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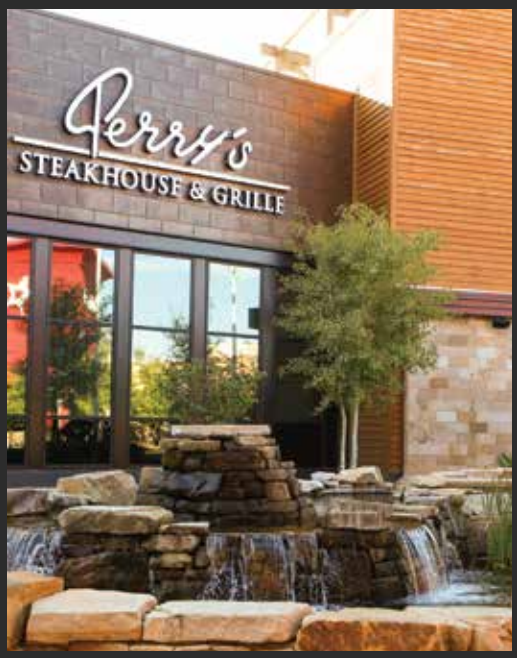





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From Nowhere to North Star



PHOTOGRAPH BY MIC CLIK

"GOLF-WISE, COLORADO is nowhere, a backwater," a writer for *Travel & Leisure Golf* sniffed in 2000. He was trying to convince me to move back to New York, my home state and the apparent epicenter of American golf. I clearly didn't rise to his elitist East Coast bait.

His assessment came to mind while I watched coverage of this year's PGA Championship at Bethpage Black, a course 30 minutes east of my childhood home. On Sunday a number of players experienced the kind of fan behavior usually associated with Jets games. "Stay classy, Suffolk County," Sir Nick Faldo joked after yet another loudmouthed Long Islander yelled "get in the hole" during Dustin Johnson's swing.

Just a few days earlier, at a golf course some 1,800 miles west of Bethpage, the National Golf Foundation announced that the Denver Metro area would serve as the test market for Welcome2Golf, a marketing initiative spearheaded by the National Golf Foundation to "activate" nongolfers who have an interest in playing. The success of the pilot program in Colorado—golf's alleged "backwater"—could lead to rollouts in other cities, fortifying a sport in need of new players.

Why Denver? NGF President and CEO Joe Beditz cites surveys by the NGF—the golf industry's most trusted provider of golf market research and insights—that indicate a "latent demand" of around 648,000 people in and around the Mile High City. An "activation" rate of only 1 percent would add almost 6,500 new golfers to the 126,000 Coloradans who played at least 25 times last year.

Given that the number of golfers nationwide has dropped nearly 20 percent during the past 15 years, the 800-member Colorado PGA and the 60,000-member Colorado Golf Association clearly like the sound of a 5 percent overall increase in active players. Both organizations have partnered with the NGF, which has also enlisted GOLFTEC, PGA TOUR Superstore and Topgolf as Welcome2Golf sponsors. Other golf-community members, including me, have also been involved.

Similar in tone to the successful "Take Me Fishing" campaign run by the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation, Welcome2Golf will use the "Golf Because" slogan. (An example appears on page 37 of this issue.)

Look for promotional emails, social media posts, videos and digital and traditional media spots during June and July. They won't be aimed at activating you and me, but at the friends, neighbors and relatives whom we can take to the course and introduce to golf.

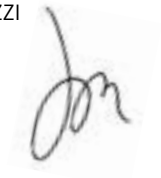
If we don't take them, we can tell them to register on *welcome2golf.com* for access to the list of the program's 12 "welcome centers" (Applewood, Broken Tee, CommonGround, Foothills, Fossil Trace, Harvard Gulch, Indian Tree, Kennedy, Legacy Ridge, The Meadows, Overland Park and Walnut Creek) that offer fun, low-cost introductory programs.

In addition to enormous latent demand, a big reason Beditz and the NGF chose Denver for its pilot program was the state's emerging national reputation. The CGA and Colorado PGA created the Junior Golf Alliance of Colorado, which will host the U.S. Girls' Junior next year at Eisenhower Golf Club in Colorado Springs. The Colorado PGA Section has produced 10 award winners since 2007—including two Herb Graffis Awards, bestowed upon the entire section and named for the founder of the National Golf Foundation.

It certainly doesn't hurt, either, that Colorado's Jennifer Kupcho (see page 52) won the inaugural Augusta National Women's Amateur and was the No. 1 women's amateur player in the world for 33 weeks before turning professional in late May.

Whether Denver, as the W2G pilot program, will lead golf into a more vigorous future remains to be seen. What's clear, however, is that golf-wise, Colorado is "somewhere" now—a Polaris in the firmament of the game. Let's work together to keep it there.

Stay classy, Colorado. —JON RIZZI





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Over the past three years, the raffle has raised a combined $100,000 for junior golf-related programs in the state. So, what's the goal for 2019?



IN THE LOOP: Evans Scholar caddies benefit from the BMW Championship.

How about $100,000 for this year alone—with the money benefiting Colorado-based youth golf programs such as the Solich Caddie & Leadership Academy, Youth on Course and the Junior Golf Alliance of Colorado?

"We feel like there are so many more chances for people to win that we're hoping to increase ticket sales considerably," said Ryan Smith, chief development officer for the CGA. "Last year we sold $40,000. It's a substantial amount to grow, but we see an increased need, so that's why we're increasing our expectations."

In the past, the Bandon Dunes Golf Resort in Oregon has provided the lone grand-prize package for the CGA raffle. But this year, there will be seven grand prizes in all—including six stay-and-play packages and one stay-and-spectate "grand grand" prize to the 2019 BMW Championship at Medinah Country Club in suburban Chicago, where former University of Colorado athlete Hale Irwin won his third U.S. Open in 1990.

The stay-and-play packages for this year's raffle include:

- **Bandon Dunes Golf Resort** (three nights, six rounds of golf, including caddie fees).
- **Kohler/Whistling Straits/Blackwolf Run** in Wisconsin (two nights, three rounds of golf).
- **Streamsong Golf Resort** in Florida (three nights, three rounds of golf).
- **Sand Valley Golf Resort** in Wisconsin (two nights, two rounds of golf).
- **TPC Scottsdale and Fairmount Scottsdale Princess** in Arizona (three nights, two rounds of golf).
- **The Peaks Resort and Telluride Golf Club** to play in a CGA Member event Sept. 6-8 (two nights, two rounds of golf), with a courtesy 2019 BMW X7 vehicle to drive to and from Telluride.

Winners of the stay-and-play packages may bring a guest and will receive $1,000 worth of gift cards for travel, food and beverage, and, with the exception of Telluride, the packages can be redeemed through at least the first half of 2020.

Additional raffle prizes include rounds at 40-plus CGA member facilities, as well as golf merchandise and other goodies. Among the rounds are those offered by Aspen Glen Club, The Club at Cordillera, The Club at Pradera, The Pinery Country Club, Valley Country Club, EagleVail Golf Club, Meridian Golf Club, Inverness Golf Club and the two Keystone courses.

"Not only have these national partners recognized the good work of the CGA, but many courses around the state, both private and public, have also donated to ensure the success of this event," Smith said.

For $40 each, you can purchase unlimited tickets for this state-licensed raffle through Aug. 1. To purchase tickets and for additional information, go to *ColoradoGolf.org*.

Prize winners will be selected Aug. 2.

"We have more than 50 prizes now, and almost all of them have been donated," Smith noted.

The trip to the BMW Championship—the penultimate event of the PGA TOUR's FedExCup Playoffs, set for Aug. 15-18—will include first-class roundtrip airfare to Chicago, a three-night stay at a host hotel (Thursday to Sunday, including transportation to the course) and a $500 gift card for food and beverage. The prize allows the winner and guest to walk inside the ropes with a featured group during Friday's action, and two 18th-hole tickets at Medinah for Friday and Saturday's rounds.

"We're excited to bring back BMW, which was a (raffle) partner during 2014, the year of the BMW Championship at Cherry Hills Country Club," Smith said.

Another venue that will host a major event in the near future is Whistling Straits, which will welcome the 2020 Ryder Cup. Rounds at Whistling Straits and Blackwolf Run highlight the Kohler package. Since 2004, Whistling Straits has staged three PGA Championships and a U.S. Senior Open.

"The raffle has been such a successful initiative thanks to the generosity of Bandon Dunes," Smith said. "Our hope with the expanded raffle is to ensure more programs and organizations like Youth on Course and the Junior Golf Alliance receive funding. As membership in both increases, so does the need to serve more kids through this raffle."

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE WESTERN GOLF ASSOCIATION

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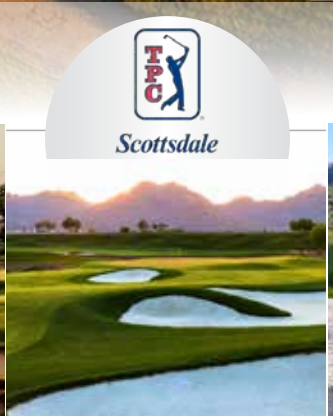



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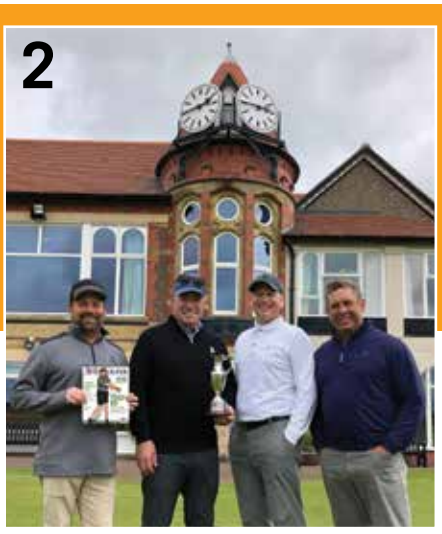

AVID GOLFERS:
1. Marcelo Kort and **Jeremy Liby** (*@jliby*) at **King's Deer Golf Club** in Monument, Colorado.

2. David Flinn, **Andy Christensen**, **George Kahrhoff** and **John Fredericks** at **Royal Liverpool Golf Club** in Hoylake, England.

3. Ben Winter, **Scott Henderson**, **Craig Dies** and **Bill Schaeffer** at **The Links Golf Course** in Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

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Today, more than a century later, folks in and around Green Valley Ranch can again get farm-fresh meals from a business with the Ebert name. Ebert's Terrace, which opened shortly before May's CoBank Colorado Women's Open on the footprint of the former Green Valley Ranch clubhouse, celebrates the state's farming and ranching heritage with a menu rich in locally sourced meats, fish, vegetables, beers and spirits from the Centennial State.

"Our menu is focused on our neighborhood," says Ebert's Terrace General Manager James A. Young, explaining that he sent surveys to 1,000 people "who live on course, who belong to it and play it often. Usually you'd get a 10 percent response rate. We got 30 percent. A lot of thought went into it."

The resulting menu features appearances by Red Bird Farms poultry—most memorably in a chamomile-brined, lightly smoked, roasted half-chicken. A Fireside Bourbon barbecue sauce glazes a rack of dry-rubbed, marinated Colorado pork ribs. Local bison comes in burgers and a meatloaf wrapped in Tender Belly bacon. There are smoked rib eyes grilled to order, and carnitas featuring cider-braised, smoked Berkshire pork shoulder—a version of which also appears in a sandwich topped with Olathe corn slaw. Executive Chef Alec Bruno, who comes from Ocean Prime, may occasionally prepare Colorado trout as a special, but "sashimi-grade" Alamosa striped bass is always on the menu.

So are seasonal dishes featuring Boulder honey, Palisade peaches, Olathe Sweet Sweet Corn and other locally sourced produce. The fully stocked bar showcases spirits from Leopold Bros. and Breckenridge Distilleries, as well as Montanya Rum, Stranahan's Colorado Whiskey and craft brews from Dillon's Pug Ryan Brewery and the Denver Beer Company.

With Green Valley Ranch's golf operations now housed in the same building as the Jim McLean Golf Academy, Ebert's now commands an entirely upgraded space capable of seating 165 people indoors and another 80 on an expanded outdoor terrace. The outdoor area features radiant heat in the overhang, retractable walls that allow guests simultaneously to sit outdoors while bellying up to the bar, and a retractable roof that provides summer shade without blocking the northwestern mountain views. The décor is streamlined elegance. "We have TVs but we're not a sports bar," Young says.

Ebert's inhabits the same building as the Oakwood Life Room, a quieter private area where as many as 150 Oakwood Life Club members—residents of the development's active-adult Fairways communities—gather, play cards, socialize and also enjoy Ebert's Colorado-centric cuisine.

Still, Ebert's bills itself as a place where "everyone is welcome," says Young, stressing the difference between customer service and hospitality. "Customer service is the right food at the right temperature delivered to the right person at the right time. Hospitality is how every customer feels from start to end. Some places focus on turn and burn. Not us. We want people to take time and relax and catch their breath. We're about community." *gvrgolf.com*



NEIGHBORHOOD HUB: The stylish Ebert's will specialize in local food and top-shelf hospitality.

RENDERINGS COURTESY OF GREEN VALLEY RANCH GOLF CLUB

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The New Inverness



ALFRESCO AMBIENCE: The remodeled exterior boasts an outdoor patio and beer garden.

RENDERINGS COURTESY OF THE CLUB AT INVERNESS

GREEN VALLEY RANCH isn't the only golf establishment renovating its clubhouse and restaurant. This month **The Club at Inverness** will welcome members and guests to the **Breckenridge Brewery Ale and Game House**—the final piece in a multimillion-dollar series of upgrades that the 40-year-old hotel and conference center has undergone since Denver-based Silverwest Hotels purchased it in 2015 and set about converting it into the Hilton Denver Inverness.

"We've overhauled the entire ground floor–the golf shop, spa, locker rooms, event space, bridal suite and outdoor area," notes PGA Head Professional David Steinmetz. "We put down The Spotted Dog," he jokes, referring to the bar. "It's now an event space with a tent directly outside to create a phenomenal area for weddings."

Gone, too, is the unsightly outdoor concrete staircase leading to the Garden Terrace, as ownership wanted more space for patio dining and a beer garden.



BEER AND DEER: The Breckenridge Brewery Ale and Game House serves both.

Those diners will be served by Breckenridge Brewery Ale and Game House, which now inhabits the erstwhile golf grille and adjacent event room. It features retractable glass walls to allow the dining and drinking to spill into an outdoor seating area and beer garden with a firepit near the pond. The concept of "Game House" manifests itself not only in the form of pool tables, cornhole boards and multiple indoor and outdoor activities, but also in the presence of game meats like elk and venison on the menu.

To reflect these changes, ownership this year also rebranded the semi-private, Press Maxwell-designed course to The Golf Club at Inverness from The Inverness Golf Club. The restaurant is open to the public, while members will have their own lounge, from which they can order food and drinks from the restaurant. *hilton.com*

Golf by Numbers

2

PGA TOUR Superstores will dot the Colorado landscape as of June 8, when a new location opens at 5650 W. 88th Avenue in Westminster. The enormous success of its Greenwood Village store, which opened in 2011 on Arapahoe Road, prompted the northern expansion. The megastore focuses on providing an amazing customer experience, where enthusiasts of all levels can putt on the 1,400 square-foot green and work on their swings in five high-tech interactive simulators and seven hitting bays. Take lessons, get fit for clubs and shop the country's largest selection of clubs, accessories, footwear and apparel for men, women and juniors. More than just a big-box golf retailer, PGA TOUR Superstore is committed to growing the game. It hosts free Kids Zone clinics each month, along with a Get Golf Ready Ladies Program and virtual nine-hole leagues on in-store simulators. Its work with The First Tee has impacted thousands of young people across the Denver community. The store also sells the latest in tennis gear. *pgatss.com*

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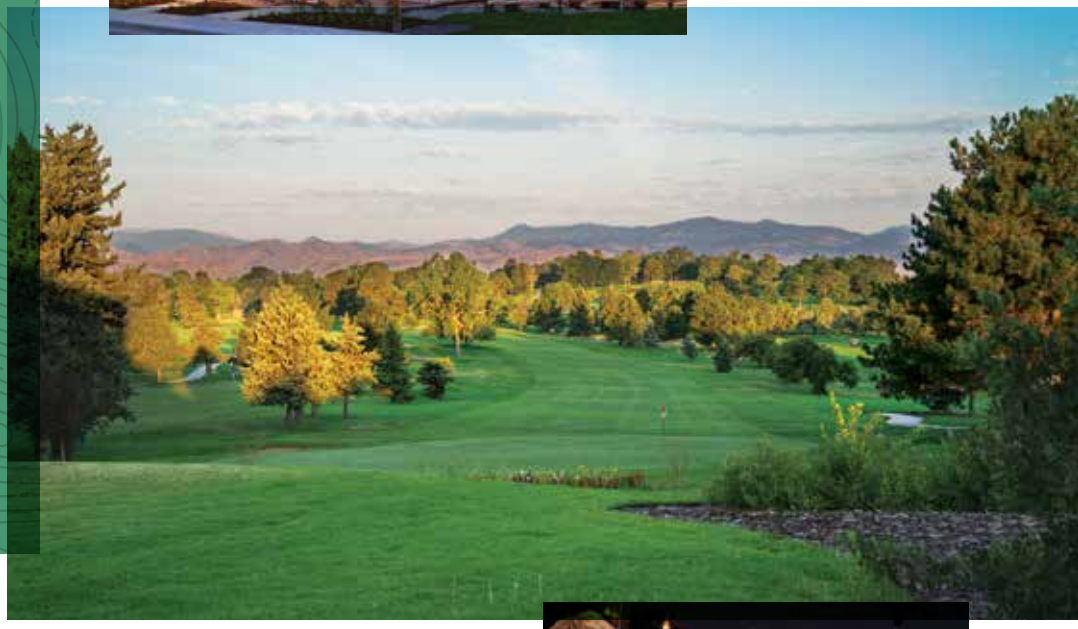



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Shane's Manifest Destiny

FOR 23 YEARS, Colorado-based professional golfer **Shane Bertsch** has toggled between the PGA and Web.com tours. But age and shoulder surgery have lately limited the Parker resident's competitive starts. Of course, one of those starts came in last year's CoBank Colorado Open, where the event's 1998 champion showed he could still go low, finishing T3 at 18-under, only one shot out of a playoff with Dru Love and Sam Saunders.

An avid outdoorsman, Bertsch says he's lately spent as much time honing his fly-fishing in Deckers as he has his ball-striking at Colorado Golf Club. So, with the PGA TOUR Champions still a year and a Q-School away, the 49-year-old Colorado native started casting for a way to share his twin passions with people who'd pay for it. He's calling the concept "Golf on the Fly."

He got a nibble when Telluride Ski and Golf Club CFO **Bill Jensen** invited him to spend June through Labor Day as Telluride's PGA TOUR professional. "I joke that I'm the golf ambassador," the affable Bertsch says. "Seriously, though, my first priority is to focus on sharing my golf knowledge and TOUR experience with the 500 members of the club."

Bertsch will focus mainly on existing players, not beginners.

That entails providing individual and group instruction, playing lessons, chipping and putting classes and "other programming options"–one or more of which will likely involve a morning of golf and an afternoon of fly-fishing on the San Miguel, Dolores or Uncompahgre rivers. Bertsch is working with the club's head PGA Professional **D.J. Poland,** who sees the angling component as an added membership benefit.

Another person interested in having Bertsch accompany his members on courses and along tailwaters is **Jeff Potter,** the president and CEO of Manifest Escapes, the luxury travel club that provides getaways for members who seek experiential travel options that are close to home.

"We've had some great discussions," Bertsch says. "I think we can really branch this out and it could become more of a long-term thing."

"Golf will be a key element of its offering with the significant interest of the vast majority of golfers who are active and seek other experiences," Potter says. "Manifest has engaged Shane Bertsch to support the company's efforts with golfers, and specifically the interest they have with other activities, such as fishing, which would be combined into specific trips."

Those trips could certainly include Telluride—where this summer, Telluride members and guests at The Peaks Resort can take advantage of Bertsch's golf expertise for $140 per hour. *tellurideskiresort.com*; *manifestescapes.com*.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY SHANE BERTSCH





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SIGN UP NOW: TPC Colorado needs volunteers for its Web.com Tour event July 8-14.

Voluntary Assignment

MORE THAN 20 years have passed since Colorado last hosted a **Web.com Tour** event. Back then, it was called the Nike Tour, and Riverdale Dunes staged two tournaments. Future British Open champion Stewart Cink won the 1996 version and Pat Bates edged J.L. Lewis in '97.

So, when the Web.com Tour's $600,000 TPC Colorado Championship at Heron Lakes debuts in Berthoud July 8-14, which once or future PGA TOUR champion will you one day be able to say you saw there?

Better yet, wouldn't you like to say you had a part in making the event happen?

Then volunteer. "An event of this size would not be possible without the help of volunteers," said Drew Blass, tournament director. "Anyone is welcome to volunteer. You don't have to be an avid follower of the PGA TOUR or the Web.com Tour." Options include shuttle drivers, marshals, standard bearers and walking scorers. All volunteer positions are integral to making this a successful event.

Volunteers must be 14 or older, and may request to be partnered with friends in their assignments. Volunteer packages valued at $350 cost $50 and include a golf shirt, hat, a drawstring sports bag, two tickets for the week, parking pass and breakfast and lunch on volunteering days, as well as the opportunity to play TPC Colorado on a designated Volunteer Golf Day. Non-volunteer tickets start at $15 and can be purchased through *TPCColoradoChampionship.com*.

4

female PGA Professionals—a record—qualified to play in April's PGA Professional Championship at Belfair Golf Club in Bluffton, S.C. Two of the four hailed from Colorado: **Alexandra Braga** of Denver Country Club and **Sherry Andonian** of Valley Country Club. Andonian, who has won the Colorado PGA West Chapter title twice in the last three years, missed the cut, as did Braga, the winner of last year's Colorado PGA Women's Championship. Of the nine competitors with Colorado ties, only CGA Amateur Champion **Marty Jertson** played all four rounds, finishing tied for eighth with an even-par 287. The other two women in the field, **Joanna Coe** and **Ashley Grier**, came in 51st and 71st respectively. *coloradopga.com*



Alexandra Braga



Sherry Andonian

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMIE SCHWABEROW/CLARKSON CREATIVE (LEFT); COURTESY ALEXANDRA BRAGA (MIDDLE); SHERRY ANDONIAN (RIGHT)

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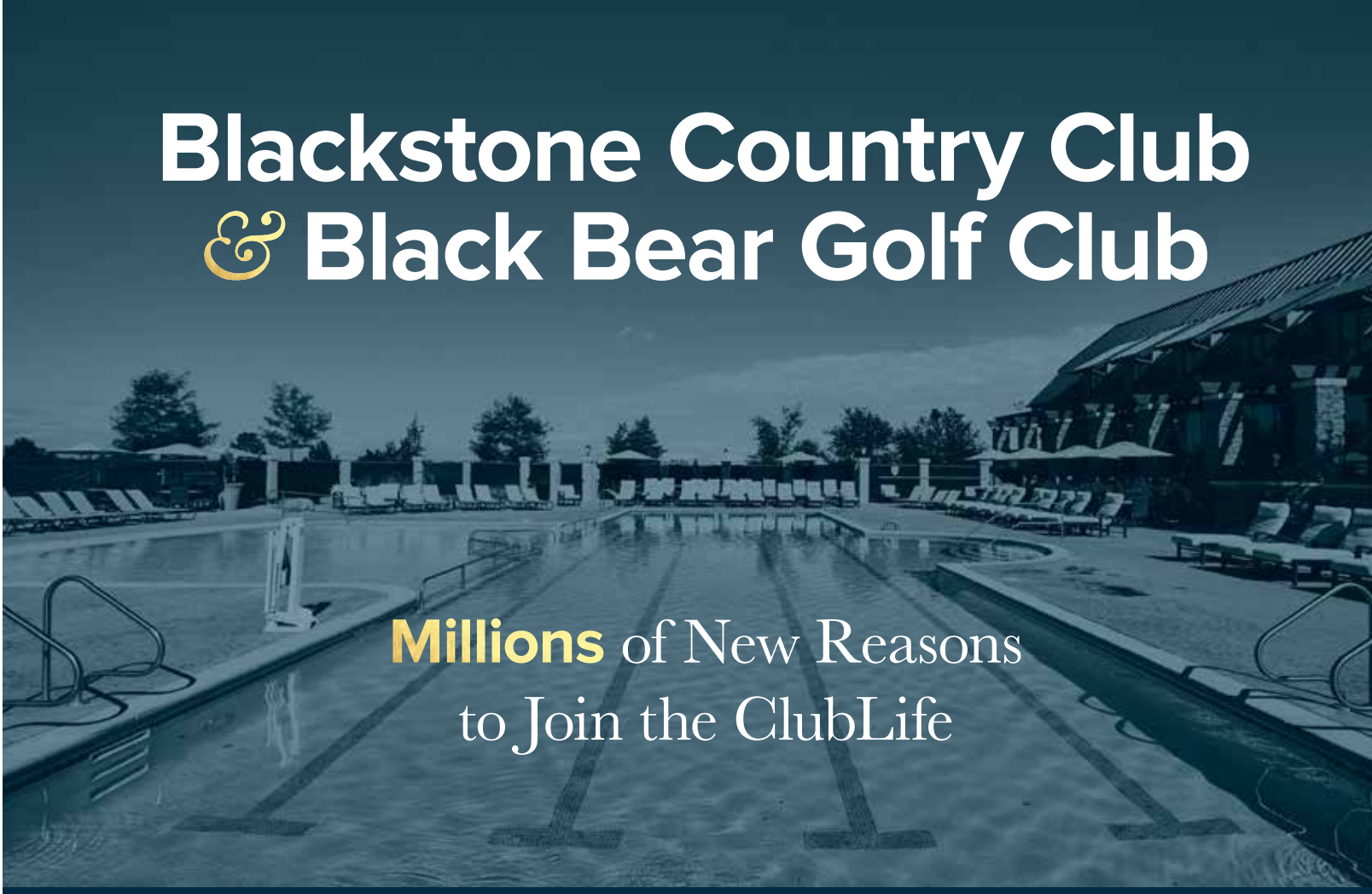

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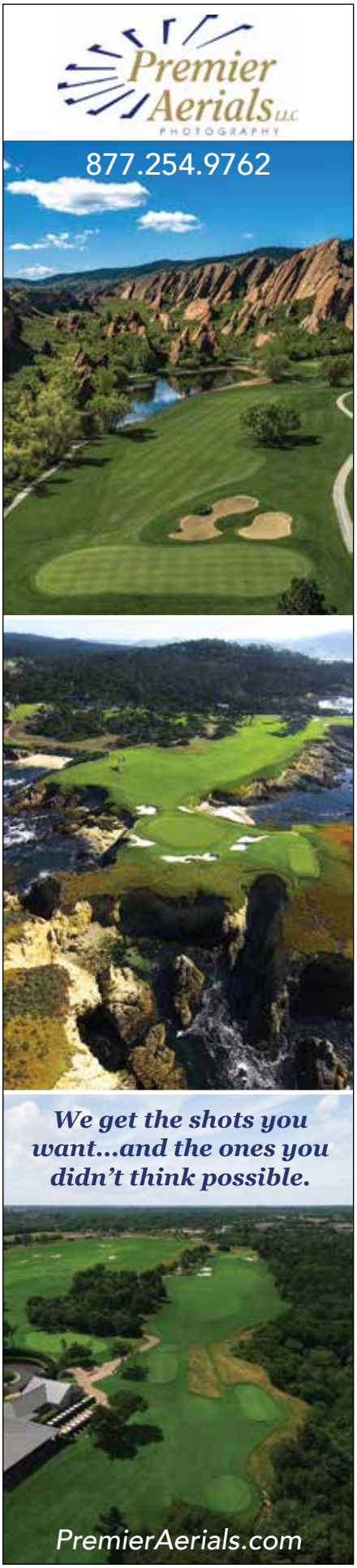

A $50 Million Shark Tank

FOR $50 MILLION, golf icon **Greg Norman**'s 11,600-acre Seven Lakes Ranch near Meeker could be yours. Assembled from three properties the Great White Shark purchased between 2000 and 2004–including the 244-acre Seven Lakes Lodge and the adjacent 3,000-acre Pollard Ranch–the two-time Open champion's spread features a 14,000-square-foot Gordon Pierce-designed main lodge with eight bedrooms and nine bathrooms. Six guest cabins, four staff cabins and a four-bedroom hunting lodge dot the tract, which covers nearly five times the area occupied by the town of Aspen, roughly 130 miles away.


ROOM TO SPARE: Norman's ranch covers 18 square miles.

Norman cut $5 million off the price at which he'd listed it three years ago. The lodge boasts panoramic views of the White River Valley and multiple lakes. The property offers private elk and white-tailed deer hunting, horseback riding, hiking, nordic skiing, boating, paddle boarding, as well as sporting clays and long-range rifle courses. Two miles of trout-rich White River frontage lure fly-casters. To ensure a buyer's enjoyment of this outdoorsman's paradise, Norman will throw in farm and ranch equipment, furnishings, boats, snowmobiles, mountain bikes, two dozen horses, skiing and snowshoeing equipment–everything, apparently, except golf clubs. *sevenlakesranch.com*





32 two-person teams competed over Mother's Day weekend in Ballyneal Golf Club's inaugural Chop Hills Classic. The $73,000 raised by the tournament went directly to the **Ballyneal Foundation**, which rewards deserving golf club employees in both Colorado and Nebraska with college scholarships. Event highlights included an ace by Brian Schoenberg in a "Mr. Big Shot" contest, good for a one-year membership to the private club currently ranked 46th on *Golf Digest*'s list of America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses. The walking-only Tom Doak design sprawls across the undulant, sand-based "chop hills" near Holyoke, and a number of caddies have earned Evans Scholarships. The Foundation scholarship rewards not only loopers, but any employee of one of Colorado golf's great treasures. *ballyneal.com/foundation*


Ballyneal


MATCH MAN: A.J. Ott of Fort Collins.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE COLORADO GOLF ASSOCIATION

28 years have passed since Brett Dean became the last back-to-back winner of the Colorado Golf Association's Match Play Championship. On June 17-21 **A.J. Ott**, a rising senior at CSU, could end that drought at the Club at Rolling Hills in Golden. The Fort Collins native won last year's event decisively, defeating Ross Macdonald 9 & 8. Ott and Macdonald are among those exempted into the 84-player field. Four qualifying events will take place June 3-13 for the 119th playing of our oldest state championship. *coloradogolf.org*

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Capitol Gains

ON APRIL 17 the West Foyer of the State Capitol Building witnessed bipartisan support as 13 Republican and 13 Democratic legislators showed up for the **Colorado Golf Coalition**'s annual Golf Day at the State Capitol. That's twice the total that attended last year.

The spike in interest may have had something to do with star power. In touting the benefits of the game to lawmakers, the coalition—comprised of the Colorado Golf Association, Colorado PGA, the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and the Mile High Chapter of the Club Management Association of America—brought National Drive, Chip & Putt Finalists **Chunya "Bead" Boonta** (second place, Girls 12-13) of Centennial and **Caitlyn Chin** (5th place, Girls 10-11) of Greenwood Village. Both had competed in the televised event the Sunday before the Masters at Augusta National.

FOURSOME: Caitlyn Chin (left) and Chunya "Bead" Boonta (right) flank Sen. Owen Hill and his daughter.

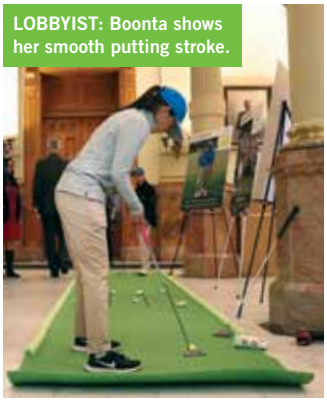


PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE COLORADO GOLF ASSOCIATION

As the embodiment of the benefits of golf, the well-spoken girls engaged with legislators in conversation and friendly putting competitions. They obliged photo requests and later received recognition on the Senate floor, as did Augusta National Women's Amateur champion **Jennifer Kupcho** of Westminster.

Another Jennifer, **Jennifer Cassell**, facilitated the event. Cassell, who has served as the Colorado Golf Coalition lobbyist for the last five years, keeps tabs on any bills with an impact on the golf industry. Those include issues of pesticide application, water use, general environmental stewardship, seasonal employment, zoning and more.

LOBBYIST: Boonta shows her smooth putting stroke.



In addition to the feel-good presence of Chin and Boonta, Cassell and coalition representatives made a point of reminding lawmakers that the golf industry pumps $1.7 billion into the Colorado economy. They also distributed information to dispel misperceptions about the game as environmentally unfriendly and elitist.

On the environmental front, golf courses account for less than one-third of 1 percent of the state's water usage, and 90 percent of that water is non-potable. Golf courses also provide greenspaces on which wildlife and vegetation thrive.

And as far as elitism is concerned, public courses host three-quarters of the rounds played in Colorado, and the state's junior golf programs—especially the Junior Golf Alliance of Colorado and Golf in Schools—are successfully prioritizing affordability and accessibility to attract children from across all socioeconomic backgrounds.

---

3 Colorado college golf teams won their conference championships. Behind junior **Mary Weinstein**'s record-setting 65, the University of Denver women triumphed in the Summit League, as did their male counterparts, thanks to medalist **Cal McCoy** and **Esteban Missura**, who battled in a five-way playoff. The University of Northern Colorado men also took the Big Sky Conference title for the second consecutive year, with senior **Joshua Matz** and juniors **Cody Welch** and **Nick Sharp** leading the way. UNC's women finished third in their championship, but sophomore **Beah Cruz** became the third woman in school history to win the Big Sky Individual Championship, triumphing in a playoff.



Mary Weinstein

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF DU ATHLETICS (TOP, LEFT); UNC ATHLETICS (RIGHT)



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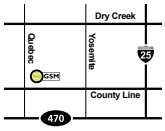

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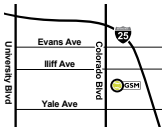

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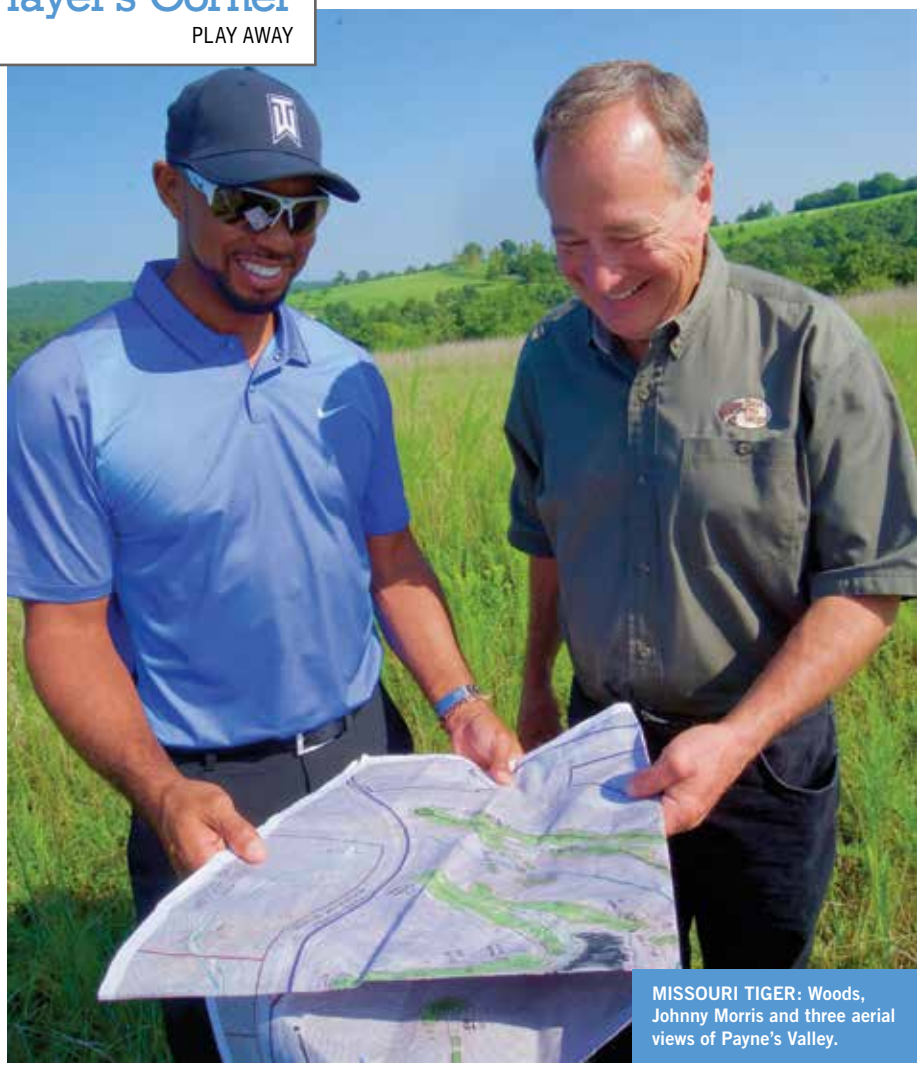







MISSOURI TIGER: Woods, Johnny Morris and three aerial views of Payne's Valley.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF BIG CEDAR LODGE

Branson Links to History

Tiger Woods and golf's Ozark Mountain Daredevil pay tribute to Payne Stewart.

By Tom Ferrell

THE YEAR IS 1999. Golf is changing—fast. Payne Stewart has matured into the player many people knew he could be. In June, he holds off two of the game's new stars—Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods—to win the U.S. Open Championship at Pinehurst. A year later, the USGA holds a somber memorial ceremony for Stewart at Pebble Beach, marking the end of his reign as U.S. Open champion and remembering his life, which had tragically ended in a plane crash the previous October. Among the few who did not attend: Tiger Woods, who opted to continue preparing for the championship and went on to dismantle the field by a record 15 shots.

Today, the names of Payne Stewart and Tiger Woods are once again linked—this time forever—courtesy of Bass Pro Shops founder and homespun golf resort developer Johnny Morris. In the unlikely setting of Branson, Missouri, Woods and his TGR Design firm will unveil their first public course design this fall. Its name? Payne's Valley, an homage to Stewart, the home state hero. Part of Morris' sprawling Big Cedar Lodge resort, Payne's Valley plays across dramatic cliffsides, through rocky outcroppings and majestic valleys, highlighting the scenery and topography that Stewart loved most.

"Johnny is passionate about connecting people to this setting and the outdoors," Woods said. "This is something he really believes in, something that is greater than us. I'm honored to be part of that at Payne's Valley."

Morris has drawn from another pair of golf legends in his quest to share the Ozarks landscape with golfers. Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw's Ozarks National course opened in April, hosting a PGA TOUR Champions event and winning instant acclaim from players and media alike.

"Sometimes we just had to fall back on Johnny's love of this natural setting," Coore says of the unique environment that Ozarks National occupies. "He has such a sensitivity for the movement of this land, and we would just follow that where it took us."

The result is a singular routing that incorporates multiple ridgelines, with connecting holes pulling the divergent landforms together.

"It took a while for us to see it," Coore notes. "But once we did, everything fell into place. It's a beautiful place, and a great golf experience."

Ozarks National and Payne's Valley join Tom Fazio's Buffalo Ridge, Jack Nicklaus' Top of the Rock short course and Gary Player's stunning 13-hole Mountain Top par-three course, which offers the most compelling views and settings on the property.

Coore admits that there were times when Morris' vision of golf on the Big Cedar property intimidated him. "He was overseeing a lot of work at one time," Coore says. "I suggested he might want to go just a little bit slower. He told me, 'life is short. These things live on. I've got to do it now.' Well, who can argue with that?"

Tom Ferrell is *CAG*'s editor-at-large. For more info, visit *bigcedar.com*, or call 417-335-2777.

Ignition Sequence

Five surefire moves to a more explosive swing. By Jason Witczak

EVEN THOUGH LOUSY spring weather has kept us all off the course, it should not have kept you from preparing your body to have your best golf season ever. After all, dedicating yourself to getting better at golf sometimes has to start with a commitment to fix your body in order to fix your swing. Increasing strength and flexibility can get your body physically ready for the endurance required throughout the year.

Here, my student Karin Hart and I demonstrate five different exercises focusing on golf-related movements that any level of golfer can do to improve his or her overall strength. These simple exercises are specifically designed to improve your golf game and prevent injuries. Each of them will strengthen your core and obliques, giving you more awareness of body control and allow you to activate the glutes to increase your speed and power.

Perform each of these movements 8-12 times, three circuits, three times a week.







KETTLE BELL SWINGS

Main focus: Increase your explosiveness by stabilizing glutes and hips.

- Hold the bell with both hands so it hangs between your legs, then hinge your hips into a squat position.
- Engaging your core and keeping arms straight, stand up quickly so the bell rocks up no higher than eye level.
- Hinge your hips into a squat and let the kettlebell swing back beneath your body. Be sure not to squat too much as the kettlebell goes in between your legs.
- The two main elements in this movement–swinging down to create tension and power and exploding upward while your body stays stable–helps train the butt and hip muscles to boost the power in your downswing.

PRO TIP: Two added benefits are gaining strength in your shoulders and getting in a cardio workout.

Just be careful not to graze your knees with the kettlebell.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY E.J. CARR







GOLF SWING MED BALL TOSS

Main focus: Stabilize your body and increase your arm speed.

- Hold the medicine ball with your arms extended.
- Keeping the width between your two arms the same throughout, rotate into a "swing." As you move from the backswing into a forward swing, remain balanced in your lower body and stable within your core.
- Allow your arms to move uninterrupted as you throw the medicine ball. This movement will improve your golf swing by training your body to stay stable during rotation and allowing your arms to swing naturally.

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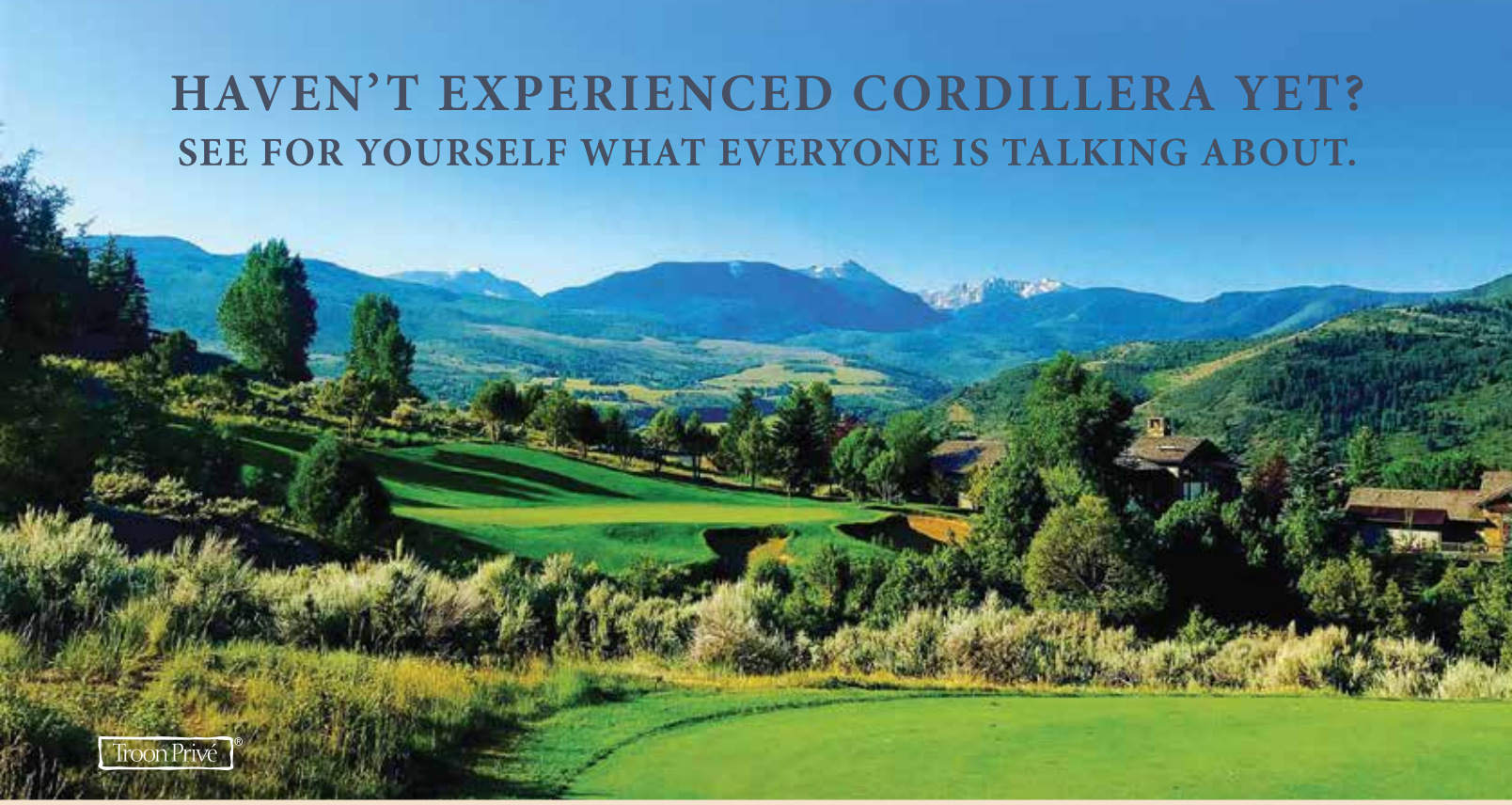

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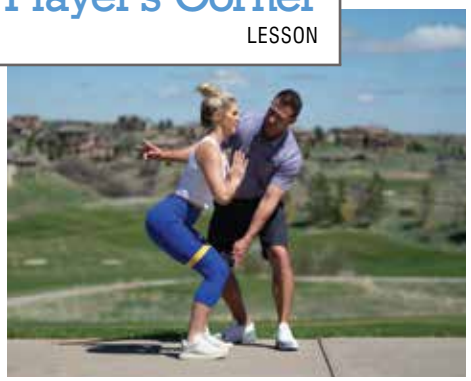





BAND WALK

Main focus: Activate the strongest muscles in your body–your glutes–to increase swing power.

• Place a resistance band above or below your knee (whatever position is more comfortable).

• Stand with your legs just wider than shoulder width, similar to the golf swing, to give you a stable base.

• Place your hands together at your chest. Assuming a standing squat pose (back straight, knees bent, buttocks out) focus on pushing outward with your knees while walking forward. Do not let your knees go over your toes. (You should be able to see your toes if you look down).

• Take eight steps forward and eight steps backward while maintaining the position. Then take the same number of steps laterally to the right and back to the left.

• Be sure to keep your core activated throughout both movements and avoid rocking back and forth or side to side.

• It is critical to perform these movements correctly to activate your glutes properly and to protect your knees! Be sure that your knees never go over the front of your toes (as in the "wrong" photo).

PRO TIP: Try these glute activation movements before a round of golf! Bring your band with you to do these exercises in the parking lot before you warm up.







PHOTOGRAPHS BY E.J. CARR

SPRI GOLF SWING

Main focus: Train your body to swing on the correct plane.

• Holding a lightweight SPRI stick, stand at address with each foot on a Dyna Disc.

• Swing back the club vertically, putting it in position to fall and generate clubhead speed as it stays on plane on the downswing.

• The stick should feel light throughout the swing. The Dyna Discs help center your weight and prevent swaying, giving you the stability necessary for your hands and wrists to involuntarily hinge upward as your body stays strong.

• When doing the movement correctly, you will feel your weight stay centered throughout the movement.

• If the stick feels heavy, your swing is too "inside" ("wrong" photo). Your weight shifts to your toes, forcing you to lift, rather than swing, the club—and to lose your balance and fall off the Dyna Discs.







FOREARM PLANK EXERCISE BALL ROLL-OUTS

Main focus: Maintain good balance and form while activating the three main muscle groups critical to the golf swing—lats, glutes and core.

• Place your forearms on the exercise ball and place your legs into a plank position.

• While squeezing your core and maintaining a straight line from the crown of your head to your toes, push your forearms out and away from your body, then pull them back in. It is more important to maintain good form than to get your forearms out far.

• Make sure not to arch your back too much, nor stick your buttocks too high.

Jason Witczak is PGA Director of Instruction at The Pinery Country Club and The Club at Pradera, both in Parker. *jwitczak@arcisgolf.com*; 303-607-5677

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A Foursome of Father's Day Ideas

Whether you can afford one ball or a full set of irons, it's time to make Dad feel special.

By Tony Dear

AT THE RISK of being presumptuous, Dad is the most important golfer in the family. He more than likely introduced the game to you and everyone else. So, on Father's Day, a little reflection of your affection in the way of hard goods couldn't hurt. Here are four items he certainly wouldn't expect. But were he to find any of them at the foot of his bed or on his front porch on U.S. Open Sunday, he'd punch the air in celebration.



ODYSSEY STROKE LAB PUTTER

A 75g shaft and 40g weight in the butt-end redistribute the club's weight to the head and grip, promoting a smooth, pendulum stroke. There is a variety of head shapes to choose from, each with the White Hot Microhinge insert designed to provide exceptional feedback. Variable hosel design gives you a choice of toe-hang or face-balanced putter to satisfy all strokes—from arced to straight-back-and-through. $250; *odysseygolf.com*

BRIDGESTONE E6

The soft ball category has grown rapidly in recent years, and Bridgestone's "reformulated" e6 is the softest the company has ever made. With a compression of just 44, the two-piece construction ball is designed to help those with moderate swing speeds achieve greater ball speeds. Available in white and optic yellow. $22/dozen; *bridgestonegolf.com*





OGIO SHADOW FUSE 304 STAND BAG

The company's Fit Disc System and redesigned shoulder straps distribute weight more effectively and ensure an easy carry, while the 200D polyester ripstop fabric is extremely durable and repels moisture. Stash pockets that are easily accessible while walking facilitate grabbing your cell phone/water bottle/rangefinder. Available in 11 colorways. $230; *ogio.com*



PXG 0211

Five years after Bob Parsons established the exclusively high-end manufacturer, PXG is broadening its portfolio by offering irons at half the price of its previous models. With COR2 polymer injection-molded into the hollow-body of the cast 431 stainless-steel frame, an exceptionally thin (0.05-inch) 1770M maraging steel clubface and a progressive set design (variable body length, sole width and offset), the only thing the 0211 lacks are the heavy tungsten screws that characterized the company's more expensive clubs. $195 per club; *pxg.com*

Contributor Tony Dear writes *coloradoavidgolfer.com*'s gear column.

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Presents for Pop

This Father's Day, treat him to a round and a gift he'll enjoy while playing.

By Suzanne S. Brown



DRESSED FOR THE NINES

They might be hard-pressed to admit it, but while watching tour professionals play, guys not only get golf tips, they also relate to a player's style—be it Tiger's mock necks or Rickie Fowler's orange shirts and pants on Sundays. Jordan Spieth's apparel, sponsored by **Under Armour**, tends toward clean, updated classics cut for an athlete's build and made of performance fabrics. Among Spieth's recent choices are the Vanish Drive polo, $75; Vanish tapered pants, $100; tour cap, $35; braided 2.0 belt, $40; and Spieth 3 shoes, $200. The Vanish fabric is quick-drying, offers four-way stretch, wicks sweat and incorporates anti-odor technology. *underarmour.com*



COVER STORY

Sparked by their love of golf, Canadian PGA pros Todd and Jeff Bishop started handcrafting leather headcovers in Nova Scotia five years ago—and their **Dormie Workshop** designs have been impressing players ever since. (Their younger brother Alex is an equity partner, too). Quirky characters are a signature, as are personalized custom designs, which start at $100 and take three to four weeks to produce. Centennial State residents will love the made-to-order Colorado cover, $145, which takes five to 10 days for delivery. The company's name comes from the match play term dormie, while the cow logo is a nod to the leather used in the products. *dormieworkshop.com*



MADE IN THE SHADES

Just as functional and good-looking on the course as they are at the clubhouse, **Peter Millar**'s Voyager sunglasses are made in Italy. Featuring a rounded frame and polarized lenses that offer 100 percent UV protection, the style is available with blue lenses and frames or, as shown, with tortoise frames and dark or clear lenses, $248. A pebble-grained leather case and lens cloth is included. *petermillar.com*



FIT TO A TEE

PGA pro Chad Maveus says he always knew Tiger Woods would win another major. He just couldn't imagine it would come at this year's Masters and coincide with the launch of his new line of casual golf apparel, Sideways 9. Highlighted by the bestselling vivid green T-shirt with a "Tiger GOAT" image (right), **Sideways 9** offers T-shirts with messages relatable to anyone who has spent time on a golf course, but particularly to a seasoned pro like Maveus, who worked at Pebble Beach Golf Links for more than a decade before joining Forest Dunes Golf Club in Roscommon, Mich. "We all hit it a little sideways sometimes," he says, noting that wearing tops with some sarcasm and wit make off-course time fun. In addition to the Tiger GOAT ("Greatest of All Time," for the acronymically challenged) shirt, Sideways 9 sells a GLOAT ("Greatest Lefty of All Time") top, and others with such wording as "Green Grass Hustler" and a wry tribute to the dreaded Frosty Ocho (left). Shirts are $29. *sideways9.com*



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SHOE IN

"Athleisure" has been the fashion buzzword because people want sporty clothing and shoes that transfer seamlessly from the gym or course to other parts of their day. **Ecco** answers the call with its low-cut lace-up Golf Soft style, featuring a sueded leather finish treated with a water repellent during the tanning process. Traction bars on the shoe's outsole offer enhanced grip and stability, while the insole features the company's proprietary Fluidform technology for cushioning and shock absorbency. The removable inlay allows the wearer to use his custom orthotics. The style comes in three colors, $170. *us.ecco.com/golf*





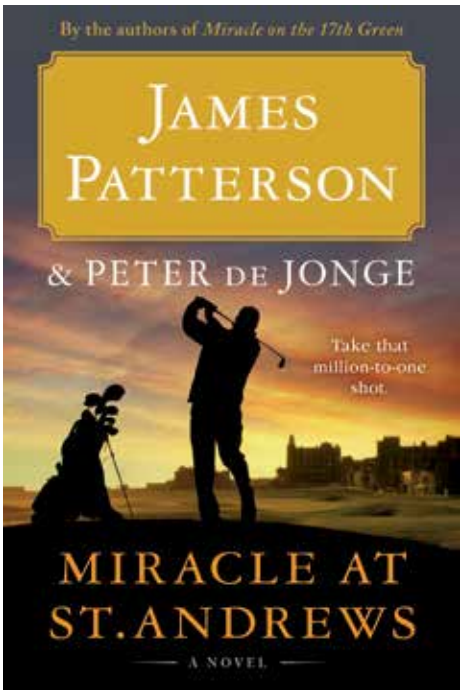
BEVERAGE SERVICE

No summer round is complete without a cool drink or two, and **Reduce** has come up with an inventive design in its Everyday Cooler. In addition to being a drinking cup, it can hold aluminum cans, skinny cans and glass bottles. You just twist off the lid and place the bottle or can inside. What's more, the holder is sweatproof, dual-wall vacuum-insulated and made of 18/8 steel for durability. It comes in denim blue, green and white, $14.99. *reduceeveryday.com*

HONE ON THE RANGE

The guy who loves gadgets will have fun reading the course with **Bushnell**'s Hybrid, a laser rangefinder and GPS device with a display that shows both laser and GPS distances. The laser can read a flag up to 400 yards and features a 5x magnification. Once it locks on the flag or target, it emits short vibrating pulses to confirm. The GPS side is preloaded with 36,000 courses in 30 countries and gives readouts on holes that includes the front, center and back as well as up to four hazard distances per hole. Connect the device to Bluetooth and it will give updates for courses. The Bushnell app shows hole layouts and has images of 3D flyovers of courses and can wirelessly update the device, $400. *bushnellgolf.com*





READING THE GREENS

Dad can't spend every free moment on the golf course, so why not treat him to a book about his favorite subject? The prolific best-selling mystery writer James Patterson often steps out of the box to write other types of stories. That's the case with **Miracle at St. Andrews** (Little, Brown and Company), co-authored with Peter De Jonge. It's the third in a series set in the 1990s about Travis McKinley, a 50-ish former professional golfer who has extraordinary experiences as he plays some of the world's top courses. This time, McKinley and his family visit the birthplace of golf, St. Andrews in Scotland, "ground that can help an ordinary player, an ordinary man, achieve a higher plane." *jamespatterson.com*

Style Editor Suzanne S. Brown is a former editor for *The Denver Post* and contributor to *Colorado Expression*.

DUSTIN'S DUDS

PGA TOUR star Dustin Johnson sports apparel from **adidas**, which specializes in performance-oriented and reasonably priced styles. Among the looks Johnson is wearing this season are the Ultimate 365 heather polo with four-way stretch, $65; tapered pants with the company's signature three-stripe logo on the right hip, $90; and Tour 360 XT shoes, $200. The shoes are designed for wet-weather rounds and feature breathable, seam-sealed protection along with their leather uppers, a responsive midsole and eight-cleat outsole for better grip. *adidas.com*



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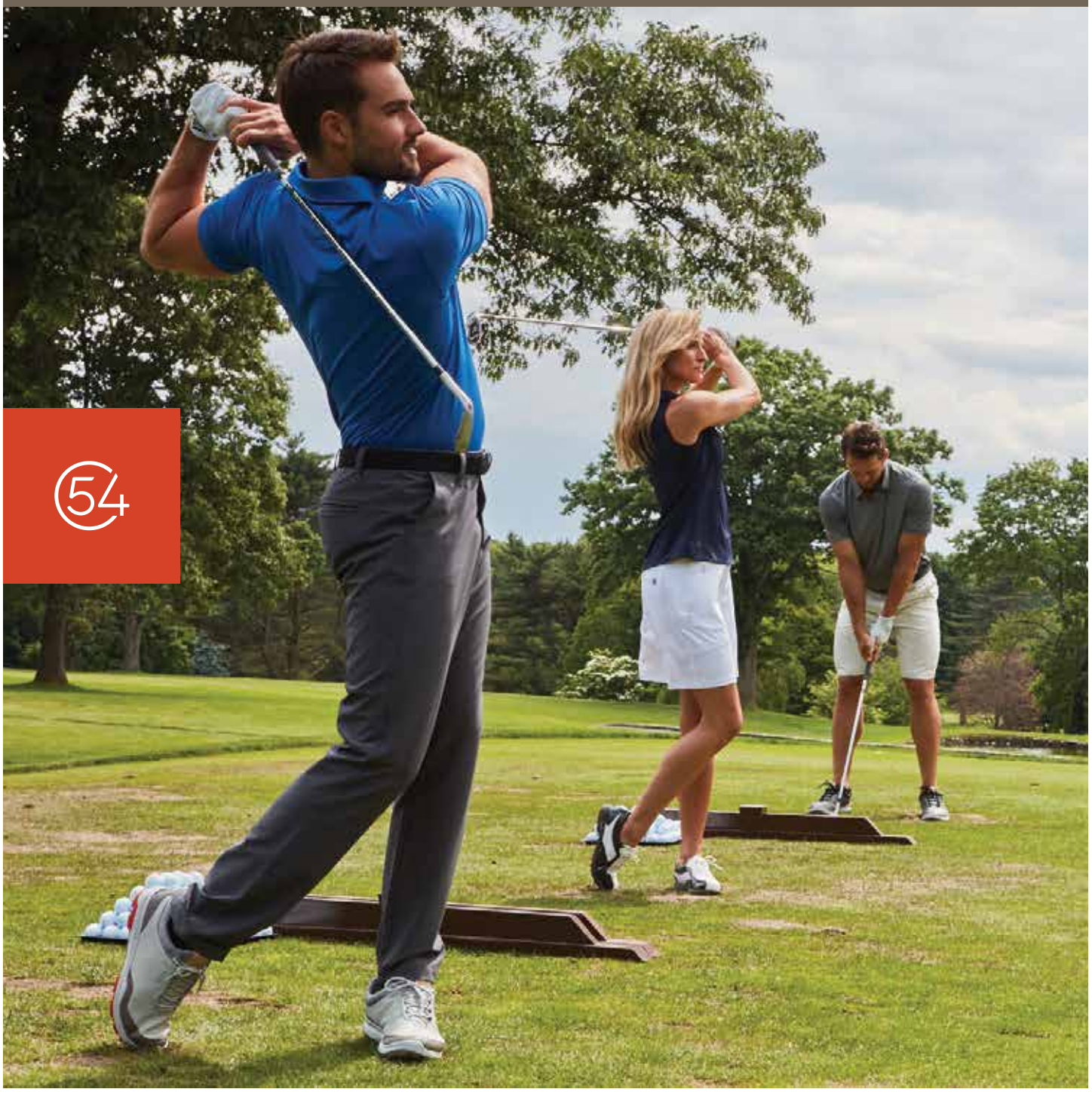

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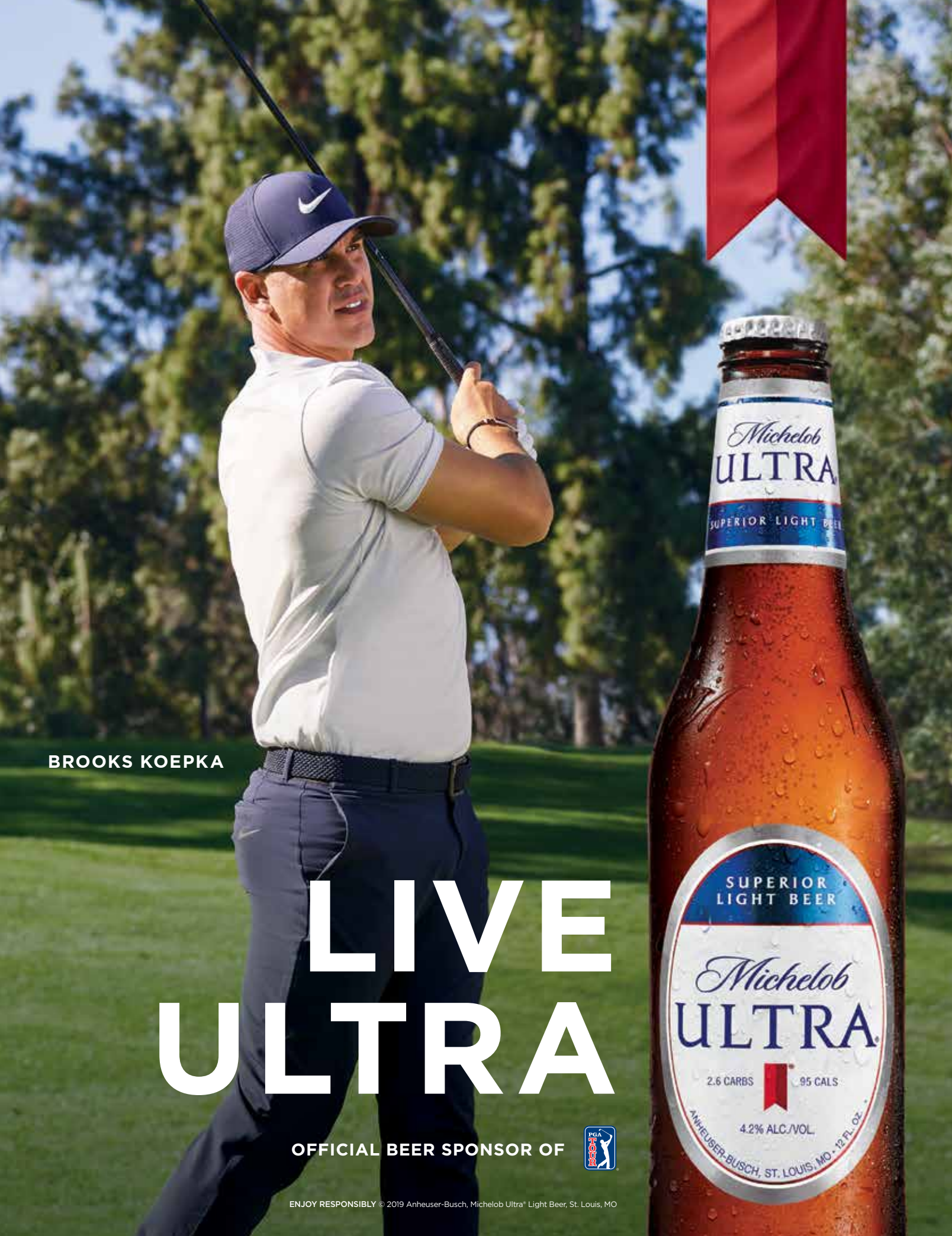

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BLEACHER YUMS: Avanti Food and Beverage touches all the bases with its eclectic menus and outdoor seating options.

SKYLINE: Avanti comes with a view of Denver's dynamic downtown.

The Alfresco State

Surprising spots to wine and dine under summer Colorado skies.

By John Lehndorff

THERE'S NOTHING QUITE like finding a place to eat that takes you someplace else. I've enjoyed a lot of those meal moments dining outside during Colorado's long summers. Outdoor dining makes the food and wine taste just a little finer, but you do have to be spontaneous. Most restaurants won't take reservations for outdoor tables and make them available on a first come, first served basis. These four Front Range destinations provide stellar alfresco dining experiences.

AVANTI FOOD AND BEVERAGE

From the rooftop at Avanti Food and Beverage, the sunset view of downtown Denver's glistening skyscrapers reveals how our former "cow town" has matured. And the chef-driven fare dished at this urban food hall proves the food has followed suit.

Tucked away in the hilly LoHi neighborhood, Avanti comprises seven food stalls and several bars inside converted steel shipping containers set up on two floors. The fare ranges from American Grind's exceptional burgers with scratch-made pickles, ketchup and buns to superfood rice bowls mounded with fried tofu, kale, avocado, edamame, radish and crispy shallot from QuickFish.

You can also create the ultimate combo plate at Quiero Arepas: A BorraCho al pastor taco with pineapple salsa and a Reina Arepa, a craveable Venezuelan-style corn flatbread stuffed with chicken, lime, avocado and plantains.

Three Avanti menu items are in the don't-miss category. Start with the Bistro Georgette's truly authentic Parisian Moules-Frites: Mussels cooked in white wine, butter and garlic sided with a pile of crispy frites. Nearby, Brava! Pizzeria bakes as good a wood-fired pizza as you'll find in Denver. Try the white pizza with the right amount of prosciutto, goat cheese, fresh mozzarella, arugula and shaved Parmesan. Finally, make a beeline to The Rotary to sample the sublimely juicy pork shoulder—slow-roasted on a rotisserie—with vinegary peri peri chile sauce.

Avanti's expansive roof includes table and standup options with a sightline that includes Coors Field. On game nights you can often hear when the Rockies hit a home run. There is even a separate "bleacher" section facing the city. One popular dining and imbibing area is a large covered porch featuring couch-like benches with pillows that allow lounging and hilarious overheard conversations.

Before the end of 2019, Avanti will open a new three-floor location on Boulder's Pearl Street Mall with a stunning view of the Flatirons.

3200 N. Pecos St., Denver
720-269-4778, *avantifandb.com*



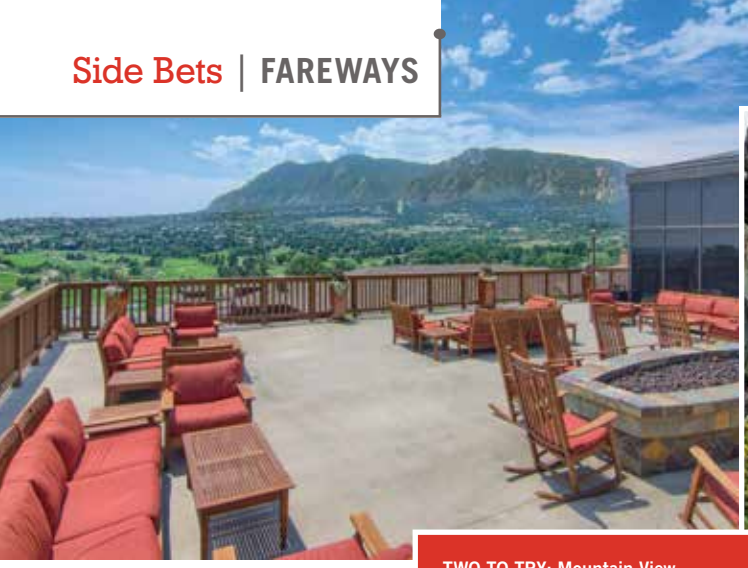
ALIMENTARY AT AVANTI: Rotary's pork shoulder comes with a side of charred cauliflower or housemade potato chips.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY FELT SOUL MEDIA (TOP), AVANTI FOOD AND BEVERAGE (LEFT), RACHEL ADAMS (RIGHT)

DOMO

If Colorado's alfresco dining culture has a spiritual center, it is Domo Restaurant. Surrounded by the Buddha statues, koi-filled pools and manicured flowering bushes, it's easy to forget the busy intersection of Colfax and Speer is only blocks away. The walled-in Zen garden provides shady nooks where you can slurp ramen to your heart's content. Only the occasional horn of a freight train reminds you of the downtown Denver hubbub.

The facility includes an Aikido dojo and cultural museum, all overseen by master teach-





PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN RESORT (LEFT), DOMO RESTAURANT (RIGHT)

TWO TO TRY: Mountain View Restaurant in Colorado Springs lives up to its name; Domo (right) provides an authentic Japanese idyll in Denver.

er Gaku Homma. The traditional lunch and dinner menus feature teriyaki salmon and chicken, tempura shrimp, and an array of authentic noodle dishes such as chewy udon noodles in curry sauce and chicken katsu.

This northern Japanese-style country eatery is far removed from the usual urban sushi bar. Domo's Wankosushi is pre-seasoned seafood served over rice with various tasty sides. Don't even think of asking for soy sauce or wasabi.

My heat-of-summer, change-of-pace recommendation is Hiyashi Chuka, or cold ramen. Refreshing chilled noodles are topped with chicken, cucumber, sprouts, egg, tomato, red cabbage and blueberries with a sesame dressing. Order it—along with multiple sake toasts—while sitting with a group at one of the cozy garden tables under a shaded rustic porch.

1365 Osage St., Denver
303-595-3666, *domorestaurant.com*

MOUNTAIN VIEW RESTAURANT

In a state like Colorado, it takes some guts to call your eatery Mountain View Restaurant. But walk out onto the terrace of the eatery at Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs and you appreciate why the owners chose such an obvious name. Spread out in front of you is an eye-filling range of reddish mountains silhouetted against a bluebird sky.

Surprisingly, this iconic dining location has remained largely undiscovered, save for the golfers who have enjoyed the resort's 18-hole Pete Dye–designed course at Country Club of Colorado.

In the morning, the terrace provides a china-and-silverware buffet with made-to-order omelets and waffles, great coffee, fresh berries, smoked bratwurst and specials like crunchy bis-



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cuits submerged by white gravy thick with chorizo sausage chunks.

The Mountain View dinner menu shines when it comes to the chophouse classics. A must-taste starter is a Caesar salad with anchovies plus entrees like a grilled dry-rubbed ribeye steak or root beer-glazed pork chops with Yukon gold mashers. For a filling-rattling finale: caramel apple pie with cinnamon brown sugar crust—served warm *and* à la mode.

The view is so iconic that the Resort has established an area on the terrace where visitors can snap selfies without bothering diners.

Sipping a Breckenridge Brewery Summer Pils and looking at this forever landscape reminded me of the legion of big ideas that call this neighborhood home: The Broadmoor, Seven Falls, NORAD's Cheyenne Mountain Complex. My veteran server added another biggie: "You know," she said, "this is the best place in town to watch jet flyovers for the Air Force Academy and the fireworks."

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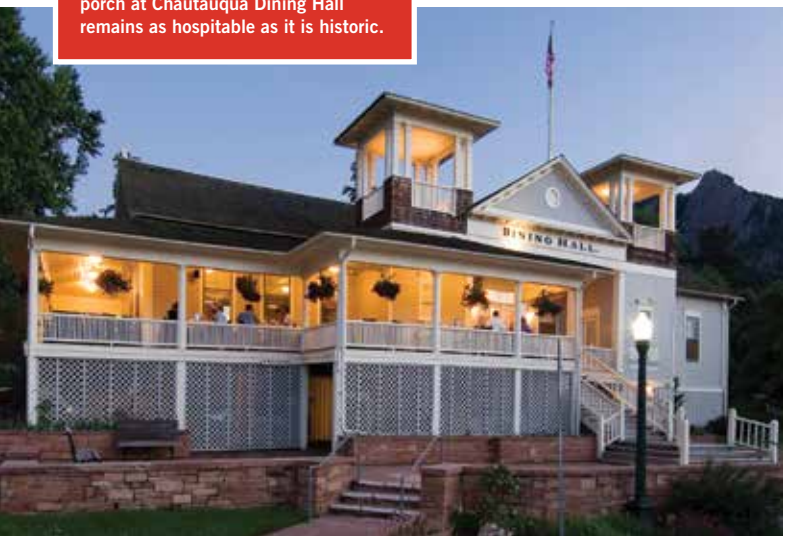
cheyennemountain.com

FLATIRONS STAKE: The wraparound porch at Chautauqua Dining Hall remains as hospitable as it is historic.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THREE LEAF CONCEPTS

CHAUTAUQUA DINING HALL

Yearning for the simpler life of the '90s? At Boulder's Chautauqua Dining Hall, the nostalgia is for the 1890s. When you're munching a juicy bison burger on that wooden wraparound porch it's not that hard to imagine opening day, July 4, 1898.

The view north looks across Chautauqua Park's green meadow to the foothills. The peaceful east view is framed by large old trees near Chautauqua Auditorium. Nearby is one of the most selfie-d backdrops in the state and one of its most heavily hiked trails.

Locally sourced summer produce fills an evening menu that roams the map from a flatiron steak with salade niçoise to a grilled cauliflower steak with pesto and potato gratin.

Keep it simple with soup, salad and crispy Brussels sprouts or go for Colorado striped bass with confit beet puree, garlic roasted rainbow carrots matched to a well-priced selection of by-the-glass wines.

The flower-basketed porch provides the perfect spot for a pre- or post-event repast for a concert in the Auditorium, but I'm most fond of the cooler, quieter mornings on the porch with choices ranging from baked brioche French toast with raspberries to a substantial breakfast burrito with chunky, spicy pork green chile. The Dining Hall notably serves housemade chai and quality leaf tea made properly by the pot.

900 Baseline Road, Boulder
303-440-3776, *chautauqua.com*

John Lehndorff is the former dining critic of the *Rocky Mountain News*. He hosts Radio Nibbles on KGNU.

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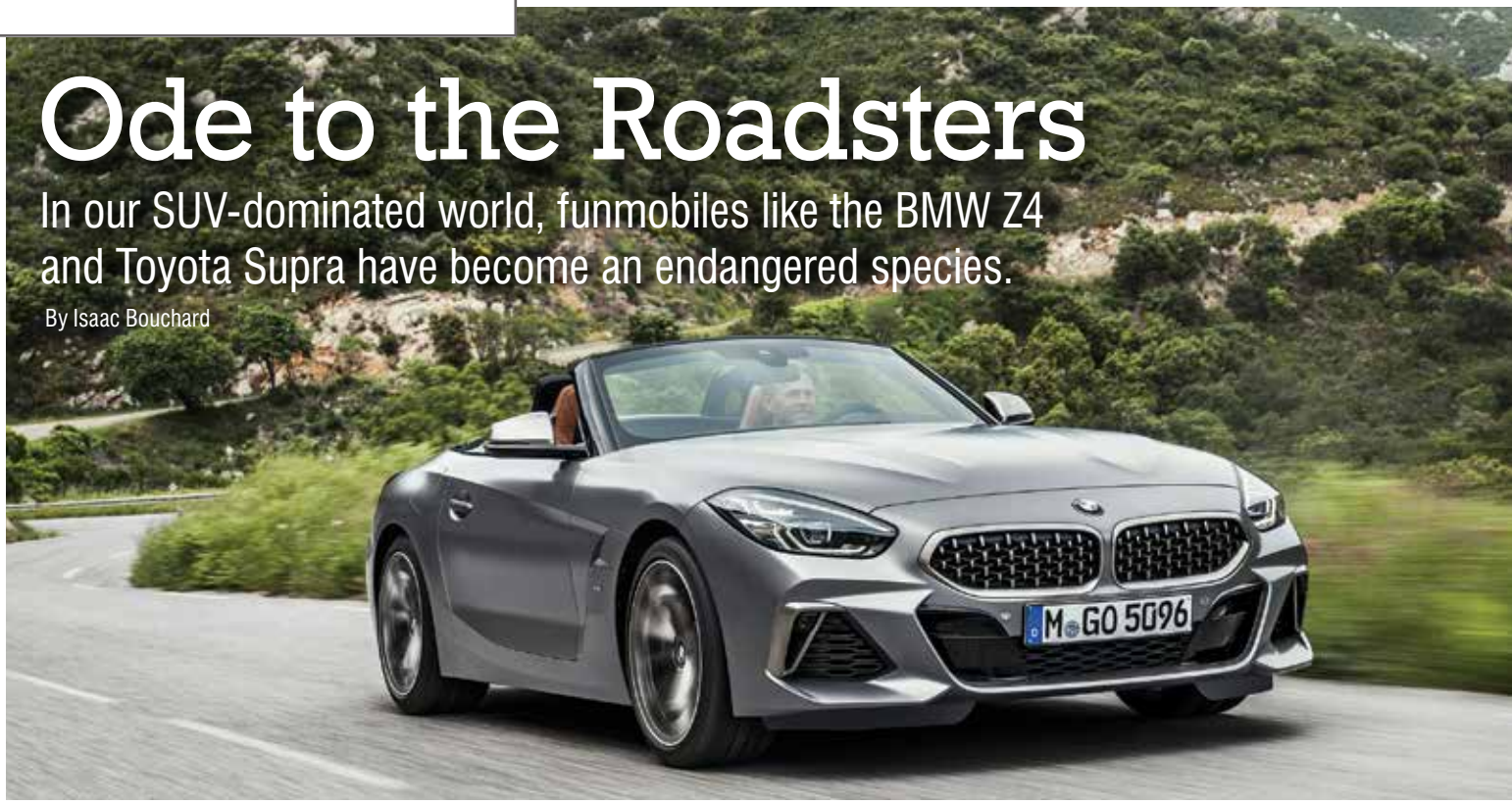
Ode to the Roadsters

In our SUV-dominated world, funmobiles like the BMW Z4 and Toyota Supra have become an endangered species.

By Isaac Bouchard



2019 BMW Z4 30I

EPA ratings: 25/32/28mpg
0-60mph: 4.9sec (est)
Price as tested: $56,135

It's almost impossible for a mainstream—or even premium—car company to make a business case for a roadster these days. The "take rate" among consumers around the world has plummeted to the extent that these fun-focused machines are becoming an endangered species. Thankfully, BMW hasn't given up on them yet.

Witness the all-new Z4 droptop. Its exterior design is radical in proportion and detailing, while its cockpit is cutting-edge cool, with comfy seats, quality materials and good airflow management with its top down.

The Z4's dynamics hearken back to the time when BMWs were renowned for the way they drove, not just the status they conferred. It's got excellent body control, a biddableness to the front end and excellent damping. It excels in almost all types of driving scenarios.

Whether puttering around town, cruising the highway or barreling through backroads, the chassis remains composed and communicative.

Only under the most extreme duress—picture the Z4 loaded up in a tight, bumpy corner—does the suspension begin to run out of ideas. The entry-level powertrain, comprised of BMW's new 255hp turbo four and eight-speed tranny, is superb; this 30i model rips like it has 300-plus horses, and the stirring sounds emanating from beneath the complexly-shaped hood provide just the right level of encouragement. Not enough? Go for the M40i, with its silken 382hp, inline six and Porsche-humbling acceleration. Long live the ragtop!





Modern Classics

Every generation has its heroes, and it's no different with cars. As many people reach peak earning years or become wealthy, they begin buying up the best examples of vehicles they loved as young men and women, but usually couldn't afford.

If you track the cars and trucks sold at high-end auctions like RM Sotheby's or Barrett-Jackson, you'll usually find roughly a 20- to 30-year span between a vehicle's release date and skyrocketing values. Such is now happening with the meticulously crafted, cutting-edge Japanese sports cars of the 90s. Third-gen Mazda RX-7s are bringing up to $70,000, and an 11,000-mile A80 Toyota Supra recently fetched $173,000. We saw the same thing before the turn of the century, as Boomers snapped up the best examples of the American muscle cars that appeared on posters adorning their bedroom walls during the 1960s and '70s.

While prewar Bugattis, postwar Alfas and rare Porsches and Ferraris of most any era will always bring high bids, it's fascinating to track how the pricing bubble on slightly more "mainstream" cars tracks with the affluence and age of buyers. But this should come as no surprise; people have always put their money where their heart is.



1993 Mazda RX-7

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2020 TOYOTA SUPRA

EPA ratings: 24/31/26mpg
0-60mph: 4.3sec (est)
Price as tested: $55,250 (Launch Edition)



While the Z4 returns after a mere four-year hiatus, it's been almost two decades since the last A80-series Toyota Supra appeared in this country. While its 3-liter, turbo six could push it to 60mph in a quick—for the time—5.1sec, it was more GT than true sports car.

Codeveloping the Supra with BMW has enabled the Japanese to engineer a much more focused machine that is faster than the A80 (estimate 0-60 in the low 4s) while just as comfortable.

Despite sharing a chassis and engine, the Z4 and Supra are quite different. The Toyota only comes as a coupe, and all its mechanical tuning and electronic calibrations are unique to it. They don't drive the same, look the same or necessarily even chase the same buyer. Based on how good both the Z4 and this new Supra are, perhaps teaming up isn't the worst thing that can happen to sports cars in their twilight years.



WAYWARD DRIVE

The photo of the 2019 Mazda 3 in the May issue incorrectly showed the 2018 model. The correct photo of the 2019 appears here. We regret the error.

Big Apple Debuts

Premiering at April's New York Automobile Show, these three vehicles portend to be some of the most sought-after vehicles in the Centennial State.



2020 MERCEDES GLS

The outgoing GLS is still amongst the best three-row luxury SUVs, and the new one, based on the same structure and electronics as the latest GLE, looks set to continue its dominance, despite worthy entries like the BMW X7 and Lincoln Aviator.

2020 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER

Highlanders have the best resale of any midsize seven-passenger SUV or crossover, despite being a bit too tight inside for family duty. This one, built on the company's TNGA component set, should drive better and feel more upscale. It is also usefully larger and butcher than its predecessor.

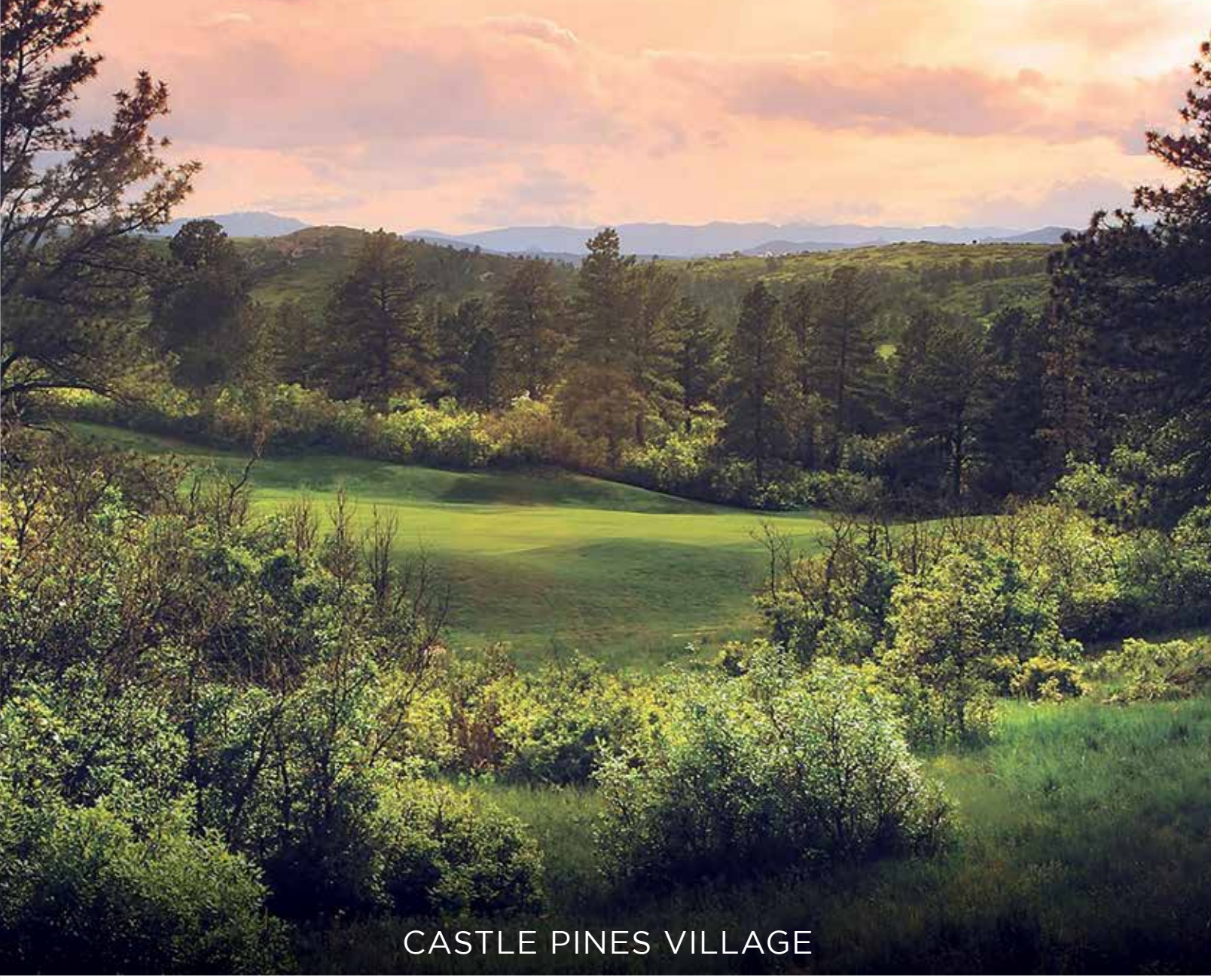




2020 SUBARU OUTBACK

A perennial Colorado bestseller, the Outback moves to Subaru's Global Architecture, meaning it'll ride and handle better and be more luxurious and refined. Also returning is the turbocharged XT, giving it the gumption to be a great Continental Divide crusher.

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



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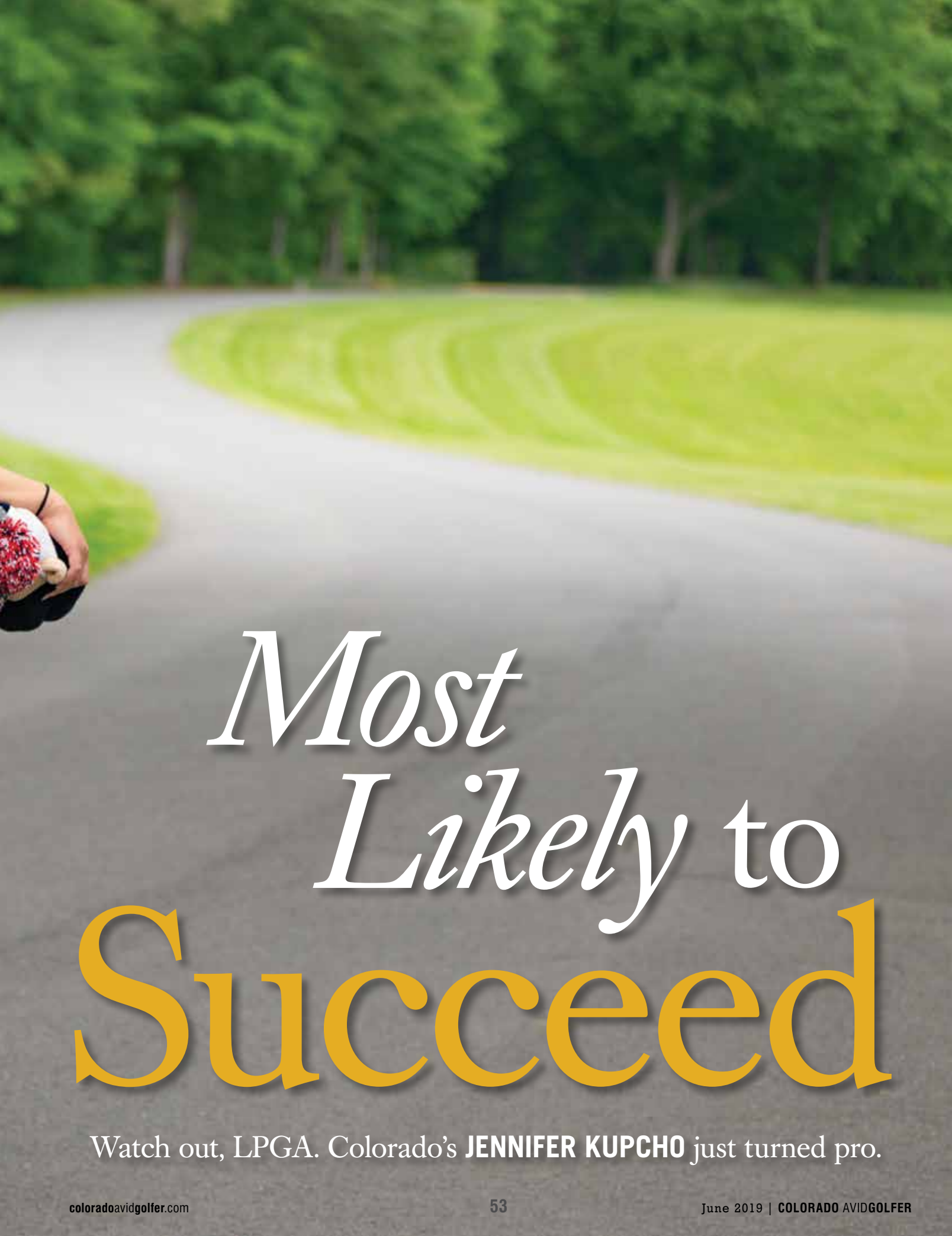
By **JON RIZZI** *Portrait by* **E.J. CARR**





Most Likely to Succeed

Watch out, LPGA. Colorado's **JENNIFER KUPCHO** just turned pro.



FRIENDLY FOES: On the back nine at Augusta, Kupcho and Maria Fassi battled and embraced the moment.

JENNIFER KUPCHO IS "kind of stressed." It's late April in Winston-Salem, N.C., and the Wake Forest University senior is two weeks removed from her historic victory in the inaugural Augusta National Women's Amateur and three weeks away from the NCAA Nationals. The Nationals will be her final collegiate tournament, and she not only hopes to defend her individual title but also to lead the 6th-ranked Demon Deacons to their first national championship.

But she's not stressed about the golf, nor about finals or term papers, or saying goodbye to her coaches and teammates. And unlike many of her classmates, she's certainly not losing sleep over how she's going to make a living in the real world.

"I know what I'm doing after school," the Westminster, Colo., native says of her pending professional golf career. "But knowing that literally a week and a half after Nationals I'm going to be on the real stage and right now I still can't talk to sponsors or agents, it's kind of hard just to take a deep breath and know that I'll figure it all out. Especially when I have all this extra free time, and I could be talking to them, but the NCAA rules don't allow it."



SENIOR MOMENT: Kupcho at Wake Forest.

Kupcho's stress reflects the intense, competitive, get-it-done nature that has served her so well in her young career. Of course, by the time you read this, she will likely already have decided on representation and sponsorship–critical pieces for any professional athlete. She will also have already stepped onto the "real stage" of the LPGA, making her professional debut in the U.S. Women's Open (May 30-June 2)–an event for which she has now qualified three times.

The site of the Open, the Country Club of Charleston, lies about 300 miles south of Wake Forest, where Kupcho has steadily elevated her game in each of the last four years, becoming the No.1-ranked woman in the World Amateur Golf Rankings for 33 weeks. She arrived at Wake as an introverted, immensely talented 17-year-old with a powerful drive–both off the tee and in her DNA–and left last month as a self-assured young woman confident enough in herself to crack jokes on the *Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*, and secure enough in her skills to defer her dream of playing on the LPGA Tour, missing five months' worth of tournaments in order to finish college.

WORTH THE WAIT

Deferring only became an option for college students before last year's eight-round LPGA Qualifying Series. Kupcho, who finished second and 27 shots inside the cut line, took advantage of the new policy. "My friends who qualified at the same time gave me a hard time about not going pro," she says. "There's never been a question I wanted to get my degree. I figured it might set me back a little bit (on the LPGA Tour), but with my game it won't hurt coming into it in June."

"She gave up nine tournaments, which is a big deal in that profession," Wake Forest women's golf coach Kim Lewellen says. "It speaks volumes about her."

Kupcho occasionally flashes what Lewellen calls a "Julia Roberts smile" as she discusses her future while seated at a table behind Haddock House, the tastefully appointed headquarters of Wake Forest's men's and women's golf teams. The structure bears the name of Wake's legendary men's golf coach Jesse Haddock, just as the nearby Dianne Dailey Learning Center honors the longtime women's golf coach who recruited Kupcho and coached her for three years before retiring last May. Between the buildings sprawls the Haas Family Range, a practice area dedicated to alums and PGA TOUR players Jay, Jerry and Bill Haas.

These facilities comprise the Arnold Palmer Golf Complex, where Kupcho has spent literally thousands of hours practicing, exercising and sharpening her skills to ensure her place among Palmer, the Haases, Curtis Strange, Webb Simpson, Lanny Wadkins,

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF AUGUSTA NATIONAL GOLF CLUB (TOP); BY EJ. CARR (LEFT)

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Laura Diaz and the other notable Wake alumni immortalized in Haddock House.

Dianne Dailey compares her to a Wake alumnus who played a different sport–basketball. "She's the Tim Duncan of the women's side," the retired coach says, referring to the five-time NBA champion who put the league on hold until he graduated.

Dailey believes the extra semester has helped Kupcho's wedge play–historically the weakest part of her game. "At Champions Retreat, where the first two rounds of the Augusta event were, she made chip shots that I didn't think she could get up-and-down," Dailey says. "I honestly don't think Tiger or any pro could have done what she did."

Assistant Coach Ryan Potter concurs. For the past two years he has worked diligently on closing what he calls "holes" in her chipping and bunker game. "Just yesterday, she came up to me and asked, 'Hey, do you want to chip?'" he says with a smile. "She realizes if she wants to be elite and make a career on the LPGA Tour, she needs to be a great wedge and short-iron player, a great bunker player. She wants to spend time perfecting technique and understanding what she needs to do to achieve her goals at the next level."

Kupcho competed at that level in last year's LPGA Marathon Classic in Ohio, finishing tied for 16th. "She said, 'I didn't play that good,' which made me laugh," Potter recalls. "But she realized, 'I can do this. I don't need to go pro in January.'"

Had she gone pro then, she obviously would have deprived the golf world of one of its most monumental performances and a tour-de-force "Hello, world" moment for Jennifer Kupcho: the inaugural Augusta National Women's Amateur.

At Augusta, Kupcho soldiered through a blinding migraine on holes 8-11 and proceeded to turn a two-shot deficit into a four-shot margin of victory. She dispatched the final six holes in 5-under par–a feat not achieved since Jack Nicklaus in the 1986 Masters.

The announcers marveled at Kupcho's fearless approaches into the par 5s at 13 and 15 that resulted in an eagle and birdie.

"To play those last six holes in 5-under par with the shots that she played and the putts that she made, that is what great champions do," Gary Koch said. "They come through in the clutch, and she certainly did."

Koch and others also applauded her textbook birdie on the par-3 16th and, especially, the fist-bumping sportsmanship she exhibited with runner-up Maria Fassi of Mexico, which culminated in the heartfelt embrace the two friends shared following Kupcho's 30-foot birdie putt on 18.

"I wish I could go back and actually relive that experience because I almost have no idea what happened," Kupcho says with that smile. "Once I get to watch the recording, a lot will come back. I haven't got a copy of it. It'll be a lot cooler when I see what everybody's talking about."



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE KUPCHO FAMILY

FAMILY FOURSOME: Mike, Steven, Janet and Jennifer Kupcho.

TRUE GRIT

Something the cameras didn't pick up that Saturday was what her coaches and teammates cite as a pivotal moment. After struggling for four holes with the migraine, Kupcho walked up the 11th fairway and looked over at them and held up three fingers.

"I could see she was getting woke, she was strong again," Lewellen says. "And I'm thinking, *'Three? What does that mean?'*"

Then she realized. "She's telling me how many birdies she needs to get. So, I shook my head and put up four fingers. And she looks at me and nods her head yes. Sure enough, at 13, that's when she made eagle.

"She knows what turns the switch, she knows the goal–*this is what I have to do now.* And you can see her. She looked right over at the team, said she needed three, we said four and she wound up getting five."

"I don't know if you can teach it, but the bigger the moment, the better she plays and the brighter she shines, and that's been consistent throughout my time with her," says Potter. "There's a reason why she's won Regionals the last two years and finished eighth, second and first in the finals and won Augusta. The moment doesn't bother her, and not many people are like that."

Potter likens Kupcho to Dustin Johnson. "He's a flatliner–doesn't get too high or too low," Potter says. "In a sense she's kind of that way." The coach equates her reaction to the heartbreaking loss in the 2017 NCAAs–when a triple-bogey on the penultimate hole cost her the championship–to Johnson's response after three-putting the 18th to lose

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the 2015 U.S. Open at Chambers Bay.

"He was like, 'It's just a golf tournament, I can't do anything about it, I'm just going to move on,'" Potter explains. "I think it's kind of the same way with her. After she lost NCAAs two years ago, I was amazed at how fast she got over it. A couple of days later she went back to Colorado and qualified for the U.S. Women's Open."



OH-SO CLOSE: Wake Forest made it to the 2019 NCAA Championship Final, falling to Duke, 3-2, in match play.

Kupcho didn't forget the NCAAs. She just forged her disappointment into a determination to win the event the following year. "She was determined to be a national champion," Dailey remembers. "It's rare you get a second chance like that. She worked so hard, tied the course record that first day, and was the best player."

COMPETITIVE EDGE

Dailey has known Jennifer Kupcho was special ever since she heard the thunderclap of a driver at the 2013 U.S. Girls' Junior in Fort Wayne, Indiana. "I was heading toward the parking lot after four days of recruiting and couldn't tell who hit it, so I followed the group," the coach recalls.

She liked what she saw in Kupcho's swing, and her assistant Kevin Diaz liked what he saw in her attitude. "She made a double bogey, but you could see she was ultra-competitive," Diaz remembers. "She was fiery but didn't explode. She barely kept it together. You love to see that internal motivation of someone who just wants to get better and better and compete like crazy."

Kupcho loves winning, a trait that dates back to childhood. Soon after she was old enough to fill a foursome with her parents, Mike and Janet, and brother, Steven, she was playing in tournaments. "Once she learned she couldn't get

KUPCHO'S COLORADO CANON

Her selective highlight reel includes:

- **Three consecutive CGA Women's Stroke Play Championships** (2015-'17)**, by an average victory margin of 18 strokes**
- **A second-round 65 in the 2016 CGA Women's Stroke Play at Denver Country Club to break Babe Zaharias' 70-year-old course record**
- **Two CGA Women's Match Play Championships** (2014, '16)
- **Two low-amateur titles (overall runner-up) in the CoBank Colorado Women's Open** (2014, '17)
- **Two Class 4A girls state high school individual titles at Jefferson Academy** (2014, '15)
- **Two Colorado Junior PGA Championships** (2012, '13)
- **2014 Colorado Girls Junior Amateur Championship and Colorado Junior Tournament of Champions**
- **Two Big I Junior Classic girls state titles** (2013, '15)
- **Eight appearances as a qualifier in USGA Championships** (2016 and '17 **U.S. Women's Opens;** 2013, '15, '17, '18 **U.S. Women's Amateurs;** 2013 and '14 **U.S. Girls' Junior**)

Her play earned her three consecutive Colorado Female Junior Player of the Year (2012-'14) **awards and another three as Women's Player of the Year** (2014-'16)**.**

In 2017, the Colorado Women's Golf Association recognized her with its highest honor, the President's Award, and she was inducted into the Sportswomen of Colorado Hall of Fame.

This January, the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame named her the Colorado Amateur Athlete of the Year, and on June 2, for the second time in three years, the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame honored her as its Golf Person of The Year.

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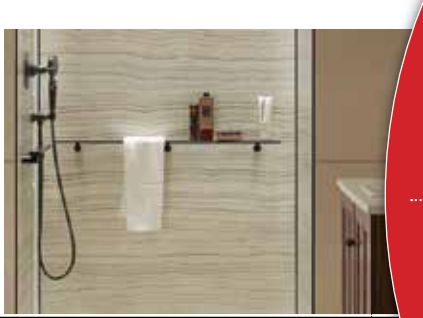

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EARLY CUT: Kupcho's form was solid from the start.

a trophy just for participating, that motivated her to win," Mike says.

And win she did, becoming one of the most accomplished golfers in state history (see box, page 58). In recognition of her "competitiveness, resiliency and a proven record of winning," on November 23 at The Broadmoor, the Colorado Golf Association will honor her (and Dale Douglass) with its inaugural Hale Irwin Medal.

"I'm competitive in everything," she says unapologetically. Her coaches all have stories. There's the one about her learning to play pool and not leaving until she'd beaten the person teaching her; about her climbing on the table during a game of spoons; and about how, as a freshman, she'd challenge the team's No. 1 golfer in up-and-down contests to win a T-shirt from a grab bag.

How does that competitiveness coexist with camaraderie on a team–or in a friendship, as the situation at Augusta with Maria Fassi suggests?

"I know she and Maria are good friends and they enjoyed playing, but you know deep down Jennifer wanted to beat her," says fellow graduating senior Monica Schumacher, Kupcho's closest friend on the team. "She said to herself, 'I'm not letting this one slide.' That's what a great player does."

Great players also never settle. "I remember telling her, as a sophomore in high school, not to be satisfied with being the best in Colorado," her longtime swing coach, PGA Master Professional Ed Oldham of The Ranch Country Club, recalls. "I told her to try to be the best in the country. And she did that. Now she's No. 1 in the world. Jennifer's gotten better every year and she'll continue to get better. That'll lead to success on the LPGA Tour."

Oldham also cites her "bulletproof" mental toughness. "The great ones have it," he says. "She plays with grit."

"Grit is the difference between people who win and don't win," says Dailey. "People who get down tend to stay down. She was four shots down after 11 holes at the 2018 NCAAs and won by two. She was down by two at Augusta and won."

"I've trained myself not to get down on myself if I'm struggling," Kupcho says. "That was a big thing to stay calm and fight back. It's come out on the big stage, but I think I've always had that, even back in high school."

"She loves winning and hates losing, so what I always say to her is, 'You're not going to have a chance to win or play well if you're worked up, pissed off or upset,'" says Potter. "She kind of correlates that with 'I've got to get over it and be in the best state I can.'"

TEAM PLAYER

After Kupcho's win at Augusta, her teammates–who'd all boisterously rooted her on ("We had to compete with Maria Fassi's Mexican contingent," explains sophomore Emilia Migliaccio)–had "rolled" the trees around the golf complex in celebration of her victory. But by the time the conquering hero returned to campus, workers had removed the two-ply streams of evidence.

Kupcho didn't need to see the TP to feel the support of her teammates. They not only spurred her on at Augusta, but also at last year's NCAAs, when she similarly took her game to another level and made five back-nine birdies to overtake the leaders and win the same event she'd kicked away the year before (when her team hadn't qualified).

"She really thrives in a team setting," Dailey says, noting Kupcho's participation on last year's victorious Curtis Cup, Palmer Cup and World Amateur Team Championship teams. "They push her, and she pushes them."

"Jen's not just a great golfer, she's a great teammate," says Migliaccio. "She makes everyone play better. How lucky are all of us to practice next to the world's top player?"

Migliaccio won this year's ACC Championship while Kupcho, who'd won it the two previous years, recovered from the Augusta whirlwind played as the team's No. 4 golfer for probably the first time in her life. At even-par on the 15th hole, she asked Lewellen, "What do I need to do to make sure we win the team title?"

"I told her 'I just need you to do what you do to get this round in,'" the coach remembers. "So, she went birdie-birdie. Her main thought was the team. I've coached many players who, when they're not in contention, might sulk or dial it down, not look at their yardage book very closely. Not Jen."

"I love caddying for her or walking with her," says Potter. "She can do what you ask her to do. With a lot of girls, you can have the best strategy in the world, but they can only pull it off a quarter of the time. With her you can just say, 'There's where the flag

Continued on page 87



HELLO, WORLD: Kupcho shone at the ANWA.

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF THE KUPCHO FAMILY (TOP); AUGUSTA NATIONAL GOLF CLUB (RIGHT)

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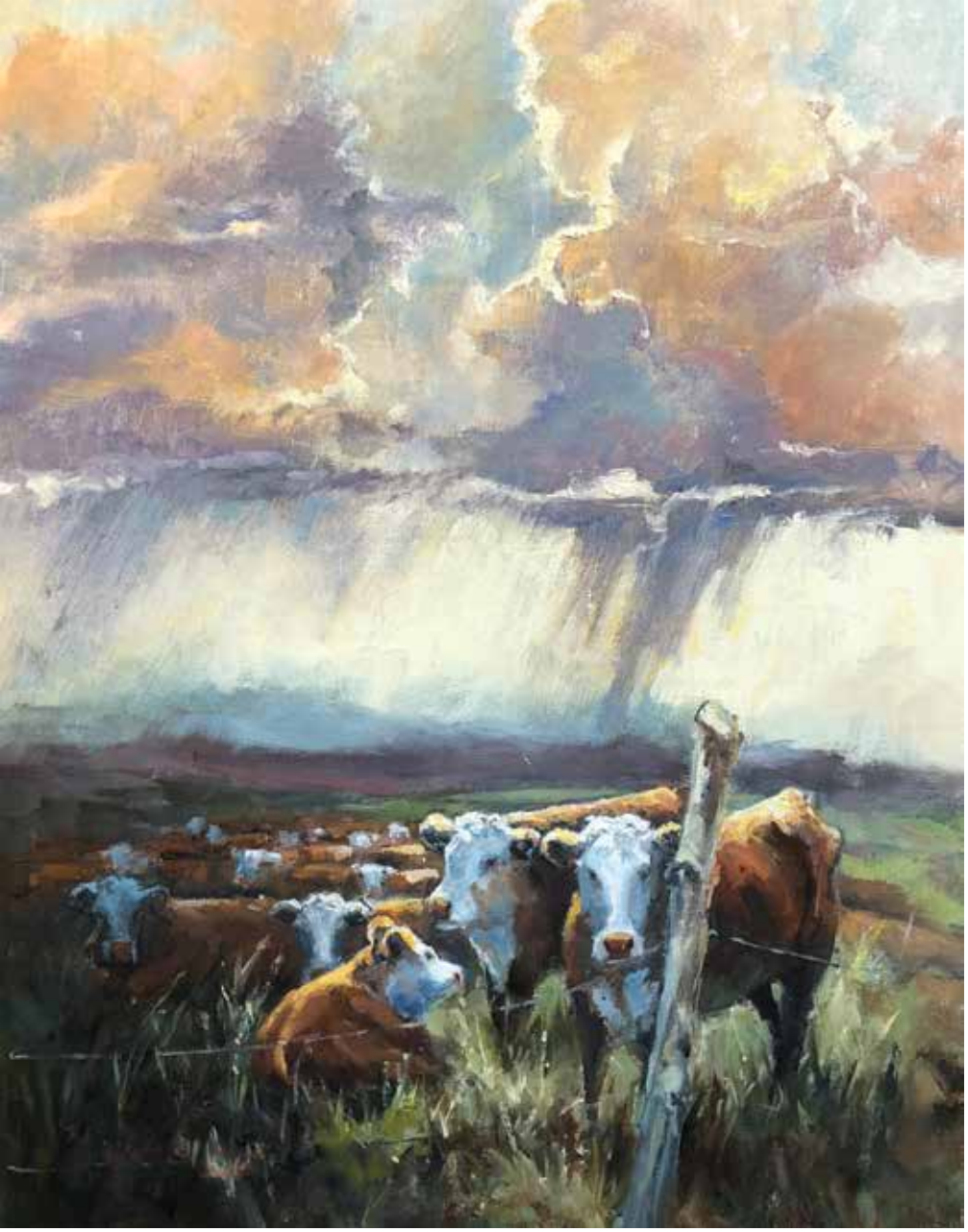
A Stroke of Fortune

Retired golfwear pioneer Nancy Haley brings her formidable creativity to the art world. By JON RIZZI







IN THE ARTIST'S OWN WORDS

Opposite Page:
VERY FRENCH
"This amazing display of brie cheese and cherries was served to us during a painting trip in France. This painting is currently on display as part of the Steamboat Springs Art Museum's 'American Women Artists' exhibition through Sept 2."

Top Left:
WATCHING YOU
"Curious cows in the afternoon when a Colorado storm is brewing in Crested Butte."

Top Right:
TREE TOPS
"What could be more beautiful than watching the last light of the day as it hits the top of the trees on the mountainside in Vail?"

"I DO NOT miss it at all," Nancy Haley says, referring to clothing design. A decade has passed since Haley, who founded and sold the revolutionary Sport-Haley sportswear line, sold and retired from Tehama, the wildly successful golf apparel brand she launched with the actor Clint Eastwood.

She continues to play to a 12 at The Club at Rolling Hills in Golden, mostly with her husband Tony, but the first woman ever to earn the PGA of America's prestigious Ernie Sabayrac Lifetime Achievement Award is now also making her strokes–and a name for herself–with a paintbrush.

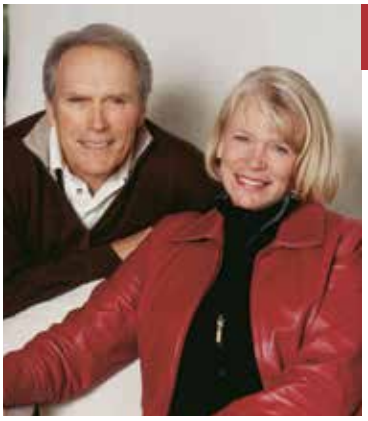
Since 2011, Haley's impressionistic portraits, landscapes and still lifes have appeared in gallery shows across the country. Fine-art galleries in Vail, Denver and Boulder sell her work, and this summer the Steamboat Springs Art Museum is featuring one of her paintings, *Very French*, as part of its "Looking West: An Exhibition Highlighting Works by American Women Artists."

"I've always been an artist," Haley says, citing her degree from Michigan State in Art Practice. Ambitious and entrepreneurial, she ran her own interior design firm for 14 years before applying her artistic approach to combining shapes, colors, textures and fabrics to clothing design. "It was a practical way to use my art," she says. "I told myself, 'When you retire, you can paint and be a starving artist.'"

Haley certainly hasn't gone hungry since retiring. The urge to create drew her to the easel, but she aspired to more than the abstract compositions of her college days. "I wanted to emulate that loose impressionistic style of Joaquín Sorolla," she remembers. "I understood color, balance and composition. But I needed to know more details. I didn't know what brushes or paints to buy or what substrate was."

So she traveled to learn from such accomplished American landscape painters as William Hook, John Poon, Lindsey Bittner Graham, Phil Starke and Kim English. Painting five days a week for as many as eight hours per day, she realized she'd found yet another career. "People like me who are driven find it hard to do anything just for fun," she





THE WAY THEY WORE: Haley and Tehama business partner Clint Eastwood.

says. "As a painter, to keep me motivated, I have to sell art. If you're going to be creative, you have to share it with somebody."

Haley's motivation isn't necessarily mercenary. "At this point in my life, I want to make people happy," she says. She loves to take commissions, which she does "in my own style–not a lot of fine detail." As her painting has improved, so has her golf game.

"My goal in painting is to get looser and looser, to leave the stroke down and leave it alone," she explains. "It's the same with golf. I'm more spontaneous and visceral. I don't have 10 different things in my head, and I recently broke 80 for the first time. That won't make me a famous painter or golfer, but I can be pretty good at both and enjoy it more."

Even so, she can't deny the innate competitiveness that served her so well in her business career. This summer, in an effort to keep improving her technique, she'll study in France with famed painter Quang Ho. She's also not satisfied with just breaking 80. "When I shot 79, I finished with two double-bogeys," she says. "I know I can get to 75."





Counterclockwise from upper left:

YOU GO GIRL
"A special two-layer acrylic process allows me to accentuate the movement of the subject and bring it to life—pure Colorado!"

CAMPO DE GOLF
"The early morning light and long shadows just begged to be painted. Marina Ixtapa is one of our favorite golf coures in Ixtapa, Mexico."

SKIING BUDDIES
"Kids on the chair lift in Vail."

ALTA LAKES
"I painted this scene *en plein air* (outdoors) at beautiful Alta Lakes during the annual Telluride Plein Air event."





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Colorado Getaways

GRAND COUNTY • STEAMBOAT SPRINGS
COLORADO SPRINGS • WESTERN SLOPE



GRAND ELK

Mountain living at its finest

DIVE INTO SUMMER!

Great Golf • *Cool Trails* • Fun Festivals • *More*

GRAND COUNTY


Grand Elk Golf Club

BAGGING A *Grand Elk*

Avid outdoorsman and Masters champion Craig Stadler was clearly inspired by the rugged, fauna-filled terrain near Granby during the construction of **Grand Elk Golf Club**, the course he co-designed with Tripp Davis. This 7,144-yard masterpiece runs through natural wetlands that form the Colorado River headwaters and affords breathtaking views of the Continental Divide and Rocky Mountain National Park. Part of a 520-acre residential enclave 90 minutes from Denver, Grand Elk's heathland design suggests Scotland's Gleneagles courses. *grandelk.com*

Second That Emotion

With four golf courses, world-class trails and lakes, gold-medal fishing waters, awesome skiing and historic communities, Grand County provides an ideal second-home option. Koelbel's Fairway Villas at Grand Elk mostly come in ranch and two-story styles, while the developer's 1,160-acre Rendezvous Colorado near Winter Park features custom homes, cabins, townhomes and more. *koelbelatgrandelk.com; rendezvouscolorado.com*


Mary's Pond at Rendezvous

CATCH AND RELEASE

Mary's Pond reflects the glorious mountain life at **Rendezvous Colorado,** a private upscale community between Fraser and Winter Park with abundant fishing, biking and hiking trails, mountain biking, skiing and other active options. *rendezvouscolorado.com*



Grand Elk Grille

EAT AT THE ELK

Game meats don't appear often on the menu at the rustic **Grand Elk Grille**. But tasty fare for breakfast, lunch and dinner sure does. Jumbo burgers, savory salads, fresh-caught fish and exquisitely turned steaks all come with inspiring views of the golf course, Byers Peak and Grand County's famous 360-degree scenic vistas. Enjoy it all in the quaint, western farmhouse dining area, the fresh mountain air of the deck—or just belly up to the classic wood-and-silver bar. *grandelk.com*

DON'T MISS *EVENTS*

Blues from the Top Music Festival

This June 29-30 event at the Rendezvous Event Center showcases regional and national talent in blues, roots, American rock, jam, soul and blues gospel. *playwinterpark.com*

Fire Up the Cliffs

Kremmling draws visitors from all over to celebrate the 4th of July. Join them for a boffo block party, beer garden, BBQ, live music and fireworks. *kremmlingchamber.com*

Winter Park Jazz Festival

The 37th edition takes place July 20-21 at the Rendezvous Event Center with Boyz II Men, Gerald Albright and Rick Braun among the many star performers. *playwinterpark.com/jazzfest*

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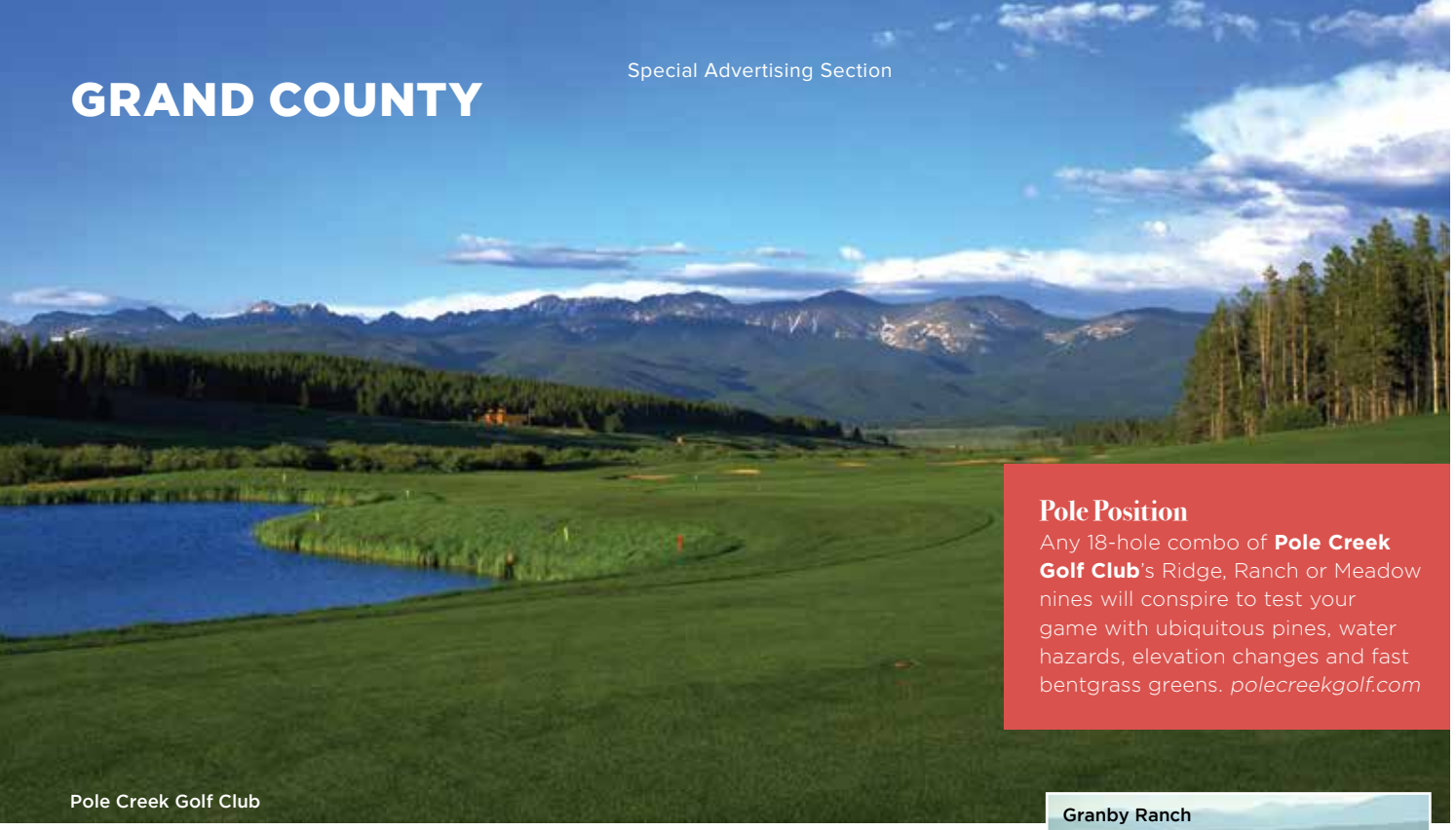


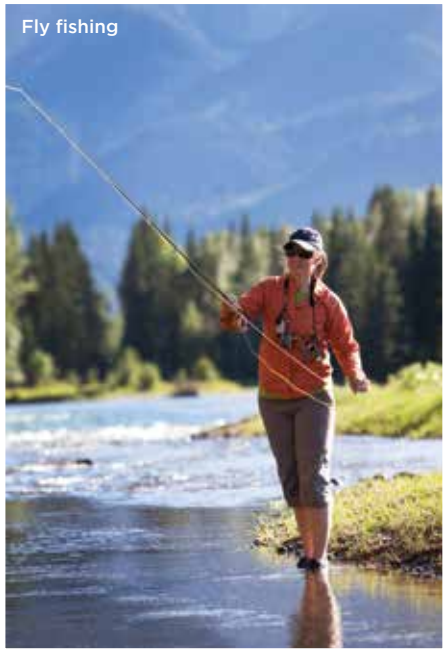
Pole Creek Golf Club

Pole Position

Any 18-hole combo of **Pole Creek Golf Club**'s Ridge, Ranch or Meadow nines will conspire to test your game with ubiquitous pines, water hazards, elevation changes and fast bentgrass greens. *polecreekgolf.com*

GRAND LAKE'S *Mulligan*

For more than 40 years, the lodgepole pines lining the fairways of **Grand Lake Golf Course** saluted good shots and imprisoned wayward ones. Then came the pine-beetle infestation. The loss of hundreds of thousands of trees transformed the Henry Hughes/Dick Phelps layout adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park into a dazzling links-style layout. Set at 8,420 feet above sea level, the impeccably maintained course stretches to 7,165 yards and features tiny greens, mountain views and numerous elk, moose, fox and the occasional bear. *grandlakegolf.com*



Fly fishing

DOWN FLOWS FRASER

The Fraser River teems with wild rainbows, browns and cutthroat trout. Access the currents on foot or mountain bike via the Fraser River Trail, or via USFS campgrounds or road turnouts. Outfitters include **Grand County Fishing Company**, **Winter Park Flyfisher** and **Mo Henry's Trout Shop**. *visitgrandcounty.com*

DOWN GOES THE BEER

Grand County's craft brewing scene is hopping. **Never Summer Brewing** (Granby), **Hideaway Park** (Winter Park), **World's End** (Grand Lake) and **Grand Adventure** (Kremmling) all deliver special suds and an apposite vibe. *visitgrandcounty.com*



Granby Ranch

Ranching Out

South of Grand Elk sprawls the 7,196-yard **Granby Ranch**, comprised of a valley/wetlands front nine and a back that tightropes the ridgeline of the property's ski resort. Great hiking and biking trails and the Fraser River frame the course. *granbyranch.com*

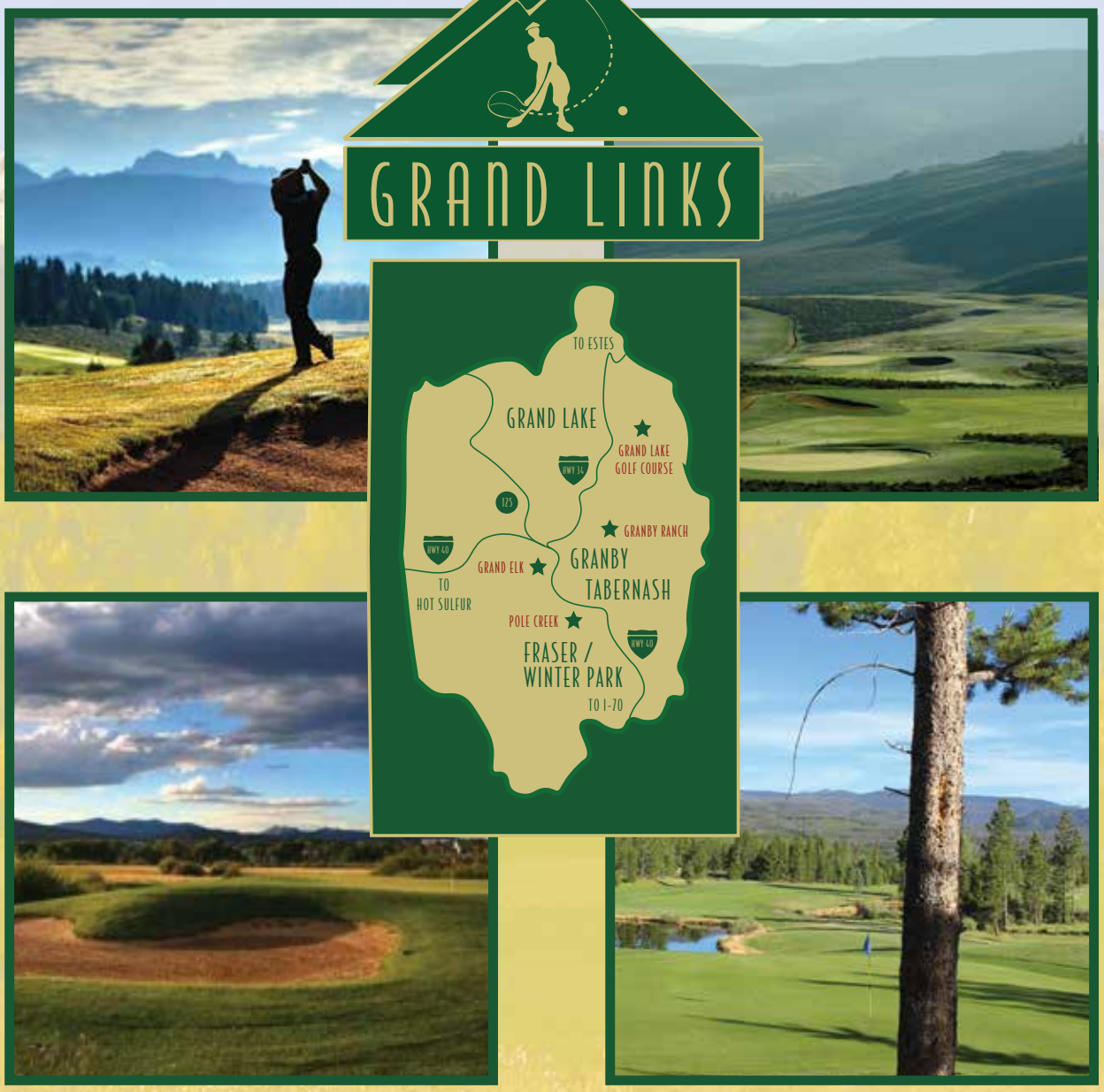


Hot Sulphur Springs

Soak It In

Hot Sulphur Springs, a small town just east of Kremmling, features the 17 rooms, 23 pools and 90-minute massage treatments of the 140-year-old **Hot Sulphur Springs Resort & Spa**. Bathe in the waters and melt away stress. *hotsulphursprings.com*

GRAND LINKS



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STEAMBOAT SPRINGS


Butcherknife Brewing Company

RANGE BREWS

If you miss the **Reds Whites & Brews In The Boat** festival on June 22, head to Steamboat's stellar **Butcherknife Brewing** or just wait for **Steamboat Oktoberwest** (Sept. 13-14), featuring 40 craft brewers, a brisket cookoff, live music and local food. *steamboat.com*


Steamboat abounds with hiking trails

EVENTS TO *KEEP AN EYE ON*

116th Cowboys' Roundup Days
Steamboat blows up the Fourth of July over three days (July 4-6) with a Block Party, Ski-Jumping Extravaganza and the summer's largest Pro Rodeo event. *steamboatchamber.com*

Steamboat Movement Fest
Unite mind, body and spirit during this intimate four-day, transformative yoga and movement festival (Aug. 15-18). Your golf might just improve as a result. *steamboatmovementfest.com*

Strings Music Festival
Strings Music Pavilion hosts a summerlong classical series, plus concerts by Chris Botti, Branford Marsalis, John Hiatt, Shelby Lynne, Boz Scaggs and other performers. *stringsmusicfestival.com*

Yampa Valley Crane Festival
Known for fly-fishing, the Yampa River is also an annual stopover for migrating sandhill cranes. Celebrate Aug. 29-Sept. 1 with speakers, films, photo contests, barbecues and more. *coloradocranes.org*

SPRINGS *in your step*

From stylish hotel rooms and studios to four-bedroom villas, **Sheraton Steamboat Resort Villas** serves as the ideal base for exploring one of Colorado's prettiest regions. Trails of varying difficulty abound. At one extreme is Fish Creek Falls, a 7.6-mile hike straight from town, that rewards you with views of 280-foot waterfalls along the way. Other trails include Spring Creek, Emerald Mountain, Howelsen Hill and Thunderhead, which climbs nearly four miles to the top of the Steamboat Ski Resort gondola. For $15, you can also ride the gondola to the 9,100-foot-high outdoor deck of Thunderhead Lodge, home of the Sunset Happy Hour. You can also stroll downtown and visit the six-acre public garden at Yampa River Botanic Park. *simplysteamboat.com*

Tour de Steamboat

Taking place July 20, the legendary non-competitive cycling event offers four different route distances—26, 46, 66 or 116 miles—for riders of all ages and abilities. Go at your own pace, take advantage of the superb support and enjoy the scenery and history of northwest Colorado. New for 2019 is the 100-mile backroad Gravel Gruel. *steamboatchamber.com*


Rollingstone Ranch

LIKE THE ROLLINGSTONE

The Sheraton Steamboat's spectacular Robert Trent Jones Jr. course at **Rollingstone Ranch Golf Club** treats you to incredible views of the Yampa Valley and Flat Tops Wilderness. Lakes, creeks and slick greens appear throughout, as pines and aspens frame every fairway. *rollingstoneranchgolf.com*



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STEAMBOAT SPRINGS


Haymaker Golf Course

MAKE HAY AT *HAYMAKER*

Steamboat's Auld Sod

One of the state's top public courses, Haymaker's Keith Foster design stretches 7,308 yards—all evoking the linksland of the British Isles. *haymakergolf.com*

As Green as It Gets

Audubon International has designated Haymaker a "Signature Sanctuary"—one of only two Colorado courses to receive the organization's highest distinction.

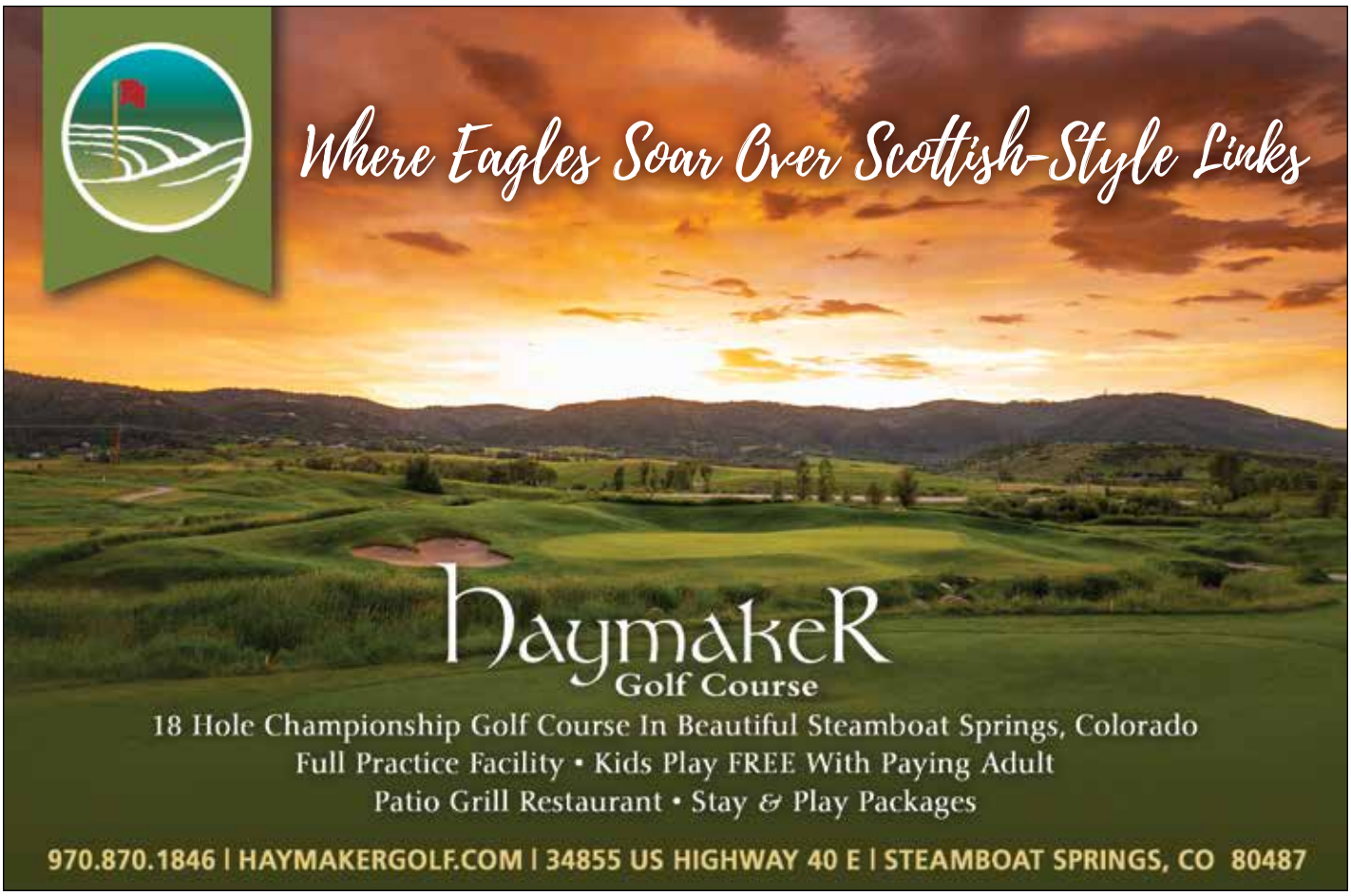
Hit the 19th Hole

The open-plan grill extends onto a veranda with a fireplace and patio adjacent to a lawn to play cornhole and bocce as the sun gloriously sets behind the mountains.

It's Gonna Be Hues

Colorful Colorado's two most colorful days may just be July 13-14 in Steamboat Springs, where the 38th annual **Hot Air Balloon Rodeo** and 45th annual **Art in the Park** coincide. The Rodeo paints the skies above Bald Eagle Lake, while in Lincoln Park, vibrant arts, crafts and performances await. On Saturday night, tether yourself to the highly Instagrammable Balloon Glow on Mt. Werner. *steamboatchamber.com*


Hot Air Balloon Rodeo



COLORADO SPRINGS


The Club at Flying Horse

BET ON THE *Flying Horse*

Majestically set on Colorado Springs' far north side, **The Club at Flying Horse** boasts a palatial Tuscan-style clubhouse, equally grand athletic club and spa, expansive aquatic complex, top-notch steakhouse and stellar Tom Weiskopf-designed golf course. Full golf memberships start at $25,000, and homes in the surrounding 1,500-acre Flying Horse community range from the mid-$300s into the millions. The club also makes most of its amenities available to guests of **The Lodge at Flying Horse**. Comprising 40 rooms and four 1,650-square-foot, two-bedroom villas, the boutique resort combines all the luxuries of a high-end resort with the services required for offsite meetings and weekend getaways. *lodgeatflyinghorse.com; theclubatflyinghorse.com*

COMING SOON

By next year, Flying Horse's golf course will have a stablemate, courtesy of former Weiskopf architect Phil Smith. Situated north of the Flying Horse community, **The Club at Flying Horse North** will roller-coaster through the pine-filled Black Forest. *flyinghorsecolorado.com/flying-horse-north*


Rendering of the new course

PRAISE THE STEAKS

Open to the public, the elegant **Steakhouse at Flying Horse** plates the scrumptious innovations of Executive Chef John Brazie paired with an extensive selection of wines housed in a multi-story, glass-enclosed, spiral-staircased turret. *flyinghorsesteakhouse.com*


Steakhouse Entry


Bad Axe Throwing

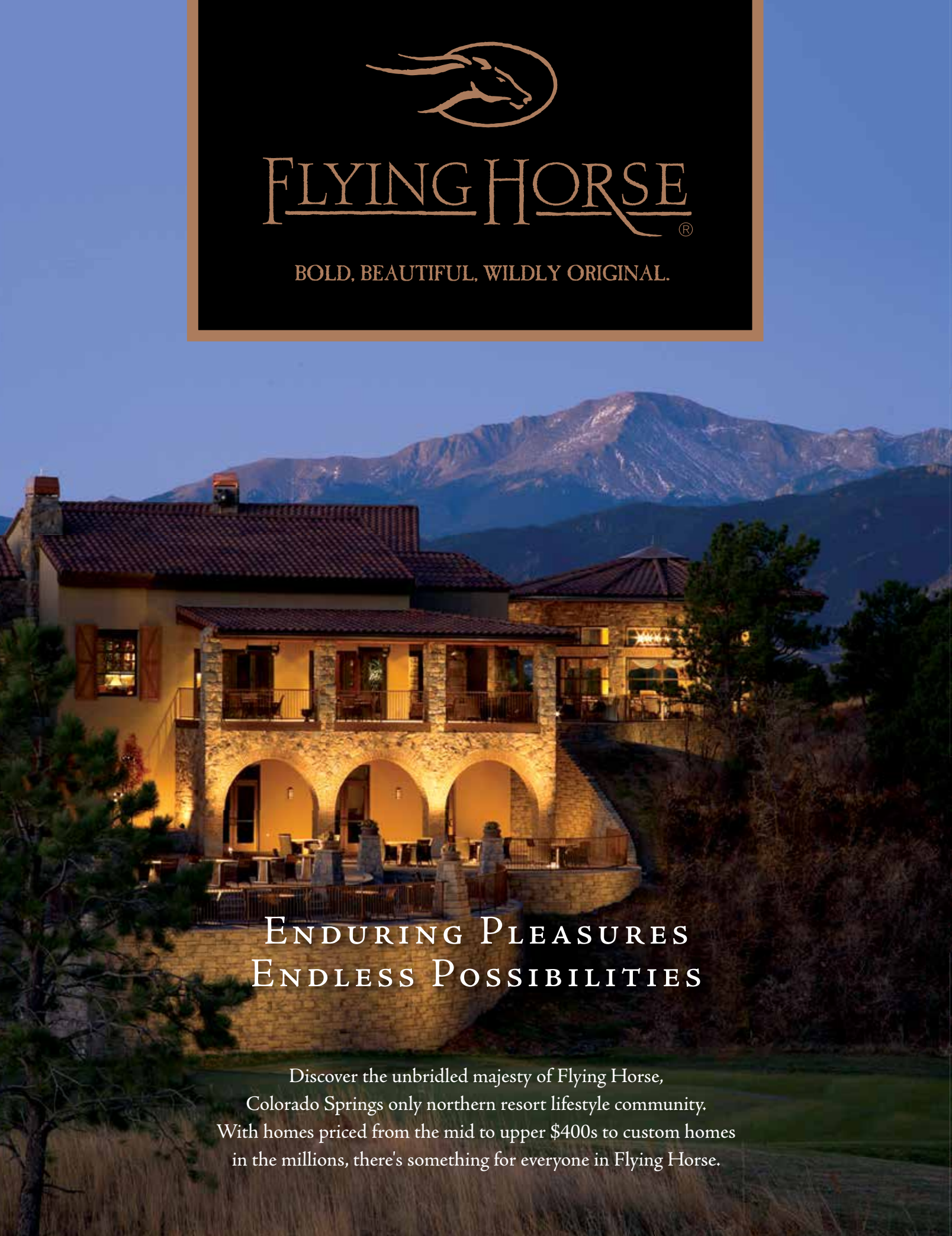
ADVENTUROUS *EVENTS*

Throw Down Axe Festival

Drinking beer and hurling hatchets may sound crazy, but the World Axe Throwing League is for real, and so is the Thrown Down Axe Festival, a fun combination of craft beer, live music and tomahawk tossing at Bad Axe Throwing's Colorado Springs location (one of 30 in North America) on June 28. *badaxethrowing.com*

4th Annual Steers & Beers Whiskey and Beer Festival

On Aug. 17, ride a mechanical bull, grab some grub and sample pours from 60 breweries and 12 distilleries at the Antlers Hotel. *steersandbeersbrewfest.com*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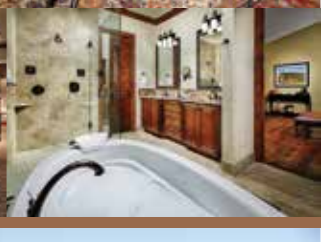















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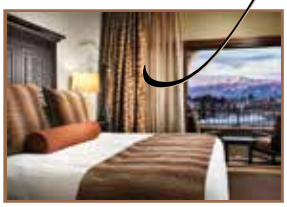

LodgeAtFlyingHorse.com

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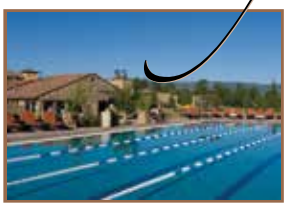

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Live



FlyingHorseColorado.com

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COLORADO SPRINGS


Infinity Pool at The Broadmoor


The Broadmoor East Course

High-Water Mark

Entering its second century of impeccable service and unparalleled luxury, **The Broadmoor** consistently and justifiably earns five stars from *Forbes* and five diamonds from AAA. With two courses designed by Donald Ross and Robert Trent Jones, it's no wonder *Golf* and *Golf Digest* have also ranked it as the top golf resort in the U.S. The renowned Penrose Room, Ristorante del Lago and Summit represent just three of the dozen-plus distinctive dining experiences. You can't beat the Sunday brunch, the spa, the pools, the art collection, the 10-zip-line Soaring Adventure or the myriad activities that make the Broadmoor, well, the Broadmoor. *broadmoor.com*


Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

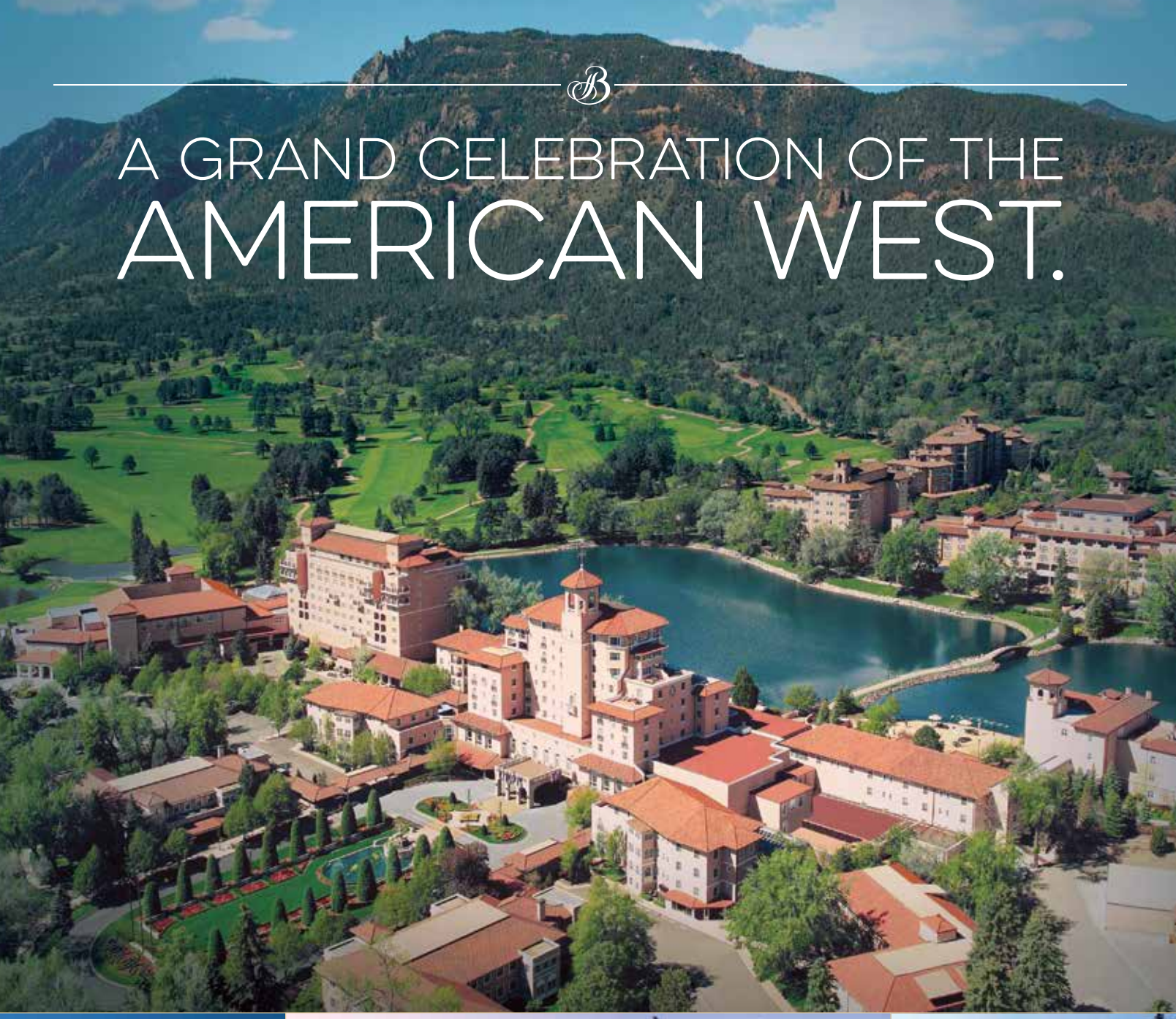
CHECK IT *OUT*

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
750 animals from 170 species make this conservation hub fun for families and for those attending adult-only evening events June 27 and August 29. *cmzoo.com*

Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun
Broadmoor golfers know putts break away from it, but have you visited this spectacular five-story structure 8,000 feet above Colorado Springs? Wow. *cmzoo.com*

Race to the Clouds
On June 30, watch vehicles compete over 12.42 miles, 156 turns and 4,720 feet of elevation gain in The Broadmoor Pikes Peak International Hill Climb. *ppihc.com*

A GRAND CELEBRATION OF THE AMERICAN WEST.









The Broadmoor is so many things to so many different people. To some, it is the longest-running consecutive winner of both the Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star and AAA Five-Diamond awards. To others, it is the new touchstone for Colorado adventure, with the accommodations and activities of The Broadmoor Wilderness Experiences. To all, it is a celebration of scenery, sport, luxury and service unique to the West; a bracing, independent spirit in a rather cold, regimented world of luxury brands. Visit broadmoor.com today, and discover exactly what The Broadmoor can be to you.

THE BROADMOOR

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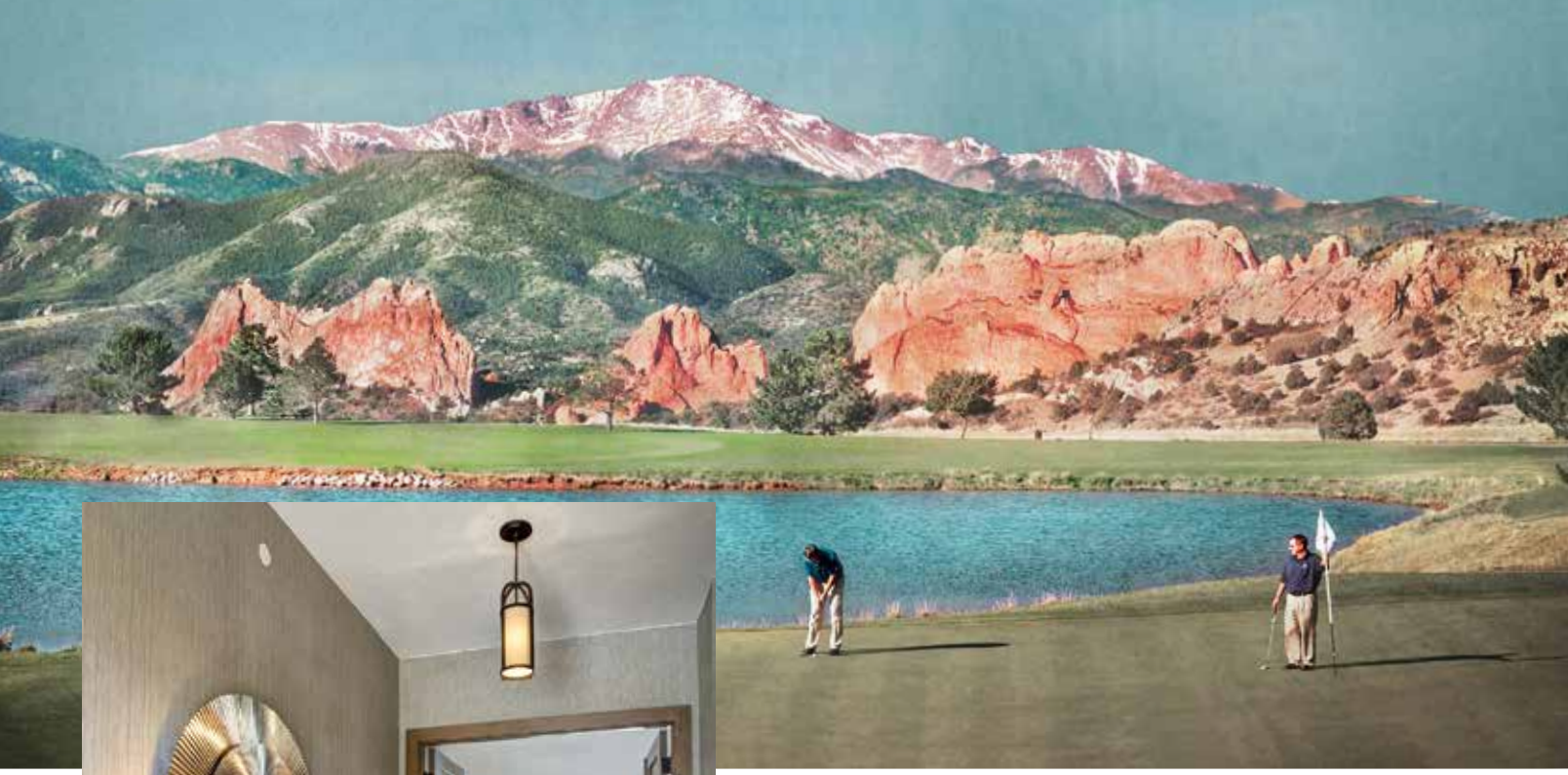



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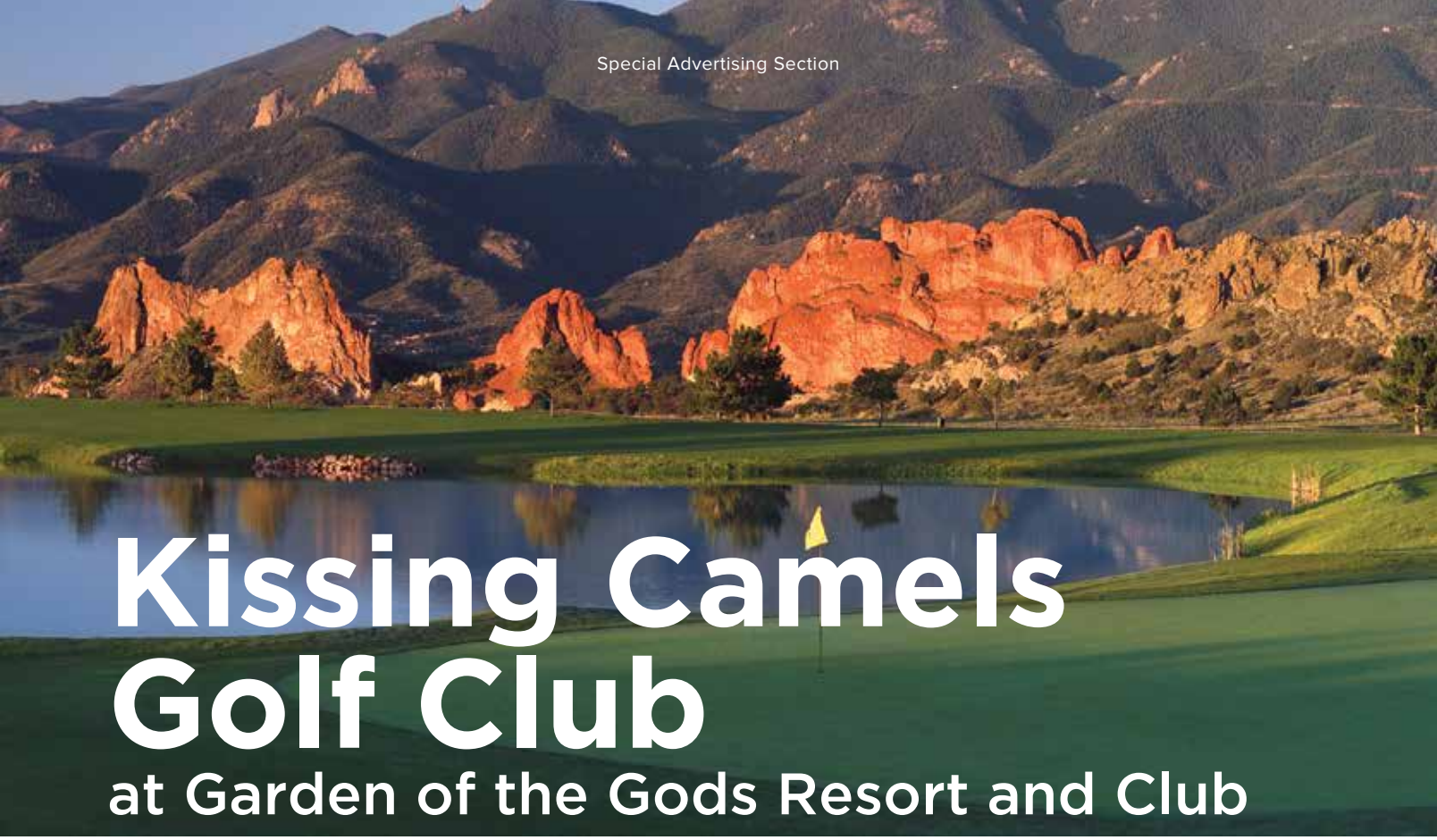
GARDEN OF THE GODS

RESORT • WELLNESS • CLUB

Let Nature Play Through

Seeing it for the first time is something that you'll never forget. The bold colors and contours of this otherworldly landscape make a deep and immediate impact. Its raw, natural beauty stirs the spirit and speaks to the soul, transfixing and transforming all who visit here. Since its founding in 1951, Garden of the Gods Resort and Club has existed as a set of inspired ideas, an approach to life that celebrates recreation, relaxation and refinement amid a setting of unrivaled natural splendor. It is an energizing escape from the ordinary, a place to reconnect with the things that matter most, to restore, renew and lose yourself to the charms of an experience unlike any other.

For inspired seekers, Garden of the Gods Resort and Club, along with its expanded services which now include Strata Integrated Wellness Spa, is the only destination in Colorado Springs offering a truly world-class resort and wellness experience. Here, members and guests relax and reconnect as they have since 1951, enjoying everything from leisurely poolside afternoons, indulgent spa treatments, world-class golf, year-round tennis and the latest advances in integrative medicine. With the ultimate goal of inspiring our guests and enriching their lives, we strive to deliver in every detail, creating an unrivaled hospitality and wellness experience with the power to transform lives.

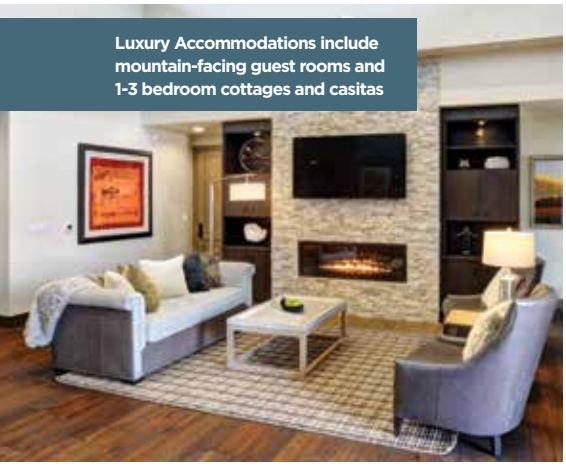


Kissing Camels Golf Club
at Garden of the Gods Resort and Club

There's Golfing, and Then There's Golfing at Garden of the Gods Resort and Club

WITHIN THE SHADOW of Pikes Peak and the Red Rock formations of Garden of the Gods is a secluded oasis. An inspired setting blessed by incredible natural beauty and enhanced through exceptional guest experiences.

GARDEN OF THE GODS RESORT AND CLUB opened its doors in the summer of 1951. In 1961, Press Maxwell designed a world-class 18-hole golf course named after the famous Kissing Camels rock formation at nearby Garden of the Gods National Landmark. In 1998, golf course architect Mark Rathert expanded the Resort and Club's offerings by adding an additional nine holes, bringing the Kissing Camels Golf Course to 27 holes.



Luxury Accommodations include mountain-facing guest rooms and 1-3 bedroom cottages and casitas

LET NATURE PLAY THROUGH. This challenging 27-hole classic Colorado Springs golf course features bunkered greens, towering pines, and the landscaping of the lush mountain range. This 58-year-old course spans more than 7,000 yards per 18 holes. The driving range and practice facilities offer Members and Guests the opportunity to work on their games or shave a few strokes off their game with personalized golf instruction from the professional PGA staff. And while you may not always play like a pro, you can look like a pro. The fully stocked pro shop carries the latest in golf equipment, fashion and accessories for gentlemen, ladies and children.

GOLF IN A PLACE painted rich with wonder. Members and Resort Guests enjoy privileged access to the resort and club's abundant amenities. In addition to its 27 holes of championship golf, the property also features a leading-edge tennis facility, state-of-the-art fitness center, an adult pool with a jaw-dropping front row view of "the Garden," two family-friendly pools and a splash garden. Feed your body and soul with nine culinary experiences on property, ranging from casual poolside bites to refined, elegant dinners paired with exquisite wines or hand-crafted cocktails. Strata Integrated Wellness Spa at Garden of the Gods Resort and Club is a destination for transformational, integrated, and intuitive care. Whether you're looking to change your life completely, enhance your current health path, or simply relax and rejuvenate, Strata offers a full spectrum of health and wellness solutions and services.

SLEEP IN A DREAMLAND. Experience the powerful connection to our Rocky Mountain landscape and the awe-inspiring views that envelop the Resort and Club during your stay. The wide variety of accommodations at Garden of the Gods Resort and Club share a spacious residential feel, flexible design, and a genuine sense of place. Choose from spacious guest rooms and suites with unparalleled views in our main resort building, or experience the breadth of resort and club amenities while enjoying the privacy of a secluded residential community setting in our one- , two- and three- bedroom Cottages and Casitas.

There's golfing, and then there's golfing at GARDEN OF THE GODS RESORT AND CLUB.



Yoga at Garden of the Gods Resort

WHERE TO *feel like a god*

Inspired by the powerful beauty of the surrounding environment, the **Garden of the Gods Resort and Club** encourages guests to maximize their own wellbeing. The Fitness Center offers group and individual exercise classes featuring everything from yoga, Pilates, Nia and Zumba to aquatic moves, TRX and more. Moreover, the resort's novel Strata Integrated Wellness Spa staffs experts in medicine, exercise physiology, nutrition, spirituality and other wellness specialties from both Eastern and Western disciplines. Using advanced diagnostics and exhaustive patient assessment, Strata's expert team of physicians, nurses and clinicians collaborate to deliver cutting-edge treatments and design personalized healthy living plans. *gardenofthegodsclub.com; strataiws.com*



Garden of the Gods Park

A Walk in the Park

A National Natural Landmark, **Garden of the Gods Park** boasts 300-foot-high sandstone monoliths around which you can take a guided walk or a three-mile hike along the rolling trail. *gardenofgods.com*

Dine on the Rocks

Whether you're savoring an impeccable Double Bone-In Pork Chop in the **Grand View Dining Room** or tapas in **The Rocks Bar & Lounge,** a meal at the Garden of the Gods Resort and Club comes with a rocking view. *gardenofthegodsclub.com*

Play Kissing Camels

Named for one of the iconic sandstone formations in the Garden of the Gods, **Kissing Camels Golf Club** spans 27 holes of mature pine-lined fairways and fiddly greens set against a backdrop of roseate foothills. Request the resort's Tee FORE Two guest package. *gardenofthegodsclub.com*

IF SO INCLINED...

Elevate your heart rate in neighboring Manitou Springs. The steps of the **Manitou Incline** climb 2,000 vertical feet up the ties of an old cable-car track. Take the free shuttle from the historic downtown, which brims with galleries, pubs, boutiques and restaurants. *manitouincline.com; manitousprings.org*



Manitou Incline

GET YOUR GAMES ON

Featuring more than 40 sports (but not golf), the 2019 **Rocky Mountain State Games** will welcome athletes of all ages and physical abilities to compete July 19-21 and 26-28 at venues across Colorado Springs. *coloradospringssports.org*



Rocky Mountain State Games

INTERNATIONAL EATS

Colorado Springs takes world cuisine beyond Italian and Mexican. Faves include: **Uchenna** (Ethiopian), **Nara** (Japanese), **Narai Thai** (Thai), **Zaika** (Indian), **Tucanos** (Brazilian) and **Caspian Café** (Spanish, Greek, Egyptian, Turkish and more).

WESTERN SLOPE


Dos Rios Golf Club

GUNNY BUSINESS

A fork in the Gunnison River gives **Dos Rios Golf Club** its "two rivers" name. The river also gives the 6,512-yard course its teeth, as water comes into play on all but one of the holes. John Cochran designed the first nine holes in 1964, and nine more by Dick Phelps opened 16 years later. Mature trees, tight fairways and prime conditioning make this easily walkable course a wonderful test of golf. A 1,100-square-foot patio enhances the atmosphere at the club's Dos Grill. *dosriosgolf.net*

FISH STORY

Colorado's state-record brown, rainbow and lake trout came from the rivers, streams and lakes of the Gunnison Valley. The Headwaters of the **Taylor River** regularly produce the valley's largest trout, while the **Gunnison** and **East** rivers see the largest Kokanee salmon run in the U.S. The salmon run starts in Colorado's largest manmade body of water, **Blue Mesa Reservoir**, just minutes west of Gunnison. *bluemesafishing.com*

HELLO, GORGES

Gold Medal trout fishing and whitewater rafting, as well as hiking and biking through the badlands make the **Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area** a national treasure. *blm.gov*

ONE-TRACK-MINDED

More than 750 miles of mountain bike singletrack lace the Gunnison Valley–from beginner trails like the **Lower Loop** to expert trails like **Doctor Park** to the red rock system at **Hartman Rocks** near Dos Rios Golf Club. *mtbhome.com*


Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area

SOMETHING FOR *EVERYONE*

West Elk Bicycle Classic

On Sept. 1, take on a 135-mile backroad route from Gunnison to Crested Butte or try the 52-mile Raghorn Loop from Crested Butte. *westelkbicycleclassic.com*

Waunita Hot Springs

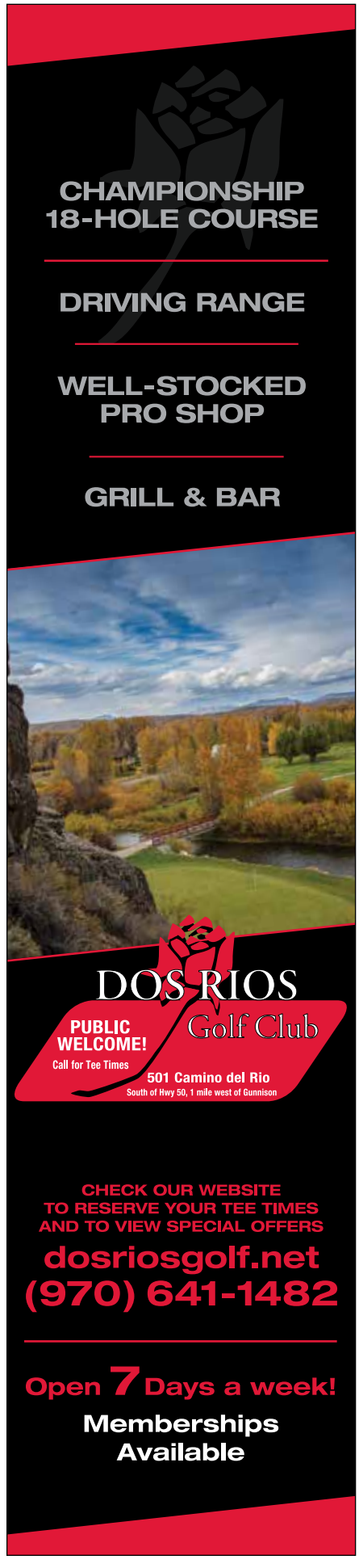
The family-owned Gunnison guest ranch serves up home-cooked meals, comfy digs, cowboy poetry, horseback rides and healing waters. *waunita.com*

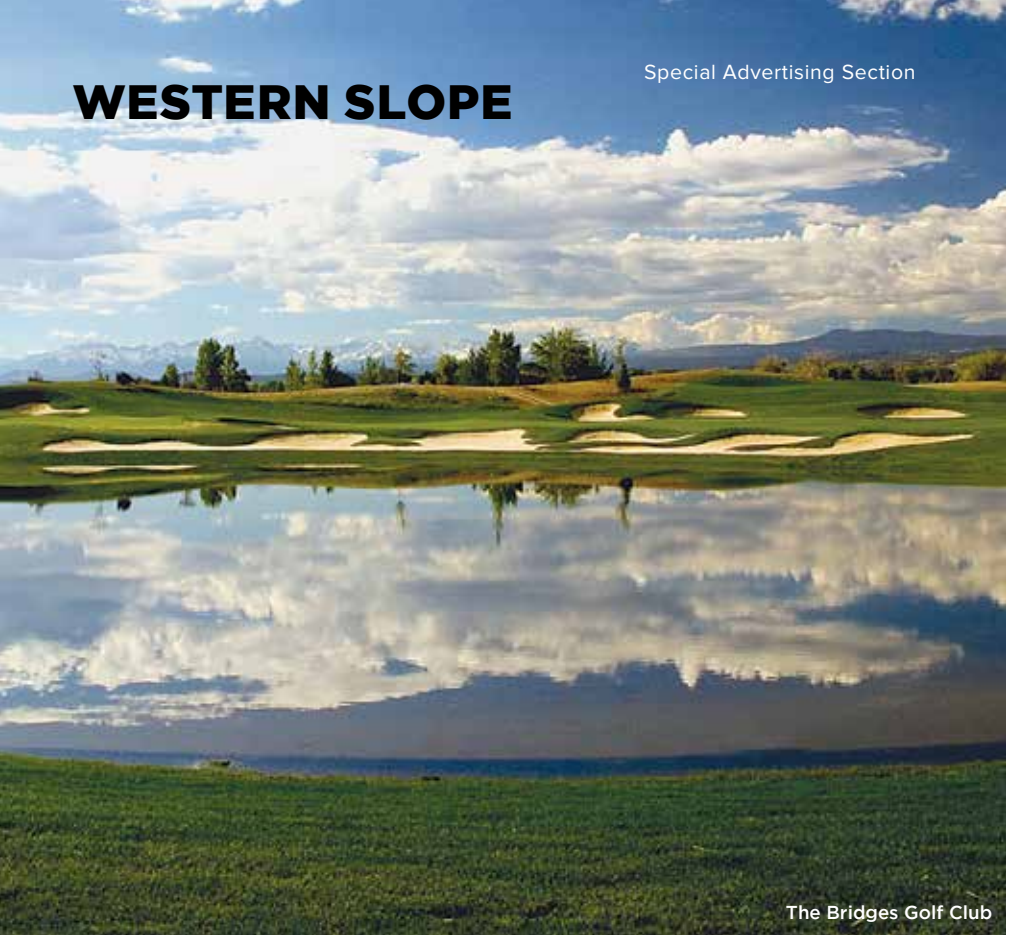
Float 'N' Dine

A two-hour float down the Gunnison River from Almont's Three Rivers Resort rewards you with an Italian feast at Garlic Mike's in Gunnison. *garlicmikes.com*

Hiker's Heaven

Gunnison Valley's two million acres of public land mean 150 scenic trails featuring everything from wildflowers to desert canyons. *gunnisoncrestedbutte.com*




The Bridges Golf Club

THE BRIDGES *worth crossing*

Playing between 5,380 and 7,207 yards, the Nicklaus Design layout at **The Bridges Golf and Country Club** in Montrose incorporates abundant native plantings, natural arroyos, rock features, waterfalls and spectacular views of the San Juans. The club takes its name from the many spans traversing the Loutsenhizer Canal that snakes through the property. The club offers stay-and-play options with local hotels, as well as seven beautifully appointed suites—ranging in price from $100 to $175 with breathtaking views of either the San Juan Mountains or Grand Mesa—on the second floor of the 23,500-square-foot clubhouse. The course anchors the 400-acre Bridges community, where homesites start at $35,000 and homes start in the high $300s. *montrosebridges.com*


The Bridges, No. 12


The Bridges Clubhouse

EASY LISTENING

Throughout the summer The Lawn at The Bridges features weekly live music. On Saturday, June 29, '70s icons **Little River Band** ("Lonesome Loser," "Reminiscing") will perform. Tickets cost $35, with proceeds benefiting Montrose Community Center and Dolphin House Child Advocacy Center. *montrosebridges.com*

CHOW DOWN

Views of the golf course and stunning San Juan Mountains accompany meals at **Remington's**, one of Montrose's foremost restaurants and a four-time Wine Spectator Award of Excellence winner. An "Eat Local Eat Healthy" establishment that uses local produce, Remington's does a stellar Sunday Brunch and features an 11,000-square-foot patio. *montrosebridges.com*


Remington's patio

FUN FOR *DAYS*

FUNC Fest

On Aug. 9-10, Montrose Water Sports Park hosts the 5th Fun on the Uncompahgre (FUNC), a confab of kayakers, SUPers, music fans, beer lovers and revelers of all ages. *visitmontrose.com*

Olathe Sweet Corn Festival

On Aug. 3, for the first time in its long history, the celebration of the ears that made Olathe famous will take place at the Montrose County Event Center. *olathesweetcornfest.com*

Deltarado Days

July 25-28, Delta's Confluence Park will celebrate the city's farming and ranching heritage with a parade, live music, 5K race, triathlon and the 84th Deltarado Day Rodeo. *deltacolorado.org*

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WESTERN SLOPE


Conquistador Golf Club

Conquering a Conquistador

A classic Press Maxwell-designed gem in Cortez, **Conquistador Golf Club** sits 6,200 feet above sea level and tips out at 7,125 yards—many of them tree-lined and in full view of the La Plata, San Miguel and Ute mountains. Water comes into play on eight holes, and a number of tantalizingly cuttable doglegs lead to small, tiered greens that can defend par with punishing pride. A round at the well-maintained municipal layout maxes at $41; carts run an extra $16, though they are not really necessary. *fourcornersgolf.com*


Colorado Trail

HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU

The 485-mile **Colorado Trail** connects Denver and Durango, but it's not a one-way street, and there are plenty of off-ramps. The trail's southern end lies near downtown Durango at Junction Creek Trailhead. It's an immediate uphill climb, but worth the views and the luxury of turning around any time. *coloradotrail.org*

VINO, VERITAS?

21-year-old **Guy Drew Vineyards** in St. Elmo Canyon southwest of Cortez has surprised the wine world with its superb Cabernets, Meritages and Baco Noirs. Tour the property and taste for yourself. *guydrewvineyards.com*

CLIFF DWELLERS

Featuring Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings, notably the huge Cliff Palace, **Mesa Verde National Park** is a must-see. Make sure to take Mesa Top Loop Road and marvel at Sun Point Overlook and Petroglyph Point Trail. *visitmesaverde.com*

IN THE *KNOW*

Cortez Art and Wine

This two-day festival (July 6-7) will feature more than 40 artists and craftspeople, live music and tastings from several local wineries. *cityofcortez.com*

Durango Brew Train

On Aug. 31, take a 1920s steam locomotive above the Animas River to Cascade Canyon for lunch, live music and beaucoup beers. *durango.gov*

Durango Fiesta Days

"The best Wild West festival of the summer" (July 20-28) includes a parade, chuck wagon cook-off, barrel racing, rodeo and more. *durango.com*

KUPCHO *Continued from page 60*



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

NCAA CHAMP: With coaches Dianne Dailey and Ryan Potter in 2018.

is, this is where we're trying to hit it, this is how far it's playing–and boom, she does it."

PRO PROGNOSIS

Few, if any, doubt Kupcho will succeed at the professional level. Her solid all-around game, grit and competitive hardwiring should serve her well. She's also had more time to mature–to learn and do things on her own–than most rookies, which should make the transition from college to the pros far easier than the one from high school to college. Managing her time and arranging travel, hotels, car rentals and other functions previously handled by the school shouldn't overwhelm her.

But how does someone who feeds off a team environment make the transition to the lone-wolf life of a touring golf professional?

"I don't think it's going to be too difficult to transfer over," Kupcho says. "I've talked to Laura (Diaz) and a couple of other people on the tour. My class was really strong. Five of the girls who went pro after Q-School (Jaclyn Lee, Lauren Stephenson, Kristin Gillman, Lilia Vu, Cheyenne Knight) are my close friends. We played Curtis Cup and Palmer Cup. And even though they're rookies, they know what they're doing."

"We're hoping to get out for a few events, so she'll see some familiar faces," Lewellen says.

"We'll group text, we'll Snapchat. I don't think she'll ever be lonely," adds Schumacher. "She has a bunch of people supporting her, who all have her back no matter what."

Her parents will travel with her, and her father will caddie for the remainder of the year. "Which I think is great," Potter says, "because they do really well together. I don't think he wants to do it after that, and I'm sure she'll want her freedom, too. You know there'll be caddies waiting in line to get that bag."

"I'm just excited to go play," Kupcho says. "It's been a lifelong dream. It'll be fun to finally go do it."

Jon Rizzi is the editor of *Colorado AvidGolfer*.







IN HER WAKE: E.J. Carr works with Jennifer Kupcho at stately Reynolda Gardens on the Wake Forest campus.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE KIRKLAND

Hello, Yellow Brick Road

Making a photograph can follow a circuitous route.

MY ASSIGNMENTS FOR *Colorado AvidGolfer* mostly take place along the Front Range. So when the magazine called in February to ask if I'd go to North Carolina to photograph Wake Forest University senior Jennifer Kupcho—the NCAA champion from Colorado who'd crushed it in Q-School—I jumped at the unusual opportunity.

As luck would have it, by the time *CAG*'s Jon Rizzi and I touched down in Raleigh, Jennifer had also become "America's sweetheart," winning the inaugural Augusta National Women's Amateur championship in stirring fashion on national television.

Arriving a day before the shoot, we scouted the campus for the perfect location to show her taking the first steps into what looks to be a remarkable professional career.

A photograph on a golf course would be too cliché. So would a shot in the shadow of the giant Arnold Palmer statue at the golf facility. We went all over. Jon was an obliging, sometimes eye-rolling, stand-in for Jennifer as I directed him, like I would any model. I joked that he was my "best boy," a film term for assistant.

Then, as we exited the southwestern edge of campus, we spied an enormous set of stone pillars at the gated entrance to the university's lush Reynolda Gardens on the former R.J. Reynolds estate. They suggested a gateway to the future, but as we entered to find a parking spot, a long winding lane revealed itself. There it was: the yellow brick road. Off to the future and Emerald City. The perfect location to tell the story of the next step for a stellar athlete.

Joined the next day by Wake's gregarious Director of Athletic Communications Steve Kirkland, we visited other potential sites on the picturesque campus.

But my mind kept returning to the road. So off the four of us went. Friendly, smiling and very coachable, Jennifer followed all of my directions, starts and stops. In the end, we created a wonderful image to describe the story of her passage from amateur to professional. —*E.J. Carr*

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