UConnect—fast and easily fathomed. But the prodigious use of corporate switches undermines the sophisticated vibe imparted by the gorgeous metal door handles and crescent-form shifter paddles.

The Levante is top-tier in dynamics, combining the biddable handling and excellent mass control of the Jaguar F-Pace and Porsche with the kind of luxurious ride that upscale buyers crave. It is quiet and refined, too—at least until you select Sport mode and the 3-liter, 424hp motor clears its pipes in authentic, glorious and occasionally operatic twin-turbo flourishes.

It does suffer some lag, and it never feels quite as fast as 428lb-ft of torque would suggest, but it is more than rapid enough, and the 8-speed auto's response to driver commands is good compensation. The stoppers are well modulated and powerful as well and the Levante's helm clear in communication.

A decade ago, the original Maserati SUV show vehicles caused distress for the faithful,

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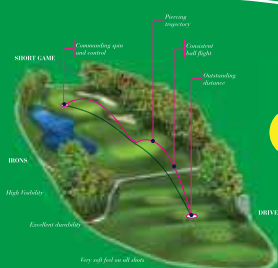


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MASERATI LEVANTE S

but that was then; if this is what it takes to make the Trident relevant once more, so be it. That the Levante introduces such passion to the class is almost a byproduct of its mere presence as an alternative to the typical choices from Europe and Japan.

2017 BMW X4 M40i

EPA ratings: 19/26mpg; 21mpg combined
0-60mph: 4.4sec
Price as tested: \$67,495

With both the X5 and coupe-like X6, BMW was one of the first companies to see how many variants the whole SUV/crossover class would support. So it's eminently logical that they would chop and channel the X3 into a fastback as well. Spiced up in full M-light regalia, it is as aggressive a statement as buyers are seeking, all gaping intake and trumpet exhausts.

Inside, the platform's age is showing, with some materials' shininess betraying their frugal nature, but superbly supportive sports seats and the tactile M steering wheel help. As does the latest version of BMW's iDrive interface, still the standard.

The company's modern classic inline

six is beefed up with steel crank and other reinforcements to handle more boost, and the faster flowing intake and exhaust help unleash 355hp and 343lb-ft of twist. It takes longer to say its full name than it does to sling the BMW X4 M40i past 60mph. The Bavarian also holds its own in the corners, with absurd amounts of lateral g available thanks to its sticky tires and stiff suspension. This X4 also rides really well, something at which BMW has become quite adept thanks to the proper tuning of their adjustable dampers.

This X4 variant lands at an interesting price point: it competes directly with the Macan S and GTS—and offers performance to match or exceed either—yet there is still more cache in the Porsche name for many. It humbles the new Jaguar F-Pace in refinement and ride, but doesn't offer its freshness or roominess. That this platform is still so competitive dynamically, even as it nears the end of its run, is promising news for its replacement and worrying for late arrivals to the party. 🏁

Automotive Editor Isaac Bouchard is president of Bespoke Autos (isaac@bespokeautos.com; 303-475-1462). Read more by him at coloradoavidgolfer.com and bespokeautos.com.



BMW X4 M40i

Come Out And Play.



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It's Not Just About the Golf

BACK IN THE DAY, any country club worth its crest would build a reputation around its golf operation. Golfers, mostly men, ran the clubs, and their thinking was that every dollar a club spent on food and beverage, swimming, tennis and general hospitality wasn't being spent on grooming the fairways, rolling the greens, stocking the pro shop, maintaining caddie programs and cart fleets, and ensuring the quality of the gin in the men's locker and grill rooms.

Times have changed. More than ever, clubs across the country recognize that food, beverage, amenities and programming are the primary drivers for member satisfaction. While course quality remains a factor, a resort-style approach has replaced the golf-centric one.

"With the growth of family engagement and greater time pressures, clubs realize they need to become a one-stop shop for the recreation needs of the entire family," says Kevin Hood, the past president of the Rocky Mountain Club Managers Association and former general manager of Cherry Hills Country Club.

That can mean fitness facilities so members don't need a separate gym membership; healthy casual dining options so they can bring the family; on-site childcare and junior enrichment and sports programs; massage and spa services; events like concerts and culinary classes; cabanas by the pool; and value-adds such as preferred pricing on wine, ski passes and other off-site events and services.

"You have home and work. Clubs want to be and need to be that third place," says Hood. This approach is nothing new at Cherry Creek Country Club, which has succeeded as a "lifestyle club" since opening 15 years ago. Other clubs are also stepping up their game—and growing their memberships as a result.

In the mountains, Frost Creek in Eagle doesn't call itself a country club. Offering access to—and the equipment for—every imaginable

outdoor activity, the property once inhabited by Adam's Mountain Country Club has become an upscale year-round outdoor playground for families, who stay in member cabins, enjoy the amenities of a huge clubhouse and play golf on a glorious Tom Weiskopf-designed course.

Three courses—plus a nine-hole Dave Pelz Short Course—await at The Club at Cordillera, which has thrived under the management of Troon Privé by updating restaurants, pools, fitness facilities, fishing areas and winter activities to attract families year-round. Troon Privé mem-

More than ever, clubs recognize that food, beverage, amenities and programming are the primary drivers for member satisfaction.

bership also gives access to 85 private clubs.

Down the hill, The Club at Flying Horse in Colorado Springs remains a paragon of "lifestyle club," with its tremendous athletic club and spa, expansive pool area, palatial clubhouse, superb steakhouse and sumptuous lodging. Its Weiskopf-designed course will by 2019 have a companion at Flying Horse North, a development in the Black Forest featuring 18 holes designed by former Weiskopf designer Phil Smith.

In Littleton, venerable Columbine Country Club will this year open a new 56,000-square-foot clubhouse with 5,000 square feet of fitness and wellness space, two indoor golf simulators, multiple indoor-outdoor dining options, junior enrichment programs and much more.

Columbine freely admits drawing inspiration from numerous sources, including the

stunning indoor-outdoor dining space that has transformed The Country Club at Castle Pines.

In Westminster, The Ranch Country Club last year debuted a \$5.5 million clubhouse renovation, dramatically expanding the fitness, dining and hospitality spaces to complement its strong golf, tennis and swimming offerings.

ClubCorp, which owns and operates Blackstone Country Club in Aurora, recently invested more than \$1 million in upgrades to the patios, dining facilities, fitness center and pool areas. ClubCorp packages a membership to both Blackstone and Black Bear Golf Club in Parker. As added value, ClubCorp also offers a membership with access to all 300 of its clubs.

Another multi-club owner-operator, Arcis Golf, is also doubling down. The Texas-based firm owns and operates The Pinery and Pradera—two distinct, best-in-class lifestyle clubs separated by less than five miles in Parker. A Summit membership to both clubs delivers 45 holes of golf, 11 tennis courts, three pools, two fitness centers, two junior camps and two fine-dining restaurants. It also offers access to more than 60 Arcis clubs around the country.

All this is not to say golf doesn't remain central to the club experience. Lakewood Country Club will spend \$1.5 million to have Gil Hanse restore its Donald Ross-designed course this year. But this follows the 2008 construction of a new clubhouse to accommodate its expanding list of family-friendly member amenities.

Golf represents just another one of those, just not necessarily the most critical. "Think about it," Hood says. "If you play a great round of golf and have lousy food, it's literally going to leave a bad taste about the club. But you can play a crappy round and have a great meal with your friends afterwards and go home happy."



"IT'S NOTHING SHORT OF SPECTACULAR"

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Changing the Game

How **FROST CREEK** Became Colorado's Mountain Club

SINCE ITS LAUNCH in Spring 2015, Frost Creek's reputation as an innovator in the club industry, both in Colorado and nationally, has grown almost as quickly as its membership. Just as it eschews the words "country club" or "golf club" in its name, Frost Creek continues to break from many of the norms of traditional clubs. It's a path that has caught the attention of roughly 200 members in just two years and has made Frost Creek the fastest growing club in Colorado.

"The golf and country club industry has been going through a lot of change in recent years," said Chad Brue, Frost Creek's owner. "When we acquired the club we knew we had a tremendous asset and opportunity, but we also knew that to make our vision of Frost Creek a reality we'd have to change the game—stand the old club model on its head."

Frost Creek did just that. The first "game changer" was to make what was formerly an extremely exclusive club model more approachable and, more importantly, desirable to a new generation of club members.

BECOMING "COLORADO'S MOUNTAIN CLUB"

"Right out of the gates, we restructured our membership offerings and brought initiation and dues to a level more widely acceptable in today's club atmosphere," said Garrett Si-

mon, partner at Meriwether Companies, Frost Creek's management and development company.

The membership program was also simplified. If you own property in Eagle County, Colorado you are a local member. If not, you are a national member. Both member categories offer social and full membership options. Since National members don't currently own property in Eagle County, Frost Creek offers seven four-bedroom "member cabins" on site for reservation and use by national members and guests when at Frost Creek.

"With membership piece in place, we focused our attention on what made Frost Creek different from other clubs. We have a world class Tom Weiskopf-designed golf course, but great golf is implied," Simon added. "What would keep entire families engaged and using the club?"

Golf, implicit to membership experience at Frost Creek, needed to be reconsidered. Tom Weiskopf has been invited back two times since 2015 and has moved tees and improved navigation, all with the goal of making the course easier to play for novices and those with higher handicaps. The result is a course more approachable for the whole family, while maintaining its challenges for avid golf enthusiasts.

"The response has been tremendous,"

Simon said. "For many, it's made golf fun for the first time."

Equally obvious to Simon, Brue and other members of the Frost Creek team, was that the club's location makes it the perfect portal into the Colorado mountain lifestyle. They just needed to harness it and let people know.

To complement the Weiskopf-designed golf course, 40,000-square-foot clubhouse, pool, tennis and sport courts, Frost Creek cultivated additional amenities endemic to living and recreating in the mountains.

The club bought several stand up paddleboards (SUP) and designated a specific pond on site for their use. A deck and swimming platform were also added to that pond. Other ponds were stocked with trout for angling.

Frost Creek has great fishing for all skill levels and disciplines. Stocked fishing ponds provide a fun and unintimidating way for children and rookies to learn the craft. Fly fishers can explore Frost Creek's private 4 miles of Brush Creek, a classic Eagle County fishery with ample wild trout. The club-record trout is 27 inches and was caught in Summer 2016.

Next was the addition of a fleet of bicycles, fishing rods and tackle, a disc golf course, an archery range, four miles of new soft surface mountain biking, trail running and hiking trails and two yurts for glamor

camping, or “glamping.” If that’s not enough to keep members busy bocce ball, croquet, slacklining and electric fat bikes are also available. New for the 2017 golf season, Frost Creek is the first course in Colorado to stock Golf Skate Caddies, electronic golf skateboards that change the way members approach the game. The “Pool House” doubles as a kids’ activities room with foosball, ping-pong, shuffleboard and a variety of board games for indoor fun.

The club even purchased a fully outfitted member Jeep, complete with Frost Creek logo, to be used by members for a 4x4 adventure to any of the surrounding high alpine attractions. A popular day trip among members is to take the Jeep to SUP or fish at Sylvan Lake State Park, just four miles up Brush Creek Road.

Winter finds the golf course converted to 10km of groomed track for Nordic skiing, fat biking and snowshoeing. Frost Creek’s tennis court is flooded for ice skating and pick-up games of hockey. The warming fire is home to s’mores and great conversations and Frost Creek’s own sledding hill is rumored to be, “really, really fast.”



“Members love the diversity of amenities that we offer and that they can dabble in a different activity every time they are here,” said Mike Gibbs, president and general manager at Frost Creek. “It’s gratifying to know that our non-golfing members can have as much, or more, fun as the golf enthusiasts. I think that’s one of the key differentiating factors for Frost Creek. We’ve been called, ‘Colorado’s Mountain Club’ and I think it’s very fitting.”

INNOVATION BUILDING COMMUNITY

Frost Creek enters its third golf season with a robust and growing membership base, more activities than most summer camps and an earned reputation as an innovator in the club industry. For many clubs that would be enough, but Brue and his team saw continued room for improvement.

“Like the membership structure when we bought the club, the real estate development plan, which was designed and approved more than a decade ago, didn’t satisfy the demands of today’s real estate market,” said Brue. “We have been working to amend it for almost a year and our proposal was approved in January 2017. The approval allows us to do for homesites and homes what we’ve already done for memberships and the general club atmosphere: increase desirability.”

Moving forward, many of Frost Creek’s largest homesites on the valley floor will be divided and reconfigured into one- to three-acre sizes for more modest homes, but still with ample room for entertaining. The new plan clusters homes to create more open space and view corridors. Frost Creek is also reviewing plans to build spec homes and add eight more member cabins to increase capacity for National Members and their guests.

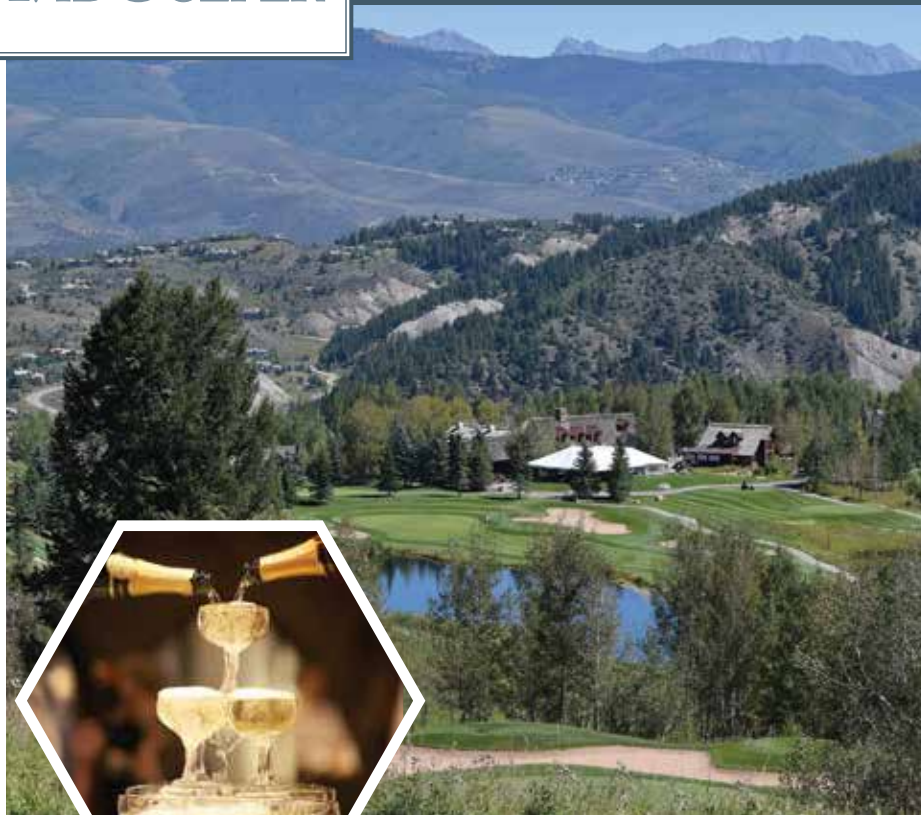
While many members are choosing to buy and build their own home at Frost Creek, the club’s Member cabins remain extremely popular for National Members because



they allow them to utilize the club for days on end without the need to own real estate at Frost Creek or stay in a hotel. Included in the recently approved plan is the ability to add more cabins. Gibbs said this ensures that as membership grows, Frost Creek will still be able to deliver the experience of waking up on site to its growing National Membership.

“When it comes right down to it, innovation and questioning the ‘old model’ is what built the community at Frost Creek,” Brue said. “We’ve created a place for families to escape, make memories and have new and exciting experiences with people who share their passion for great golf and the mountain lifestyle. That’s what’s made Frost Creek successful.”

For information about membership and real estate offerings at Frost Creek, contact Mike Gibbs at 970-328-2326, mgibbs@frostcreek.com or visit www.frostcreek.com. Frost Creek is the 2017 recipient of two of Colorado AvidGolfer’s “CAGGY” Awards. The club won for “Most Coveted Invite, Private” and “Best Mountain Club, Private”.



DON'T MISS:

Our **Season Kick-Off Celebration**, where we welcome all of the members for the season, as well as our **Season Farewell Party** where we bid everyone goodbye until the following spring. No expense is spared with the best in live entertainment, fireworks, impeccable food and drink, and themed events. The **2017 Season Kick-Off** theme will be **"The Great Gatsby"** with entertainers hanging from the banners and champagne from around the world.

WHY JOIN OUR CLUB?

Covering 11 square miles and more than 2,000 feet of elevation gain, Cordillera takes full advantage of its alpine location to promote the active lifestyle its members crave. That means a full assortment of outdoor activities and a jam-packed calendar of social events—from moonlight snowshoeing to shows at the Vilar Performing Center to kids' color runs, outdoor concerts, wing-eating contests, and much more. "We try to do the right thing and get better each and every day," General Manager Mike Henritze says. "Our biggest draw is that we're about fun."

THE CLUB AT CORDILLERA

Location: Edwards
Website: cordillera-vail.com
Initiation: Starting at \$35,000
Dues: \$12,500/year
Membership Contact: Suzanne Morgan
Phone: 970-569-6418
Email: smorgan@troon.com

MEMBER ACTIVITIES AND CLUB BENEFITS:

- Spanning 2,000 feet of elevation change and 7,000 acres, each of our **THREE 18-HOLE CHAMPIONSHIP COURSES**—Valley (7,200 feet), Mountain (8,250) and Summit (9,200)—has its own clubhouse and offers golf experiences as distinctive as their respective architects: Tom Fazio, Hale Irwin and Jack Nicklaus. The courses offer three different altitudes, topographies, climates and weather patterns.
- Experienced and novice players can enjoy nine holes on our uniquely challenging Dave Pelz-designed **SHORT COURSE**.
- Take a golf lesson from **NATIONALLY RANKED TOP 50 INSTRUCTOR** Tim Mahoney, who makes his summer headquarters at the club.
- Whether ice-skating on our 9,600-square-foot outdoor rink or taking a backcountry jeep tour, you'll find we're a true **FOUR-SEASON YEAR 'ROUND CLUB** that embraces the active Vail Valley lifestyle.

• In addition to skiing and snowboarding at nearby Beaver Creek and Vail, the club boasts a Nordic Center and **PRIVATE GROOMED AREAS** for sledding, tubing, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing—both classic and skate—on seven miles of groomed tracks encompassing the entire Mountain Course.

• The warmer months bring golf, clay-court tennis, **FLY-FISHING** on 1.3 private miles of the Eagle River and fishing in five trout-stocked ponds.

• Hike, mountain bike or ride on horseback along the club's **31-MILE TRAIL NETWORK** that extends into the three million-acre White River National Forest.

• Members make the most of the club's **TWO FITNESS CENTERS** and five swimming pools with daily fitness classes and organized events.

• Our **THREE RESTAURANTS**—Chaparral, TimberHearth, and Summit—offer distinctive cuisine and casual yet refined mountain atmospheres.

• As part of **TROON PRIVÉ**, Cordillera members have the privilege of playing at any of the network's 85 private clubs for the host club's cart fee rate. Members are also entitled to bring up to three guests that will play for the host clubs accompanied rates.

YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR CLUB.



With three 18-hole championship golf courses and a 9-hole short course within our community, we believe our lives are best lived while enjoying the rewards of membership here. It's our private slice of heaven that provides ample opportunity to relax, connect, and savor Mother Nature's majesty.

Our personal four-season playground feeds our passion for an outdoor life invigorated by crisp mountain air, awe-inspiring scenery, aspen tree lines, fresh alpine snow, and summer blossoms.

Our spirit is grounded in the variety of our communities ~ each uniquely situated at its own elevation and positioned to provide the ultimate member and mountain living experience.



The Club at
CORDILLERA

And, as a Cordillera Golf Member, you have access to over 85 Troon Privé private golf clubs worldwide for only a cart fee, and over 150 Troon Golf-managed courses at a discount.

Please contact Suzanne Morgan to schedule a visit and see how we are changing the way private clubs are experienced.

970-569-6418 | Cordillera-Vail.com



MIKE WARD

INFINITI MASERATI

McLaren

Alfa Romeo FIAT



2017 Alfa Romeo Giulia AWD

Starting at: \$39,995*

Lease: \$499/month**



2018 Alfa Romeo Stelvio Quadrofoglio
Possibly the fastest, best handling SUV ever!
Coming soon. Now taking orders!

*Base MSRP, **Alfa Romeo Stock #A532434 - MSRP \$43,290, Lease 39m 10k/yr \$499/m with \$2,317 down plus first payment, acq fee, d&h, \$4,000 total due at lease signing.

**Maserati Ghibli Stock #M231805 - MSRP \$81,750. Lease 39M 10k/yr \$799/m with \$3,097 down plus first payment, acq fee, d&h, \$5,280 total due at lease signing.

**Maserati Levante Stock #M2268100 - MSRP \$75,250. Lease 36m 7500/yr \$999/m with \$2,617 down plus first payment, acq fee, d&h, \$5,000 total due at lease signing.

Just Drive It!



2017 Maserati Ghibli AWD

Starting at: \$79,700*

Lease: \$799/month**

2017 Maserati Levante AWD

The Maserati of SUVs!

Starting at: \$72,600*

Lease: \$999/month**



570 GT

Coming soon to
MIKE WARD Automotive

McLaren  **DENVER**



BLACKSTONE COUNTRY CLUB and BLACK BEAR GOLF CLUB

Location: Blackstone Country Club, Aurora

Location: Black Bear Golf Club, Parker

Website: blackstone-club.com

Initiation: \$2,000 - \$5,000

Dues: from \$209 per month

Membership Contact: Irene Skrondahl

Phone: 720-330-7087

Email: lskrondahl@clubcorp.com

DON'T MISS:

Our extensive social calendar including **WINE DINNERS, BRUNCHES, BARBECUES, HOLIDAY PARTIES** and more!

WHY JOIN OUR CLUB?

Great things come in pairs. Members enjoy two championship courses, two clubhouses, two great restaurants, a calendar of golf and social events at each club all on one membership. Industry-leading O.N.E. (Optimal Network Experiences) membership benefits offer 50% off* à la carte dining at your home club and traveling benefits in the ClubCorp Network of more than 300 private clubs. More than \$1 million has been invested in clubhouse and golf course improvements including enhanced patios, Fireside restaurant at Blackstone and Craft restaurant at Black Bear, as well as the resort-style pool at Blackstone.

MEMBER ACTIVITIES/BENEFITS:

BOTH CLUBS HAVE recently renovated the restaurants and patios and have improved the golf courses. Both offer exceptional dining with seasonal menus, chef's table and live music on Friday nights. PGA Golf Professionals at both clubs offer excellent programming for the beginner to scratch player. Both Blackstone and Black Bear feature an extensive calendar for men's, ladies' and junior events.

- Black Bear is an 18-hole Jeff Brauer-designed **GOLF COURSE** with more than 200 feet in elevation change and views from Pikes Peak to Longs Peak, full driving range, practice areas and indoor golf performance center.

- Black Bear's **CRAFT RESTAURANT** offers a casual fare with a main dining area and patio overlooking the grass courtyard and gazebo.

- Blackstone is a 7,313-yard Jay Morrish-designed **GOLF COURSE** with full driving range and practice areas.

- **THE FIRESIDE RESTAURANT** at Blackstone combines a chophouse theme with casual country club dining and terraces looking out on Colorado's Front Range. Blackstone's **SPACIOUS BALLROOMS** for private events are ideal for hosting any type of occasion.

- Blackstone offers a **FITNESS CENTER**, **TENNIS** courts and a resort-style **POOL**.

- **GOLF MEMBERSHIPS** with access to both Blackstone and Black Bear start at \$209 and include access to the ClubCorp Network of more than 300 private clubs when traveling.

- Members with O.N.E. benefits* enjoy **COMPLIMENTARY GREEN FEES** at ClubCorp country clubs with tee times up to 30 days in advance and **COMPLIMENTARY WORLD-CLASS DINING** at business clubs across the country. Members also have **COMPLIMENTARY ACCESS** to TaylorMade loaner clubs in the ClubCorp family. Enjoy up to 40% off at hundreds of hotels worldwide. **SPECIAL OFFERINGS** at more than 1,000 hotels, resorts, restaurants and entertainment venues, including tickets to theaters, concerts and sporting events.

**The O.N.E. program and corresponding benefits are subject to certain terms, conditions, restrictions and exclusions. For details, visit clubcorpnetwork.com or call 720-330-7087.*



Blackstone Country Club Grill



Craft Grill at Black Bear Golf Club

\$1 MILLION AND CHANGE

Experience the Blackstone Country Club & Black Bear Golf Club.



36 Holes of Championship Golf



Tennis and Fitness Programs



Resort-style Pool with Poolside Bar

We've invested more than \$1 million to create the ultimate club experience.
Enjoy a great value with access to both clubs.*

Stop by and experience the Club today. 720.330.7087 | blackstone-club.com



CLUBCORP®
THE WORLD LEADER IN PRIVATE CLUBS®

*New membership offerings subject to benefit terms and conditions. Membership is contingent on successful completion of the Club's enrollment process. See Club for details. © ClubCorp USA, Inc. All rights reserved. 33683 0117 NP

Be a Member for a Day!

A one-of-a-kind opportunity to **play Colorado's finest private clubs** this summer!

THE CLUB AT PRADERA

Monday, **JUNE 12**

PERRY PARK COUNTRY CLUB

Monday, **JULY 10**

THE PINERY COUNTRY CLUB

Monday, **JULY 24**

FROST CREEK MOUNTAIN CLUB

Friday, **SEPTEMBER 22**

To learn about the full experience and reserve your spot, please contact
Todd Hall | 720-493-1729 ext.15 | todd@coloradoavidgolfer.com

coloradoavidgolfer.com/cag-events



PRESENTED BY

COLORADO
AVIDGOLFER

NEW HOMES AT BLACKSTONE READY WHEN YOU ARE!

**SOLAR
HOMES**



Discover Country Club Living

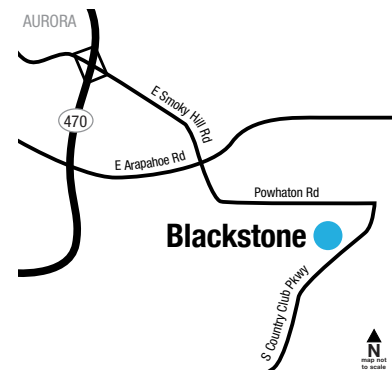
Blackstone offers residents gorgeous single-family homes in a quaint country club setting. Elevate your everyday lifestyle in a community that offers spacious homes, exceptional included features and upscale amenities.

2,258-4,646 sq. ft. | 3-5 bedrooms | 2.5-5.5 bathrooms

From the \$500,000s



7639 S. Country Club Pkwy | Aurora, CO 80016 | 303-586-3991



Blackstone in South East Aurora Exceptional Value in a Country Club Setting

Where residents enjoy the Grand Clubhouse with fitness center, pool, tennis courts, restaurant/grille, social activities, optional golf membership and more!

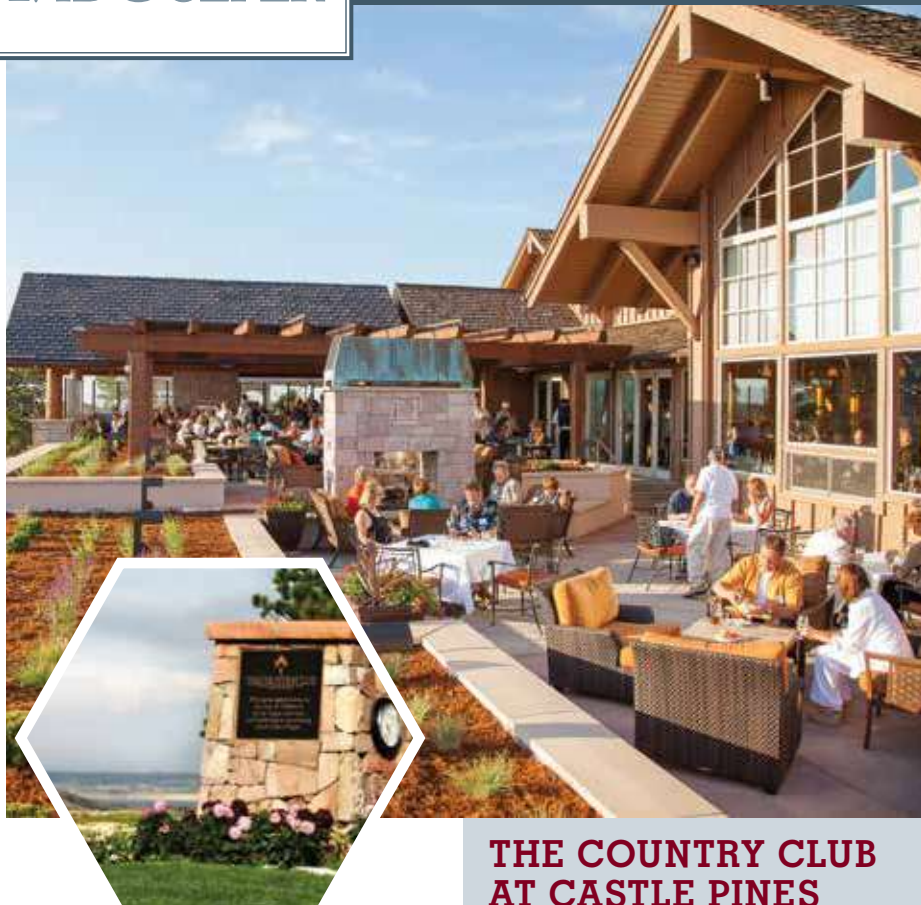
follow **Lennar Colorado**



LENNAR.COM/COLORADO

Price is subject to change without notice. Stated dimensions and square footage are approximate and should not be used as representation of the home's precise or actual size. Renderings are conceptual in nature and merely an artist's rendition. These renderings are solely for illustrative purposes and should never be relied upon. Photographs are solely for illustrative purposes and should never be relied upon. Car size may vary from home to home and may not accommodate all vehicles. Map is not to scale and is for relative location purposes only. Please see your New Home Consultant and home purchase agreement for actual features designated as an Everything's Included feature, additional information, disclosures, and disclaimers relating to your home and its features. Copyright © 2017 Lennar Corporation. All rights reserved. Lennar, the Lennar logo, Everything's Included and the Everything's Included logo are registered service marks or service marks of Lennar Corporation and/or its subsidiaries. 3/17





THE COUNTRY CLUB AT CASTLE PINES

Location: Castle Pines Village
Website: ccatcastlepines.com
Initiation: \$21,000
Monthly Dues: \$775
Membership Contact: Alicia Lesmann
Phone: 303-660-6807
Email: alesmann@ccofcastlepines.com

DON'T MISS:
Our **golf course grand reopening** tournament and party on **April 28, 2017**

The Taste: our annual food and wine festival with live music on **June 10th**

Halloween Haunted House, Thanksgiving, and numerous holiday events.

- The club offers the **PERFECT SETTING** for our members to host memorable events such as weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, holiday parties or corporate events.

- **EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE** from a well-trained and friendly staff.

- The Country Club at Castle Pines is a **COMMUNITY HUB** inside the Castle Pines Village.



WHY JOIN OUR CLUB?

Our championship Jack Nicklaus Signature golf course underwent a multimillion-dollar renovation this past year and is undoubtedly one of the most spectacular courses in the entire state.

Our beautiful clubhouse includes an outdoor terrace with breathtaking views. Our dining experience is second to none with menu creations that are sure to make a lasting impression.

Our social events calendar is filled with both time-honored traditions and events unique to our club. Members and their guests enjoy live music events, wine dinners, family events and holiday festivities throughout the year.

Come experience excellence at The Country Club at Castle Pines.

MEMBER ACTIVITIES AND CLUB BENEFITS:

- **SPECTACULAR GOLF** course with breathtaking views and mountain terrain that will make you feel like you are hours away from home.

- Our **STATE-OF-THE-ART PRACTICE FACILITIES** include two chipping greens with greenside bunkers, a short-game area with small target greens, and a 20-acre driving range with Titleist NXT practice balls.

- A **CASUAL AND FORMAL DINING** experience with exquisite food and exceptional service in a relaxed environment.

- A **BEAUTIFUL CLUBHOUSE** with an outdoor terrace perfect for unwinding after your round of golf.

- An abundance of **SOCIAL EVENTS** throughout the year including Family BINGO nights, Yappy Hours and Champagne Brunches, plus holiday events such as Easter Brunch, Mother's Day Brunch, Father's Day BBQ, 4th of July,



AN UNFORGETTABLE GOLF EXPERIENCE AWAITS

Discover our newly renovated Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course.
It's your golf vacation, right here at home.



Social Events



Exquisite Food



Magnificent Views



For membership information
contact Alicia Lesmann
alesmann@ccofcastlepines.com
303-660-6807
or visit
ccatcastlepines.com





CHERRY CREEK COUNTRY CLUB & Colorado AvidGolfer CELEBRATE 15 YEARS OF SUCCESS!



DENVER'S ONLY COUNTRY CLUB WITH DUES THAT



CHERRY CREEK COUNTRY CLUB is a Jack and Jackie Nicklaus Signature designed golf course conveniently located in the heart of Denver with easy access to Downtown and D.I.A.

The 15-year-old private club celebrated the opening of an expansion to its Spa and Fitness Center earlier this year. This 7,500 sq. ft. addition doubles the size of the existing facility to 15,000 sq. ft. and adds dedicated spaces for free weights, spin classes, Pilates, barre classes, yoga, boot camp, Tai Chi and more! The facility also accommodates a children's play room and Kid's Club with Arts and Movement Classes and childcare services, as well as a state of the art golf simulator, all in an open, modern layout. The aspen-tree-grove-inspired interior of the new space nicely complements the 18th-Century English Carriage House design of the existing facility. The Spa and Fitness Center is not just available for the use of golf members but social members as well.

“BEST FOR FAMILIES” 2017



SIGNATURE PAR-3 17TH HOLE



15,000-SQUARE-FOOT FITNESS CLUB

INCLUDE A FULL SPA & FITNESS CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Though it boasts a championship-style layout of more than 7,400 yards, Cherry Creek Country Club is a family-oriented golf club with a year-round social calendar. The summer kid's camp offers ten fun-packed weeks that include golf and tennis instruction, arts and crafts, yoga, pool time and more! During the summer, families love the weekly Family Nights, each one of which brings a different family-friendly buffet and activity. We host a Mother's Day Brunch, a Father-Daughter Dance, an Easter Brunch with an Egg Hunt, a Holidays Party and Breakfast with Santa. And of course, there are the perennial favorites—the Labor Day Fireworks Display, Summer Fair Celebration and Family Fall Festival to name a few!

Cherry Creek Country Club
303-597-0300
2405 S. Yosemite St. Denver, CO 80231
www.cherrycreekcountryclub.com



FULL SERVICE SPA



SIMULATOR & BAR



LIVE MUSIC WEEKLY



DON'T MISS:

The award-winning **Champagne Sunday Brunch** at the Garden Terrace Restaurant. Indulge in hundreds of delicious offerings to choose from, while a Jazz Trio creates a lively ambiance. Specialty dishes include an elaborate iced shellfish display of shrimp, crab, and mussels, and mouth-watering herb crusted prime rib from the carver. Membership benefits include four complimentary Sunday brunches.

WHY JOIN OUR CLUB?

As one of Denver's only semi-private golf courses, The Inverness Golf Club is only open to members, their guests and guests of the hotel. With increased membership benefits and recent on-property renovations, the Inverness Golf Club is the premier golf resort in the Mile High City.

**INVERNESS
GOLF CLUB**

Location: Englewood
Website: invernessgolfclub.com
New Member Initiation: \$1,000
Individual Member Annual Dues: \$5,000
Family Member Annual Dues: \$7,500
Initiation Fee: \$1,000
(Family Membership includes full benefits for member, spouse and children 18 years and younger)
Couple or Adult + Junior Member Annual Dues: \$6,500
Initiation Fee: \$1,000
(Couple or Adult + Junior Membership includes full benefits for member and spouse or child, 18 years and younger)
Monthly payment options are available for all memberships
Membership Contact: Dave Steinmetz
Phone: 303-397-7810
Email: dsteinmetz@destinationhotels.com

MEMBER ACTIVITIES/BENEFITS:

- Discover the balance of risk and reward at the unique and challenging Inverness Golf Club. This par-70, 7,026 yard **PGA CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF COURSE** designed by J. Press Maxwell has been ranked among the finest Colorado golf resorts and presents an ideal golf destination.
- With **ADVANCED TEE SHEET PRIORITY ACCESS**, and the ability to book tee times through ForeTees.com, members also benefit from member-only tee times until 12:00pm on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.



- **Improve your game** with unlimited practice balls and access to the driving range, chipping area, and putting green.
- Take advantage of **TWO COMPLIMENTARY OVERNIGHT HOTEL STAYS** in the newly renovated luxury Hilton guest rooms, and four free brunches at the award-winning Garden Terrace Restaurant Sunday Brunch.
- **RELAX AND REJUVENATE** with 20% off all spa services at the full-service luxury Spa at The Inverness. Treat yourself to massages, body scrubs, facials, nail services, and more.
- With an indoor pool and hot tub, and a seasonal outdoor pool, members have access to **YEAR-ROUND SWIMMING** and water recreation.
- Grab a local brew at the **SPOTTED DOG PUB**, or sip on a hand-crafted cocktail at **FIRESIDE BAR & GRILL**, where as a member, you can enjoy a 20% discount available at all hotel food & beverage outlets. Your post-round celebratory drinks will be even more satisfying.
- A dedicated membership coordinator ensures **AN EXCEPTIONAL GOLF CLUB EXPERIENCE**, including an annual Holiday Gathering in December for all members.

Afternoon Tee for Two

at The Inverness Hotel

**[PACKAGES
STARTING AT
\$189]**



THE INVERNESS
GOLF CLUB

Spend your afternoon on the challenging PGA Championship Inverness Golf Course.
Celebrate your round in the pub with your favorite sips and snacks.
Retreat to your room and dream about doing it all over again.

Package Includes:

A round of golf with cart for two, \$20 gift card redeemable at The Inverness Hotel, and deluxe overnight accommodations in our newly renovated guest rooms. Call today to learn more about this special offer.

INVERNESSHOTEL.COM | 303.397.6400
200 INVERNESS DRIVE WEST | ENGLEWOOD, CO | 80112



DON'T MISS:

Spring **Wine Festival** with over 50 wines to taste, paired up with fantastic culinary delights from Chef Mat Mihalek.



Halloween party for kids and adults alike with an amazing haunted house, a haunted hay-ride, magic acts, face painters to finish your costume, and fantastic food for the entire family.

WHY JOIN OUR CLUB?

Lakewood Country Club has been considered the "Jewel of Jefferson County" since 1908. The Donald Ross designed golf course offers a fun and challenging game, to all levels of playing ability. Our clubhouse is entering into its 10th season since being constructed; providing a premium ambiance in all facets including the dining and bar areas, locker rooms, and golf shop. A state-of-the-art fitness facility will alleviate any need for a gym membership, paired up with a fantastic resort style pool and children's play area providing the entire family enjoyment during the summer season. Membership at Lakewood Country Club will create lasting relationships, award winning golf, and memories for a lifetime.

LAKEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

Location: Lakewood
Website: lakewoodcountryclub.net
Initiation: \$42,500
Monthly Dues: \$625
Membership Contact: Carol Kaiser
Phone: 303-233-4614
Email: cskaiser@lakewoodcountryclub.net

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP:

LAKEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB drips with history, having produced more members of the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame than any other club. We complement our strong golf tradition with an equally solid commitment to a family-friendly, resort-like atmosphere. We constantly strive to exceed our members' expectations for programs and services.

- Located **10 MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN** Denver & Highlands/15 minutes from most Front Range communities.
- Tremendous social environment with multiple **DINING** options offering premium cuisine and spirits.
- Donald Ross-designed **GOLF COURSE** with a Gil Hanse restoration.
- Golf **PRACTICE FACILITIES** with chipping complex and multiple putting greens.
- **PROFESSIONAL STAFF** comprised of four



Class A PGA Professionals for teaching, club fitting, and tournament operations.

- State-of-the-art fitness facility equipped with **TRAINERS AND MASSAGE THERAPY.**
- **SWIMMING POOL** with a junior swim team, and offering full food & beverage services with an authentic resort feel.
- **MEMBER EVENTS** calendar offering year round participation along with plenty of children's events for family enjoyment.
- Looking for a memorable place to hold a **WEDDING OR SPECIAL OCCASION?** Lakewood's stunning grounds and banquet rental space includes two ballrooms, newly expanded ballroom patio and our beautiful Tom Bendelow and Donald Ross Rooms. Members can also refer friends and family.

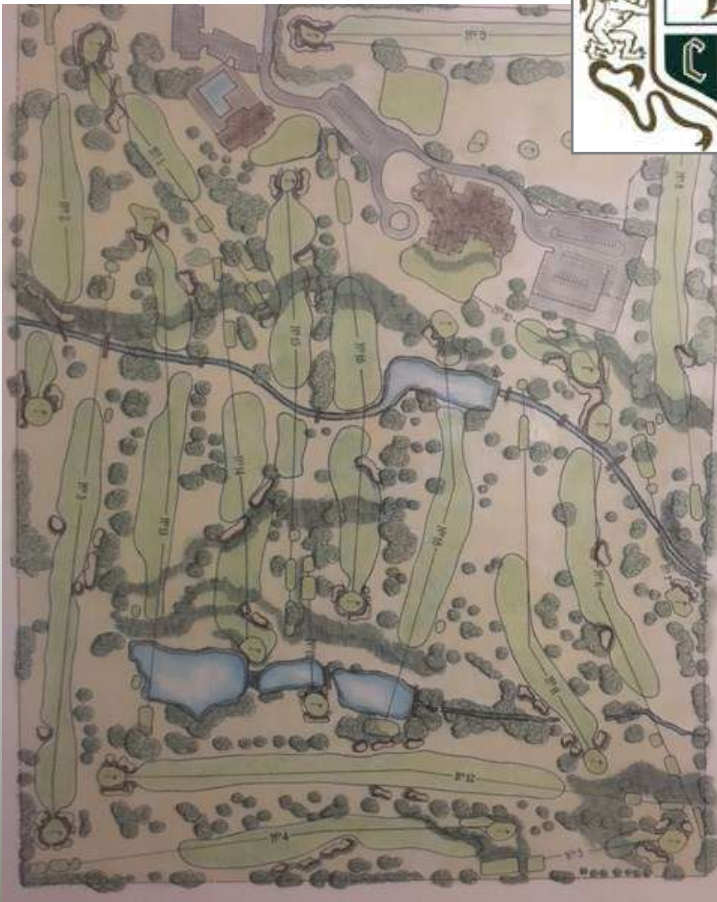




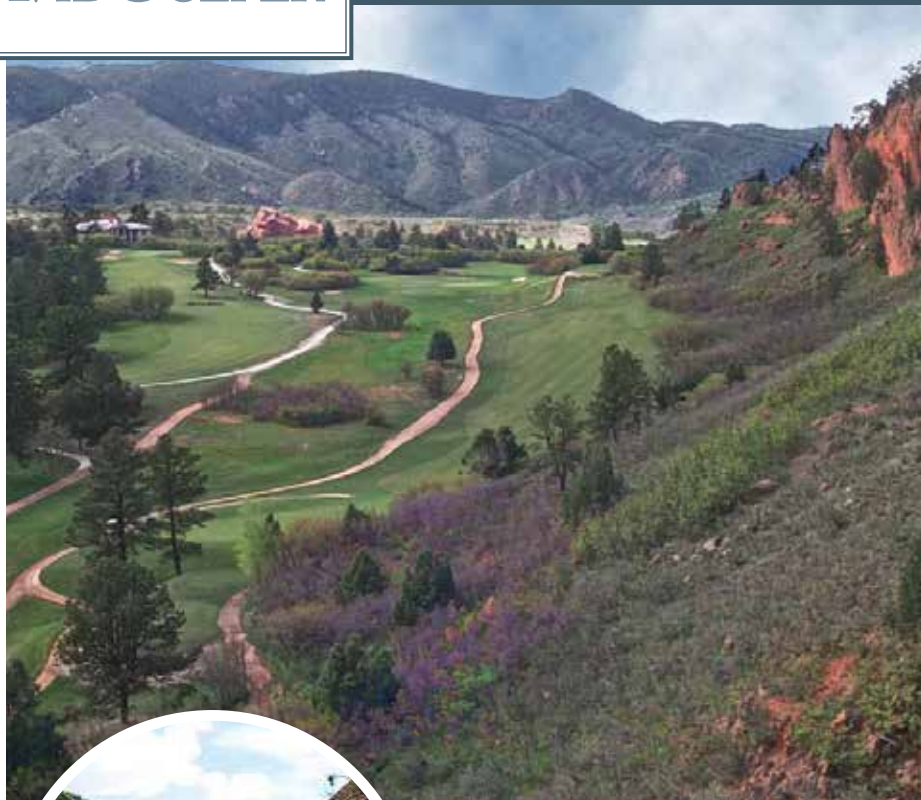
An icon of golf course architecture,
Donald Ross, designed a course
worthy of our first 100 years.



Today's premier golf course architect,
Gil Hanse, will prepare us
for our next 100 years.



For membership information and to learn more about Lakewood Country Club's history,
contact Carol Kaiser, Membership Director at 303.233.4614.



PERRY PARK COUNTRY CLUB

Location: Larkspur
Website: perryparkcc.com
Initiation Fee: \$3,500
Monthly Dues: \$474
Membership Contact: Amy Morrow
Phone: 303-681-3305, ext 4
Email: amorrow@perryparkcc.com

DON'T MISS:

Enjoy the club's **MANY SOCIAL ACTIVITIES** with old and new friends. Savor your favorite refreshment on the patio overlooking the pristine waters of Lake Wauconda and across the course to the foothills of Pike National Forest. It's the perfect sundowner venue.

MEMBER ACTIVITIES/BENEFITS:

JUST TWENTY MINUTES from Castle Rock or Monument you're in another world—a world without traffic, noise or hassle; a place of serenity, timeless beauty and amazing golf. Picture winding green fairways set among spectacular red rock formations, ponderosa pines and the habitat of many species of Colorado wildlife. Imagine the pleasure of a round of golf in this serene setting, framed by the woodlands of Pike National Forest. This is Perry Park Country Club, where one round will convince you something's been missing from your game.

- Designed by Dick Phelps, one of Colorado's premier golf architects, the course takes full advantage of its unique, natural setting. To make your golf as enjoyable as possible, there are five sets of tees measuring 5,432 to 7,007 yards for golfers of all skill levels.
- Friendly members and a new member introduction program will have you making friends, playing golf and becoming involved in our social activities in no time at all.
- Ladies, Men's, & Couples leagues with 18 club tournaments, plus interclub events.
- The children and grandchildren of both golf and social members can take part in our renowned Junior Golf program, which teaches both the skills and etiquette of golf.
- Member-owned since 1969 means members have control of their future. All major decisions require a vote by the members.
- Perry Park has been providing exceptional golf since 1969. Over this time the course has met the standards of the most highly skilled golfers and those that play for enjoyment. The course is maintained in tournament condition and our senior water rights and commitment to excellence will assure we will maintain those standards into the future.
- We've been honored with 10 CAGGYs in the past two years. One round will show you why.

- Ranked as one of the best values and most underrated private clubs two years running in *Colorado AvidGolfer's* CAGGY awards poll.
- Our limited membership of 300 makes for 3½-hour rounds. Even on weekends, you'll be on the 19th tee in just a few minutes more.
- The limited membership also allows easy-to-get tee times most any day of the week, made simple with our online tee-time system.

WHY JOIN OUR CLUB?

There never will be a better time to investigate a Perry Park membership. With our current membership drive you can be one of the fortunate 20 golfers to take advantage of our \$3,500 full equity membership. Reasonable monthly dues complement this attractive initiation fee. If a county club membership is in your future, now is the time to look into Perry Park.

PERRY PARK COUNTRY CLUB

Timeless Beauty. Amazing Golf.

20 Full Memberships Available at \$3,500

For over 40 years we have been providing an extraordinary golf experience at an exceptional value. This Spring, to fill our 300 member cap, we're offering 20 Full memberships at the very attractive price of \$3,500.

Here's your chance to experience all the benefits of an outstanding private club: readily available tee times, a course always in tournament condition plus an eventful, year-round dining and social scene.

For more information on these memberships, contact
Amy Morrow at 303.681.3305, Ext 4 or Amorrow@perryparkcc.com.
And visit our website at www.perryparkcc.com.

PERRY PARK COUNTRY CLUB

7047 Perry Park Blvd., Larkspur, CO 80118

Perry Park is a 501 (c) 7 Corp. Membership approval is by application and requires approval.

We're Honored!

We're proud and honored to be named the winner of 7 CAGGY Awards including: Colorado's "Best Value" and "Most Underrated" Private Course by *Colorado AvidGolfer*.



2017 PRIVATE CLUB DIRECTORY

CLUB	ADDRESS PHONE and WEBSITE	INITIATION *	DUES **	WAITING LIST	MEMBER CAP	FACILITIES	COURSE ARCHITECT	CONTACT
Aspen Glen Club	0545 Bald Eagle Way, Carbondale 970-704-1905; clubcorp.com	\$35,000	\$970/mo.	No	535	Swimming, tennis, fitness center, spa, ClubCorp reciprocity	Nicklaus Design (1997)	Steve Van Dyke
Ballyneal Golf Club	1 Ballyneal Lane, Holyoke 970-854-5900; ballyneal.com	\$22,500/ \$18,000	\$4,500- \$3,000/yr	No	250	Bird hunting, bocce, shooting, lodging dining, 9-hole and putting courses, spa	Tom Doak (2006)	Kent Hiller Dave Hensley
Bear Creek Golf Club	12201 Morrison Road, Denver 303-980-8700; bearcreekgolfclub.net	\$40,000	\$835/mo.	No	350	Dining	Arnold Palmer/ Ed Seay (1985)	Kirk Rider
Black Bear Golf Club	11300 Canterbury Parkway, Parker 720-330-7087; blackbear-club.com	\$2,000-\$5,000	starting at \$209/mo.	No	N/A	Privileges at all ClubCorp facilities 18 hole course, Dining, Social Events	Jeff Brauer (1996)	Irene Skrandahl
Blackstone Country Club	7777 Country Club Drive, Aurora 720-330-7087; blackstone-club.com	\$2,000-\$5,000	starting at \$259/mo.	No	N/A	Swimming, tennis, fitness, dining, privileges at all ClubCorp facilities	Jay Morrish (2006)	Irene Skrandahl
Bookcliff Country Club	2730 G Road, Grand Junction 970-243-3323; bookcliffcc.com	\$2,500	\$375	No	520	Swimming, tennis, golf, exercise center, spa & massage, dining	Dick Phelps (1958)	Kari Canaday
Boulder Country Club	350 Clubhouse Road, Boulder 303-530-4600; bouldercc.org	\$38,500	\$551/mo.	Yes	485	Swimming, tennis, fitness, dining, wellness center, youth summer camp	Press Maxwell (1965)	Kate Kippenberger
Broadmoor Golf Club	One Lake Circle, Colorado Springs 719-577-5790; broadmoor.com	\$80,000	\$635/mo.	Yes	N/A	All resort privileges	East: D. Ross (1918) West: R. T. Jones (1964) Mountain: J. Nicklaus (2006)	Sherry Clark
Castle Pines Golf Club	1000 Hummingbird Drive, Castle Rock 303-688-6000; No website	\$135,000	\$18,000/yr.	Invitation only	350	Fitness center; dining	Jack Nicklaus (1981)	N/A
Castle Pines, The Country Club at	6400 Country Club Drive, Castle Pines Village 303-688-7400; ccatcastlepines.com	\$21,000	\$775/mo.	No	395	Dining	Jack Nicklaus (1985)	Alicia Huss
Catamount Ranch & Club	33400 B Catamount Drive, Steamboat Springs 970-871-9300; catamountranchclub.com	\$45,000	\$10,650/yr.	No	395	Swimming, tennis, private lake, water sports, fitness, skiing	Tom Weiskopf (2000)	Nicole Piret
Cherry Creek Country Club	2405 South Yosemite St., Denver 303-597-0300; cherrycreekcountryclub.com	\$40,000- \$60,000	\$650/mo.	No	445	Swimming, tennis, Full Fitness Facility, spa	Jack Nicklaus/ Jack Nicklaus II (2002)	Jamie Chinn
Cherry Hills Country Club	4125 South University Boulevard, Cherry Hills Village 303-350-5200; chcc.com	\$120,000	\$845/mo.	Invitation only	500	Swimming, tennis, dining, indoor practice	William Flynn (1922); B.J. Johnson Renaissance Golf (2009)	
Colorado Golf Club	7803 East Stroh Road, Parker 303-840-5400; coloradogolfclub.com	\$55,000/ \$85,000	\$875/mo.	Invitation only	375	9-hole Short Course, , Family Pool Complex, dining, fitness, Full-Room AboutGolf Simulator + indoor practice bays, Hiking/Riding trails	Ben Crenshaw/ Bill Coore (2006)	Tom Ferrell
Colorado Springs Country Club	3333 Templeton Gap Road, Colorado Springs 719-634-8851; cscountryclub.com	\$3,500	\$520/mo.	No	425	Swimming, tennis, dining, fitness	Dick Phelps (1957)	Judi Lakin
Columbine Country Club	17 Fairway Lane, Littleton 303-794-2674; columbinecountryclub.org	\$60,000	\$545/mo.	No	620	Swimming, tennis, Par 3	Henry Hughes (1956)	Robert Cuillard
Cordillera, The Club at	655 Clubhouse Drive, Edwards 970-569-6480; corillera-vail.com	\$35,000- \$50,000	\$12,500/yr. ,	No	1,085	Swimming, tennis, Nordic center, dining, hiking, fishing, skiing	Valley: T.Fazio (1997); Mountain: H. Irwin (1994); Summit: J. Nicklaus (2001)	Suzanne Morgan
Country Club of Colorado	125 East Clubhouse Drive, Colorado Springs 719-538-4084; ccoofcolorado.com	\$12,000	\$490/mo.	No	450	Swimming, tennis, fitness, sailing, spa, watersports, pickleball	Pete Dye (1973)	Jessica Woehle
Country Club of the Rockies	676 Sawatch Drive, Edwards 970-926-3080; countrycluboftherockies.com	\$125,000	\$9,500/yr.	Yes	350	Call for facilities	Jack Nicklaus (1984)	Pentii Tofferi
Denver Country Club	1700 East First Avenue, Denver 303-733-2441; denvercc.net	\$105,000	\$767/mo.	Invitation only	585	Swimming, tennis, ice rink, fitness, paddle tennis	James Foulis/ Bill Coore (1902)	Molly Elm
Eagle Springs Golf Club	28521 U.S. Highway 6 & 24, Wolcott 970-926-4400; eaglesprings.org	\$60,000	\$14,400/yr.	Invitation only	250	None	Jay Morrish/ Tom Weiskopf (1995)	Mike Steiner
Eaton Country Club	37661 Weld Country Road 39, Eaton 970-454-2106; eatoncc.net	\$1,000	\$230/mo.	No	450	Dining	Frank Baumgarner (1968)	Misty Welsh
Flying Horse, The Club at	880 Weiskopf Point., Colorado Springs 719-487-2601; flyinghorseclub.com	\$25,000	\$530/mo.	No	450	Swimming, tennis, fitness, spa, indoor golf facility, lodging, dining	Tom Weiskopf (2005)	Jennifer Weis
Fort Collins Country Club	1920 Country Club Road, Fort Collins 970-482-1336; fortcollinscc.com	\$3,000/\$9,000	\$440/mo.	No	489	Swimming, indoor and outdoor tennis, dining, fitness, privileges at ClubCorp	Henry Hughes (1960); Pete Dye (2001)	Heidi Elser
Fox Hill Club, The	12389 East Highway 119, Longmont 303-651-7600; thefoxhillclub.com	\$2,000 Golf	\$409/mo.	No	No Cap	Dining, swimming, tennis, fitness	Frank Hummel (1972)	Stewart Koch/ Pat Miller
Frost Creek Club	1094 Frost Creek Drive, Eagle 970-328-2326; frostcreek.com	\$25,000	\$7,875/yr.	No	425	Swimming, tennis, fitness, fishing, spa, Paddle Board, Archery, Winter Sports, Yurts	Tom Weiskopf (2007)	Kevin Denton
Garden of the Gods Club	3320 Mesa Road, Colorado Springs 719-632-5541; gardenofthegodsclub.com	\$25,000	\$525-\$550/mo.	No	N/A	Wellness Center, Swimming, tennis, fitness, dining, spa, salon, lodging	Press Maxwell (1961)/ Mark Rathert (1997)	Tracey Kalata

Continued on page 81



LUXURY *comes* to COLUMBINE

Over the course of six decades, the 643-acre town of Columbine Valley has grown up around Columbine Country Club. Yet for all the homes that have sprouted in the surrounding neighborhood, the clubhouse belonging to the course that hosted the 1967 PGA Championship never really changed.

But late this summer—50 years after Don January won his only major there and 40 years after JoAnne Carner won the first of five LPGA events contested at the club—Columbine will unveil a new 56,000-square-foot clubhouse with the kind of luxurious appointments, facilities and amenities that befit the club's championship golf pedigree.

THE MEMBERS WANTED IT. In 2015, after years of slow membership decline, the membership decided to reverse the slide and make the club more current and relevant in today's market. By a 72 percent majority, the member-owned club passed the measure—as well as a one-time capital assessment—to build the new clubhouse. All told, the total cost of the renovation, which also includes the pool area, will be \$25 million.

EVEN WITHOUT A CLUBHOUSE, MEMBERSHIP HAS INCREASED. After the decision to raze the old clubhouse and raise a new one, Columbine lost 42 member families but gained 143—a net increase of 101 new families as of March 1, 2017. The average age of the Columbine member is 54.

WHAT SOLD THEM? One of those new members is Lance Fitzsimmons, the 40-year-old CFO of Leprino Foods, who joined with his wife and three children. When he first visited in 2015, the Bow Mar resident says he liked the course more than the clubhouse or culture. "When the new clubhouse passed the vote and I saw the plans, I was sold," he says. "It's a gorgeous design. The vision of updating the club and attracting a younger membership base was very appealing. We also like the amenities like the huge back patio that looks over the golf course. It'll have a gym in there, so it'll be a one-stop shop for golf, working out, eating and entertaining. They've got tremendous kids' amenities planned. We love the whole package."

WHAT ABOUT THE PRICE?

When the project was announced, memberships were selling for \$27,500, but the club made it very clear to prospective members that the amount would go up. And it has, more than doubling in 18 months to its current \$60,000. Even that price won't last long, Director of Sales and Marketing Robert Cuillard says. "We have another increase planned for this summer, and by this time next year, they'll be selling for \$75,000. History shows that we're going to keep increasing it and we're getting close to our capacity. We have about 50 memberships left to sell until we're completely full." Family golf dues are \$545 per month.

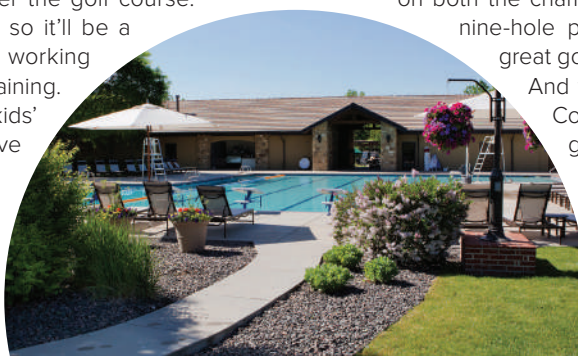
NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF GREAT GOLF.

The 7,435-yard Henry Hughes-designed course, which got its own facelift about 10 years ago from Ron Forse, has remained open during the clubhouse construction and experienced a surprising uptick in guest rounds. "An increase in guest play—are you kidding?" says Columbine COO/General Manager Michael Bratcher. "We don't have anyplace to eat! But the conditions have been superb

on both the championship course and our nine-hole par-3. When you think of great golf, you look to Columbine.

And we're very proud of that."

Converting some of those guests into new members supports that pride.



THIS MUST BE SOME CLUBHOUSE. “We’re establishing a level of luxury that we’ve never seen before,” says Bratcher, whom the club hired around the same time as the vote. Bratcher pushed hard for the Greenwood Village-based architecture firm Marsh & Associates, which has designed or redesigned scores of clubhouses in Colorado and around the world. “Marsh clubhouses are not stuffy or formal,” he says. “They’re elegant and luxurious but make you want to hang out.”

IS THE POOL AREA PART OF THE RENOVATION? It was a priority. Columbine—which has always had strong junior swimming and diving programs—spent millions of dollars on upgrades to an outdoor aquatic area that opened last summer. With its 10 cabanas, Tucci umbrellas, coffee shop, indoor-outdoor dining (120 pizzas a day), new men’s and women’s locker rooms, tennis and swim shops, outdoor pool, kiddie pool, grass volleyball court and diving boards, the area embodies the resort experience so popular at today’s clubs.

“IF THE POOL IS EXCEPTIONAL, THE CLUBHOUSE WILL BE EXTRAORDINARY,” says Cuillard. You’ll arrive via a dramatic cobblestone auto courtyard highlighted by a fountain and a valet-attended porte cochère. Inside, a receptionist greets you. Telluride stone, travertine floors, wood trusses and exquisite millwork will distinguish the expansive foyer, which affords an unobstructed view through the NanaWalled main dining room to the 18th hole.

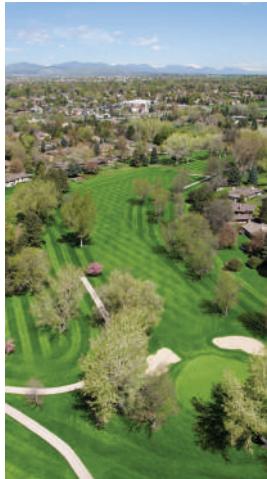
BLENDING INDOOR/OUTDOOR DINING SPACES IS CENTRAL TO THE NEW CLUBHOUSE.

Retractable NanaWalls separate and connect the club’s three distinct and exquisitely appointed main dining rooms to each other and to the expansive multi-sectioned patio that wraps around the rear of the building. Inside, lounge spaces, rounds, banquettes, settees replace the standard four-top tables, while outside fire pits, a pergola and a double-sided fireplace highlight spaces with multiple seating areas. “When you’re inside you’re outside and vice versa,” says Bratcher, who predicts “everyone’s going to want to start outside and work their way back in.”

THE CLUB WILL HAVE FOUR PRIVATE DINING ROOMS. Downstairs will be the Wine Room. Upstairs, the Sunset Room features its own patio overlooking the courtyard and the ballroom. Another popular option promises to be the President’s Room, a boardroom-style space with an 80-inch touchscreen monitor and a deck overlooking the main firepit and 18th hole. The fourth option is a high-back leather booth looking into the kitchen, where up to 10 members can sit and watch the chef prepare a custom meal for them. “You come in and say ‘we want to try something from Spain,’ and let him go crazy,” Bratcher explains. “Our sommelier pairs the wine, and we let our chef dazzle you with five- six- and seven-course meals.”

LOCKER ROOM TALK. In both the men’s and women’s locker rooms, members will see their names stenciled into the millwork on the locker rather than engraved on plaques. The men will have a lounge that connects to a billiard room and features a bar and indoor/outdoor dining facilities that overlook the golf course. The equally well-outfitted women’s locker room will sit directly below the men’s and where golfers make the turn. It will feature a lounge, a juice bar directly across from it that will also serve food, and private access to the fitness space.

HEALTH IS WEALTH. According to Bratcher, more than 70 members had input on the 5,000-square-foot fitness and wellness space, which feature cardiovascular and weight training equipment, rooms for massage and spa services as well as movement rooms for yoga, Pilates and





other classes. “We’re not trying to beat those monster megagyms out there,” Bratcher says. “We’re trying to have phenomenal instructor-led programming.”

SPEAKING OF PROGRAMMING, Columbine offers outstanding, expert-led junior programs in golf, swimming, diving and tennis. The dining areas welcome children, as does the 5,000-square foot event lawn, which is perfect for Frisbee, bocce and other games. For parents who want a safe, constructive place to leave their kids during an on-premises workout, romantic dinner or round of golf, Columbine plans to staff its children’s areas with trained educators who won’t just plop them in front of a television set. Webcams in the childcare area allow curious parents to check in via smartphone apps.

COLUMBINE EMBRACES TECHNOLOGY. “We have apps for everything,” Bratcher says. “We love cellphones here.” Presumably just not in the locker rooms.

ONE OF THE SLICKER FEATURES OF THE NEW CLUBHOUSE is a luxurious, high-end lounge featuring two high-definition golf simulators that can double as televisions, DVD players or videogame stations. In some ways, it’s an extension of the corporate membership the club has had for the last two years at Topgolf in Centennial. “Our members really like the Topgolf experience, which is like bowling inasmuch as you don’t have to be good at it, you just have to have fun,” says Bratcher. He envisions couple of guys playing Pebble on one screen, while their better halves can watch a movie, have some drinks and hang with friends.

SO WHAT ARE MEMBERS DOING UNTIL THE CLUBHOUSE OPENS?

Without a clubhouse, the club sought out ways for members to stay connected with each other and find value in their membership. Last June the club debuted Columbine on Main in downtown Littleton, giving up to 100 members at a time a chance to meet and greet and eat the gourmet food of Columbine Executive Chef Mark Lindstrom. It’s been a huge success—and not only with longtime members. “I think having that restaurant makes it easier when there are new folks joining,” says new member Fitzsimmons. “You’re not coming into cliques. My family and I have made so many new friends and people I now play golf with.”



“IT’S MORE OF A LIFESTYLE CLUB,” says Bratcher, who regularly posts videos to columbinecountryclub.org documenting the progress of the clubhouse. “I hate to be trite or trendy to call ourselves that, but that’s what we’ve embraced. You can do everything here. It’s not just about the great golf.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION

contact Robert Cuillard at
rcuillard@columbinecountryclub.org
 or 720-518-6996





It's just better here.

Discover a place where you can truly relax, get away from it all, yet still feels like home. That place is Columbine Country Club. Indulging members with a true first-class and personalized experience in a family-friendly atmosphere, Columbine offers a championship golf course, premier pool facilities, tennis programming for all levels and a variety of culinary options and events.



C O L U M B I N E
C O U N T R Y • C L U B

17 Fairway Valley Lane
Columbine Valley, Colorado 80123
columbinecc.com

Robert Cuillard, Director of Sales and Marketing
720.518.6996
rcuillard@columbinecountryclub.org

coloradoavidgolfer.com is your gateway to private and public Colorado golf.

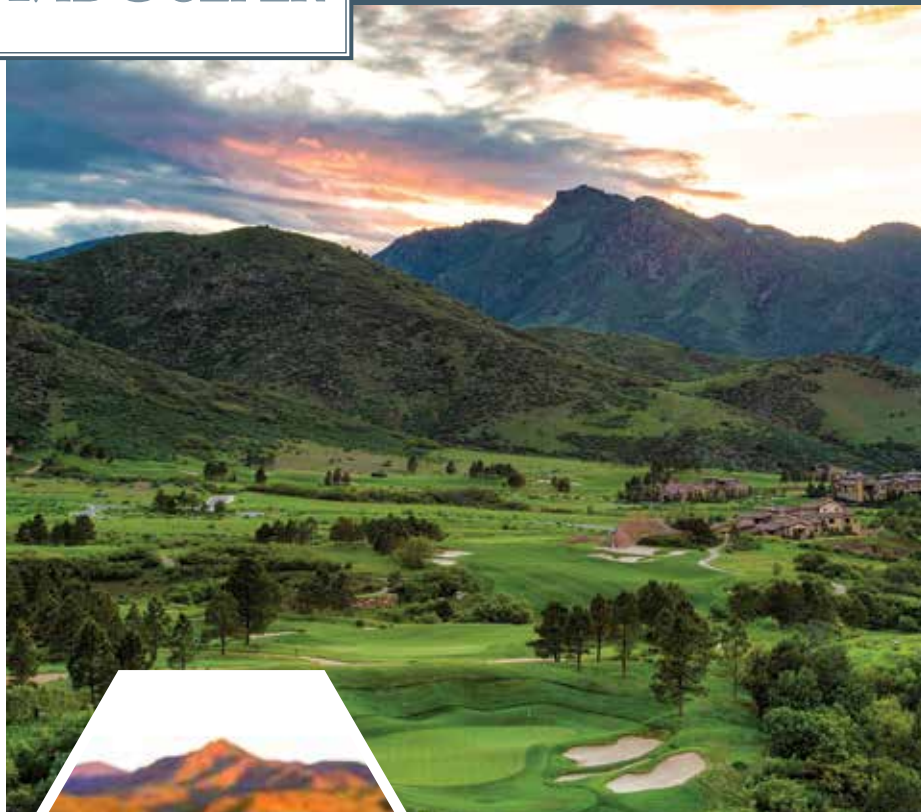
Our website offers listings, directions, user reviews and details for all public, resort and private facilities.

Continued from page 76

CLUB	ADDRESS PHONE and WEBSITE	INITIATION *	DUES **	WAITING LIST	MEMBER CAP	FACILITIES	COURSE ARCHITECT	CONTACT
Glacier Club	40290 Highway 550 North, Durango 866-521-8575; theglacierclub.com	\$30,000/ \$70,000	\$773/mo.	No	675	Swimming, tennis, fitness	Arthur Hills (1974), Todd Schoeder (2004)	Montey Cooper
Glenmoor Country Club	110 Glenmoor Drive, Cherry Hills Village 303-257-1313; glenmoorcc.org	\$30,000/ \$80,000	\$550/mo.	Yes	475	Swimming, tennis, fitness, dining, massage, kids activity room	Pete Dye (1985)	Teri Kubik
Greeley Country Club	4500 West 10th Street, Greeley 970-353-0528; greeleycc.org	\$1,500- \$7,500	\$250- \$499/mo.	No	500	Swimming, tennis, racquetball, access to Ft. Collins & Fox Hill CCs, Kemper Sports facilities	Perry Maxwell/ Tom Bendelow (1932)	Eric Crawford
Harmony Club	4176 Club Drive, Timnath 970-224-4622; harmonyclub.info	\$7,000-	\$330/mo. \$12,500	No	350	Indoor, heated golf facility, pool, tennis, fitness, pickleball court	Jim Engh (2007)	Jason Ward
Hiwan Golf Club	30671 Clubhouse Lane, Evergreen 303-674-3366; hiwan.com	\$25,000	\$525/mo.	No	N/A	Dining, swimming, tennis, fitness center, fishing, yoga and pilates	Press Maxwell (1962)	Daniel Sherman
Inverness Hotel & Golf Club	200 Inverness Drive, Englewood 303-397-7878; invernesshotel.com	\$1,000	\$5,000- \$7,500/yr.	No	400	Swimming, tennis, fitness	Press Maxwell (1974)	Dave Steinmetz
Lake Valley Golf Club	4400 Lake Valley Drive, Longmont 303-444-2114; lakevalley.com	\$7,000	\$336-\$392/mo.	No	478	Dining, practice facilities, private swim and fishing lake	Press Maxwell (1964)	Rob Mount
Lakewood Country Club	6800 West 10th Avenue, Lakewood 303-233-4614; lakewoodcountryclub.net	\$42,500	\$585/mo.	Yes	450	Swimming, tennis, fitness	Tom Bendelow/ Donald Ross (1908)	Carol Kaiser
Maroon Creek Club	10 Club Circle Road, Aspen 970-920-1533; mccaspen.com	\$200,000	\$26,000/yr.	Invitation only	350	Swimming, tennis, fitness, spa, dining	Tom Fazio (1995)	David Chadbourne
Meridian Golf Club	9742 South Meridian Boulevard, Englewood 303-799-8402; meridiangolfclub.com	\$6,000	\$475/mo.	No	475	Dining	Jack Nicklaus	Tim Murphy
Perry Park Country Club	7047 Perry Park Boulevard, Larkspur 303-681-3305; perryparkcc.com	\$3,500	\$474/mo.	No	300	Club, Dining, Social Events	Dick Phelps (1969)	Herb Miller
Pinehurst Country Club	6255 West Quincy Avenue, Denver 303-985-1551; pinehurstcountryclub.com	\$32,000	\$590/mo.	No	450	Swimming, Indoor/Outdoor tennis, dining, fitness, simulators	Press Maxwell (1960)	Tiffany Messer
Pinery Country Club, The	6900 East Pinery Parkway, Parker 303-841-5157; thepinerycc.com	\$12,000	\$464/mo.	No	650	Swimming, indoor/outdoor tennis, fitness	David Bingham (1972)	J.R. Lofton
Pradera, The Club at	5225 Pradera Parkway, Parker 303-607-5672; theclubatpradera.com	\$15,000	\$489/mo.	No	450	Tennis, fitness	Jim Engh (2005)	Mark Lewicki
Ptarmigan Country Club	5416 Vardon Way, Fort Collins 970-226-8555; ptarmigancc.com	\$5,000	\$425/mo.	No	500	Swimming, tennis, dining	Jack Nicklaus (1988)	Ryan Flack
Pueblo Country Club	3200 8th Avenue, Pueblo 719-543-4844; pueblocountryclub.com	\$1,000	\$343/mo.	No	850	Swimming, tennis, dining, special events, 18 hole course	Henry Hughes (1902)	Adrianna Holmes
Ranch Country Club, The	11887 Tejon Street, Westminster 303-460-9700; theranchcc.com	\$10,000	\$520/mo.	No	425	Swimming, tennis, dining, fitness, indoor facility, kids playroom	Dick Phelps (1974)	Ryan Gannon
Ravenna, The Golf Club at	11118 Caretaker Road, Littleton 720-956-1600; ravennagolf.com	\$10,000- \$35,000	\$525	No	395	Dining, Pool & Fitness Center (Under Construction)	Jay Morrish (2006)	Erik "Hack" Haberland
Red Rocks Country Club	16235 W. Belleview Avenue, Morrison 303-352-2030; redrockscountryclub.org	\$12,500- \$15,000	\$6,400/yr.	No	425	Dining, fishing, swimming	Stanley Harwood (1976)	Claire Carter
Red Sky Golf Club	1099 Red Sky Road, Wolcott 970-754-8400; redskygolfclub.com	\$140,000	\$9,505/yr.	No	425	Swimming, tennis, hiking, dining cycling/skiing, year round events	Tom Fazio (2002); Greg Norman (2003)	Shawna Frank
Roaring Fork Club	100 Arbaney Ranch Road, Basalt 970-927-9000; roaringforkclub.com	\$20,000- \$175,000	\$5,025- \$16,250/yr.	Invitation only	500	Swimming, tennis, fly-fishing, dining, fitness	Jack Nicklaus (1999)	Sam Broome
Rolling Hills, The Club at	15707 West 26th Avenue, Golden 303-279-3334; theclubatrollinghills.org	\$45,000	\$7,692/yr.	No	425	Swimming, indoor/outdoor tennis, fitness, dining, banquet facility	Press Maxwell/ Dick Phelps (1967)	Marta Kostelny
Snowmass Club	0239 Snowmass Club Circle, Snowmass Village 970-923-5600; snowmassclub.com	\$12,500	\$690/mo.	No	375	Athletic Club, swimming, spa, tennis, fitness, cross-country skiing, dining	Jim Engh (2003)	Joanna Mallory
Sonnenalp Club	1265 Berry Creek Road, Edwards 970-477-5375; sonnenalpclub.com	\$45,000	\$6,200/yr	No	395	Swimming, tennis, spa, fitness, dining, indoor/outdoor practice facilities	Jay Morrish/ Bob Cupp	Heidi Cofelice
Valley Country Club	14601 Country Club Drive, Centennial 720-630-2463; valleycountryclub.org	\$23,000	\$600/mo.	No	425	Swimming, tennis, fitness, dining, children's activity center	William Bell (1960)	Kate Karnik
Woodmoor, The Country Club at	18945 Pebble Beach Way, Monument 719-481-2272; ccwoodmoor.com	\$1,000	\$150/mo	No	1,300	Swimming, indoor tennis, fitness, cross-country skiing, child care	Press Maxwell (1969)	Debbie Zamparelli

EDITOR'S NOTE: This information is accurate to the best of our knowledge. Contact the club directly to confirm.

- * Initiations reflect full golf memberships for individuals. When given, ranges can account for incentives, promotions, refundability or multiple levels (associate, junior executive, individual, family, etc.). Clubs often make financing available
- ** Dues reflect full golf. They do not account for food and beverage minimums, service fees, capital assessments or other surcharges. Ranges reflect levels of membership.



areas and views of the holes and surroundings.

- **UNLIKE MANY CLUBS**, the unpretentious atmosphere at Ravenna includes a non-tipping policy including valet service, range attendants and more.

- Set in a picturesque and **PRIVATE GATED COMMUNITY**, Ravenna boasts an impressive selection of homes for sale and custom specs.

- With a world-class chef providing exceptional **FINE AND CASUAL DINING**, Ravenna caters to members' needs with fresh menus each week. Themed features include Fresh Seafood Friday, Prime Rib Saturdays and weekly live music and entertainment. The staff also caters private events and provides home delivery to residents.

- Men's, Women's and Junior Golf Programs—as well as a **SOCIAL PROGRAM**—allow for members to be consistently engaged on and off the golf course. Adults can enjoy exquisite food and an active social calendar while kids can have breakfast with Santa, Easter Egg hunts and other family-friendly activities.

- Construction on the Clubhouse Project has commenced with a **FITNESS CENTER** and **POOL** featuring locker rooms and a rooftop sunset terrace. After completion of the Fitness Center, construction will begin on a 22,500-sq.-foot Old-World-style clubhouse overlooking the course and the 18th green.

- 2017 CAGGY Award Winner for **BEST** Denver Region **PRIVATE CLUB** and **MOST UNDERRATED PRIVATE CLUB**.

THE CLUB AT RAVENNA

Location: Littleton
Website: ravennagolf.com
Initiation: \$10,000-\$35,000
Monthly Dues: \$250-\$525
Membership Contact: Hack Haberland
Phone: 720-400-9673
Email: ehaberland@ravennagolf.com

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP:

Set against the iconic red rocks of the Dakota Hogback near Waterton Canyon in Littleton, The Club at Ravenna offers access to one of Colorado's premier private golf courses amidst an unusually stunning backdrop. Memberships are designed for active families of all ages and interests.

- The meticulously maintained Jay Morrish-designed course offers golfers a **WORLD-CLASS PLAYING EXPERIENCE** that never gets old. Every hole is truly different and a variety of tee boxes—including a Short & Mid Course for kids—allow for golfers of all abilities to enjoy the course.

- With a **SMALLER MEMBERSHIP**, the Club prides itself on getting members on and off the course quickly, without feeling rushed if playing with kids or beginners.

- Recent **COURSE UPGRADES** include removing or reducing the size of 46 bunkers, reducing the slope of the greens, improving native grass

DON'T MISS:

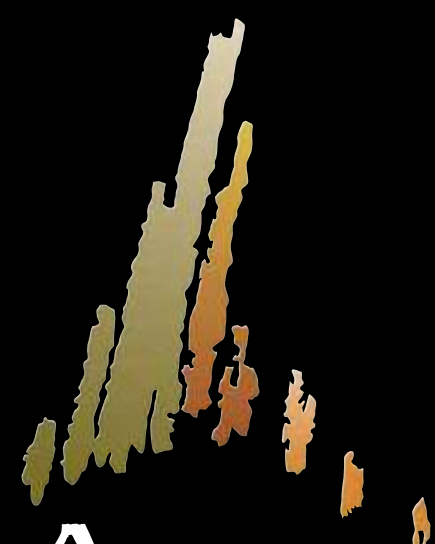
Each summer, Ravenna hosts the annual **Infinite Hero Invitational and Tailgate for the Troops**. This year's event (July 23-24) will be hosted by Dave Logan. 2017 guests include Retired Navy Seals Marcus Luttrell, Morgan Luttrell, Jason Redman and more. Visit ravennagolf.com for more details.

WHY JOIN OUR CLUB?

Whether or not you live at Ravenna, the goal of the staff is that every time you visit the club, you feel as though you're on vacation. Ravenna's golf and resort lifestyle offers members and guests a truly unique, friendly and inviting atmosphere. Membership and home growth has surged in the last two years, bringing new life to the awe-inspiring surroundings awaiting behind the gates.

Old world charm. New world luxury.

RAVENNA



2017 CAGGY WINNER

BEST DENVER REGION CLUB

MOST UNDERRATED CLUB

WWW.RAVENNAGOLF.COM

The Ranch Country Club

Westminster, Colorado • www.theranchcc.com

IT'S A
Vacation
EVERY
DAY



The Ranch
Country Club



**2017
WINNER**

Why Join?

Set in North Denver, The Ranch reflects the beauty and diversity of Colorado. The Club is a member-owned, retreat serving Colorado families with first-class sports and fitness facilities, fine dining and year-round events that encourage lasting relationships. Golfers enjoy sub-four-hour rounds, while tennis players reserve a court online. Summers are best spent at our new swimming pool or on our patio, enjoying fare from our award-winning chef.



Golf

Our course, designed by legendary architect Richard Phelps, is a blend of beautiful, rolling terrain and endless vistas challenging enough for the most discriminating golfer. Our fantastic staff is led by PGA Master Professional Ed Oldham, a CAGGY Award winner for best juniors instruction and mental game coaching.



Tennis

Tennis at the Ranch Country Club is year round with four indoor and four outdoor hard courts, a dedicated staff of tennis professionals and plenty of fellow players to polish and test your game. Our active tennis program includes USTA tournaments, private and group lessons and clinics and robust league competition.

Join

Contact The Ranch at (303) 460-9700, ext. 112, or office@theranchcc.com

11887 Tejon St., Westminster, CO 80234



Fitness

The vibrant fitness center within our clubhouse features state-of-the-art equipment, including treadmills, elliptical machines and recumbent bikes. The Ranch also offers an array of golf fitness programs led by a Titleist Performance Institute-certified instructor.



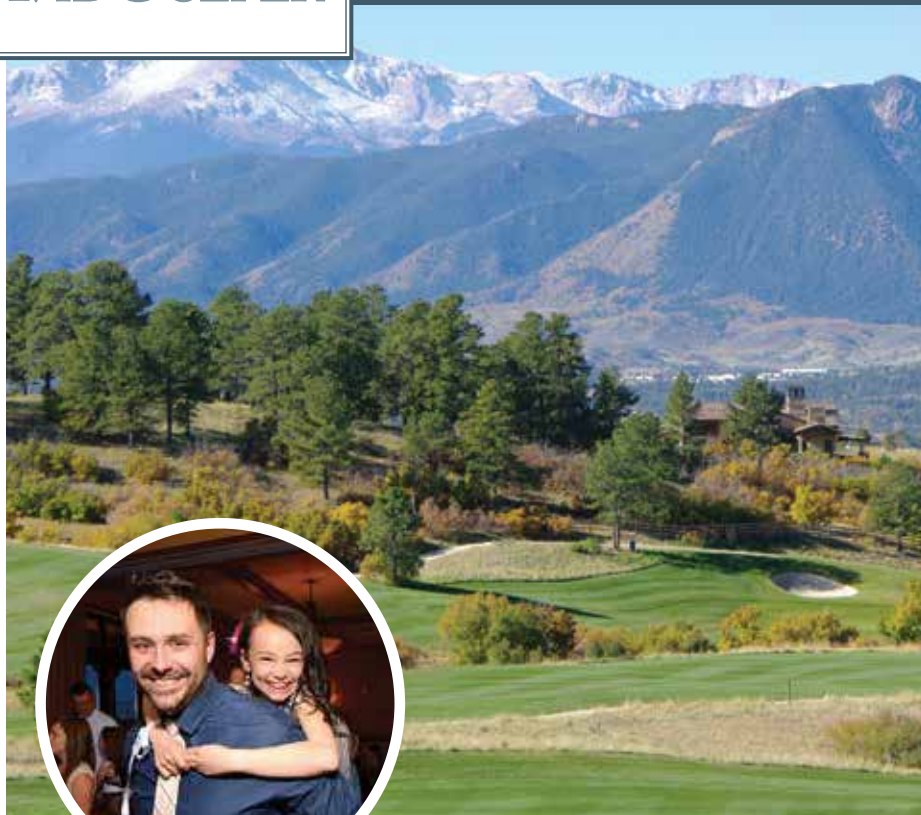
Dining & Events

Our award-winning Executive Chef Steven Weber procures only the finest meats, dairy, produce and craft beers from our home state. All are served with excellence in our gorgeous, newly renovated clubhouse, which also is home to dynamic events and the finest patio overlooking the majestic Front Range.



Swimming

The Ranch Country Club's new, zero-entry family pool is great for swimming instruction and relaxation. Our aquatics program offers group and private swimming lessons, and The Ranch boasts an excellent swim team that competes in the Boulder Valley Swim League.



DON'T MISS:

The Club sells out its two annual **Ladies' Luncheon Fashion Shows.**

Featuring local shops and Boutiques who share the upcoming season's hottest fashions with our members.



Our **Formal Daddy-Daughter Dance** is always a hit with members.

Dressed to the nines and dancing the night away, these families celebrate their special bond and create cherished life-long memories.

WHY JOIN OUR CLUB?

The club's beautiful, Tuscan-style facilities were built—and our activity programming is designed—with the modern-day family in mind. Members enjoy the year-round amenities and are able to engage with others thanks to a full schedule of fun activities. The club also serves as a fashionable option where members can network socially and host impressive company functions or retreats. Located on the northern edge of colorful Colorado Springs, Flying Horse is convenient for those coming from Denver, Castle Rock or Monument.

THE CLUB AT FLYING HORSE

Location: North Colorado Springs
Website: flyinghorseclub.com
Initiation: \$39,000 (*refundable option*)
\$25,000 (*non-refundable option*)
Social Fitness Initiation: \$8,500
Golf Monthly Dues: \$565 family /
\$500 single family
Social Fitness Monthly Dues: \$265
Membership Contact: Jen Weis
Phone: 719-487-2646
Email: jweis@flyinghorseclub.com

MEMBER ACTIVITIES AND BENEFITS:

- Featuring an Audobon certified, Tom Weiskopf **18-HOLE GOLF COURSE** with Indoor Learning center, members can play and practice year-round rain or shine.
- Members enjoy **GOURMET DINING** surrounded by breathtaking views. Choose from three dining areas—the Steakhouse, the intimate Rotunda, or the casual member bar and grill.
- With a full array of **RESORT-STYLE AMENITIES**—including swimming pools, clay tennis courts, group fitness classes, and state-of-the-art exercise equipment—the Athletic Club and Spa is an all-out winner for fitness enthusiasts of every age and interest. It's also a great way for our members to unwind after a hard day at work.
- **SWIM** outdoors in our heated 25-yard salt-



water lap pool or soak in the spacious hot tub. Summer brings the opening of our seasonal children's activity pool and splash parks. Currently under construction is the new adult-only pool and hot tub which will be operational this summer.

• **TENNIS** plays a big part in club life. Members have the option of playing outdoors on our five hard surface courts or indoors on our four red clay courts. Daily drills are a way of tennis life and are available to players of any level.

• **KIDS' CABIN** is a place where a kid can be a kid! While Mom and Dad play nine holes, attend a wine dinner or treat themselves to a spa treatment, the kiddos play and make new friends. Open daily and late for Date Night on Fridays and Saturdays.

• Our members know the restorative power of herbs, water, and a soothing massage, especially after a long day of meetings. So they treat themselves to a day at our **SPA**. Our full menu of rejuvenating therapies and curative treatments are relaxing, refreshing, and amazingly restorative.

• The Club has proven to be the perfect place to network for business purposes and host clients to a round of golf or a company luncheon. Members' guests are impressed by the attentive service and the high quality of the amenities. With us you'll have the opportunity to **MAKE NEW CONNECTIONS** and reaffirm those you've had for many years.



FLYING HORSE[®]

BOLD, BEAUTIFUL, WILDLY ORIGINAL.



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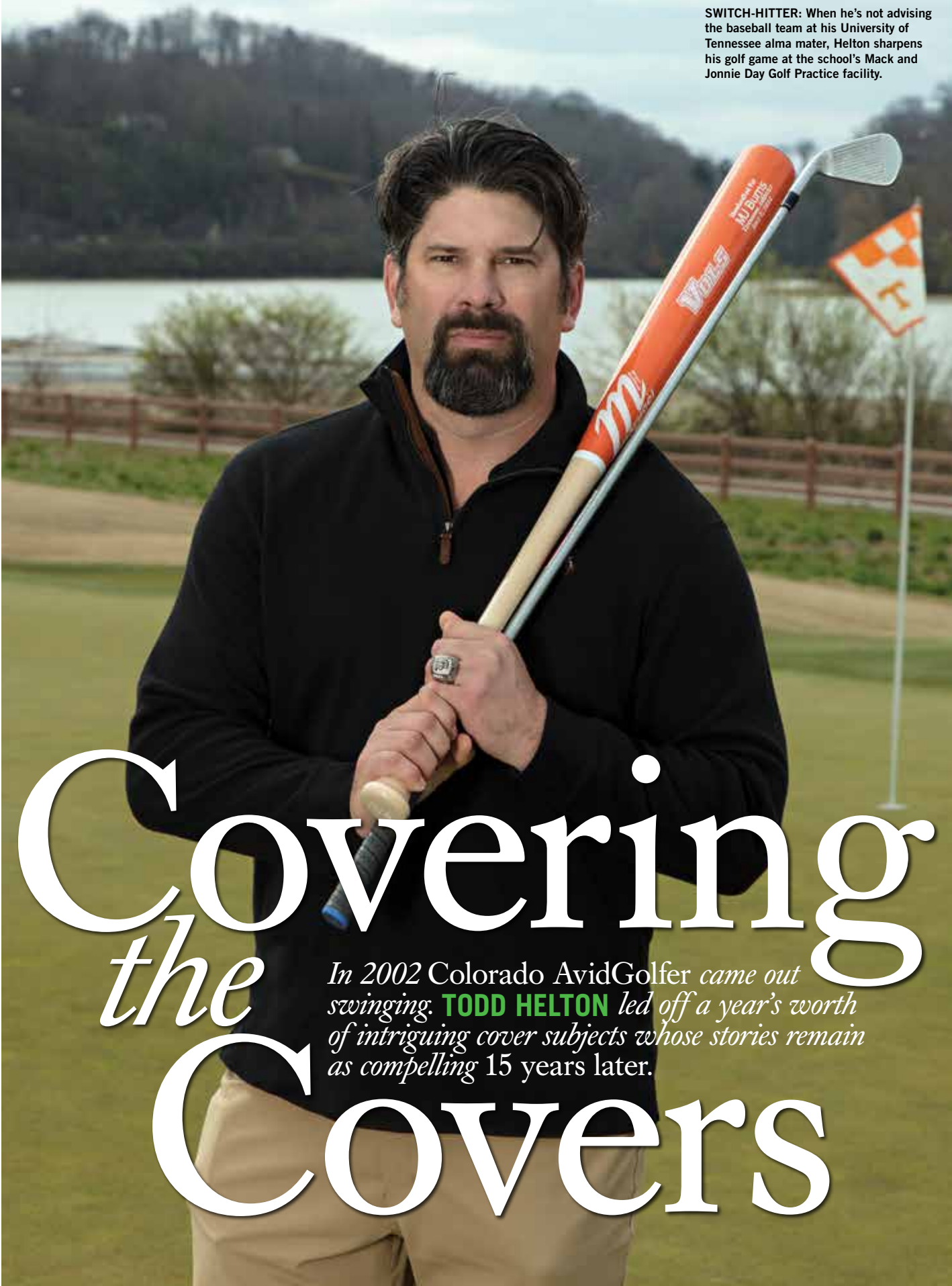
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SWITCH-HITTER: When he's not advising the baseball team at his University of Tennessee alma mater, Helton sharpens his golf game at the school's Mack and Jonnie Day Golf Practice facility.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DONALD PRICE

Covering *the* Covers

*In 2002 Colorado AvidGolfer came out swinging. **TODD HELTON** led off a year's worth of intriguing cover subjects whose stories remain as compelling 15 years later.*

TODD HELTON, April

2002: Coming off an all-star season (49 home runs, 146 RBI, .336 batting average), the 28-year-old Rockies first baseman had a year earlier signed a \$151.5 million deal that would keep him in purple and black for his entire career. A left-handed batter and thrower, Helton plays golf right-handed, sporting an 11 handicap without teeing off once during the baseball season. "You only get so many days off and I would rather relax," he said. "Not that golf's that physical, but it's too physical for me during the season."

2017: The Toddfather, who retired after the 2013 season as the Rockies' all-time leader in just about every offensive category, is currently back at his University of Tennessee alma mater as a volunteer for the Volunteers.

"My title is player development," says the 1995 National College Player of the Year. "I show up when I want. It's just a way to get back into it without a full commitment, which I wasn't quite ready to do."

Helton's flexible schedule allows him to commit to his main pursuit: golf. He plays at least four times a week, and, he says, "one of the best things about the job is UT's golf practice facility is on campus." He works with Sean Pacetti, the men's golf team's director of instruction and player development.

"I never learned the golf swing like I learned the baseball swing," Helton explains. "But since I'm not hitting it left-handed, I don't have to unlearn anything."

He has learned that he's not hitting the ball as far as his swing speed would suggest. "How does a guy with the same swing speed as me, who's 5-foot-6 155 pounds, hit it 100 yards further than I do?" he asks. "It reminds me of those little skinny pitchers who could throw it 100 miles per hour."

Helton plays to a 7 at Tennessee National Golf Club in Loudon, a 30-minute drive from the Knoxville home that's only two miles away from the house in which he grew up. The Greg Norman-designed course was the site of his first and only hole-in-one last fall. It came with a 4-iron from 205 yards on the par-3 third. Around the same time, he had the privilege of playing The Olde Farm Golf Club, just over the border in Virginia, with his former backup on the Tennessee football team, Peyton Manning.

The two are also members at Castle Pines Golf Club, where Helton plans on teeing it up when he returns to his ranch in Kersey this summer. He also will get out at Bear Creek Golf Club, where one of his regular playing partners, erstwhile radio personality Rich "G-Man" Goins, is membership director.

That won't happen until the UT baseball team finishes its season, possibly as late as June. The Vols got off to a great start this season, winning 12 of their first 14—with 14 freshmen on their roster.

"Freshmen are different now than I remember," Helton says. "They're not short on confidence. They work out regularly in a weight room right in the stadium, watch what they eat and drink. I promise you," he says with a laugh, "I didn't worry about one thing I ate or drank when I was in college."

He urges the players to mind the details that will lead to consistent performance.

"To me it's kind of like the golf swing," he explains. "You can go up there and you might occasionally have a good round without putting much thought into it. But in order to get better, to be consistently good, you need to do things exactly the same way every time—the same pre-shot routine, envisioning your shot, setting up, aligning your feet and

club, swinging with the same rhythm, on the same plane. I want them to prepare—without taking the fun out of the game."

It's what No. 17 did with the Rockies for 17 years.

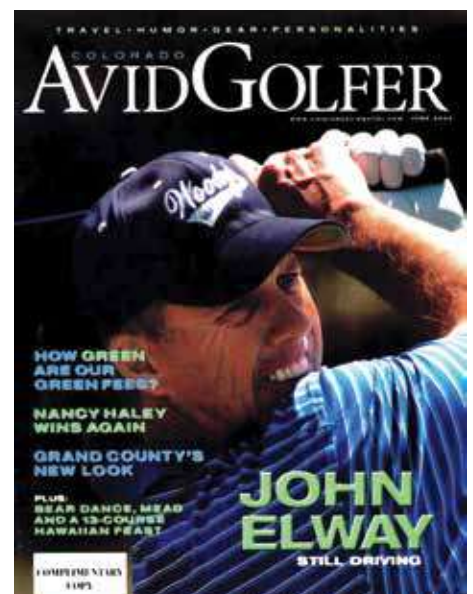
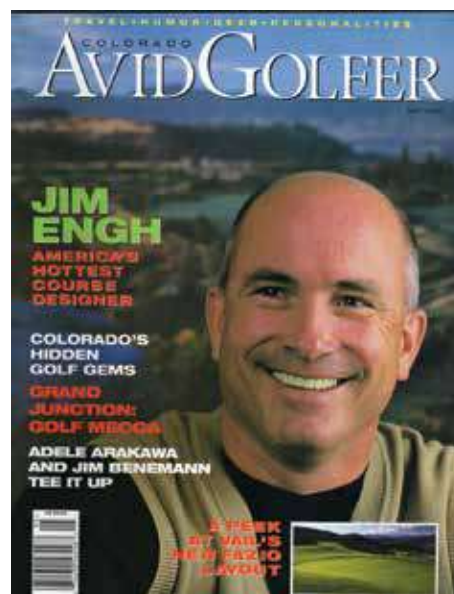
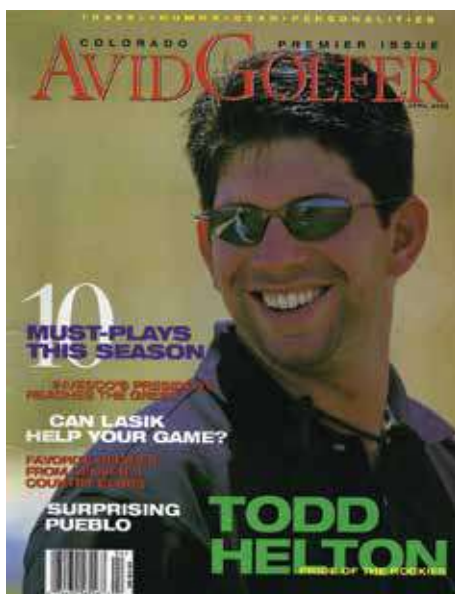
JIM ENGH, May

2002: Basking in the critical acclaim of The Golf Club at Redlands Mesa, the architect of Sanctuary was finishing Tullymore Golf Club in Michigan, The Club at Black Rock in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and putting the finishing touches on Golden's Fossil Trace Golf Club, which would open in 2003, the same year in which he won *Golf Digest's* first Golf Course Architect of the Year Award.

2017: With two-dozen courses to his credit around the world—including nine in Colorado—Engel and business partner Mitch Scarborough continue to create adventurous golf landscapes in such places as China, Vietnam and Thailand. He and his wife Monie recently moved from one home on a course he designed—the Golf Club at Pradera in Parker—to two on two. They spend summers by The Club at Black Rock in Coeur d'Alene and winters on his layout at Blackstone Country Club in the Vistancia community in Peoria, Arizona.

JOHN ELWAY, June

2002: Three years into retirement from the Denver Broncos, the two-time Super Bowl champion quarterback was hosting the Sun Microsystems/Elway Celebrity Classic, a Celebrity Players Tour event at the Omni Interlocken in Broomfield. Rumors swirled about ownership of an Arena League Football team, as well as a divorce from his wife, Janet—both of which came true the following year.





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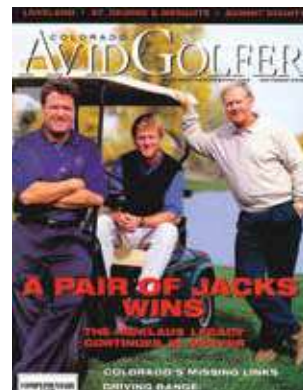
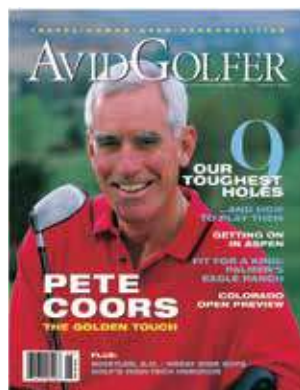
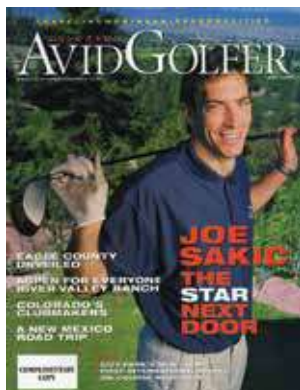
2017: As Executive Vice President of

Football Operations and General Manager of the Broncos, Elway has put together two teams that went to the Super Bowl—the most recent trip resulting in victory in 2016. Four restaurants and three car dealerships now bear his name. His role as president of Cherry Hills Country Club led to its hosting the 2014 BMW Championship, Colorado's first PGA Tour event in seven years. He now serves as honorary chairman of the 2018 U.S. Senior Open at The Broadmoor, an event in which

PETE COORS, August

2002: Photographed by Rich Clarkson at Rolling Hills Country Club, the iconic chairman of the Coors Brewing Company had recently promoted Leo Kiely, whom he'd hired years earlier after playing two days of golf together in Arizona, to Global CEO and President. Coors sported a 17.9 index and belonged to at least four clubs, including Castle Pines and Augusta National.

2017: After a decade and a half of corporate expansion during which Coors



the 2-handicap also hopes to compete in the May 28 qualifier at The Broadmoor, which will host the championship June 25 - July 1.

JOE SAKIC, July

2002: About to begin his 15th season with the Avalanche, the two-time Stanley Cup champion had in February led Team Canada to its first Olympic gold medal in a half-century. Tim DeFrisco photographed Sakic on the first tee at Sanctuary, where he would that month host the golf portion of the Fifth Annual Joe Sakic Celebrity Classic, which raised enough funds to enable Food Bank of the Rockies to provide 1.1 million meals for less fortunate children.

2017: Currently in his fourth season as executive vice president/general manager of the Avalanche, the Hockey Hall of Famer is also a member of Cherry Hills Country Club, where his powerful southpaw swing has produced a 1.4 index. On August 17, he will host the 20th sold-out edition of the Joe Sakic Celebrity Classic, presented by REMAX, at Sanctuary, and two days later, the Hyatt DTC will welcome The Joe and Debbie Sakic Bringing Hope to the Table Dinner presented by CoBank and RBC Wealth Management. With proceeds of these events continuing to benefit the Food Bank of the Rockies' children's hunger relief programs, the Sakics will have made possible more than 20 million meals to the 25 percent of all Colorado kids who struggle with food insecurity.

merged with Canada's Molson Brewing and, eventually, acquired sole ownership of Miller Brewing and numerous other brands, Molson Coors has become the third-largest brewer in the world. The 70-year-old Colorado icon currently serves as vice-chairman of the Molson Coors board of directors as well as a trustee of the Adolph Coors Company and Foundation and Coors Trust. Despite playing avidly, his index has risen to 21.

STACEY HART,

JACK AND JACKIE NICKLAUS, September

2002: After purchasing the land at Iliff and Yosemite formerly occupied by Los Verdes Country Club, the son of Colorado Golf Hall of Famer Ted Hart hired the Nicklauses to build an entirely new course to anchor his posh gated community at Cherry Creek Country Club. The 7,405-yard layout marked Nicklaus' tenth in Colorado and the first of three in the state with Jack II as co-architect.

2017: Karen Hart, Stacey's ex-wife, now owns and operates Cherry Creek, which has thrived under her aegis. After owning a number of golf facilities in Colorado—including Plum Creek Golf Club and Vista Ridge (now Colorado National)—Stacey owns Deer Creek Golf Club in Littleton. Splitting his time between Denver and Palm Springs, Hart says he's looking into developing lots along Deer Creek's driving range and possibly making improvements to the Littleton course this year.

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At age 77, Jack Nicklaus, who appeared on *Colorado AvidGolfer's* Fall 2015 cover in connection with the Century of Golf Gala, continues to design golf courses. Nicklaus Design has more than 410 courses around the world, with Jack II directly involved in most of them as the firm's president.

JILL MCGILL, October

2002: At July's U.S. Women's Open at Prairie Dunes, the 30-year-old Denver native went into Sunday two shots off the lead and playing in the final group. McGill, who'd previously won two USGA championships (the 1993 U.S. Women's Amateur and the '94 U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links), would tie for 12th after shooting a 78 in the final round.

2017: McGill lives in San Diego, where she says she's "playing enough golf to ensure my game is dramatically decreasing." She last competed in November's TaylorMade Pebble Beach Invitational and checked the "retired" box when she paid her LPGA dues. "It was a tough pill to swallow," she says, "but with a one-year-old and a five-year-old, my concerns are poop diapers and sneaking spinach into my kids' meals."



BEACH BABIES: McGill with Bella and Blaze.

Married since 2006 to Patrick Byerly—the senior VP of Competitor Group, an endurance sports event company—McGill for the last seven years has moved from San Diego to New York, Los Angeles and Dallas before returning to San Diego. "Between us, we had five job changes," she explains.

The biggest change came in 2012 when McGill gave birth to her daughter, Bella. She brought her on the road to LPGA Tour events, but soon realized it was "for the birds. The LPGA has tremendous daycare with great volunteers, and the players love it, but it just wasn't for me."

So she stepped back from the travel, taught golf to juniors in Dallas and got

certified as a personal trainer.

"I played on tour for almost 20 years, and it is not reality—especially if you have some success," says McGill, who has earned \$2.3 million during her career. "My husband always told me, 'When you get off tour, you won't know what hit you.'"

What hit her was the reality of parenthood after their son, Blaze, arrived last year with a heart problem that required surgery. He's doing great now, but that experience—as well as having recently had basal-cell removal—gave her perspective. "When you have a one-year-old laughing at you, how can you not embrace that?" she asks. "My life isn't completely wrapped up with them, but I'm at the point where people I know are dying, and I really appreciate time with my kids."

Still, the 45-year-old member of both the Colorado and University of Southern California halls of fame admits she was intrigued by the recent announcement that players 45 and older would be eligible for July's inaugural Senior LPGA Championship. "I'm in," she says with a chuckle. "That is, of course, if anyone wants to volunteer to watch the kids so I can get my game back." 🍷

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PIECE OF CAKE: Few 15-year-old girls hold a candle to Hailey Schalk.

PHOTOGRAPH BY EJ CARR

Colorado's 15ers

Meet four **GOLF PRODIGIES** who have been around as long as this magazine has.

By JON RIZZI

HAILEY SCHALK, Erie

Hailey Schalk's first birdies on a golf course came in 2004, when she was two years old. She liked feeding the ducks at Lake Valley Golf Club, where her dad, Matt, worked as the PGA head professional.

Two years later, Matt took the top job at Erie's Vista Ridge Golf Club (as Colorado National Golf Club was then known). Hailey found it fun to hit golf balls into the pond fronting the 18th green, so Matt made dunking a few balls her reward after playing three holes with him.

By the time Hailey started playing in tournaments, she had learned to avoid the water. But she had another issue: nerves. She always felt nauseous before tournaments. "Once it was so bad, I didn't want to play," she says. "My dad gave me a choice: 'You can throw up on the tee box or behind a bush, but you're not leaving.'"

Thus "cured," Hailey later went on to play through a 101° fever in a 10-and-under CJGA tournament at Boulder Country Club—and had her first hole in one.

Success followed. Matt's experiences over his 25 years as a competitive pro golfer have given her a perspective few juniors get. She's also caddied for him in two Colorado Opens. "I've learned that there will always

be times in golf when I'll mess up, and that's okay," she says. "I'm not as into chasing trophies as I am into seeing improvement."

Hailey hasn't messed up very often. Last May, she won the Junior Golf Alliance



Dillon Stewart

old she tied for seventh against high school students in the AJGA Hale Irwin Colorado Junior at Highlands Ranch and tied for eighth at October's AJGA All-Star Invitational at Oregon's Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club.

On March 8, 2017 Hailey won her first-ever high school event, the Frederick Tri-Valley League Tournament at Saddleback Golf Club. On May 22-23, she'll tee off in the High School Girls 4A championship at her home course at Colorado National, and in August, she will test herself in the CoBank Colorado Women's Open.

DILLON STEWART, Fort Collins

Dillon Stewart's days as a 15-year-old are numbered, but the fact that he turns 16 next month shouldn't preclude his inclusion here. The Fossil Ridge High School sophomore's accomplishments have had heads turning and universities inquiring since he qualified for the Optimist Junior World Champions and won the Rocky Mountain Junior Golf Tour Tournament of Champions while in middle school.

Over the last two years, Dillon has won 10 tournaments, including his very first high school competition, carding a 64 at Flatirons Golf Course in the 2015 Boulder/Fairview Invitational. He defended his title in 2016. He

of Colorado's first-ever girls' tournament at Todd Creek Golf Club. Shortly before starting her first year at Holy Family High School, she won the 2016 Colorado Junior Match Play—a JGAC major—at The Ridge at Castle Pines North. She won a third JGAC event at Fox Hill Club and finished runner-up in another major, the JGAC Amateur.

On a national level, last year as a 14-year-

also placed first in the 2015 IMG/Callaway Junior Worlds Qualifier (ages 13-14), finishing T42 out of 162 in the Championship, and won last year's Flatirons Optimist Qualifier (ages 14-15), before placing eighth out of 80 players in the Optimist Worlds in Florida.

The son of PGA Professional Scott Stewart, Dillon plays out of Ptarmigan Country Club, where his family lives on the 12th hole and he works on his game six days a week. He's long entrusted his swing to PGA Golf Instructor Brian Lindstrom, who works out of Windsor's Highland Meadows Golf Course and golfDynamics, an indoor golf center in Loveland.

"He's seen me since I was little," Dillon says. "Last year we worked 50 percent on full swing, and 50 percent on chipping and putting. This year it'll be more like 75 percent on putting and chipping. We're focusing on playing from the hole back."

Dillon wants to improve on a 2016 season in which he finished second in four JGAC events, including the Colorado Junior Amateur. He also knows he needs to execute in the Optimist and IMG junior worlds and in AJGA events to get looks from the Big 12 and PAC-12 schools he'd like to attend.

He's learning not to put pressure on

himself. Working with the performance psychologist Michael Riggs, the high-achieving teenager is achieving the emotional consistency and self-forgiveness necessary to take his already strong game to the next level.

Charlotte Hillary



CHARLOTTE HILLARY, Cherry Hills Village
When Charlotte Hillary heard that Cherry Hills Country Club would host the JGAC's first annual Junior Tour Championship on October 8-9, the 14-year-old Cherry Hills Village resident circled the dates.

Her family belongs to the historic club—as well as to Castle Pines Golf Club, where

she takes lessons from PGA Director of Instruction Don Hurter—and she knows the Cherry Hills course intimately.

Going into the Tour Championship, Charlotte had won two of the last three JGAC events of the season. "I felt like my game really started to blossom right before the tournament at Cherry Hills," she says. But the Kent Denver freshman was one of the youngest in a field of 20 star players.

After starting the championship with two bogeys, Charlotte composed herself and posted a one-under 72, with five birdies on the back nine. The following day, she enjoyed a four-shot lead after a birdie on the par-5 15th. She strung together three pars heading into 18.

"I was so nervous with all those people around the green," she admits. "When the last putt dropped, it felt like a miracle."

Full of confidence, the first JGAC Tour Champion went with her family to Hawaii in December and shot 68-65 in an event she remembers as a "member-member thing" at Kukio. In January she won January's Future Collegians World Tour (FCWT) Junior Golf event at California's Half Moon Bay.

A solid student who aspires to become a prosecuting attorney, she only started playing

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Colorado Section



Making a Positive Difference in the Lives of Others Through the Game of Golf

golf seriously four years ago, having cycled through other sports. "On the driving range, people would say I had a natural swing," she remembers. "I thought, 'wow, maybe I can do something with that.'"

She'll be doing that this year for Kent, as it competes in the newly created 3A Girls Golf division. She also intends to play in national and JGAC events and to defend her JGAC Tour Championship title Oct 7-8 at, yes, Cherry Hills.

JORDAN JENNINGS, Montrose

Living in Montrose and competing in state golf events means Jordan Jennings and his father, Ty, spend a lot of time in the car. "We get to talk about things most fathers and sons don't get to talk about," says Ty, who works for Irwin Golf Management.

One of those things might be where to put all the trophies and medals that Jordan—who turns 15 in October—keeps winning. In 2016, Jordan, whose home course is Bridges Golf & Country Club, won the JGAC Junior Championship (ages 11-13) at CommonGround Golf Course after birdieing three of the last four holes to force a playoff with Ryan Sangchompuphen. He also placed first in qualifiers for both the Optimist (12-13)

and IMG Academy (11-14) championships. He's qualified four consecutive years for the Optimist and the last two for the IMG.

His performance in the latest Optimist championship, held on PGA National's Champions Course, made a big impression on



Jordan Jennings

his father. Tied for the lead going into the 17th hole on the final day, Jordan failed to carry the water and took a triple-bogey. "He showed no emotion," Ty marvels, "and then parred the 18th hole." Jordan finished third in a field of 88 players from around the world.

Jordan credits his on-course demeanor

to talks with Ty and his father's friend, PGA Tour player Bryce Molder. "From the time I was four, my dad told me if I wanted to play golf with him, I had to be focused and committed for a full 18 holes," Jordan says. "He also told me never to let my emotions get involved or show them on the golf course."

From Molder he's also gleaned the importance of staying positive. "We talk on a regular basis," Jordan says. "He's told me always to take from a round the ten best things that happened." Molder also advised taking a four- or five-month break from golf at the end of October, something Jordan embraces. "I like playing team sports like basketball," says Jordan, who looks forward to joining a strong Montrose High School golf squad in the fall.

This winter's hiatus didn't prevent the Jenningses from going to TaylorMade headquarters in Carlsbad, Calif., where Jordan, a "junior staff" member, got fit in February for a new set of P770 irons. "Their program looks into the future, more so with shafts than with clubs," Ty explains. "Jordan's grown seven inches in less than a year, so we'll probably be buying new shafts every four to six months." Such is the price of raising a golf prodigy. 🏌️



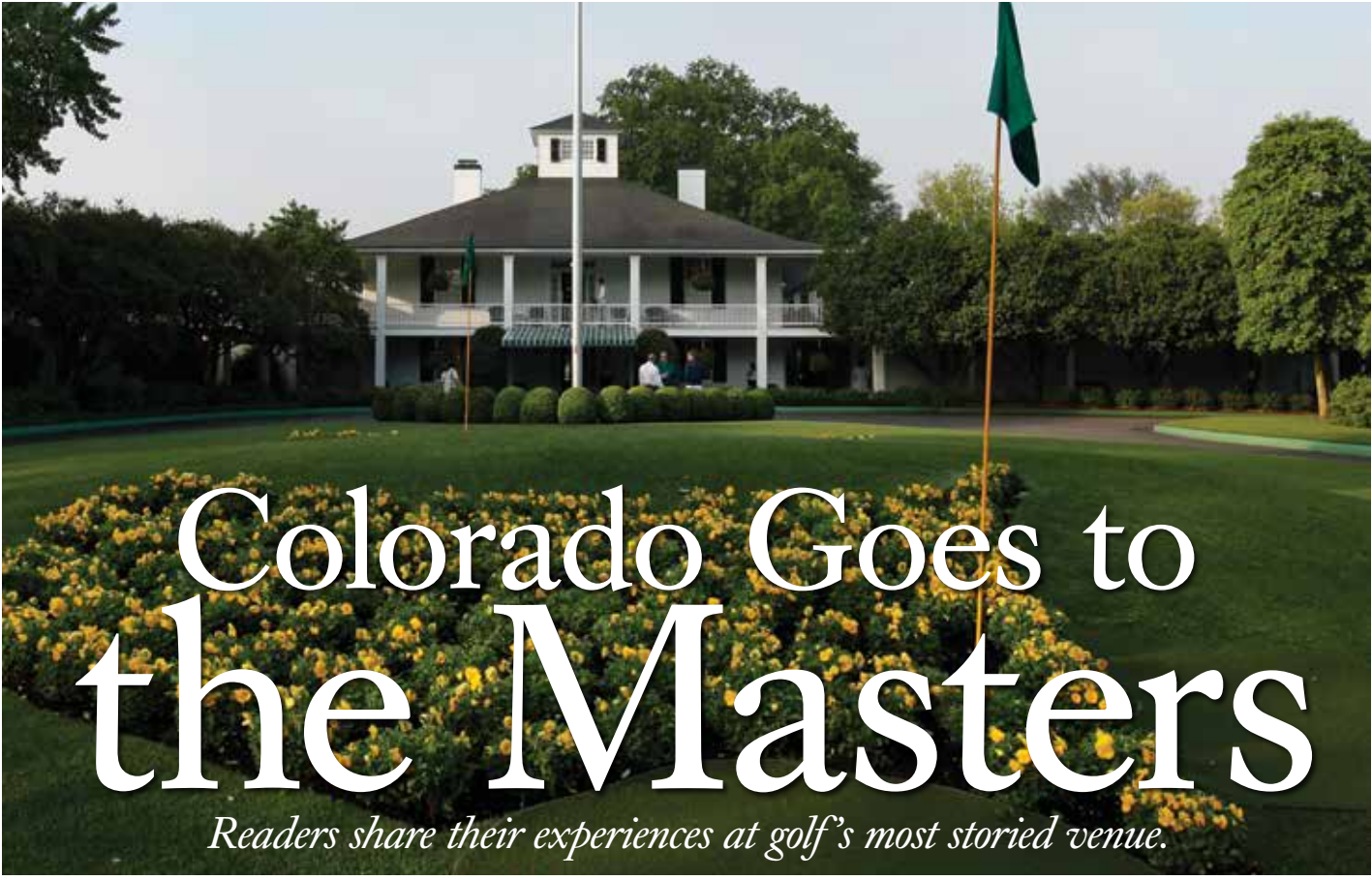
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Colorado Goes to the Masters

Readers share their experiences at golf's most storied venue.

"I PLAYED 54 HOLES over two days, my goal being to find one weed and bring it home. I had heard how impeccably manicured Augusta was, but knew there had to be at least one weed growing on the course, which formerly had been a nursery. What happened? I found not one foreign blade of grass on the entire Augusta property."

Thus the late long-drive legend Mike Dunaway described his initial experience at Augusta National Golf Club, home of the Masters, in the 2007 book, *Golf Heaven: Insiders Remember Their First Trip to Augusta*. While few of us get to play one hole, let alone 54, on the celebrated course from which Rory McIlroy once felt uncomfortable even taking a divot, a number of fortunate *Colorado AvidGolfer* readers have had the privilege of attending the Masters as patrons.

Their experiences, shared in response to our solicitations, both online and in print, yielded not one weed—no overzealous marshaling, no arrogant members, no "plantation atmosphere" as one sportswriter once grumbled. Yes there are rules—no cell phones, no running or yelling after shots—but those prohibitions are as much a part of Masters lore as green jackets, Butler Cabin and pimento cheese sandwiches.

To a man (no women responded), the tournament and the exquisitely maintained

shrine in which it takes place represent the apogee of American golf. Even those who complained about the traffic lauded the free parking spots on a 120-acre field the club purchased on Berckmans Road.

Asked where they stayed, respondents bedded down as far away as Greensboro, NC (254 miles from Augusta) and Atlanta (145), or drove the 76 miles from Columbia or the 20 from Aiken—both in South Carolina. The rest stayed at Augusta motels.

Whether they attended a Monday practice round or 16 tournaments, the home of the "tradition unlike any other" made an impression unlike any other....

WHAT WAS THE ATMOSPHERE LIKE?

Like going to the Vatican. It's a cathedral.

—Dan Steiner (16-time patron)

For the size of the crowd, the course felt more like a library or church.

—Charlie Wolf (patron, 1987)

The grounds are very peaceful and surreal, especially early in the morning... seriously feels like paradise. Then, as the patrons fill the stands and greens/tees, it's almost like everyone knows it's a special place and no one is taking it for granted. People's attentions are laser focused on golf. There is

no tomfoolery. The exact opposite of an NFL game, yet twice the fun.

—David Bundy (patron, 2010, 2012-15)

It is greatest sporting event or any event for that matter. I have been to Super Bowl, World Series, NCAA national championships in basketball, football and baseball and nothing compares. You must go and pay whatever price you need to get in.

—John Walker (patron, 2016)

Everyone (patrons, workers, officials) has a smile. From the patron's perspective, everything is focused on the golf—no visible sponsors, reasonable prices, and the course is contoured to promote visibility and access to seeing the shots.

—Chris Souther (patron, 1984-2016)

They want you watching golf, not standing in line. They staff accordingly and the low prices for food and beverages let you to keep watching the action. Simply put, Southern charm and accommodation in every aspect.

—Jordan McCormick (patron, 2013 & 2016)

Augusta National treats everyone like royalty. There is no trash, no dead grass, and

even the lines for concessions and restrooms never stop moving. It's the best-run major sporting event in the world.

—Chad Andrus (patron, 2016)

The atmosphere was electric...starting with the drive up Magnolia Lane and the buzz created by crowds knowing that we were all at a very special event.

—Craig Fowler (patron, 2008)

The large, relaxed crowds were very respectful of all the golfers and most wanted to see/walk with the past champions—particularly those would in all likelihood not make the cut and play the weekend.

—Clif Moore (patron, 2009)

Effervescent. More so than the BMW Championship at Cherry Hills and the Solheim Cup at Colorado Golf Club.

—K.D. McHugh (patron, 2016)

WHAT SURPRISED YOU?

How hilly the course actually is! TV doesn't do the course justice. Even the climb up from the entrance to No. 1 tee was rather daunting. I was also surprised by how respectful everyone was. No yelling, swearing or

mocking the golfers—even though everyone had an adult beverage in hand!

—Ryan Adams, PGA (patron, 2016)

The chute off the 18th tee is maybe 20 yards wide....incredible!

—Craig Fowler

It's difficult to describe how it feels to be on a property you feel like you know, even if you have never set foot on it before.

—Jordan McCormick

How inexpensive the food and drink were.

—Colin Callahan (patron, 2013)

Since everyone is walking out with bags of merchandise for themselves and people back home, you walk out of the tent and there is a UPS station with UPS employees wearing Masters apparel. They box up your merchandise, and the next time you see it is at your destination address. You have to pay for shipping, but if you don't want to carry, you don't have to. That shows the dedication of taking care of the patrons. The Masters committee understands the "once-in-a-lifetime experience," and goes over the top



with service. In the restroom, attendants wipe off every toilet after use and before the next person enters the stall.

—Nick Marino (Patron, 2016)

There are no corporate labels on anything, anywhere. They'll tell you what kind of beer or soda or sandwich you're buying but it only has MASTERS in it.

—Chad Andrus

It surprised me the level of dedication the Masters has to providing a good patron experience. Green Jacketed members stand outside and answer questions, give directions, tell stories. I even had one member open a bathroom door for me! This man was

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probably one of the more powerful and wealthy people on the planet and here he is helping me with a door...simply astonishing.

—David Bundy

IS THERE A STORY YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE?

My brother and I once walked holes 4, 5 and 6 with Sam Snead. He walked up behind us and actually asked us to join him. He introduced us to (former Arkansas football coach) Frank Broyles who was honorary Masters president that year. He was so nice to us. He died two months later.

—Dan Steiner

I sat in the bleachers last year at Amen Corner and watched Jordan Spieth almost hole his approach on 11. It rolled right past the cup. He missed the putt and bogeyed. As he walked to the 12th tee, the giant scoreboard posted another Danny Willett birdie and Spieth looked over his left shoulder to see it before teeing on 12. Instead of playing it safe he went for the pin in the back right corner and hit it in the water. Then he chunked an easy chip after his drop. He melted down right in front of me. It was painful to watch.

—Chad Andrus

There are no cell phones at Augusta National, but there are complimentary phones you can use to call people by the concession stands. I took that opportunity to call my dad—a fellow lifelong golfer. I told him, “Dad, I made it. I’m at The Masters!” and almost cried. It was something I’ll never forget, and I hope to take him one day too.

—Ryan Adams

Being with my Dad on the grounds at Augusta National will be one of my lifetime memories. To see him tear up walking around Amen Corner and talking about all of the players and magnificent shots that have been hit on the course was so special.

—Craig Fowler

In 2012 I played in the Golf Channel AMTour National Championship at TPC Sawgrass. On Day Three I was paired with a nice guy from Atlanta, a redhead like me, and on the final day I was in the group just ahead of him. Coming down the stretch, our group was not threatening the leaderboard so when the beer cart rolled by, I bought two Coors Lights and told the girl that one was for the redhead in the group behind us. In the clubhouse after the round my new



friend sat next to me. The first thing out of his mouth was: “Do you want to go to the Masters?” I somehow uttered something that sounded like a yes. The following spring, we flew to Atlanta on Thursday, played 36 holes on Friday and 36 on Saturday at different courses around Atlanta. On Sunday we drove to Augusta, where we purchased special Masters lawn chairs and set them up at Amen Corner. From there we wandered the grounds, knowing that come the afternoon we would have epic seats waiting for us. A friend even saw me on TV when Tiger was teeing off on 12 (I’m the double-fisted one under the rope in the photo above). The moral of the story: always buy someone a beer—you never know what might come of it.

—Colin Callahan

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WHAT TIPS WOULD YOU SHARE TO THOSE WHO HAVEN'T GONE?

Go super early and hit the merchandise tent later. The tents are all over, so don't make the mistake of stopping at the first big one; nearly everyone does that and the lines are twice as long. There's a big merchandise tent on the back nine that's a hidden gem with shorter lines.

—Nick Marino

Buy your souvenirs early in the week. By Sunday many things are sold out. You can switch tickets in and out so multiple people can do half days. Buy a Masters lawn chair when you arrive and put it at your favorite spot you want to sit. No one will touch it. You can come and go as you please all day.

—Chad Andrus

Enjoy every second. Grab one more shirt, one more golf ball, one more beer with your buddies. You never know when you'll be back, so it's best to soak it all in when you're there. I would also just take an hour or so out of your day to walk the course. We did that Sunday morning of last year before the round started, and barely anyone was down in Amen Corner. Felt like I was at church! Lastly, be sure to get your photo taken in front of the clubhouse! If you walk towards the par 3, and then around the corner, you'll likely see a line. That's for getting your photo taken! They'll give you a card and you can see the photos online after your round.

—Ryan Adams

Do not show up late or leave early; it's worth every second. • Stand at the 14th teeing area. It has a view of the approach and putting on hole 13 and the tee shot and approach shot on 14. It also has shade, a grandstand and a scoreboard. • Buy a pimento cheese sandwich and an egg salad sandwich and then combine them—it's one of the best sandwiches I've ever had. • Camp by the second green—it's birdie heaven. • If you sit on the far left side of the greenside grandstand of hole 15 you can see the tee shot on 16. Both holes give up plenty of birdies—and the occasional eagle. • Don't bother with hotels or motels. Find a rental property from one of the local booking agents. • Eat at these places in Augusta: TacoSushi, Farmhaus Burgers, Frog Hollow and The French Market. • Drink a velvet hammer if you get the chance. • Play a round at these courses if possible: Champions Retreat and The Augusta Country Club. They will not disappoint.

—David Bundy

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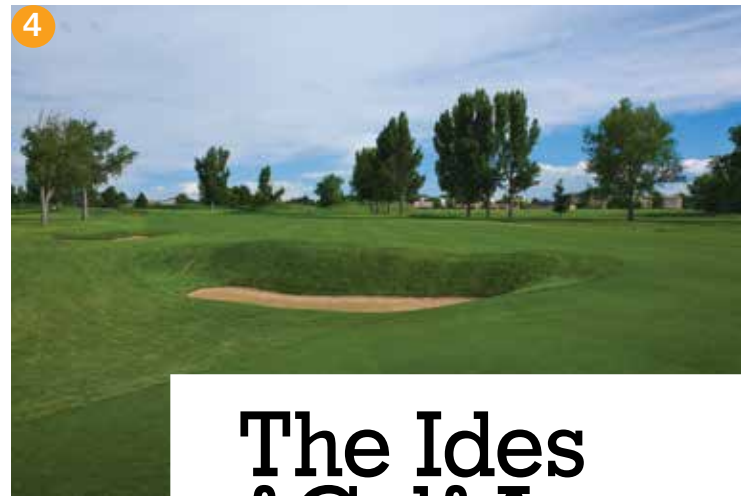
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