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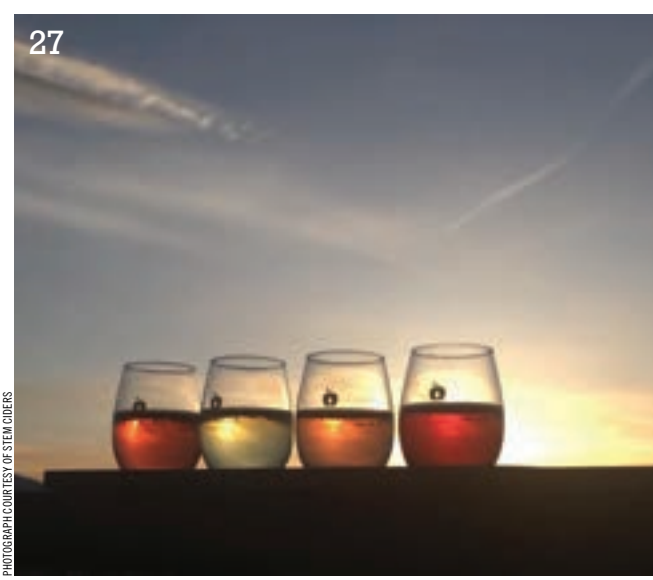
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A Time of Reflection



AS THE CURTAIN drops on another splendid Colorado golf season and rises on another in the magnificent Southwest, I find myself reflecting on the year in golf and on life in general.

Thanks to its inherent social distancing and lingering concerns over COVID and the Delta variant, golf has flourished for a second consecutive year. Even the nasty heat and air quality this summer didn't keep tee times from filling up the minute they became available. A new course, RainDance National (page 62), is opening to meet demand, and private clubs again have waiting lists.

Colorado AvidGolfer benefited by selling out all of its events: Our Private Club Day at Perry Park Country Club; the Schomp BMW Cup at The Country Club at Castle Pines; our three-course (Blackstone Country Club, Green Valley Ranch Golf Club and The Ridge at Castle Pines) Tournament Series Presented by Michelob Ultra; and the 2021 Mountain Golf Experience Presented by Jaguar Land Rover Flatirons at Red Sky Golf Club. We also co-sponsored with *AvidLifestyle,* our sister publication, a Wheels of Dreams event at the Vehicle Vault in Parker. Thank you to all the participants, sponsors and charity partners for making each a success.

Additionally, with the support of our golf-course partners, we enjoyed one of our best years for sales of The Golf Passport.

Given that this surge has by and large occurred against the backdrop of the pandemic, some might liken us to war profiteers. In response to those misguided, cynical souls, I cite the sense of safety, normalcy and social enjoyment that golf has provided to so many people during a period of mortal fear, uncertainty and isolation.

My own existential ruminations are informed in part by facing my 60th birthday in December, but also by the many friends and acquaintances who have passed this year. To their numbers, I sadly add Dan Hogan, who left us days before this issue went to press.

Dan, as you might have read in our September 22 e-newsletter, died at the age of 90 after a long illness. I first met him in 2003, when the late Tom Kensler profiled the Colorado Golf Hall of Famer and his staggering trove of golf treasures—including more than one thousand books and numerous golf trophies he'd recovered and restored. I dare say nobody possessed a deeper and more enduring love for golf than the diminutive, soft-spoken, gentlemanly Denverite.

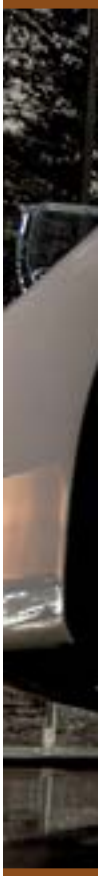
That love translated to excellence as a player and as a respected historical authority. In addition to inducting him in 1998, the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame honored him with its 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award, which I, as board president that year, proudly presented him. After he fell ill in 2017, he donated his book collection to the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame, which let the Colorado Golf Association house it. The meticulously catalogued Dan Hogan Golf Library opened at CGA headquarters in 2018 as an enduring legacy to him.

Leaving a legacy has naturally entered my aging gray matter. Oakwood Homes founder, president and CEO Pat Hamill, who is very much still alive, has already built his legacy in golf by reviving the Colorado Open in 2004 and starting the Colorado Open Golf Foundation and The First Tee of Green Valley Ranch.

Yet the 62-year-old Hamill's prolific philanthropy extends well beyond golf and Colorado. He founded the nationally expanding BuildStrong Academy, mentors others and sits on multiple nonprofit boards. As he navigates the second half of his life, giving carries greater urgency, emphasis and spiritual significance. My piece on his inaugural Carmel Classic—a four-day Pebble Beach experience that will generate millions for charity—starts on page 66. It serves as an inspiring example of how one man can leverage and expand his impact on a world filled with people who need help. —JON RIZZI







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Going the Distance with GPS

From yardages to green contours, the CGA's GHIN Mobile App now provides turbocharged GPS information to improve your game.



PHOTO BY EJ CARR

FOR MONTHS the Colorado Golf Association has been tempting our 69,000 members with the prospect of GPS on the GHIN Mobile app for their smartphones. We can finally say, with a significant sigh of relief, that the wait is over. The GHIN Mobile app now has free Standard GPS, and an upgrade to Enhanced GPS features is also available for an annual fee.

GHIN Mobile, the free app on Android and iPhone platforms, is easily the benefit most often used by our members. This year alone we've seen 923,000 rounds posted via the GHIN site—the majority of those via the mobile app.

Standard GPS, which has now been integrated into the GHIN Mobile app, includes 3D color course maps for thousands of courses worldwide, touch-point GPS distance to anywhere on the course and to the center of the green. Members can now use the GPS while posting scores hole-by-hole (the app automatically adjusts scores if needed) and track stats including fairways hit, greens in regulation and numberof putts. It will also save favorite courses track regular foursome's handicaps and more.

CGA Members may also opt to purchase an upgrade to the Enhanced GPS in the app. The Enhanced GPS includes distances to the front and back of the green, along with the ability to move and set hole locations for your round. The service also includes approach and putt views showing green contours, arrows and heat maps for courses across Colorado.

The Enhanced GPS, which costs $39.99 for 12 months and renews automatically, is a must-have for golfers looking for that extra help reading greens and managing their club distances. The app allows two free uses of the Enhance GPS as a trial, so you can try before you buy.

For complete information about the app, FAQs, and a helpful list of Colorado courses included in the GPS and video demonstrations visit *coloradogolf.org/gps-details*.

Play, POST & Win

Enter the CGA Fall Fitness Finish! Simply enter online before October 31, post your scores and confirm the number of rounds you walk or ride before November 15. The CGA will award a point for every step according to the following formula:

- **18 Holes Walked** = 10,000 Steps
- **9 Holes Walked** = 5,000 Steps
- **18 Holes in a Cart** = 5,000 Steps
- **9 Holes in Cart** = 2,500 Steps

During the contest, the CGA will draw weekly winners at random.

At the conclusion of the contest, the CGA will award Grand Prizes to the top three finishers no later than November 17, 2021.

Prizes include a 2022 Stay and Play in Estes Park at the Stanley Hotel, $150 PGA TOUR Superstore Gift Cards along with many other prizes from Imperial Headwear, Cutter & Buck, Rocket Tour and more.

To register for the contest or more information, visit *coloradogolf.org/fall-fitness-finish*.

The Colorado Golf Association's mission is to represent, promote and serve the best interests of golf in Colorado. This includes services such as handicap management, course rating, events, clinics, tournaments and membership programs. The CGA is licensed by the United States Golf Association as the "Allied Golf Association" of record for the state of Colorado. More than 60,000 members enjoy all that the CGA has to offer. 303-366-4653; *coloradogolf.org*



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PHOTOGRAPH BY E.J. CARR. TAKEN AT THE CLUB AT INVERNESS

RHYTHM PLAYER: Rising country music star Teddy Robb's career and golf game got jump-started the year he lived in the Vail Valley.

The Robb Report

THE ODDS OF SIGNING a recording contract, like those of earning a PGA TOUR card, are "like a million to one," **Teddy Robb** says. He should know. The Nashville-based recording artist has beat those odds to climb the leaderboards with such country hits as "Heaven on Dirt" and "Really Shouldn't Drink Around You."

And for this, the 31-year-old Ohio native owes Colorado a big thank you. In 2013, after graduating from Kent State University, Robb plunged headlong into the cutthroat Nashville singer-songwriter scene. Needing a vacation, he headed to Vail with his snowboard and found himself at Pepi's Bar. On a dare, he put $20 in troubadour Dave Tucker's tip jar and asked if he could play.

His performance earned him a job as one of Pepi's house musicians, complete with a place to live near Vail Golf Club. Playing music by night and golf by day, Robb spent a "magical year in the mountains" that saw him mature as a musician and songwriter. He performed more than 300 days, often doing covers and taking requests with fellow Ohioan Andy Cyphers.

Robb wasn't even onstage when his big break came. He was sitting alone at Pepi's, listening to Cyphers play, and offered his table to a group that had just walked in. "They bought me a beer, and I started talking to this guy I gave my seat to," he remembers. "I told him I was a country singer and wanted to move back to Nashville and be a recording artist."

The guy turned out to be Evan Greene, then the chief marketing officer of the Grammy Awards. "He gave me his card and didn't make any promises," Robb says, "but he said he would try to connect some pieces for me."

He did. Within a year of that chance encounter, Robb had a producer and a recording deal with Monument Records. "That moment at Pepi's started this whole new life for me," he says with humility and obvious gratitude.

Six years later, that new life includes strong songwriting relationships with Shane McAnally and Josh Osborne, songs streamed in multiples of 10 million and appearances on national television, in magazines and on stages across the country (including a recent private performance at Parker's Vehicle Vault).

Life also includes plenty of golf, which, he says, "is very popular among members the country-music business—a great way to get to know people." A gifted athlete who played wide receiver in high school and college, Robb admits golf has vexed and humbled him to the point of rinsing away the competitive frustration he often experienced.

"At this point in my life, I just want to enjoy myself on the course," he says with a smile. "I shoot in the 90s, occasionally sneak into the 80s. If I'm going to work at improving something, it's going to involve my music." *teddyrobb.com*



CIRCLES OF TRUST: Aspiring LPGA player Chih-Min Chen and performance coach Noah Sachs smile for a selfie after a session using the data-driven Circles software.

Noah's Arc

THIS OCTOBER, when 24-year-old Taipei native **Chih-Min Chen** competes at LPGA Stage 2 Qualifying School in Florida, she'll do so with the help of Colorado-based performance coach and PGA Professional **Noah Sachs**.

The 26-year-old proprietor of Noah Sachs Performance lives in Superior, but grew up in Basel, Switzerland, attended the PGA Golf Management program at North Carolina's Methodist University (during which time he interned in Colorado at Hiwan Golf Club and Cherry Hills Country Club) and worked at Mission Hills Golf Club in China and for the Dream Golf Academy in Taipei.

Adding advanced degrees in strength, conditioning and sports psychology enabled him to improve dramatically the swing speeds and results of numerous elite Taiwanese players, and he still works remotely as the academy's director of physical and mental performance.

He and Chen, a graduate of Oklahoma State University with whom he has worked in-person and remotely, make use of Circles, a shot-data platform introduced for broad use only this spring. With geography becoming less relevant in today's data-driven age, Sachs liaises with Chen's swing coach, Jimmy Chang, another Circles devotee and the owner of Dream Golf Academy.

Chen has used shot data since college, but she didn't always enjoy the time required to log an 18-hole round, nor that the programs only compared her to other collegians. Circles lets her log an entire round in about seven minutes, and everything is benchmarked according to her goal: tour-level performance.

"I can see exactly how my performance compares to the professional tour player's average, in the four major areas: driving, putting, approaches and short game," Chen explains. "For each round I play, I can see how I compare over the last three weeks, or three months. When it comes to short game or putting, I'm close. I can be as good as the tour benchmark, right now. Driving? I need significant improvement. So, we've been working on that specifically."

Sachs says golfers are notoriously poor at assessing their own strengths and weaknesses. "I've got a player who plays off scratch, but he putts like a 5," Sachs says. "He believes that if he makes 30 percent of his five- to 10-foot putts, that's pretty good. Well, the data says a scratch player should be making 55.86 percent of his five- to 10-footers. It's hard to argue with that."

It's also hard to argue with the success Sachs is having with elite golfers. "I train aspiring college players and pro golfers with consistent swing ability who want to get better and score lower," he explains. "It's not that I don't want to work with 20 handicaps—I am competent in the swing and force plates—but I don't provide technical advice. I'm trying to maximize what players already have by working alongside swing coaches and offering services they don't cover."

By interpreting the data on Circles—"The interface is clear and intuitive, and its A.I. machine learning analyzes the areas where you can gain strokes"—Sachs crafts data-based programs to help his clients. "It's cultural," he says. "I grew up in Switzerland, so I don't like guessing."

He knows "this is not everyone's style, but players at this level appreciate that I'm basing everything on a number."

In addition to international players, Sachs works with some students of PGA Professional Chris Melendez at Coal Creek Golf Course and a few members of the Monarch High School golf team. He is also offering in-person/virtual "hybrid" programs for Colorado residents.

noahsachsperformance.com; drawmorecircles.com

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COURTESY OF THE COLORADO PGA

Professional Grade

THE COLORADO PGA has announced its annual awards. **Alice Plain**, the PGA Director of Golf for Vail Golf Club, became only the second woman (in 2016, Leslie Core-Drevecky became the first) to earn the section's Golf Professional of the Year.

Honors also went to **Ethan Malzahn** (Denver Country Club) as the Assistant PGA Golf Professional of the Year and life member Rick Cole (formerly of Eaton Country Club) as the Warren Smith Award winner (special contributions to game of golf and the Colorado PGA).

Two professionals from Golftec Headquarters also received recognition: **Brad Skupaka** for Professional Development and **Jeremy Beck**, who got the Bill Strausbaugh Award for Mentorship of his fellow PGA professionals.

On the instruction side, **Leighton Smith** (Leighton Smith Golf) was named Teacher of the Year; **Stefanie Ferguson** of Experience Golf and CommonGround Golf Course, received the Player Development Award; **Jason Witczak** of The Club at Pradera and The Pinery earned the Youth Player Development Award for his work with the PGA Jr. League.

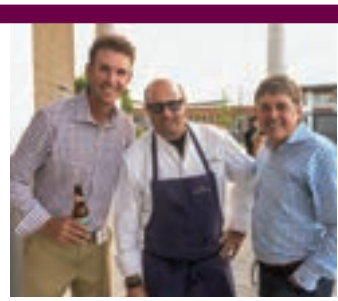
The Patriot Award—a new honor recognizing contributions and support to the U.S. armed forces and active-duty personal and veteran—went **Paul Surniak** of Cheyenne Shadows Golf Club.

In the Merchandiser of the Year division, **Tristen Fay** (Fort Collins Country Club) topped the private category; **Jim Miller** (Sonnenalp Golf Club) won among resort clubs; and **Cody Hasten** (Haymaker Golf Course) took the coveted public-course prize.

The above individuals will receive their awards at an October 29 ceremony at which The Dow Finsterwald ROLEX Player of the Year, ROLEX Senior Player of the Year, Associate Player of the Year and Colorado PGA Women's Player of the Year will be revealed. At press time, the point totals of defending ROLEX Players of the Year Geoff Keffer (Lakewood Country Club) and senior Doug Rohrbaugh (Snowmass Club) put them substantially ahead in their divisions, while the Associate and Women's races remained tighter.

The names of those recipients, as well as those of the Vic Kline Award (for outstanding service and leadership to the Section) and President's Award (for contributions that have enhanced the PGA professional, the Section and the game of golf) will appear in the winter issue of *Colorado AvidGolfer*. *coloradopga.com*.






WHEELS OF DREAMS

Thank You

Our sincere thanks to all who attended, supported and donated to the inaugural **Wheels of Dreams** event on August 28, 2021. With your generous contributions, we raised more than $75,000 for Bags of Fun and for National Jewish Health.

We hope you had a wonderful evening—enjoying performances by Teddy Robb and Nancy Haley Fine Art, and indulging in the culinary creations and cocktails from Chef Frank Bonanno of Bonanno Concepts and Chef Andrew Forlines, while having some fun with PointsBet.

The evening ended with a beautiful sunset reflecting off the exquisite cars on display. For us, it was pure magic to gather and give to our amazing charity partners. We could not have done it without your support, dedication and participation. We are truly grateful for all of you and look forward to making the next Wheels of Dreams bigger and better.

—AvidLifestyle and Colorado AvidGolfer






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A Clean Sweep for Rudosky

CONGRATULATIONS TO PGA HEAD professional **Micah Rudosky** of Cortez's Conquistador Golf Course, who on September 15 won the Colorado PGA Professional Championship with a 3-under 213 on the Blue Course at Eisenhower Golf Club in Colorado Springs. With the win, the 51-year-old joined Doug Rohrbaugh (2013) as the only players to sweep the Colorado Senior PGA Professional (which he won in August) and the CPGA Professional championships in the same year. The wins qualify him for both the 2021 Senior PGA Professional Championship (October 21-24) and 2022 PGA Professional Championship (April 17-20, 2022). The victory at Eisenhower marks Rudosky's second in the Section Championship, his first coming in 2001. *coloradopga.com*



COURTESY OF THE COLORADO PGA

Called to the Hall

ON NOVEMBER 3 IN MILWAUKEE, DURING its annual meeting, the PGA of America will induct **Kyle Heyen**, the PGA head professional at Hiwan Golf Club in Evergreen, into the PGA of America Hall of Fame. Heyen, who is also in the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame, has worked at Hiwan for 41 years—the last 36 as head PGA professional.

On his watch, Hiwan developed countless programs for player development and community outreach. It also has famously hosted numerous Colorado Opens, as well as state amateur and professional events, national AJGA tournaments and the Junior America's Cup. In 2009, he became the first Colorado PGA member to receive the PGA of America's President's Plaque.

A past president of the Colorado PGA Section (2004-'06), the Arvada resident has chaired or co-chaired myriad national PGA Committees and served a three-year term on the PGA Board of Directors as District 9 Director, representing the Colorado, Rocky Mountain and Utah PGA Sections.

Since 2017, Heyen, a lifelong distance runner, has organized and captained a team of PGA professionals who run the New York City Marathon on behalf of PGA REACH. Heading into this November's race, their efforts have raised $135,030.

Heyen becomes the sixth PGA professional with Colorado ties to enter the national pantheon, joining **Paul Runyan**, **Ed Dudley**, **Warren Smith**, **Charles "Vic" Kline** and **Dow Finsterwald**. *pga.org*



Elk on Tap

APPLEWOOD GOLF COURSE in Golden turned 60 this year, and among the presents it received was Bunker's Taproom. A sleek upgrade to the faded, drop-ceilinged 5680 Golfer's Grill, Bunker's opened in late July as part of a $400,000 renovation program undertaken by Touchstone Golf, which manages the property for the Prospect Recreation & Park District.

Bunker's isn't named for a hazard on the course. The appellation comes from one of the two elk—dubbed "Bunker" and "Brassie"—that decided to make their home behind the driving range one winter and never left. "They'd separated from the herd because Brassie had a bum leg, and Bunker never left his side," Touchstone's Vice President of Operations **Brian Melody** explains.

To Melody, who long served as Applewood's general manager, Bunker's kindness and loyalty suggested the special relationship the course enjoys with its membership—a relationship that saved Applewood from becoming a housing development six years ago. So, when Melody saw Bunker shedding his antlers in the spring, he retrieved them and mounted them over the entrance to the new taproom restaurant, which he named in honor of their former owner. *applewoodgc.com*

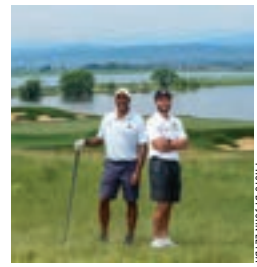


PHOTO BY JOHN LEYBA

Mulligan

IN OUR LAST ISSUE, the caption for this photo misidentified cover subject Karl Dorrell's son, **Chandler Dorrell**. We apologize for the error.

Golf by Numbers

2.5

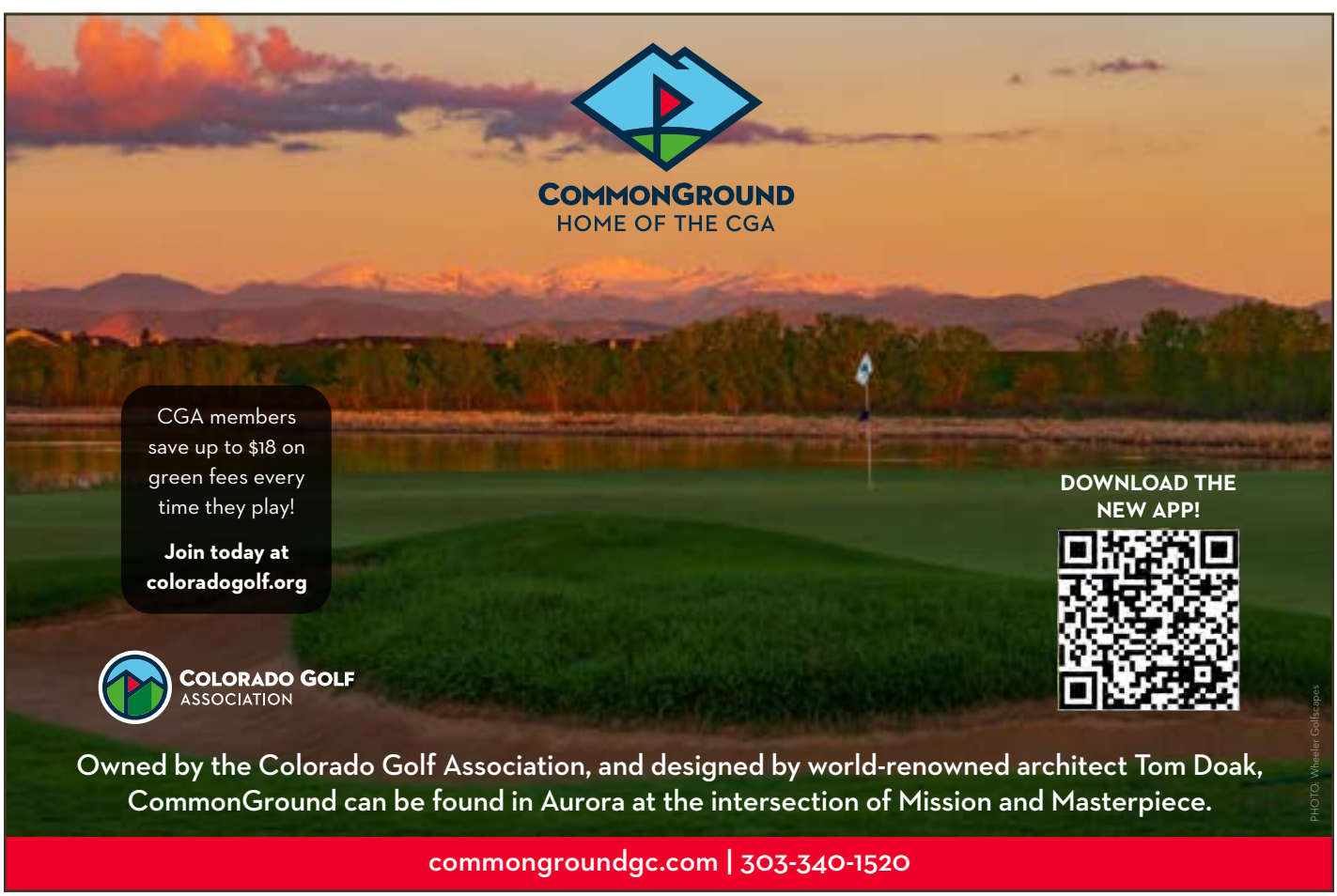
Although the U.S. lost to Europe, Westminster's **Jennifer Kupcho** shone in her Solheim Cup debut, finishing with 2.5 points, tied for most on the team. She is the first Colorado woman to play in the event. *coloradoavidgolfer.com*

276

Does playing with the right equipment really make a difference? See how Broncos' wideout **Courtland Sutton**'s drives carried 276 yards after a TrueSpec club-fitting session at The Ridge at Castle Pines North. *coloradoavidgolfer.com*

13

By finishing 13th in the three-tournament Korn Ferry Tour Finals, 31-year-old Cheyenne native and former CU Buff **Joshua Creel** earned his PGA TOUR card, making his debut in September's. Fortinet Championship. *pgatour.com*



The Lido Shuffle

A long-lost oceanside gem gets reborn…in *central Wisconsin*?

By Tom Ferrell

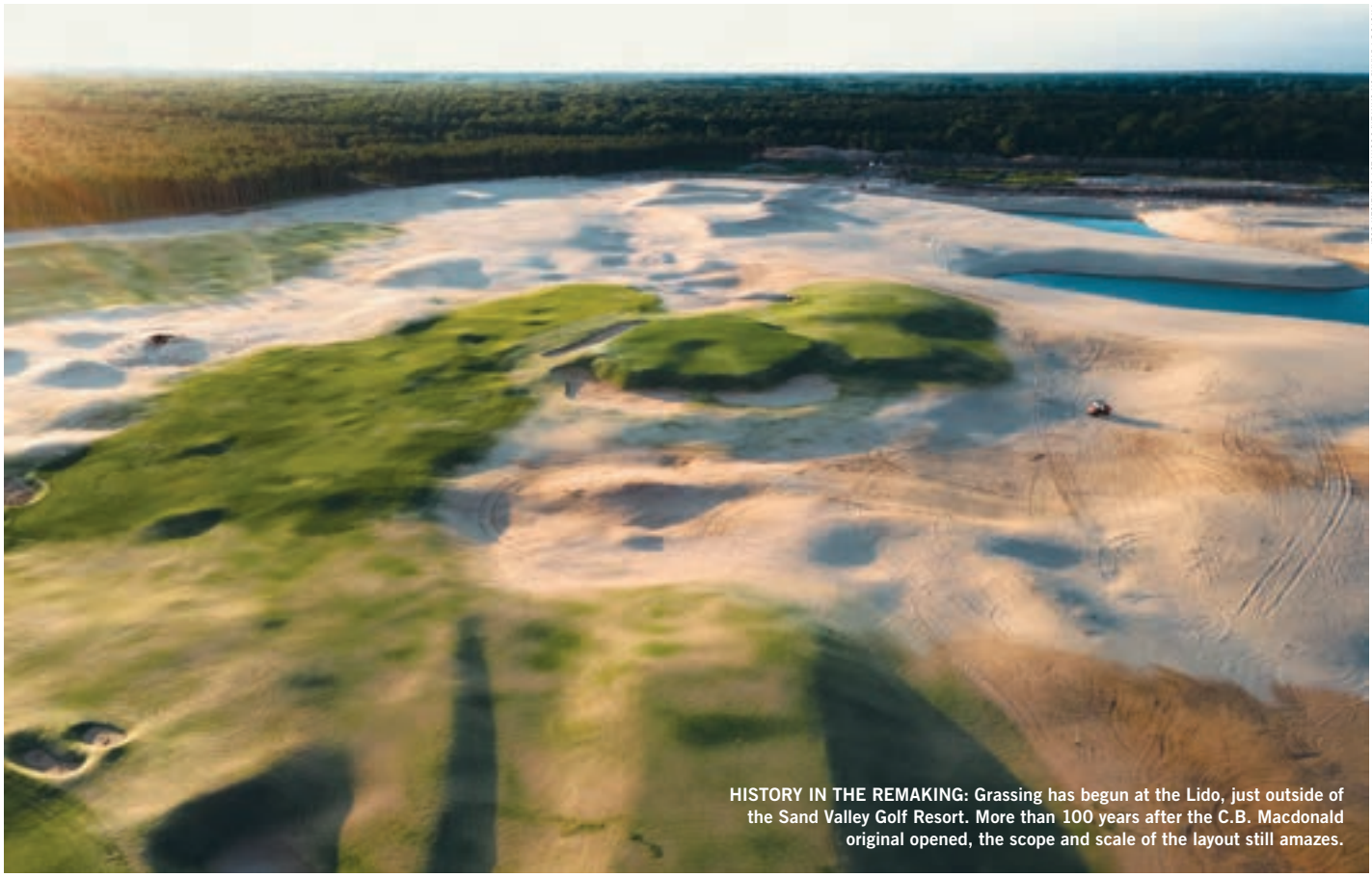


PHOTO BY BRANDON CARTER/COURTESY OF KEISER GOLF

HISTORY IN THE REMAKING: Grassing has begun at the Lido, just outside of the Sand Valley Golf Resort. More than 100 years after the C.B. Macdonald original opened, the scope and scale of the layout still amazes.

ON THE SURFACE, there are few similarities between the Atlantic shores of Long Island and the pine-studded sand deposits of central Wisconsin. Pursue the art of deeper vision, however, and you sometimes stumble upon unlikely opportunities. After all, Herb Kohler and Pete Dye engineered an homage to Irish golf at Whistling Straits, which sits on the Lake Michigan shoreline and has hosted a slew of majors, including this year's Ryder Cup. But while golf is full of "inspired by" and "in the spirit of" projects, the sons of one of golf's most famous entrepreneurs are going beyond such guiding principles to re-create the holy grail of golf's Golden Age—the Lido.

Mike Keiser, founder of Bandon Dunes in Oregon, and sons Michael and Chris, owners and operators of Sand Valley Golf Resort, are deeply tied to natural golf sites and designs. So it turned some heads when Michael and Chris announced plans to authentically re-stage a course renowned in its time as an engineering marvel.

"I had gotten fascinated with the story of the Lido—C.B. Macdonald's great course built in the tidal marshes of Long Island," Michael Keiser says. "When it opened in 1918, it was the crown jewel of golf's early Golden Age."

The eminent golf writer Bernard Darwin gushed over the Lido when he visited it shortly after opening. "Besides having a genius for golfing architecture, Macdonald must have the imagination of a poet and a seer. Otherwise, he could never have envisaged making such a course."

Macdonald's long-time associate Seth Raynor moved more than 2 million cubic yards of sand to fashion a rolling, rollicking site on what had been perfectly flat wetlands. His work changed the entire idea of course construction. Macdonald then carefully laid out his famous template holes—including Alps, Cape, Channel and Redan—and unveiled a golf experience like none the world had ever seen.

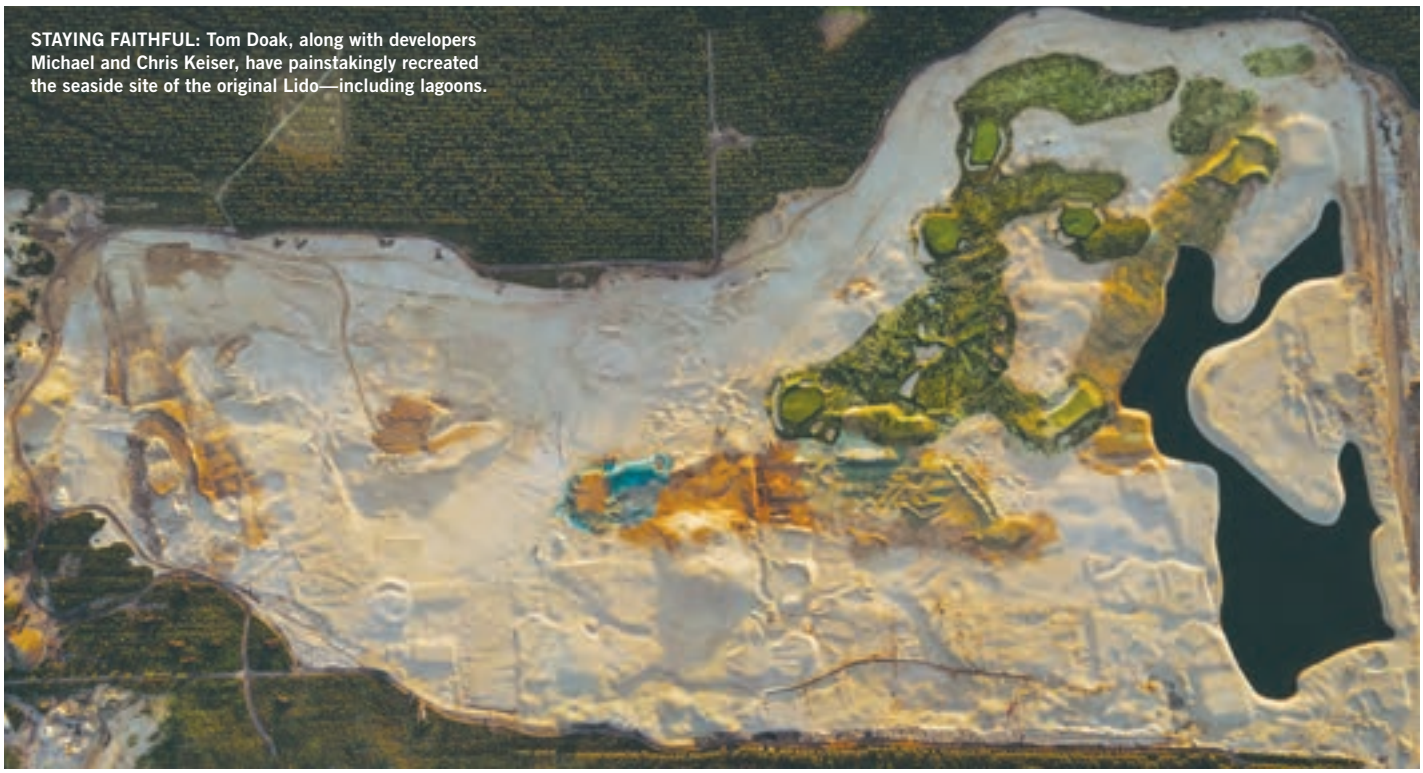
"Our golf ancestors could have desired nothing better," Darwin concluded. "The Lido is among the world's very best."

Macdonald, already famous for his designs at Chicago Golf Club and National Golf Links of America, pulled out all the stops at the Lido. He spent a then-astronomical $1.43 million building the course. As part of his bold promotion, he sponsored a contest for armchair architects, promising to integrate the winner's hole design into the final layout. Naturally, the winner was an obscure English architect named Alister MacKenzie, who would go on to become one of the lions of the craft.

But when World War II broke out, the U.S. Navy bought the land and destroyed the golf course, and thus a legend was born.

"My dad (Mike Keiser) has always dreamed of recreating the Lido," Michael Keiser says. "That was his original thought at Bandon for what became Old Mac (Old Macdonald). But there was just no way to truly recreate the site or conditions."

At least, according to conventional wisdom. The Keiser brothers soon discovered the work of



STAYING FAITHFUL: Tom Doak, along with developers Michael and Chris Keiser, have painstakingly recreated the seaside site of the original Lido—including lagoons.

RENDERING BY PETER FLORY

fellow Chicago resident and amateur golf historian Peter Flory. Using golf gaming technology, Flory had set about creating a virtual re-creation of the Lido, incorporating survey maps accurate to approximately one inch. His quest captured the imagination of many golf course architecture students, including the Keisers and Tom Doak, who discussed Flory's achievement while working on the routing for Sand Valley's third course.

"We thought it might be possible to clear a site and sculpt it using Peter's work as a guide. And that idea kind of took off."

Anyone who has played or studied Tom Doak's course design and written work has reaped the benefits of his painstaking attention to detail and authenticity. As the Lido discussion careened toward action, he peppered the Keisers with questions and identified key hurdles that would have to be cleared. First, the grade of the land had to match exactly the Lido site. Given that Raynor constructed Lido only after moving some two million cubic yards of sand, and the Sand Valley region is—obviously—gifted with ample amounts of sand, this seemed possible.

Then the came the more capricious issue of wind. The original Lido occupied a windswept tidal basin devoid of trees or other vegetation. Wind was not just a daily condition; it was a design factor. So, if the re-creation were to be viable, orientation and wind would need to be similar, and no one had ever compared the winds of Nekoosa, Wisconsin, to those of Long Beach, New York.

"We felt like we had to follow the cardinal points of the original in terms of compass points—the holes needed to play in the same direction," says Michael Keiser. "The next question then was, how does the wind line up?"

Using wind roses—overlays of NOAA records denoting wind speeds and directions over 12-month periods—the Keiser brothers made a startling and welcome discovery. "The 12-month wind roses of the Wisconsin site and the Long Island site were almost identical," Keiser says. "This was the go/no-go decision, and we all agreed: Go!"



PHOTO BY P. MORNIG/COURTESY OF KEISER GOLF

EVINCE AND REPEAT: "Alps" at the Lido is one of C.B. Macdonald's trademark "template" holes.

The "go" decision ironically benefited from a "no-go" decision on the third Sand Valley Resort course. That project required significant financing, and with the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping across the world in early 2020, the Keisers hit the hold button. The Lido, however, offered a unique financing opportunity—a private club model with weekday access to resort guests—and the timing that felt right to both Doak and the developers. Guided by Flory's extraordinary renderings (see them at *thelido.com*), the team began work in 2020. Preview play for members will begin in 2022, with the grand opening scheduled for 2023.

A project like re-creating the Lido is inevitably going to leave a lasting influence on its developers. Michael Keiser says it has already changed his thinking toward golf design and construction: "One thing Lido has taught me is to go aggressively after the very best possible holes. That was C.B. Macdonald's idea with the original. It was big and audacious, and he embraced that." The Keiser brothers' future projects—a hopeful rumor has them interested in a parcel of sandy Colorado land, among other sites—will certainly reflect this new boldness.

"There's no reason to be afraid of engineering and construction," Keiser, Jr. notes. Yes, nature does the finest work, but when you get the opportunity to dial it up to 11 and make ordinary holes extraordinary, do it!"

Turning it up to 11. That's always been the Lido way—both then and now. CAG

Tom Ferrell is *CAG*'s editor-at-large. See more at *thelido.com*. For Sand Valley, visit *sandvalley.com*.

Knee-to-Know Basics

Is knee pain preventing you from scoring—or even playing? Joint replacement isn't the only solution. By Kathleen Kershisnik Sieg, DPT

KNEE PAIN AND KNEE INJURIES can significantly alter a golfer's swing mechanics and ability to walk the course. In fact, a healthy knee joint is crucial for a golfer to maintain stability and balance during the follow-through. According to Oregon-based orthopedic surgeon Timothy Bollom, M.D. a golf swing delivers a force of 4½ to 5 times your body weight to your lead leg's knee joint in less than a quarter of a second. "It would be less stress on your knee to jog 18 holes than to play 18 holes," he says.

So, although hip pain is also a common complaint of golfers, your knee is far more likely to be injured while playing golf or to become arthritic with age than your hip is. The knee accounts for 80 percent of all cases of osteoarthritis, which is the most prevalent joint disease and leading source of chronic pain in the U.S., making knee replacements more than twice as common than hip replacements. In 2019, an estimated 490,000 total hip replacements and 1.1 million total knee replacements were performed, and these numbers are predicted to rise, reaching 1.4 million total hip replacements and 3.4 million total knee replacements per year by 2040.

Although these statistics are alarming, they're not surprising—especially if you are one of many who are experiencing knee pain and considering a surgery. Or if you're someone recovering from a total knee replacement.

As a Doctor of Physical Therapy and former NCAA Division I golfer and assistant coach, I have studied the biomechanics of the golf swing for years. I have developed prehab and rehab exercises so my patients can return to playing as quickly and safely as possible. Ideally perform these exercises 3-5 times per week.

HEALING? JUST ADD WATER

Put 2 scoops of collagen powder a day in your coffee or a smoothie to promote soft-tissue and bone healing.

Add 1 scoop of electrolyte powder to your water 1-2 times a day to improve hydration and ability for the body to heal.

PREHAB:





PHOTOGRAPHS BY EJ CARR

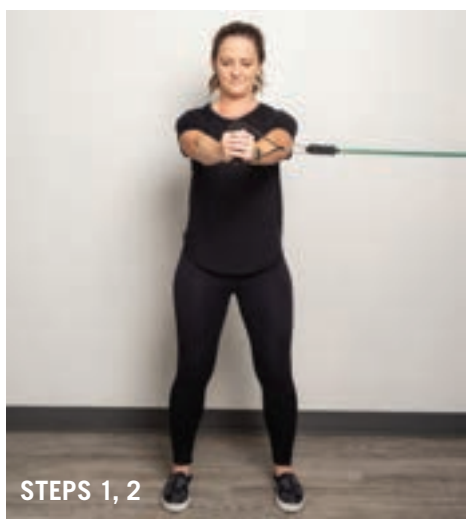
POSTERIOR PELVIC TILT + GLUTE BRIDGE WITH RESISTANCE

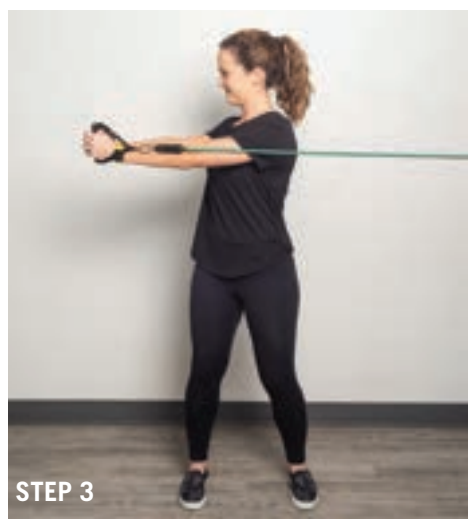
2-3 sets of 10 reps with a 3-sec. hold at the top

STEPS:

1. Lay on firm surface your back with knees bent and a medium to heavy resistance band above your knees.
2. Engage your lower abdominal muscles by flattening your low back into the ground.
3. Lift your hips, squeezing your glutes at the top.
4. Lower your hips back to the ground, rolling out of the bridge by touching your low back to the surface before your tailbone.

BENEFITS: Increases strength of your core, hips, and thighs (the muscle group most affected by atrophy following knee surgery).





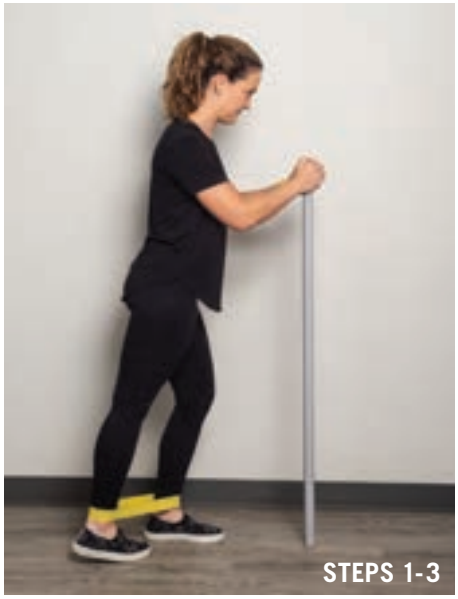
RESISTED THORACIC SPINE ROTATIONS

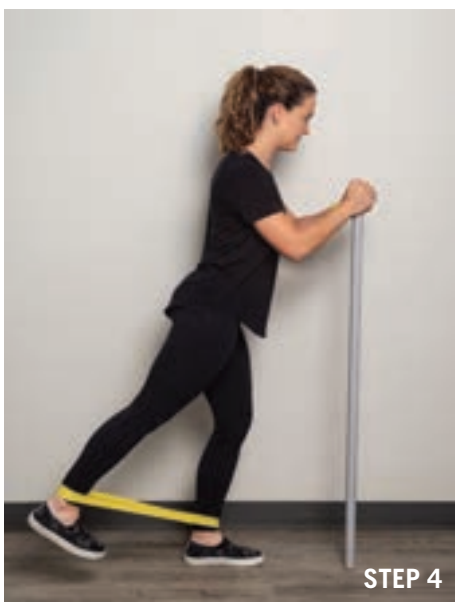
2-3 sets of 15 reps

STEPS:

1. Stand in a golf stance with your knees slightly bent and your arms extended out in line with your shoulders.
2. Using an overlapping grip, hold a light- to medium-resistance band in both hands.
3. Keeping your elbows straight, rotate your arms and trunk over your hips (like a golf swing) without moving your hips or locking your knees.
4. Slowly control the resistance band back to the starting position in line with your chest.

BENEFITS: Strengthens core while increasing active spinal and hip rotation range of motion during the golf swing.





DIAGONAL HIP EXTENSION KICKS (WITH OR WITHOUT RESISTANCE)

2-3 sets of 15 reps

STEPS:

1. Stand with hands supported at countertop or chair and light-to medium-resistance loop around both ankles.
2. On the standing leg slightly bend the knee to engage your glute muscles.
3. On the kicking leg, straighten your knee and point your toe slightly inward.
4. Kick backwards and sideways at a diagonal, engage your core to avoid arching at the low back.

BENEFITS: For increasing bilateral hip stability, improving balance, and reducing swaying at the hips throughout the golf swing.

REHAB/POST-OPERATIVE (6-12 WEEKS POST-OPERATION)

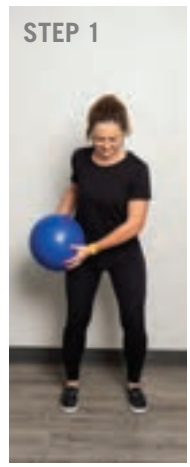
WALL BALL REBOUNDS

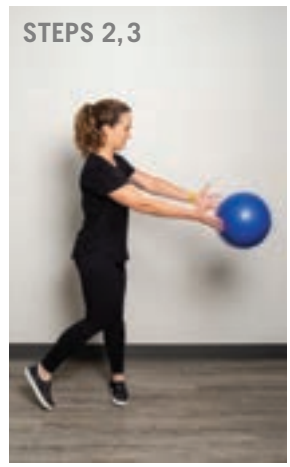
2-3 sets of 20 reps

STEPS:

1. Stand in a golf stance with your knees slightly bent, holding a small stability ball or weighted ball in both hands against the front of your outside hip.
2. Turn at your hips (like a golf swing) throwing the ball against the wall using the power of your arms and hips.
3. Finish with your hips and trunk facing the wall like you would on your follow-through.

BENEFITS: Improves balance, strength, agility and the ability to finish a golf swing confidently.





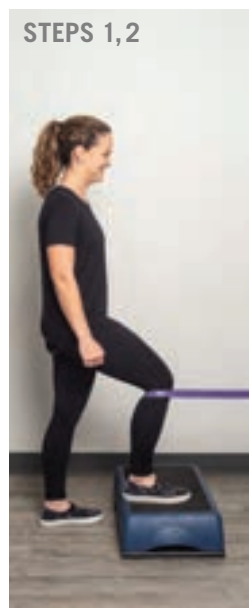
STAIR STEP UP WITH RESISTED TERMINAL KNEE EXTENSION

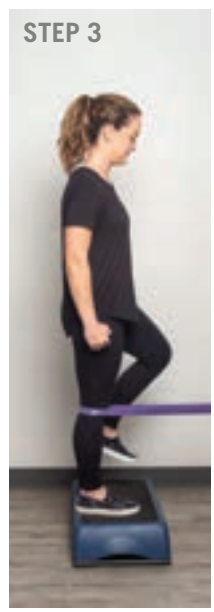
1-2 sets of 20 reps with 3-sec. hold, each leg

STEPS:

1. Loop one side of a medium/heavy resistance band around a banister or stable pole and the other side around the back of your knee joint
2. Step up on a 4- to 8-inch step stool or bottom step of a staircase
3. Straighten your knee into the resistance band, activating your quadriceps muscle
4. Relieve tension on the band as you bend your knee and return your opposite foot to the ground.

BENEFITS: Increases quadriceps strength, knee extension range of motion and the ability to climb stairs and walk the golf course safely.





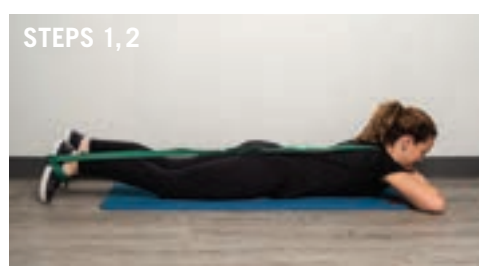
QUADRICEPS STRAP STRETCH/ PRONE KNEE FLEXION

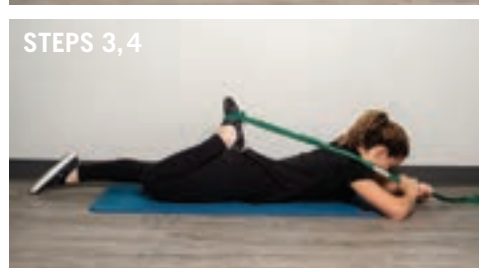
Perform 2-3x/daily for 2 minutes moving the knee in and out flexion

STEPS:

1. Loop a yoga strap, dog leash, belt or rope around your mid-foot.
2. Lay on your stomach holding the opposite end of the strap in your hands.
3. Pull the strap to bend your knee and stretch your quadriceps muscle.
4. The goal is to get your heel as close to your butt without increasing knee joint pain.

BENEFITS: Increases knee flexion range of motion in order to improve a golfer's ability to walk, swing and pick up their ball after sinking a birdie putt.





Kathleen Kershisnik Sieg DPT practices at Physical Dimensions Integrative Health Group in Englewood. *physicaldimensionsihg.com*; 303-925-1050. For detailed videos of these exercises, go to Instagram @KKSiegDPT or the company Facebook page: Physical Dimensions-Chiropractic/Physical Therapy.

The Fall Guise

When the seasons change, it's time to layer up for brisk rounds near home or pare down for tee times in sunnier climes

By Suzanne S. Brown



UP TO PAR

The California-based clothing brand **Linksoul** has crossover appeal, looking good either on the course or on the town after a round of golf. For fall, check out the cotton blend "drytech" Anza polos and shirts in solids, prints and stripes, $78-$88, to wear with Bandon knit pants in stretch cotton, $130, available in three colors. Top them with a cotton "cashmere" hoodie, $130 and Raen Pierce sunglasses, $175, and you'll be looking good wherever your day takes you. *linksoul.com*



TOP HAT

Twenty years ago, Stephanie Carter co-founded the Boulder-based the Wallaroo Hat Company, offering sun protection and superior style for any outdoor pursuit. Named for an Australian marsupial, Wallaroo has now launched **Carkella**, a brand inspired by an estate along that country's Murrumbidgee River. In addition to travel-friendly design and stylish SPF, the signature feature of Carkella hats is their customizable magnetic emblems. The reversible Colorado emblem, for example, has a mountain rendering on one side and a version of the state flag on the other. It looks great on the unisex Fairway, $58, a design with a 2½-inch brim and adjustable sizing. The double-sided emblems cost $7; non-reversible emblems are $5. *carkella.com*



SURE-FOOTED

Golf shoes that offer traction and stability may not shave points off your score, but they will give you a good foundation for playing your best. **Ecco** is one of the leading brands because models like the new BIOM H4 shoes help grip the ground and offer stability through your swing via a stabilizer made of TPU (thermoplastic polyurethane—a fusion of plastic, elastic and rubber) that wraps around the foot from the outsole to the midsole. And for those who favor fashionable footwear, the understated sneaker-like shoe comes in four colors for men and three for women and features leather uppers in waterproof Gore-Tex and a new outsole with three zones of traction. $200. *eccousa.com*

PULLING ONE OVER

Whether your fall travel plans take you to a Colorado mountain course or to a tropical resort, a layering piece that offers comfort and warmth will come in handy. A couple of new styles from **Adidas** are sure to find a place in your bag. The Statement Quarter Zip Pullover, $120, is made of knitted recycled polyester that has a water-repellant coating. The padded and quilted front is stylish and functional, as are the front pockets with adjustable cuffs. For off the course or on a casual round, Adidas offers the COLD.RDY Go-To Hoodie, $90, in a lightweight jacquard fabric that keeps the wearer warm by trapping air between the body and the garment. It has front pockets, a hood with drawcord, and ribbed cuffs and hem. *adidas.com*



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PRINTS CHARMING

Fashion rules used to dictate that you didn't wear white after Labor Day, nor colors that were bright and reminiscent of summer. But the rules, like leaves on the trees, change. Today vibrant patterns and colors are welcomed on the golf course year-round. Heidi Spellerberg, head designer for **Jofit** women's golf and fitness apparel, is endorsing "preppy with a pop" in her fall Reposado Blanco lineup for the label. She incorporates traditional patterns, such as overvsized herringbone and houndstooth, and adds bold pops of candy-hued pink as a foil to black and white in an assortment of tops, skorts, shorts and pants. Prices in the collection range from $86 to $186. *jofit.com*





TOP TECH

More than two decades ago, Norwegian skier and Olympian Lasse Kjus started a company to introduce function and performance to clothing for his sport. Next, Kjus (pronounced "shu-ss") added a golf division and the company has its North American headquarters in Boulder. Golfers love the clean look as well as the technical features of its products, such as the windproof men's Retention Jacket, a versatile fall piece. The design on the jacket's chest was inspired by origami and it has lightweight insulation on the front and four-way stretch on the arms and the back. Retention comes in six color combinations, has front zippered pockets and elastic at hem and sleeves, $299. It is also available as a vest, $249. *kjus.com*



IN THE PINK

Pink is a signature color at **Golftini**, not only because it's flattering but sales of the brand's pink items support breast-cancer charities. Company founder and designer Susan Hess, who at age 14 lost her mother to the disease, has included pink in every collection since starting the business. Golftini redoubles its efforts each October during Breast Cancer Awareness month, and it contributes to the cause year-round through sales on its website (customers choose their charity and a percentage of sales are donated) and by donating skorts to be raffled at events. New items supporting Golftini's efforts are the performance-fabric, side-pleated Awareness skort, $125, pull-on ruffle tech Mamma Mia skort, $110, and mock neck long sleeve top, $95. *golftiniwear.com*

CAG Contributor Suzanne S. Brown is the former fashion editor of *The Denver Post.*

And Along Came a Cider

Pie's nice, but Colorado apples are finding a warm reception in award-winning hard ciders. By John Lehndorff



POUR AN APPLE: BoCo Ciders has more than 12 ciders on tap at its North Boulder taproom.

PHOTO BY ROBIN ROURICIUS

LIKE BITING INTO one of those crisp fall apples, sipping a great cider is a burst of sweet-tart orchard juice on your palate.

Apples are *the* taste of autumn and harvest time. (Pumpkin spice is just a fad!)

It was only a decade ago that cider started nudging its way back into our collective consciousness and national brands like Angry Orchard appeared.

Beer may always be more popular, but traditional ciders are grabbing more attention in Colorado, following in the footsteps of the state's roster of craft breweries and distilleries. Local cideries and tasting rooms have opened, most bars and restaurants offer several ciders and liquor stores have shifted shelf space from endless ales to showcase locally produced ciders.

Colorado's apple cidery corps has steadily grown to include about 18 producers across the state, according to Brad Page, founder of the Colorado Cider Guild.

However, the ancient traditional beverage of cider is suffering from some significant misperceptions.

"The cider industry has catered to this mass market that likes beverages that are light, fruity and fizzy," says Page who is also owner of 10-year-old Colorado Cider Company in Denver.

The mass market prefers its beverages very sweet.

"A can of Angry Orchard hard cider has 28 grams of sugar. That's like a Coke. The semi-dry cider at Colorado Cider has 5 grams and in the craft market that's considered kind of sweet," Page says.

Part of the problem is that we think cider is the same as beer. "Cider should be treated more like wine because it's all about the fruit and the area it's grown in," he says. It's the *terroir* French winemakers talk about.

The taste of a cider from an orchard can widely vary from year to year. "There's a flavor difference between a Kingston Black cider apple grown in New England, Michigan or Colorado," Page says.

Like wine, ciders are ideally enjoyed with food. "Ciders are more on the white-wine side of the palate," Page explains. "The acid level in some of these Colorado ciders is pretty bracing so they go well with rich, fatty foods: Spanish cheeses, salumi, and seafood."

At his Colorado Cider Co. tasting room in Denver, more than 20 ciders on tap and in bottles are available. This allows visitors to do vertical tastings—different years of the same cider—to snip and sip the nuances.

"Cider in Colorado has come a long way in ten years. People are making some very good ciders in in the state that are winning awards in the national competitions. We've etched out a little bit of a reputation," he says, pointing out the competition from cideries in big apple areas including the Pacific Northwest, Michigan, Virginia and New England.

Why are Colorado ciders getting noticed? The makers are growing and pressing the heirloom varieties of cider apples that are less sweet and high in the tannins that yield great flavors after fermentation. The British call them "spitters" because they don't taste very good raw.

Growers around the state, particularly in Montezuma County, have launched an effort to replant them.

"It's an incredibly long-term project. We need to grow these apples in quantity so we can play around with them in ciders," he says. It takes eleven pounds of apples to make a gallon of cider. Page is doing his part to bring back old apples by planting 4,000 trees in his Western


COURTESY OF ST. VRAIN CIDERY


COURTESY OF BIG B'S DELICIOUS ORCHARDS


COURTESY OF COLORADO CIDER CO.


Brad and Kathe Page


COURTESY OF STEM CIDERS

NEW FROM APPLE: Clockwise, from top left: Longmont's St. Vrain Cidery products come in a range of fruit flavors and colors; Big B's Delicious Orchards are in Hotchkiss; Colorado Cider Co. makes Orchard Run; Lafayette-based Stem Ciders serves more than 20 ciders & Basque-inspired comfort food at its Acreage taproom.

> "Craft cider is a smaller market of people who appreciate it, but it is growing. We're true cider believers. We're just waiting for everyone else to catch up." —Brad Page

Slope orchard since 2013.

"There are people all over the state making cider from traditional cider apples they've grown ranging from Fenceline in Mancos to Snow Capped in Cedaredge. At Colorado Cider Co we make bottled ciders including Heirloom, a blend made from old varieties we have in the orchard," Page says.

Like wines, many ciders are blends to achieve that refreshing balance between the tannin, tartness and sugar in the fruits.

Colorado ciders are as diverse taste-wise as ales ranging from dramatically dry or semi-sweet to fruit-forward, oak-aged or infused with other fruits, hops and even spruce and cucumbers. Ciders can be still or effervescent like Champagne.

"The general consuming public is still in the Miller Lite phase of cider appreciation. The same thing happened with beer. People were initially freaked out by hops and too much flavor," Page says.

"Craft cider is a smaller market of people who appreciate it, but it is growing. We're true cider believers. We're just waiting for everyone else to catch up."

FRUITS AND LOOPS

COLORADO APPLES AND GOLF COURSES HAVE GROWN HAND IN HAND

EVERY TIME A GOLFER bites into an apple on the East or West courses at The Broadmoor, they get a taste of the long colorful history of apples and golf in Colorado.


COURTESY OF THE BROADMOOR

Back in 1867, before Colorado was a state, Jesse Frazer planted the first apple orchard in Florence. At that time, most apples were pressed for hard cider, not sliced in pies. By the late 1890s, Colorado was famous for the sweet eating apples it shipped east by rail.

Meanwhile, in 1887, a horse track on the west side of Denver known as Jewell Park was purchased and became Overland Park Club (the original name and home to the Denver Country Club), opening a nine-hole course in 1895. And before the century turned, Colorado Springs boasted two private courses: the nine-hole Cheyenne Mountain Country Club and the 18-hole Town and Gown Club, which now operates as the public 27-hole Patty Jewett Golf Course.

Also in Colorado Springs, Spencer Penrose bought Dixon's Apple Orchard in 1916 to create his estate next door to The Broadmoor, the grand hotel he would open two years later. Penrose named the estate El Pomar—Spanish for "The Orchard"—and that land eventually became part of the resort's golf course.

Since 2001, in honor of El Pomar, fresh apples have been offered from a barrel to every golfer as they begin play on either the East or West course. Colorado apples have also always figured prominently in The Broadmoor kitchen's famous desserts and pastries.

On the facing page, The Broadmoor shares an uncomplicated recipe for a fall American classic, the Apple Brown Betty.

The Broadmoor's
Apple Brown Betty



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BROADMOOR

Ingredients:

For the almond streusel:
- ½ cup butter, room temperature
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1½ cups rolled oats
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup sliced almonds

For the bottom layer:
- 1¼ cup sugar
- 2 cups apple juice
- ½ vanilla bean
- About ½ baguette, day-old

For the apple filling:
- 8 Colorado Granny Smith apples
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ cup apple juice (leftover from bottom layer)

½ cup cornstarch

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

For the almond streusel: Mix all ingredients together by hand until mixture is crumbly. Cover and refrigerate 1 hour before use.

For the bottom layer: Combine sugar and apple juice in a bowl. Split the vanilla bean and scrape the seeds into the apple juice mixture. Slice baguette into ½-inch pieces and dip into apple juice mixture. Line the bottom of a lightly buttered 9- by 13-inch pan with the bread.

For the apple filling: Peel and slice apples into ½-inch slices. Combine apples, sugars and cinnamon in a bowl. Heat a large pan over medium-low heat. Add apples and cook until fruit is juicy and mixture begins to boil. Meanwhile, whisk together the ½ cup reserved apple juice and cornstarch in a small bowl; stir completely into boiling apple mixture. Return to boil and simmer one to two minutes. Cool to room temperature and pour over bread in pan. Cover with streusel mixture and bake until streusel is golden brown, about 30 to 40 minutes.

Serve warm with vanilla ice cream and a glass of dry Colorado cider.

The Cider State

TO VISIT SOME of the Colorado cideries producing diverse styles, consult the cidery directory of the **Colorado Cider Guild** *(cocideriguild.org)*. Here are some of the best and most widely available Colorado ciders worth discovering.

Big B's Delicious Orchards
Hotchkiss *(bigbs.com)*

BoCo Cider
Boulder *(bococider.com)*

Clear Fork Cider
Wheat Ridge *(clearforkcider.com)*

Colorado Cider Co.
Denver *(coloradocider.com)*

EssoTerra Ciderworks
Dolores *(esoterracider.com)*

Fenceline Cider
Mancos *(fenceline.co)*

Haykin Family Cider
Aurora *(haykinfamilycider.com)*

St. Vrain Cidery
Longmont *(stvraincidery.com)*

Snow Capped Cider
Cedaredge *(snowcappedcider.com)*

Stem Ciders
Denver and Lafayette *(stemciders.com)*

Talbott's Cider Company
Palisade *(talbottsciderco.com)*

Wild Cider
Firestone *(wildcider.com)*



CAG Contributor John Lehndorff writes the Nibbles column for the *Boulder Weekly* and hosts *Radio Nibbles* weekly on KGNU (*kgnu.org*).

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Hitting the Refresh Button

Six significant upgrades give signature models new life. By Isaac Bouchard

2021 AUDI SQ5 SPORTBACK

EPA RATINGS: 18/24/20 MPG
0-60MPH: 5.1 SEC
PRICE AS TESTED: $66,640

Audi has done a great job preserving most of the qualities that made the first gen SQ5 so wonderful. It was restrained yet expensive looking, had a beautiful interior and was fun to drive. The highlight was a sledgehammer V6 engine, which had to go, due to Euro emissions laws. It's been replaced by a turbocharged six with outputs of 354hp/369lb-ft, which now pairs with a conventional 8-speed automatic instead of the previous, twin-clutch gearbox.

While some character has been lost, this newer SQ5 rides significantly better, is slightly more refined and has tech that is much more contemporary, including Audi's slick VirtualCockpit instrument display. The SQ5 is now available with a normal crossover body or in a coupe-like silhouette called Sportback, for those who wish to stand out a bit more.

Both offer high quality interiors in the traditional Audi fashion with comfortable, diamond-stitched seating and decent cargo capacity. The driving position and overall driving demeanor are more that of a tall wagon than an old-fashioned SUV.

This is not a bad thing, for it means less hobby-horse body motions and better reflexes. While not as ferociously fast as an BMW X3 M40i or Mercedes AMG GLC43, the Audi seems a bit more solid in construction quality, and its price point is reasonable considering its practicality and performance.





2021 GENESIS GV80

EPA Ratings: 18/23/20 mpg
0-60mph: 5.3sec
Price as tested: $66,475

A late arrival to a fancy ball needs to be able to make an entrance, and the GV80 certainly does. The Genesis looks like nothing else on the road; its giant, "shield" grill, Oreo Double Stuff lighting motif and sloping side profile are unique.

While that extrovert body may not be to everyone's taste, it is hard to imagine anyone finding fault with the stunning cockpit. There is a wonderful cohesiveness that pervades it. A great example is the knurled finish for the control like the temperature adjusters and light and wiper stalks, which is echoed right down to the "dead pedal" tread design, where you can rest your left foot. Especially when trimmed in what Genesis calls Ultramarine and Dune (blue and tan), the GV80's interior is stunning, and shames anything near the price.

The GV80 third row is part-time only, the norm for this size of crossover. Genesis tech is generally intuitive and fast and the center 14.5in screen is impressive. The top model, Advanced+, has all the driver aids one expects, though they don't operate with quite the polish of the more established class leaders. That goes for the way the GV80 drives, too. While smooth and refined, the combo of 3.5-liter, 375hp V6 engine and in-house 8-speed auto never generate the performance numbers nor fuel economy of a BMW X5.

Overall, the GV80's adjustable suspension is quite good—albeit a little pattery over broken tarmac. It's as quiet as a Bentley at highway speeds, and the gentle massage the seats serve up goes well with the soothing sounds from the Lexicon audio system. The GV80 is more than a hell of a first effort at a larger SUV; it is a full-fledged competitor to the most established premium vehicles available in its class as well as being a singular aesthetical statement.

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Highlands Ranch, CO 80126
303-730-3030

Boulder Store:
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2021 CADILLAC ESCALADE

EPA RATINGS: 14/19/16 MPG
0-60MPH: 5.9SEC
PRICE AS TESTED: $113,065

Each generation of Escalade has been defined to a large extent by the platform upon which it is built, one which also underpins the Chevrolet Tahoe and Suburban and various GMC SUVs. This latest Cadillac iteration is the most distinct yet from those relatives and is a worthy challenger to the best from Europe (and simply crushes those from Asia). Now that the Escalade's suspension is independent all around, it has second and third rows as commodious as its huge body would imply.

It is smoother overall than the Mercedes GLS, and about the only thing that can match its ability to insulate occupants from the nastiness passing beneath its huge, 22-inch wheels is the BMW X7. In fact, over certain types of bumps the Cadillac's combination of magnetic damping and adaptive air springs does even better. Powertrain-wise, the Escalade has more than enough thrust to hustle. But lacking turbos, the American never can pin occupants back into their supple chairs like the big Autobahn burners.

Best of all, the Escalade no longer embarrasses itself with inferior interior materials or lack of user-friendly, modern tech. Its commodious cockpit is swathed in the same level of hide and timber as those it jousts against, and it appears assembled to at least the same high standard. The CUE infotainment system now matches BMW's iDrive system for speed, ease of use and breadth of ability, and is much more intuitive than that in the Mercedes.

The Cadillac has the better-looking displays too, hosted in a stunning, curved sweep across the leather-covered dash. Comprised of three OLED screens, which combined have 38 inches of real estate, boasting gorgeous graphics and logical menus. The sound system comes in either 19- or 36-speaker flavors. While excellent, it is no better in terms of tonal accuracy than the ones in a BMW or Benz. Most driver aids are standard, and Cadillac's Super Cruise option is available. It is highly recommended, as it allows for true, hands-free driving on the highway, making long-distance travel significantly less taxing than the systems from the European companies. It is hard not to want Super Cruise or its equivalent in every vehicle.



2021 FORD BRONCO

EPA RATINGS: 14/19/16 MPG
0-60MPH: 6.8SEC (EST)
PRICE AS TESTED: $62,605

No recent vehicle has generated more excitement—or preorders—over the past year than the Bronco. The weight of expectations is huge, and by and large the Ford lives up to them. About the only missteps appear to be the kind of quality-related lapses that often affect the company's new releases. Those aside, we have a valid competitor to the Jeep Wrangler, which has become one of the best-selling vehicles in the US.

The Bronco has the look down—at least when equipped with the 32- or 35-inch tires and off-road suspension that are available on all trim levels. Broncos can be had with either 300hp, 4-cylinder or 330hp, 6-cylinder, turbocharged engines; the one to have here is the six; hooked to a 10-speed auto, it scoots the "Big" Bronco along with aplomb. A 7-speed manual is optional with the four on lower trim levels.

The Ford has an independent front suspension, unlike the live-axle equipped Wrangler, and this pays off in greater steering precision and better on-pavement handling. In the dirt or mud, the Bronco is the real deal as well; available locking diffs, a front antisway bar that can be disconnected, beadlock wheels and other hardware insure it is the driver who will be responsible for getting stuck, not the SUV itself. And there are all kinds of slick electronic aids to help insure even first-time rock crawlers acquit themselves well.

The Bronco is available in 2- and 4-door trim, with soft or hard tops (though there is no power sliding roof option like the Jeep) and all doors can be removed. Unlike the Wrangler, the Ford's windows are frameless, and while this makes it possible to store them onboard, it creates extra wind noise when they are rolled up. They also tend to snag on their weather stripping—not a good sign for long-term durability. The interior can be spec'd to be almost completely weather-proof.

Although the top models have cheap plastic placed in highly visible places, real thought has gone into design and functionality. The smartphone and camera holders are built into the dash top, slick graphics for an optional 12-inch infotainment screen and other details delight. Those who sit up front are well looked after; the 4-door has a wider back seat and 50 percent more cargo room, but even the 2-door has adequate space. It is truly wonderful to see a real rival to the Jeep (and Land Rover Defender) emerge into what we used to call the "recreational" vehicle market.

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2021 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE L

EPA RATINGS: 14/19/16 MPG
0-60MPH: 6.3SEC (EST)
PRICE AS TESTED: $67,210

A decade has passed since there was an all-new Grand Cherokee. The outgoing model was respected for its interior quality, which was higher than any domestic competitor, and for the way it drove. Based on a Mercedes platform, it had excellent ride and handling. Jeep has doubled down with the new one, literally: a long-wheelbase, 3-row model, dubbed simply L, to go with the standard model.

This Grand Cherokee very clean stylistically, with a long, flat hood and bluff front that emphasize that it is 15 inches longer than the older model. It has real elegance and presence in person—at least in higher trims like Overland and Summit Reserve. Inside it's the same story: material quality is generally appropriate to the Jeep's mission to be a true premium SUV and the aesthetic is modern yet not too trendy. Instruments are configurable on a 10.1in screen and the center screen that runs UConnect5's excellent software is upgradable from 8.4 to 10 inches a well. The midlevel Alpine sound system is all most will ever need, but sound hounds can spring for the 19-speaker system from legendary audiophile company McIntosh.

Equipped with the correct options, the Grand Cherokee also has real off-road chops, a critical part of the brand's heritage and not just marketing-speak. This is especially true if you go with the air suspension (Overland and above) or off-road package. In the normal cut n' thrust, the Grand Cherokee is quieter, more refined, rides better and handles better than its already good forebear. The V6 and V8 engines are basically carryovers, as is the 8-speed tranny. The GC can tow up to 7,200 pounds, which is rare in the class, though sadly there is no factory trailer brake controller. Jeep has carved out a great space for itself in consumer consciousness, being upscale but unpretentious, premium but capable. This Grand Cherokee looks perfectly calibrated to enhance those traits.



2021 KIA SORENTO X-LINE

EPA RATINGS: 21/28/24 MPG
0-60MPH: 7.6SEC
PRICE AS TESTED: $44,285

Kia has been on quite a run, gaining sales and growing market share. Its vehicles are reliable, well-built and generally loaded with standard equipment. With the Telluride, Kia reached a new audience and created a true, halo product. The Sorento, redone last year, slots in neatly below it, and offers some compelling attributes.

For one, it looks sharp, with contemporary lines, good proportions and clever detailing, especially in the X-Line trim, whose matte gray wheels and roof rack grant it an aggressive mien.

The interior impresses the first time you open the doors, with boldly conceived forms and varied finishes. The big screens (10.25 and 12.3 inches) have bright, clear graphics and the intuitive UVO infotainment software outdoes Honda and Toyota. The Sorento is priced like a loaded Toyota RAV4, but has an available third row—good for kids only on short hops—and center-row bucket seats that promise more than they deliver.

When not in use, these rows fold to reveal a capacious cargo area. No criticisms apply to the front seats, which cater well to driver and right-side passenger. While the Sorento X-Line looks sporty, it doesn't drive that way. Its 2.5-liter turbo generates an impressive 281hp/311lb-ft, which makes it much quicker than the non-turbo Toyota or Honda, whose engine is only 1.5 liters in size. But the tranny seems confused at times, making progress a bit less refined than it could be. The Sorento's ride quality is on par with RAV4. The handling just needs better damping, as it sometimes gives up control of the wheels' motions when pushed. Its closest competitor might be a superb Mazda CX-9.

Automotive Editor Isaac Bouchard owns Denver-based Bespoke Autos (*isaac@bespokeautos.com*; 303-475-1462). Read more of his automotive writing, reviews and recommendations on *coloradoavidgolfer.com* and *bespokeautos.com*.

GETAWAYS

2021 GUIDE | ARIZONA | NEVADA | UTAH

PHOTO BY LONNA TUCKER

Double Down

Let the two layouts at **WE-KO-PA GOLF CLUB** set your course for a trip of stellar golf, dining, gaming and fun.

Hole 14, Saguaro Course, We-Ko-Pa Golf Club, Fort McDowell, Ariz.

Contents

(38) **ARIZONA**
With more courses—and better winter-golf weather—than Colorado, the Phoenix/Scottsdale and Tucson orbits abound with memorable golf, glorious resorts, epic restaurants and outdoor experiences.

(52) **NEVADA**
Like casinos, golf courses are redoubts of risk and reward, and Las Vegas overflows with both. Beyond The Strip, however, lie the towns of Summerlin and Mesquite—two sure bets for games of all kinds.

(58) **UTAH**
The vermilion hues that define "Color Country" also include the verdant fairways and greens of Sand Hollow Resort, where 27 holes of surreal golf open a window on the region's spectrum of outdoor activities.

Taking It AZ

The Valley of the Sun shines bright as winter descends.



PHOTO BY LONNA TUCKER

WE-GO-PLAY NOW

Perennially ranked the Phoenix/Scottsdale area's best course by *Golfweek*, **We-Ko-Pa Golf Club**'s walkable Saguaro layout bears the minmalist signature of Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw. The older Scott Miller-designed Cholla layout serves up challenging target-style desert golf. Both afford rounds uninterrupted by real estate or roads and known for views of the mountain called "We-Ko-Pa" by the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, owner and operator the course. *wekopa.com*



COURTESY OF WE-KO-PA CASINO RESORT

WINES AND WAGERS

A year ago, **We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort** debuted with a stunning 167,000-square-foot upscale gaming facility. Some of the best bets there are the wood-fired steaks and spectacular seafood at **Ember**, **We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort**'s fine-dining experience. Ember recently became one of only 19 restaurants out of 9,000 in Arizona to achieve Wine Spectator's "Best of Award of Excellence." Ember's wine program covers 17 countries, 517 wines by the bottle and 26 by the glass. *wekopacasinoresort.com*



COURTESY OF WE-KO-PA CASINO RESORT

CLUBHOUSE LEADER

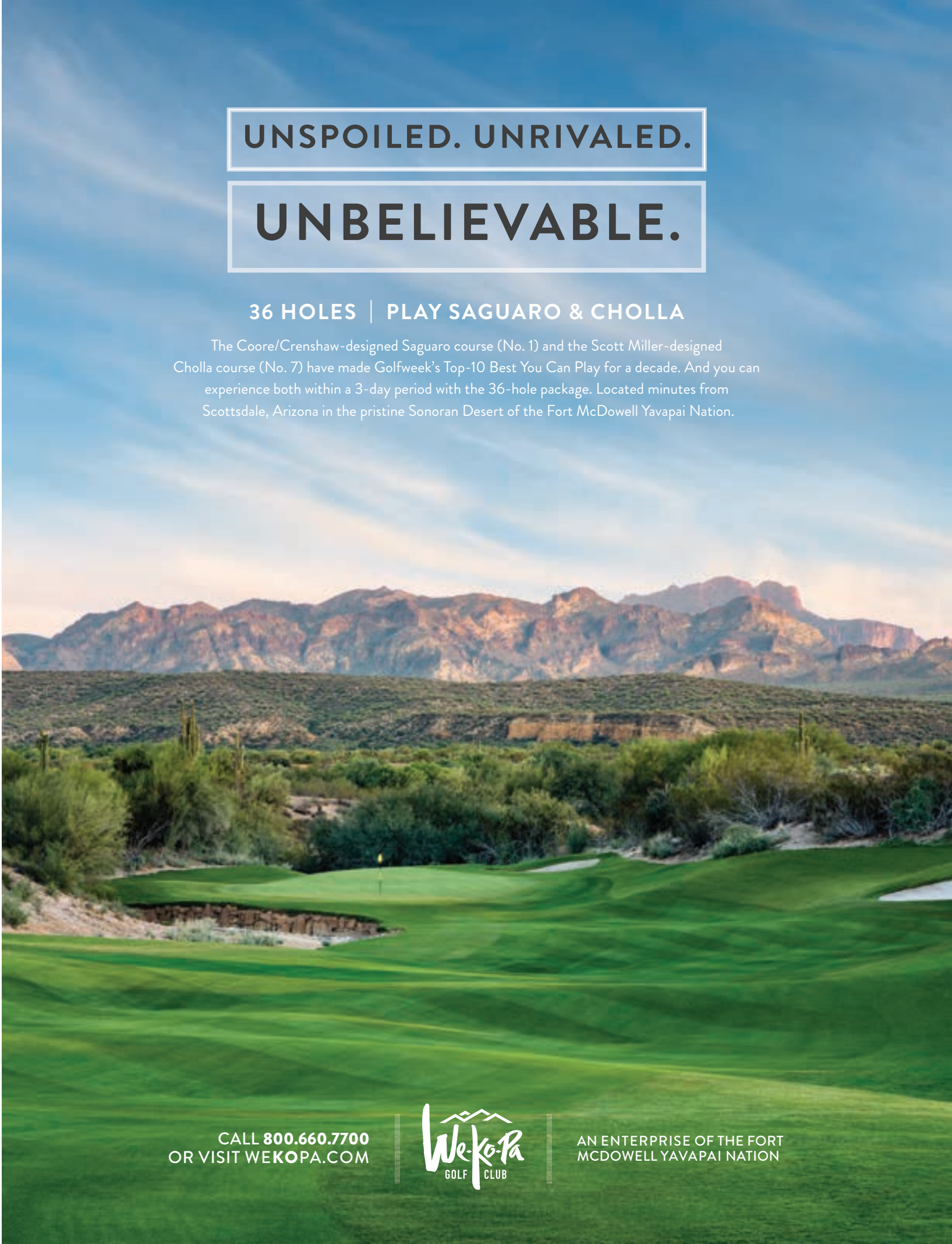
We-Ko-Pa's unique clubhouse draws inspiration from the natural surroundings and Yavapi culture. A canyon-like breezeway splits the structure—half golf shop, half grille—and leads to a outdoor patio, while elements like fire, wood beams and stacked stone suggest Yavapai heritage. *wekopa.com/clubhouse*



NOT-SO-OLD FAITHFUL

Just west of We-Ko-Pa lies **Fountain Hills**, which takes its name from a concrete water lily sculpture in the man-made lake of Fountain Park. The fountain started spouting its 330-foot-high plume for 15 minutes on the hour in 1970, and on certain holidays, the water climbs to 560 feet. Avoid windy days when it's shut down. *fh.az.gov*




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AK-CHIN, BABY!

Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club in Maricopa is well worth the 40-minute drive from Scottsdale. Even after a 2014 "player-friendly" renovation removed nearly 2 acres of bunkering and shortened a number of holes, the 7,546-yard design by Brian Curley, Lee Schmidt and Fred Couples remains a test worthy of *Golf* magazine's Top 100 U.S. Courses You Can Play and an annual U.S. Open qualifier. The Ak-Chin Indian Community owns the Troon-managed course and 300-room **Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Resort** six miles south. *akchinsoutherndunes.com*



COURTESY OF TROON GOLF



COURTESY OF TROON GOLF



MEALTIME IN MARICOPA

In addition to Southern Dunes' **Arroyo Grille**, The highway leading to and from the course also leads to some solid eating options. The **Soul Food Shak** (*thesoulfoodshak.com*) dishes mouthwatering barbecue; **Roots Eatery** (*rootseateryaz.com*) does great short ribs and lamb pops; and the food at popular **Say Sushi** makes up for its lack of a website.





A GOOD WALK UNSPOILED

If you haven't reached your daily step count at Southern Dunes, head to the **Sonoran Desert National Monument**, which captures a significant portion of the most biologically diverse North American desert. It includes a vast saguaro forest, three Congressionally designated wilderness areas and parts of three distinct mountain ranges (Maricopa, Sand Tank and Table Top) separated by wide valleys. *blm.gov/visit/sonoran-desert-national-monument*

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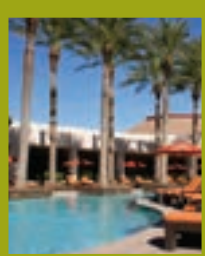
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COURTESY OF TROON GOLF

WESTERN STAR

Golf Club of Estrella, a Troon Golf-managed Nicklaus Design golf course, anchors the master-planned community of Estrella in the West Valley town of Goodyear. Traversing the foothills of the Sierra Estrellas, the 22-year-old course spans 5,124 to 7,139 yards, with large greens, split-level fairways and a memorable par-3 17th that sets majestically into the rocky slopes surrounding it. *estrellagolf.com*



COURTESY OF TROON GOLF

FLY LIKE AN EAGLE

An innovative departure from the "target" style golf courses constructed in the Sonoran Desert, **Eagle Mountain Golf Club** nestles in the ravines of the McDowell Mountains, taking full advantage of its location with long extended views into untouched desert landscape and area landmarks, such as Camelback and Red Mountain. Ranging from 5,065 to 6,800 yards, the strategic, yet forgiving 25-year-old Scott Miller layout winds spectacularly through natural box canyons, rolling hills and lush desert valleys southwest of Fountain Hills. Troon Golf, which offers its best Arizona rates through *TroonGolfAZ.com*, manages the course. *eaglemtn.com.*



COURTESY OF TROON GOLF



COURTESY OF TROON GOLF

SETTING THE STANDARD

Designed in 1990 by Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish—with some deft remodeling by Weiskopf—**Troon North Golf Club**'s Pinnacle and Monument courses set the benchmark for daily-fee desert golf. Managed by Troon Golf, the North Scottsdale courses unfurl through the ravines and foothills beneath Pinnacle Peak and skirt the boulders and saguaros of the Sonoran Desert. *troonnorthgolf.com*

LONGBOW ON TARGET

In Mesa, The Troon Golf-managed **Longbow Golf Club** can stretch to 7,050 yards, but also has a family-tee yardage of 2,757. Designed by Ken Kavanaugh, Longbow challenges scratch players, charms families and chews up anyone who can't hit its enormous fairways. The adjacent Home2 Suites by Hilton Mesa Longbow is a great lodging option. *longbowgolf.com*



COURTESY OF TROON GOLF



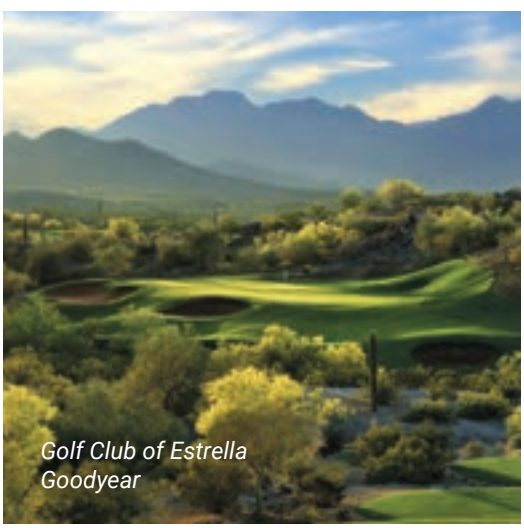
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Fountain Hills

TROON GOLF®

TOUR-WORTHY

Adjacent to the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess and designed by Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish, the Stadium Course at **TPC Scottsdale** became the sixth course in the PGA TOUR's Tournament Player's Club network when it opened in 1987. It hosted that year's Phoenix Open, and ever since, fans—especially the 20,000 who pack the "Coliseum" around the 16th hole—have enjoyed "the Greatest Show on Grass." The heckler-filled stadium probably won't be up when you tee off on the famous 163-yard par 3, but the hole and the course are challenging enough without the distraction. Don't miss taking a spin on the TPC Scottsdale Champions Course, a 2007 Randy Heckenkemper redesign of the original Desert Course. The 19th hole for both courses is The **Toro Restaurant & Rum Bar**, a Richard Sandoval restaurant with 150 rums and live music. *tpc.com/scottsdale*



COURTESY FAIRMONT



THE PRINCESS WILL SEE YOU NOW

The host hotel every February to the elecrifying Waste Management Phoenix Open, the regal **Fairmont Scottsdale Princess** not only abuts the two TPC Scottsdale courses; it also boasts 11 styles of accommodations with state-of-the-art amenities, six pools (including one with a sand beach), four main restaurants (**Bourbon Steak**, **La Hacienda**, **Toro Latin Restaurant & Rum Bar** and **Ironwood American Kitchen**), the innovative **Well & Being Spa** (incorporating the largest Sisley-Paris Spa in the U.S.) and much more. Its north Scottsdale location puts you minutes by car from **Kierland Commons**, Frank Lloyd Wright's **Taliesin West** and muliple trailheads...and scores of golf courses. *scottsdaleprincess.com*

ART ATTACK

Imitated but never duplicated, the **Scottsdale ArtWalk** has taken place Thursday evenings along Main Street and Marshall Way in Scottsdale Downtown since 1975. Members of the Scottsdale Gallery Association (SGA) open to the public and display the work of outstanding Southwest artists. The local restaurants and bars fill up. Starting in December, the SGA also offers monthly themed Gold Palette ArtWalks with extended gallery hours, activities, food, wine and live music. *scottsdalegalleries.com*



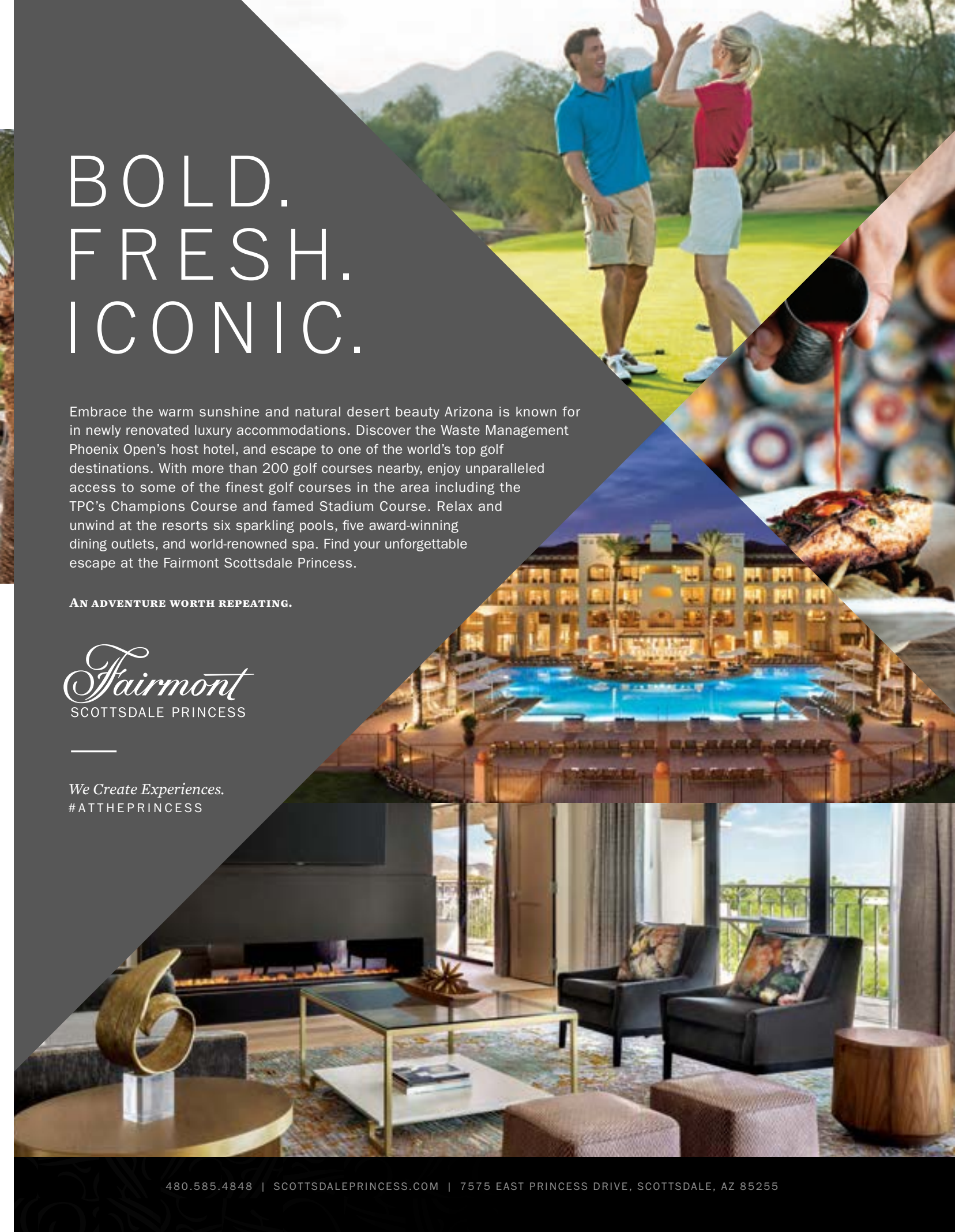
COURTESY VISIT SCOTTSDALE



COURTESY MUSEUM OF THE WEST

BEST OF THE WEST

A Smithsonian Affiiliate, **Western Spirit, Scottsdale's Museum of the West** immerses you in the story of the Greater Western region. Its exhibit of photographer Edward S. Curtis begins October 19, and its two other current exhibits of photography and original Western movie posters are equally compelling. *scottsdalemuseumwest.org*



BOLD.
FRESH.
ICONIC.

Embrace the warm sunshine and natural desert beauty Arizona is known for in newly renovated luxury accommodations. Discover the Waste Management Phoenix Open's host hotel, and escape to one of the world's top golf destinations. With more than 200 golf courses nearby, enjoy unparalleled access to some of the finest golf courses in the area including the TPC's Champions Course and famed Stadium Course. Relax and unwind at the resorts six sparkling pools, five award-winning dining outlets, and world-renowned spa. Find your unforgettable escape at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess.

An adventure worth repeating.

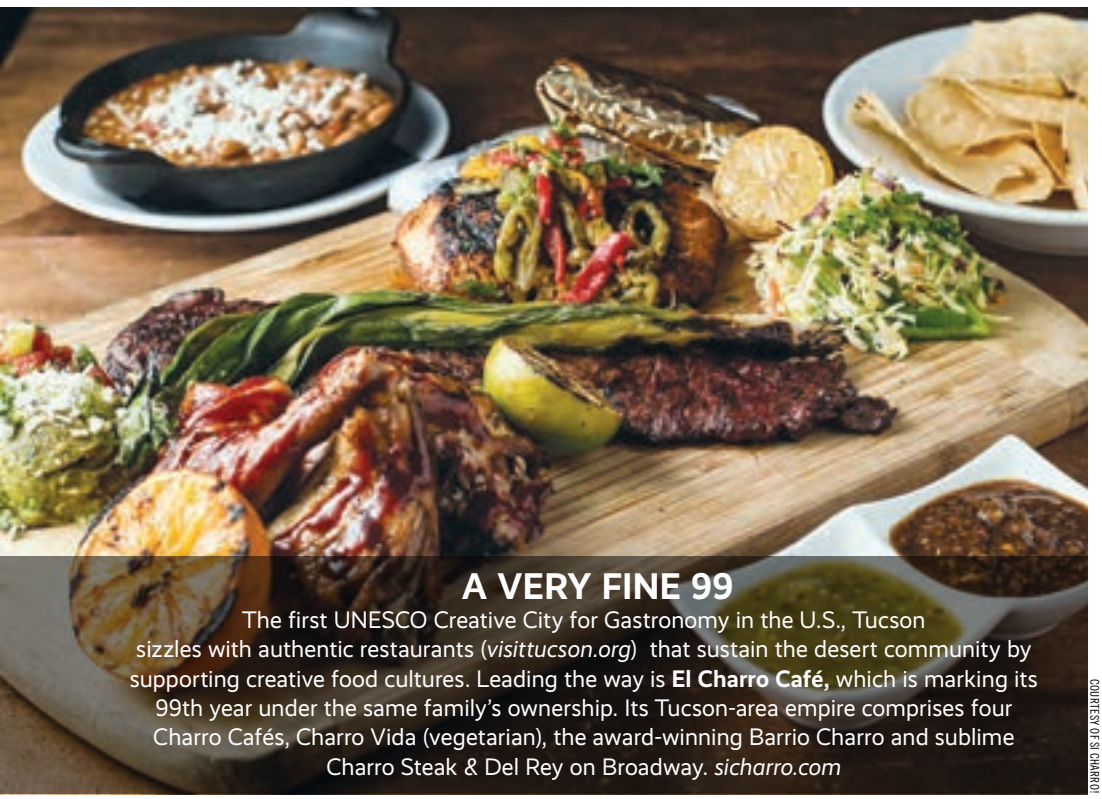
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Second to None

Tucson, Arizona's oldest city, may also be its boldest.



COURTESY OF SI CHARRO

A VERY FINE 99

The first UNESCO Creative City for Gastronomy in the U.S., Tucson sizzles with authentic restaurants (*visittucson.org*) that sustain the desert community by supporting creative food cultures. Leading the way is **El Charro Café,** which is marking its 99th year under the same family's ownership. Its Tucson-area empire comprises four Charro Cafés, Charro Vida (vegetarian), the award-winning Barrio Charro and sublime Charro Steak & Del Rey on Broadway. *sicharro.com*

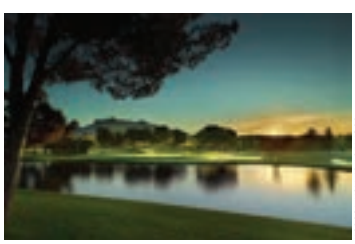


TIME TRAVEL

Visit the past and the future in one day. An hour southeast of Tucson, the Old Tombstone Western Theme Park hosts Tombstone's longest running professional gunfight show. Back in town, **Biosphere2** *(biosphere2.org)* is a futuristic 3.14-acre self-contained ecosystem offering tours to support its research of Earth (which is Biosphere1, by the way), its living systems and place in the universe. *visittucson.org*

OMNI PRESENCE

Did you know Jack Nicklaus was the **Omni Tucson National**'s touring pro when it opened in 1963? Much has changed since then, but the Catalina course, which hosted 30 Tucson Opens, remains a PGA TOUR Champions stop (Feb. 23-27) and a great chance to play one of the classics. *tucsonnational.com*



COURTESY OF VISIT TUCSON

THE 27-HOLE CLUBS

Tee times are often easier to secure at resort courses with three nine-hole layouts. Tucson has three: **Starr Pass Golf Club** at The J.W. Marriott Tucson Starr Pass Resort & Spa; **La Paloma Golf Club** at the The Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa; and **Dove Mountain Golf Club** at the Ritz-Carlton-Dove Mountain in nearby Marana. *visittucson.org*



COURTESY OF STARR PASS GOLF CLUB



FREE YOURSELF.®

For those looking to escape the routine and venture off the beaten path, Tucson's wide open spaces are ready to be explored.

Find out more at VisitTucson.org/Open

tucson
VisitTucson.org

OUTDOOR OPTIONS

The **Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum** is something of a misnomer. Only 15 percent of the facility is indoors—a plus for those with lingering Covid concerns. The outdoor portion brings encounters with such animals as mountain lions, Mexican gray wolves, river otters, Gila Monsters, javelinas and hummingbirds. *desertmuseum.org*

After more than a year of Covid, **Downtown Tucson's** six districts—Main Gate, Fourth Avenue, Congress Street, Presidio, Convention, and Sentinel—again pulse with energy. The four-mile **Sun Link Tucson Streetcar** connects all six, so sampling Tucson's unique culture and cuisine has never been simpler. *visittucson.org*

Tucson's unique heritage, landscape and spirit come to life in two dozen vibrant murals scattered around greater Downtown Tucson. Find them all at *tucsonaz.gov/muralmap*



COURTESY OF THE LODGE AT VENTANA CANYON



A BOUTIQUE VENTANA

The masterful Tom Fazio-designed **Mountain and Canyon Courses at Ventana Canyon** rate among the more scenic and enchanting layouts you'll play. To experience the thrill requires a stay at the 50-suite **Lodge at Ventana Canyon**, which also houses the Ventana Canyon Golf & Racquet Club. Facilities include eight lighted tennis and four pickleball courts, day spa, restaurant and well-equipped fitness center. Guests and members alternate play on the two courses. Golf privileges also extend to guests of the 398-room **Loews Ventana Canyon Resort** at the 18th green of the Canyon course. *thelodgeatventanacanyon.com*

UNDER THE STARS

Things—and people—are looking up in Tucson. In 1972, Pima County enacted a "dark sky" code to regulate the brightness and number of outdoor bulbs. Tucson now suffers from far less light pollution than most cities do, allowing stars and planets to shine through the night sky. Astronomy hot spots include **Catalina State Park**, **SkyBar** on 4th Avenue (*skybartucson.com*), the **Flandrau Planetarium** (*flandrau.org*) and **Mt. Lemmon Sky Center** (*skycenter.arizona.edu*). *visittucson.com*



COURTESY VISIT TUCSON

OUT TO EAT

After 2020, outdoor dining has never been more popular. Among downtown Tucson's alfresco faves: **Cup Café at Hotel Congress** and **Maynards Market & Kitchen**; **Agustín Kitchen** in the Mercado San Agustín; Tucson Museum of Art's **Café à la C'Art**; **Caruso's** on 4th Avenue; and multiple spots in **Broadway Village** and **Main Gate Square.** *visittucson.org*



COURTESY VISIT TUCSON

36 Holes. 50 Suites.
One spectacular Arizona getaway.



Play Tom Fazio's celebrated courses at the premier all-suite hideaway *Golf Magazine* called one of America's Top 75 Golf Resorts. Experience the sheer majesty of the Santa Catalina foothills while you play alongside bobcats, deer, quail and javalina. Whether you play for the day, or indulge in a stay, you can expect a haven of southwestern serenity and unmatched personalized service. Come experience Ventana Canyon for yourself.

VENTANA CANYON

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COURTESY OF TUBAC GOLF RESORT & SPA



BACK TO TUBAC

It's been 25 years since the movie came out, and guests at **Tubac Golf Resort & Spa** still ask about "the *Tin Cup* hole." In case you missed it, on the water-fronted 568-yard par-5 4th on Tubac's Rancho nine, Kevin Costner's character nuts a 3-wood to get on the green in two. "You'd be surprised how many people try it," says PGA Director of Golf Kristie Fowler (née Kolacny), a former Colorado women's stroke- and match-play champ whose shop stocks plenty of *Tin Cup* merch. But the AAA Four-Diamond oasis has infinitely more to offer than gimmicks. Located on the historic Otero Ranch between Tucson and Mexico it boasts 27 tree-lined golf holes, 68 uniquely appointed suites, 30 magnificently upgraded guest rooms, a world-class Aveda spa, and the unforgettable **Stables Ranch Grill & Patio**. The resort features a Mission-style chapel and stylishly salutes its vaquero heritage while providing every modern amenity. It's also home to **Pancho's Resource and Design**, a veritable candy store of unique Spanish Colonial furnishings. *tubacgolfresort.com*



TUBACARTS.ORG

ART COLONY

A short walk from the resort delivers you to the town of Tubac, a creative haven known for the "good light" that inspires painters and artisans who sell at the shops. The **Tubac Center of the Arts** and **Griffin Museum** are cultural meccas, and the working artists at **El Presidito**, home of the **Tubac School of Fine Art**, welcome visitors. *tubacaz.com*



TUBACARTS.ORG

HOLDING SERVE

Covid apprently forced the closure of its Tucson restaurant, but **Elvira's** first U.S. location in Tubac (it operated in Mexico for almost 90 years) continues to greet diners with a free "Hola!" tequila shot and a variety of moles, mocajetes and exquisitely prepared meats, fish and shrimp—all served in a delightful setting. *elvirasrestaurant.com*



ELVIRASRESTAURANT.COM



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(2) rounds of golf
Breakfast for two in our Stables Ranch Grille

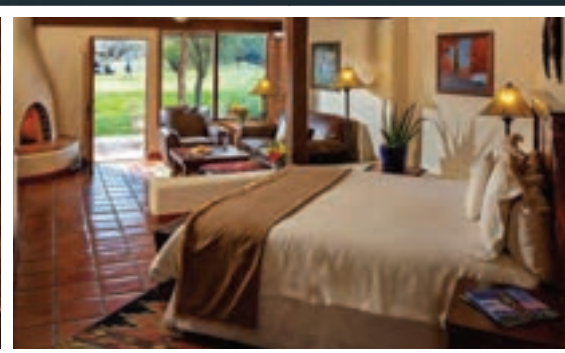
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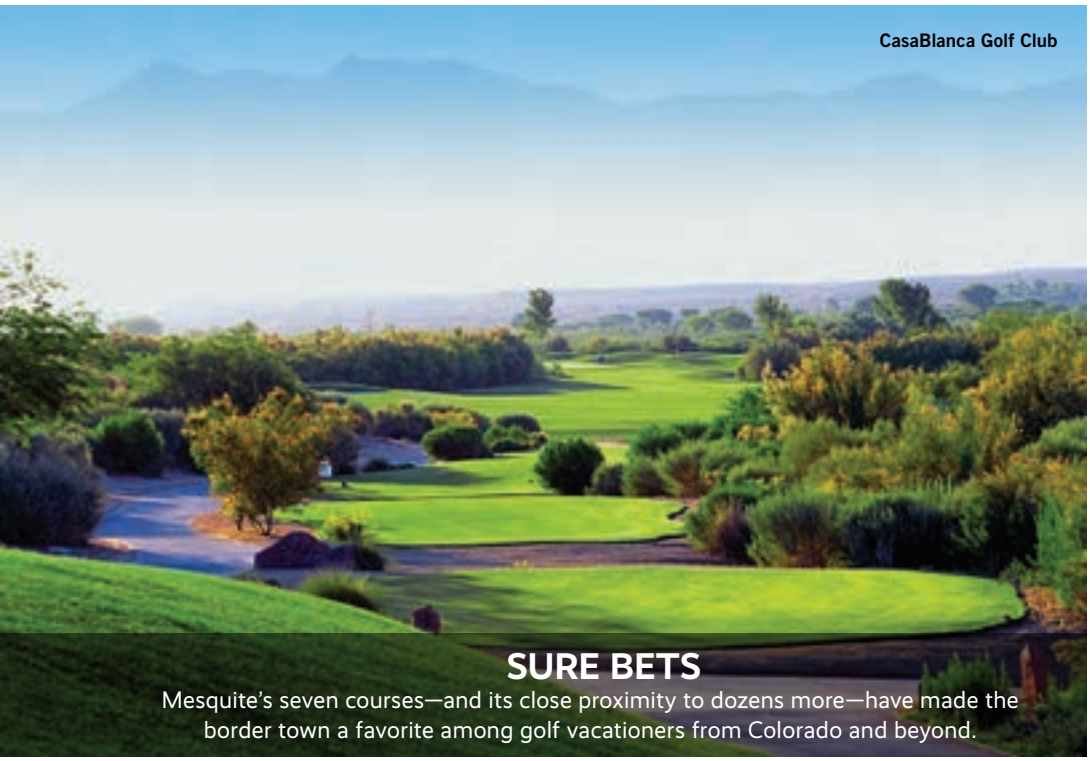


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CasaBlanca Golf Club

SURE BETS

Mesquite's seven courses—and its close proximity to dozens more—have made the border town a favorite among golf vacationers from Colorado and beyond.

HOW ABOUT A LITTLE COMPETITION?



Okay, so Mesquite isn't the Monterey Peninsula, and nobody is going to confuse the rotation of courses used for the **CasaBlanca II-Man** with those used in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. But to those in the newly expanded field of 150 two-person teams, the event probably means just as much as Pebble means to Bill Murray. Now in its fifth year, the II-M takes place Nov. 12 - 14 and showcases the joys of competing on three distinct layouts in the Mesquite region. The tournament opens with a two-man scramble at the **Palms Golf Club** just over the state line in Littlefield, Ariz. Day two brings you to **Conestoga Golf Club** at Sun City Mesquite for a best-ball competition. **CasaBlanca Golf Club** hosts the final day's modified alternate-shot event to decide the champions. Open to men and women, the handicapped event will feature up to six gross and net flights, depending on the number of teams that enter. Each flight will compete for $6,000, with daily skins games available. The $425 per player/$850 per team covers the golf, welcome pairings party and the Sunday night awards banquet in the CasaBlanca Grand Ballroom. Players also receive discounted rates at the **CasaBlanca Resort & Casino**. *casablancaresort.com/ii-m*

STAY AND PLAY

The walkable 7,011-yard Cal Olson layout at **CasaBlanca Golf Club** takes in sweeping desert vistas, water features and views of the Virgin Mountains. In addition to clean-air gambling, the **CasaBlanca Resort & Casino** features a lagoon-style pool, co-ed spa and dining at **Katherine's Restaurant**. *casablancaresort.com*



FRONDS FOREVER

A 10-minute drive across the Arizona border from Mesquite lies the co-host of the first two rounds of this year's Nevada Open (Nov. 9-11). Debuting in 1990, the **Palms Golf Club** boasts dramatic back-nine elevation changes, including a 114-foot plunge from tee to fairway on the par-4 15th. *palmsgolfclub.com*



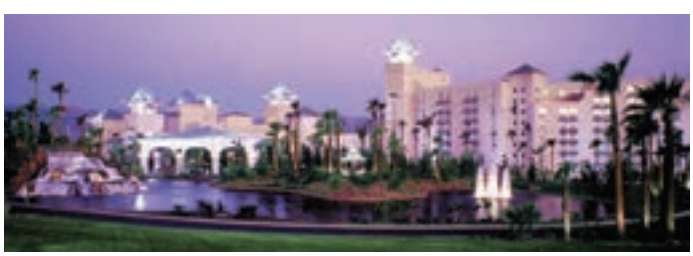


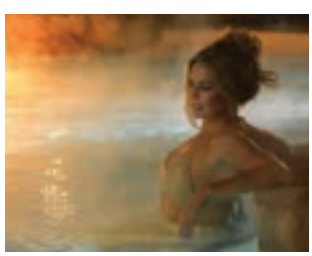


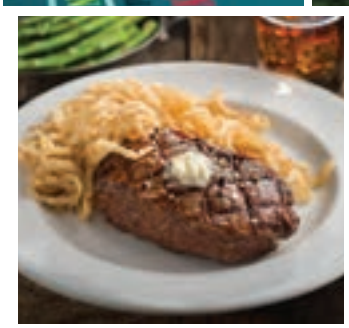












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One Night Stay and Play 18 Championship Holes at CasaBlanca or Palms Golf Club!

ONE-STOP SHOPPING

Golf Mesquite Nevada builds a golf trip that hits the sweet spot between your budget and your appetite for great golf. Relationships with golf facilities (**Oasis Golf Club**'s Palmer and Canyons courses, **Coyote Springs Golf Club**, **Falcon Ridge Golf Course** and **Consestoga Golf Club**) and lodging partners like the 60-acre **Eureka Casino Resort**—which features the righteous **Gregory's Mesquite Grill**—ensure you'll get the best possible deal. *golfmesquitenevada.com*

Designed by Kelby Hughes and Cresent Hardy, **Falcon Ridge Golf Course** winds through the hills and canyons of Northwest Mesquite. This 6,569-yard par-71 desert layout boasts spectacular elevation changes, numerous water features and high-mesa views along with numerous teeing areas that make it playable for all levels. *golffalcon.com*





COYOTE PRETTY

Tucked between two picturesque mountain ranges in the high desert 50 miles from both Mesquite and Las Vegas, **Coyote Springs Golf Club** offers a breathtaking setting accented by native grasses, cacti, sage and other indigenous plants, sapphire skies and 360- degree mountain views—including those of the snow-covered Sheep Range during winter. Planned as the first of a series of courses in the Coyote Springs community, the par-72 Jack Nicklaus Signature design debuted in 2008 and measures between 5,349 and 7,471 yards. Eleven lakes come into play. The 19-acre practice facility gives you opportunities to work on every type of shot. *coyotesprings.com*

HITCH 'EM UP



Named for the wagons that once carried settlers westward on the Spanish Trail, **Conestoga Golf Club** invites cart-riding pioneers to traverse the myriad arroyos, ravines and bluffs and bunkers that marble its fairways. *Golf* and *Golfweek* rank the 7,232-yard Gary Panks layout among the top 10 public courses in Nevada. After 18 holes, hit the 1880 Grille and pair the enormous signature 1880 wings or 1880 Burger with private-label 1880 Lager, a red beer available only on tap in the grille. *conestogagolf.com*



OASIS CONCERT

Oasis Golf Club features the Palmer Course and the Canyons Course. Designed by Arnold Palmer himself, the par-71 distinguished itself during Golf Channel's *Big Break Mesquite* in 2007. The Canyons rates as more difficult. It has distinct front and back nines. The front plays like the Palmer course because Palmer designed it; the back, demands length and precision to hit narrow targets. *theoasisgolfclub.com*

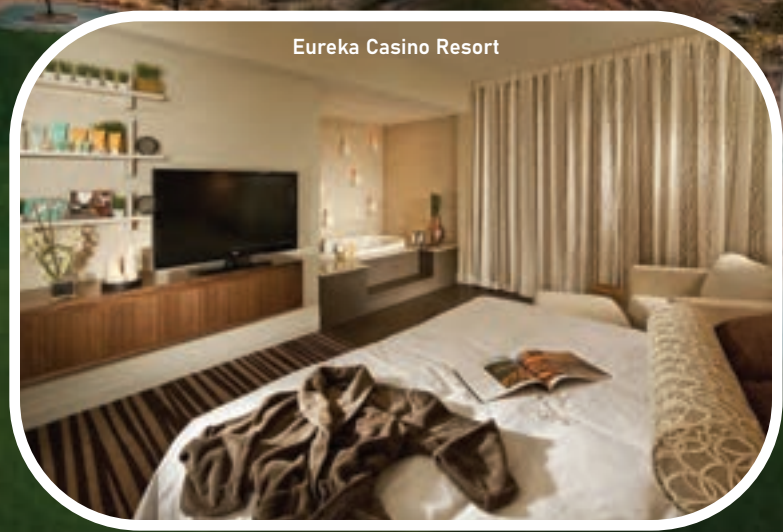
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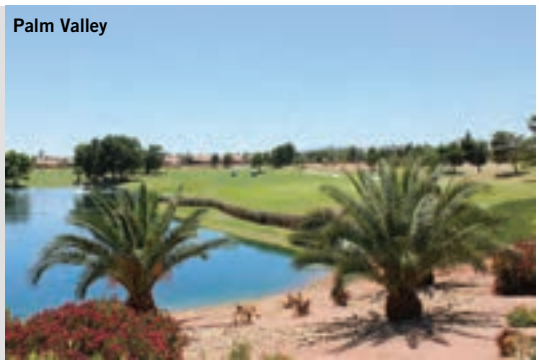
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Valid October - November 2021. Sunday - Thursday. Based on double occupancy. Not valid on existing reservations, weekends, black out dates or holidays. Management reserves all rights.


Eagle Crest


Palm Valley

A SUMM OF THREE

Less than 10 miles from the Strip, you can enjoy the same valley views and playing conditions without the big-city sticker shock. Set at the base of the Charleston Mountains in the affluent community of Summerlin community (home of the TPC that annually hosts the PGA TOUR's Shriner's Hospitals for Children Open), lie three golf courses designed by Billy Casper and Greg Nash: **Palm Valley, Highland Falls** and **Eagle Crest.** Of the three, the par-72 Palm Valley is the oldest (1989), longest (6,824 yards) and most challenging, with deceptive greens and 68 bunkers. The most scenic is the par-72, 6,512-yard Highland Falls, which moves from the rolling hills of the front nine to steep elevation changes on the back. The visually spectacular par-60, 4,067-yard Eagle Crest is the quickest to play. **Golf Summerlin** operates the courses and combines them with the resort excitement of the nearby **Suncoast Hotel & Casino** (as well as **Mandalay Bay, Hard Rock, Green Valley Ranch** and **Aliante** in Las Vegas) into one the most affordable stay-and-play packages in the Las Vegas area. *golfsummerlin.com*


Highland Falls

OUT AND ABOUT

Downtown Summerlin hums with activity, but it also leads to spectacular hikes in the 10,000-acre **Red Rock Canyon National** Conservation Area, as well as the award-winning, constantly expanding **Summerlin Trail System**, which will eventually connect to 2,000 miles of regional trails. *summerlin.com*





YUM IN SUMM

Summerlin's restaurants hit every cuisine and price point, but two come most highly recommended: **Marché Bacchus** (*marchebacchus.com*), an exquisite French bistro and wine shop on Lake Jacqueline that does a great brunch; and **Vinter Grill**, an American eatery with a heady Mediterranean food accent. *vglasvegas.com*

Vinter Grill





STAY AND PLAY PACKAGES ALSO AVAILABLE

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EAGLE CREST

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Hurricane Watch

In a town east of St. George, Sand Hollow Resort gathers strength.



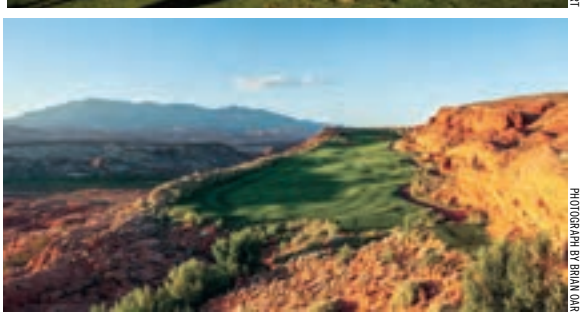
COURTESY OF SAND HOLLOW RESORT

THIS IS THE PLACE

Architectural Digest ranked **Sand Hollow Resort**'s clubhouse—which seamlessly blends into the surrounding red rocks, the "most beautiful in Utah," and every national publication puts the resort's John Fought-designed Championship Course atop its list of Utah's top public courses. Judge for yourself. Stay in one of the foursome-friendly suites or spacious villas, indulging in the amenities and taking on the surreal layout. *sandhollowresort.com*



COURTESY OF SAND HOLLOW RESORT



PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN OAR

WOW. JUST. WOW.

The front nine of Sand Hollow's 7,300-yard, Par-72 John-Fought-designed **Championship Course** makes brilliant use of the red-rock outcroppings, natural vegetation, indigenous sand and rolling fairways that define the region's beauty. The back nine tightropes along ledges, undulates wildly and perches precipitously along a towering ridgeline, affording camera-worthy views and birdie-worthy shots. *sandhollowresort.com*

GOLF FOR ALL

Nearby adventures may beckon, but so do Sand Hollow's joyous 3,600-yard, 9-hole **Links Course**, designed by Fought and Andy Staples with huge greens and fairways, and the kid-friendly **Wee Course**, where the nine holes measure 50-120 yards—perfect for working your short game. *sandhollowresort.com*



PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN OAR

OFF-COURSE DRIVES

Sand Hollow lies less than 30 miles east of **Zion National Park**; from there, it's an 80-minute drive to the multihued spires rising from **Bryce Canyon National Park**. Closer to Hurricane, there's boating in **Sand Hollow State Park** and shows at **Tuacahn Amphi-theater**, Utah's version of our Red Rocks. *visitstgeorge.com*





Sand Hollow RESORT

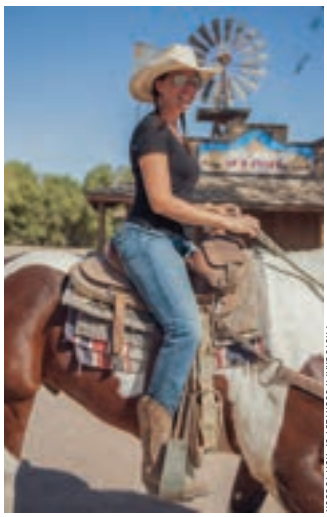
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ESCAPE to Sand Hollow, one of *Golfweek's* Top 100 Resort Courses and voted #1 in Utah for 8 consecutive years. PLAY our signature holes, DISCOVER the area's endless recreational options, and RELAX in luxurious accommodations surrounded by unsurpassed scenery.

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VACATION RENTALS **CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE** **OUTDOOR RECREATION**



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Teeing Up TUCSON



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF LODGE AT VENTANA



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF VISIT TUCSON



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF VISIT TUCSON



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF VISIT TUCSON



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF VISIT TUCSON

NATURE'S BOUNTY: From hikes in Sabino Canyon to rides through the Sonoran Desert to good walks spoiled at Ventana Canyon, Tucson's outdoor glories bridge the Old and New West with an enduring appreciation for the natural environment and what lives and grows there.

With the **GREAT OUTDOORS** *as the safest place to be, the area's resorts combine golf, alfresco dining and desert* **BEAUTY IN DELIGHTFUL WAYS**.

By **JON RIZZI**

THANKS TO THE PANDEMIC, people across the country discovered golf in record numbers. But while fall and winter tend to drive Coloradans off the local courses, Tucsonans are teeing off in shorts and skorts, hiking saguaro-studded mountainsides and savoring sunsets on outdoor restaurant patios.

So why not join them?

Surrounded by five mountain ranges and doubly blessed with Saguaro National Park bordering the east and west edges of the city, the greater Tucson area justifiably prides itself on its wide-open spaces.

Those spaces brim with unique flora and fauna, but they also sport tees, fairways and greens.

With more than 40 courses, the spectrum of Tucson's vibrant and varied golf scene ranges from its five municipal courses (including former PGA TOUR venues El Rio and Randolph North), to the magnificent Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed Arizona National Golf Club adjacent to the Coronado National Forest, to The Stone Canyon Club, a private layout north in nearby Oro Valley that Phil Mickelson liked enough to add to his golf-property portfolio.

Luckily for visitors, resort courses comprise the lion's share of Tucson's golf bounty. Each of the following destinations offers the opportunity to avail yourself of high-end hotel amenities, dine safely outdoors and to play holes as spectacular as the surrounding scenery. Herewith a clockwise golf tour, beginning at Tucson International Airport.

WEST

After touchdown in Tucson, proceed due west to the must-see Mission San Xavier del Bac for some pre-round prayers before taking on Sewailo Golf Club. The showpiece of the resplendent Pascua Yaqui Tribe-owned Casino Del Sol hotel, the 7,400-yard Notah Begay/Ty Butler-designed course bursts with botany and flows around numerous lakes and streams. This is the University of Arizona's home course, and from the deck of Wildcats Grille, you can see it framed by the Tucson mountains.

North of Sewailo and connected to the lushly vegetated trails of Tucson Mountain Park, the JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort rewards you with views of the Santa Catalinas from the three Arnold Palmer-designed nines (Road Runner, Coyote and Rattler) at Starr Pass Golf Club, which hosted the PGA TOUR's Tucson Open from 1988 to 1995. Bookend the day on the Salud Terrace with an authentic Navajo sunrise ceremony and



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF VISIT TUCSON

NATIVE BEAUTY: Notah Begay blended the the allure of the Tucson landscape with picturesque lakes and streams to create a course worthy of the environmental beliefs of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, owner of the course and the Casino Del Sol hotel, which named it "Sewailo," meaning "flower world."

a Mexican tequila sunset toast, then head to the patio of Primo Restaurant for some locally sourced Italian-style fare or head inside for Signature Grill's Southwestern heritage cuisine.

NORTH

You'll pass a Topgolf en route to The Ritz-Carlton Dove Mountain, which tucks into the hike-worthy Tortolita foothills in the town of Marana. The resort can help secure guests tee times at two former locations of the WGC Match Play Championships: the 27-hole Nicklaus Signature Golf Club at Dove Mountain and the two 18s at The Gallery Golf Club. Cayton's Burger Bistro at the Dove Mountain and resort's Turquesa Latin Grill both deliver appetizing alfresco experiences after a day on the course or exploring the canyons.

One of the area's best outdoor dining spots awaits 15 minutes away in Oro Valley. Epazote Kitchen & Cocktails at El Conquistador Tucson, a Hilton Resort fuses inspired Southwestern dishes with breathtaking views of the 5,300-foot cliffs of Pusch Ridge in the Santa Catalinas. Conquistador's Cañada, Conquistador and 9-hole Pusch Ridge layouts traverse memorably rugged and scenic topography. Mount Lemmon, home of the southernmost ski resort in the U.S., is visible from parts of the course and worth a closer look.

The highway to Tucson brings you to the Omni Tucson National, whose Robert Van Hagge/Bruce Devlin-designed Catalina Course will next stage the annual PGA TOUR Champions Tucson Cologuard Classic Feb. 25-27, 2022. The resort's Tom Lehman-designed Sonoran layout provides a softer alternative to the Catalina. Après-golf, treat yourself to a beer and some happy-hour fare on the patio at Legends Bar & Grill.

Each of the following destinations offers the opportunity to avail yourself of high-end hotel amenities, dine safely outdoors and to play holes as spectacular as the surrounding scenery.

EAST

A favorite of the Rockies during their erstwhile Spring Training days in Tucson, The Westin La Paloma serves up staggering views of the Santa Catalina Mountains and pulse-quickening hikes through the nearby Sabino Canyon portion of the Coronado National Forest. Designed by Jack Nicklaus, the La Paloma Country Club opened in 1984 with each nine–Canyon, Ridge and Hill–aptly named for its dominant geological trait. Food from Cuba, Spain and Mexico defines Contigo Latin Kitchen and its outdoor dining.

Last and east but certainly not least, Ventana Golf & Racquet Club spoils members and guests of the boutique Lodge at Ventana Canyon with two stunning Tom Fazio-designed championship courses, the Canyon and Mountain, which blend magically into the natural features of the Santa Catalinas. The views of the course and mountains from The Reserve, Ventana's addition to the outdoor service of the Catalina Dining Room and Ventana Bar & Grille, rate a visit, as do those from the deck of the Flying V Bar & Grill at the Loews Ventana Canyon, which perches above the pond bordering the Canyon Course's 18th green.

DINING *OUT*

Off the course, the city of Tucson–a UNESCO-recognized Creative City of Gastronomy–abounds in exceptional restaurants, many of which have adapted to health restrictions by adding outdoor dining or limiting hours or tables. Among the better patios, decks and courtyards are at Poco & Mom's Cantina, Blue Willow, The Boxyard, Blanco Tacos + Tequila, Hotel Congress, Tay's Barbecue, Saguaro Corners, Cafe à La C'Art at the Tucson Museum of Art and the restaurants at Mercado San Agustin. (For more recommendations, see *visittucson.org/restaurants*.)

A fretwork of trails of varying difficulty weaves through the area's foothills, forests, parks and canyons. For nature lovers disinclined (or unable) to hike, the Sabino Canyon Crawler's electric shuttles take as many as 60 passengers hourly on a paved road, while the company's gas-powered Bear Canyon Shuttle taxis up to 21 riders to the head of Bear Canyon trail, which leads to the magnificent desert oasis of Seven Falls.

A tumbling cascade also punctuates the leisurely Bridal Wreath Falls trail through eastern portion of Saguaro National Park from a trailhead at the end of Speedway Boulevard. Although more heavily trafficked, the paved path at the University of Arizona-owned Tumamoc Hill takes you through a living museum of desert biodiversity offering glorious city views and sunrises and sunsets from its apex.

For more about Tucson, see pages 44-48. For a wider range of outdoor options, check out *visittucson.org/open*. *Visittucson.org* also provides current Covid-19 guidelines and resources.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF VISIT TUCSON



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF VISIT TUCSON

FAREWAYS AND GREENS: Many of the 27 holes at JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort (left) adjoin the lushly vegetated trails of Tucson Mountain Park; Epazote at The Tucson El Conquistador provides an alfresco experience in the Santa Catalina foothills.

WHEN IT'S

GAME TIME



IT'S

TULLY TIME

GLASSES UP TO RESPONSIBLE DRINKING. TULLAMORE DEW IRISH WHISKEY, 40% ALC./VOL. (80 PROOF) ©2021 IMPORTED BY WILLIAM GRANT & SONS INC., NEW YORK, N.Y.



FIRST UP: Funk stands on the opening hole of his design debut at RainDance.

PHOTOGRAPH BY E.J. CARR



TAKING SHAPE: The green on hole 8 looks about ready for a pin placement.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF RAINDANCE NATIONAL

Making It Rain

The forecast calls for heavy praise for **FRED FUNK**, *whose inaugural course design, RainDance National Golf Club, will open next year in Windsor.*

By **KIM D. MCHUGH**

FRED FUNK WAS FLUMMOXED. During a 2010 lunch meeting with land developer Martin Lind and the course architect Harrison Minchew, the recent winner of his third PGA TOUR Champions major was looking at a topographical map that outlined a parcel of farmland in Windsor, Colorado. Puzzled by the significant concentration of black lines and dramatically changing elevation indicators, Funk asked Lind to explain.

"These are big arroyos," Lind responded, "and that's where I'm going to take you."

After lunch, Funk and Minchew rode with Lind to the 325-acre tract to tour the property. Lind, a fourth-generation local farmer and the force behind the nearby Water Valley master-planned community, hoped that Funk and Minchew would share his vision to create RainDance National Golf Club, the centerpiece now taking shape an hour northeast of Denver at the developer's second master-planned community of RainDance.

As the trio walked the rolling prairie, Lind knew the arroyos were imminently coming into view. Witnessing his guests marvel at the long, deep, craggy fissures that had carved their way through the landscape over a millennium, he reveled in the moment.

"This is just unbelievable," Minchew remembers saying. "The beauty of the site, the largeness of it, the arroyos, the long views; I've done some nice places, but the feel of this place is really special."

"This is just unbelievable. The beauty of the site, the largeness of it, the arroyos, the long views; I've done some nice places, but the feel of this place is really special."

—*Harrison Minchew*



PHOTOGRAPH BY E.J. CARR



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF RAINDANCE NATIONAL



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF RAINDANCE NATIONAL

CHANGING CHANNELS: Funk teamed with veteran architect Harrison Minchew to transform land carved by cavernous arroyos into a golf course with the potential not only to be the longest in the country, but also one with enough teeing options to make it playable and enjoyable for every level of golfer.

The walk cemented Funk's and Minchew's interest in the project, an 18-hole course whose construction began last year. No stranger to the appeal of golf as an amenity for homeowners and surrounding communities–Water Valley opened its 18-hole Pelican Lakes Golf Club in 1999 and the nine-hole Pelican Falls in 2006–Lind is excited to have Funk and Minchew on the team.

"I'd asked Fred if he'd ever done a course and he said 'No, but it's on my bucket list,' and that's where it started," Lind says. "He went back to Florida, and then he and Harrison came up, and from there it kind of took off. I'm going to be very honest with you, I wasn't picturing how making the arroyos taper into the natural areas would work until we started moving the dirt and then it just became magnificent."

CHARTING A NEW COURSE

In Minchew, Lind struck the motherlode of course designers. A member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, he brings 37 years of golf design to RainDance National. As a vice president, director of design services and senior golf course architect during a storied career with the Arnold Palmer Design Company, he brought his skill to bear on more than 140 courses worldwide, personally designing 100 of them.

Funk–an eight-time winner on the PGA TOUR, trophy hoister nine times as a PGA TOUR Champions icon, two-time member of The Presidents Cup team and 2004 Ryder Cup player–has an intimate understanding of the game as well.

"When I first I walked the property, I didn't know whether it could actually be a golf course, or whether we could fit the holes in," Funk explains during an August course tour. "As you play, you'll see that the front nine designed itself, so we just had to figure out how to get there on the back. That's where Harrison's genius came in. What I absolutely knew is that we wanted Number One to be aiming straight at the Rocky Mountains and Longs Peak right out of the gate."

Walking the site no fewer than a dozen times, Funk and Minchew started penciling out how the course could stage, ultimately landing on a design comprised of four par 5s, nine par 4s and five par 3s. Measuring 7,845 yards from the back tees, the par-71 layout could be stretched to 8,478 yards, making it the longest course in the country. Such a designation won't become official until the Colorado Golf Association rates the course.

RainDance showcases lengthy par 4s in the 545-yard 4th, the 555-yard 5th, the 535-yard 10th and the 540-yard 16th.

Two par 5s in particular–the 645-yard 2nd and the 655-yard 13th–will nitro-charge the length. The par 3s won't be pushovers either, especially from the tips. As if the distance wasn't unnerving enough, both the 225-yard 8th and the 195-yard 12th require carries over arroyos.

A bit of relief comes for those choosing to play the forward tees, a move that shrinks the length of the course by nearly 2,870 yards. Most greens are visible from the teeing areas, but to keep things interesting, the designers added four blind tee shots. "Sure, this can be a difficult course in the right conditions," Funk says, "but we want people to play it and say, 'I can't wait to come back.'"

A ROUND TO REMEMBER

Taking shape as planned, the 455-yard par-4 opener with Longs Peak in the background will reward players with opportunities for selfies on the tee and birdies on the green. Of the layout's 18 holes, only three fairways play uphill–the par-4 ninth and 16th, and the par-5 18th that stretches 605 yards.

Bombers will relish teeing off on holes two and five whose downhill fairways can produce rollouts over 400 yards. A 28-acre lake on the right side of the par-4 15th and in close proximity to the Cache la Poudre River is the only threat of a ball taking the plunge.

At its highest point, the course reaches an elevation of 5,000 feet, dropping just 224 feet to its lowest point of 4,776 feet. But in the spirit of a David Copperfield magic trick, Funk's and Minchew's design creates the illusion throughout the routing that a hole plays longer than it appears or that the tee-to-green drop is visually more significant than it actually plays.

"If you look from the tee box on number eight it is 225 yards, but your actual carry isn't that long," said Minchew. "It plays about 100 yards from the forward tees over



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF RAINDANCE NATIONAL

TAKING SHAPE: Moving clockwise from RainDance's eighth green in the foreground, you can make out the firepit site; the 18th green complex; the ninth fairway leading into the "Goat Ranch" pitch-and-putt; the second fairway and green; and the third and fourth holes. When RainDance National opens next year, it will be the fourth Colorado course to debut in the last five years, following TPC Colorado, Flying Horse North and the redesigned City Park course.

the arroyo, which is a forced carry of only about 60 or 70 yards."

UP-AND-DOWN FUNK

Funk, who joined the PGA TOUR in 1989, brought his knowledge as a player to ensure RainDance National has plenty of swagger, but is simultaneously friendly to middle and high handicappers. He'd like golfers to be able to get up and down way more frequently than carding a double.

"I don't like bunkers in the fairways that are so deep that when you get in them you can't play out of them," Funk explained. "I don't want to see a decent golf shot turning out being a bad golf shot. So we'll have some magnificent fairway bunkers, but most of them will be pretty shallow. And I've never been a fan of greens that have a tremendous amount of movement, especially when they get into the speeds you see today at 12 and 13 on the Stimpmeter."

A contradiction to his feelings on green undulation manifests itself on 18. Here, depending on the pin placement, golfers get one final skill test on the extremely wavy surface before finishing their round. Though a smattering of deep greenside bunkers will occasionally confound golfers, they'll appreciate that the collars surrounding the greens won't be mowed so low that balls will roll off the green and into oblivion.

> "If you just look around, ... you see the expanse and the beauty of the natural land, which is so pretty. It's a course that is going to get your attention."
>
> —*Fred Funk*

Golfers can also look forward to hitting onto fairways with an average width of 60 yards at their widest point.

Few homes will border those fairways. "Every single hole is separated from the housing," Lind explains. "There are only houses on the left side of the first three holes. Beyond that, you are in golf. There are no streets, no houses."

BIG PLANS

Lind's grand plans call for the RainDance community to have a 200-room lodge, a corporate-event center and on-course stay-and-play guest cabins.

"We originally thought about just building a clubhouse, which is being designed right now, but it's turned into something larger," Lind explains. "In fact, this will be the most significant corporate retreat resort in Northern Colorado. We'll have 45 holes of golf accessible through our sister company, Water Valley."

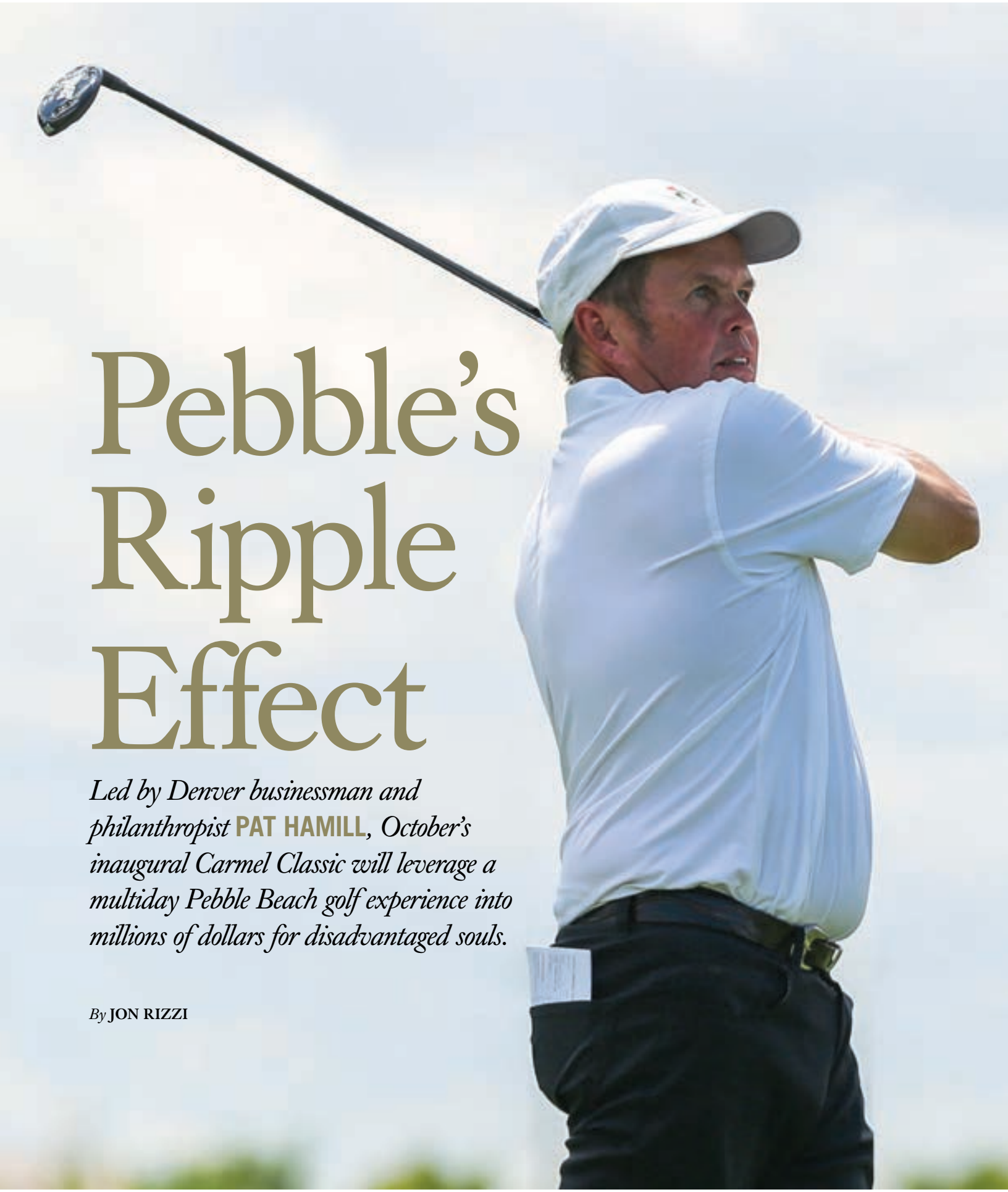
On the to-do list is a wedding chapel that will have a nearly 220-degree view that showcases the Front Range, plus a family fun area with a BMX biking track, a water park, a zip line, an ice skating rink and "SnowDance," a bunny hill complete with snowmaking. One of several "glamping" areas being sketched out is near the right side of the tee box on 16, where homeowners and resort guests can "rough it" in Abercrombie & Kent-style tents.

Shaping and seeding is also underway on "Goat Ranch," a 65,000-square-foot "pitch-and-putt" practice area that's a spin on the "Horse Course" at The Prairie Club in Nebraska and "The Punchbowl" at Bandon Dunes in Oregon.

With Funk and Minchew's stunning layout as the cornerstone of Lind's ambitious plan, RainDance National should begin wowing golfers as early as next July.

"If you just look around, look forward, then backwards, you see the expanse and the beauty of the natural land, which is so pretty," said Funk. "It's a course that is going to get your attention." AG

Kim McHugh is a contributor to *Colorado Avidgolfer*. Visit *raindancecolorado.com*.



Pebble's Ripple Effect

Led by Denver businessman and philanthropist **PAT HAMILL**, *October's inaugural Carmel Classic will leverage a multiday Pebble Beach golf experience into millions of dollars for disadvantaged souls.*

By **JON RIZZI**

CALL IT A COINCIDENCE, but Pat Hamill, the founder, chairman and CEO of Denver-based Oakwood Homes, shares the initials of Peter Hay, the longtime golf professional at Pebble Beach Golf Links. "He was as much a part of Pebble Beach as the misty rain that blows in from the Pacific," the late Charles Price wrote of Hay, who died in 1961. "Some claimed they built the course around him."

Today, Hamill is building something around Pebble Beach–and it's not another master-planned community like the one his company developed at Green Valley Ranch in Denver. It's the Carmel Classic, a four-day, three-night, invitation-only golf experience that will bring 100 golfers (and their significant others) to play as 50 two-person teams at the home of the layout perennially ranked by *Golf Digest* as America's Greatest Public Course.

And they're doing all this to support 11 selected charities whose "focus is on blessing those who have been disadvantaged in areas of youth development, education, job opportunities and affordable housing."

As the personalized, hardcovered invitation book promises, the "outrageously fun" weekend (Oct. 14-17) includes accommodations at The Lodge at Pebble Beach, a round at Pebble Beach Golf Links–during which each player will compete with event host Nick Faldo to get closest to the pin on the par-3 7th–and at Spyglass Hill. There'll be dinners at The Lodge's new Fairway One Room and the private Monterey Peninsula Country Club. Top-tier musicians will perform; top-shelf wine will pour. Pebble's exclusive Beach & Tennis Club will host Saturday's awards ceremony.

Each team pays only to get there. However, each twosome must make a $30,000 donation to be divided among the Classic's beneficiaries. Hamill and the event's other 18 founders cover lodging, food, golf and entertainment, making the entire $30,000 tax-deductible.

"We're sold out and have a waiting list for next year," says Hamill, who notes that each founder has contributed $55,000 this year and has committed to contributing at least that amount annually in the future. "And we have more people who want to be founders, which is amazing."



PHOTOGRAPH BY E.J. CARR

Hamill's annual contribution is $250,000–the same amount he'd personally spent each of the last 20-odd years on a previous edition of the Carmel Classic. In that version, he would treat about two dozen couples–"some who would never have had that chance, which was kind of nice," he says–to a weekend of golf, dine-arounds and themed parties.

He saw it as his way of sharing his love of Pebble Beach, a place that had enchanted him since he'd attended a vendor event there in the 1990s. He eventually took over the vendor's contract with the course.

In addition to the couples' weekend, Hamill–a 6.2 index who owns Green Valley Ranch Golf Club, where he and Jennifer Kupcho finished first in the 2020 CoBank Colorado Women's Open Pro-Am–has also competed in the PGA TOUR's AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. He has finished as high as sixth with partner Matt Every in 2017.

HALFTIME SHOW

Hamill's model for the Carmel Classic would change at the 2019 edition of the AT&T.

Partnered with pro golfer Martin Trainer, Hamill found himself in a foursome with fellow Michigan native John C. Maxwell, a best-selling author, evangelical pastor and leadership expert.

"He knew someone who'd been on one of my Pebble trips," Hamill recalls. "He says, 'This is cool, you invite your friends and they're probably a bunch of white, fat people like me, and it makes you feel good and strokes your ego.' It just hit me over the head–he's right."

The encounter prompted Hamill's re-reading of business leader and "venture philanthropist" Bob Buford's *Halftime,* a largely faith-based game plan for executives "moving from success to significance" during the second half of their lives.

The book forms the basis for the Halftime Institute, which coaches, teaches and connects high-capacity leaders to discern and engage in their life purpose. Working with Halftime Life Coach Lloyd Reeb, the 62-year-old Hamill has built an existential, relational and spiritual roadmap that's as gridded and pie-charted as the reports he uses to run Oakwood Homes.

"Here are my KPIs (Key Performance Indicators)," he says, pointing to the spreadsheet. "My mission is really to use my creative disruptive abilities to transform affordable housing and education-with-job creation and bless the lives and souls of those less fortunate. That's kind of the filter I use."

He pauses and smiles. "My overall KPI is that I want to bounce my last check," he laughs. "I want to make sure the timing's right, of course…I sometimes worry about that."

One of the boxes of his pre-pandemic roadmap of Jan. 9, 2020, contains the words "Carmel Classic: $2.0 million net in 2020."

October's event should easily hit that goal, but Hamill and his 18 founders also want the charities to leverage their contributions. "Our

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE COLORADO OPEN GOLF FOUNDATION



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY PAT HAMILL (VIA FACEBOOK)

NOT STANDING PAT: After decades of treating dozens of couples to a glorious Pebble Beach weekend, Hamill decided to transform the tradition into a powerful fundraiser.

founders are from all over, and they got people and organizations to submit proposals," Hamill explains. "We really wanted them even to take risk. If we were able to give you, say, $200,000, what could you turn that into?"

Proposals from larger organizations involved matching funds to exponentially multiply the amount of a donation, while smaller ones, such as the San Miguel County-based True North, leveraged their ability to serve more people through purchases of equipment, technology and transportation. This year's event projects to impact more than 3 million children, youth and families with nearly $6 million in cash leverage. "And it's only going to increase," Hamill says.

Eight of the 11 initial beneficiaries are Colorado-based. Those with a direct tie to Hamill are the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver–on whose board Hamill is an honorary lifetime member–and the Colorado Building Academy, the hands-on homebuilding and construction-skills school he founded through his BuildStrong Foundation and is franchising nationally. The Colorado "I Have a Dream" Foundation gave him an award in 2017, and First Tee, for which Hamill serves as a national trustee, will also receive Carmel Classic funds.

Two charities–ROC and Free Communities–are based in Charlotte, N.C., and the others are Colorado's True North, Porter Billups Leadership Academy, Amp The Cause and Warren Village.

> "The thing is to create a truly fun experience for people where they can feel good while doing God's work."
>
> —*Pat Hamill*

LEVERAGING IMPACT

Like any good businessman, Hamill understands the power of leverage. He used it to build his board of Carmel Classic founders, and to transform the moribund three-event Colorado Open series, into one of the richest state opens in the country, but an organizational model of sustainability and philanthropy through the Colorado Open Golf Foundation and First Tee of Green Valley Ranch.

Hamill also applied and gained leverage in 2017, when he sold Oakwood Homes to Clayton Properties Group, a Berkshire Hathaway company, eliminating Oakwood's debt while remaining its CEO and chairman.

"I sold to a great organization that will allow this one to be multigenerational," he says. "If I had sold to another organization, I could have gotten more money, but our people would be in a place where they wouldn't have had a career path. If I'd sold to another public homebuilder, they'd turn it into what *they* do."

The sale has also enabled his 30-year-old company to retain its six core values–passion, humility, being hungry, being adaptable, putting people first and focusing on customers.

"It's really business as usual, but now it's on steroids," he says, citing the corporate support for Oakwood's community involvement and the forthcoming On2 affordable-housing product in Green Valley Ranch. "We have affordable-housing crisis in our current market," he says. "We have to shift the ways we do things to bring affordability to people and families."

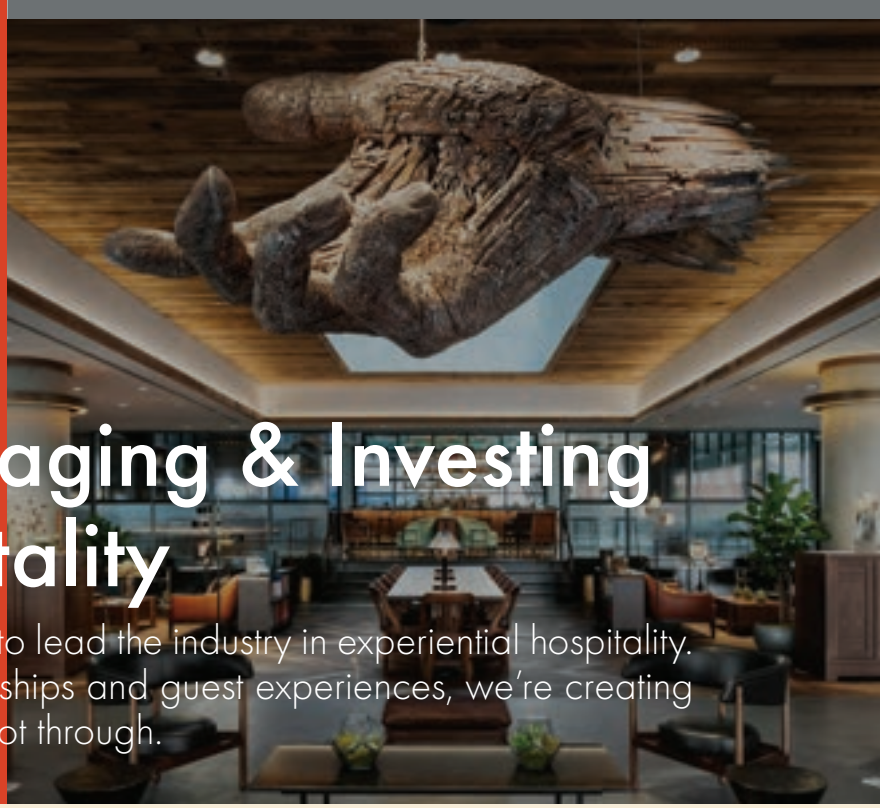
"GIVE 'TIL IT HURTS"

Hamill's Halftime involvement may have served as an epiphany for the Carmel Classic, but it only amplifies and focuses the generosity that his father, also a builder, instilled in him and that he has baked into the culture of Oakwood Homes.

In addition to the aforementioned charities and starting the BuildStrong Foundation and Colorado Homebuilding Academy, Hamill has served as a trustee at the University of Denver. He also vice-chaired the Metropolitan Football Stadium District during the construction of what is now Empower Field at Mile High.

The University of Denver 1999 Founders' Day gave him its Professional Achievement Award, and in 2007 he received the Boys and Girls Clubs Champion of Youth Award. Among his more recent honors: 2017 Bill Daniels Ethical Leader of the Year Award, 2018 St. Jude Hope Award and 2018 Hearthstone

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PHOTOGRAPH BY KATHLEEN LAVINE/COURTESY OF DENVER BUSINESS JOURNAL

> "For Pat, philanthropy is part of life, not just what you think about when you're doing your taxes."
>
> —*Kevin Laura*



COURTESY OF COLORADO HOMEBUILDING ACADEMY



COURTESY OF BUILDSTRONG EDUCATION

GIVING BACK: An Oakwood Homes Foundation, BuildStrong Education promotes education, job training and affordable housing. Clockwise from top: Hamill at BuildStrong's Z Place for Inclusive Learning; flanked by Denver Mayor Michael Hancock and Oakwood team members Teresa Walz, Amy Schwartz, Kelly Leid and Kristina Bee at a BuildStrong event; and by U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet and an instructor at the Colorado Homebuilding Academy.

Builder Humanitarian Award. In addition, he and Oakwood have built and donated homes to benefit the Boys and Girls Club and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

"I've never known him not to be this way," says Kevin Laura, who started working for Hamill in 2007 and has become CEO of First Tee-GVR/CoBank Colorado Opens, president of Green Valley Ranch Golf Club and director of the Carmel Classic.

"It's inspiring and exhausting to work for someone as passionate as he is. For Pat, philanthropy is part of life, not just what you think about when you're doing your taxes. As he likes to say, 'Give 'til it hurts.'"

BuildStrong Education Foundation Executive Director Amy Schwartz remembers coming to work for Hamill's Foundation for Educational Excellence (BuildStrong's precursor) shortly before the 2008 recession. "He had to lay off 100 people, which was extremely hard for him, but he kept the foundation going," she says. "His commitment to education is that strong." Oakwood currently donates $1,000 per new-home sale to BuildStrong.

To those who question the sincerity of his motives, Schwartz kids that it's difficult to work for a philanthropist who's alive and doesn't always crave the spotlight. However, she says, Hamill's generosity is genuine and not always made for public consumption: "I know he's anonymously paid for funerals and given rides to students walking with their toolbelts from the bus stop to the Homebuilding Academy–and never let them know, 'I'm Pat Hamill.'"

"Pat's always had a huge heart. Now he's just focused it in a way that's not so broad," says 37-year-old Charlie Soule, a former University of Denver golfer who first met Hamill 18 years ago. "One of the things on Pat's Halftime plan is having a smaller cohort of people around him, and I'm lucky to be one of them."

Now a real-estate broker and aspiring developer, Soule is one of a dozen rising businesspeople that Hamill mentors in his YPO-like Learning and Growth Forum. "I think he sees a little something in each of us," he says. "Pat's always been loving and kind, but there was never enough time to create down-level effects. He's doing it now. He seems much happier. You can't fake that."

Nor can you fake the impact that Hamill's newfound happiness will have on the millions of people who'll benefit from the first of many fun October weekends at the Carmel Classic.

Jon Rizzi is *CAG*'s founding editor.


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COURTESY OF THE COUNTRY CLUB AT CASTLE PINES

A WISE ACRE: During renovation of the clubhouse, The Crags provides après-golf entertainment for the members of The Country Club at Castle Pines.

Above The Crags

The Country Club at Castle Pines takes putting to a higher level.

AT THIS AUGUST'S SCHOMP BMW CUP, a *Colorado AvidGolfer* event hosted by The Country Club at Castle Pines, guests partook in a putting contest few had experienced without having to navigate a windmill or loop-the-loop. Putting from flat lies, sidehill lies and uphill lies, they watched with intrigue as shots broke 40 feet and gimme-distance putts unspooled into uphill 15-footers quicker than you could say "that's good."

Such is the difference between a lag putt and a Crags putt. Opened last September, The Crags is the stunning, entertaining and engaging one-acre, 18-hole putting course designed and constructed by CCCP's longtime Director of Agronomy Sean McCue. "Crag" is a geological term for steep rock cliffs—the kind upon which his course seems to balance, perching above an abyss covered in rocks, scrub oak, pine and native foliage.

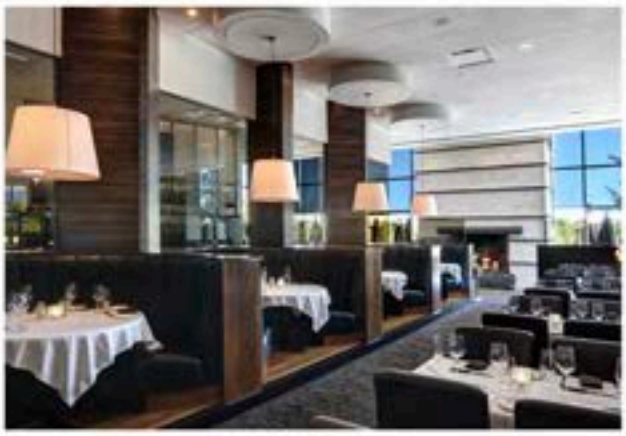
McCue used some of that vegetation to create small, landscaped islands on the green that unify the putting surface with its environment. He drew his inspiration from visiting the Punchbowl putting course at Bandon Dunes (which was itself inspired by the Himalayas course at St. Andrews) and by reading about Alister MacKenzie's eccentric and long extinct 12th green at Sitwell Park in England.

The Crags tumbles 30 feet from its highest to lowest point, with some slopes graded as high as 20 percent. "The most extreme you typically find on a golf course is anything from 3 to 7 percent," McCue explains. He prevents downhill putts from rolling into the yawning chasm below by terracing certain areas and embracing a classic Golden Age green speed of 7.5 to 8 on the Stimpmeter.

Regular *CAG* readers might recall seeing The Crags featured in a recent issue, but not from this angle. The drone's-eye view underscores its enormity and contrast between its groomed, contoured surface and the verdant brush that nose-dives towards the homes below.

When not entertaining tournament players, The Crags and its adjacent firepits and makeshift food-and-drink areas gather members as they await completion of their clubhouse, infinity-edge pool (not unlike the infinity-edge Crags) and other amenities that comprise a $17.1-million capital project. *ccatcastlepines.com*

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