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PHOTO COURTESY OF ASPEN GLEN GOLF CLUB

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Colorado AvidGolfer (ISSN 1548-4335) is published eight times a year by Baker-Colorado Publishing, LLC, and printed by Publication Printers Corp. 9350 E. Arapahoe Road #210, Greenwood Village, CO 80112. Colorado AvidGolfer is available at more than 250 locations, or you can order your personal subscription by calling 720-493-1729. Subscriptions are available at the rate of $17.95 per year.

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Postmaster: Send address changes to Colorado AvidGolfer, 9350 E. Arapahoe Road #210, Greenwood Village, CO 80112. The magazine welcomes editorial submissions but assumes no responsibility for the safekeeping or return of unsolicited manuscripts, photographs, artwork or other material.

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

The Importance of Proper Clubbing

THE WORD *CLUB* pulls double duty in golf. It serves both as an implement necessary to play the game and as an institution that defines the people with whom we play it.

This issue devotes most of its pages to clubs of both kinds: the kind you swing at a ball and the kind you swing by for a round (there are two kinds of those as well) with fellow members.

In our annual Gear Guide (page 23), Ted Johnson provides a selection of the best new offerings to put in your bag, and why advancements in technology—in both materials and in club fitting—have created more options for personalization than ever before.

With those options comes the potential for greater confusion, but putting yourself in our hands and those of a professional club fitter should bring you more clarity and, ultimately, a better golf experience.

I began having those experiences many years ago after getting an Edel putter, for which my friend Stan Sayers fit me during his days at Green Valley Ranch Golf Club. In German, *edel* means "noble," and I wanted to give David Edel a Nobel Peace Prize for resolving the ongoing conflict between me and the flat stick. My McKenzie putter—named for the fly-fishing river in Edel's native Oregon, not the legendary golf course architect Alister MacKenzie to whom he also has a tie—was money.

By 2020, the man who had built a cultlike following for his putters and also developed Bryson DeChambeau's single-length irons had sold Edel Golf to CoorsTek VP Doug Coors, whom he'd come to know during a putter fitting. The company now operates out of a facility in Denver, and as Andy Bigford reports in "A Custom Fit" (page 37), golfers looking for a long-term solution to their short-game woes may well find it just north of I-70 on Colorado Boulevard.

The only club golfers use more than the putter is the one at which they're a member. Even with the costs of initiations and dues escalating, many clubs report memberships are at capacity and wait lists to join get longer by the day. Starting on page 63, Clubbing Up, our annual Guide to Private Clubs, spotlights several stellar clubs that may just be the spot for you.

We've all heard a variation of the Groucho Marx line: "I would never join a club that would have someone like me as a member." Even if you're happily playing in the men's or women's club at your local public course, it never hurts to peruse the directory that begins on page 80. As always, we list information for every private club in Colorado, and the numbers this year are quite eye-opening and may tempt you to take the plunge.

In the meantime, whether getting fit for club or trying to fit in at one, remember the wisdom of another comedian, Mitch Hedberg: "I order the club sandwich all the time, and I'm not even a member."



PHOTO BY JO ANNE RIZZI



JON RIZZI
Editorial Director



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF CASTLE PINES GOLF CLUB

MILKSHAKE MULLIGAN

An issue spotlighting clubs seems like the appropriate place to run a better photo of the famous Castle Pines Golf Club milkshake than the one that ran in last issue's Fareways column.

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CGA Membership Means More

Getting a handicap is only the beginning.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COLORADO GOLF ASSOCIATION

Let the score-posting begin! Everyone at the Colorado Golf Association is gearing up for another busy golf season. We want to ensure every one of our more than 76,000 members has a great experience and gets the most out of their CGA membership.

Here are a few things to keep in mind:

USGA GHIN MOBILE APP

Membership in the CGA begins with a USGA Handicap. Every year, the USGA GHIN Mobile app keeps getting better. Out of the 1.8 million rounds posted by Colorado golfers Last year, CGA members posted 1,000,000 scores on the app.

Beyond just posting your 9-, or 18-hole tally, you can post each hole you play and track your stats on that hole. You can include whether you hit the fairway, miss left or right, and, on the green, keep track of how many putts it takes you to finish.

These stats appear in helpful graphs and pie charts and help you improve before your next lesson with your PGA or LPGA instructor.

In 2021, the USGA added free standard GPS features and course maps to the app with access to more than 10,000 courses worldwide. Enhanced GPS features such as putt-break maps, approach-shot heat maps, and shot-tracking are also available on a subscription basis. And recently, the USGA included Smart Watch synchronization to create even easier access to the app features.

New to the app in 2022 are "Games" you can set up with CGA members. You can look up other golfers to play against and use the World Handicap System to let you play regardless of your skill levels.

It only takes 54 holes to set up your handicap, so post those scores and take advantage of a system that just keeps getting better.

The USGA GHIN app is available for free to members on your Android phone, and now, Apple users can access the app through their iPhone and Apple Watch.

CGA MEMBER ZONE

All members can access their membership benefits in our updated CGA Member Zone. You'll find links to download the USGA app, post scores from your desktop, report a hole in one, or find schedules to the many events we conduct for men and women. These include competitive tournaments and opportunities to qualify for USGA national championships through USGA qualifying events this spring. Additionally, the Member Zone features local and national businesses that offer members exclusive discounts and donate back to the CGA with every purchase you make.

Struggling to find a tee time and looking to play some new courses around the state? CGA members enjoy access to our Member Play days, which get started May 22nd, when we kick off the season with our first event at Perry Park Country Club in Larkspur. With eight no-format and four team events, we have opportunities for players of all abilities to experience some of Colorado's best clubs. Registration opens two months prior to each outing on our website, and regional club members get 24-hour early access to the event in their area.

2023 is shaping up to be a very exciting year to play golf in Colorado, and to see some of the best players in the world in our own backyard. Two national championships—the U.S. Girls' Junior and U.S. Amateur—are coming in July and September to Eisenhower Golf Club and Cherry Hills Country Club, respectively.

Stay tuned to this section to learn why "Membership Means More" with the CGA. Purchase a Colorado AvidGolfer Golf Passport Plus package and automatically become a member or join the CGA directly at *coloradogolf.org*.

For more information on all the benefits of Colorado Golf Association membership, visit *coloradogolf.org* or call 303-366-4653.



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SORENSTAM (IN PINK) AND SON VISIT THE "GRASS CEILING SOCIETY" AT THE 2022 U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN.

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF SHEILA SCHROEDER

GREEN TEAM: "It's really cool that someone so high up is appreciative of the ones that make the course what it is," Ashley Kendall, one of the 31 female volunteer turf workers on the USWO grounds crew said of Annika Sorenstam.

Claiming Their Turf

While Netflix's *Full Swing* gets the full attention of the golf-loving public, a YouTube golf documentary series is quite literally breaking new ground.

Directed and executive-produced by University of Denver professor **Dr. Sheila Schroeder**, *Breaking the Turfgrass Ceiling* goes behind the scenes at the 2022 U.S. Women's Open, where an all-volunteer crew of 31 female turfgrass professionals from around the country joined forces with the 17-member staff of North Carolina's Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club to prepare the course for last June's national championship. With women comprising less than 2 percent of the 19,000-plus members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), most of these volunteers regularly work almost exclusively with men.

Hearing their stories and watching the joy and pride they take in maintaining turf and equipment is as inspiring as watching the bonds they form with each other over the course of 14 three- to 12-minute episodes.



COLORADAN SUN ROESSLEIN

Schroeder, a 9 handicap at Broken Tee Golf Course, first learned of the all-women volunteer force at a KPMG Women's Golf Clinic at TPC Colorado in August 2021. She was paired at the instruction stations with Minnesota-based golf course architect Kari Haug, a GCSAA member and one of the world's few female course designers. Two months earlier, Haug had volunteered at the U.S. Women's Open at San Francisco's Olympic Club, where Director of Golf Maintenance Troy Flanagan, with the help of Syngenta's Kimberly Gard, had decided to mark the club's first U.S. Women's Open by recruiting 30 women turf professionals as part of the volunteer crew.

Rainbird agreed to cover airfare for all the recruits. The historic event—"Is this the moment that we just broke the grass ceiling?" an emotional Kelly Lynch of Oregon asked in front of the room of volunteers—would have a sequel at Pine Needles in 2022, with another "Grass Ceiling Society" crew working with Director of Grounds David Fruchte's team.

The idea of chronicling this event excited Schroeder, whose filmmaking "focuses on populations that don't always get their stories told." Haug called Gard and GCSSA Senior Director of Member Programs Shilea Finney. In quick fashion, Schroeder got the gig.

At Pine Needles, she and former student Leif Soederberg embedded with the volunteers, shooting "96 percent" of the footage with iPhones. "Because we were doing social media storytelling, we could do quick editing and posting," she explains. "There's a real immediacy and freedom to it."

The pair shot about 70 hours of footage.



LEFT TO RIGHT: SHEILA SCHROEDER, KELLY LYNCH, DAVID FRUCHTE, LEIF SOEDERBERG

Current DU students Zyann Rodgers and Davis Mawer logged it all, along with photos from subjects in the series. Schroeder and Soederberg also went to The Olympic Club to film part of the first episode, "Origin Story."

The series includes inspirational talk to the group by USGA President Mike Whan, a visit to the history-making crew by an appreciative Annika Sorenstam and an emotional interview with Bonnie Bell McGowan—the daughter of Pine Needles late owner Peggy Kirk Bell—who has also since passed away.

But the real stars are the 31 women, all of whom recognize the significance of what they're accomplishing—as proud professionals, mentors and role models.

"We just want people to know that we're here," Sally Jones, the GM and head superintendent of Benson Golf Course in Minnesota, summarizes. "And we want more of us."

Look for another crew of women volunteers at July's U.S. Women's Open at Pebble Beach. *youtube.com; @womeninturfteam*



JESSICA LINEHAN OF PLATTEVILLE & RENEE GEYER

Looper Laureates

At Denver Country Club in January, 14 Colorado students who caddied at courses in the state were awarded the Evans Scholarship—a full housing and tuition college grant offered to golf caddies valued at more than $125,000 over four years. The Western Golf Association and the Colorado Golf Association selected the students from a record 39 applicants. Also setting a record: 11 of the 14 selected were women. Those who received the scholarship (and the club at which they caddied) are **Michael Barbone**, **Alexandria Gough** and **Sarah Jimenez** (Cherry Hills); **Georgia Meysman-Sharpe**, **Ellie Rodriguez** (CommonGround); **Hannah Abbey** and **Jovaun Salcido** (Meridian); **Madeline and Schuyler Jonasen** (The Broadmoor); **Karely Castillo** and **Erika Kemp** (Green Valley Ranch); **Julia and Brady Schiff** (Denver); and **Keileigh Gorman** (Rolling Hills). Come fall, they will all live in the same Evans Scholars house at the University of Colorado with 40-45 fellow scholars on the Boulder campus. *wgaesf.org*



KEILEIGH GORMAN

PHOTO BY CORINNE WESTEMAN/ THE GOLDEN TRANSCRIPT

Bagging the Mountain Lions


UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS MEN'S GOLF TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

"It's unbelievable to me," **Phil Trujillo**, who has coached the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS) men's golf team for 24 years, said upon hearing that for budgetary reasons the school would eliminate the men's and women's golf programs at the conclusion of the current season.

"Our program is the most successful program in the history of athletics at UCCS," Trujillo continued. "The boys are completely torn up and saddened by the news because obviously we were all caught off guard."

"This was an incredibly difficult decision, but also necessary in order to ensure the university and department's budget expectations were met," UCCS Executive Director of Athletics Nathan Gibson said in a press release, adding that the school's Professional Golf Management Program—the only one in Colorado—will continue operating as it has since 2003 as part of the UCCS College of Business.

Eligible student-athletes receiving an athletic scholarship will have their scholarship honored in full through the 2023-24 academic year. Those choosing to transfer can compete at that institution beginning next fall. But for this spring, they'll all remain Mountain Lions and try to go out with a roar by making it to the NCAA II championships next month. *uccs.edu*

Jen Wins Again

Three is **Jennifer Kupcho**'s magic number. The Westminster native won three times on the LPGA Tour last year—a feat for which she'll receive her third Golf Person of the Year award from the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame this month. She was thrice honored by the Sportswomen of Colorado, thus becoming a member of that organization's Hall of Fame, and on March 12, she became the third golfer in that organization's 49-year history to win its Sportswoman of the Year Award, following U.S. Women's Amateur champions **Cindy Hill** (1974) and **Jill McGill** (1993).

McGill, the 2022 U.S. Senior Women's Open champion, was also honored that night for a third time by SWOC, enshrining her in its Hall of Fame. Other golfers honored included State 4A and AJGA Hale Irwin champion **Hadley Ashton**, 2022 CGA Women's Match Play champion and Player of the Year **Leigha Devine** and LPGA Instructor **Ann Wolta Blackstone**, who has coached St. Mary's Academy to two straight 3A state titles, earning her the Joan Birkland Leadership Award. *sportswomenofcolorado.org*


JENNIFER KUPCHO

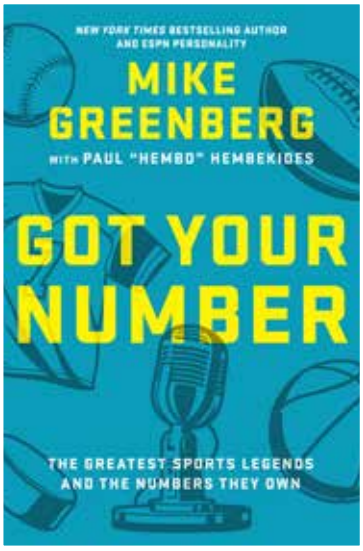
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What's in a Number?

ESPN personality **Mike "Greeny" Greenberg**'s *Got Your Number* pinballs through multiple sports as it counts from 1 to 100 to define which sports legends "own" certain numbers. Many of those digits—like 12 (Tom Brady), 23 (Michael Jordan) and 42 (Jackie Robinson) and 99 (Wayne Gretzky)—appeared on an athlete's uniform, while others, like 61 (Roger Maris), connect to their feats. Greeny calls golf "his favorite sport," so if you want to know which golfers own 18, 46, 62, 64, 82 and 97—or why you should care about the numbers 7 and 55, pick up a copy of this entertaining, eclectic debate-starter. $26. *HyperionAvenueBooks.com*



A Legendary 97

When the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame opens its new museum at The Broadmoor this month, it will do so without its longest tenured board member. **John Gardner II**, who passed away in February at age 97, had served on the board since 1974—one year after the organization's founding—and was himself an inductee of the Colorado Hall of Fame and the Colorado Senior Golfers' Association Hall of Fame.

The Denver native competed on the University of Denver golf team alongside fellow future Colorado Golf Hall of Famers Ted Hart and Paul McMullen and was coached by inaugural inductee Babe Lind. He was a Lakewood Country Club member for 81 years, joining as a junior (his father and grandfather both belonged) in 1941, Gardner served a term as club president and captained the club's annual Schrepferman Cup competition against teams from Denver Country Club and Cherry Hills Country Club for 35 years.

Gardner spent 81 years in the insurance business. He also served as president of the Colorado Golf Association in 1990-91. His countless hours volunteering at state and national championships earned him the USGA's Ike Granger Award—in recognition of 25 years of service to the USGA. *coloradogolfhalloffame.org*


JOHN GARDNER II

PHOTO COURTESY THE COLORADO GOLF HALL OF FAME



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2023 GEAR GUIDE

THE TRIUMPH OF TECH IS MAKING GEAR MORE PERSONAL THAN EVER.

By Ted Johnson



About 40 years ago, golf entered the era of High Tech. It started with the transition to metal woods and has kept going into the stratosphere. Now clubs emerge from an amazing swirl of unique materials that are turned into computer-aided designs fed immediately into automated milling machines. Drivers, irons and even putters are more advanced, more proficient in reaching the intent of the design, and more expensive.

Also, much better. Today's clubs are more forgiving and yet offer more distance than ever. And they also have more ways to be personalized to your specific swing, body type, age and even course conditions, through the wonders of club fitting.

Combining these high-tech marvels of engineering with the customized precision of a professional fit provides the game's best players—as well as those aspiring to become more competent—with the most bang for their buck and greater enjoyment of the game. **Play on.**

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DRIVERS













01. COBRA AEROJET LS

Why You'll Love It: Sleek head design for jet-like aerodynamics
Why You Should Buy It: Swing at 100 mph or for more carry thanks to unique interior wraparound clubface
Insider's Insight: Cobra learned a lot by working with Bryson DeChambeau, and it shows
Price: $549

02. PING G430 MAX

Why You'll Love It: Great forgiveness, yet excellent feel
Why You Should Buy It: Ping's ribbed crown design & thin face haven't changed much in 7 years—and don't need to
Insider's Insight: It's one club you might find in the bag of a 15-handicap and a scratch player
Price: $549

03. CALLAWAY PARADYM

Why You'll Love It: Overall stability & forgiveness = very long on mishits
Why You Should Buy It: The paradigm shift is all carbon and no titanium in the head, save for "jailbreak" bars in face
Insider's Insight: Once you figure out the adjustable weights you'll see amazing consistency
Price: $600

04. TITLEIST TS2

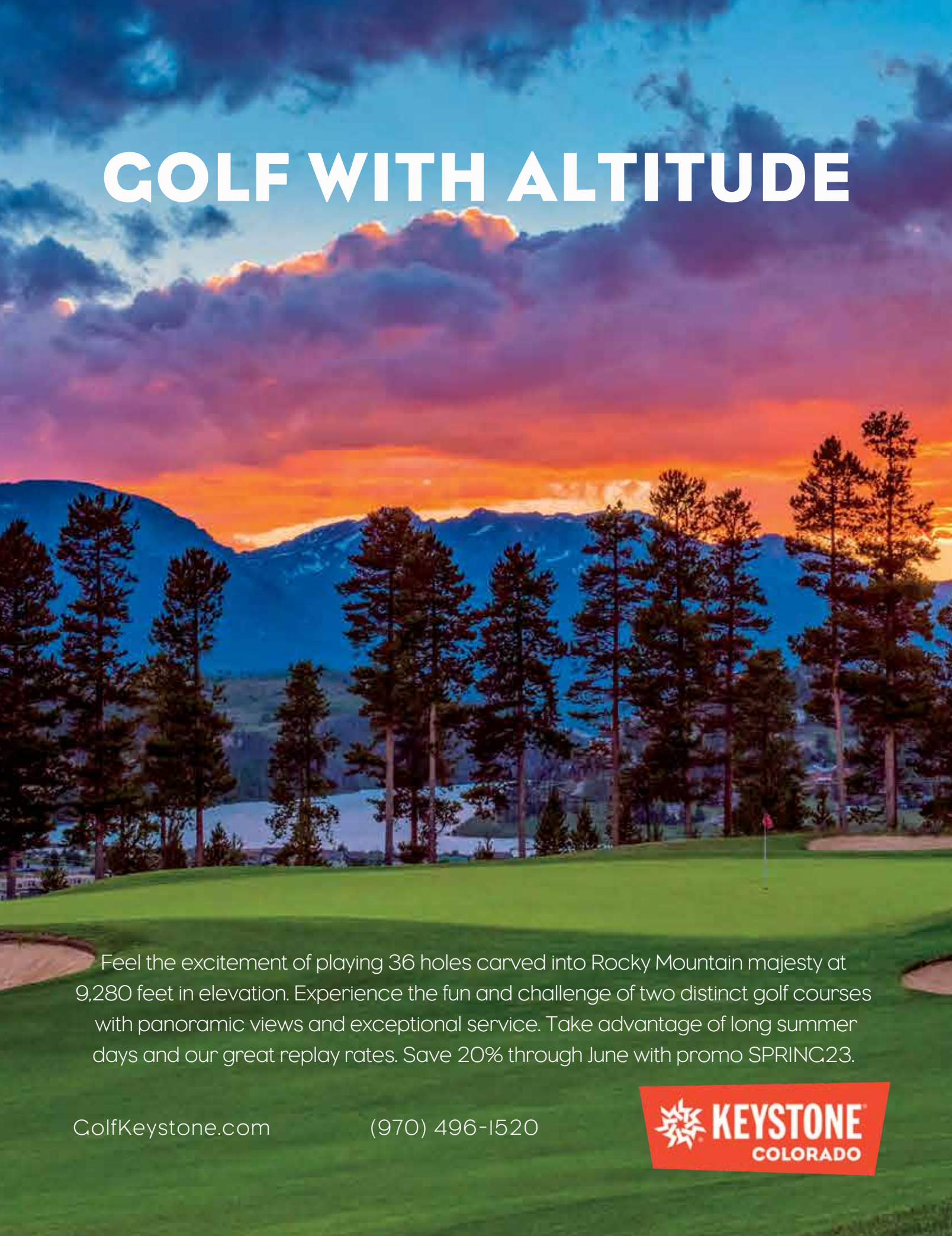
Why You'll Love It: Performance & forgiveness—an exception for Titleist
Why You Should Buy It: TS stands for "tour speed" and this driver yields great distance and consistency on mishits
Insider's Insight: For better players who want more control, try the TS3
Price: $600

05. SRIXON ZX5 MK II

Why You'll Love It: More traditional titanium design for sound and feel
Why You Should Buy It: Super-thin titanium crown & distinctive titanium face produce solid, consistent distance
Insider's Insight: Sound is essential for feel; unlike carbon, this driver gives comforting crunch
Price: $500

06. MIZUNO ST-X 230

Why You'll Love It: Slower swing speeds (code for older golfers) will love it
Why You Should Buy It: Higher spin for high launch & slight draw bias yet forgiving; good for higher handicaps
Insider's Insight: Better players might want to consider lower lofts for shaping shots
Price: $500


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01



04



02



05



03



06

01. MIZUNO ST-Z 230

Why You'll Love It: Unique steel bar behind face for more pop & control

Why You Should Buy It: Most clubhead sole slits filled with a polymer; Mizuno added a steel bar for more mass

Insider's Insight: There's still flex but the added strength induces more energy into the ball

Price: $300

02. TITLEIST TSR2+

Why You'll Love It: Lower center of gravity = higher launch & speed

Why You Should Buy It: The TSR2+ head is a little larger & has a lower ball flight; many will use as driver

Insider's Insight: Better players will love its control and distance even off the deck

Price: $350

03. TOUR EDGE C723

Why You'll Love It: Lots of options for weights and different lofts

Why You Should Buy It: Comes with 5- and 15-gram weights to add to 90-gram RyzerSole & adjustable sole

Insider's Insight: Lofts can go up or down 1.5 degrees to match your needs

Price: $330

04. COBRA AEROJET LS

Why You'll Love It: Speed off face yet good contact with ease

Why You Should Buy It: The wraparound interior carbon face has more flex, so ball gets up fast

Insider's Insight: The aerodynamic head induces more speed at impact

Price: $330

05. TAYLORMADE STEALTH 2

Why You'll Love It: A blend of high-end forgiveness and high-end control

Why You Should Buy It: Slightly bigger than the Stealth, this shallow-faced hybrid brings eye-opening distance

Insider's Insight: Smaller head pleases better players, but this isn't so small as to induce fear

Price: $280

06. CALLAWAY APEX PRO

Why You'll Love It: A forgiving hybrid appealing to better ball-strikers

Why You Should Buy It: The forward weight in the sole flattens ball flight and makes it easy for draw & fade control

Insider's Insight: This is the modern iteration of the easy-to-hit but controllable long iron

Price: $270

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IRONS



01



04



02



05



03



06

01. SRIXON ZX7 MK II

Why You'll Love It: Elegant, muscular cavity-back with blade-like feel
Why You Should Buy It: More mass behind the clubface, lower profile and leading-edge refinement induces sweet hits
Insider's Insight: Tour-quality club reveals Tour-like performance for those who know how
Price: $170 per club

02. COBRA KING TOUR

Why You'll Love It: Pure forged without multi-injection molding (MIM)
Why You Should Buy It: A forging process that produces finer grain alignment for feel and grooves to the USGA max
Insider's Insight: A real tweener; call it the forgiving performance iron
Price: $181 per club

03. MIZUNO PRO 221

Why You'll Love It: Grain Flow Forged in Hiroshima in throwback iron
Why You Should Buy It: Refinements in shape & weighting yet still that classic solid Mizuno forging for amazing feel
Insider's Insight: Faldo, Tiger & many others all played Mizunos back in the day
Price: $188 per club

04. CALLAWAY APEX 21

Why You'll Love It: Tungsten weighting for forgiveness; steel for feel
Why You Should Buy It: A perennial on this list; consistent performer offering forgiveness yet outstanding feel & control
Insider's Insight: Better players love being able to shape shots; others love mishit distance
Price: $185 per club

05. MIZUNO JPX923 FORGED

Why You'll Love It: Amazing technology in different irons
Why You Should Buy It: 4- through 7-irons have nickel alloy forged in face; all have deeper center of gravity
Insider's Insight: Mizuno goes high-tech to bring forgiveness and feel in a distance iron
Price: $188 per club

06. COBRA T-RAIL

Why You'll Love It: Introductory set with space-age tech
Why You Should Buy It: Rails on sole prevent digging, so every shot gets airborne; internal weighting adds forgiveness
Insider's Insight: Graphite shafts only, and a little lighter for more impact speed
Price: $143 per club





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WEDGES



01



04



02



05



03



06

01. WILSON STAFF MODEL

Why You'll Love It: Harks back to carbons steel softness & classic design
Why You Should Buy It: Machine-engraved score lines & Tour-like bounce make this a hacker-to-scratch dream
Insider's Insight: Old Staff lovers will remember this Robert Mendralla-like design
Price: $130

02. MIZUNO T22

Why You'll Love It: Another retro style that drips with buttery feel
Why You Should Buy It: Comes in three shades, notably denim copper, bringing incredible sensations for more control
Insider's Insight: Comes in 4 finishes & 4 grinds including eye-catching blue IP platings
Price: $160

03. CALLAWAY JAWS RAW

Why You'll Love It: Very popular on PGA TOUR for a good reason
Why You Should Buy It: 7 lofts, 4 grinds, 2 finishes allow you to fine tune clubhead into appealing look
Insider's Insight: More shots are off wedges so it's important to get the right setup
Price: $180

04. TITLEIST VOKEY DESIGN SM9

Why You'll Love It: You'll find them in more pro bags on all tours.
Why You Should Buy It: Higher CG in the face & new scoring process produces more friction closer to USGA limit
Insider's Insight: These tend to produce a flatter trajectory, needed on the windy plains
Price: $180

05. TAYLORMADE MILLED GRIND 3

Why You'll Love It: You want backspin? This will give it to you
Why You Should Buy It: Unique camber in sole makes leading edge lower & unplated grooves increase grabbiness
Insider's Insight: More flush hits even on the short chips for one-hop stoppage
Price: $180

06. SUB 70 TAIII

Why You'll Love It: That's Tommy Armour III as designer
Why You Should Buy It: Eye-catching satin finish, laser-cut grooves & milled sole will make your partners drool
Insider's Insight: Available through this direct-to-consumer outlet in Illinois—*www.golfsub70.com*
Price: $130

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PUTTERS













01. BETTINARDI QUEEN B

Why You'll Love It: Beautiful finish with performance to match
Why You Should Buy It: Wider sole and unique weighting keep the center of gravity closer to hosel for stability
Insider's Insight: Increased sweet spot yet with such soft resonance in hands = confidence
Price: $430

02. ODYSSEY WHITE HOT OG

Why You'll Love It: Two-part blend in face insert very popular on Tour
Why You Should Buy It: The face insert gives greater feel with today's urethane ball covers
Insider's Insight: Downhill sliders are able to be stroked rather than tapped, so go for it
Price: $200

03. CLEVELAND HUNTINGTON BEACH 11 SLANT

Why You'll Love It: A high performer in popular head design for less $$
Why You Should Buy It: Traditional stability wings for face stability and diamond face milling for very soft feel
Insider's Insight: Produces a lot of consistent strokes and feel for a lot less money
Price: $130

04. TAYLORMADE SPIDER GTX

Why You'll Love It: Extreme backweighting for extremely stable face
Why You Should Buy It: Bigger sweet spots translate to more putts getting on proper line right off the face
Insider's Insight: Thin urethane-encased blades in the face insert induce that desired roll
Price: $450

05. EVENROLL EV5

Why You'll Love It: Unique combo of steel face and aluminum wings
Why You Should Buy It: 6 tungsten weights in wings help fine-tune face for impact as well as speed for your greens
Insider's Insight: Hit it in the heel or toe, the speed off the face is still close to on-center hits
Price: $420

06. PLD MILLED

Why You'll Love It: PLD stands for Putting Lab Design
Why You Should Buy It: A classic Anser design now has velvety milling in face and new weighting for more stability
Insider's Insight: The ever-reliable, ever-consistent legendary Anser design just got better
Price: $450



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BALLS













01. BRIDGESTONE B XS - TW EDITION

Why You'll Love It: Reactiv core and Dual Dimple cover = fast launch
Why You Should Buy It: Tiger's new ball, so not for all. 105+ swing speed helps but softer cover means more control
Insider's Insight: Reactiv iQ cover stays on face longer in short irons for more spin
Price: $50/dozen

02. TITLEIST PROV1x

Why You'll Love It: Most popular on PGA TOUR, leader at the cash register
Why You Should Buy It: Perennial design has been improved with extended models like "Left Dot" for the super avid
Insider's Insight: ProV1x dominates the world tours as the best high-performance ball
Price: $50/dozen

03. TAYLORMADE TOUR RESPONSE

Why You'll Love It: Tour-quality elements for slower swing speeds
Why You Should Buy It: 5-piece construction with softer core aimed at transmitting energy to clubface for distance
Insider's Insight: A performance ball for avid golfers with less-than 100-mph swing speed
Price: $43/dozen

04. TAYLORMADE TP5

Why You'll Love It: Tour-quality ball with greater durability
Why You Should Buy It: Tour-performance delivered for those with higher swing speeds who want higher spin for control
Insider's Insight: Distance & spin but cover won't scuff as much as others
Price: $50/dozen

05. PXG XTREME

Why You'll Love It: An All-Everything ball for distance & spin
Why You Should Buy It: Polybutadiene core + firm mantle under a soft, white urethane cover
Insider's Insight: Interestingly, the ball was conceived before the clubs a few years ago
Price: $39/dozen

06. BRIDGESTONE E12 CONTACT

Why You'll Love It: Delivers high performance for high- handicap players
Why You Should Buy It: Cover and core combine to transfer more energy from clubface for more distance
Insider's Insight: With short irons, it still spins for one-hop-stop approach shots
Price: $35/dozen

Contributor Ted Johnson has written CAG's annual Gear Guide since 2013.



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By Andy Bigford

A Custom Fit

Edel Golf, a legendary leader in putter fitting and club design for more than 25 years, brews a new beginning in north Denver.



PHOTO BY JUSTIN TAFOYA / CLARKSON CREATIVE

HEATING UP: Torching allows the customization of a gooseneck putter shaft; **Production Manager Matt Dragowetz** and **Club Builder Cody Hawkins** review specs on another custom order.

As the glamorous showcase for 21st-century club technology, driver fittings have become standard protocol for most serious golfers. Beckoning with a wide assortment of multi-adjustable clubs and shafts in a rainbow of colors, these now-ubiquitous, testosterone-fueled affairs offer a resource-laden path to hitting the longest ball possible. Meanwhile, the tool that is used more than twice as often—and is generally considered to be the king of all "scoring clubs"—gets virtually ignored.

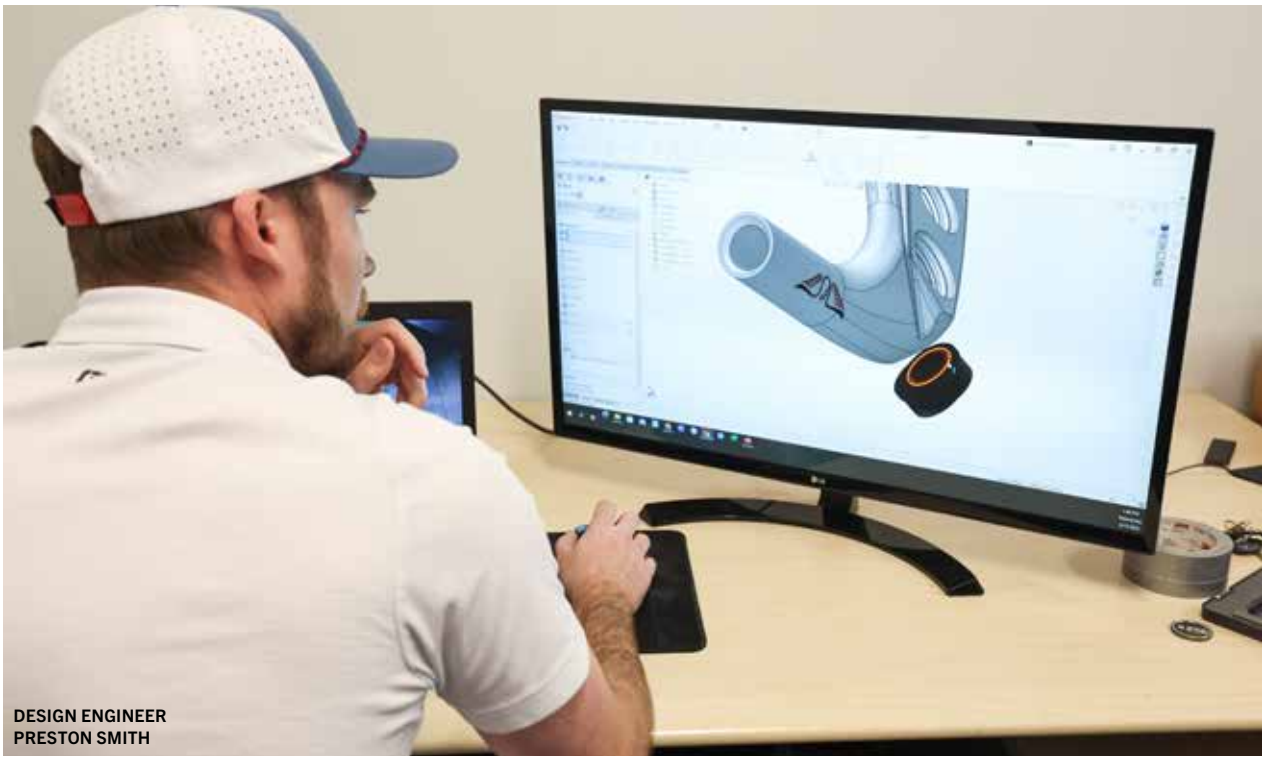
"It's unfathomable," concludes Cameron Morton, the head professional at Lake Valley Golf Club in Niwot and an insightful authority on both golf technology and instruction. Don't misconstrue: Morton loves those extravagant driver demos and the stunning results they can deliver for his members. What he can't stomach is the relative neglect shown to custom fitting for the all-important putter—a club that can easily add or subtract a half-dozen strokes in a round. While Morton continues to lobby the major clubmakers to give putters more respect, he's gone to great lengths to ensure the short stick gets the attention it truly deserves at his own course.

In 2017, Morton traveled down to Liberty Hill, Texas, the then-headquarters of a tiny but legendary company that for more than 25 years has been the leader in bespoke putters. Its founder, David Edel, is a near-mythical figure among gear aficionados, a philosophical renaissance man whose PGA Tour dreams were scuttled by a balky, confounding flat stick. Moving on to become a globetrotting teaching pro, Edel was constantly reminded that "golfers are always searching for a putter that works for them." His solution was obvious: "The wiser choice is to have a putter that's made for them."

So that's exactly what Edel did, designing a fitting process and then hand-build-



PHOTO BY JUSTIN TAFOYA / CLARKSON CREATIVE



DESIGN ENGINEER
PRESTON SMITH

PHOTO BY JUSTIN TAFOYA / CLARKSON CREATIVE

NEXT-GEN APPROACH: Edel Golf utilizes a 3D modeler and 3D printer to create prototype clubheads that are tested for balance and other quantifiables by robots (below) built by interns from Colorado School of Mines.

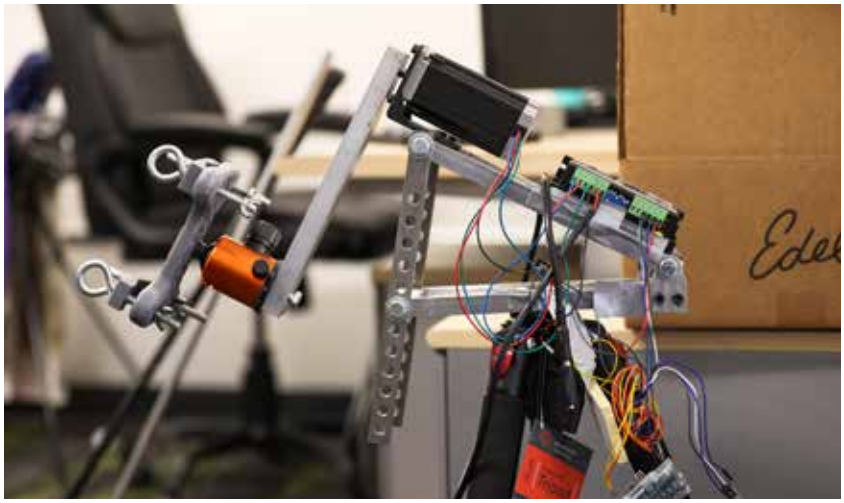


PHOTO BY JUSTIN TAFOYA / CLARKSON CREATIVE

ing custom putters for a growing, cultish clientele that included several high-profile names, including PGA Tour players. In an ever-evolving mission to bring science into what many still consider a black art, the Edel Alignment System (EAS) now uses biomechanics and laser technology to capture every element of set-up and stroke. It then dials in a near-infinite number of adjustments, including grip, putter head type, alignment lines, loft and shaft length.

As a certified Edel fitter, Morton excelled as the brand's pied piper in northern Colorado. He extolled the merits of Edel's unique approach to putters, then fit and sold the company's other offerings as well, including revolutionary irons and weight-adjustable wedges. David Edel had designed and built the single length irons Bryson DeChambeau used to win the NCAA Championships and the U.S. Amateur in 2015 (before jumping to a big contract with Cobra), and he eventually brought the concept to market. Meanwhile, Morton's evangelizing on the benefits of the custom-made putter produced astonishing results, with fully one-third of Lake Valley's members becoming converts—while forking over $450 for the privilege.

"I'd pay twice that," says Lake Valley member and Edel devotee Matt McCullen, a 9-handicapper who is now on his second set of Edel irons and wedges. As an architect with a keen eye for both process and design, he's a disciple of all things Edel—and worships his game-changing Edel Brick putter.

"It might end up in my casket," he says. "You'll have to pry it out of my cold, dead hands."

NEW OWNER, NEW HQ

Three years after Doug Coors first tried an Edel putter, he bought the company. Coors, who hails from the renowned Golden brewing family, worked for two decades as an innovative executive at CoorsTek, the billion-dollar behemoth that manufactures technical ceramics for a wide array of industries, from aerospace to automobiles. A graduate of the Colorado School of Mines with a degree in engineering physics, Coors has been described by colleagues and co-workers as smart, honest and genuine, with a particular bent for manufacturing processes and environmental sustainability.

A very youthful appearing 55, Coors actually grew up in Oregon, where his best friend was former PGA Tour player Craig Kanada. He now carries an impressive 3.1

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- Advanced tournament experience
- 36 and 54-hole events

5 Beyond the Green
Amateur Tour

- For amateur's 18 and over
- Opportunities to play exclusive courses within the section

Questions? Contact copgajrgolf@pgahq.com for more information

index, loves the game, and has played it around the world. In Colorado, he's stayed true to his family's roots as a longtime member of Golden's scenic Rolling Hills Country Club, where he also lives.

Coors had developed a surf park in Austin (which he eventually sold to Kelly Slater) and was familiar with Edel, which was located 40 minutes to the north. Through a friend, he was recruited to visit the Liberty Hill facility and offer suggestions on improving its manufacturing. The trip included the nice bonus of a putter fitting, and Coors came away thoroughly impressed with the process, product and potential. In early 2020, on the eve of the pandemic, he acquired full ownership from founder David Edel and his partners.

In late December, Coors moved Edel's headquarters and assembly operation into a 4,000-square-foot facility in north Denver, which will allow the company to meet growing demand in the wake of Covid. With a grand opening planned for mid-April, it will also house world-class fitting facilities, where Coloradans can now be fit by a team of master fitters. (Liberty Hill will continue to offer fittings while focusing on developing prototypes in its boutique-like Machine Shop).

A quick learner, Coors has already sat through some 200 fittings. The experience has only reinforced his view that while design in putters and wedges has progressed, the fitting and adjustability process have not kept pace. Edel is a tiny company, and through the years it has struggled with profitability. Selling about 3,000 putters annually, and roughly the same number of wedges, Edel has 350 certified fitting locations in total and a dozen in Colorado, including major players Club Champion and GOLFTEC. Edel shares similarities with Bettinardi, which was founded in 1998 but lacks Edel's custom-fitting emphasis. In the U.S., more than 90 percent of Edel's clubs are indeed custom fit. Ironically, in Edel's largest market, South Korea, it sells all stock product, with consumers buying based on reputation alone.



TOOLS OF THE TRADE: Edel's well-equipped Certified Putter Fitting Station (top); heads for Edel's SMS (Swing Match System) and SMS Pro irons.

PHOTO BY D.T. CAREL



PHOTO BY JUSTIN TAFOYA / CLARKSON CREATIVE



MASTER PUTTER FITTER AND BUILDER NICO EDEL

PHOTO BY JUSTIN TAFOYA / CLARKSON CREATIVE

There is ample room to grow, especially with Coors' capital and a focus on improving efficiency in operations. Besides the foundational EAS putter builds, Edel offers a Swing Match System (SMS) in both irons and wedges. SMS features three weights, and the ability to move the heaviest weight to either the heel, middle, or toe to achieve the optimal strike. Edel wedges also come in five grinds, ranging from the P (players) to the D (digger, for a steep angle of attack).

SMS full-set irons debuted with a forged, hollow-body players distance version; Lake Valley's McCullen was so impressed that he ditched his beloved original, single length set. The new irons come with traditional, variable length shafts; the company has discontinued the single-length line, partly due to shaft supply issues but also because of sluggish demand. In January, Edel unveiled a second SMS model, a pure players version, hailed by the company as "the most technologically advanced players iron ever."

Edel pricing is beyond easy: including fitting, the cost is $450 for putters, $250 for irons, and $200 for wedges. Better yet, in a golf retail climate still suffering post-pandemic supply chain issues, Edel usually ships product within seven to 10 days of order.

To help get Edel to the next level, Coors in fall 2021 hired a new chief operating officer with an intriguing background. Rocky Hansler is a native Texan who was a former student and teacher with the legendary Harvey Penick. Most recently, Hansler held a series of high-level e-commerce and digital marketing positions, but earlier in his career he spent a dozen years working in the golf business for *Golf Digest*, Golfsmith and the PGA TOUR.

IN THE NAME OF THE FOUNDER

When Oregon native Edel moved his company to Liberty Hill, he did so with another project in mind, building a "lost MacKenzie" course, El Boquerón, in the Texas Hill Country. As a serial entrepreneur who has created products ranging from fragrances to custom flyrod reels, Edel has now left his namesake company to pursue his dream of bringing the Alister MacKenzie design to fruition. Edel's talented CMO, Chris Koske, has also departed, becoming the senior vice president of marketing for SkyTrak in the robust launch monitor category.

Edel marketing manager Blake Whittemore likens the current Edel climate to that of a fast-moving startup, but one with a storied history. The company still has a deep bench of gear junkies, including David's talented son, Nico, a former DII college golfer who handles putter builds and limited runs. The design engineer is Preston Smith, who, like Coors, is a graduate of the School of Mines. Edel will also utilize outside design consultants as it builds out its Denver team, with an expected staff of 18 employees.

Coors and Hansler are committed to following the founder's legacy, while also expanding its footprint. "(David) did things for the right reasons," Coors says, noting that Edel's highly individualized products were always grounded in a deep understanding of the golf swing and mechanics.

"We're a company *of* golfers *for* golfers," adds COO Hansler. They both know that their customers—whom founder Edel once likened to the "high-hanging fruit"—are loyal and passionate but also demanding.

"We need to innovate. We need to grow," Coors says. "And we have a really great team to do it."

Edel Golf is located at 4930 Colorado Blvd., Denver; *info@edelgolf.com*; 303-720-6254. CAG Contributor **Andy Bigford** is co-author of a history of Boulder's backyard ski area, *Eldora: Six Decades of Adventure* ($44.95), now available at *eldora.com*.

By Jon Rizzi

The Front Forty

Four decades on, historic Raccoon Creek Golf Course has become a place for all occasions.



HOLE 11, RACCOON CREEK GOLF COURSE

PHOTO COURTESY OF RACCOON CREEK GOLF COURSE

As early as 1878, shot-makers had already begun to frequent the land through which the Raccoon Creek meandered. They carried rifles, not golf clubs, and belonged to a hunt club started by the 1,280-acre ranch's new owner, James Benton Grant—an ambitious Alabamian with an abiding love for shooting and hunting.

A charter Denver Country Club member, Grant would make a fortune in mining, smelting and banking. In 1883, he became Colorado's third governor—and in 1983, in Littleton's Grant Ranch neighborhood, Raccoon Creek Golf Course opened with a Dick Phelps-designed layout commissioned by the governor's great-grand-nephew, Newell Grant, Sr.

"We used all the old buildings," Phelps remembers. "The main residence became the clubhouse; the barn became the mainenance shed. It was a glorious, historic piece of land with plenty of movement, lakes and creeks, cottonwoods and willows."

Forty years later, the Grant Family still owns Raccoon Creek Golf Course, and happily so. Like many courses, Raccoon Creek has experienced a pandemic-induced boom. Its Elite Player's Pass has sold out within a month in each of the past three years, and Raccoon Creek has the state's largest PGA Jr. League participation, with 145 kids.

Men and women in tournaments, foursomes and 9- and 18-hole leagues linger at the Farmhouse Restaurant ad-



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joining the clubhouse that opened in 2018 on higher ground and with a much larger footprint than its historic predecessor. The structure's deck serves up views of the red rocks and snow-capped peaks.

With four sets of tees stretching it from 5,122 to 7,007 yards, Raccoon Creek's course brings water into play on all but three holes, starting with the par-4 first. Mature trees by the thousands provide shade and strategy throughout the round.

Scoring opportunities abound, particularly with no par 5s exceeding 545 yards. However, large bunkers protect the back-to-front running greens, and golfers trying to cut doglegs in search of eagles on holes 9, 10, 11 will well find themselves imprisoned by trees, embedded in sand or wet.

Raccoon Creek shows its teeth on the final four holes, highlighted by the par-3 17th, a 226-yarder from the tips (201 from the blues and 150 from the whites) that demands an all-water carry for any shot at birdie. A left bailout area can set you up for par.

The 17th might be the signature hole, but Raccoon Creek's signature spot is The Barn at Raccoon Creek. Located east of 10th fairway, the former golf cart facility was renovated in 2014 into a stunning wedding facility with groomsmen's quarters in its loft and a bridal cottage adjacent to The Barn. The runaway success of The Barn, which annually hosts 100 weddings—and never more than one per day—"takes some of the pressure off the golf course," according to Assistant General Manager and PGA Head Golf Professional Don Graham.

Other Raccoon Creek amenities include outdoor club-fitting with Greg Shakespeare, a firepit outside the clubhouse and an event lawn suitable for cornhole or bocce ball. A display in the main lobby entry area shares some history about the land and the facility, which celebrates its 40 anniversary this year.

Raccoon Creek Golf Course is located at 7301 W. Bowles Ave. in Littleton. *raccooncreek.com*; 303-932-0199.



THE BARN AT RACCOON CREEK

PHOTO COURTESY OF RACCOON CREEK GOLF COURSE

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By John Lehndorff



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RALLY BAR

Major League Eats

Forget the peanuts and Cracker Jack! Buy me some empanadas and pork belly buns before the big game.

SQUARE ROOTERS: The Rally Bar covers all the bases when it comes to upscale fan fare.

Being a Colorado Rockies fan can be very stressful, so it's important to have the right snack and beverage on hand when it's the bottom of the ninth with two outs at Coors Field.

Instead of a hot dog, how about a piece of *karaage*, crisply fried Japanese-style dark meat chicken nuggets, dipped into spicy mayo and washed down with a fruity Colorado hard cider?

Those items aren't on the menu at Coors Field for the 2023 MLB season, but are available about 500 yards away at McGregor Square's Milepost Zero food hall. Instead of the center field bleachers, fans here stretch out on the grassy hill in the outdoor plaza to become engrossed in the game showing on a major league 66-by-20-foot LED screen above the plaza. You're so close you can hear the Coors Field crowd cheering for home runs.

The Rockies-owned McGregor Square complex includes a Tattered Cover Book Store, the Rally Hotel and a well-stocked Rockies shop. But for fans and visitors alike, the main attraction may be the lineup of pre- and post-game dining and sipping options which all face out into the plaza.

When the Cubs, Dodgers, Red Sox and Yankees are in town, arrive early if you want a chair or blanket space. When it isn't showing a Rockies game, the big screen displays golf tournaments and soccer matches.

MILEPOST ZERO

McGregor Square's food hall is a spiffy, modern option with food and beverage stations and comfy tables and couches grouped throughout the space.

The culinary choices include Italian classics at Colorado's own Anthony's Pizza & Pasta and sandwiches at Chicago's Original Italian Beef Stand.

Crescent Moon Empanadas offers exceptional handheld pies with flaky dough baked around various fillings. On the savory side, it's easy to recommend the birria empanada stuffed with shredded meat, along with the chicken tinga and chorizo with potato versions. They arrive warm with a mild red salsa.

From sashimi to steaming bowls of pho noodle soup, the menu at Tora Sushi + Ramen covers the whole range of Japanese and Asian favorites. Besides the addictive fried chicken (noted above), don't miss the pork belly buns with black bean sauce and build-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RALLY BAR

your-own poke bowls.

The focus at TaCo is on Mexican handhelds including steak burritos and traditional street tacos: two griddled soft corn tortillas topped with highly spicy fillings like steak, pork and marinated roasted cauliflower. Nachos also appear on the menu along with *machetes* – street corn and cheese quesadillas.

Besides a full-service bar for beverages, you can grab an RFID card to serve yourself at the food hall's long row of taps well-stocked with Coors products as well as craft brews, wine, cocktails and local ciders.

TOM'S WATCH BAR

This two-story sports bar with great views and more than 100 TV screens is built around fun and socializing. The eatery's Topgolf Swing Suites features a variety of virtual games including a golf target game and a baseball pitching simulation.

The Tom's Watch Bar menu focuses on shareable plates—wings, burgers, tacos and crisply fried dill pickles— that go well with adult beverages.

Bestsellers include a prime rib French dip sandwich with Havarti and horseradish cream, and mac and cheese with butter-poached lobster and shrimp.

The bar's must-visit AC Golden Tank Room pours Colorado Native brews directly from the copper tanks.



MCGREGOR SQUARE

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCGREGOR SQUARE



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARMINE'S ON MCGREGOR SQUARE

IN MISTER McGREGOR'S GARDEN: From top: A rainbow of craft cocktails at the Rally Bar; alfresco fare in the Square; Carmine's on McGregor Square.

CARMINE'S ON McGREGOR SQUARE

A family favorite for dinner since 1994 on Pennsylvania Street, Carmine's upscale downtown location dishes the familiar family-style Italian entrees and pasta dishes in two sizes that can be shared by two or by a larger group.

Classic starters range from hot spinach artichoke dip with crostini to Caesar salad. Everyone can find dinner on a roster of Italian-American classics including ravioli, gnocchi, risotto, polenta, eggplant parmesan, chicken and veal preparations and pasta variations from Bolognese to carbonara.

THE RALLY BAR

If you prefer a less rambunctious environment to sip a cocktail before heading to the ballpark, settle in at The Rally Hotel's first floor bar pouring cocktails like the Rally Up—that's Family Jones vodka, St. Germain, butterfly pea tea, lemon and grapefruit.

THE ORIGINAL

Open at 7 a.m. daily, this upscale diner starts the day with donut sliders, pancakes, omelets and avocado eggs Benedict. Lunch choice range from chicken fried steak and a pastrami Reuben sandwich to a shaved Brussels sprouts salad with candied walnuts. Americana comfort fare here means you can indulge in deviled eggs, poutine, root beer floats, and duck-fat matzo ball soup.

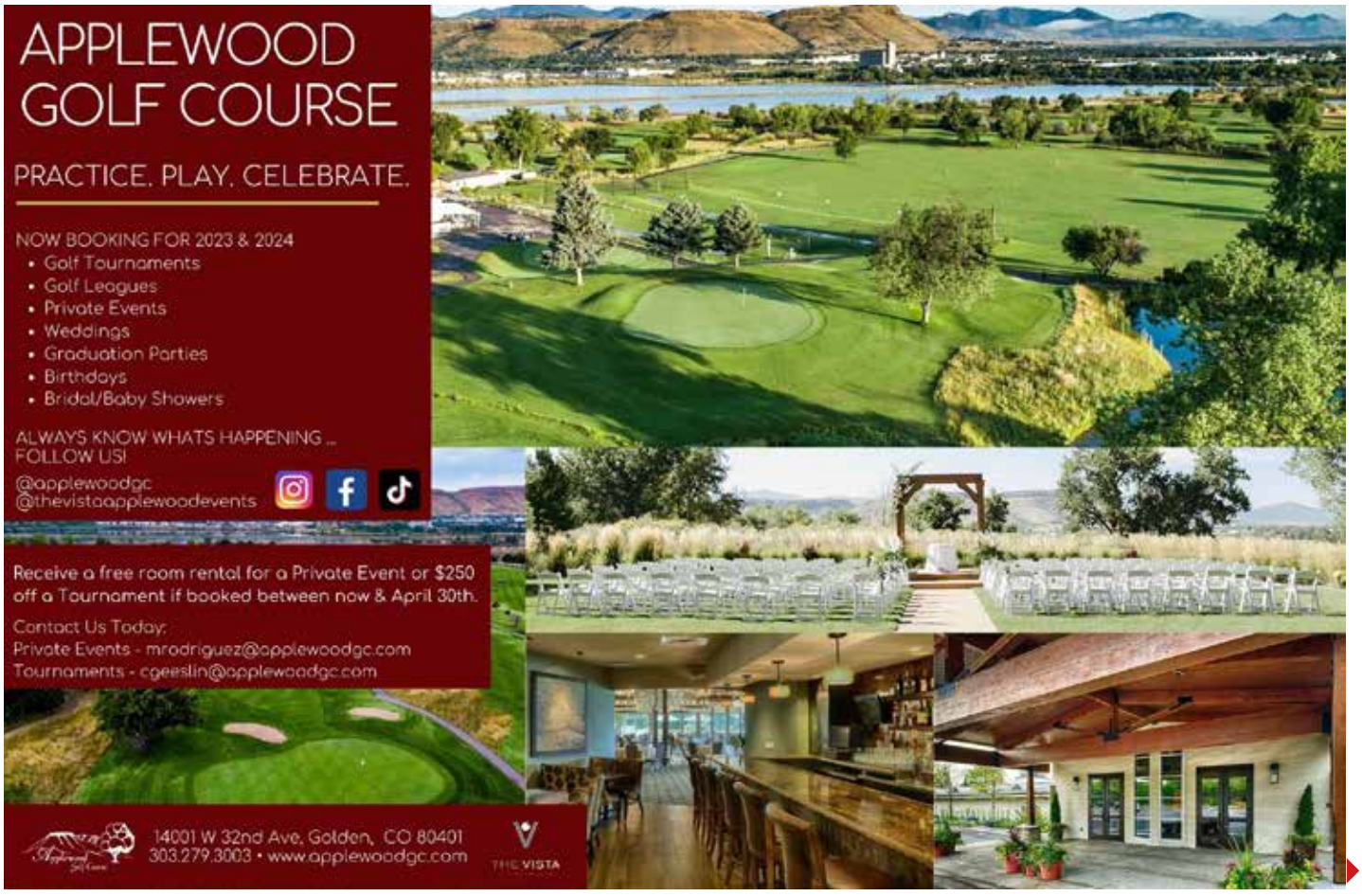
CALDÉRO

Mexican brick, hammered copper and a vaulted stainless steel ceiling lend Caldéro an elevated feel. The Brinkerhoffs, the folks behind Denver's beloved La Loma, opened the eatery in March with a menu that includes Spanish and Latin American dishes as well as Mexican must-haves like tacos and green chile. One early favorite is the dessert *malasadas*. These are warm, cinnamon sugar-dusted doughnut holes with vanilla dipping sauce.



THE ORIGINAL

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ORIGINAL

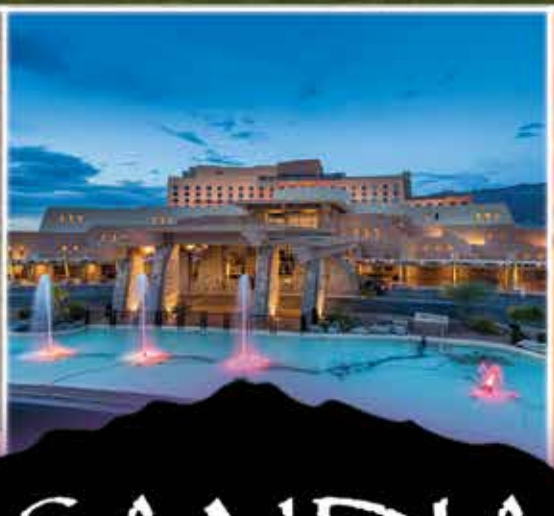


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AT THE PLATE: A ROSTER OF ALL-STAR CHEFS DISHES AWARD-WINNING FARE NEAR THE BALLPARK

By John Lehndorff

You won't have any trouble finding a beer, burger or taco at the multitude of eateries crowded near Coors Field. If you're looking for something more memorable—a true culinary experience—you're also in luck. Most of Denver's best chefs operate at least one restaurant close to the ballpark in LoDo. These are chefs who have won many local awards and most of them are also James Beard Award winners and nominees. The fare at the following eateries is elevated, Instagram-worthy and sometimes pricey. Needless to say, reservations are *de rigueur*, for lunch and brunch before a game or dinner afterwards.

BRUTØ

1801 Blake Street

An offspring of chef Kelly Whitaker's acclaimed Basta in Boulder, BRUTØ is a miniature culinary gem curated by chef Michael Diaz De Leon. There is no set menu at this 16-seat chef's counter for the omakase-style tasting experience.

FOR[A]GED

1825 Blake St.

Executive Chef Duy Pham forges the blades and handles for the knife art that serves as art in the eatery. Reserve a spot for chef Pham's prized omakase tastings at the sushi bar.

Order This: The Surf and Turf Roll with crab mix, cucumber, prime New York strip steak, avocado, garlic chips, fried shallots and sake soy butter

MERCANTILE DINING & PROVISION

1701 Wynkoop St.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner and brunch are served at chef Alex Seidel's farm-to-table market and cafe inside Union Station.

Order This: Fried chicken and scallion waffle with Korean chili, fried egg and honey for weekend brunch

TAVERNETTA

1889 16th St.

Seriously authentic food and wines from Italy fill the bill at Tevernetta, a sister restaurant to Bobby Stuckey's acclaimed Frasca Food & Wine in Boulder.

Order This: Gnocchi with mushrooms, Taleggio cheese and black truffles

WORK & CLASS

2500 Larimer St.

Known to everyone as "Loca," chef Dana Rodriguez famously packs flavor into the shareable menu items at the always packed Work & Class. Rodriguez's next challenge is opening the new kitchen this year at the legendary Casa Bonita.

Order This: Coriander-roasted Colorado lamb with chickpea croquettes

ULTREIA

1701 Wynkoop St.

Rioja chef Jennifer Jasinski devised this charming tribute to Spanish cafes with a menu of tapas paired with sherries and cocktails.

Order This: Moorish spiced grilled ribs with Basque chilies and olive oil

John Lehndorff is the former Dining Critic for the *Rocky Mountain News*. He hosts *Radio Nibbles* on KGNU-FM.



By Isaac Bouchard

What the Truck?

Should truck lovers buy into the EVs from Ford and GMC—or indulge in the ICE-Age luxury of Cadillac and Land Rover?

2023 FORD F-150 LIGHTNING

The 2022 Lighting EV sold out almost immediately, which should come as no surprise for the fans of the F-150, the best-selling vehicle in the U.S. for decades. With production now in full swing, tens of thousands of Americans are going to see how an electric pick-up fits into their lives. The Lighting carries over much of the body, chassis and interior of the ICE (internal combustion engine) F-150.

On the upside: The Lightning is a friggin' rocket, with massive thrust up to highway speeds. There are two battery sizes—the 98.0-kWh Standard-Range claims 452hp and a driving range of 230 miles per charge; the 131.0-kWh Extended-Range one powers the two electric motors to massive 580hp and a theoretical range of 320 miles, but independent testing shows only about 230 are achievable at a 75mph cruise. Both deliver equal and impressive 750 pound-feet of torque. The Extended-Range model is preferred.

On the downside: the Ford's cabin, while vast and comfortable, has many materials unworthy of a $90,000-plus vehicle. An exception is the huge, vertical touch-screen poached from the Mach-E. The independent rear suspension is a first for an F-150, and the Lightning rides poorly over rougher surfaces. On smoother asphalt, it is very refined and almost as quiet on the highway as the Range Rover and Escalade also reviewed here.

EPA RATINGS: 66PMGe
0-60MPH: 4.0 sec
PRICE AS TESTED: $99,459

Forget towing, too—and this applies to all EVs—since a Lightning pulling a 6,000-lb. trailer will drain its battery in only 100-120 miles. And because the Ford uses a less efficient 400-volt electrical architecture, charging takes much longer. The Lightning is great in lower speed driving and will fit into urban cowboy duties admirably. As the first mass-produced EV pickup, it sets the stage for an intriguing, electrified future.







2022 GMC HUMMER EV EDITION 1



The Hummer Edition 1's intentionally brash design draws almost as much attention as its massive size. Yet its exquisitely intricate detailing—including astronaut boot prints and lunar topo maps to remind us that GM built the Moon Rovers. Three motors, 1,000 horses and one of the biggest batteries made—212.7kWh—mean 60mph in just over 3 seconds when it's put into WTF (yes, really) mode, along with 290 miles of real-world highway range. Super Cruise, the best hands-free driving system yet, means those miles will be relaxing, too.

Underneath the Hummer is the Ultium platform that will propel the Silverado and Sierra EV pickups, though they probably won't share the Hummer's incredible off-road hardware, which gives it up to 15.9 inches of clearance and 13 inches of suspension travel. The rear-steer- enabled Crabwalk mode might get all the press, but it's the ability of this massive machine to pull a U-turn in less space than a 2-door Jeep (or the Rover) that makes it a much more compelling urban rig.

EPA RATINGS: N/A
0-60MPH: 3.3 sec
PRICE AS TESTED: $110,295

It also rides quite nicely and has a beautifully designed, nicely assembled cabin. However, its blue-tinted, lift-out roof panels can mean lots of wind noise at highway speeds. Thank the offroad gods it has an 800-volt architecture; otherwise, it would take forever to recharge that massive battery. Haters will hate, but the fact that it will also come as an SUV and less extreme versions means GMC is onto something big.

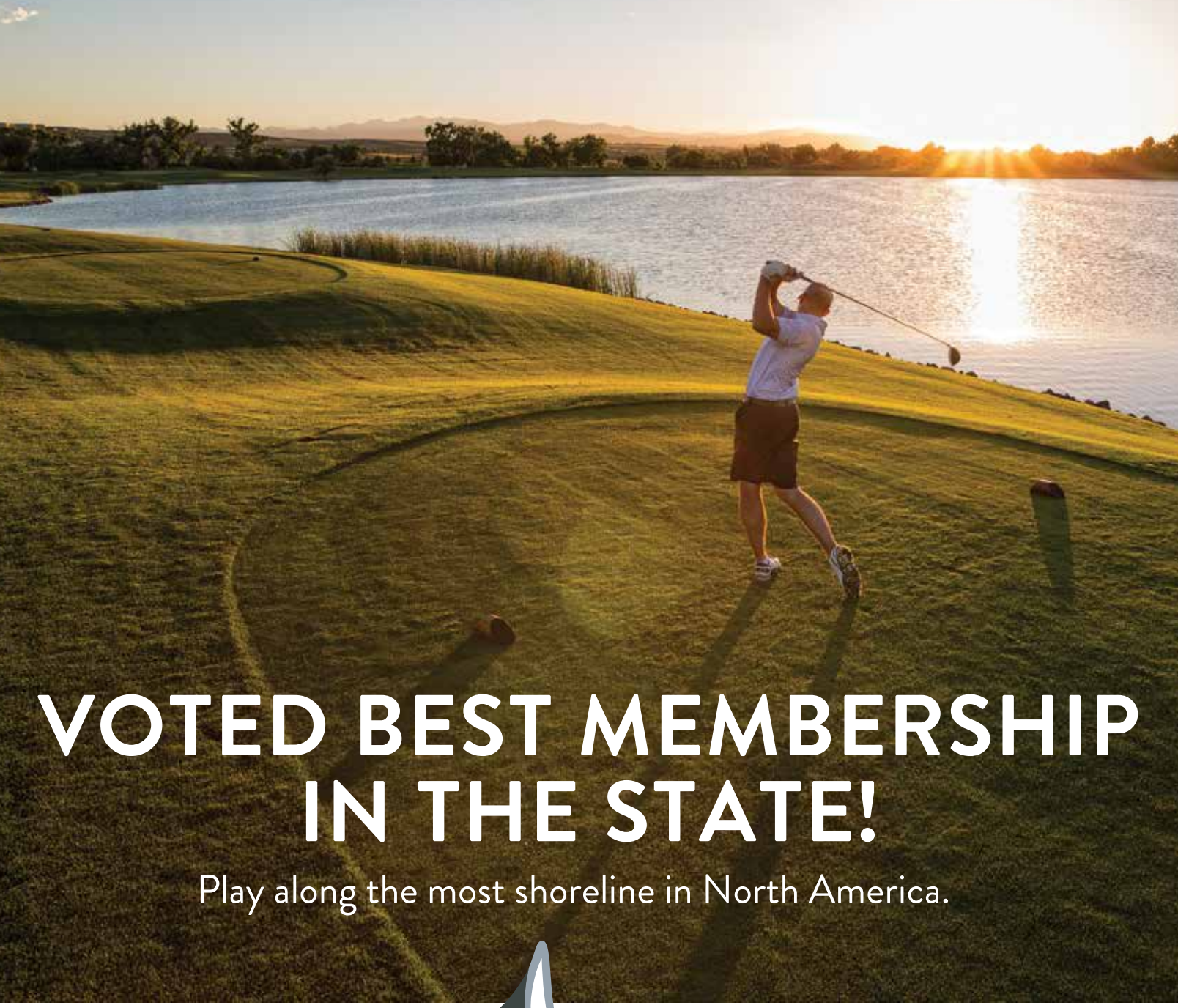
2023 CADILLAC ESCALADE V



The Escalade's days as a gas-powered machine are numbered. Cadillac expects to be all EV by 2030. At least it will go out with a bang; shoving the Blackwing 6.2-liter, supercharged V8 under its tabletop hood, in 682hp/653lb-ft spec, means this Caddy has real cojones. The public may not notice the Escalade V based solely on its discreet—some might say, too discreet—looks, but they'll certainly hear it. It rumbles menacingly and bellows exhaust at 85 decibels. The Escalade V is as quiet at cruising speed as the Range Rover, though it doesn't have the British machine's offroad prowess.

The Escalade V does have superb on-road dynamics, riding plushily and controlling its body mass exceptionally well. Steering and brake feel are linear and well-weighted, reminding that GM has some of the best chassis and tuning wizards extant. The interior is one of Cadillac's best efforts, with lovely leather seemingly everywhere, huge, curved OLED screens in front of the driver and very few bits of plastic on display. Super Cruise is also available, making it one relaxing road warrior. Available in XL and XXL sizes, and priced accordingly, the Escalade V has a swaggering confidence that is distinctly American and all the better for it.

EPA RATINGS: 11/16/13mpg
0-60MPH: 4.3 sec
PRICE AS TESTED: $158,580



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2023 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER SE LWB

Imperious has always aptly described the Range Rover, and new generation doubles down on it. The look is imposingly classy, with lovely, subtle detailing like doors that meet the side glass without moldings, flush door handles and smoked taillight bars that give it incredible presence. The cockpit is equally luscious, with a reductionist au courant vibe, beautiful materials and classy-looking screens. It is finally available in three-row, long-wheelbase form, with a power folding set of quite comfortable rear pews. LWB models also have much more cargo room, which is enhanced by a new rear suspension that also allows this to be the first Land Rover with four-wheel steering. It can seemingly turn on a dime, easily park in tight confines and serve up excellent stability in high-speed turns.

EPA RATINGS:
18/26/21mpg
0-60MPH:
5.5 sec
PRICE AS TESTED:
$121,925

This newfound athleticism doesn't come at the expense of ride quality, either; this Range Rover, even on the largest, 23-inch footwear, is cosseting and comfortable over our Third World roads. Its wind roar at highway speeds is a bit more prominent than expected, though. Otherwise, dynamically, it sets the new standard for large, off-roadable SUVs. Both available BMW-sourced engines are sonorous—and stout. Even the base inline six can propel the LWB model to 60 in only 5.5 seconds, and the 523hp V8 in doing the deed in the low 4s.

As Land Rover's flagship, the Rangie's price has inched into Bentley territory, but even the lower spec test P400 SE feels suitably upmarket and discernably classier than German heavy metal. Entering its sixth decade, this icon has reached new heights of technical excellence, on- and off-road ability and plutocratic desirability.



Automotive Editor **Isaac Bouchard** owns Denver-based Bespoke Autos (*isaac@bespokeautos.com;* 303-475-1462).

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AN INSTANT IRISH CLASSIC

The remote **ST. PATRICK'S LINKS** finds itself in the red-hot center of the golf world.

By Bruce Selcraig

THE PAR-4 8TH AT ST. PATRICK'S LINKS AT ROSAPENNA GOLF RESORT IN COUNTY DONEGAL



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. PATRICK'S LINKS AT ROSAPENNA GOLF RESORT

For some time now, the lords of Irish Tourism have been politely weaning some of the many thousands of international golfers who descend upon Ireland from May to September off the venerable southwest cathedrals—think Ballybunion and Lahinch—and onto the remote northwest and its dramatic but lesser-known courses.

Tour operators say they've diverted some of the southwest traffic that once accounted for about 75 percent of Ireland's international golf rounds, but what the rugged northwest always lacked was a world top 100 course such as Northern Ireland's Royal Portrush or Royal County Down that would be a stand-alone trophy destination.

Now that's changing as the golf world beats a path to St. Patrick's Links, an inspiring Tom Doak creation at the Rosapenna golf resort in County Donegal that debuted in 2021 to almost unprecedented praise.

Doak's first design in Ireland and third in Europe leaped to #55 in *GOLF*'s world rankings almost before the parking lot had been striped. No golf course has ever ranked higher in its inaugural year by the magazine's course raters.

With oceanic swales, gnarly blasted bunkers and a sense of solitude on nearly every hole, St. Patrick's vaulted in the rankings past new and old pageant queens such as Baltusrol, Royal Troon, Prestwick, Winged Foot and Nova Scotia's Cabot Links.

Doak, whose new course at Pinehurst will be his 44th design (including six in Australia and New Zealand), says his clients care more about course rankings than he does, but he concedes that "I knew how well we had done" when several close friends said St. Patrick's might be his finest work.

"The instant recognition the course got has been difficult to comprehend," says John Casey, director of the Rosapenna Hotel & Golf Resort, which sits some 111 miles west of Belfast. "The sheer number of people within the golf industry who are talking about the course has been overwhelming."

In case you've been over-spelunking, Doak is that fellow who attended MIT and Cornell and brought a math and engineering mind, wrapped in simplicity and minimalism, to a golf architecture aesthetic that seemed stuck in a 1960s pro shop.

Pacific Dunes, his 2001 project at Oregon's



THE WIND OFF SHEEPHAVEN BAY CAN PUT SOME TEETH INTO THE WEE PAR-3 15TH.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. PATRICK'S LINKS AT ROSAPENNA GOLF RESORT

ST. PATRICK'S PLAY: Sprawling across 270 acres of dunes great and small, Doak's Irish debut has inevitably invited comparison to the isle's legendary links.

Bandon Dunes resort, overwhelmed course raters and sent Doak to the head of a small class. It's now ranked 28th in the world by *GOLF* and joins six other Doak designs in the Top 100, highlighted by the 23rd-ranked Tara Iti course in New Zealand.

St. Patrick's joins Rosapenna's two existing and superb courses, Sandy Hills Links, designed by Ireland's estimable Pat Ruddy, and the Old Tom Morris Links, where a new nine that opened in 2009 joined the original nine laid out by Morris in the 1890s. Guests at the 70-room Rosapenna hotel can play all three courses for €400 ($427), while St. Patrick's alone will cost you €200.

While you could be happy for a week with only the Rosapenna resort and its trio of links, you'd be remiss in missing Donegal's other marvelous courses—enchanting Ballyliffin (36 holes, hosted the Irish Open in 2018), Donegal Golf Club (known as Murvagh to locals; redesigned by Pat Ruddy), beautiful Portsalon, recently reinvigorated Narin & Portnoo (Gil Hanse and Jim Wagner did wonders) and the underground cult favorite, Cruit Island Golf Club, one of the world's finest and friendliest nine-hole courses.

The Rosapenna resort has a splendid dining room (The Vardon, great views and local fish), but within walking distance in the surrounding village of Downings (pop. 450) are two classic favorites of Donega—Fisk, a 16-seat seafood restaurant that is chef-owned, with a beloved bar next door, and The Olde Glen Bar and Restaurant, a Michelin-recommended spot that Chef Ciaran Sweeney has turned into what may be Donegal's finest restaurant.

But back to St. Patrick's.

Doak's crew had done some shaping on the delightful Old Tom's new nine a few years ago, so the architect was well-aware of the nearby 300-acre tract that the Casey family had always envisioned as the perfect setting for a third tourist-grabbing course. At one time, the St. Patrick's property had two modest links that Jack Nicklaus briefly showed some interest in reinvigorating, but when Doak studied the terrain he told the Caseys it should rightfully only contain one sprawling exceptional course.

DOAK HAS CREATED 18 CAPTIVATING MOMENTS OF GOLF THEATER

And the Caseys agreed.

"Several architects have walked the land with us," recalled Casey, who plays off a five handicap, "but we always felt Tom was our best opportunity. I think he's the greatest living architect in golf, and would give us instant notoriety. With Tom, there was never a sense of telling him what to do. That would have been a big mistake. We totally let him build anything he wanted."

Doak was so committed to the project, he says (and Casey confirms) that he took a minority ownership interest in the course in lieu of his standard fee, which reportedly runs in the $1-$2 million territory.

The only downside for this dream come true is that the Caseys have had to turn away as many hotel guests as they've accepted. Casey says they're booked well into September, but the three golf courses are certainly available. He expects St. Patrick's will do about 9,000 rounds this year, about the same as last.

As for the golf, I found St. Patrick's on a crisp blue summer morning after a few wrong turns in the curvy countryside. I nearly had the course to myself on a slow Monday but for a TV crew in the parking lot with a loud New Yorker in charge. Nicole, a college business intern from Illinois, was running the tiny temporary pro shop, a spartan pine cabin of sorts, by herself. Casey said the minimalist approach—there's little more than some



ROSAPENNA GOLF RESORT

PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. PATRICK'S LINKS AT ROSAPENNA GOLF RESORT



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BLOWN-OUT CHASMS OF SAND GUARD THE PAR-3 5TH AT ST. PATRICK'S.

PHOTO COURTESYOF ST. PATRICK'S LINKS AT ROSAPENNA GOLF RESORT

snacks, balls, shirts and bathrooms—has gotten so much approval from visitors that they might not be needing anything grander.

From the first tee, Doak takes golfers from the intimacy of two lovely, restrained par 4s (both at about 360 yards) and the somewhat protected par-3 3rd to a *Bonanza*-like landscape that features the aptly-named Sheephaven Bay beside you and an expansive wild canvas of dunes that unfurl beneath you. Good luck concentrating on your shoulder turn.

Doak allows that he has been "one of the pioneers of building wider, more playable courses in modern design," but says he's narrowing his fairways a bit: "I just think the super-wide courses that have been winning all the awards are pandering to bad golfers who just bomb away, instead of encouraging them to learn to hit the ball straighter and swing within themselves."

As you might expect, the fairways, rough and greens are all native fescue, with tufts of marram grass giving the rough-hewn bunkers the feel that they've been borrowed from some Dakota Badlands. A few of those fairway bunkers are so, um, natural and steep that you'll do well to simply get your errant shot back to civilization.

St. Patrick's is full of nice little touches. Check out the deep hollows among the dunes on 10, 17 and 18. They were even deeper when Doak first spotted them. He filled them in somewhat just so they could maintain grass and be playable. And he's tried to hide the mowing lines between fairways and rough, tucking some behind contours or interrupting them with bunkers to make them vanish visually.

You'll be getting no hole-by-hole testimonials here, but the gigantic 522-yard, par-five 6th is likely to make you stop, grab your camera and try to do justice to its serenity and challenge. Located inland just a bit, the bay is to your left as you face north and hope to fly a 20-yard wide stretch of sand that begins right about where a 285-yard drive would roll out. Big hitters will love the dare. Mortals will lay up.

Better than offering any one "signature hole" designed to thrill you, St. Patrick's does what few courses can. Using a landscape that is, honestly, much like hundreds of miles of gorgeous Irish coastline, Doak has created 18 captivating moments of golf theater that you can actually remember a day later.

I've made 22 trips to Ireland since the 1990s and played all its great links. None is better than St. Patrick's. It has none of the mystique and tradition of Portrush, County Down and Ballybunion, and it's hard to imagine the modern golf culture ever showing similar reverence for a mere golf course, but for pure Irish links, you'd be happy to play here all the days you have left.

San Antonio-based former *Sports Illustrated* staff writer **Bruce Selcraig** has contributed to *The New York Times Magazine, The Atlantic, Harper's* and others. For more on St. Patrick's Links, visit *rosapenna.ie.*











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Want to Be a Member? Join the Club.


GARDEN OF THE GODS RESORT & CLUB

WHEN SHOPPING to join a private club, one place *not* to look is back. Like everything else in our post-pandemic world, nothing costs what it once did.

Private clubs, which experienced a boom during the first three years of this decade by providing easy tee-time access and safe havens for social and recreational life, have not served as a shelter from inflation. The average initiations and dues have increased exponentially during the last three years, and roughly one-third of Colorado's clubs currently have a long waiting list to join or are invitation only. Most of the remaining two-thirds claim to be "close" to reaching capacity, and attrition is almost nonexistent.

"The pandemic created customers we never knew we had," one industry insider shares. "People who didn't think they'd ever join a private club discovered it was cool. They've allowed clubs to reinvest in amenities and create an environment that members value and don't want to leave. If they did, where would they go? To a two-year waiting list at another club, that's where."

So, it's not exactly the buyer's market of yore. But exceptions and silver linings always exist.

For one, all the clubs spotlighted on pages 68-79 boast challenging golf, robust amenities and no wait to join. They reflect Colorado's geographic diversity and offer uncommonly strong value propositions for individuals and families.

For another, junior memberships remain great options. If you're still looking ahead to your fortieth birthday, clubs envision you as a potential long-term member, often offering lower initiations and/or lower dues until you turn 40. Variations, like the popular age-adjusted one-year preview memberships at Bear Creek Golf Club, are always worth investigating.

Another positive is that clubs are becoming more member-centric—although it can come at a higher monthly cost. Being member-centric doesn't necessarily mean protecting members from dues increases—especially when clubs are facing massive across-the-board price increases on everything from fertilizer to electricity to prime rib and payroll.

"Yet a lot of clubs take great pains to tamp down member dues," a veteran club manager explains. "They impose or raise a food-and-beverage minimum, make draconian budget cuts, raid the capital fund—thus deferring maintenance and making improvements—and/or add revenue-generating nonmember events and outings."

The IRS allows 15 percent of a club's revenue to come from outside activities like Monday tournaments and weddings. "But that means we were only devoting 85 percent of our time to our members, who are spending more time at the club than ever before," the same club manager reasons.

Could his club afford not to bring in revenue from nonmember events? Yes. Facing a personnel shortage, like many hospitality-based businesses, this manager's club recognized that outside events put a strain on an already overworked staff, took a toll on physical assets (especially the course) and eroded member satisfaction. So, the board voted to eliminate virtually all nonmember events and increase monthly dues by 30 percent.

Now the members get 100 percent of the staff's attention, and the club can deliver a higher level of service, enhancing amenities and increasing member satisfaction.

"It's working so far," manager-reports. "Look, I wouldn't want to pay higher dues, either," the manager says. "But if you don't raise them, how do you expect the same level of service when the cost of everything is going up? Would you like me to turn off the air-conditioning in the summer? Not aerate the fairways and greens? Sure, you can keep paying a dollar for a Snickers bar, but you'll get less and less for that dollar until that Snickers bar is the size of Halloween candy."

Although money seems to be on everybody's minds these days, when it comes to selecting a private golf club, you can't just read the menu from right to left. Sure, you'll be saving on cart and green fees, gym memberships and kids' activity fees, and you'll need to be comfortable with how the club leadership handles its finances.

Ultimately, however, the decision is visceral. Can you see yourself playing the course every day? Is it convenient to your workplace and home? Can you see yourself as part of the social fabric—and, just as important, can your significant other? What about the kids?

The decision to join a private country clubs is something more Coloradans are making than at any time in history. And fewer than ever are resigning—even as their dues climb higher. That implies they're happy to stay, not scared to leave.

THE CLUB AT RAVENNA

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CLUB AT RAVENNA

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IN 1983, WHEN COLORADO GOLF & TURF owner Tom Bauerle opened his exclusive Club Car distributorship with two employees, the brand's flagship DS model had roughly 5 percent of the Colorado golf market. Four decades later, CG&T's 50-member staff supplies and services more than 50 percent of the golf courses in Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska with fleets comprised of Tempos, Precedents & Tempo Walks.

That growth owes as much to exceptional customer service as it does to an excellent product line, Bauerle maintains. "We go the extra mile for our customers, sometimes coming out of pocket for what the manufacturer doesn't cover," he says. "Plus, we have four guys in the field full-time and twelve technicians here. Nobody else has that."

"Here" is CG&T's headquarters on South Wadsworth, less than a mile north of the Lockheed Martin gates. This year, the company will mark its 40th anniversary by adding a second Colorado location, in Grand Junction. "Opening this location will allow us to better serve our current customers as well as a great opportunity for growth," Abbie Randel, CG&T's vice president of operations explains. "It's been a dream of Tom's to have a better base of operations for that part of state."

Plans call for the western outpost to open by May. Meanwhile, the Littleton showroom sparkles with vehicles, which private individuals are purchasing in increasing numbers, as the number of Colorado clubs that allow members to ride in their own golf car has tripled to "about 25" in the last eight years. That trend coincided with the popularity of eminently customizable, lightweight, low-maintenance and ecologically friendly Personal Transport Vehicles (PTVs) like the Onward Lithium Ion, which comes in two-, four-, and six-seat versions, never needs its battery watered and is gentle on turf.

Traveling at a max of 19 mph, the Onward is not street-legal, but it shares showroom space with Low-Speed Vehicles (LSVs) that are. LSVs must reach speeds of at least 25mph and only be driven on roads with posted speed limits of 35mph or less. They come with headlights, seat belts, turn signals, mirrors and a VIN number.

One such LSV is the Club Car CRU. You might liken it to a six-seat party bus, but it's more of a living room on wheels, with an L-shaped bench, a table in the rear and front seats that swivel to face the rear seats when the CRU is parked. Its open-air design makes a perfect spot to share a meal, play board games or just relax with family or friends wherever you can drive it.

Such head-turning extravagance in an LSV doesn't surprise anyone at CG&T, which has done VIP customizations on Club Cars for years. In that vein, also new among CG&T's offerings are LSVs from Garia, the Danish luxury golf and leisure car manufacturer that Club Car purchased last year. Garia's sleek Via comes in two-, four- or six-passenger models with the kind of smart styling, crisp handling and high-tech appointments you'd expect from an upmarket European vehicle.

During his 40 years in the business, Tom Bauerle has seen his product line go from gas-powered means of hole-to-hole conveyance to fully loaded electric luxury rides that cruise from home to course to corner café and beyond. For a man who has for years insistently referred to his vehicles as "cars, not carts, because they are self-propelled," the transformation is both gratifying and validating. *coloradogolfandturf.net*; 303-761-3332

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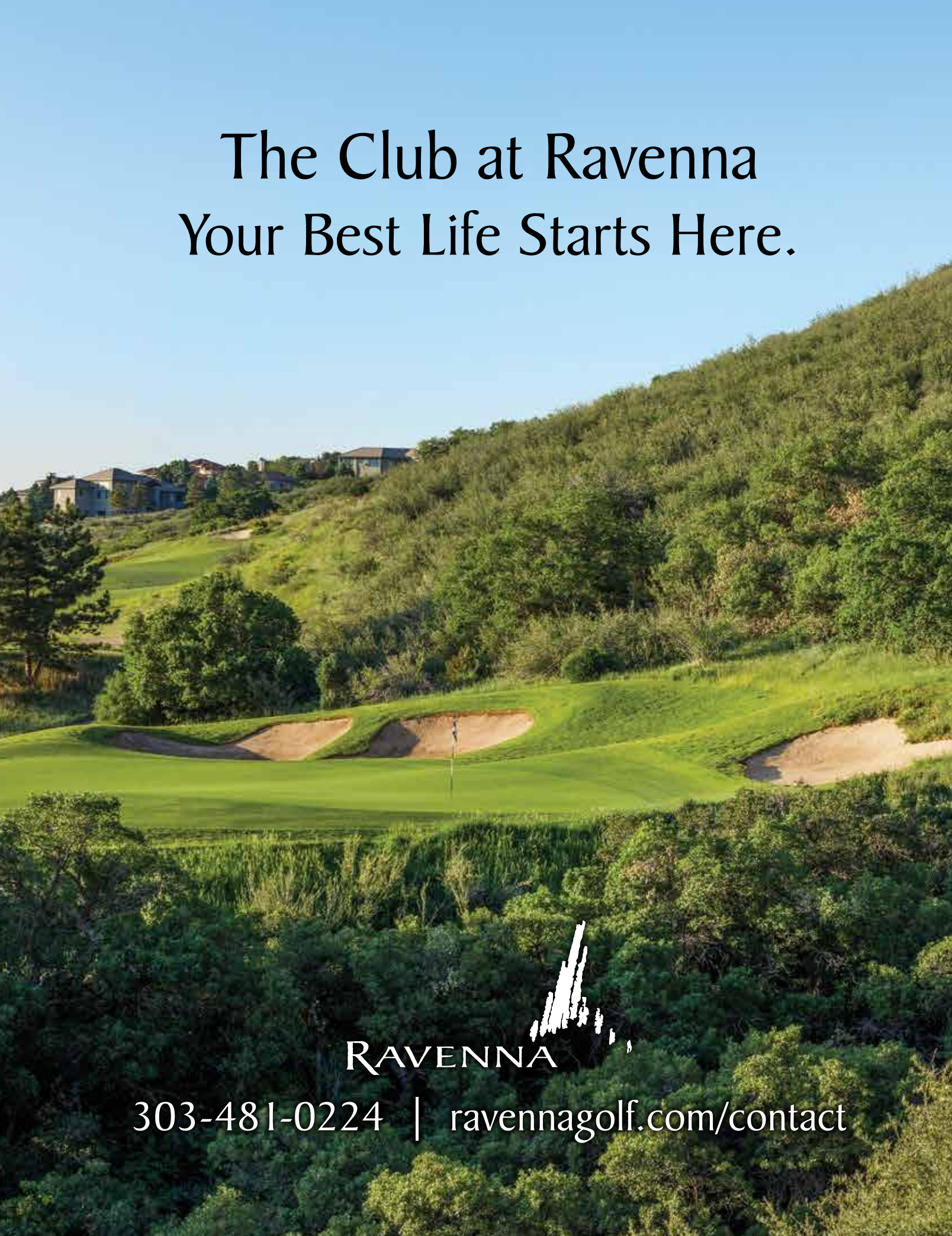


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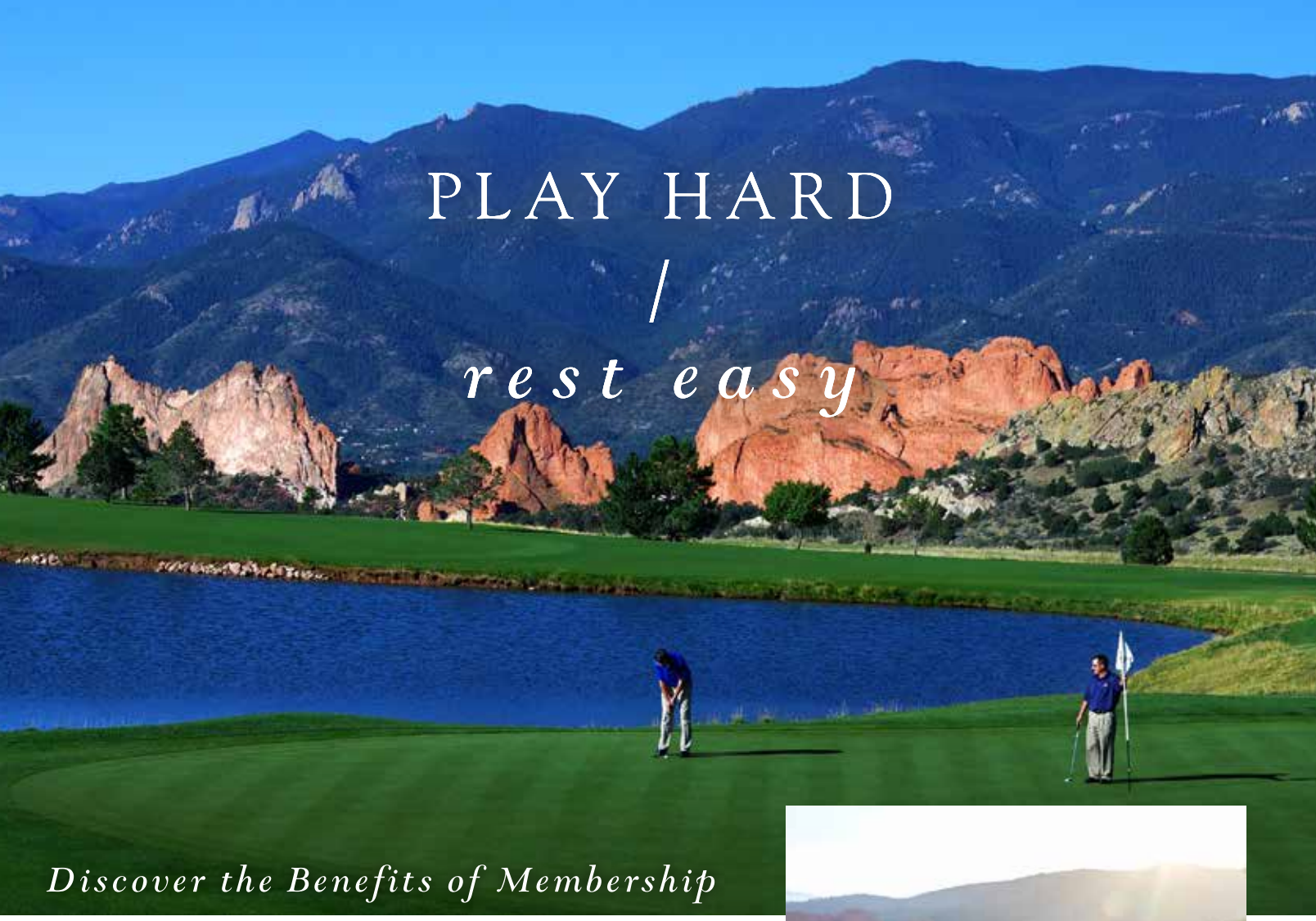
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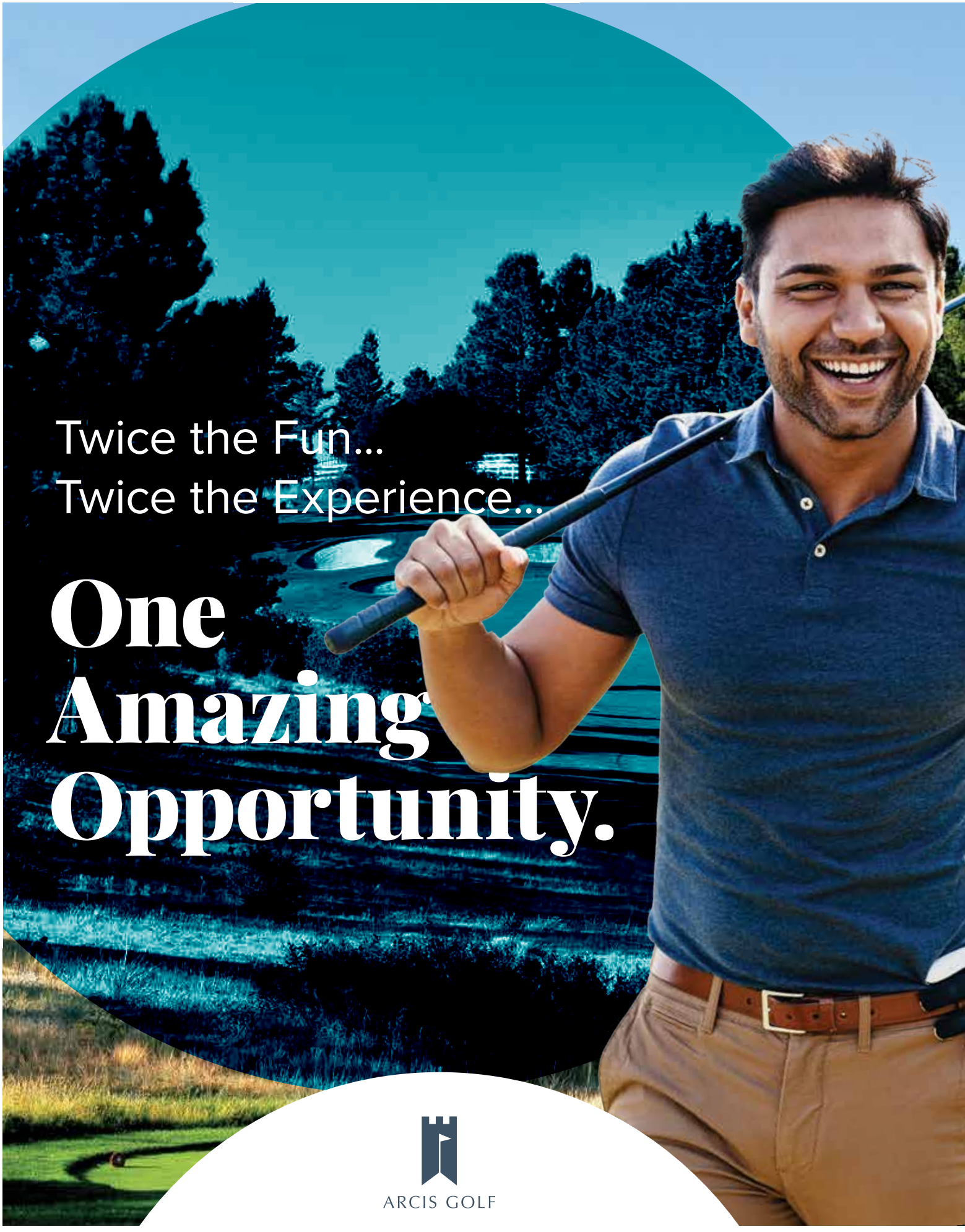
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ASPEN GLEN CLUB	0545 BALD EAGLE WAY, CARBONDALE 970-704-1905; ASPEN-GLEN.COM	$50,000	$1,350/ MO.	NO	385	SWIMMING, TENNIS, PICKLEBALL FITNESS CENTER, INVITEDCLUBS NETWORK	JACK NICKLAUS/ JACK NICKLAUS II (1997)	CHRIS DEVENS
BALLYNEAL GOLF CLUB	1 BALLYNEAL LANE, HOLYOKE 970-854-5900; BALLYNEAL.COM	$50,000	$5,000/YR.	INVITATION ONLY	250	BIRD HUNTING, BOCCE BALL, SHOOTING, LODGING, DINING, SPA, 12-HOLE AND PUTTING COURSES	TOM DOAK (2006)	BRIAN VEST
BEAR CREEK GOLF CLUB	12201 MORRISON RD., DENVER 303-667-4626; BEARCREEKGOLFCLUB.NET	$50,000	$460- $ 880/MO.	NO	350	DINING, PRACTICE FACILITIES	ARNOLD PALMER, ED SEAY (1985)	RICH GOINS
BLACK BEAR GOLF CLUB	11300 CANTERBERRY PKWY., PARKER 720-330-7087; INVITEDCLUBS.COM/ CLUBS/BLACKSTONE-BLACK-BEAR	$5,000	$535/MO.	NO	N/A	CLUBHOUSE, SWIMMING, TENNIS, PICKLEBALL & FITNESS AT BLACKSTONE CC	JEFF BRAUER (1996)	TIFFANIE TRENCK
BLACKSTONE COUNTRY CLUB	7777 COUNTRY CLUB DR., AURORA 720-330-7087; INVITEDCLUBS.COM/ CLUBS/BLACKSTONE-BLACK-BEAR	$15,000	$775/MO.	NO	N/A	SWIMMING, TENNIS, FITNESS, DINING, PRIVILEGES AT BLACK BEAR AND ALL CLUBCORP FACILITIES	JAY MORRISH (2006)	TIFFANIE TRENCK
BOOKCLIFF COUNTRY CLUB	2730 G RD., GRAND JUNCTION 970-243-3323; BOOKCLIFFCC.COM	$6,000	$500/MO.	NO	520	SWIMMING, TENNIS, PICKLEBALL, FITNESS, SPA, DINING, TROON PRIVÉ MEMBERSHIP	DICK PHELPS (1958)	DAVE FISCUS
BOULDER COUNTRY CLUB	350 CLUBHOUSE RD., BOULDER 303-530-4600; BOULDERCC.ORG	$75,000	$781/MO.	YES	485	SWIMMING, TENNIS, PICKLEBALL, FITNESS, DINING, SOCIAL EVENTS WELLNESS CENTER, YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS, PAR-3 COURSE	PRESS MAXWELL (1965)	SARAH FREISMUTH
BROADMOOR GOLF CLUB	ONE LAKE CIRCLE, COLORADO SPRINGS 719-577-5790; BROADMOORGOLFCLUB.ORG	N/A	N/A	YES	N/A	ALL RESORT PRIVILEGES, PRIVATE MEMBERS' LOUNGE	EAST: D. ROSS (1918) WEST: R. T. JONES (1964)	SHAUNA SARTORI
CASTLE PINES GOLF CLUB	1000 HUMMINGBIRD DR., CASTLE ROCK 303-688-6000; CASTLEPINESGOLFCLUB.CLUB	N/A	N/A	INVITATION ONLY	N/A	FITNESS CENTER, SPA, PUTTING COURSE, DINING	JACK NICKLAUS (1981)	N/A
THE COUNTRY CLUB AT CASTLE PINES	6400 COUNTRY CLUB DR., CASTLE PINES VILLAGE 303-688-7400; CCATCASTLEPINES.COM	$75,000	$897/MO.	YES	395	DINING, 20-ACRE GOLF PRACTICE RANGE; PUTTING COURSE; POOL; FITNESS; RACKET SPORTS	NICKLAUS SIGNATURE DESIGN (1985)	MARK LEWICKI
CATAMOUNT RANCH & CLUB	33400 B CATAMOUNT DR., STEAMBOAT SPRINGS 970-871-9300; CATAMOUNTRANCHCLUB.COM	$80,000	$14,720/ YR.	YES (SOCIAL)	375	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	$50,000- $80,000	$620- $925/MO.	NO	445	SWIMMING, TENNIS, SPA, FULL FITNESS FACILITY	JACK NICKLAUS/ JACK NICKLAUS II (2002)	KAREN HART
CHERRY HILLS COUNTRY CLUB	4125 S. UNIVERSITY BLVD., CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE 303-350-5200; CHCC.COM	$135,000 †	$1,185/ MO. †	INVITATION ONLY	N/A	SWIMMING , TENNIS, DINING, INDOOR GOLF PRACTICE	WILLIAM FLYNN (1922) RENAISSANCE GOLF (2009)	B.J. JOHNSON

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PRIVATE CLUB DIRECTORY 2023

CLUB	ADDRESS, PHONE, WEB	INITIATION*	DUES**	WAIT LIST	CAP	BEYOND THE COURSE	COURSE ARCHITECT	CONTACT
COLORADO GOLF CLUB	8000 PRESERVATION TRAIL, PARKER 303-840-5400; COLORADOGOLFCLUB.COM	$100,000/ $150,000	$1,150/MO.	INVITATION ONLY	375	9-HOLE SHORT COURSE, DINING, RESORT-STYLE POOL, FITNESS, TRAILS, ABOUTGOLF SIMULATORS, INDOOR BAYS, ADDING TENNIS AND PICKLE BALL	BEN CRENSHAW/ BILL COORE (2006)	BAILEY WILLIAMS
COLORADO SPRINGS COUNTRY CLUB	3333 TEMPLETON GAP RD., COLORADO SPRINGS 719-634-8851; CSCOUNTRYCLUB.COM	$12,500	$665/MO.	NO	375	SWIMMING, TENNIS, DINING, FITNESS, PICKLEBALL, KIDS' PROGRAMMING	UNKNOWN (1954); DICK PHELPS (1987)	EMILY BASENBERG
COLUMBINE COUNTRY CLUB	17 FAIRWAY LANE, COLUMBINE VALLEY 303-794-2674; COLUMBINECC.COM	$105,000	$1,105/MO.	YES	475	SWIMMING, TENNIS, PAR-3 COURSE, FITNESS, INDOOR SIMULATORS, INDOOR/ OUTDOOR DINING, SPA	HENRY HUGHES (1956)	LEAH CAILLIER
THE CLUB AT CORDILLERA	655 CLUBHOUSE DR., EDWARDS 970-926-4687; CORDILLERA-VAIL.COM	$70,000	$14,995/ YR.	NO	1,085	SWIMMING, TENNIS, NORDIC CENTER, DINING, HIKING, FLY-FISHING, SKIING, TROON PRIVÉ PRIVILEGES	VALLEY: T. FAZIO (1997) MOUNTAIN: H. IRWIN (1994) SUMMIT: J NICKLAUS (2001)	ALLYSON MASON
CORNERSTONE CLUB	1000 CORNERSTONE TRAIL, MONTROSE 970-249-1922; CORNERSTONECLUB.COM	$0 (NATIONAL); $75,000 (WESTERN SLOPE); $150,000 (RESIDENT)	$13,500/ YEAR (ALL CATEGORIES)	NO		DINING, 50 MILES OF HIKING AND BIKING TRAILS , FLY-FISHING, HORSEBACK RIDING, SNOWSHOEING, 4-WHEELING, SHOOTING, TENNIS, PICKLEBALL, ARCHERY	GREG NORMAN (2007) MATT DUSENBERRY (2018)	LOREN FORNEY
COUNTRY CLUB OF COLORADO	125 E. CLUBHOUSE DR., COLORADO SPRINGS 719-538-4080; CCOFCOLORADO.COM	$23,000	$595/MO.	NO	375	SWIMMING, DINING, TENNIS, FITNESS, SAILING, SPA, BEACH, LAKE, WATERSPORTS, PICKLEBALL	PETE DYE (1973)	DANI TUTTLE
COUNTRY CLUB OF THE ROCKIES	676 SAWATCH DR., EDWARDS 970-926-3080; COUNTRYCLUBOFTHEROCKIES.COM	$150,000 †	$15,250/ YR. †	YES	370	DINING, FITNESS, SIMULATORS, FLY-FISHING, TENNIS, PICKLEBALL	JACK NICKLAUS (1984)	BILL HUGHES, MPGA
DENVER COUNTRY CLUB	1700 E. FIRST AVE., DENVER 303-733-2441; DENVERCC.NET	$125,000	$905/MO.	INVITATION ONLY	600	SWIMMING, TENNIS, ICE RINK, FITNESS, PADDLE TENNIS	JAMES FOULIS (1902) BILL COORE (1985) GIL HANSE (2009)	MOLLY ELM
EAGLE SPRINGS GOLF CLUB	28521 U.S. HIGHWAY 6 & 24, WOLCOTT 970-926-4400; EAGLESPRINGS.ORG	$125,000	$18,000/ YR.	INVITATION ONLY	250	NONE	JAY MORRISH/ TOM WEISKOPF (1995)	MIKE STEINER
EATON COUNTRY CLUB	37661 WELD COUNTY RD. 39, EATON 970-454-2106; EATONCC.NET	$3,000	$253/MO.	NO	450	DINING	FRANK BAUMGARDNER (1968)	STEPHANIE SCOTT
THE CLUB AT FLYING HORSE	1880 WEISKOPF POINT, COLORADO SPRINGS 719-487-2660; FLYINGHORSECLUB.COM	$30,000-44,000 (ONE COURSE)/ $40,000-$55,000 (TWO COURSES)	$670/ $735/MO.	NO	450	LODGING, DINING, SWIMMING, TENNIS, PICKLEBALL, FITNESS, SPA, INDOOR GOLF FACILITY	TOM WEISKOPF (2005) FLYING HORSE NORTH: PHIL SMITH (2020)	BRANDEN PHILLIPS/ ERIKA COX
FORT COLLINS COUNTRY CLUB	1920 COUNTRY CLUB RD., FORT COLLINS 970-482-1336; FORTCOLLINSCC.COM	$15,000	$645/MO.	NO	500	SWIMMING, DINING, FITNESS, INDOOR & OUTDOOR TENNIS, REICPROCAL PROGRAMS	HENRY HUGHES (1960) PETE DYE (2001)	HEIDI ELSER
THE FOX HILL CLUB	1400 STATE HWY 119, LONGMONT 303-651-7600; THEFOXHILLCLUB.COM	$6,500	$540/MO.	NO	450	DINING, SWIMMING, TENNIS, PICKLEBALL, FITNESS	FRANK HUMMEL (1972)	RACHEL ROUMAYA

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CLUB	ADDRESS, PHONE, WEB	INITIATION*	DUES**	WAIT LIST	CAP	BEYOND THE COURSE	COURSE ARCHITECT	CONTACT
FROST CREEK CLUB	1094 FROST CREEK DR., EAGLE 970-455-3072; FROSTCREEK.COM	$100,000	$9,000/YR (NAT'L); $11,640/ YR. (LOCAL)	NO	425	SWIMMING, TENNIS, FITNESS, FISHING, SPA, PADDLEBOARD, ARCHERY, YURTS, NORDIC SKIING, ICE SKATING, SNOW-SHOEING, JEEP ACCESS, HIKING AND BIKING TRAILS	TOM WEISKOPF (2007)	KAKIE HOLLAND
GARDEN OF THE GODS RESORT AND CLUB	3320 MESA RD., COLORADO SPRINGS 719-520-4980; GARDENOFTHEGODSCLUB.COM	$50,000	$700/MO.	NO	N/A	KISSING CAMELS GOLF CLUB, LODGING, DINING, STRATA INTEGRATED WELLNESS & SPA, FITNESS, SWIMMING, TENNIS	PRESS MAXWELL (1961) MARK RATHERT (1997)	TRACEY KALATA
GLACIER CLUB	600 GLACIER CLUB DR., DURANGO 970-382-7800; THEGLACIERCLUB.COM	$25,000/ $100,000	$706-$1,089/ MO.	NO	800	TWO CLUBHOUSES, SWIMMING, TENNIS & PICKLEBALL, FITNESS, SPA, GOLF SIMULATOR, WINTER ACTIVITIES CENTER	ARTHUR HILLS (1974) IRWIN-SCHOEDER (2017)	KIMBERLY LOHRE
GLENMOOR COUNTRY CLUB	110 GLENMOOR DR., CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE 303-781-3000; GLENMOORCC.ORG	$95,000	$1,250/ MO.	YES	475	SWIMMING, TENNIS, FITNESS, DINING, MASSAGE, KIDS ACTIVITY ROOM	PETE DYE (1985)	TERI KUBIK
GREELEY COUNTRY CLUB	4500 W. 10TH ST., GREELEY 970-353-0528; GREELEYCC.ORG	$5,000	$654/MO.	NO	500	SWIMMING, TENNIS, DINING, PICKLEBALL, GOLF SIMULATORS, RECIPROCAL PROGRAMS	PRESS MAXWELL/ TOM BENDELOW (1932)	JAMAAL CURRY
HARMONY CLUB	4175 CLUB DR., TIMNATH 970-482-4653; HARMONYCLUB.INFO	$26,000	$675/MO.	YES	N/A	INDOOR HEATED GOLF FACILITY, POOL, TENNIS, FITNESS, PICKLEBALL	JIM ENGH (2007)	JASON WARD
HIWAN GOLF CLUB	30671 CLUBHOUSE LN., EVERGREEN 303-674-3366; HIWAN.COM	$30,000	$600/MO.	NO	N/A	DINING, SWIMMING, TENNIS, FITNESS CENTER, FISHING, YOGA AND PILATES	PRESS MAXWELL (1962)	JEFF MATHEWS
THE CLUB AT INVERNESS	200 INVERNESS DR., ENGLEWOOD 303-397-7878; THECLUBATINVERNESS.COM	$4,000	$495/MO.	YES	415	SWIMMING, TENNIS, RENOVATED FITNESS, LOCKER AND DINING FACILITIES	PRESS MAXWELL (1974)	DAVE STEINMETZ
LAKE VALLEY GOLF CLUB	4400 LAKE VALLEY DR., NIWOT 303-444-2114; LAKEVALLEY.COM	$12,000-$15,000	$441-$513/MO.	NO	485	DINING, PRACTICE FACILITIES, PRIVATE SWIM AND FISHING LAKE	PRESS MAXWELL (1964)	ROB MOUNT/ DILLON MOUNT
LAKEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB	6800 W. 10TH AVE., LAKEWOOD 303-233-4614; LAKEWOODCOUNTRYCLUB.NET	$75,000	$828/MO.	YES	450	SWIMMING, FITNESS, GOLF SIMULATOR, TRACKMAN ON RANGE	TOM BENDELOW (1908)/ DONALD ROSS (1917)GIL HANSE (2018)	CAROL KAISER
MAROON CREEK CLUB	10 CLUB CIRCLE RD., ASPEN 970-920-1533; MCCASPEN.COM	$250,000	$43,000 /YR.	INVITATION ONLY	350	SWIMMING, TENNIS, FITNESS, SPA, DINING	TOM FAZIO (1995)	DAVID CHADBOURNE
MERIDIAN GOLF CLUB	9742 S. MERIDIAN BLVD., ENGLEWOOD 303-799-8402; MERIDIANGOLFCLUB.COM	$12,000	$594/MO.	NO	475	DINING, PRACTICE FACILITIES	JACK NICKLAUS (1984)	TIM MURPHY
PERRY PARK COUNTRY CLUB	7047 PERRY PARK BLVD., LARKSPUR 303-681-3305; PERRYPARKCC.COM	$15,000	$648/MO.	NO	315	DINING, PRACTICE FACILITIES	DICK PHELPS (1969)	LANA MILAN
PINEHURST COUNTRY CLUB	6255 W. QUINCY AVE., DENVER 303-996-5499; MUCHMORETHANGOLF.COM	$50,000	$830/MO.	YES	450	SWIMMING, INDOOR/ OUTDOOR TENNIS, GOLF SIMULATORS, DINING, FITNESS, PICKLE BALL	PRESS MAXWELL (1960)	TIFFANY MESSER
THE PINERY COUNTRY CLUB	6900 N. PINERY PKWY., PARKER 303-841-5157; THEPINERYCC.COM	$13,000	$699/MO.	NO	N/A	SWIMMING COMPLEX, FITNESS, 27 HOLES WITH GOLF PRACTICE FACILITIES, INDOOR/ OUTDOOR TENNIS	DAVID BINGHAM (1972)	AMY KUMPULA

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TROON GOLF

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THE CLUB AT PRADERA	5225 RAINTREE DR., PARKER 303-607-5672; THECLUBATPRADERA.COM	$15,000	$699/MO.	NO	450	TENNIS, FITNESS, PRACTICE FACILITY	JIM ENGH (2005)	MAX MILLER
PTARMIGAN COUNTRY CLUB	5416 VARDON WAY, FORT COLLINS 970-226-8555; PTARMIGANCC.COM	$10,000	$550/MO.	NO	425	SWIMMING, DINING, TENNIS,	JACK NICKLAUS (1988)	RYAN FLACK
PUEBLO COUNTRY CLUB	3200 8TH AVE., PUEBLO 719-543-4844; PUEBLOCOUNTRYCLUB.COM	$1,750	$383/MO.	NO	850	SWIMMING, TENNIS, DINING, PICKLEBALL	HENRY HUGHES (1903)	BRITTANY MARTIN
THE RANCH COUNTRY CLUB	11887 TEJON ST., WESTMINSTER 303-460-9700; THERANCHCC.COM	$10,000-$25,000	AVERAGE $705/MO.	NO	425	INDOOR GOLF FACILITY, INDOOR/ OUTDOOR TENNIS, SWIMMING, FAMILY POOLS, FITNESS, DINING, INDOOR/ OUTDOOR KIDS PLAY AREA	DICK PHELPS (1974)	MICHA LEVENSON
THE GOLF CLUB AT RAVENNA	11118 CARETAKER RD., LITTLETON 720-956-1600; RAVENNAGOLF.COM	$75,000	$940	NO	395	CLUBHOUSE, DINING, POOL, FITNESS CENTER , TRACKMAN ON RANGE	JAY MORRISH (2006)	GEORGE KAHRHOFF
RED ROCKS COUNTRY CLUB	16235 W. BELLEVIEW AVE., MORRISON 303-352-2030; REDROCKSCOUNTRYCLUB.ORG	$50,000	$560/MO.	YES	430	DINING, SWIMMING, FISHING, HIKING, GOLF SIMULATOR	STANLEY HARWOOD (1976) KEVIN ATKINSON (2017)	BOBBY NORMAN
RED SKY GOLF CLUB	1099 RED SKY RD., WOLCOTT 970-754-8400; REDSKYGOLFCLUB.COM	$140,000	$11,541/ YR.	NO	425	SWIMMING, TENNIS, 2 CLUB-HOUSES AND RESTAURANTS, FITNESS, YEAR-ROUND GOLF ACADEMY	TOM FAZIO (2002) GREG NORMAN (2003)	SHAWNNA FRANK
RIO GRANDE CLUB & RESORT	0285 RIO GRANDE CLUB TRAIL, SOUTH FORK 719-873-1995; RGCRESORT.COM	$7,000	$440	No	None at this time	FITNESS CENTER W/ STEAM & MASSAGE ROOMS, POOL & HOT TUB COMPLEX,RESTAURANT, PRIVATE GOLD MEDAL WATERS & FISHING LODGE	Ric Buckton & Jay Benson (2001)	ADAM PERKO
ROARING FORK CLUB	100 ARBANEY RANCH RD., BASALT 970-927-9000; ROARINGFORKCLUB.COM	$50,000-$150,000 †	$11,500-$23,000/ YR. †	INVITATION ONLY	500	SWIMMING, TENNIS, FLY-FISH-ING, DINING, FITNESS	JACK NICKLAUS (1999)	SAM BROOME
THE CLUB AT ROLLING HILLS	15707 W. 26TH AVE., GOLDEN 303-279-3334; THECLUBATROLLINGHILLS.ORG	$70,000	$928/MO.	YES	425	SWIMMING, INDOOR/OUT-DOOR TENNIS, FITNESS, HD GOLF SIMULATOR, DINING	PRESS MAXWELL/ DICK PHELPS (1967)	MARTA KOSTELNY
SNOWMASS CLUB	0239 SNOWMASS CLUB CIR., SNOWMASS VILLAGE 970-923-5600; SNOWMASSCLUB.COM	$150,000	$1,500/ MO.	NO	375	SPA & FITNESS, SWIMMING, INDOOR/OUTDOOR TENNIS, PICKLEBALL, CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING, DINING, INDOOR GOLF SIMULATOR	JIM ENGH (2003)	JOANNA MALLORY
SONNENALP CLUB	1265 BERRY CREEK RD., EDWARDS 970-477-5376; SONNENALPCLUB.COM	$45,000	$859/MO.	NO	345	SWIMMING, TENNIS, SPA, FITNESS, DINING, INDOOR/ OUTDOOR PRACTICE FACILITIES	JAY MORRISH/ BOB CUPP (1982)	DIANE KERCHOF
TPC COLORADO	2375 TPC PARKWAY, BERTHOUD 303-522-5711; TPC.COM/COLORADO	$60,000	$8,950/YR.	NO	N/A	3 RESTAURANTS, POOL, 600- ACRE LAKE, FITNESS CENTER, WATERFOWL HUNT-ING, ACCESS TO 30 OTHER TPCs	ARTHUR SCHAUPETER (2018)	MICHAEL NEWBERG
VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB	14601 COUNTRY CLUB DR., CENTENNIAL 720-630-2463; VALLEYCOUNTRYCLUB.ORG	$50,000	$680/MO.	NO	470	SWIMMING, LIGHTED TENNIS, FITNESS, DINING, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY CENTER	WILLIAM BELL (1960)	STEVE O'BRIEN
THE COUNTRY CLUB AT WOODMOOR	18945 PEBBLE BEACH WAY, MONUMENT 719-884-7241; CCWOODMOOR.COM	$7,500	$440/MO.	NO	415	SWIMMING, INDOOR TENNIS & PICKLEBALL, FITNESS, CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING, CHILDCARE	PRESS MAXWELL (1969)	STEPHANIE THIEN

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Time for Some Texas Tee

30 miles north of Dallas, the PGA of America's new home has at least 36 reasons to visit.

Call it a home, a hub or maybe a habitat. Just don't refer to the PGA of America's new 106,000-square foot base of operations in Frisco, Texas, as "headquarters." Last summer, when the vast, sun-filled structure opened, the message was clear: the organization's blue-blazer-and-khakis corporate vibe has yielded to a more approachable, personalized atmosphere in which all 28,000 PGA members, associates and staff can learn, collaborate and thrive.

Visitors are welcome, and as of May 2, they can stay in one of the 500 guest rooms or 10 four-bedroom villas at the massive Omni PGA Frisco Resort. That's the only way you can play the property's two golf courses—the Gil Hanse-designed Fields Ranch East and Beau Welling's Fields Ranch West—or its 10-hole nocturnal par-3 called "The Swing" or two-acre putting course, "The Dance Floor."

Both courses officially open at the same time as the hotel, with Fields Ranch East hosting the 2023 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship May 25–28. It will mark the first of 25 PGA championships hosted at Fields Ranch through 2034—and the first of five majors. The others are the '25 and '31 KPMG Women's PGA Championships, '27 and '34 PGA Championships and '29 Senior PGA.

In October, Fields Ranch West will host the first of 12 consecutive National Car Rental PGA Jr. League Championships. And speaking of team competitions, look for the ultimate one eventually coming to Frisco: the PGA of America-administered Ryder Cup.

"Working with Kerry Haigh, the PGA's chief championships officer, we feel there are so many ways to set up the golf course," Hanse says.

His East Course, which can stretch from 5,012 to 7,863 yards, suggests Southern Hills in Tulsa, the Perry Maxwell classic that Hanse restored in 2019. The North Texas layout takes advantage of the area's rolling topography, dry washes, omnipresent wind and meandering Panther Creek. The expandable fairways lead to naturally rough-hewn, grass-fringed bunkers and smallish greens with gentle breaks, strong slopes and false edges.

Known mainly as Tiger Woods' senior design consultant, Welling intentionally created a somewhat gentler test than Hanse did. Playing between 4,166 and 7,319 yards, the West course also incorporates Panther Creek, but Welling intentionally integrated the fun factor. Its 75-foot-wide fairways and ample greens encourage creative shot-making, and the routing showcases the native flora, wetlands and wildlife of the Blackland Prairie.

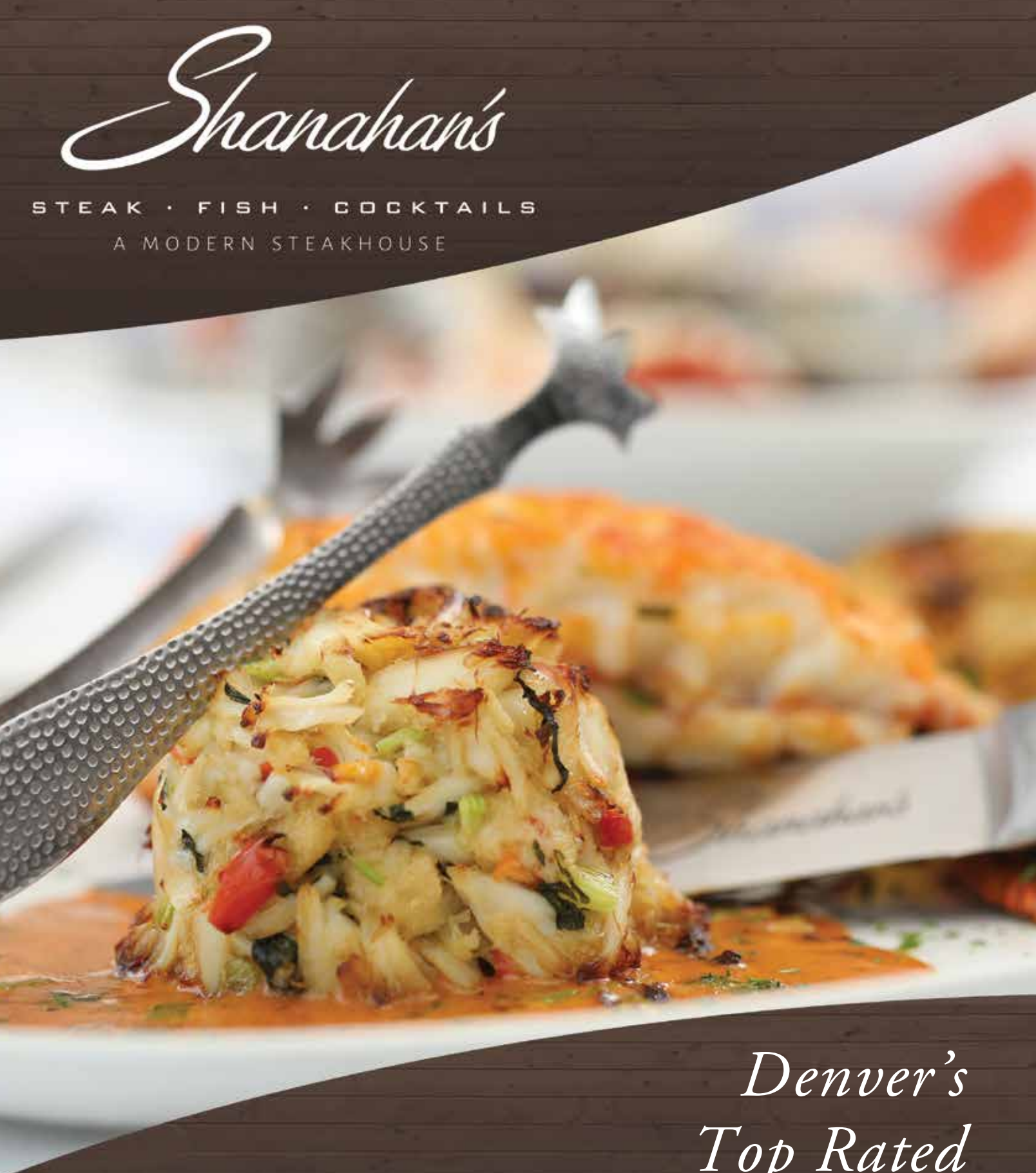
And to fill those off-course hours, the Omni's 12 restaurants, three pools, Topgolf lounge and spa will make you feel at home. *omnipgafriscoresort.com*; 888-444-6664—JON RIZZI

FRISCO FUN: Panther Creek bisects the fifth hole at Fields Ranch East, the site of next month's Senior PGA Championship and a possible Ryder Cup.

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