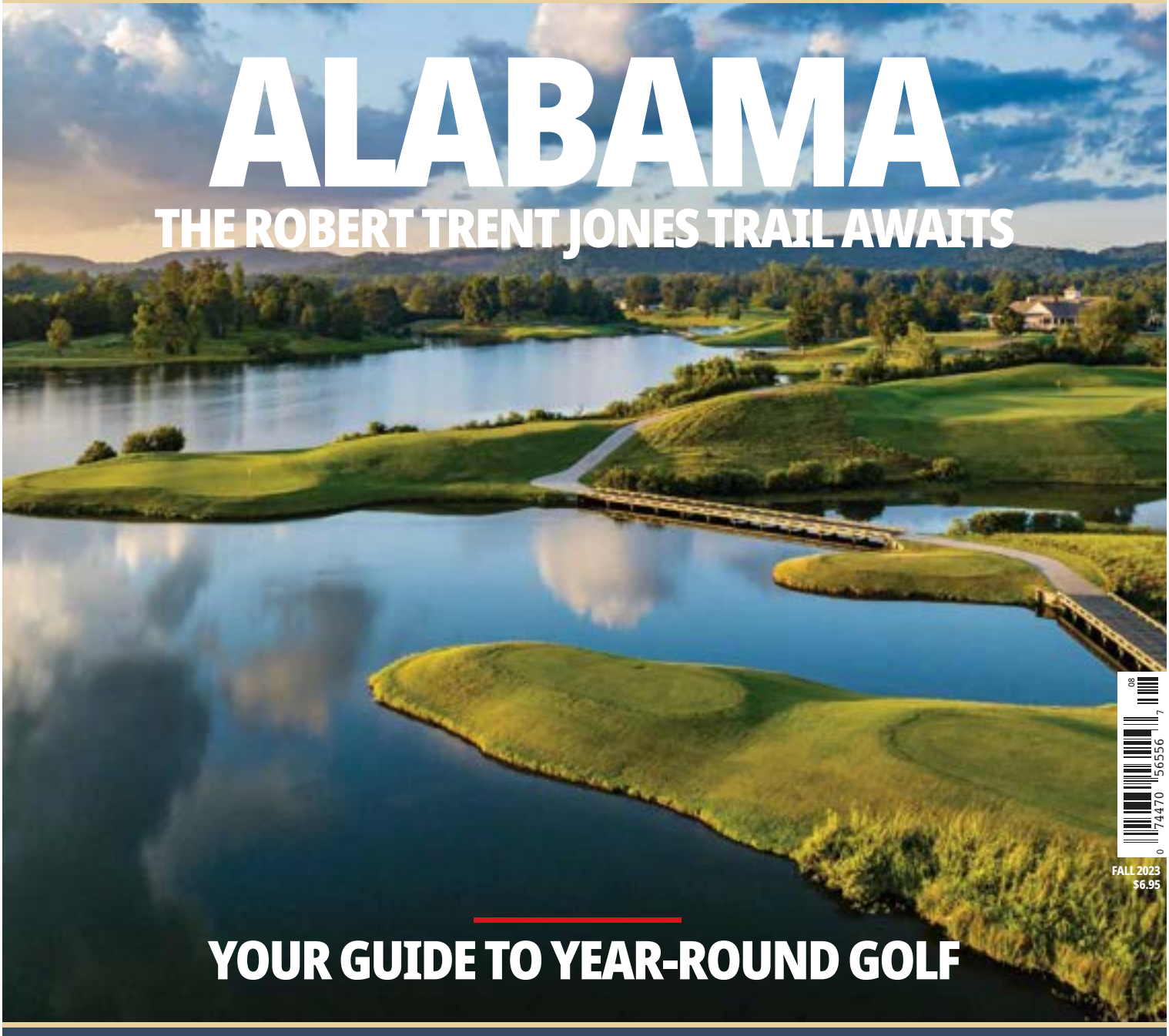
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Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Trail includes amazing golf throughout the state..Photo courtesy Alabama Travel

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GOLF NEVER SLEEPS

The first times I visited my son, newly ensconced in Colorado from Ohio in his first post-college job, we played golf each visit.

I would fly into DIA, take the bus to Boulder, and spend the week biking around or having him drive me to courses to play. (All those years I thought the Denver metro area was a traffic-free nirvana where everyone bused and biked everywhere; what an idiot.) It didn't matter when I visited – January, February, March - we played golf. The courses were open. Carts were at the ready. And the golf was good.

That's how I learned that in Colorado golf is often a 12-month sport. So we dedicated this issue to the information you need to help you play the game year round – even if it is in-between ski trips to Steamboat or Aspen. Our annual Arizona/Nevada/Utah travel guide shows you the best resorts ready to serve if you want to leave the sweaters behind and go where it's really warm. Tom Mackin, a Scottsdale resident, writes about things to do there as only a native can. John Lehndorff goes deep on the finest places to eat in Tucson. We have tips on keeping limber during the winter months, and gear that can keep you playing all winter. It's all there.

THE BEST OF COLORADO GOLF 2024
THE CAGGY'S

The most important election of our lifetime begins on Oct. 4. No, not that election. But on that day voting begins on AvidGolfer's annual survey to determine the best in Colorado golf! And your vote matters!

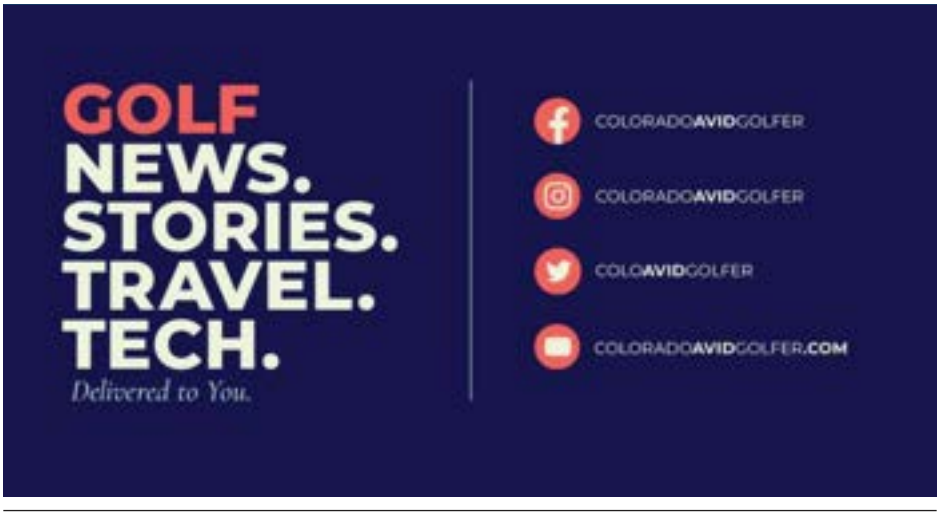
Every year we ask Colorado golfers to tell us their favorite courses, their favorite teaching pros, their favorite place to eat. This gives us an unrivaled look into what the people who know the game best – You! – think about Colorado golf.

Voting takes place through Dec. 31 at ColoradoAvidGolfer.com/BestOf2024. Getting these survey's out and promoted is done in sponsorship with GOLFTEC and could not be possible without help from the Colorado PGA.

We have a new category this year. We want to know what people think is the best indoor golf simulator bar in the state. As you'll see in an article in this edition, there are more than 20 in Colorado already, with more on the way. We also trimmed out some categories that people were not voting for in great numbers. The result is a faster, streamlined way for you to vote for your favorites!

Then in February we will announce the winners. You will see an avalanche of stories, videos, photos and social media throughout the spring as we celebrate what you all have decided. We love surprises, and every year there is a new front-runner in a category that we didn't expect.

-Jim Bebbington



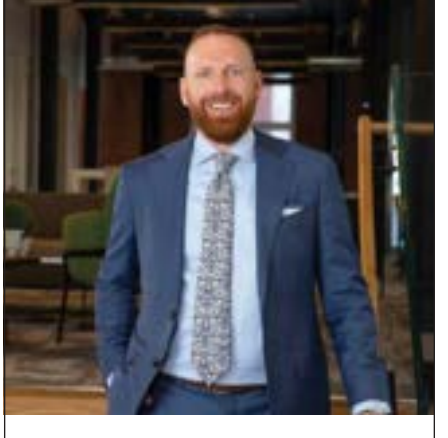
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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

By Ed Mate



A High Success Rate

As the youngest of four, **Laurie Steenrod's** golf journey started at the age of 7 when her golfing parents introduced her to the game in what she describes as "Small Town, USA" – Freeport, Illinois. That introduction blossomed into a life-long passion as both a player and volunteer. One of Laurie's primary interests is course rating—Laurie has chaired the CGA Course Rating Committee since the CGA and Colorado Women's Golf Association (CWGA) merged in 2018. She is also a competitive player and a long-time high school golf coach from Aurora, CO. Her home course is Saddle Rock Golf Course.

Ed Mate is the Executive Director of the Colorado Golf Association.

KK: What is your association with the CGA?

LS: I started volunteering, was on the board, and was a course rater for the CWGA all the same year when I retired in 2011. I was the Course Rating Chair of the CWGA toward the end of that organization. The CWGA and CGA merged at the start of 2018. After the merger, I continued as the CGA Course Rating Committee chair.

KK: How did you get started in course rating?

LS: II was told by the Course Rating Committee back in 2011 that they had their eye on me for a while. They asked me to join the committee once I retired. They had showed me a sheet full of hundreds of boxes to write numbers on and said, "Do you want to take a look at this?" Long story short, I got trained on course with a sheet of paper and a book. I knew absolutely nothing and after a few minutes my head was spinning.

With the CWGA, when they started to train me, I was considered an apprentice and was assigned a mentor. My mentor was an experienced rater, so I went out on most rates with her. We have a new system now. We make sure to always pair an apprentice rater with a new experienced rater from week to week.

KK: Could you explain what goes into course rating?

LS: Of course. Distance. The length of the course is the primary driver of Course Rating. There are 5 factors that adjust the course length. Let's say we are at a mountain course where all the holes are downhill. Let's say it measures out at 6500 yards, but it plays closer to 6000 yards. That is the yardage we go from, not the precise measure, but how the course really plays. Then there are 10 obstacles: trees, bunkers, water, width of the fairway, height of the rough, etc.

Interestingly enough, course rating is only for two players: Scratch (zero handicap) and Bogey for both men and women. The USGA tells us how far they each hit it, and we go only to their landing area. In those landing areas, we look for obstacles that are near or closely border the 20-yard landing zone. Any obstacles that are on the hole but aren't near one of the golfers 's landing zones do not come into play for them from that tee set. We are getting more and more requests to do shorter tee sets for men and longer for women. That makes us busier than we were 5 years ago.

KK: How long does it take to rate a course?

LS: We are usually a little slower than the pace of golf. We spend a fair amount of time on the green. We get a lot of information from the green. We also want to make sure we are all on the same page before going to the next hole, as well. There is a lot of conversation between raters. Something that is very interesting is, if I am rating the same set of tees as a man, the male bogey golfer hits it about the same as a female scratch, so we share landing areas. There are lots of charts full of numbers that we base our ratings off of. Beyond that, we have a minor amount of subjectivity to make some minor adjustments to what we think is going to happen when there is a ball in play.

KK: What is the role of the CGA Course Rating Committee chair?

LS: Every golf course in the state of Colorado that is a member of the Colorado Golf Association is scheduled to be re-rated every eight years. We put every course on the eight-year schedule to make sure none of them fall through the cracks. This year we are rating about 31 courses. We usually do about 28-32 courses every summer. We generally do not course rate until it is active playing season and the trees have leaves because trees are one of the obstacles that are made note of during course rating. They are a factor in how difficult or not difficult a course is. We do less guessing as to what the course will play like if we wait for the trees to leaf-out. The earliest we start is the 3rd or 4th week of May. And we try not to go much past September. Although we can run into all kinds of emergency situations that lead us to rate into late September. This year we chose not to do any course ratings during the two USGA events that were in the state, so now we still have about 1/3 of the courses left to go.



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Coming Up Just Short

Inspirato Colorado Men's and Senior Opens see Coloradans finish just short of the titles

By Jim Bebbington

It wasn't just the women who had to put up with pelting rain to win their 2023 Inspirato Colorado Open.

The senior open, played in late August, was decided during a downpour at Green Valley Ranch Golf Club. Only the men's open, played July 20-23, finished dry. Turk Pettit of Louisiana took the title for this summer's Inspirato Colorado Open, played July 20-23 at Green Valley Ranch Golf Club in Denver. He won by two-strokes over former Colorado State University player and coach Parker Edens, who was the top amateur. Pettit shot 21-under par for the four-day tournament and had only four bogeys over the four rounds.

"I haven't won for two years. I've been working really hard to try and get one… and I finally got a win," he said after the victory. "Colorado golf has the best state open in the country so I wanted to come play. If it's the best I want to show up."

Pettit won the 2021 NCAA Div. 1 men's championship while playing for Clemson University, and turned pro after he left school.

"Winning in general, it doesn't matter where it is, every tournament I play in you show up to win and it doesn't happen very much in golf so you're thankful and grateful for those opportunities," he said.

Pettit, 24, has played on the Asian, PGA, Korn Ferry and Canadian tours since turning pro in 2021. His winnings for taking the Colorado Open title, $100,000, were more than he had won on the PGA, Korn Ferry and Canadian tours combined so far. He stayed hot after leaving Colorado, too; he finished tied for 8th place in the Asian Tour's St. Andrew's Bay Championship in August, winning $28,000. Edens, the top amateur, is a Colorado native and now head coach of the men's golf team at the University of South Dakota. Edens turned pro in 2014 after graduating from Colorado State University and played for several years on a host of tours before regaining his amateur status in 2019.

Tied for the lead going into the final round Sunday Edens quickly birdied three holes on the front nine and made the turn in the lead at 20-under. But Pettit made three more birdies on the back nine, and Edens made one bogey and watched birdie putts slip by the holes. Pettit won at 21-under and Edens finished tied for second with Andre Metzger of Scottsdale, Ariz., at 19-under.

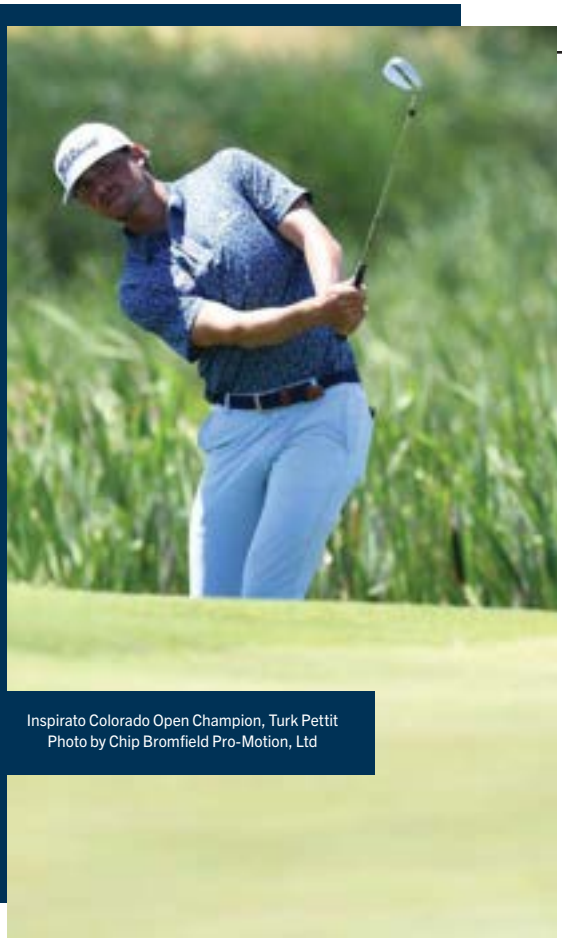
"(I) was a little bit disappointed, to be honest," Edens said after the round. "I had a chance to be in the hunt to win the whole championship and I kind of had to regroup after scoring just a little bit of disappointment. But obviously it was one of my goals coming in this year to be low-am here and achieve that so I'm very, very pleased."

In the Inspirato Colorado Senior Open, played Aug. 23 to 25, Texan Jason Schultz won the $20,000 first prize with a three-day score of 16-under. He finished ahead of Matt Schalk, who finished 12-under to take second place.

"I putted well, I was smart, I've been playing well for awhile. Nothing was really ridiculous. I just played well. It was good start to finish," Schultz said.

Schultz played as a touring professional for many years, and now works in in the golf turf industry and is playing in Monday qualifiers for Champions Tour events.

Schalk, the head pro at Colorado National Golf Club, has been on a tournament heater since turning 50 two years ago. His finish in this year's senior open is by far his highest placing in the Colorado opens or senior opens, a tournament series he has played in since the early 2000s. He also won last year's Senior PGA Professional Championship.

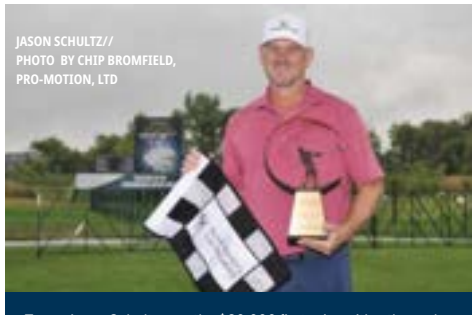


Inspirato Colorado Open Champion, Turk Pettit
Photo by Chip Bromfield Pro-Motion, Ltd



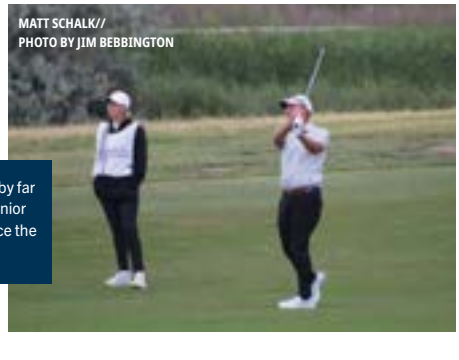
PARKER EDENS//
PHOTO BY JIM BEBBINGTON

Former Colorado State University player Parker Edens was tied for the lead heading into the final round of play, and carded three birdies on the front nine.



JASON SCHULTZ//
PHOTO BY CHIP BROMFIELD,
PRO-MOTION, LTD

Texan Jason Schultz won the $20,000 first prize with a three-day score of 16-under. He finished ahead of Matt Schalk, who finished 12-under to take second place.



MATT SCHALK//
PHOTO BY JIM BEBBINGTON

Matt Schalk's finish in this year's senior open is by far his highest placing in the Colorado opens or senior opens, a tournament series he has played in since the early 2000s.

Design and Conquer

Arnold Palmer Design veteran from Highlands Ranch moves out on his own

By Tony Dear



Senior architects Thad Layton and Brandon Johnson kept the Arnold Palmer Design Company (APDC) going for nearly seven years following their boss's death in September, 2016, but it couldn't last forever.

Earlier this month Layton, who lives in Highlands Ranch near Denver, announced the creation of his own company – Thad Layton Design. He hopes it will give him the opportunity to use the lessons he learned during 26 years spent working alongside Palmer while also exploring different ways to build golf courses.

The two firms will operate very differently. Arnie's company had a dozen or so employees, did business for 50 years, and designed more than 300 courses around the world. Layton begins as the head of a one-man operation and hopes to complete two or three projects a year.

"It'll be like night and day," says Layton. "I've become a big fan of the smaller-scale design-build process (where the architect designs the course and is also a part of constructing it), like that which Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw use, and see myself doing something very similar."

In recent years, Layton has become increasingly proficient on the sort of machines used to build golf courses and, though he may not have the skills of expert shapers like Jeff Bradley, Keith Rhebb or Riley Johns quite yet, he doesn't feel out of place on an excavator or bulldozer.

Layton's top priority is establishing the golf course design firm he's long dreamed of owning. He's currently consulting at Lakewood Country Club and drawing up a masterplan for the course originally designed by Tom Bendelow in 1908 and redesigned by Donald Ross in 1916. New-builds overseas are also being talked about.

"I loved working with Mr. Palmer," says Layton. "I learned so much about the business and will always be grateful for everything he taught me. But I'm ready for this now." Layton's new initiative can be found at ThadLaytonDesign.com.

USGA

What are the Best Tees for You?

The USGA wants you happy. It wants you to feel successful. It wants you to stop throwing your clubs into the pond.

This is why they ramped up their efforts this summer to get golfers to play from the 'Best Tees.' What are the best tees? Well, it depends on you.

According to the USGA's new initiative, the best tees are the tees which enable a golfer to be tested and challenged, but to give them a chance at success. If you're playing from tees and hitting decent drives but still are hitting long-irons into all your par 4s, it's probably time to move up.

But they've put some math behind it, too. The USGA is developing a 'Best Tees' formula. It is a series of calculations that the course would do behind the scenes, and then ultimately players will be presented with a simple chart recommending the tees they should use based on how far they hit their 7-irons.

"In our survey of 20,000 golfers, 85 percent said that playing a balance of shots during their round would have a "significant" or "extremely positive" impact on their round," the USGA stated in a program update published this summer.

The research so far has found that golfers with slower swing speeds – some seniors, some women golfers, children and people of all ages learning the game – are given a good challenge and experience at tees that put the course at between 4,000 and 5,000 yards. Many courses do not have tee boxes in that range, and some players admit to feeling peer pressure to trying to hit from further back than they can do well at. Ultimately, it's in the courses best interest to invest in offering a slate of 'best tees' if they are interested in attracting an array of players.

The data from the 60 test-courses this summer is going to be fed back to the researchers and the USGA says it will use it to guide the rollout of the program on a wider scale.

Simply the Best

Five Colorado pros among nations' best teachers

By Jim Bebbington

Five golf teaching professionals with Colorado ties were among the Top 100 Teachers in America as determined by a panel assembled by GOLF Magazine. GOLF's list was first introduced in 1991 and is updated every two years. To be considered the teachers must have conducted a minimum of 1,500 hours of teaching and lesson-related activites, provide evidence of student success as well as proof of contributions to growing the game by developing new training techniques or producing content to help players improve.


A


B


C


D


E

The Fab 5

Colorado pros who were selected by their peers and the review process as among the best teaching pros in the country are:

A// Ed Oldham
The Ranch CC, Westminster
EdOldhamGolf.com

B// Stan Utley
Grayhawk GC, Scottsdale, AZ /
Maroon Creek Club, Aspen
StanUtley.com

C// Trent Wearner
Trent Wearner Golf Academy, Denver
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D// Nick Clearwater
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Cherry Hills Sets a New Standard

The prestigous country club sets a blueprint for future host sites

by Jon Rizzi



USGA PRESIDENT FRED PERPALL, SECOND FROM LEFT, PARTICIPATED IN THE PRESENTATIONS OF NEARLY $1.5 MILLION IN SUPPORT FOR YOUTH GOLF FROM DONORS DURING THE U.S. AMATEUR IN AUGUST AT CHERRY HILLS COUNTRY CLUB.

The legacy of the 123rd U.S. Amateur at Cherry Hills differs from its historical significance but carries an even greater value.

The lives of young men and women will be touched by the efforts of the Cherry Hills membership to leverage a tournament that, as Championship Chair Jim Hillary put it, "will change the trajectory of a young man's life."

Hillary initially enlisted the support of 33 Cherry Hills members—"friends of the championship," he called them—to kick-start the club's fundraising to benefit organizations that would have a meaningful impact on the lives of young people across Colorado. Ultimately, 77 percent of the membership financially supported the U.S. Amateur charitable initiative, and more than 800 members and family members volunteered at the championship.

The club received generous grants from the Daniels Fund and Ball Foundation, as well as contributions from other private donors. This ambitious philanthropic campaign enabled Hillary to present on behalf of the club checks of $500,000 apiece to the Evans Scholars Foundation, Cherry Hills Palmer Scholarship Foundation and Colorado's First Tee Chapters.

Receiving the donation check on behalf of the Evans Scholars Foundation, Cherry Hills and Castle Pines Golf Club member George Solich spoke of the caddie scholarship, which more than 40 years ago sent him to the University Colorado and changed his life.

"This gift," he said, "will change the lives of really high-performing, financially needy caddies all over the country but particularly here in Colorado."

Cherry Hills member David Packer, a trustee of the club's Palmer Scholarship—which since 2001 has provided scholarships to club employees—said this gift eclipsed the $350,000 the club had this year provided for the scholarship.

"Our club is proud to support educational goals of those who make Cherry Hills such a wonderful place," he said, "and we love to see them leave the nest and have success."

Dave Simon, chair of First Tee-Green Valley Ranch, accepted on behalf of the organization, one of three Colorado chapters that will share the donation.

"The USGA has enjoyed a long history with Cherry Hills," USGA President Fred Perpall said at the check presentation. "The club represents all that is good in championship golf, but it also represents all that is good in golf in general—this notion that as a community everything that is happening inside these gates that is good should spread outside these gates . . . We know that the Evans Scholars Foundation, the Palmer Scholarship and the First Tee will continue to do good work and create more leaders for the future because of your efforts."

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Child's Play

Spiranac and sister pen a children's book

By Jim Bebbington

Colorado native and golf influencer Paige Spiranac and her sister Lexie Mitchell are publishing their first children's book this fall, "Hattie Goes Golfing."

The book is being published by Back Nine Press out of New York and is illustrated by Mai Kemble, who has illustrated 16 other children's books.

"Hattie Goes Golfing" is about a young gopher who discovers the game and faces resistance when she tries to play. It is based on Paige's experiences growing up. The course featured in the book, Morrison Municipal Golf Course, doesn't exist, but it is modeled after the courses Spiranac played.

"I've not always felt accepted in the golf community and the golf industry, and so we wanted to share that story. I owe everything that I've ever done to golf, so this is my way to give back," Spiranac said.

Spiranac and her older sister Lexie grew up in Monument. Sprianac was a gymnast and competitive youth golfer, winning youth tournaments and earning a scholarship to play at the University of Arizona. She failed in her 2016 attempt to get her card to play on the LPGA Tour, but by then had already begun to use social media platforms to interact with golf fans.

Spiranac's media work has blossomed into a small empire of events, instruction videos, podcasts, social media posts and sponsorship deals, coordinated through her company based at PaigeSpiranac.com. She has more than 11 million followers across her social media platforms and is one of the most-followed golf celebrities in the world.

Copies of 'Hattie Goes Golfing' are available at Back9Press.com.

Goodbye Storms, Hello Fall!

The summer weather will not be something that many golf course superintendent's will miss.

By Jim Bebbington



The rains came in heavier than usual all summer across the state. While that helped alleviate persistent drought conditions that had gone on for the last three years, it also proved that sometimes you can get too much of a good thing.

All courses were affected in some way. Many had long rough that couldn't be mowed with any regularity. At Ballyneal Golf and Hunt Club on the state's eastern edge one mid-summer hail storm broke windows. CommonGround Golf Course in Denver had to shut down several holes early in the summer and wait until flood waters receded.

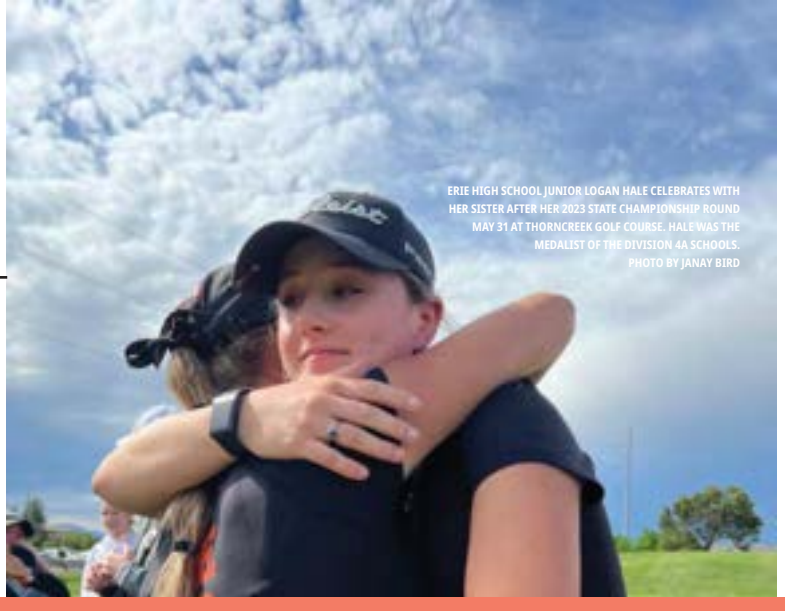
Folks at the city of Denver's Wellshire Golf Course told golfers repeatedly to avoid the second cut of rough after it sprouted more than a foot high. But a June August shut one course down completely - Spring Valley Golf Course in Elizabeth.

The storms hit in mid-June all over southern Denver. The same storm system saw a tornado rip through Highlands Ranch. "It wasn't the rain on the course," said Spring Valley's club pro Chris Shafer. "It's like this wall of water came rushing through."

Creeks overwhelmed the drainage system, damaged bridges and left sand across the grounds. Course operators made the tough decision then to shut down for the year in order to clean up and repair; the course expects to re-open in Spring, 2024.

Ironically, the club is under new owners, Lakeport Developers, and had been looking for a window of time to implement a course-improvement master plan that had been developed for them by Denver-area golf architect Rick Phelps. "It was the perfect time to rebuild three complete green complexes," Shafer said.

The course is on track for an April 1 reopening, Shafer said.



ERIE HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR LOGAN HALE CELEBRATES WITH HER SISTER AFTER HER 2023 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND MAY 31 AT THORNCREEK GOLF COURSE. HALE WAS THE MEDALIST OF THE DIVISION 4A SCHOOLS. PHOTO BY JANAY BIRD

On the Rise

What does it take to be a top junior golfer? A lot.

By Jim Bebbington

Junior golf tournaments can be a great experience. Young players can challenge themselves, develop their craft, and see where they are against their peers and whether their preparation is enough to achieve their goals.

Logan Hale, a senior at Erie High School, used this past summer to undertake a busy junior golf tournament schedule. She had some amazing success:

The summer started in late May when Hale and her teammates at Erie High School won their second consecutive 4A high school state title. Hale shot a final-round six-under 66 at Thorncreek Golf Course north of Denver. She was the medalist by 8-strokes over her teammate, Erie sophomore Hadley Ashton.

Hale made the cut at the Inspirato Colorado Women's Open held in June at Green Valley Ranch Golf Course. She shot a 3-under 69 on the second day of the tournament to rally and make the cut in a tournament dominated by professionals and top-ranked adult amateurs. Her second-round score was tied for fifth-best tha t day.

In July Hale qualified for the U.S. Girls' Junior tournament at The Broadmoor. The week-long tournament is considered the U.S. Open of girls junior golf. She played the two-day stroke play competition but did not make the cut to move on to the match-play portion.

"This summer has only showed me what the future could possibly be like because it does get hard in there sometimes when you're not having results and the work that you're putting it isn't showing up on the course during tournaments," said Hale.

"But this summer it's finally like reaching the point where I I know that my game is at and I'm I think I'm showing people that this is who I am, this is where my game is at."

"I would love to make the Girls' Junior again hopefully make the cut because it was within reach this year. I just had a difficult second day. Like that course just sneaks up on you if you don't have your A game. So it was just difficult."

But in addition to working on her swing with her coach Bob Rashell, who coaches elite amateurs at TPC Scottsdale in Arizona, she is also adjusting to the harsher realities of top-level golf: solitude.

"It's the classic you against the course," she said. "Whoever is around you is not necessarily supposed to be even in your thinking. That's one of the greatest challenges about it I would say is you see other people competing on team sports - traveling with a team, not all the pressure's on you if you play bad. So it's definitely different being like it's just me and my Dad traveling to all these different tournaments that aren't local.

But like a lot of competitors, Hale said she is learning about the tradeoffs. She wants to succeed, and so she is willing to put in the effort.



By Tony Dear

Four Season Golf: What to Wear

While people generally aren't spending time on their decks or walking around in t-shirt and shorts, wintertime in Denver isn't so bad. Temperatures are actually fairly moderate with December and January daytime highs reaching the mid to high-40s, and often the 50s. And though the city does get about 60 inches of snow between the beginning of November and end of April, it doesn't stick around for long usually, so golf courses typically remain open year-round.

No one's breaking any course records at this time of year though, and we're certainly not saying you have to play your winter golf outside. Most readers will withdraw to indoor facilities to work on their games or perhaps participate in indoor simulator leagues. But a good many hardy souls will head out into the cold knowing that a little preparation, and some enlightened clothing purchases, go a long way.

As it is with real estate, a lot of playing winter golf successfully is about 'location'. It's not where you play that's important though, but where on your body you wear appropriate attire. Think extremities – top, bottom and sides, or rather head, feet, and hands.

It's a common misconception that we lose the majority of our body heat through our heads (experts say it's actually nearer 10%), but it still makes sense to wear a beanie or, better yet, thick wooly hat if you're out in the cold. A combination of waterproof shoes/boots and thermal socks will prevent the misery of trudging the course with cold, wet feet. And, as the only part of your body in contact with the club, it's essential your hands remain dry and warm if you are to have any feel.



Hat

Titleist Boardwalk Pom Pom

Acrylic five-gauge, tricolor knit and classic pom pom top. Interior microfleece liner. Three color choices.

$30



Socks

Heat Holders Joshua Original Crew

91% acrylic, 5% nylon, 3% polyester, 1% elastane. Made from specially-developed, heavy, bulk yarn which has extreme thermal qualities. Long pile cushioning.

$18

Shoes

Under Armour Hovr Drive 2

Breathable, supportive microfiber upper and lightweight waterproof membrane keep you cool and dry. UA HOVR placement supports foot's natural motion. Lightweight and durable.

$160



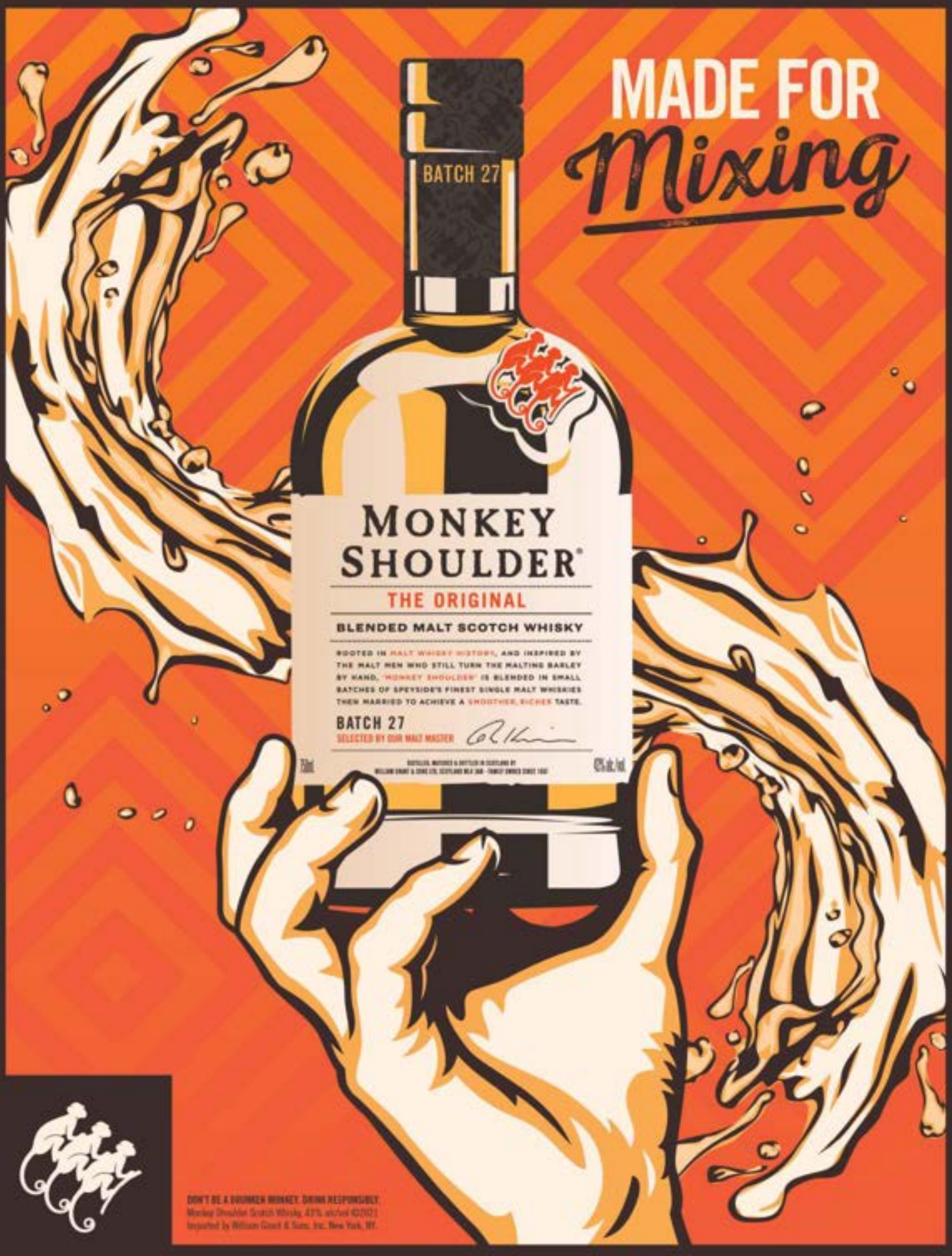
Handwarmer

G-Tech Heated Handwarmer Sport 3.0



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Base Layer

FootJoy Phase One

Back side graphene print offers temperature-regulation through advanced thermal conductivity. Close, body-hugging fit.

$68



$145

Mid Layer

Peter Millar Forge Performance Quarter-Zip

91% recycled polyester/9% spandex. Four-way stretch, moisture-wicking, welded chest pocket, TPU accents and reflective heat seal highlight a modern sportswear aesthetic.

Outer Layer

Galvin Green Armstrong Jacket

Made from GORE-TEX Paclite – lightweight and easily packable. Waterproof, windproof, breathable.

$390





Outer Layer

Sun Mountain Colter II

Insulated panels to keep core warm, adjustable, insulated hood. 37.5 active particles embedded in insulation accelerate vapor movement preventing overheating and moisture build-up.

$150

cold weather gear

As for the torso and arms, it's well-known that layering is the way to go. Before the benefit of wearing multiple layers was amplified, and before research and technology revealed the optimal materials for keeping the body warm while also preventing sweat build-up and allowing you to swing freely, golfers tended to rely on one or two layers that performed extremely poorly – a collared T-shirt made of cotton beneath a thick, heavy pullover/sweater. Cotton can retain up to 27 times its weight in water and is a poor insulator. And the similarly unbreathable pullover would give your body heat nowhere to escape. Following the round when the now sweaty, red-faced golfer removed the garment, you could almost feel the release of damp heat.

Today's fabrics allow sweat and moisture to pass through the first layer meaning the golfer remains dry. Heat passes slowly between the base and mid/outer layers, however, meaning the body stays warm.

A breathable turtle or crew-neck base layer and stylish, insulating mid-layer is ideal. And a breathable (20'000g/m2/24h is a good rating and means 20,000 grams of water would pass through a square meter of the fabric in 24 hours), waterproof jacket outer-layer can be added if necessary. The beauty of having multiple layers, as well as being warm and breathable, is that they can be taken off easily should the temperature rise, or rain stop.



Outer Layer

KJUS Pro 3L 2.0

$500

100% Polyester | 79% Polyester, 21% Elastane. 20,000mm waterproofness. 20'000g/m2/24h breathability.

Don't forget your legs, though your usual pants with waterproof bottoms should be sufficient. And you'll need to give some thought to accessories too – neck-warmers, waterproof gloves, mitts, umbrellas, and towels (you'll need a good, absorbent one – or two – to keep your grips as dry as possible if it's raining.)



Neck Warmer

Titleist Snood Neck Warmer

$30

Moisture-wicking, antimicrobial, fleece-lined polyester.

Pants

Zero Restriction Packable Pants

$245

Waterproof and highly breathable, packable fabric ensures all-weather performance. Adjustable waistband with elastic drawcord. Leg zippers with rain gutter. Ankle hugger snaps system keeps water off shoes.



Mitts

Ping Cart Mittens

$45

SensorWarm Technology and a five-finger fleece liner protected by a weather-resistant exterior.





Waterproof Glove

Mizuno RainFit

$23

Features Mizuno Clarino, an elite Japanese synthetic suede that provides superior grip during wet conditions. Sold in pairs.



Umbrella

Weatherman

$45

UPF 50+ sun protection, auto-open manual close, mesh pocket, Wind-tunnel capabilities for up to 55 mph, reinforced silicone rib for hanging towel.



Towel

Ghost Golf Greenside

$40

Silicone logo hides magnet which attaches towel to clubs or cart (no bending down to pick it up). Made with microfiber capable of holding 400x its weight in water.

By Jay McKinney
Photography by Andy Colwell



Four Season Golf:

How to Stay in Shape

In Colorado golf is a 12-month sport. Moderate winters and an ever-growing population of enthusiastic golfers keep people connected to the sport year-round. But if the Farmers' Almanac calls for a harsh winter and the courses are forced to close, there are ways to improve your game and stay in shape.

A golf swing is a unique athletic movement that requires precise execution physically, and mental astuteness. Regardless of the swing style, staying limber is essential and everyone can benefit from practicing some simple exercises.

Personal trainer Kevin Hughes, the founder of Momenta Fitness in Denver, is a golfer who's handicap hovers below 10. He is a student of the golf swing and the body parts that need to be activated to execute it successfully.

Hughes developed a cold-weather-season stretching routine to help golfers stay limber through the colder months. He recommends a minimum of 15-20 minutes practicing these stretches that help activate the gluteus muscles and facilitate proper rotation.

Stretch #1

Hip Thrusts

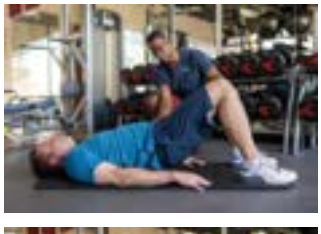
Lay on the ground with your hands to your sides and both feet flat, making a triangle with your legs.

Raise your abdomen up, thrusting your hips and lifting your lower back off the ground. Hold three seconds. 10 reps with both feet on the ground.

Next, extend one of your legs out into the air and practice the same exercise, raising your abdomen and holding. 10 reps and epeat with the alternate leg.

Finally, use a band and place it around both legs just above the knee. Bend one knee up towards your chest which increases tension in the opposite leg's glute. Repeat 10 reps for both legs.

After bending your knee to your chest, repeat the hip thrust raising your lower back off the ground and holding for three seconds. Repeat 10 reps for both legs.









Stretch #2

Step Back Lunge

This simple exercise activates the glutes and benefits your stance.

Plant one foot and step back into a lunge with the other leg, bending the knees.

As you bring your foot back, you don't want your spine to be straight up but rather slightly tilted forward as your posture would look while addressing the golf ball.

Hold the position for a few seconds before stepping back into position and repeating. Do 10 reps for each leg.

Next, plant your forward foot on a foam pad and repeat the exercise, this time raising the other knee toward your chest as you bring it back upward.

This tests the stability of the ankles, knees and hips and is helpful for shots on unstable lies, where the ball may be above or below you.

Do 10 reps of the padded step back lunge for each leg.





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Stretch #3

Hip Thrusts

This exercise helps golfers get rotation separation from upper body to lower body and requires both knees on the ground with one arm planted. and mental astuteness. Regardless of the swing style, staying limber is essential and everyone can benefit from practicing some simple exercises.



With the other arm, hold your hand to your ear, and turn your head upwards, pointing your elbow toward the ceiling.

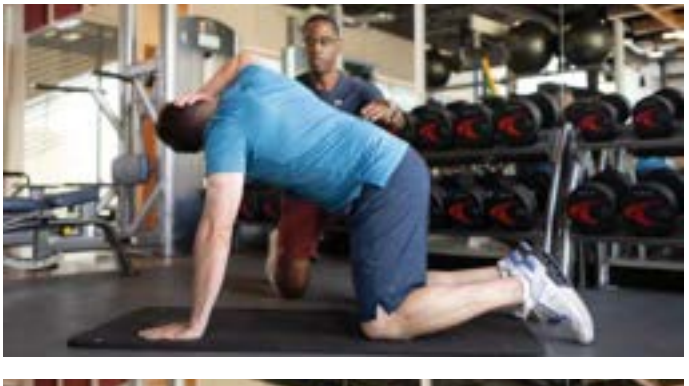


Rotate your head downward, while still holding your hand to your ear. When your head can't turn any further, release your hand from your ear and reach outward.



Do 10-15 reps for each side and go slowly, taking about 4 seconds per rep.

Hughes says it's important that the spine is straight and not arched or bent inward too much, as it will hinder rotation.





Stretch #4

Open Book

Using a foam roller, lay on the ground and rest one of your legs straight along the side of it, while placing your other leg on top of it with the knee bent.



Position the top of the foam roller at the height of your armpit and rest both arms straightened in front of you.



Take your upper arm and bring it across your body and outward like turning the page of a book.



As you bring your arm across, make sure to keep your leg rested on top of the foam roller. Variation: requires the use of a small foam box and a wall.



Rest one side of your body against the wall, with your knee touching the floor.

With your other leg, hold the box against the wall with your inner thigh and make a 90 degree angle with your foot planted on the floor.



Hold your arms out in front of you just like the floor exercise, and repeat the opening motion with your outer arm.

Hughes says using the wall in the open book exercise helps activate the glutes more than laying on the floor with the foam roller.

Do 10 reps for each side.

Stretch #5

Reverse Wood Chop Knee

Lay on the ground with your hands to your sides and both feet flat, making a triangle with your legs.

Raise your abdomen up, thrusting your hips and lifting your lower back off the ground. Hold three seconds. 10 reps with both feet on the ground.

Next, extend one of your legs out into the air and practice the same exercise, raising your abdomen and holding. 10 reps and epeat with the alternate leg.

Finally, use a band and place it around both legs just above the knee. Bend one knee up towards your chest which increases tension in the opposite leg's glute. Repeat 10 reps for both legs.

After bending your knee to your chest, repeat the hip thrust raising your lower back off the ground and holding for three seconds. Repeat 10 reps for both legs.

Stretch #6

Staggered Stance Press & Rotation

With this exercise it is helpful to have a Golf-Forever swing trainer kit that includes a resistance band and a straight bar.

Fasten the resistance band on one end, and the bar to the other end.

Position your feet at a staggered stance and hold onto the bar with your arms spaced apart. Keep your head down and press the bar out and down, activating the abs.

When your arms are fully extended, rotate your arms and torso and turn away from where the band is fastened, bringing the bar upward.

As you do the exercise, keep your head down as if you were looking at the ball. Do 10 reps for each side.











Jay McKinney is a Denver-based writer

Going Off Course in Scottsdale

By Tom Mackin

Start planning a golf trip to Scottsdale, Arizona, and you'll quickly realize how many quality layouts there can fill up your tee sheet for a week, let alone a weekend.

And savvy golf travelers know that visiting the Valley of the Sun October through December means plenty of sunshine and less-than-peak-season green fees (although many courses do close for the overseeding process in October and some into November).

But you can't play golf from sunrise to sunset every day. Or can you? Well, if you don't, have no fear. After moving here a decade ago, I learned quickly that there are plenty of off-course options to explore throughout Scottsdale.

Early Beginnings

Two people have played key roles in the city's history. Did you know Scottsdale was named after Winfield Scott? The Michigan native was a military chaplain who, according to a local memorial plaque, came here in 1888 and "purchased 640 acres east of what is now Scottsdale Road and north of Indian School Road." The farm he built there helped start the city's growth.

Then came architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Born in Wisconsin, he built a winter home there in 1937. Earlier this year Scottsdale became part of the Organization of World Heritage Cities, joining 200 cities from around the world with UNESCO World Heritage sites. In Scottsdale's case, that site is Wright's sprawling home, known as Taliesin West. Take the audio or guided walking tour of the property (guided evening tours are available on Sundays and Mondays in October and November) and you'll learn plenty about the man and his architectural skills while strolling both inside and outside of his former abode. The angles, views, and style he incorporated throughout might make you wonder how his singular skills could have been applied to a golf course.





SCOTTSDALE'S MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE// PHOTO CREDIT: TOM MACKIE

The Landscape

Providing the backdrop for Taliesin West are the McDowell Mountains, home to an extensive network of hiking trails that, in many cases, provide Instagram-worthy views of the Valley. They're also much less crowded, especially in October and November, than the popular trails at Camelback Mountain and Piestewa Peak in nearby Phoenix, and they range from an easy walk to serious treks.

My personal favorite is the Gateway Loop Trail, a 4.5–mile roundtrip that begins and ends on the west side of the McDowells. You'll break a sweat for sure, but its degree of difficulty falls closer to the middle tees than the tips. Want something shorter but more testing? Try the steep uphill hike to Tom's Thumb (a rock formation on top of the McDowells) along a trail that begins on the east side of the McDowells.

No matter which path you pick, bring plenty of water (the dry heat is no joke), use sunscreen, and wear both a hat and appropriate hiking footwear.

That exercise, plus golf, will create some hunger.



PHOTO CREDIT: TOM MACKIE



CHURROS AND IBARRA CHOCOLATE MILKSHAKE AT THE MISSION IN OLD TOWN SCOTTSDALE// CREDIT: HALIE SUTTON FOR EXPERIENCE SCOTTSDALE.

For the Foodies

Want something quick? Try the very casual Maskadores Taco Shop tucked away in a strip mall off Northsight Boulevard. Prefer something more upscale? Then explore the Latin Fusion menu at The Mission in Kierland Commons (also home to worthy choices like North Italia and Postino Winecafe).

You'll find superb, authentic Italian fare (from superb sandwiches to full entrées) at Andreoli Italian Grocer, or above-average pizza at Lamp and Craft 64. Veggie-lovers flock to FnB in the heart of Old Town Scottsdale for the inventive ways Chef Charleen Badman incorporates those and other local ingredients into the menu. If you just feel like a giant pretzel, some meat, and a beer? Head to Brat Haus in Old Town Scottsdale, where you can wash down a foot-long bratwurst with a delicious German pilsner. There are also three distinct dining experiences at the Scottsdale Fairmont Princess, adjacent to the TPC Scottsdale: La Hacienda and Bourbon Steak, while Toro in the TPC clubhouse (a quick shuttle ride from the resort) offers mouth-watering ceviche, sushi, and a stellar line-up of rums. Check out the extensive and impressive Scotch Library in the main lobby area at the Westin Kierland.



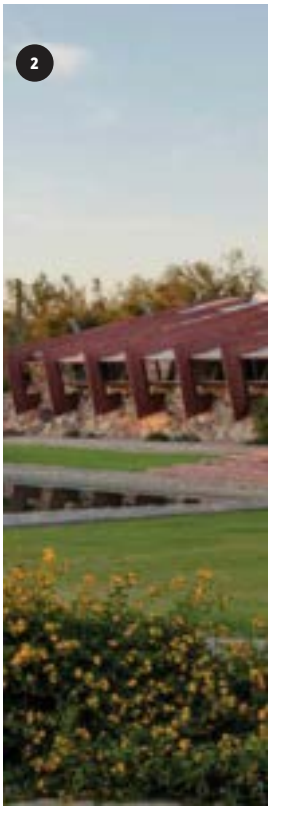
PIZZA AT CRAFT 64 IN OLD TOWN SCOTTSDALE// CREDIT: HALIE SUTTON FOR EXPERIENCE SCOTTSDALE.

Arts & Culture

If you have had your fill of the sun out on the course, head indoors to give your skin a break. Like the Musical Instrument Museum, or "MIM" for short. Give yourself a few hours for this place. It's home to thousands of instruments from around the world, with many on display as part of informative exhibits highlighting tools used by both famous and lesser known musicians. And check out the MIM's concert schedule too: this year's Fall Concert Series includes shows by Patty Griffin, Chris Botti, John Oates (of Hall & Oates fame), Rodney Crowell, and Don MacLean, who is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his hit song, "American Pie."

In the heart of Old Town Scottsdale sits Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West. There you can see exhibits covering topics that include Native American Jewelry, Western Pop featuring the artwork of Andy Warhol and Billy Schenck, railroads that helped build America, and a world-class collection of Hopi pottery.







If you find your mind wandering back to golf while strolling around those exhibits, there's the 18-hole, gimmick-free indoor putting course at Putting World; 36 funky mini-golf holes (with some modeled on games like Skee-Ball, Tetris, and Pop-a-Shot, plus a DJ spinning music at night; it's 21 and older after 8 p.m.). And maybe after your round(s) of golf, raise a toast to Winfield Scott and Frank Lloyd Wright. Although neither were golfers, they certainly left their mark off the course in Scottsdale.

1 THE SCULPTURE COURTYARD AT WESTERN SPIRIT: SCOTTSDALE'S MUSEUM OF THE WEST// CREDIT: HALIE SUTTON FOR EXPERIENCE SCOTTSDALE

2 FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S TALIESIN WEST// CREDIT: JILL RICHARDS FOR EXPERIENCE SCOTTSDALE

3 WESTERN SPIRIT: SCOTTSDALE'S MUSEUM OF THE WEST// CREDIT: CHRISTINE JOHNSON FOR EXPERIENCE SCOTTSDALE

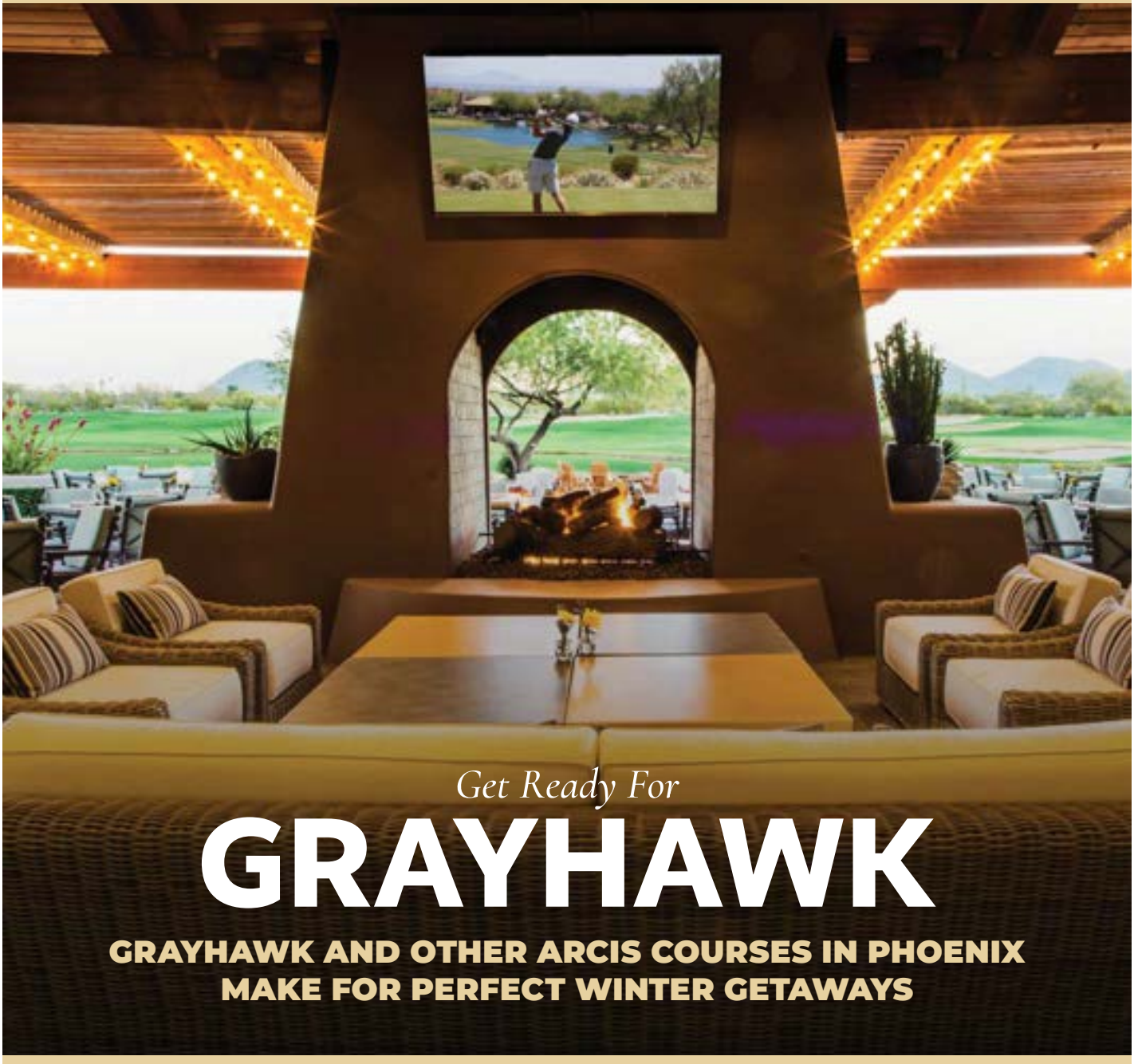
Tom Mackin is a golf travel writer based in Scottsdale.

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Arcis Golf

DISCOVER: ARIZONA.ARCISGOLF.COM



Grayhawk
Raptor Course

McDowell Mountain
Golf Club



Raven Golf Club



Stonecreek
Golf Club

Ten to play

In the Phoenix area the Arcis Golf group operates ten daily fee public courses which can test, tantalize, reward and challenge golfers looking for a fun weekend or a longer vacation.

Colorado golfers may know their level of execution best from playing the Arrowhead Golf Club in Littleton. In Phoenix, Scottsdale and nearby their ten courses which mean that, unless you double up, a week's vacation will simply mean you'll have to come back for more.

Where to Visit

Grayhawk Golf Club complex makes the perfect cornerstone for a fall or winter outing. How serious does Grayhawk take its golf? The course is so strong it was the host site for the last three NCAA Championships, providing the canvas on which the best of college golf were tested. The two 18s – dubbed Raptor and Talon – opened in the mid-1990s and are two of the best daily-fee, public courses in Arizona. The Raptor Course is the biggest challenge and can run to nearly 7,200 yards. Designed by world-renowned architect Tom Fazio, the Raptor Course combines massive, undulating green complexes with tricky fairways nestled between natural desert stone and terrain. The Talon Course is shorter but has just as much personality. At the course eateries include the Quill Creek Café, The Morning Joint for coffee, Isabella's Kitchen and Phil's Grill – named after Grayhawk ambassador Phil Mickelson. grayhawkgolf.com

McDowell Mountain Golf Club is built into the foothills of Scottsdale's McDowell Mountains, and the rolling terrain is put to good use. The course features large fairways and a little more green than some of the other desert-style tracks in the region. The Mesquite Grille and Outdoor Terrace Bar are available before and after your rounds. mcdowellmountaingc.com.

Raven Golf Club. This course is parkland style – the desert elements are there, but the course itself has more than 6,000 pine trees lining fairways. The course, designed by Gary Panks and David Graham, can challenge the scratch golfer and is still welcoming for the learner and is a short hop from Phoenix's nearby Sky Harbor Airport. ravenphx.com.

Stonecreek Golf Club is on the eastern edge of Phoenix and provides a strong test. The course is a different experience from nearby desert courses because holes are run up, down, along and across a creek, making it lush and park-like. Considered a best-kept-secret by Golf Channel, Stonecreek offers a championship golf experience. stonecreekgc.com.

Other Arcis courses also worth a round!

- **Continental Golf Club | continentalgc.com**
- **Kokopelli Golf Club | kokopelligc.com**
- **Ocotillo Golf Club | ocotillogolf.com**
- **Palm Valley Golf Club | palmvalleygolf.com**
- **Superstition Springs Golf Club | superstitionspringsgc.com**
- **The Legend at Arrowhead | legendatarrowhead.com**



Grayhawk Golf Club

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA
480.502.1800
GRAYHAWKGOLF.COM

ARCIS GOLF

Troon Golf Arizona

DISCOVER: TROONGOLFAZ.COM





PHOTO CREDIT: PATRICK KOENIG





Overview

Troon, the world's largest golf management company based in Scottsdale, manages some of the greatest golf courses and resorts in the Grand Canyon State.

Where to Visit

Boulders Resort & Spa in Scottsdale is a perennial on the 'Best of Arizona Resorts' lists throughout the travel industry and its golf course is part of the reason. The course recently received $4 million in upgrades to greens, bunkers, and paths. The club features two Jay Morrish-designed courses – the South Course features towering boulder formations from the surrounding desert landscape, most of the time right behind the greens. The resort's original North Course has wider fairways and can accommodate golfers of all talents. The Boulder's accommodations are a full slate of rooms from smaller casitas to large villas and suites.

The Golf Club of Estrella southwest of Goodyear will challenge the best players. Designed by Jack Nicklaus Jr., it opened in 1999 and the layout encompasses touches that the Golden Bear would have brought as well as new elements from his son. **The Phoenician Golf Club** in Scottsdale offers another great test. The course's greens are surrounded with traps, and long stretches of original desert line the fairways. **Sterling Grove Golf + Country Club** in Surprise is a Nicklaus Design course northwest of the city that is a modern take on the country club concept. Lighter in touch and design, the clubhouse provides a welcoming start to a great round. At **The Westin Kierland Golf Club** in Scottsdale golfers tee off in the shadow of the beautiful resort complex, and head out through northwest Scottsdale through beautiful terrain.

- **Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club, Maricopa**
- **Boulders Resort & Spa, Scottsdale**
- **The Club at Starr Pass, Tucson**
- **Eagle Mountain Golf Club, Fountain Hills**
- **Golf Club of Estrella, Goodyear**
- **Longbow Golf Club, Mesa**
- **Lookout Mountain Golf Club, Phoenix**
- **The Phoenician, Scottsdale**
- **Sterling Grove Golf + Country Club, Surprise**
- **Troon North Golf Club, Scottsdale**
- **The Westin Kierland Golf Club, Scottsdale**

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TROON GOLF®

Fairmont Scottsdale Princess

FAIRMONT SCOTTSDALE PRINCESS | SCOTTSDALEPRINCESS.COM







Overview

The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess is a full experience all to itself that can make a visit to Phoenix relaxing, invigorating and fun. But pair it with the golf courses with which it has partnerships – chief among them their next-door neighbor TPC Scottsdale – and you have a spa resort that will make you yearn to extend your stay.

The Stay

With six pools, spas, a Kids Club, access to some of the best golf courses in Arizona, and grounds that make just walking around a pleasure, the Fairmont Princess offers a fantastic getaway. Pool life varies from loud and wet (the splash pool will tire the kids out nicely) to chill, with cabana-side wine carafes. The resort's shops provide the best in fashion. This time of year, the resort also adds holiday flare, with Christmas decor and activities happening from Nov. 7 through the first week of January. The Privado Village suites are a resort within a resort. They offer the most privacy and help guests have the perfect getaway experience they are seeking.

The Golf

The resort's golf concierge is ready to help guests get times on some of the best courses in Arizona. The TPC Scottsdale first tee is a short walk from the resort, and the course's back holes are adjacent to the resort grounds. Visitors in winter can experience the stadium hole No. 16 as the pros do, as tournament prep and stadium construction begin in earnest. But there are hundreds of courses to choose from. Troon North, Grayhawk, We-Ko-Pa Saguro and the Boulders are all nearby challenges.

After the Round

Back at the resort the options for post-round dining and drinks are bountiful. The famous Bourbon Steak restaurant offers sumptuous cuts and seafood under the stewardship of James Beard award-winning Chef Michael Mina. The Mexican cuisine focused La Hacienda is world-class in its use of the flavors and dishes of the Southwest. There are Latin/Asian fusion offerings at Toro, and handcrafted familiar favorites at the Ironwood American Kitchen.

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Troon North

TROON NORTH GOLF CLUB | TROONNORTHGOLF.COM



The Golf

The Troon North resort north of Scottsdale has two Tom Weiskopf-designed 18-hole experiences that provide a perfect introduction to desert golf. The landscape of the Sonoran Desert is modified just enough to give the fairways and greens room to provide a lush challenge. The twists of the fabled Pinnacle course require smart placement to avoid the many natural rocky fields strewn between emerald fairways, greens and tee boxes. Its companion, the Monument course, makes great use of natural rock formations to add even more challenge. And true to the name of it's No. 18 hole, St. Andrews, the greens are simply enormous. Troonnorthgolf.com.

After Your Round

On course, the Dynamite Grille offers a delicious array, much of it with a southwest flare. The grille gets going early, with a breakfast lineup to power your round or lunch/dinner offerings for after golf.

Others nearby include the family-owned Pinnacle Grille and Darcy's Ristorante. Troonnorthgolf.com

Where to Stay

The Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North is just around the corner from the Troon North clubhouse. The luxury resort and spa offers the perfect desert getaway or basecamp from which to explore the museums, shops and nightlife that Scottsdale has to offer. The resort features plans and packages for every taste, including many that offer access to the trails and beauty of the Sonoran Desert. Fourseasons.com/scottsdale







DISCOVER

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Southern Dunes

AK-CHIN SOUTHERN DUNES GOLF CLUB | AKCHINSOUTHERNDUNES.COM







Overview

If you're among the Gen Y Fred Couples fans who have fallen in love via social media with sharing 'grainy' videos of his buttery swing, then a trip to the Troon-managed Ak-Chin Southern Dunes golf course is the next step in your fandom. Couples advised the designers of Lee Schmidt and Brian Curley as they carved out of the Arizona desert one of the most unique courses in the Southwest. And just like his game, his course design sensibilities are top-notch.

On the Course

Originally built as a private golf club, Southern Dunes was purchased by the Ak-Chin Indian Community in 2010 and is now offered as a daily-fee or stay-and-play course. So it has the private club pedigree. It has consistently held its own on all the 'Best Resort Courses You Can Play' lists for the past decade, and the staff regularly tweaks the layout, traps, greens and practice area to give return visitors a different experience every time.

You will see sand-trap challenges here unlike anywhere else you have played. It is Australian-desert in its lineage – no cacti, but native grasses and undulations aplenty. Southern Dunes was also among the first to think more creatively about what visitors needed; in 2015 they redesigned the practice area and driving range to create the #miniDunes. The complex is a driving range by day, then becomes a six-hole short-course by night – allowing parents and children to play comfortably together, or adults to walk around with a cocktail.

Where to Stay

The stay-and-play options begin with packages available through the Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino and Resort, six miles down the road within the Ak-Chin Community on Phoenix metro area's southern edge. There are also packages available with the Marriott Courtyard and Fairfield Inn & Suites in Chandler, nearer to the hustle-and-bustle of downtown.

Post Round

The club's Arroyo Grille offers the traditional club favorites combined with modern twists on Ak-Chin's fare. Nearby in Maricopa, the Roots Eatery, The Oak and Fork, and Auntie's Soul Food and Grill are all highly rated.

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Visit Tucson

VISITORS BUREAU: VISITTUCSON.ORG







Mexican Cuisine

The restaurants in Tucson are so good the United Nations lists it as one of the world's unique destinations for cuisine. There are hundreds to choose from (Many of the best are detailed in this magazine's article on Tucson food by John Lehndorff.) But it is essentially the best city in the U.S. to taste Mexican flavors and techniques. Local chefs have exploded their creativity to use the heat and spices of traditional Mexican cuisine in an array of new ways. And, of course, there are Sonoran Hot Dogs to be had – these bacon-wrapped blessings were invented in Hermosillo, Mexico, but have been adopted by Tucson as their own. VisitTucson.org.

What to Do

West of downtown, nestled in the Saguaro National Park, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is a beautiful day-trip. The museum's staff is devoted to presenting the best displays and programs to educate visitors about the vibrant and unique life cycle of the Sonoran Desert – the plants, animals, birds and eco-system.

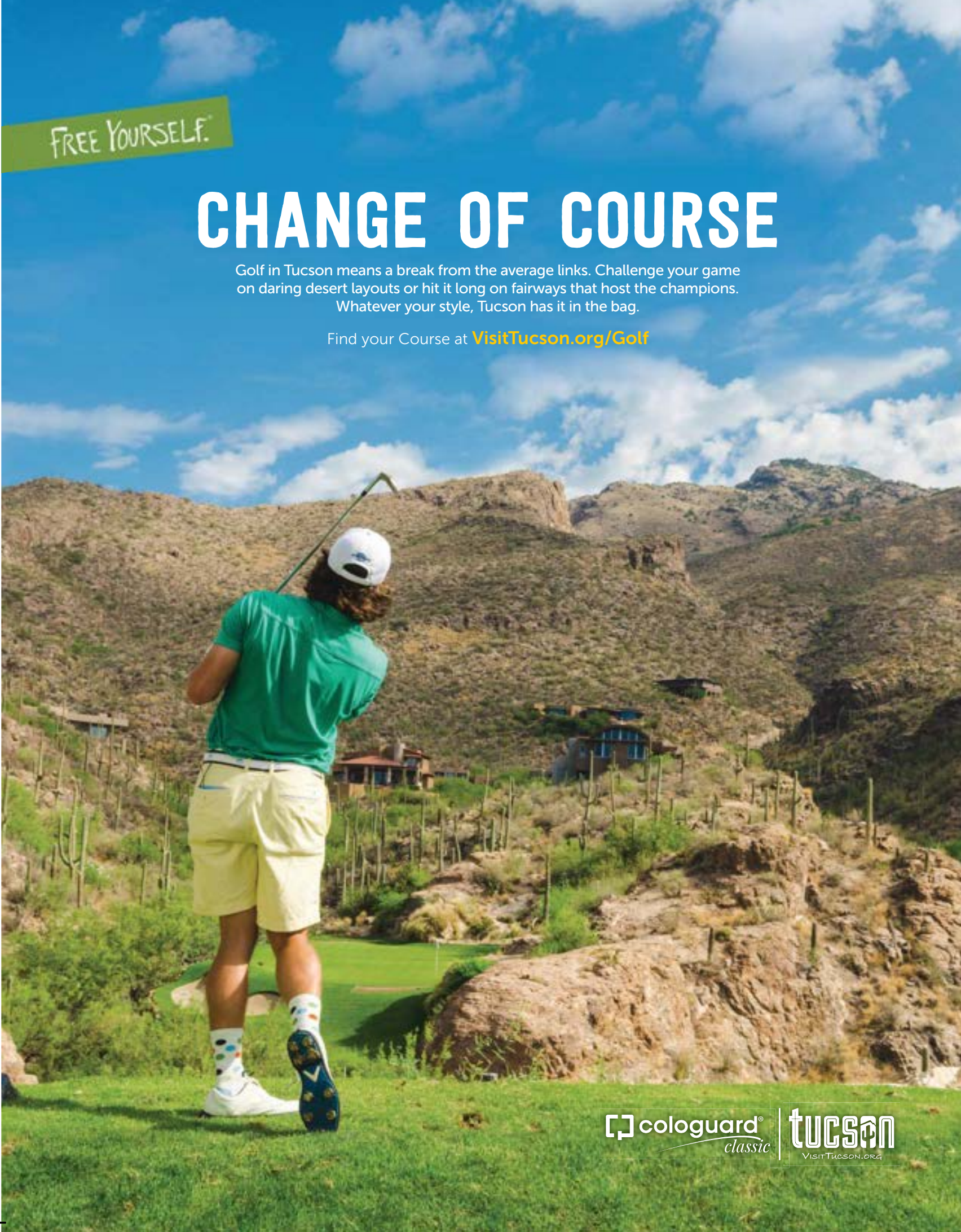
The museum is almost entirely an outdoors experience – so come with water, hiking shoes and sun protection. The Saguaro National Park itself is filled with miles of trails for hiking, biking and exploration. On the south side, the Pima Air and Space Museum is the largest privately-funded air and space museum in the world and features more than 400 aircraft that tell the story of flight. VisitTucson.org.

The Music Scene

Music in Tucson is a thing and runs the gamut from featured local groups to acts touring the globe. The Rialto Theatre downtown features music nearly every night of the week and the Fox Tucson Theatre and the AVA Amphitheatre at Casino del Sol are some of the best music venues in the Southwest. rialtotheatre.com, FoxTucson.com, CasinoDelSo.com.

Relax

All the area's major resorts have top-rated spa options and for those looking to really indulge Tucson is home to two world-class destination spas, Canyon Ranch and Miraval. CanyonRanch.Com, MiravalResorts.Com.


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Omni Tucson Resort

OMNI TUCSON NATIONAL RESORT | OMNIHOTELS.COM/HOTELS/TUCSON-NATIONAL







Overview

Omni calls this beautiful facility a large-small resort. It has 130 rooms, cozier than the typical resort, but is spread out over 300 acres, has two 18-hole bangers and four restaurants. The resort is ideal for weekend getaways or as a staging area for a full exploration of the best of Tucson.

On the Course

Omni Tucson's two courses give players a lot of options. The Catalina Course is a traditional parkland track with trees and lakes that would not be out of place in the Midwest. It has hosted more than 30 PGA Tour events and stretches out to 7,200 yards from the back, but a manageable 6,400 or 5,700 for us humans. Designed by Robert Van Hagge and Bruce Devlin, it features a fantastic test that includes the famous No. 18, which for many years was ranked as the hardest finishing hole on all the PGA Tour stops.

Then there is the Sonoran Course. Redesigned by Tom Lehman in 2005 it is the resort's nod to its desert home. Fairways are a little wider, natural grasses prevail on the sides of the fairways, and the design calls for precision as some fairway landing areas are much kinder than others. The courses are available to the public but stay-and-play packages make the best of the all-in-one opportunity.

The Resort

Omni has upgraded the resort, and it has everything from spa facilities, workout, golf, swimming, tennis and for the fitness traveler it can be a great launchpad for hiking or biking excursions into the surrounding desert. The facility is on Tucson's north side, giving it easy access to the Tucson airport, or as a destination as part of a golf itinerary from Phoenix down to the south. Recent room upgrades have added a full line of suite options. The Mokara Spa on the resort grounds offers the perfect place to recharge. The four restaurants at the Omni Tucson offer the full range of options. Bob's Steak and Chop House is ready for the beef-curious and offers excellent options for steaks, chops, seafood and cocktails. The Desert Farmer offers delicious breakfast and brunch fare. The Peak lobby bar offers a quick respite, and the newly renovated Legends Bar and Grill is the spot for a post-round drink.

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Tubac

TUBAC RESORT & SPA | TUBACGOLFRESORT.COM







Overview

50 miles south of Tucson, the Tubac Golf Resort and Spa is an Arizona retreat that makes getting away from it all truly possible. Fly into Tucson or Phoenix and drive south to an area of calm, beauty and comfort. The resort's golf course offers a perfect challenge and leaves time for the other comforts available.

The Resort

The spa is built on the former Rotero Ranch and includes original buildings and ranch elements – including steer – that help visitors feel as if they have stepped back in time. Parts of the grounds will look familiar to anyone who has seen the Kevin Costner film 'Tin Cup,' and some of the golf scenes were filmed on the course. The resort's spa facilities are housed in the newest buildings on the campus and offer a full-range of services for pampering and relaxation – perfectly coupled with vacation or wedding weekends on the grounds. Visit: TubacGolfResort.com.

The Course

Don't plan on re-enacting Kevin Costner's final shot from 'Tin Cup' on the course; while much of the movie was filmed at Tubac the final hole scene was filmed at The Clubs of Kingwood Deerwood Course near Houston. But the 6,700 yard course is still well worth your time. The course weaves in the resort's ranch history – steer may wander close – with mountain views and parkland golf throughout. There are 27 holes altogether for a mix-and-match opportunities. Cottonwoods, ponds and creeks sprinkle the entire course, and the final hole of the Anza 9-holes features a par-three with roaming cattle as part of the hazards. Visit: TubacGolfResort.com.

Worth the Hike

Northwest of the resort outside of Tucson you can walk among the Suguaro's; The iconic cacti grows to around 40 feet tall and can live for 100s of years. The 100,000-acres Saguaro National Park offers an outstanding experience for day trips. Begin at the visitor's center and bring a lot of drinking water. The village of Tubac is outside the resort gates with cafes and art galleries available. Visit: TubacAZ.com.

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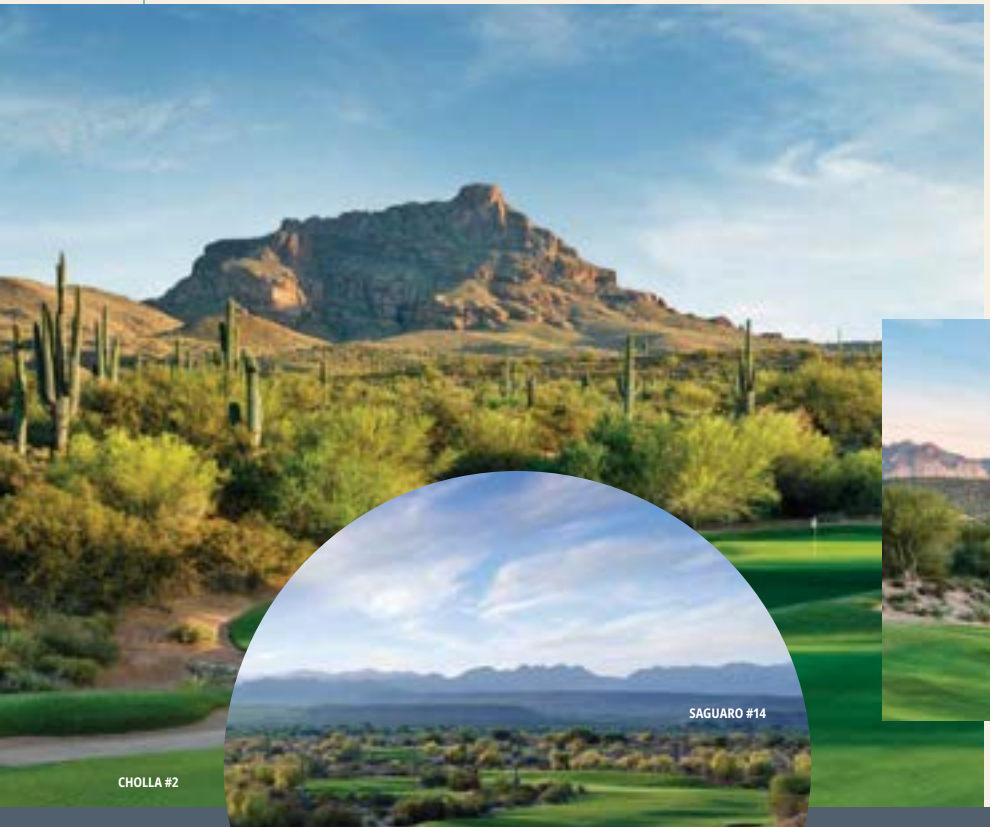


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We-Ko-Pa

WE-KO-PA GOLF CLUB | WEKOPA.COM


CHOLLA #2


SAGUARO #11


CHOLLA #8

SAGUARO #14

Overview

Tucked in the northeast corner of the Valley of the Sun lie two courses that Coloradans love to visit to escape the grey of winter - Cholla and Saguaro, the 18-hole tracks of the We-Ko-Pa Golf Club. Like two wolves raised together since birth, they make for a gorgeous pair even when you know they have claws. They lure in the unsuspecting with immaculate conditions and genuinely unique desert surroundings. There are no home developments nearby – just the companion resort hotel and casino. So the mountain-scapes are gorgeous.

Operated as part of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Enterprises, the courses are a great destination in their own right. But put them up against the beautiful backdrop of the Mazatzal and Superstition mountain ranges, the courses give visitors an experience of wonder even as they work to stay close to par. The complex has long been a Colorado winter vacation favorite and the courses are ranked near the top of the lists of public Arizona courses.

The facility gets its name, 'We-Ko-Pa' from the Yavapai pronunciation of Four Peaks Mountain, which looms on the horizon. About 30 miles northeast of Phoenix, the courses are a mandatory destination for any golf omnivore grazing across the state of Arizona for great courses.

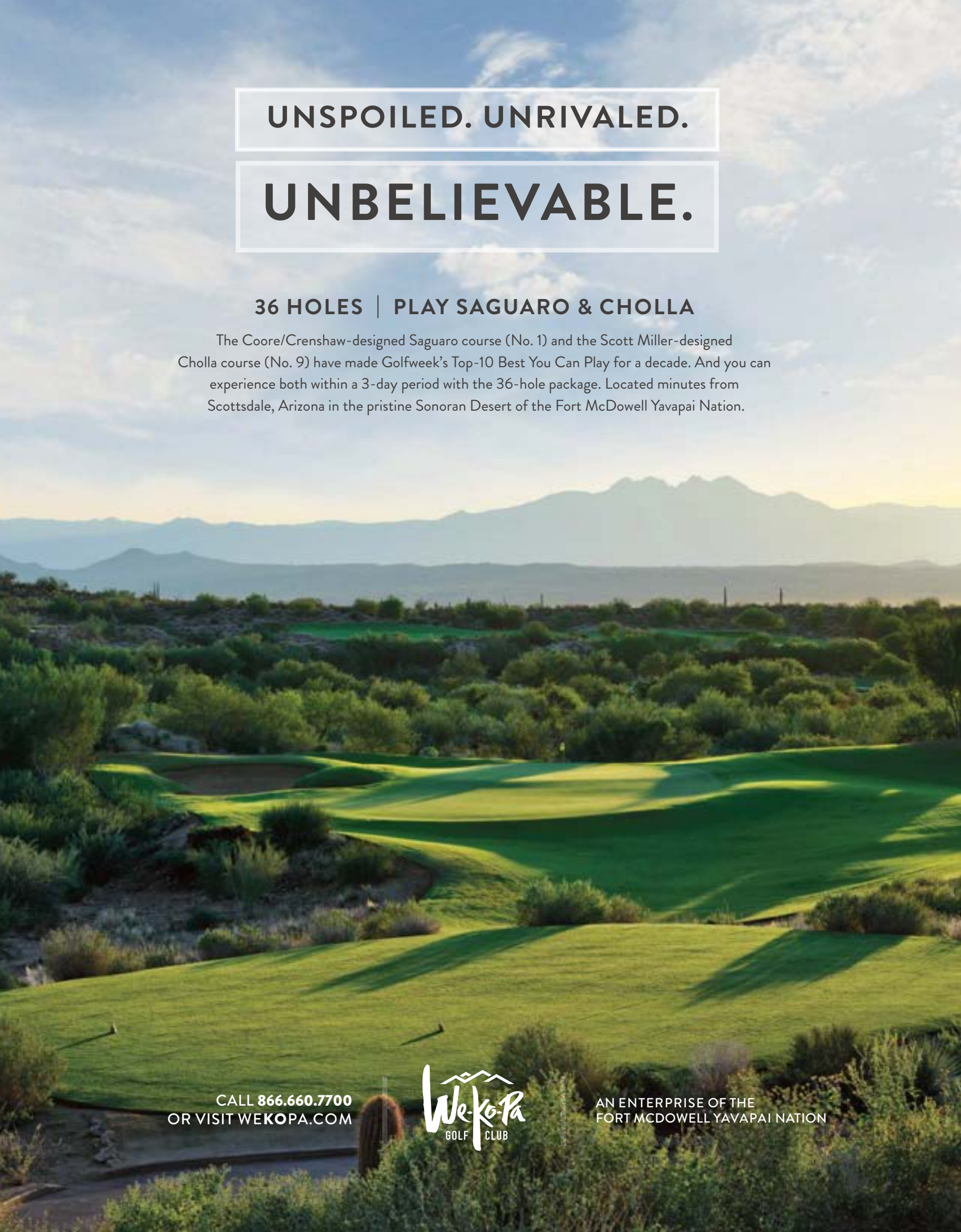
The Courses

The Cholla Course. This is the one that will have you fitting in extra range sessions before your trip. It's playable for everyone, but it rewards precision so much that it is irresistible to not want to get better at dropping your ball exactly where you can off the tees.

The Saguaro Course. The success of the Cholla course led the developers to double-down in 2005 and hire the design team of Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore to design Saguaro. (This is the same team that is working on the Rodeo Dunes development in northeast Colorado.) This is a course designed for the pushcart mafia; they encourage walking and designed it to have challenging holes close to each other. This highly rated course – often the No. 1 rated public course in Arizona – has a variety of desert-golf challenges.

Where to Stay

The more than 240-room resort and convention center includes the We-Ko-Pa Casino. The courses are close to Phoenix and Scottsdale, but staying here opens up stay-and-play deals that put both courses in range for a weekend getaway.


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Mesquite Gaming

MESQUITE GAMING | MESQUITEGAMING.COM







Overview

Mesquite Nevada's selection of golf courses is deep and varied, and local resorts have teamed up to package very affordable deals for play-and-stay vacations. MesquiteGaming.com is the gateway to tools that make it easy to package the courses, resorts and other events for a trip to the desert. The weather will almost always be perfect. There are 11 courses to choose from and nearly all work with local hotels and resorts to offer packages.

Where to Stay

The Casablanca Hotel, Resort Golf and Spa: Visitors driving in from Las Vegas will find the Casablanca hotel on the city's west side, just as they enter town. The casino hosts gaming, concerts and food, and the resort is the perfect base-camp for a golf excursion. The hotel's huge pool and cabanas are a great place to cool off after a round. casablancaresort.com

Virgin River Hotel and Casino offers stay and play packages for as low at $79. virginriver.com/golf.

Golfing Opportunities

Casablanca Golf Course: The course is a classic desert challenge and is strong enough to be the site of the Nevada Open. The tournament visits Mesquite Nov. 7 to 9 with an estimated $150,000 purse and rounds at the Palms and CasaBlanca golf courses with CasaBlanca hosting the final round on Nov. 9.

The Palms Golf Course features more than 200 palm trees and a ton of water to challenge visitors. The front-nine is where the water is, and the back-nine heads into the mountains for serious terrain. casablancaresort.com/golf/palms/

Two-player tournaments: The golf community in Mesquite for many years hosted the Mesquite Amateur outings but recently announced they were dropping that lineup in lieu of an expanded series of two-player tournaments to be held just at Casablanca, Palms and Conesstoga courses. Two-man tournaments are planned for Nov. 11 and 12 this year, and Feb. 16-18 and May 24-26.

Other courses dot the region including **Falcon Ridge** on the northwest side (a rolling challenge that climbs into the foothills), **Sand Hollow** Resort's championship course, **Coral Canyon** and **Sky Mountain Golf Club**.



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PALMS GOLF CLUB

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Summerlin

SUMMERLIN, NV | SUMMERLIN.COM







Overview

Summerlin is a master-planned community on the western edge of Las Vegas. It has 200 miles of trails, 300 parks, more than 10 golf courses. Summerlin's downtown features an eclectic mix of shops, restaurants and sports facilities.

Where to Play

Highland Falls opened in 1993, designed by PGA great Billy Casper and his partner Greg Nash. The fairways are generous but roll and heave across the highlands. The holes are carved through neighborhoods – aim well. 6500 yards from the tips, the course still provides plenty of challenge for big hitters with ball placement at a premium. Summerlin.com.

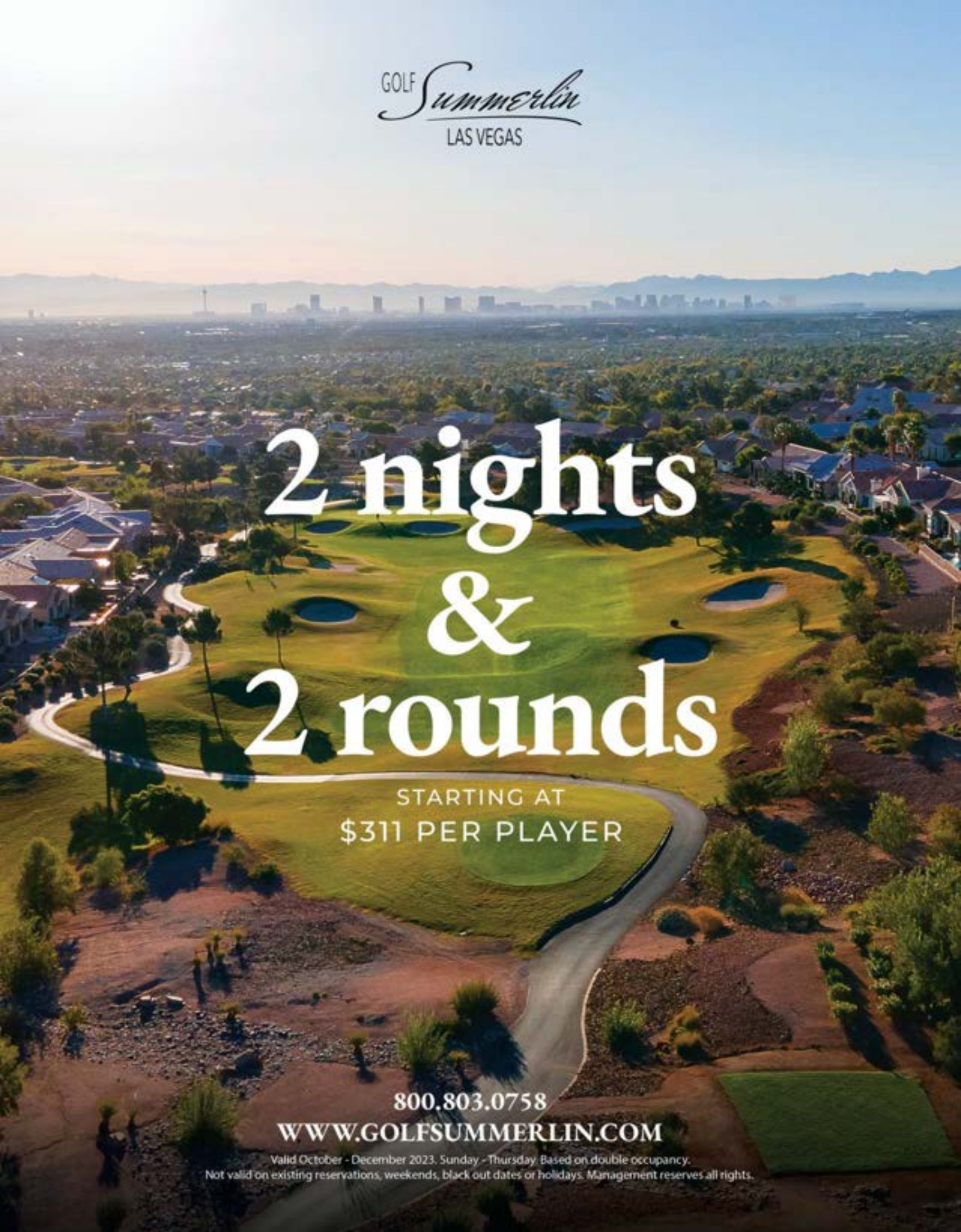
Eagle Crest is an executive course that measures a little more than 4,000 yards and is absolutely the perfect place to bring a newer or learning golfer, or seek a challenge that will test your short-game.

Another Billy Casper design, Eagle Crest runs at a par 60 with several holes 350 yards and more. The terrain and conditions are pristine. Summerlin.com.

Palm Valley is the longest of the GolfSummerlin courses at a little over 6800 yards. Scores are won or lost on the greens. The fairways are plentiful but the greens are kept in top shape and provide a challenge to even the most practiced player. Summerlin.com.

Things to Do

Summerlin is on the edge of the Spring Mountains and Red Rock Canyon, dotted with lakes and reservoirs, and a 27 minute drive west of the strip and downtown Las Vegas. The Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area makes up the desert foothills west of Summerlin and include miles of trails for hiking and desert exploration. The Visitor Center is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Like with many Colorado natural wonders, there are timed-entry reservations for many of the roads and most popular hikes. They can be made at recreation.gov with more information at Redrockcanyonlv.org.


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Golf Mesquite

GOLF MESQUITE | GOLFMESQUITENEVADA.COM







Overview

Mesquite, Nevada, is an hour drive northeast of Las Vegas and a world away. The community has the Eureka Casino Resort, but is covered with golf course options and a short trip over the horizon brings you to the Grand Canyon hikes and Lake Mead waters.

Where to Play

Formerly known as the Oasis Golf Course, the **Palmer Course** is carved out of desert canyons to give players a host of options. Arnold Palmer designed the par 71 track to provide with five tee boxes and the course provides a challenge to all levels of player. Its sibling course, The Canyons, has a lot of elevation change as its holes weave up and down local terrain. The Canyons fairways and greens are generous and visitors can swing hard. TheOasisGolfClub.com.

The Jack Nicklaus designed **Coyote Springs Golf Club** opened in 2018 and is one of the Bear's finest desert creations. The many tee configurations can stretch the course from 5,400 yards to well over 7,000. Unlike with many of Jack's creations – where he typically allows players an easy test on the first tee to allow them to start their rounds successfully – Coyote Springs' No. 1 features sand traps ready to grab any but the most precise approach shot. The challenges mount from there, with sand, water and desert terrain providing many challenges. CoyoteSprings.com.

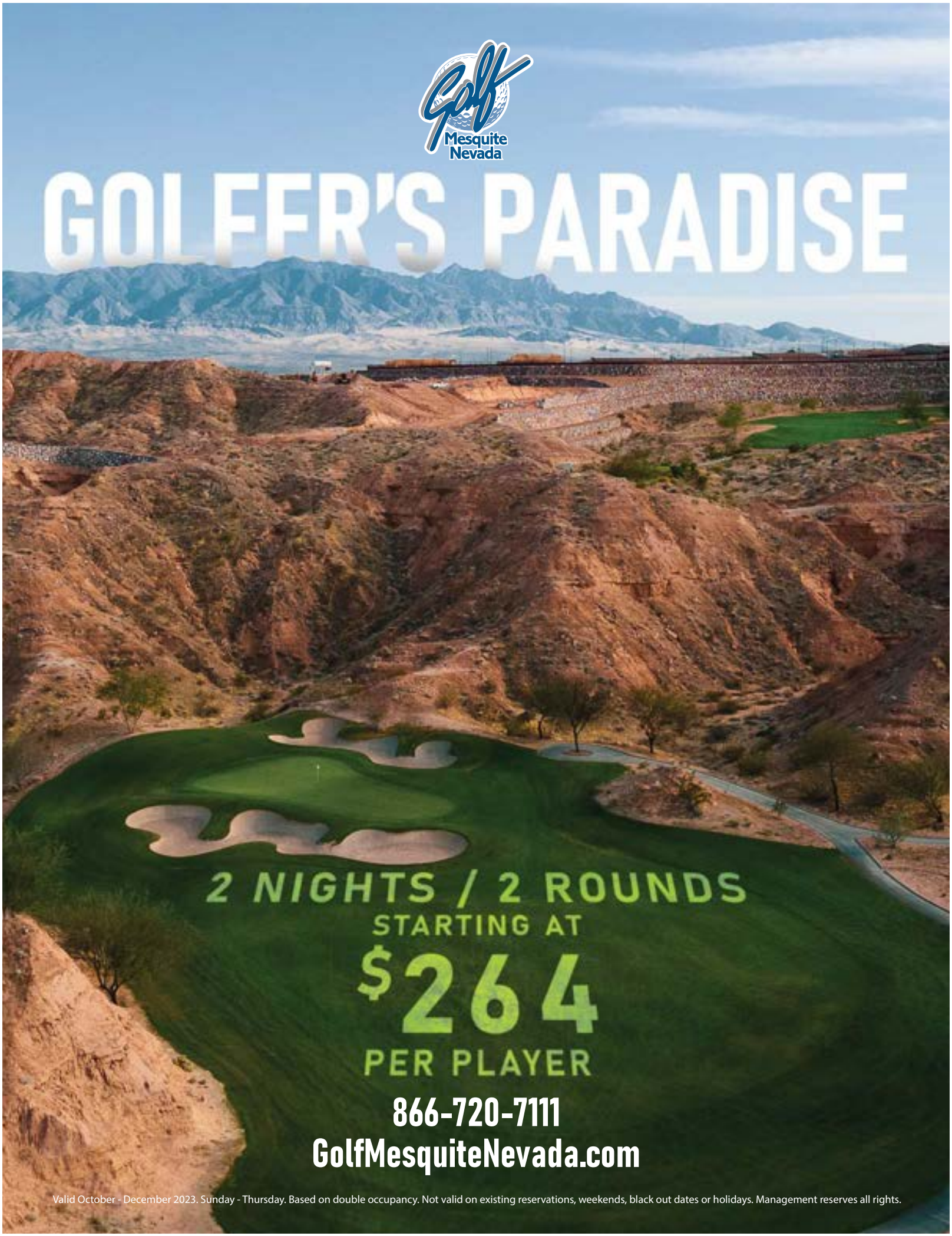
The Conestoga Golf Club is another great desert test. The holes are immaculately weaved across the desert floor and the course provides a full test for all range of players. Post-round celebrations or commiserations can be found at the 1880 Grille. ConestogaGolf.com.

Where to Stay

The Eureka Casino Resort has newly remodeled rooms and suites, but the place to be is poolside. The cabanas and lush landscaping make the 'oasis' reputation of Mesquite a reality. The new William Hill Sportsbook in the casino gives sports gamblers a new base-camp from which to enjoy the games.

Things to Do

Mesquite is a short drive north of Lake Mead and is west of the Grand Canyon National Park. There are rugged day-hikes and places to visit throughout the region. The Eureka Casino has Gregory's Mesquite Grill, a great steakhouse with deep wine selection. EurekaMesquite.com


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Sand Hollow

SAND HOLLOW RESORT | SANDHOLLOWRESORT.COM/GOLF



PHOTO BY: AUSTENDIAMONDPHOTOGRAPHY

Overview

Located in St. George, Utah, Sand Hollow Resort is a two-hour drive northeast of Las Vegas. Once you arrive you are surrounded by excellent golf and a vibrant small town with plenty to do. Guests of Sand Hollow can enjoy boating in the nearby Sand Hollow Reservoir, playing among the Sand Mountain Dunes and venturing out to Zion National Park.

Where to Play

Sand Hollow's Championship Course is simply one of the finest courses in Utah. The ground undulates and holes wind in, out and through the desert. The John Fought and Andy Staples design has sand traps dotted throughout both 9's and most are deep enough to make landing in one essentially a penalty stroke; reaching the green from many is a big challenge. The back nine is where things get real, and a steady round here requires good concentration and execution. No. 12 and 13 have a dramatic canyon on the left, and shots over there will never be seen by mortal man again.

In addition the 9-hole Links Course is 3,600 yards through very similar terrain as the Championship Course, and brings the best challenges that desert golf can offer into play.

What to Do

What isn't there to do? From dune buggys in the desert to golf to rock climbing, hiking, water skiing, boating and fishing the resort area is filled with beautiful pursuits that let you recharge, relax and leave reinvigorated. There are more than a dozen travel guide companies that can help you sojourn into the red rocks north of St. George and explore for day-trips or longer. Downtown St. George has many excellent restaurants, with The Painted Pony, Morty's Café and George's Diner getting top reviews. Start your nightly prowl at downtown's Main and George streets.

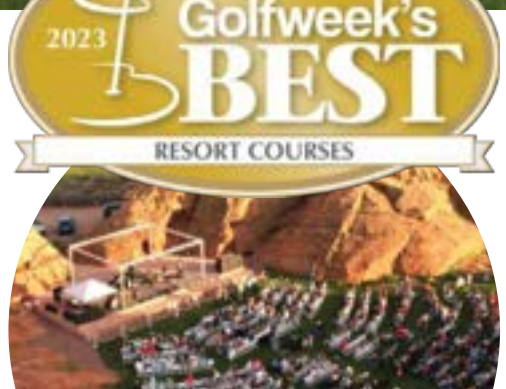


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By John Lehndorff

Tasting the Desert

Tucson's most celebrated chef dishes a taste tour of the city's signature eateries

Golfers and foodies have one thing in common: They know and love Tucson, but for very different reasons.

Since the first country club course opened in the 1930s, Tucson and the region have attracted golfers from across the globe, especially in the winter. Now home to 40-plus private and municipal golf courses, Tucson has hosted at least one PGA tour event annually for more than 75 years, according to Visit Tucson.

Foodies also have put the city on a pedestal. They make pilgrimages to Tucson because it is a bona fide culinary cultural attraction. Located only 100 miles from Nogales, Mexico, Tucson is a temple of Sonoran cuisine and home to the 100-year-old El Charro Café, the oldest continuously owned Mexican family restaurant in the country. Tucson is a City of Gastronomy, a rare designation granted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It recognizes the historic agricultural and restaurant history in a town nicknamed "The Old Pueblo."

The Tucson City Council puts the praise in a less stuffy way, bragging that south Tucson is home to "the best 23 miles of Mexican food in the country."

CUCUMBER + HAZELNUT SORBET, HAZELNUT CREAM, GRILLED MELON, BASIL OIL, HAZELNUT + BUCKWHEAT CRUMBLE// PHOTO CREDIT: BATA

The Wilder Effect on Tucson Dining

When Janos Wilder, now Tucson's most acclaimed chef and restaurateur, pulled into town in 1980, Tucson wasn't so famous. The city was then best-known as the home of the University of Arizona, and the birthplace of singer Linda Ronstadt and the chimichanga, a burrito accidentally dropped into a deep-fat fryer, according to local legend.

In order to serve the French-inspired local fare he envisioned, Wilder approached local gardeners and farmers to plant more than the usual chilies, beans, squash and cilantro, and to revive heirloom and native ingredients. He sourced tropical fruits from Mexico and seafood from the Sea of Cortez. His restaurant, Janos, opened in 1983 in an adobe home on the grounds of the Tucson Museum of Art to national acclaim.

> "If you're saying you're cooking locally, you should really do it



MARINARA PIZZA// PHOTO CREDIT: ANELLO

Over the past 40 years, Janos Wilder has been a principal sparkplug of the city's dining revival. He won the James Beard Award as Best Chef Southwest in 2000 and just recently was spotlighted on the new PBS food show, "La Frontera with Pati Jinich."

Often called a godfather of Southwestern cuisine, Wilder just laughs at the idea.

"I'm credited with something that nobody deserves credit for because those ideas were already percolating up through the culture," says Wilder, calling from his vacation home in Gold Hill, a tiny mountain town west of Boulder. He started cooking while attending the University of Colorado in the 1970s, and returned a few years later to run the kitchen at the historic Gold Hill Inn. "I thought it was the right thing to do. If you're saying you're cooking locally, you should really do it," he says.

His celebrated Janos restaurant eventually relocated to the Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa where the dining room looked out on a Jack Nicklaus-designed course. Over the decades Wilder has opened a series of equally celebrated spots in the city including, most recently, Downtown Kitchen and Cocktails, which closed several years ago.

Janos Wilder is revered locally because he championed the application for Tucson's City of Gastronomy program. "It has uplifted the Tucson food scene in a major way and given it an identity. The focus is on the place and preserving the traditional techniques and ingredients from the region and taking them forward," he says.

Among the Tucson restaurants that have earned the City of Gastronomy certification are Charro Steak & Del Rey, The Grill at Hacienda del Sol, Tito & Pep, Tumerico and La Estrella Bakery.

Janos Wilder technically took his cooking curtain call several years ago, except for some consulting.

"I'm not doing a good job at retiring, according to my wife," he says. She has a good point, he admits, because this fall the chef will open Studio Janos in the 600-square-foot Carriage House offering a multi-course tasting experience for one table of twelve guests.

"During the pandemic I realized that I had never lost appreciation for my first love, which was cooking for people. Studio Janos will be the culmination of my career, a menu full of the best things I know how to cook," Wilder says. Scoring one of those precious seats at his table will be quite challenging. "The good news is there are so many really good places to eat in Tucson now," he says.

"The old South Side favorites - the traditional sort of Sonoran Mexican food places, are still really good. The younger cohort on our community of chefs are taking a deeper dive into local heritage foods and it's showing up on restaurant menus," Wilder says.

A WILDER GUIDE TO TUCSON DINING

Chef Wilder was eager to recommend a few eateries ranging from fine dining to brunch where visitors can taste food that really "tastes like Tucson," he says.

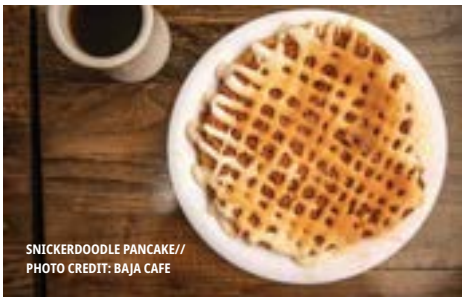
BATA // 35 E. TOOLE AVE. // BATATUCSON.COM
"BATA is one place that should absolutely be high on visitors' lists. It's fine dining, but super cool and the space feels light and airy. The food is very local since 90 percent of the ingredients come from within 400 miles of the restaurant, or much closer," Janos Wilder says.

Every dish on BATA's menu (which changes almost daily) involves their high-temperature, oak-fueled fire. One recent offering: roasted chile butter-poached black cod with Arizona grains and tomato-chile relish.

CHARRO STEAK & DEL RAY // 188 E. BROADWAY // CHARROSTEAK.COM
"This steakhouse goes back to the Mexican cowboy tradition of meat cooked over live fire. They have all the proper sides like frijoles and salsas, not just giant baked potatoes. It feels right. It feels like Tucson," says Janos Wilder.

The menu includes lobster tamalada stuffed with masa and topped "Christmas-style" with green and red salsas. Charro Steak & Del Rey is owned by the Flores family, legendary in Tucson for operating El Charro Cafe since 1922.


PHOTO CREDIT: ANELLO


SNICKERDOODLE PANCAKE// PHOTO CREDIT: BAJA CAFE


BLOODY MARY// PHOTO CREDIT: BAJA CAFE

MARISCOS CHIHUAHUA ON GRANDE // 1009 N. GRANDE AVE. // MARISCOSCHIHUAHUA.COM
"There is a small local Mexican seafood chain that I like. Go to the shop on Grande. Ask if they have Mexican sea scallops, a completely different scallop than you see on the East Coast. It's much firmer and eaten raw like ceviche, so the scallop flavor comes through," Wilder says.

The shop also serves pulpo mojo, garlic-sauteed octopus served over French fries, as well as whole deep-fried fish.

TITO & PEP // 4122 E. SPEEDWAY BLVD // TITOANDPEP.COM
"Chef Martinez is doing a great job of integrating local ingredients into his pizzas and other savory foods and getting a lot of recognition for it," Wilder says.

Tito & Pep selections include mesquite-fired dishes like grilled salmon with green chile dashi, roasted spaghetti squash and morita chile-pepita crunch. Chef John Martinez was a 2022 James Beard Award semifinalist.

ANELLO PIZZA// 222 E. 6TH ST. // ANELLO.SPACE
"This is real Neapolitan-style, wood-fired, naturally leavened pizza topped with the best ingredients. The building doesn't have any sign or window decal on it, but keep an eye out for the red bar of light above the window," Janos Wilder says.


PHOTO CREDIT: ANELLO


PHOTO CREDIT: BATA


CHEF & RESTAURATEUR JANOS WILDER



WILDER'S TOP TUCSON BRUNCH SPOTS

"Breakfast and brunch are a big deal in Tucson," says chef Janos Wilder, with everything from classic diners to bakeries and spots offering big buffets. He shares some favorite destinations in the city for weekday breakfasts and weekend brunches.

BAJA CAFE // THREE TUCSON LOCATIONS // BAJACAFETUCSON.COM
"Baja Cafe is a small locally owned chain that offers a huge menu with lots of original breakfast, brunch items," Wilder says. The menu includes snickerdoodle pancakes as well as smoked pulled brisket enchiladas with eggs.

BUENDIA BREAKFAST AND LUNCH CAFE // 2530 N. 1ST AVE. // FACEBOOK.COM/BUENDIA.BREAKFAST.LUNCH
"This is my barber's recommendation for breakfast. I trust him," Janos Wilder says. The a.m. selections range from chorizo and egg burritos to stuffed poblano breakfast rellenos.

FRANK'S RESTAURANT // 3843 E. PIMA ST. // FRANKSRESTAURANT.COM
"This little place has been open for over 40 years. The best place to sit is at the counter where you can watch some of the top short order cooks in town in action," Wilder says. The menu features chicken fried steak and eggs on Wednesdays. The menu notes: "No VIP treatment. We are all the same."

LA ESTRELLA BAKERY // THREE TUCSON LOCATIONS // LAESTRELLABAKERYINCAZ.COM
"This is a second-generation family bakery that has the greatest assortment of Mexican pastries and breads and they make good tortillas and tamales," Wilder says.

THE GRILL AT HACIENDA DEL SOL // 3HACIENDA DEL SOL GUEST RANCH RESORT, 5501 N HACIENDA DEL SOL RD. // HACIENDADELSOL.COM
Hacienda Del Sol Guest Ranch Resort, 5501 N Hacienda Del Sol Road, haciendadelsol.com
"The Grill up in the foothills has great views and an 800-bottle wine cellar. Dinner is fine dining but Sunday brunch is a big brunch buffet with all the stations," chef Wilder says.

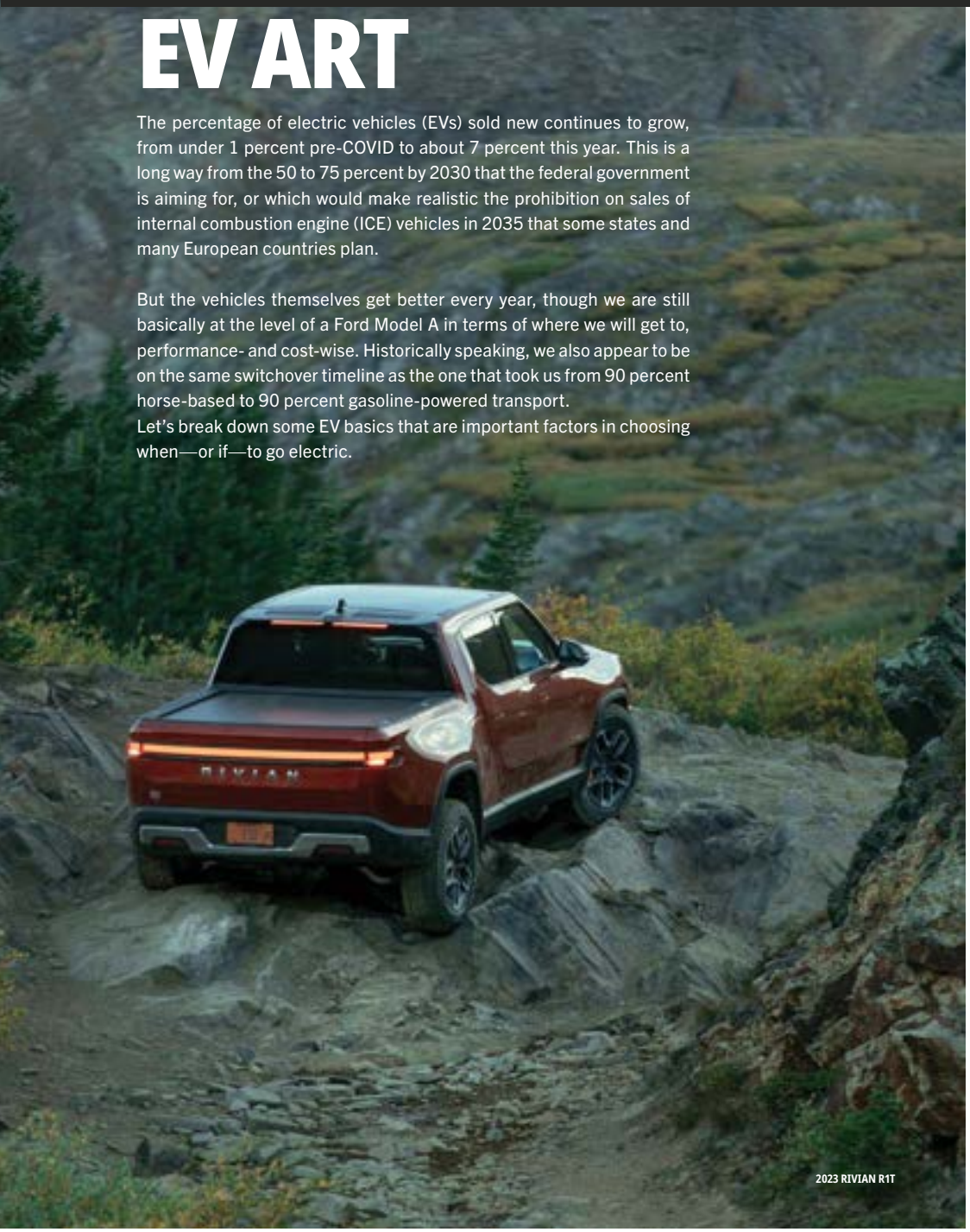
John Lehndorff has written about food in Colorado since the 1980s. He is the former Food Editor of the *Boulder Daily Camera* and Dining Critic of the *Rocky Mountain News*. He writes Nibbles for the *Boulder Weekly* and hosts *Radio Nibbles*.

By Isaac Bouchard

STATE OF THE EV ART

The percentage of electric vehicles (EVs) sold new continues to grow, from under 1 percent pre-COVID to about 7 percent this year. This is a long way from the 50 to 75 percent by 2030 that the federal government is aiming for, or which would make realistic the prohibition on sales of internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles in 2035 that some states and many European countries plan.

But the vehicles themselves get better every year, though we are still basically at the level of a Ford Model A in terms of where we will get to, performance- and cost-wise. Historically speaking, we also appear to be on the same switchover timeline as the one that took us from 90 percent horse-based to 90 percent gasoline-powered transport.
Let's break down some EV basics that are important factors in choosing when—or if—to go electric.



2023 RIVIAN R1T

Range in the Real World

Automakers can choose from one of two testing methods to generate EPA range estimates. One has two "cycles" and the other includes five. The latter generates more optimistic numbers—certainly ones that don't usually bear out in independent testing. Tesla seems best at gaming the system, with EPA numbers that are over 25 percent higher than have been independently measured. Car & Driver has tested over 60 EVs and on average they performed 13 percentage points below what the EPA said on a 75mph highway test. Porsche and Mercedes-Benz were the only two who beat their estimates, by six and seven points, respectively.

My own experience of roughly 30 EVs suggest the same; only Mercedes models would go their rated distance—perhaps there's a good reason the EQE500 just tested is shaped like a giant bar of soap. Wheel size and tire choice also make dramatic differences; a Rivian R1T truck with the optional all-terrain tires has its range chopped from 280 to 220 miles—nearly 30 percent—by just the change in rubber.

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The other major factors that affect real-world range are temperature and speed. Our open highways and higher speed limits encourage exploration of the insane acceleration most EVs allow, but ranges can shrink from over 300 rated miles to under 200 if one has too much fun. It's the same with temperature. Hot days trim ranges by 10-20 percent points, based on how hard one runs the climate control. This is exacerbated in that many EVs have frankly pathetic air conditioning to begin with, and many come with glass roofs that have no sun blinds, meaning their cabins heat up to uncomfortably high temps at our altitude. Winter's worse: independent testing show that freezing temps drop range by a full third (or more), meaning going skiing in many EVs can be fraught with uncertainty.

If you are looking at an electric vehicle for more than just around town use, make sure you find tests of real-world range and how fast the ones you're interested in can charge. And, if you just gotta go the distance, a Lucid Air (up to 516 EPA-rated miles), BMW's new i7, various Mercedes-Benz models, or Tesla Model S should be your top choices.

Note also that it is useless to charge most 400v vehicles on these expensive DC (direct current) level 3 chargers, as they can't accept juice at any higher rate than they could with a 150kW charger.

Speaking of public charging, it is emerging as the biggest issue in the EV ecosystem, with between 20 and 30 percent of chargers not working at any given time. Consumer satisfaction with charging continues to go down as more and more mainstream shoppers buy EVs. Tesla has far and away the best charging network in its ubiquity and user satisfaction, but now that it's opening up to owners of EVs from Ford, GM, Rivian and Volvo, Tesla drivers' reviews will probably drop too. BMW, Mercedes, Kia, Hyundai, Honda, Stellantis (Jeep, Ram, Dodge and Chrysler) also just announced they will create their own network.

With satisfaction of charging networks so low—and cost per kW so high—EVs only really make sense if you have a Level 2 (240v) charger at home. The best ones only cost about $600, but install costs can double or triple that. If one doesn't have access to an L2 home charger, a plugin hybrid (PHEV) probably makes more sense, as a normal 120v outlet can take days to recharge a pure EV.



2023 GENESIS ELECTRIFIED EV70

Charging

Making up for this to some degree is the electric "architecture" underneath the EV; while there are many variables, including the battery size and chemistry, the capacity of the car's onboard charger and other intricacies, it can often be boiled down to whether the vehicle is considered to have a 400 volt or 800v system. Doubling the voltage the system can handle theoretically means cutting charge times in half. 800v systems run cooler and allow for lighter components, and since batteries make electric cars much heavier than those powered by gasoline, they're a good thing all around.

EVs from Audi and Porsche (since they are part of the same company) and the Hyundai-Kia-Genesis triumvirate all are 800v; I charged the Genesis Electrified GV70's 77.4kWh battery from 10 to 80 percent in just 14 minutes, using a 350w Level 3 charger. Lucid is the leader here—as it is in most everything electric—with a 900v system. General Motor's Ultium battery platform, though technically 400v, can effectively be run to operate as an 800v system, meaning charge times can be quick for its vehicles as well. But it still took me almost two hours to charge the Hummer's massive 212kWh battery from 20 to 100 percent. It's those last 20 points that take the longest, as charging speeds slow dramatically to prevent battery degradation.



2023 MERCEDES BENZ EQE500

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

Rates & Incentives

Changes to federal purchase incentive of up to $7,500 for EVs—called the Clean Vehicle Credit—last April are still causing confusion, since where the car is built and assembled (and how much the buyer makes) affects what vehicles qualify. The hack is to lease, which means EVs built most anywhere can qualify. That program goes by the name Commercial Clean Vehicle Credit. This is also a way to access Colorado's incentives, which go up to $7,500 if you don't have a trade in, and a recently announced additional $6,000 if you turn in a gasoline vehicle through its VXC Program, for a theoretical total of $21,000 off.



2023 RIVIAN R1T


2023 GENESIS ELECTRIFIED EV70

2023 GENESIS ELECTRIFIED EV70

EPA RANGE: 236mi // PRICE (AS TESTED): $74,350 // RATING: 4★

The EV version of the GV70 enhances almost every virtue of the superb gasoline version: pleasingly unique styling, an absolute stunner of an interior, finished in uniformly high-quality, pleasing materials, intuitive and reliable interfaces and software, and one of the best rides of any vehicle currently made. This Genesis is almost imperturbable despite the atrocious state of our state's roadways. It's also very fast, with Boost button that unleashes 483hp for 10 seconds and nets a 3.8sec 0-60 time. Range is its sole issue, with a 236 rating according to the EPA that's rarely achievable in the real world. Thankfully, the 800v architecture means blazing fast recharge times. If your daily driving accommodates, the Electrified GV70 is incredibly compelling.



2023 MERCEDES-BENZ EQE500

EPA RANGE: 269mi // PRICE (AS TESTED): $98,040 // RATING: 4★

Perhaps the most well-resolved of Mercedes EQ models, this crossover is almost perfectly sized and calibrated for its mission. A range of almost 300 miles makes it a legit replacement for an ICE-powered SUV, though its max recharge rate of 170kW, which means it takes longer to charge. The gorgeous interior is fully worthy of the Mercedes-Benz name and the 402hp/633lb-ft outputs of its two motors—the front of which can shut down to increase range—make for very swift progress. Its air suspension is generally very supple, though certain bumps can catch it out. If rocket sled acceleration isn't called for, the EQE350 is less expensive and has even more range.


2023 MERCEDES BENZ EQE500

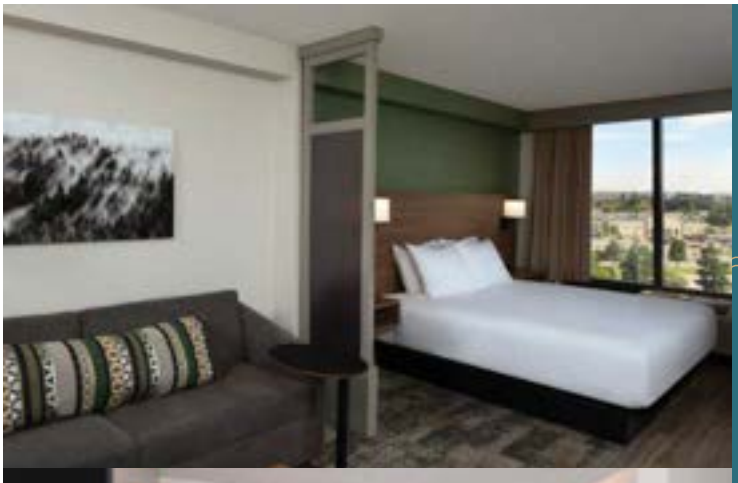


2023 RIVIAN R1T

EPA RANGE: 280mi // PRICE (AS TESTED): $80,300 // RATING: 4.5

Perhaps the most well-resolved of Mercedes EQ models, this crossover is almost perfectly sized and calibrated for its mission. A range of almost 300 miles makes it a legit replacement for an ICE-powered SUV, though its max recharge rate of 170kW, which means it takes longer to charge. The gorgeous interior is fully worthy of the Mercedes-Benz name and the 402hp/633lb-ft outputs of its two motors—the front of which can shut down to increase range—make for very swift progress. Its air suspension is generally very supple, though certain bumps can catch it out. If rocket sled acceleration isn't called for, the EQE350 is less expensive and has even more range.

2023 RIVIAN R1T
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PGA
Colorado Section

Colorado PGA Golf Professional of the Year

Bob Doyle, PGA



This is Doyle's third time being recognized as the Golf Professional of the Year. He has also been in the special awards lineup three other times during his career and time within the Colorado PGA Section. When asked what his first thoughts were after learning of his recognition, Doyle said he was "Overwhelmed. To be able to contribute now at this stage of my career means a lot to me, and to be recognized for that is pretty special."

Congratulations to all Award Winners!

Bob Doyle, PGA
Ed Oldham, PGA
Marcus Gillmor, PGA
Stuart Bruening, PGA
Jeff Ulvedal, PGA
Bryan Collins, PGA
Alice Plain, PGA
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Greg Bryan, PGA
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Pamela Smith



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Sweet Home Alabama

Sweet Home Alabama is more than just a song or a movie, although they both certainly evoke the spirit of the beautiful state. It's also a mantra for the hard-working, friendly folks who travelers encounter along the way. From the bagboys and beverage cart girls on the world-class golf courses to the servers and chefs in the award-winning restaurants, visitors are made to feel right at home, ensuring that time spent in Alabama is as sweet as the tea.

MARRIOTT HOTEL AND RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT CAPITOL HILL, MONTGOMERY/PRATTVILLE// PHOTO BY JONATHAN HOOMES



Sweet Home Alabama is a golfing destination unlike any other, as home to the original golf trail, modern and historic golf resorts, and more than 32 miles of sugar-white beaches on the Gulf of Mexico. Both the incomparable Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail and the Arnold Palmer-designed Craft Farms Resort in Gulf Shores put Alabama on the radar of traveling golf groups more than two decades ago. The ensuing years have upgraded the state's position on all types of vacation bucket lists by spawning award-winning hotels, spas, and luxurious resorts; exciting craft breweries with medal-quality beers; world-renowned bass fishing events and red snapper rodeos; and a thriving culinary scene, ranging from fresh Gulf seafood and a unique BBQ Trail to James Beard-recognized chefs and restaurants.

Just a few of the golf resorts that make Alabama so special are Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa in Birmingham, boasting an RTJ Golf Trail golf course, luxurious spa and delectable dining; Pursell Farms just 45 minutes south of Birmingham, which is a unique golf resort with lodging options ranging from a brand-new boutique inn, 4 bedroom golf cottages and an 8 bedroom lodge, along with the award-winning Farmlinks golf course; the century-and-a-half-old Grand Hotel Golf Resort and Spa on Mobile Bay, considered the "queen of Southern resorts;" and Kiva Dunes in Gulf Shores, Alabama's only gulf-front golf resort offering a Jerry Pate-designed course, clubhouse and fairway condominiums, as well as beach homes to rent.

Here's a snapshot of some of the golfing locales in the state to allow you to create a custom golf vacation to Sweet Home Alabama.

HUNTSVILLE is a great place to start your Alabama golf journey, as the most northern location of the golf trail and home to the US Space & Rocket Center. But there's also two more trails to enjoy while in the Rocket City. Wet your whistle on either the Downtown Huntsville Craft Beer Trail or the Craft Cocktail Trail, both with ten stops. Lodging options range from convenient hotels near golf to upscale accommodations downtown.

Just west of Huntsville is one of the newer locations of the Trail. **THE SHOALS** area consists of the river town of Florence and Muscle Shoals, the "hit recording capital of the world." The RTJ Golf Trail at The Shoals offers 36 holes and a luxurious Marriott Resort both located right on the Tennessee River, although on different sides. Music lovers flock to the studios where so many great songs were recorded, foodies enjoy the variety of restaurants and golfers love the challenge of the courses.

Alabama's largest city, **BIRMINGHAM** is home to two RTJ Golf Trail sites (Ross Bridge and Oxmoor Valley) and the state's most luxurious golf resort at Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort and Spa, plus the Barber Vintage Motor Sports Museum, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, James Beard Award winning/nominated chefs and restaurants, four craft breweries and exciting nightlife options that only a city this size can offer. You can choose to stay on-site at Ross Bridge, at an historic downtown hotel, a boutique inn or any number of convenient branded hotels.

Sweet Home Alabama

is a golfing destination unlike any other, as home to the original golf trail, modern and historic golf resorts, and more than 32 miles of sugar-white beaches on the Gulf of Mexico.



ROBERT TRENT JONES GRAND NATIONAL



MARRIOTT SHOALS HOTEL AND SPA IN FLORENCE/MUSCLE SHOALS



KIVA DUNES GOLF & BEACH RESORT IN GULF SHORES



RESORT POOL COMPLEX AT MARRIOTT GRAND NATIONAL IN AUBURN-OPELIKA

The sister cities of **AUBURN-OPELIKA** combine to create the coolest college town and one of the most intriguing small towns in the South. It's also home to Robert Trent Jones' favorite location on his trail. The RTJ Golf Trail at Grand National boast 54 holes of scenic and challenging golf along a gleaming lake. These two small towns have an abundance of great eateries too, plus the Red Clay Brewery and the award-winning John Emerald Distilling Company are located in historic downtown Opelika. Your overnight choices include the on-site Marriott Golf Resort & Spa at Grand National, the on-campus Auburn University Hotel and a bunch of hotels and B&Bs scattered around.

Once called the Paris of the South, **MOBILE** has long been the cultural center of the Gulf Coast and you'll find an authentic experience like nowhere else in the southern United States. As the birthplace of America's original Mardi Gras, a good time is easy to find in this port city. Attractions include the USS Alabama Battleship, Bellingrath Gardens & Home, riverboat dinner cruises, the Dauphin Street entertainment district and a couple of craft breweries. Not only is the RTJ Golf Trail's most southern stop, the 54-hole Magnolia Grove, in Mobile, but there are several other challenging courses to keep you in town a bit longer.

And choosing to stay longer will be easier when you stay at either the historic Renaissance Battle House Hotel & Spa or the Renaissance Riverview Plaza, both part of the RTJ Golf Trail collection of hotels and resorts.

GULF SHORES AND ORANGE BEACH are home to 32 miles of white sandy beaches that line the pristine turquoise waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Add the nine premier golf courses to the numerous adventurous activities, including fishing, boating, kayaking and biking, and you'll find there's more to this small beach town than meets the eye. Then, after a full day of fun in the sun you can grab a hearty meal at one of the many locally-owned restaurants that specialize in everything from fresh Gulf seafood to sweet Alabama BBQ. And don't forget to wash down your meal and end your day with a cold beer at Big Beach Brewing Company or an infamous bushwacker (aka adult milkshake) at the legendary Flora-Bama Lounge & Oyster Bar. At the end of the night, you'll want a comfy place to lay your head and fortunately Gulf Shores and Orange Beach have an outstanding selection of accommodations from hi-rise condos and colorful beach houses to nationally-branded hotels and resorts.

The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, with its eight hotels/resorts and 26 courses at 11 sites around the state, and Coastal Alabama Golf, the booking entity for the Gulf Shores-Orange Beach area, are eager to put together customized golf packages for your foursome or group.



US SPACE & ROCKET CENTER IN HUNTSVILLE

Check out GolfAlabama.org for more information on how you can make Sweet Home Alabama your next golf destination or visit RTJGolf.com and CoastalAlabamaGolf.com to book today.

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THE HANGAR CLUB// PHOTO CREDIT: CHRISTIAN MARCY-VEGA

HOW HIGH IS THE CEILING for Indoor Golf?

Dozens of offerings are out there – from one-bay sports bars to spacious clubs

By Jim Bebbington

Indoor golf bars, clubs, and lounges have been popping up throughout Colorado for the past seven years and entrepreneurs are still trying to find out how large the interest for indoor golf can grow.

There are more than 25 locations around the state that offer drinks, food and have indoor golf simulators as an entertainment option, with more on the way.

They run the gamut. Some long-standing sports bars have added one or two hitting bays along side foosball and pool tables and TVs tuned to the latest games.

But others are ground-up concepts with indoor golf as the main attraction. They offer simulators powered by the biggest brands in golf technology and are engaged in an arms race fought with good cocktails, great food and comfortable ambiance. They're a lot like outdoor golf, but you go to the cart girl instead of her coming to you.

One of the newest additions is also one of the largest. **The Hangar Club**, built in a former Air Force building in Denver's Lowry neighborhood, features 10 enormous hitting lounges with Trackman systems.

Comfortable arrays of couches and chairs enable large groups of friends to gather in each hitting bay and participate in leagues or play simulations of some of the greatest courses in the world.

The Hangar Club is an enormous undertaking. Its founders – PGA professional James Love and Denver developer Daren Schmidt – have spent more than a year in planning and construction. The facility makes great use of the Air Force architecture, with soaring girders holding up the 20-foot ceiling above. They are planning to open to the public this October. The space is designed with alcoves, TVs, sitting areas, a library and small nooks that bring the large space down to comfortable scale. The team is also opening a full kitchen and bar and is working hard on the events market; hundreds of people can comfortably fit inside and there is a full floor of indoor parking available downstairs.

"If you think of playing with four of your closest friends at a city of Denver (course) or going out to a country club or taking a golf trip, It's all about that camaraderie in the community," said Daren Schmidt

"So I think that's one of the biggest selling points. And then for us to have the square footage that we have, to be able to come here and not just play golf, but to sit on our beautiful custom couches that were just delivered and you'll get some work done here."

The phenomenon is going on across the country. The PGA of America reports that it is aware of nearly 700 facilities in the country that have an indoor bay either for practice or as entertainment.

The trend here began in 2016 with the South Broadway Country Club, opened by Kelly Huff in Denver's Overland neighborhood. South Broadway now has four locations – two in Denver and one each in Fort Collins and Colorado Springs.

Bays at many of the facilities cost around $50 an hour to rent. Depending on the technology, different locations offer games or matches on courses locally or from around the globe. Some systems provide deep statistical analysis of swing and ball speeds and several of the largest facilities have affiliations with teaching professionals. League play is common during the fall and winter months.

In Denver's RINO neighborhood, partners Joe Lynch and Winston Manley opened the five-bay Local Drive Cocktail Bar and Golf Lounge in summer of 2022 on Brighton Boulevard, and are expanding this fall with a second location in Thornton.

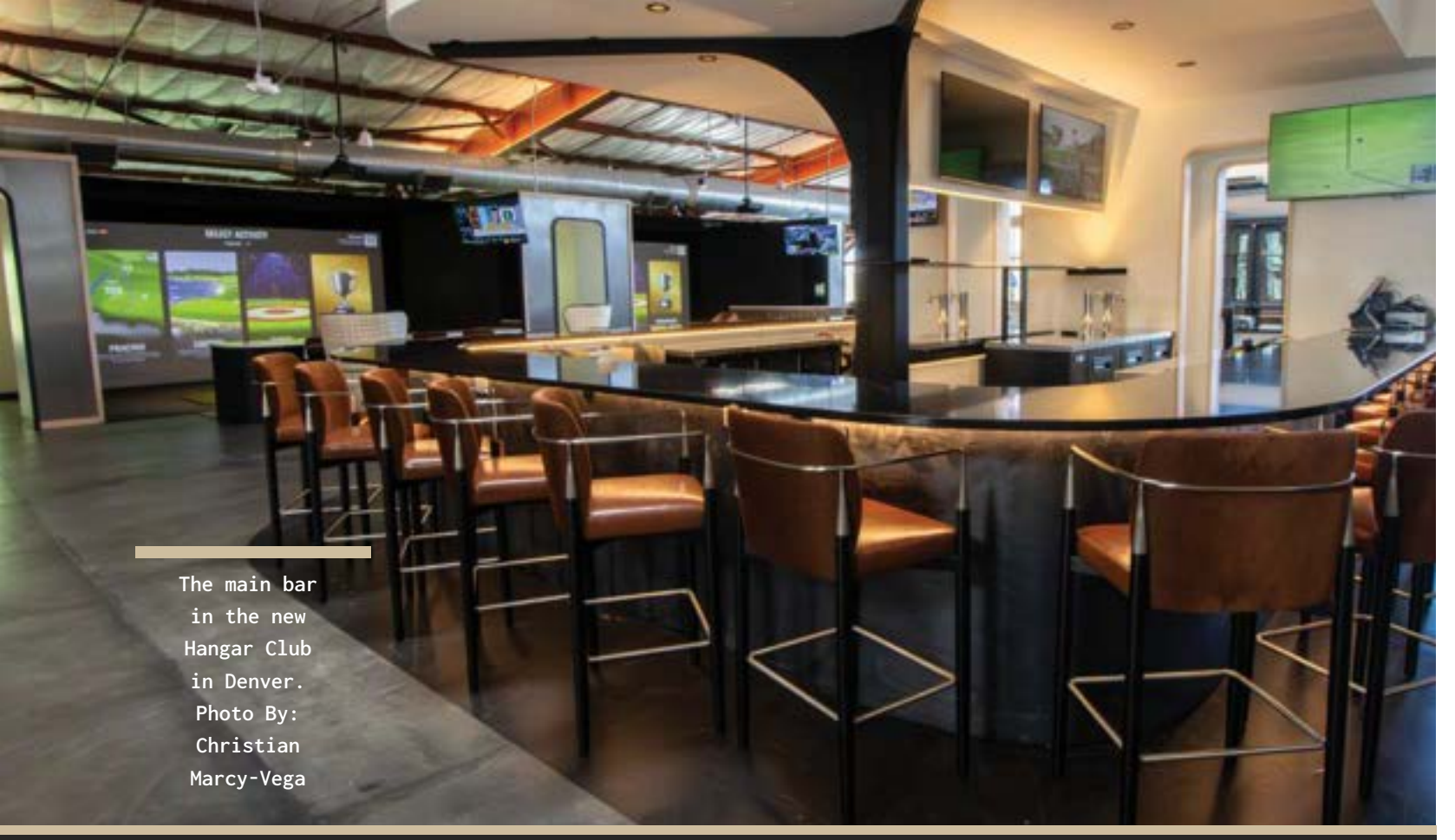
"We were playing golf on an indoor sim and watching the Super Bowl and we really enjoyed what we were doing and we thought 'this makes sense – this combination makes sense – especially when there is snow on the ground,' " Manley said.



SOUTH BROADWAY COUNTRY CLUB//
PHOTO BY JIM BEBBINGTON


PHOTO COURTESY: THE LOCAL DRIVE, DENVER


THE HANGAR CLUB//
PHOTO CREDIT: CHRISTIAN MARCY-VEGA



The main bar in the new Hangar Club in Denver. Photo By: Christian Marcy-Vega

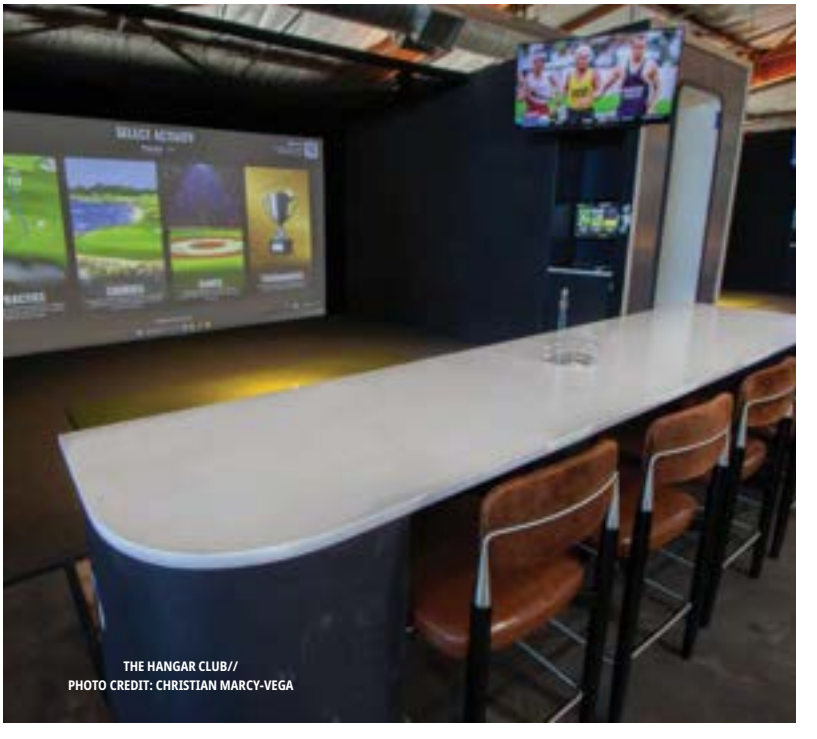
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Manley said the indoor golf phenomenon has not yet showed any signs of peaking. With Colorado winters an iffy proposition – some years you can play outdoors year-round; other years (like 2022) not so much – the number of people interested in leagues or a night-out of golf still seems to be growing.

"Two years ago you could open a golf sim and draw a five mile radius and know you could be safe – that this is the only place a golfer can go to for six months out of the year," he said. "Now its more intentional. We're not even close to saturation. There's still a ton of golfers out there who haven't hit from a simulator and don't know this opportunity exists. Right now I relish the fact that more people are coming in to this new version."

As they are waiting to open, the Hangar Club founders are holding small private gatherings to get a feel for how people are reacting to the new 22,000 square-foot space.

"The reception when you come into this space is mine and Darren's favorite thing to see," Love said. "Because when you do walk in and see how grandiose and how kind of different this is from the other places, that's (the reaction) we enjoy the most."



THE HANGAR CLUB//
PHOTO CREDIT: CHRISTIAN MARCY-VEGA

Where to Play

DENVER AREA		
3070 Sports Bar	1885 West 120th Ave., #1300, Thornton	3070sportsbar.com
Angry Horse Eatery	1 Superior Dr, Superior	eaterysuperior.com
The Back 9	3131 Walnut St., Denver	theback9walnut.com
Hangar Club	7600 E. First Place, Denver	HangarClub.Co
The Local Drive	3503 Brighton. Blvd, Denver	thelocaldrive.com
One Shot Back	2134 Curtis Street Suite 101, Denver	oneshotback.com
Overflyte Denver	3120 Uinta Street, Suite 300, Denver	OverflyteDenver.com
Reeds Tavern	9535 Park Meadows Drive - B, Lone Tree	Reedstavern.com
Stick and Feather	3851 Steele St - Unit 1378, Denver	stickandfeather.com
South Broadway Country Club	2265 South Broadway, Denver 4200 Tennyson Street, Denver	southbroadwaycc.com
SuperFly Golf Lounge	2100 W Littleton Blvd Suite C, Littleton	superflygolflounge.com
The Swing Bays	11183 S. Parker Road A, Parker	theswingbays.com
The TRN Grandview	5601 Yukon St., Arvada	thetrngrandview.com
X Golf DTC	7600 Landmark way, Greenwood Village	Xgolfdtc.com
FORT COLLINS		
South Broadway Country Club	17 Old Town Square, FoCo	Southbroadwaycc.com
X-Golf Fort Collins	351 E. Foothills Pkway, Suite 110, FoCo	xgolffortcollins.com
COLORADO SPRINGS		
Trainwreck	812 S. Sierra Madre Street	Trainwreckco.com
Tribe Golf	805 Garden of the Gods Rd, Colorado Springs	tribegolf.com
X-Golf Colorado Springs	1808 Spring Water Point	xgolfcoloradosprings.com
GRAND JUNCTION		
Golf Time	3002 I-70 Business Loop, Unit 1	golftimegj.com
X-Golf Grand Junction	2482 Patterson Road, Grand Junction	x-golfgrandjunction.com
MOUNTAINS		
Birdies Golf Bar	302 Elk Ave., Crested Butte	BirdiesGolfBar.com
Vail Country Club	240 Chapel Place, Unit B126, Vail	VailCountryClub.com
OTHER		
Optimum Golf (Events & Leagues)	Locations in RiNo, Park Hill, Thornton & Carbondale	theoptimumgolf.com
Topgolf	Locations in Centennial, Thornton & Colorado Springs	Topgolf.com




PHOTO SUPPLIED BY: CHERRY HILLS CC



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY: CHERRY HILLS CC

Volunteers Give a Boost

Golf Tournaments March on the Backs of Volunteers

By Jasmine Ying

Golf tournaments like this past summer's U.S. Amateur at Cherry Hills Country Club bring together golfers and fans of all stripes. Players come to compete. Spectators can come to watch. But another group is vital and without them tournaments like these could not be held – the volunteers who help make everything run smoothly.

For this year's U.S. Am, more than 1,000 people signed up to volunteer. Kelly Mahoney, the volunteer coordinator at Cherry Hills Country Club, said that the tournament wouldn't have been able to happen without the help and the time put in by the "many enthusiastic volunteers".

They had to show up for their shifts early, receive training on how to use radios or how to be standard bearers for the players they were following. For this tournament specifically, people signed up "to work several different positions," Mahoney said. There were roles for volunteers before, during, and after the event.

Mahoney said that she first got into volunteering in order to "help organize and answer the volunteer call" at Cherry Hills. Cherry Hills has hosted numerous golf championships, but in order to achieve that they need a smooth operation behind–the–scenes. This is where the volunteers come in. Without volunteers, there are no tournaments.

Mahoney said it's most beneficial when younger people volunteer at a championship such as this one. Not only do they provide "fresh legs and endless energy to be standard bearers," but the earlier they get involved in helping tournaments run, the easier it is for the country club to rely on them for future championships. "It is very helpful to have continuity from one volunteer championship to the next," Mahoney said.

That requires participation from not only the frequent volunteers, but also the teenagers and young adults who are interested in volunteering.

"My favorite thing about volunteering is meeting new people and seeing them enjoy helping out at all the various spots within each championship." Mahoney said. It isn't just the golf and country clubs that benefit from having this enthusiastic of a volunteer base here in Colorado. The volunteers benefit by participating in a professional experience and being able to watch tournaments up close.

Different tournaments have different needs. Most localtournaments don't rope off the fairways and need few marshalls. The PGA Tour's BMW Championship, next summer at Castle Pines Golf Club, will need the full allotment, however, including marshalls, standard bearers and many other roles.

The needs might not be as extensive at all championships but the overall experience is the same. "It takes an organized crew of helpful, enthusiastic, and dedicated volunteers to make any size golf tournament hum with precision and abundant smiles." Mahoney says.

/// How to Volunteer

The Colorado Golf Association has volunteer opportunities at many of the dozens of events they host throughout the year in all parts of Colorado.

To inquire about opportunities go to **coloradogolf.org/volunteer-center**

The 2024 BMW Championship Aug. 19 to 25 at Castle Pines Golf Club in Castle Rock, south of Denver, will be the second-leg of the PGA Tour's season ending FedEx Cup tournament series. To inquire about volunteer opportunities for the tournament go to **bmwchampionship.com/ Key Word Search: Volunteer**


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