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56



66

62 The Leading Edge

The Denver Four Seasons' signature restaurant heads a list of high-end Colorado hotel eateries, including Penrose Room, Elway's, The Palace Arms and Wyld. By Gary James

64 Colorado Dines Haute

Choice restaurants in Aspen, Beaver Creek, Durango, Telluride and Vail. By Jon Rizzi
Plus: High-Yield Wines by Dave Buchanan

66 Pleasure Machines

As automobiles automate, high-end vehicles from companies like McLaren, Aston-Martin and Ford hold sacred the time-honored joy of driving. By Isaac Bouchard

70 Wear to Play

Custom shoes, clothes and accessories for the well-heeled golfer. By Suzanne S. Brown

DEPARTMENTS

- 10 Forethoughts**
Life in the Key of Golf
By Jon Rizzi
- 12 'net Score**
Giveaways, getaways and more.
- 15 Mile High Golf at \$52.80**
21 exclusive offers from across the state.
- 24 Golf 102**
Why the 2019 U.S. Mid-Am matters.
- 26 The CWGA**
It's time to speak up on Rules changes.
- 31 The Gallery**
Park Hill's future, Mary Weinstein, David Oraee and other news, notes and names.
- 72 Blind Shot**
PGA Tour Superstore CEO Dick Sullivan

PLAYER'S CORNER

- 41 Instruction**
A "Friendly Nine" with Mark Wiebe
- 44 Lesson**
Improve your feel. By Alexander Fisher

SIDE BETS

- 46 Tapping In**
Craft Brews in the South Suburbs.
By Cody Gabbard

THE GOOD LIFE

- 48 Inspired Living**
Providing portals for members to travel the world, Inspirato co-founder Brent Handler reinvents the way people vacation—and occasionally goes along for the ride. By Kim D. McHugh
- 53 From Tee to Shining Tee**
Lavish golf travel to Bandon, Pebble Beach, Sea Island, Troon North and Streamsong. By Jon Rizzi
- 56 Rebel Without a Pause**
With PXG and Scottsdale National, iconoclast Bob Parsons has upended the business models for clubs to swing and one to join. By Andy Bigford

- 61 Colorado's New Tour Stop?**
Does TPC also stand for The Perfect Community?
By Jon Rizzi

ON THE COVER

Brent Handler of Inspirato
Photographed at Colorado Golf Club
by Tanja Butler-Melone



53



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Life in the Key of Golf



FOR THE THIRD consecutive year, our August issue celebrates “the good life,” which also means for the third straight year, I find myself constantly singing that classic lounge tune by the same name. “Singing” might be a generous description, judging from an exchange with my golf buddy Bob.

Me: Oh the good life, to be free and explore the unknown.

Bob: Who does that song?

Me: Tony Bennett.

Bob: Let’s keep it that way.

Ouch. I mean, it’s not like I was crooning during his backswing. Not until then, anyway.

His ensuing struggles off the tee thus prompted the following exchange:

Me: What’d you do with the money?

Bob: What money?

Me: The money your mother gave you for golf lessons.

And so it went—the two of us cracking up each other, making long putts and missing short ones on a course that wouldn’t appear on anyone’s bucket list. A few post-round brews, some nachos and hot wings, and we were living the good life—or at least the “Life is Good” t-shirt version of it.

This issue presents a decidedly more aspirational ideal. In the case of cover subject Brent Handler, it’s also an inspired one. His Denver-based destination club, Inspirato (Italian for inspired), translates into highly personalized, memory-making travel experiences for roughly 15,000 members. More than 900 luxury vacation options comprise Inspirato’s global collection, with destinations from Vail to Vietnam and full-on “experiences” ranging from Arctic expeditions to attending the Masters.

As *CAG* Contributor Kim McHugh discovers on page 48, Handler’s personal journey hasn’t taken him far from the city in which he grew up. He graduated from the University of Colorado and lives not far from his childhood home in Southmoor Park. However, his experiences founding two successful destination-club companies here—Exclusive Resorts and Inspirato—suggest a perspective that’s anything but provincial. And as a member at both Colorado Golf Club and Glenmoor Country Club, the 13-handicap is also well along on his journey to get into the single digits.

Contributor Andy Bigford’s profile of another good-life purveyor, Bob Parsons, appears on page 56. With his earring, tattoos and love of Harley-Davidsons, the 66-year-old Arizona billionaire has shaken up the staid golf world with his nontraditional proprietorship of the exclusive 45-hole Scottsdale National Golf Club and creation of the high-end equipment manufacturer PXG (Parsons Extreme Golf). On the market less than two years, PXG clubs have found their way into the bags of dozens of touring pros, including major winners Zach Johnson and Lydia Ko, and enjoyed brisk sales in Colorado and around the world.

In addition, this year’s good-life coverage delivers some sought-after cars, fashion, restaurants, wines and information about the new TPC Colorado.

I’ve long said you can’t spell good life without g-o-l-f. So whether your version of it involves teeing off in an exotic destination, arriving at the club in a plush sports car or just snagging one of the 21 discounts that begin on page 15, this issue should strike a chord. Feel free to sing along. — JON RIZZI

PHOTOGRAPH BY JO ANNE HARADA



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Learn more here: facebook.com/coloradoavidgolfer



...Come Play

WE DON'T TYPICALLY pump up our own tires here at Colorado AvidGolfer, but with this event we'll make an exception. The Colorado Land Rover Retailers Cordillera Golf Experience is one of the most sought-after golf weekends in the Rocky Mountain Region and we're proud to host it yet again September 16th and 17th in Vail. Supporting Junior Achievement Rocky Mountain, the weekend will consist of one round at The Club at Cordillera's Summit Course and a second at the Valley Course, with luxury accommodations at the Park Hyatt Beaver Creek. Enjoy a welcome brunch on Saturday, with après-golf cocktails and dinner at TimberHearth; breakfast at Cordillera on Sunday morning, and a special post-round awards ceremony to cap off the perfect weekend.

Total Cost: \$1,600 per pairing – coloradoavidgolfer.com/cag-events/cordillera-experience-vail/



...Come All...

SEPTEMBER 21-24 marks the 11th edition of the TOUR Championship—the PGA TOUR's last stop on the FedEx Cup Playoffs this season. In honor of the year's final tournament, we're hosting a pool on Facebook! Simply go to our Facebook page and check out the pinned post atop the news feed. There, you'll find the rules for player selections, point accumulation and entry details. Make sure to get in your picks before the first tee shot on Thursday morning for a chance to win a \$200 PGA TOUR SUPERSTORE Gift Card!

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APPLEWOOD GOLF COURSE	page 16
AURORA HILLS GOLF COURSE	page 16
COLORADO NATIONAL GOLF CLUB	page 16
COMMONGROUND GOLF COURSE	page 17
DEER CREEK GOLF CLUB	page 17
EAGLE VAIL GOLF CLUB	page 17
FITZSIMONS GOLF COURSE	page 18
THE GOLF CLUB AT FOX ACRES	page 18
GRAND LAKE GOLF COURSE	page 18
THE GREG MASTRIONA GOLF COURSE	
AT HYLAND HILLS— BLUE COURSE	page 19
THE GREG MASTRIONA GOLF COURSE	
AT HYLAND HILLS— GOLD COURSE	page 19
KEYSTONE RANCH GOLF COURSE	page 19
THE RIVER COURSE AT KEYSTONE	page 20
MEADOW HILLS GOLF COURSE	page 20
PELICAN LAKES GOLF CLUB	page 20
PLUM CREEK GOLF CLUB	page 21
RACCOON CREEK GOLF COURSE	page 21
RED HAWK RIDGE GOLF COURSE	page 21
THE RIDGE AT CASTLE PINES	page 22
SADDLE ROCK GOLF COURSE	page 22
SPRINGHILL GOLF COURSE	page 22

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Applewood Golf Course

14001 West 32nd Avenue, Golden, CO 80401
303-279-3003 | ApplewoodGC.com

Opened in 1961, Applewood Golf Course has been regarded as one of the best Denver golf locations for the whole family. Set against the foothills of the Rocky Mountains and 15 minutes from Denver, the course is a tribute to its breathtaking surroundings as well as the beauty of the game of golf itself. Whether you're looking for tournaments, leagues, a wedding location or even 18 holes of golf, Applewood is a location that won't disappoint.

OFFER INCLUDES:

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MILE HIGH GOLF AT \$52.80 DATES are Monday, September 18th through Sunday, October 1st.

Aurora Hills Golf Course

50 South Peoria Street, Aurora, CO 80012
303.739.1550 | GolfAurora.com

Come play the original course in Aurora's family of municipal courses. This centrally located gem has become one of the most popular golf destinations in the metro area. Very reasonable fees and a reputation for great conditions combine for a value-oriented golf experience that is hard to beat. This easily walkable traditional design offers challenges for all ability levels.

OFFER INCLUDES:

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Colorado National Golf Club

2700 Vista Parkway, Erie, CO 80516
303-926-1723 | ColoradoNationalGolfClub.com

Colorado National Golf Club provides both an accessible and challenging championship golf experience, with 7,676 yards and 5 sets of tees. Designed by award-winning golf course architect Jay Morrish, this 232-acre championship par-72 course offers breathtaking panoramas of the Rocky Mountains' northern Front Range.

Colorado National Golf Club is the home club of the University of Colorado Buffaloes.

OFFER INCLUDES:

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CommonGround Golf Course

10300 East Golfers Way, Aurora, CO 80010
303-340-1520 | CommonGroundGC.com

Designed by world-renowned architect Tom Doak and owned by the Colorado Golf Association, the state's newest public course is also one of its most affordable golf experiences. It measures 7,200 yards and features mounded fairways, huge green complexes and plenty of subtle elevation changes. While challenging enough to co-host the 2012 U.S. Amateur, CommonGround has multiple tees to create an enjoyable experience for all abilities.

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Deer Creek Golf Club

8135 Shaffer Parkway, Littleton, CO 80127
303-978-1800 | PlayDeerCreek.com

Deer Creek Golf Club has a links-style layout that wanders through rolling hills covered with more than 40 acres of natural wetlands. The beautifully maintained landscape provides numerous natural challenges, as well as elevated greens guarded by numerous bunkers and the occasional island green. Risk-reward opportunities abound, but this course demands accuracy and strategic play to score.

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EagleVail Golf Club

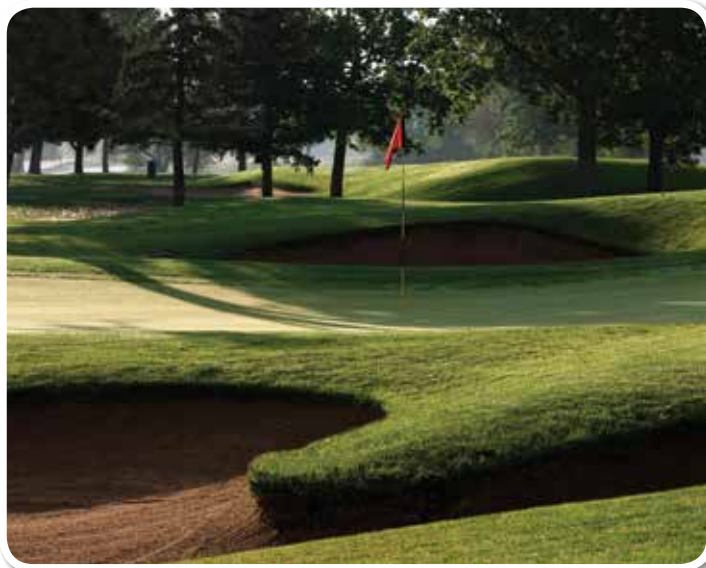
459 Eagle Drive, Avon, CO 81620
970-949-5267 | EagleVailGolfClub.com

The EagleVail Golf Club is one of the Vail Valley's favorite golf courses, with expansive views of the Gore Range and surrounding peaks of the Colorado Rocky Mountains. Nestled only five minutes from the internationally renowned Vail and Beaver Creek resorts, EagleVail offers 18 holes of pristine, challenging golf for people of all ages.

OFFER INCLUDES:

18 holes of golf with cart any day after 12 p.m. for \$52.80. Valid Monday, September 18 through Sunday, October 1, 2017. To book your Mile High Golf at \$52.80 tee time please call 970-949-5267 or book online at EagleVailGolfClub.com, 7 days in advance. Please refer to Mile High Golf promotion when booking tee times.

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Fitzsimons Golf Course

2323 Scranton Street, Aurora, CO 80045
303.326.8455 | GolfAurora.com

Originally built with just three sand greens in 1918, this course evolved into a highly used 18-hole military facility. A frequent favorite of former President Eisenhower in the 1950s, Fitzsimons became an Aurora public golf course in 1998. This tree-lined golf gem is now an attractive cornerstone to a bioscience park with some of the state's leading hospitals. The redesigned holes on the front nine, done by Richard Phelps in 2004, are a great complement to the classic layout and strong traditions at Fitz.

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The Golf Club at Fox Acres

3350 Fox Acres Drive East, Red Feather Lakes, CO 80545
970-881-2574 | GolfClubatFoxAcres.com

Golf is played in all manner of environments, but it thrives best where there is a level of solitude and serenity. That means it thrives like crazy at Fox Acres. Designed by John Cochran, Fox Acres is one of Colorado's golf courses that will leave you with a truly breathtaking experience. At 8,300 feet above sea level and just shy of 6,500 yards from the tips, it's a thinking person's course from start to finish, which is just fine since there is enough peace and quiet around to allow for a good think.

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Grand Lake Golf Course

1415 County Road 48, Grand Lake, CO 80447
970-627-8008 | GrandLakeRecreation.com

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The Greg Mastriona at Hyland Hills — Blue Course

9650 Sheridan Boulevard, Westminster, CO 80031
303-428-6526 | GolfHylandHills.com

The Greg Mastriona Golf Courses at Hyland Hills originally opened in 1963, becoming one of the first 18-hole championship golf courses in the Northern Metropolitan area. As one of the most notable and recognized golf courses in Colorado, Hyland Hills hosted the first annual Colorado State Public Links Championship in 1965 and played host to several other CGA and USGA events over the years.

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9 holes of golf for two (2) players with a cart. Offer valid any day, any time. To book your Mile High Golf at \$52.80 tee time, please call 303-428-6526 7 days in advance, after 4:00pm, mention the Mile High Golf at \$52.80 promotion.

MILE HIGH GOLF AT \$52.80 DATES are Monday, September 18th through Sunday, October 1st.

The Greg Mastriona at Hyland Hills — Gold Course

9650 Sheridan Boulevard, Westminster, CO 80031
303-428-6526 | GolfHylandHills.com

The Greg Mastriona Golf Courses at Hyland Hills originally opened in 1963, becoming one of the first 18-hole championship golf courses in the Northern Metropolitan area. As one of the most notable and recognized golf courses in Colorado, Hyland Hills hosted the first annual Colorado State Public Links Championship in 1965 and played host to several other CGA and USGA events over the years.

OFFER INCLUDES:

18 holes of golf for two (2) players with a cart. Offer valid any day, after 1:00pm. To book your Mile High Golf at \$52.80 tee time, please call 303-428-6526 7 days in advance, after 4:00pm, mention the Mile High Golf at \$52.80 promotion.

MILE HIGH GOLF AT \$52.80 DATES are Monday, September 18th through Sunday, October 1st.



Keystone Ranch Golf Course

970-496-4250 | GolfKeystone.com

Two great courses, one fantastic price! Play The Keystone Ranch or The River Course at Keystone after 12pm for just **\$72.80*** Monday, September 18th-Sunday, October 8th.

OFFER INCLUDES:

Green fee, golf car and practice balls. Valid Sunday-Thursday. **Reserve tee times up to 48 hours in advance online only at golfkeystone.com. Use promo code 17KAVI for discount.**

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*Lodging rates subject to availability and blackout dates may apply. Promo code must be utilized at the time of booking.

MILE HIGH GOLF AT \$52.80 DATES are Monday, September 18th through Sunday, October 8th. * Mountain rates may vary





The River Course at Keystone

970-496-4250 | GolfKeystone.com

Two great courses, one fantastic price! Play The Keystone Ranch or The River Course at Keystone after 12pm for just **\$72.80***, **Monday, September 18th- Sunday, October 8th.**

OFFER INCLUDES:

Green fee, golf car and practice balls. Valid Sunday-Thursday. **Reserve tee times up to 48 hours in advance online only at golfkeystone.com. Use promo code 17KAVI for discount.**

Play more, while enjoying everything Keystone has to offer with a Rocky Mountain escape including discounted lodging. Call 855-666-7465 and use promo code **17KAVI** to receive your discounted lodging*.

*Lodging rates subject to availability and blackout dates may apply. Promo code must be utilized at the time of booking.

MILE HIGH GOLF AT \$52.80 DATES are Monday, September 18th through Sunday, October 8th. * Mountain rates may vary

Meadow Hills Golf Course

3609 South Dawson Street, Aurora, CO 80014
303.326.8450 | GolfAurora.com

A former country club, Meadow Hills' signature tree-lined fairways, large lakes and lush grounds define traditional golf at its best. It was also an early tour stop and hosted the Denver Open in 1961. The tight fairways and small greens demand respect and accuracy from golfers. Extremely popular and considered one of the best values in the metro area, Meadow Hills always provides an excellent round of traditional golf and some of the best views Colorado has to offer.

OFFER INCLUDES:

Your choice of: One (1) 18-hole Green Fee, Cart and range token OR Two (2) 9-hole green fees, cart and range token for \$52.80. Valid Monday – Friday after 12:00 p.m. To book your Mile High Golf at \$52.80 tee time, please call 303.326.8450 up to 6 days in advance.

MILE HIGH GOLF AT \$52.80 DATES are Monday, September 18th through Sunday, October 1st.



Pelican Lakes Golf Club

1625 Pelican Lakes Point, Windsor, CO 80550
970-674-0930 | WaterValley.com

Pelican Lakes Golf Club is an 18-hole, semi-private championship golf course with a 4-star rating from *Golf Digest* (2005). Designed by golf course architect Ted Robinson, Sr., Pelican Lakes uses the Poudre River as its centerpiece.

OFFER INCLUDES:

18 holes of golf, cart and lunch for one player for \$52.80. Offer valid only after 12:00 p.m. Monday through Sunday. To book your Mile High Golf at \$52.80 tee time, please call 970-674-0930 up to 7 days in advance.

MILE HIGH GOLF AT \$52.80 DATES are Monday, September 18th through Sunday, October 1st.





Plum Creek Golf Club

331 Players Club Drive, Castle Rock, CO 80104
303-660-2200, ext. 1 | GolfPlumCreek.com

Located in beautiful Castle Rock, Plum Creek is a former TPC course that hosted a Champions Tour event for several years. Past champions include Miller Barber, Lee Elder, Bruce Crampton and Gary Player. This Pete Dye designed layout features many of the state's best holes. The par-3 12th consists of 10,000 railroad ties surrounding the green. "The Best Finish in Colorado" is highlighted by the par-3 17th—an all-carry over water.

OFFER INCLUDES:

One (1) green fee, range balls and cart for \$52.80. Offer valid Monday through Friday, anytime and Saturday-Sunday after 1:00 p.m. To book your Mile High Golf at \$52.80 tee time, please call 303-660-2200 ext. 1 up to 7 days in advance.

MILE HIGH GOLF AT \$52.80 DATES are Monday, September 18th through Sunday, October 1st.

Raccoon Creek Golf Course

7301 West Bowles Avenue, Littleton, CO 80123
303-973-4653 | RaccoonCreek.com

This Denver-area golf course is a par-72 that plays between 5,130 and 7,045 yards depending on tee location. The established landscape provides challenging elevations and water hazards for the experienced golfer, while our fairway designs can be used to make Raccoon Creek the perfect course for the first-time golfer to learn the game.

OFFER INCLUDES:

18 holes of golf and cart for \$52.80. Offer valid Monday-Thursday anytime, Friday-Sunday after 12:00 p.m. To book your Mile High Golf at \$52.80 tee time please call 7 days in advance 303-973-4653 or book online RaccoonCreek.com up to 14 days in advance.

MILE HIGH GOLF AT \$52.80 DATES are Monday, September 18th through Sunday, October 1st.



Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course

2156 Red Hawk Ridge Drive, Castle Rock, CO 80109
720-733-3500 | RedHawkRidge.com

Enjoy outstanding playing conditions on bentgrass tees and lush, generous bluegrass fairways that lie in contrast with the scrub oak and native grasses. The beautifully manicured greens challenge golfers with subtle undulation. Five sets of tees welcome players of all experience and skill levels to enjoy a course with risk/reward opportunities through extensive mounding, strategically placed bunkers and greenside lakes.

OFFER INCLUDES:

Golf and cart for one player. Offer valid only after 12:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday. To book your Mile High Golf at \$52.80 tee time please call 720-733-3500 or book online RedHawkRidge.com up to 6 days in advance.

MILE HIGH GOLF AT \$52.80 DATES are Monday, September 18th through Sunday, October 1st.





The Ridge at Castle Pines

1414 Castle Pines Parkway, Castle Rock, CO
303-688-0100 | PlayTheRidge.com

Consistently ranked as one of the best daily-fee courses in Colorado, The Ridge at Castle Pines challenges golfers with massive elevation changes, myriad lakes and streams, and expanses of pine and Gambel oak. Stick around after your round for a brew and some seriously good grub on the clubhouse patio, which provides stunning views of Pikes Peak and Devil's Head.

OFFER INCLUDES:

Golf, cart, practice balls, yardage book, scorecard and divot tool. Tee times valid after 12:00 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday and anytime Monday – Thursday. Tee times may be booked 3 days in advance at PlayTheRidge.com, use promo code 5280. All players will need to sign up for the Tron Rewards program to receive the \$52.80 rate.

SPECIAL DATES: Mile High Golf at \$52.80 at The Ridge is October 16th through October 31st.

Saddle Rock Golf Course

21705 East Arapahoe Road, Aurora, CO 80016
303.326.8460 | GolfAurora.com

Former home of the Colorado Open and numerous statewide amateur and professional events, Saddle Rock is a preferred destination for a higher-end golf experience in the metro area. The high-plains, links-style course combines extensive native areas with significant elevation changes to create a memorable round. Multiple tee options allow golfers to choose the level of difficulty that best fits their game. An extensive array of instructional programming is conducted on one of the largest practice tees in the area. In 1998 *Golf Digest* ranked Saddle Rock one of America's Top 10 Best New Courses. The magnificent panoramic views and compelling course layout make Saddle Rock a must-play.

OFFER INCLUDES:

One 18-hole green fee and cart for \$52.80. Valid Monday – Friday after 12:00 p.m. To book your Mile High Golf at \$52.80 tee time, please call 303.326.8460 up to 6 days in advance.

MILE HIGH GOLF AT \$52.80 DATES are Monday, September 18th through Sunday, October 1st.



Springhill Golf Course

800 North Telluride, Aurora, CO 80011
303.739.6854 | GolfAurora.com

Springhill Golf Course is one of the metro area's most challenging executive layouts. The course offers a unique alternative for those who may not have the time or desire to play a regulation 18-hole course. This local secret is characterized by 10 par 3s, six par 4s and two par 5s. The shorter yardages allow better players to work on their shot-making skills. At the same time, the alternative design is perfect for those new to the game or those who simply enjoy a less demanding golf experience. With a spacious rural setting highlighted by great conditions and vast open spaces bordering the course, Springhill delights walkers and plays much quicker than a traditional 18-hole course.

OFFER INCLUDES:

18 holes of golf with cart for two for \$52.80. Valid Monday – Friday after 12:00 p.m. To book your Mile High Golf at \$52.80 tee time, please call 303.739.6854 up to 6 days in advance.

MILE HIGH GOLF AT \$52.80 DATES are Monday, September 18th through Sunday, October 1st.

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For the Love of the Game

In two years, the golf world's best "true amateur" golfers will compete in Colorado for the U.S. Mid-Am Championship—and a spot in the Masters.

By Ed Mate

BY NOW, MOST GOLFERS are aware that the 2018 U.S. Senior Open will be played at The Broadmoor Golf Club. But were you aware that Colorado will host another national championship the following year? That's right, Colorado—specifically, Colorado Golf Club in Parker and CommonGround Golf Course in Aurora—will play host to the 2019 U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship on Saturday, September 21st through Thursday, September 26, 2019.

While amateur championships don't garner the same level of attention as the USGA's Open Championships, there are myriad reasons to be excited that Colorado will host the 2019 Mid-Amateur Championship. Here are the "front nine":

1. Spectating: Admission to amateur championships is complimentary. And with no rope lines, you can walk "inside the ropes" and get much closer to the action.

2. The Masters: The 2019 U.S. Mid-Amateur Champion will be invited to participate in the 2020 Masters Tournament. (Note: This year, Stewart Hagestad, winner of the 2016 USGA Mid-Amateur, earned low-amateur honors at the Masters and became the first Mid-Amateur champion to make the cut since Augusta National started inviting them to play in 1989.)

3. History: The only other time Colorado hosted the U.S. Mid-Amateur was 1983, when the great Jay Sigel won at Cherry Hills Country Club. In the 36-year history of the event, Sigel is the only player ever to win both the U.S. Mid-Amateur and U.S. Amateur in the same year.

4. True Amateurs: Let's be honest. The U.S. Amateur is dominated by college players who are honing their skills for a future on the PGA Tour. That is cool, but the Mid-Amateur showcases the talents of "true amateurs" who lead regular lives and just happen to be extremely talented golfers. The Mid-Amateur competitor reflects the true spirit of amateur golf—playing the game for love, not for money.

5. Colorado Golf Club: Designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw, Colorado Golf Club is one of the state's most spectacular venues. The U.S. Mid-Amateur will mark the third time the club has hosted a major golf event (CGC hosted the 2010 Senior PGA Championship and the 2013 Solheim Cup). The 2019 Mid-Amateur will provide an opportunity to see it up close and personal.

6. CommonGround Golf Course: The CGA-owned CommonGround Golf Course once again will co-host the stroke-play portion of the championship—similar to the role the course played in

2012, when Cherry Hills hosted the U.S. Amateur.

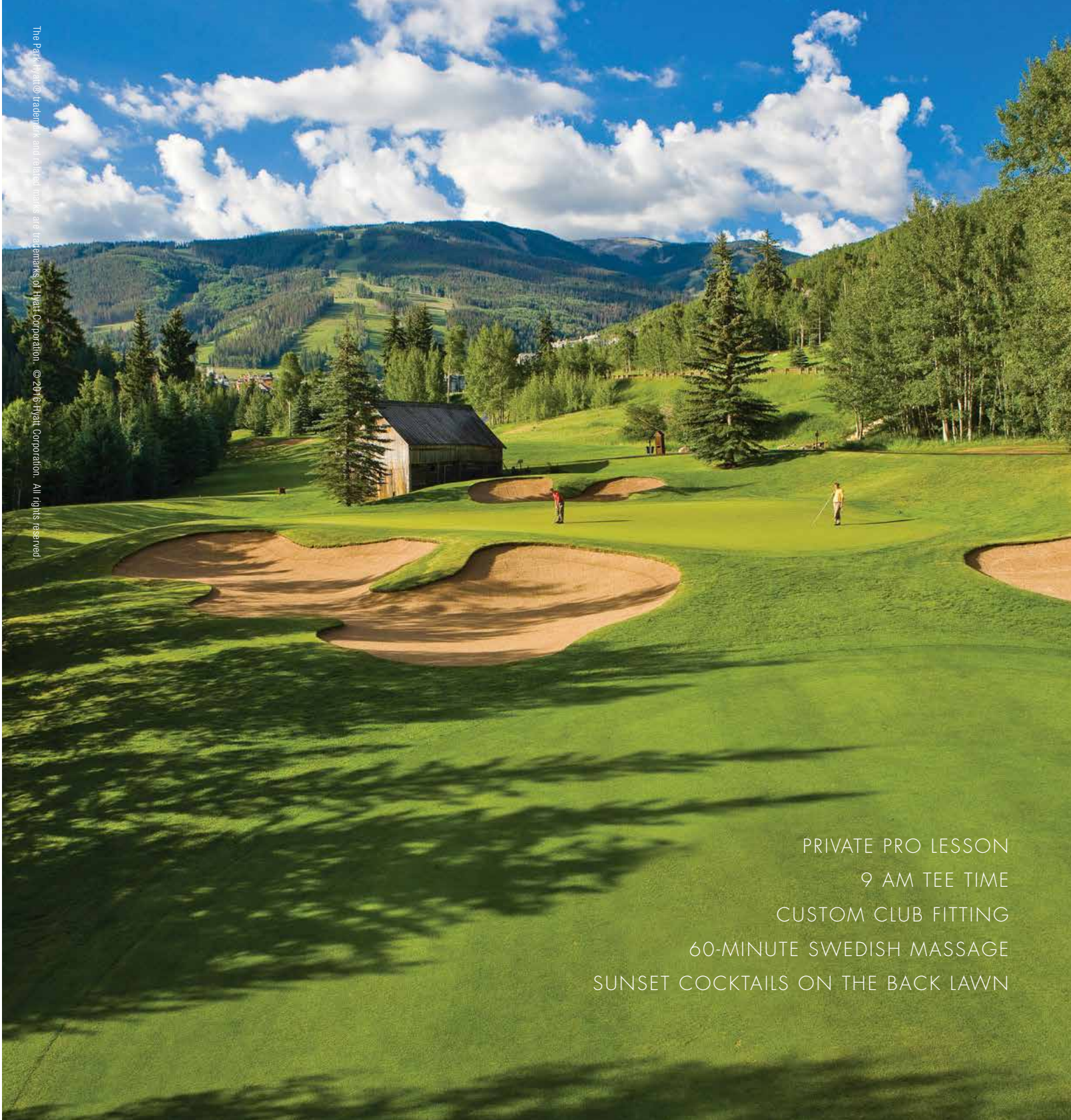
7. Local Talent. Every year the Colorado Golf Association conducts qualifying for the U.S. Mid-Amateur with two to three players earning their way to the national championship. 2019 will be a home game for the state's best mid-amateur players and will provide a great storyline if their local knowledge can get them deep in the tournament.

8. Match Play. The U.S. Mid-Amateur is a Match Play championship where the top 64 players from the 36-hole stroke play qualifying are seeded into a single-elimination bracket. There is no more exciting form of play than match play as the mano-a-mano drama plays out.

9. Volunteer Opportunity. Hosting national championships allows the local community to get involved as volunteers, and the Mid-Am presents numerous opportunities to interact with the players. Who knows, maybe you will meet the next Masters low-amateur champ or make a new friend who'll invite you to play his home course in Scotland! 🏌️

Ed Mate is executive director of the Colorado Golf Association.

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Changing the Rules

August is the last month for your voice to be heard.

LADIES, SPEAK UP!

On March 1, the USGA and the R&A announced proposed changes to *The Rules of Golf* that would modernize them, make them more consistent and ensure that they be written in a plain style with short sentences, common words, explanatory headings and without the use of male-only references.

The USGA is accepting feedback from all golfers through August 31. During 2018, the organization will finalize the changes and create the necessary rulebooks and training programs. The new rules will become effective January 1, 2019.

So let the USGA hear your voice. To help you be heard, we have summarized some of the proposed rules we believe are of most interest to you. Do you like the proposed rule? Hate it? Not sure? Send your thoughts to the USGA at rules@usga.org. The complete list of rules changes are found at usga.org.

LIKE IT	HATE IT	NOT SURE	PROPOSED RULES CHANGE
			<p>CURRENT RULE: When a player is searching for their ball and accidentally moves it, they are penalized one stroke.</p> <p>RULE CHANGE: There is no penalty if a ball accidentally is moved by the player during a ball search.</p> <p>WHY THE CHANGE: It is inconsistent to allow spectators, an opponent in match play and other players in stroke play to accidentally move the ball during search without penalty, but not the player.</p>
			<p>CURRENT RULE: When taking a drop, a player must stand erect, hold the ball at shoulder height and arm's length and drop it.</p> <p>RULE CHANGE: The only requirement will be for the player to hold the ball above the ground and let it go so that it falls through the air before coming to rest.</p> <p>WHY THE CHANGE: This makes it simpler for the player to know where and how to drop the ball, and in many cases can improve pace of play.</p>
			<p>CURRENT RULE: When taking a drop, the dropped ball can roll up to two club-lengths from where it hits the ground, no nearer to the hole.</p> <p>RULE CHANGE: When dropped, the ball must come to rest within a 20-inch "relief area" no nearer to the hole.</p> <p>WHY THE CHANGE: This can improve pace of play and make it easier for a player to get relief with only one drop.</p>
			<p>CURRENT RULE: You can search for a ball for up to five minutes before the ball is deemed to be lost.</p> <p>RULE CHANGE: A ball is deemed to be lost if not found within three minutes.</p> <p>WHY THE CHANGE: To help with pace of play, as in most cases the ball will likely be found within the first three minutes of search.</p>
			<p>CURRENT RULE: When a ball is played on the putting green and it strikes the unattended flagstick in the hole, the player incurs a penalty of 2 strokes.</p> <p>RULE CHANGE: There will be no penalty for putting out with the flagstick in the hole.</p> <p>WHY THE CHANGE: When players are playing without caddies, this should speed up pace of play.</p>
			<p>CURRENT RULE: Players may repair ball marks and old hole plugs on the green but not spike marks or other damage.</p> <p>RULE CHANGE: You will be able to repair any damage on the green at any time, including spike marks.</p> <p>WHY THE CHANGE: The putting green is a specially prepared surface; there is no conceptual reason for prohibiting repair to other types of damage such as spike marks or animal marks.</p>
			<p>CURRENT RULE: A player must not touch or move a loose impediment in a bunker. Examples of loose impediments that we typically see in bunkers are twigs, pinecones, leaves and stones.</p> <p>RULE CHANGE: The player would be allowed to touch or move loose impediments in a bunker.</p> <p>WHY THE CHANGE: The challenge is to play out of sand, not to play with leaves, stones or other loose impediments left in place in the bunker.</p>
			<p>CURRENT RULE: If an unplayable ball is in a bunker, and the player does not want to go back to the previous spot under "stroke and distance", the ball must be dropped within the bunker to get relief.</p> <p>RULE CHANGE: The player has an extra option of relief outside the bunker at the cost of two penalty strokes using the "back-on-a-line" procedure.</p> <p>WHY THE CHANGE: Playing from a bunker is very challenging. This extra option can help pace of play and reduce the frustration of multiple tries to get out of the bunker.</p>
			<p>CURRENT RULE: If the ball in motion accidentally strikes a player, their caddie or their equipment, the player incurs a one-stroke penalty.</p> <p>RULE CHANGE: No penalty if a ball in motion accidentally strikes a player, their caddie or equipment.</p> <p>WHY THE CHANGE: It is inevitable that a ball in motion will strike someone or something; why put the player at a disadvantage for a seemingly random act.</p>



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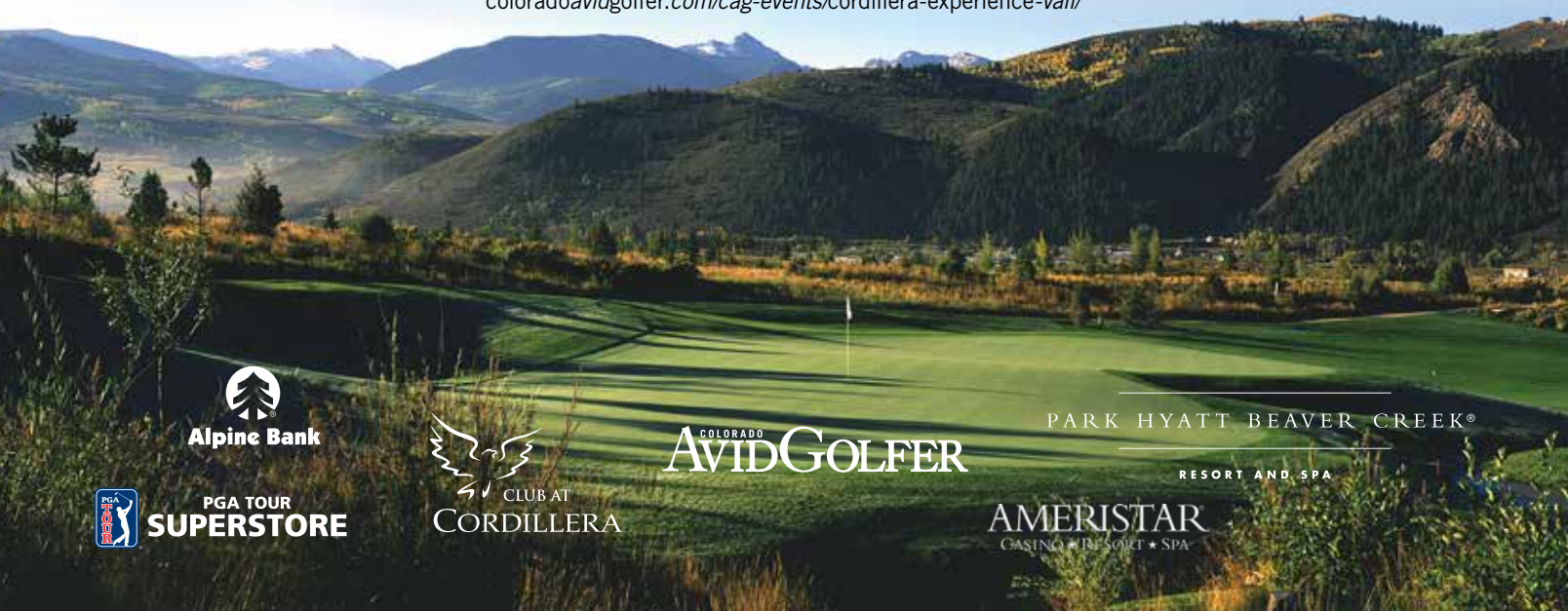
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Duval Inspires Kids

THE CURRENT PARTICIPANTS in The First Tee of Green Valley Ranch hadn't yet been born when **David Duval** spent 15 weeks in 1999 as the world's top-ranked golfer—one of only two players not named Tiger Woods (Vijay Singh is the other) to claim the No. 1 spot between 1999 and 2010. Nonetheless, the boys and girls provided an appreciative audience for the 13-time PGA Tour winner and 2001 British Open Champion during his CoBank Colorado Open Kids Clinic at Green Valley Ranch June 20.

Now working primarily as a Golf Channel analyst, the Cherry Hills Village resident explained that golf had become too technical. "We seem to forget in today's age that ultimately we're playing a game that's artistic as much as anything else," he said. "You have to think and feel that way."

Duval proceeded to demonstrate his art by chipping his first shot into a small net 50 yards away. He showed how to hit hooks and slices to avoid trees and obstacles, and boomed a few 350-yard drives.

He also fielded questions from designated First Tee participants based on the Nine Core Values.

On Perseverance, he shared the story of getting his PGA Tour card in 1995 and waiting almost three years for his first victory. Then he talked about dropping from No.1 to No. 882 by 2009. But how persevering through arm and elbow injuries led him to nearly winning the 2009 U.S. Open.

On Honesty and Integrity, he was asked if he'd ever called a penalty on himself. He said yes, during a Tour event when nobody but he and his caddie had seen him accidentally touch the sand in a bunker before striking the ball. Without identifying them, he also confided that a handful of tour players didn't conduct themselves as honorably as the rest, and "everyone knows who they are."

This marks the second year of CoBank Kids Clinics, which are staged in conjunction with the Colorado Open Foundation, CoBank and The First Tee of Green Valley Ranch. thefirstteegreenvalleyranch.org

Mary's Move



AFTER ONE spectacular year at NCAA Division II Regis University, where she earned Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) Player of the Year honors, **Mary Weinstein** will play for the Division I University of Denver in the fall. And as if to confirm her decision to transfer, on July 10 the Highlands Ranch native shot a 68 at CommonGround Golf Course to qualify for the U.S. Women's Amateur August 7-13 at San Diego Country Club.

Davis' Double

SHOOTING an 8-under-par 208 over three rounds at Westminster's Legacy Ridge Golf Course,

Davis Bryant won July's Colorado Junior Amateur Championship by seven strokes. He became the first boy to win two of the Junior Golf Alliance of Colorado's majors. His first, June's Colorado Junior PGA, qualified him for the national Junior PGA Championship, which conflicted with the JGAC's third major—the Junior Match Play—and precluded his shot at a Grand Slam.

Jen's Jump

A YEAR AFTER missing the cut at the U.S. Women's Open as a 19-year-old, Westminster's **Jennifer Kupcho** not only made the cut, but finished as amateur runner-up in the 2017 U.S. Women's Open at Trump National Golf Club. Kupcho fired an even-par 288, finishing T-21 overall and ahead of such stars as 2016 champion Brittany Lang, Lydia Ko, Stacy Lewis and Suzann Pettersen.



Lexi's Up Next

As Paula Creamer did last year, LPGA star **Lexi Thompson** will appear Aug. 12, from 11 a.m. to noon, at an all-girls CoBank Colorado Women's Open Kids Clinic at The First Tee of Green Valley Ranch. The 22-year-old No. 3-ranked women's player in the world will engage with girls both older and younger than she was when she qualified for the U.S. Women's Open at age 12 and turned professional three years later. Thompson won her first major, the 2014 Kraft Nabisco Championship, shortly after her 19th birthday. Competing in this year's version of the event—now known as the ANA Inspiration—she incurred the four-stroke ball-marking penalty seen around the golf world and lost the event in a playoff to So Yeon Ryu. thefirstteegreenvalleyranch.org



TARGET GOLF: Could Park Hill get plowed under for development?

What the Hill?

WITH DENVER'S City Park Golf Course expected to close for at least 20 months at the end of the golf season, nearby **Park Hill Golf Course** could see a significant uptick in rounds in 2018 and 2019. That is, if it stays open. Clayton Early Learning and the Clayton Trust—a nonprofit benefiting more than 20,000 children annually, many of whom live in northeast Park Hill—own the course and currently lease it to Arcis Golf. The 20-year lease expires at the end of 2018.

Sitting on 155 acres bordered by Colorado Boulevard, Smith Road, Dahlia Street and 35th Avenue, the course represents one of the trust's largest assets, and according to **Charlotte Brantley**, the president and CEO of Clayton Early Learning, it operates at a substantial loss. "We must ensure the property can provide a sustainable funding source for Clayton's early childhood education mission, which serves the children of northeast Denver," she states. "Second, we want to consider the future use of the land as something both the community and Clayton can be proud of well into the future."

With Denver's growing population pushing up the price of real estate, the possibility of selling the golf course to a developer might seem inevitable. However, a 39-page Agency Agreement established between the Trust and the City and County of Denver in 2000 complicates matters. In essence, it establishes Clayton as an "agent" of the city to hold title to the golf course "for the benefit of the City and the general public" in exchange for waiving certain real property taxes. One of the purposes of the Agreement is "to ensure that the Golf Course is managed so that the Golf Course Land is preserved as open space."

Denver thus has considerable interest in Park Hill Golf Course that would prohibit Clayton from selling it for other uses without Denver's approval. And, according to the terms of the agreement, any amendment or modification requires the approval of the Denver City Council. futureofparkhillgolfcourse.com

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California Teamin'

TWO TEENAGERS from The First Tee of Denver—**Cole Drew** of Centennial (below) and **Mateo Manzanares** of Denver—will compete in the PURE Insurance Championship, an official PGA Tour Champions event formerly known as the Nature Valley First Tee Open, Sept. 22-24 at California's Pebble Beach Golf Links and Poppy Hills Golf Course. The boys will each pair with a PGA Tour Champions player in the pro-junior portion of the tournament, which is now in its 14th year.

For Drew, an incoming senior at Cherry Creek High School, playing in the event is "an eight-year dream come true." His grandparents in Michigan hooked him on golf when he was nine, and while watching The First Tee/Champions Tour tournament on television with them, he made it his goal to play in the event. He joined The First Tee, working with Nick Johnson ("one of my greatest mentors") and giving back as a mentor and coach. Tom Watson would be his choice for a partner, but "I'll be happy with whomever I get."

So will Manzanares, one of Drew's best friends. The Kent Denver senior-to-be joined The First Tee when he was seven. A gifted athlete, he also excelled at baseball, but a degenerative hip disease, diagnosed when he was five, led him to focus more on golf. He now can play pain-free for the first time in years after undergoing hip-replacement surgery last November. Like Drew, he devotes time to First Tee coaching and mentoring, and in July he attended The First Tee Training at Keiser University in Florida. "I'm really, really thankful to the people who put time into my golf game," he says, calling his selection to play in September's tournament "a peak moment for any First Tee participant. I feel really proud."

Drew and Manzanares were among the 81 juniors selected on the basis of playing ability and comprehension of the core values and life skills taught by The First Tee. They both learned about their selections on The Golf Channel's "Morning Drive" on July 10. "I was worried that only one of us would get to go," Drew says, "and then I didn't think either of us would go, because they waited until the very end to announce the Mountain region. Then I saw our names. It was 7 a.m. I called Mateo and shouted, 'We're going to Pebble! We're going to Pebble!'" *thefirstteeofdenver.org*



Hip, Hip Oraee

TWO YEARS REMOVED from his record-setting career at the University of Colorado, Greeley's **David Oraee** captured his first professional victory in July's Tyrrell Wyoming State Open in Cheyenne. His three-round, 15-under-par 195 put him three strokes clear of another CU alum, Ben Portie, on the 6,424-yard, par-70 Airport Golf Club course layout. Oraee, who holds CU's low 36-hole score at 13-under 131 (64-67), shot his first-sub 200 score for 54 holes in a competitive career that included a record 39 collegiate rounds under par and 1,563 consecutive holes without anything worse than double-bogey. That kind of consistency and precision augurs well for the aspiring cardiologist, who has taken the MCATs, applied to medical school and plans on matriculating in the fall of 2018.





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Soriano Soars

CONGRATULATIONS to PGA Professional Keith Soriano, who recently began his new role as employment consultant for PGA Professionals in the Colorado and Utah Sections of the PGA of America. Soriano, who in 2010, 2011 and 2012 received the Colorado PGA Section President's Plaque for Player Development, most recently served as the Section's Assistant Executive Director of Foundation Operations. He also worked as the lead staff liaison for the Junior Golf Alliance of Colorado. "It has long been a calling of mine to serve others and to be instrumental in achieving change in the lives of those I serve," says Soriano, the son of Lieutenant General Edward Soriano, the highest-ranking Filipino American officer in the United States military. "I feel like this position will provide me this opportunity."

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANGELA WAGSTAFF; THE VINTAGE CUPCAKE PHOTOGRAPHY (LEFT); KIM MCHUGH



TENDING THE FLAG: The Fort Carson Mounted Color Guard arrives wearing 1874 10th Cavalry Regiment uniforms.

PGA REACH Gets Home

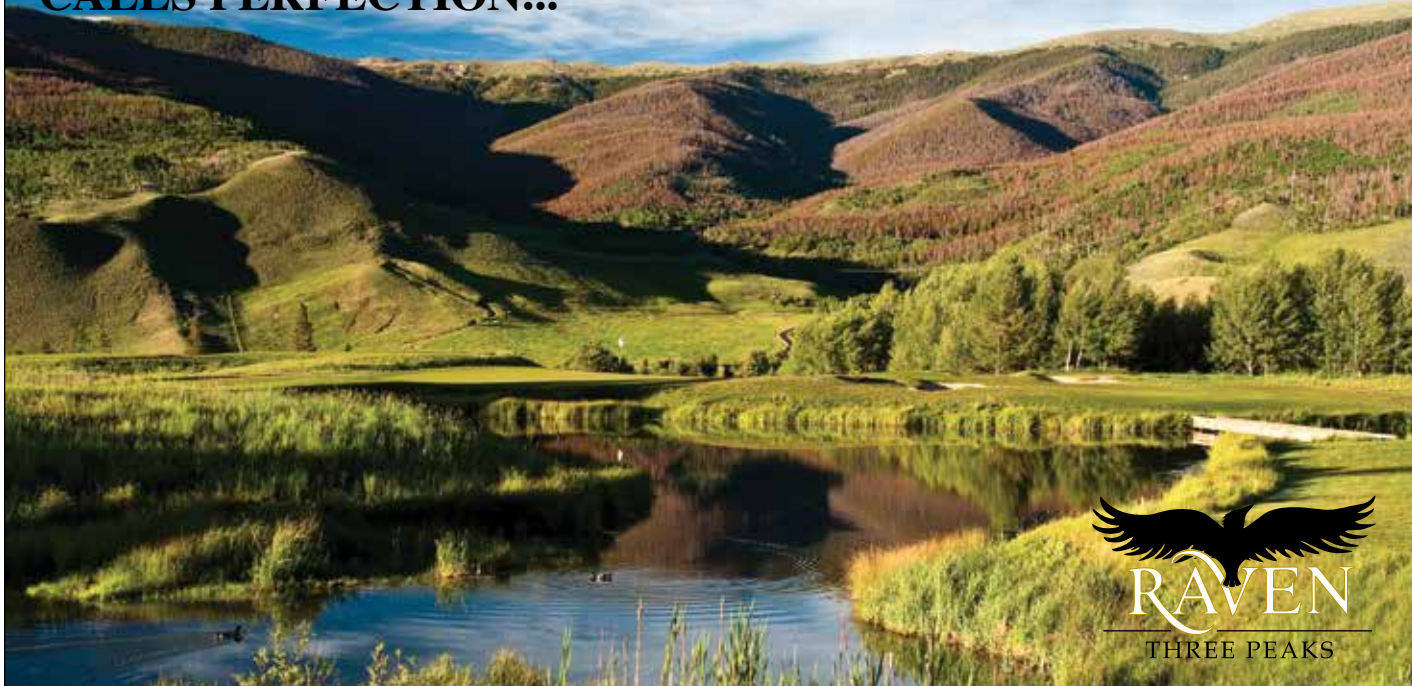
ON JUNE 26 at Colorado Golf Club in Parker, the Colorado PGA Section staged its largest fundraising event of the year, the Colorado PGA REACH Invitational. PGA REACH supports programs aligned with the organization's three key pillars: Youth Development, Diversity and Inclusion, and Military Personnel Support. This tournament focused specifically on the third pillar.

Colorado PGA Executive Director **Eddie Ainsworth** and **Ken Eakes**, the Executive Director for the San Antonio, Texas-based Military Warriors Support Foundation, presented former **U.S. Army Sergeant Chris Hardesty** with the keys to a move-in ready, mortgage-free, three-bedroom home in Pueblo, where he'll live with his fiancée Tiffany and stepdaughter. "Getting this home is tremendous. We don't ever have to worry about losing the home if there's a recession," said Hardesty, who sustained injuries when an IED in Afghanistan blew up the armored ATV in which he was traveling. He received the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal and the NATO Medal.

Over the last six years, the Military Warriors Support Foundation has awarded nearly 800 mortgage-free homes to combat-wounded veterans and Gold Star spouses. In addition to the home, each family receives three years of family and financial mentoring to learn the skills necessary to become successful homeowners. PGA REACH also recognized supporters **Bob and Millie Longmire** and Massage Envy's **Eric Kenealy**, who made the home purchase possible.

"It is an incredible privilege to serve one of our nation's combat wounded heroes in this way," Ainsworth said. "We are proud to support this organization, and thank all our veterans for the sacrifices they have made to uphold our freedom." *coloradopga.com* —By Kim D. McHugh

COME SEE WHAT MOTHER NATURE CALLS PERFECTION...

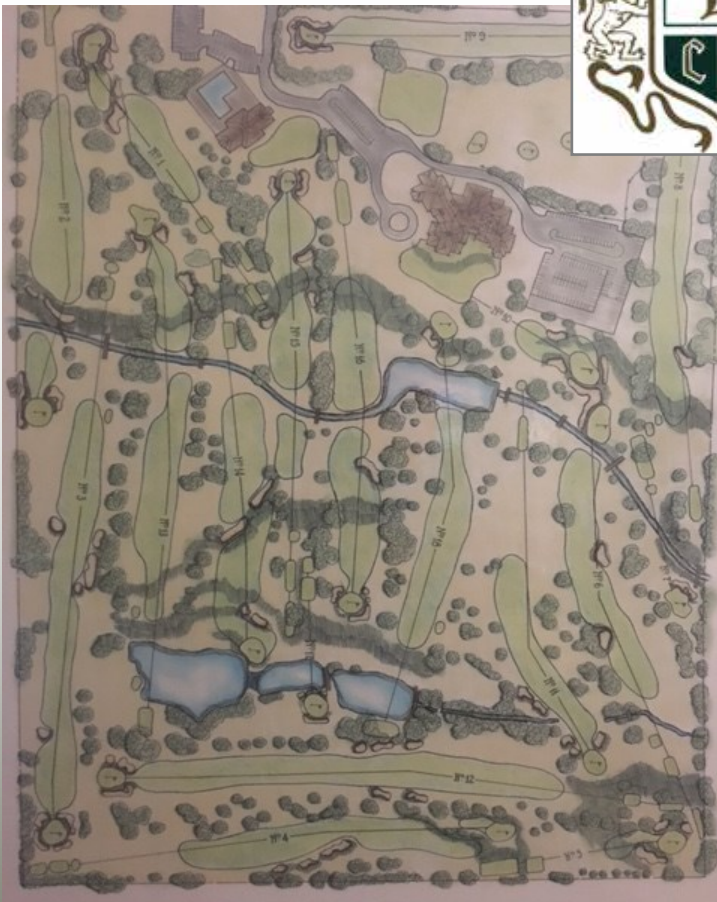
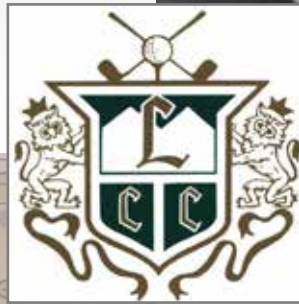
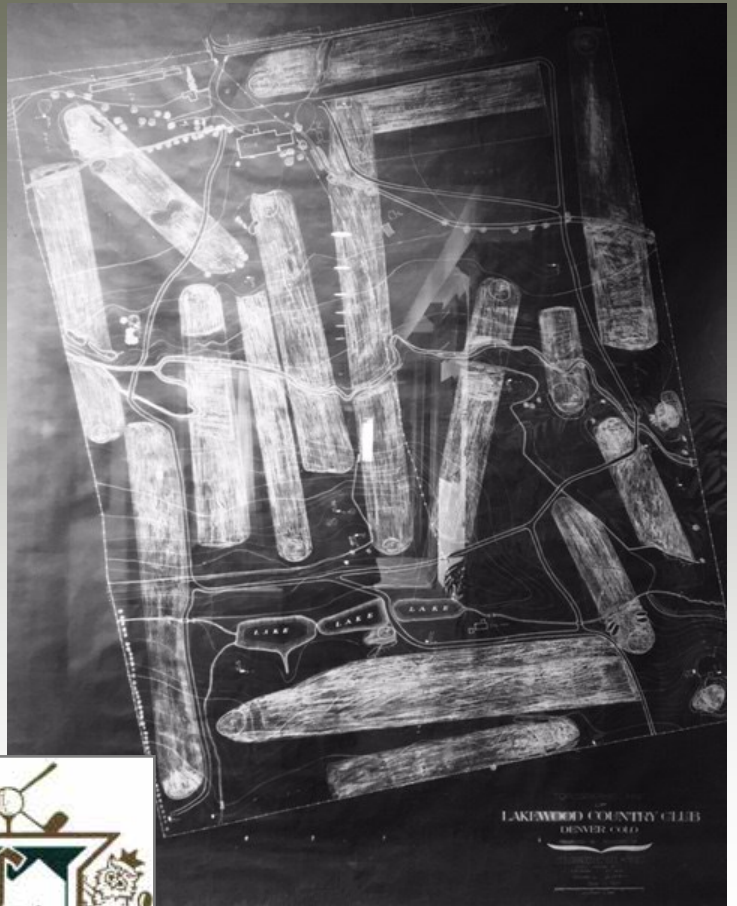


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The Clubhouse Turn

THIS OCTOBER—some 50 years after Don January won the PGA Championship on its Henry Hughes-designed course and 40 years after JoAnne Carner won the first of five LPGA events contested there—**Columbine Country Club** will unveil a new 56,000-square-foot clubhouse with the kind of luxurious appointments, facilities and amenities that befit the club's championship golf pedigree.

Designed by the Greenwood Village-based architecture firm Marsh & Associates, the clubhouse stands at the end of a dramatic cobblestone auto courtyard highlighted by a fountain and a valet-attended porte cochère. Inside, Telluride stone, travertine floors, wood trusses and exquisite millwork distinguish the expansive foyer, which affords an unobstructed view through the NanaWalled main dining room to the 18th hole. Retractable NanaWalls separate and connect the club's three distinct and exquisitely appointed main dining rooms to each other and to the expansive multi-sectioned patio that wraps around the rear of the building. "When you're inside you're outside and vice-versa," says General Manager **Michael Bratcher**.

For more intimate repasts, the club boasts four private dining rooms, including a high-back leather booth looking into the kitchen, where up

to 10 members can sit and watch the chef prepare a custom meal. A plush lounge connects the men's locker room to a billiard room and indoor/outdoor dining facilities that overlook the golf course. The equally well-outfitted women's locker room sits directly below and boasts a lounge, juice bar and private access to a 5,000-square-foot fitness and wellness space featuring cardiovascular and weight training equipment, as well as rooms for massages, spa services and yoga, Pilates and movement classes.

The new structure also sports a high-end lounge featuring two high-definition golf simulators that can double as televisions, DVD players or videogame stations. There's also an educator-led childcare area equipped with webcams that parents can access via smartphone apps from other areas of the club.

All told, the cost of the renovation, which also includes the resort-style pool complex, exceeded \$25 million. The structure represents the culmination of two years of work. When the club approved and embarked on the project in 2015, memberships were selling for \$27,500, but the club made it very clear to prospective members that the amount would go up. And it has, nearly tripling to \$75,000 as the clubhouse opens. columbinecountryclub.org



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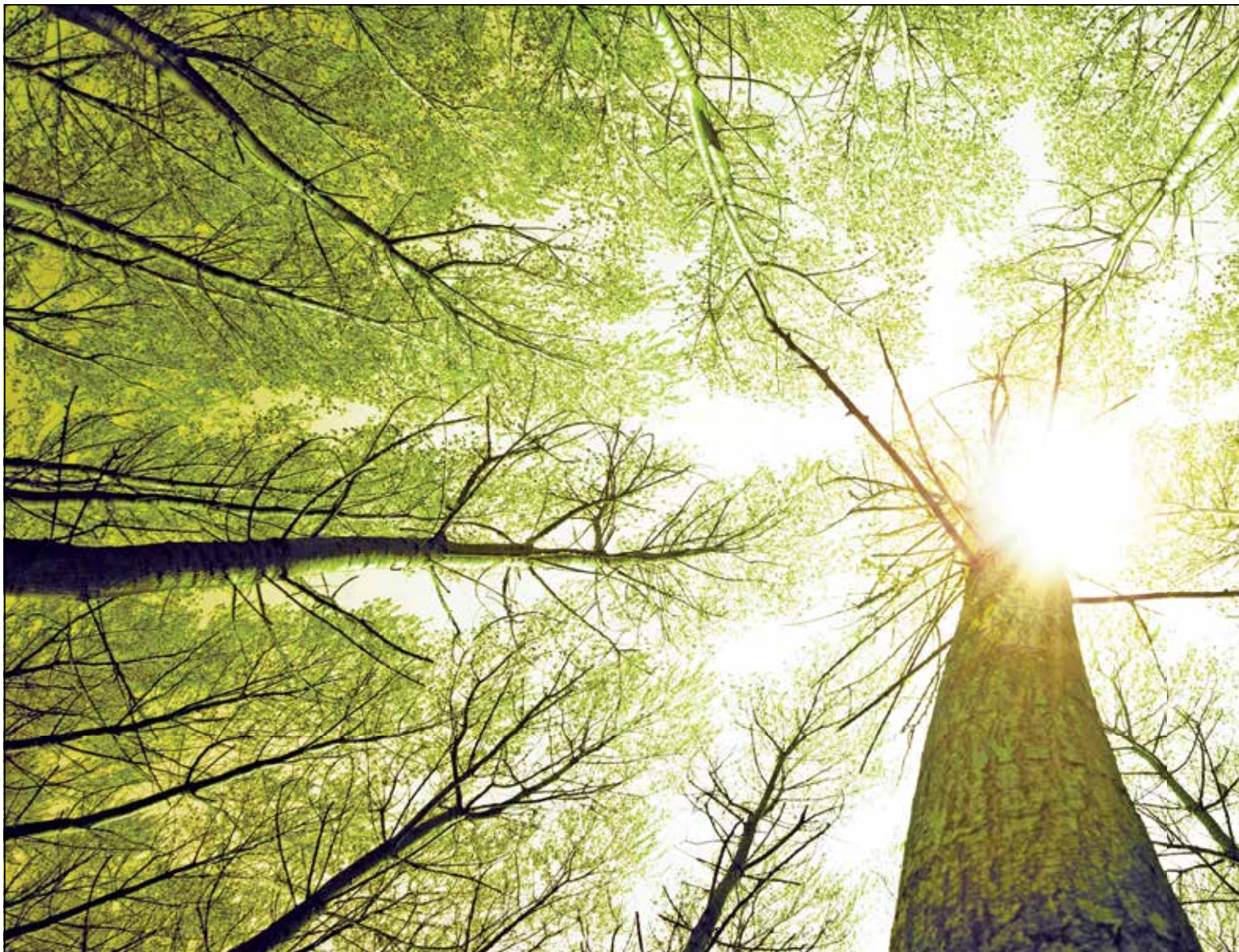
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AVIDGOLFER

COLORADO OPEN
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A Friendly Nine with Mark Wiebe

The Colorado Golf Hall of Famer transitions to the lesson tee with a forthright philosophy of golf instruction.

1. No preconceived methods.
 So many golfers have asked me, "I'm hooking it too much. What do you think is wrong with my swing?" or "I keep fattening my wedges, what am I doing wrong?" Until I watch you swing and hit the ball, I'm guessing. I don't teach generically because one player's flaw could be another's strength. I have to see you swing before I know how to help you. Every swing has its "own little something" that makes it unique.

2. Natural always beats mechanical.
 Believe it or not, golf is a reaction sport. You react to your lie, the wind, the temperature, the yardage, how you're feeling, what club, water hazards, bunkers, etc. With all this to think about, the last thing I want to do is have to remember how to swing. No mechanics. I want a clear head, I want to focus on my target, and I want to let my body feel as natural as I can. Trust your swing.

3. Don't imitate, originate.
 There's only one swing you need to know, and that's your own. A lot of swing gurus think that somewhere there is a perfect swing waiting to be discovered. The "perfect swings" have already been discovered. They've been around for years—Hogan, Nicklaus, Player, Trevino, Floyd, Miller, Watson, and currently Jordan Spieth (chicken-wing elbow) Dustin Johnson (extremely bowed left wrist). Nobody would teach someone to swing like Jim Furyk, yet he is one of the most consistent ball strikers in the history of the game. All have one thing in common, they all know their own swing.

4. Don't fight your swing.
 One of my favorite pro-am stories involves an amateur who hit the same tee shot on the first five holes. He started his ball down the right side of the fairway and it faded just into the rough. "Hey Mark," he said, "what am I doing wrong?" I told him I really liked the fade he was hitting, but his aim was off. So I had him aim down the left side and play his fade. He hit the ball great the rest of the day and thought I was the best teacher in the world. Always watch your ball flight on the range, and take that information with you to the first tee and adjust your aim accordingly.



TRAIN IN VAIN:
 "Mechanical" fixes
 can disrupt your
 natural swing.

PHOTOGRAPH BY EJ CARR

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Player's Corner

LESSON

6. Tune in, not out.
Golf is a high sensory sport, so I never really understood why golfers listen to their iPods while they are practicing. How do you hear the sound of the shot? That little thud sound that the club and ball make when they meet in the dirt reveals whether your contact is thin or fat or perfect.

7. Play to your strengths.
There is nothing like playing a round of golf with as little stress as possible. One way to accomplish this is to play to your strengths. Let's say you're really good from 100 yards but not so much from 60 yards. On par 5s lay up to your strength (100 yds.). If you have to lay up on a par 4, lay up to 100 yds. It might even require hitting something other than a driver off the tee. Just get to your sweet spot.

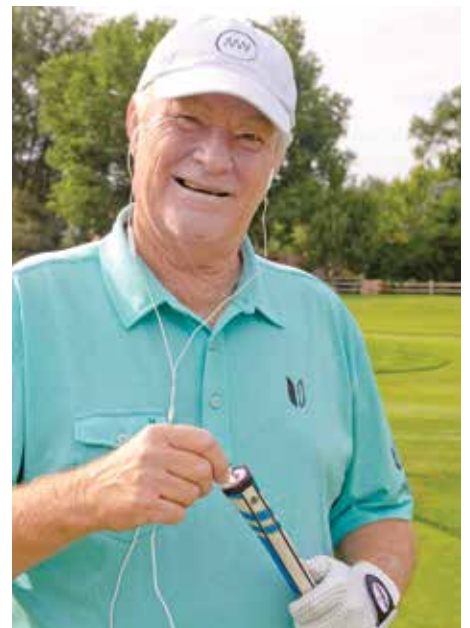
8. Don't beat yourself up.
Anyone who plays golf knows the game can often seem cruel and unforgiving. It can also be infinitely rewarding. I have played my whole life and I've concluded that there's no point in beating up myself when the game itself will do that anyway.

9. Practice with a purpose.
Practice doesn't make perfect; perfect practice does. Know why, when and what to practice when you go to the range. It is very important to practice the right thing because whatever you practice, you're going to get better at it. If you practice the wrong thing, you'll get better at doing it wrong. Figure out what you want to accomplish and practice the things that will lead you to perfect it.

10. Lessons make you better.
A guy arrives at the first tee and says, "I'm not sure I'll be any good today because I had a lesson yesterday." What sounds like the start of a bad joke or a sandbagger's setup is actually something I hear all the time. Excuse me? You're supposed to be better after a lesson, right? When I was a teenager and got a lesson from the head pro at the club, I always got better. So when I hear people say this, I think, what kind of lesson is that? When I give a lesson, you will be better or I have not done what I set out to do. ●

The winner of two PGA Tour and five PGA Tour Champions events including the 2013 Senior British Open Championship at Royal Birkdale, Mark Wiebe has played golf at its highest level for more than 40 years. A member of the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame, he now brings his passion and knowledge of the game to golf instruction. For more information, visit markwiebegolf.com.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY EJ CARB

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Let's Make a Feel

Repeatedly pushing a plank promotes the proper sensation at impact. By Alex Fisher

ALL PROFESSIONAL GOLFERS do the same things as they hit the ball: keep their left wrist flat or slightly bowed, their right wrist hinged, their weight on their front foot, and their hands slightly ahead of the ball. That's all well and good, but in order to master something, you have to *feel it*.

Last month, I demonstrated a way to improve your ball striking by placing a piece of wood behind the golf ball. This month's impact drill will give you a better understanding of what you should feel with your hands, arms and body when you get into the correct impact position.

In this drill you are going to use the weight resistance of the two-by-four and slowly push it forward approximately two feet.

Practicing this drill, you will feel your body correctly shift on the downswing as well as recognize how the arms extend through impact. The weight of the board will force you to keep your hands ahead and lean the shaft forward.

Just remember: Don't hit the two-by-four towards the target; always push it! By maintaining a slow tempo while you are executing this drill, you will not only feel true impact, you'll also make crisper pivots and hit the ball further.

Named one of *Golf Digest's* "Best Young Teachers" six years in a row, PGA Director of Instruction Alex Fisher teaches at The Glacier Club in Durango (May-Oct.) and at the JW Marriott Wildfire Golf Club in Phoenix (Nov.-April). alexfisherpga.com; 602-363-9800

BE ATHLETIC

Using a short iron, setup as if you are going to make a full swing but replace the golf ball with a two-by-four in the middle of your stance. Make sure your posture feels athletic and your arms hang freely under your shoulders. Having more weight slightly on your front foot will help your balance at address.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS DUTTIER

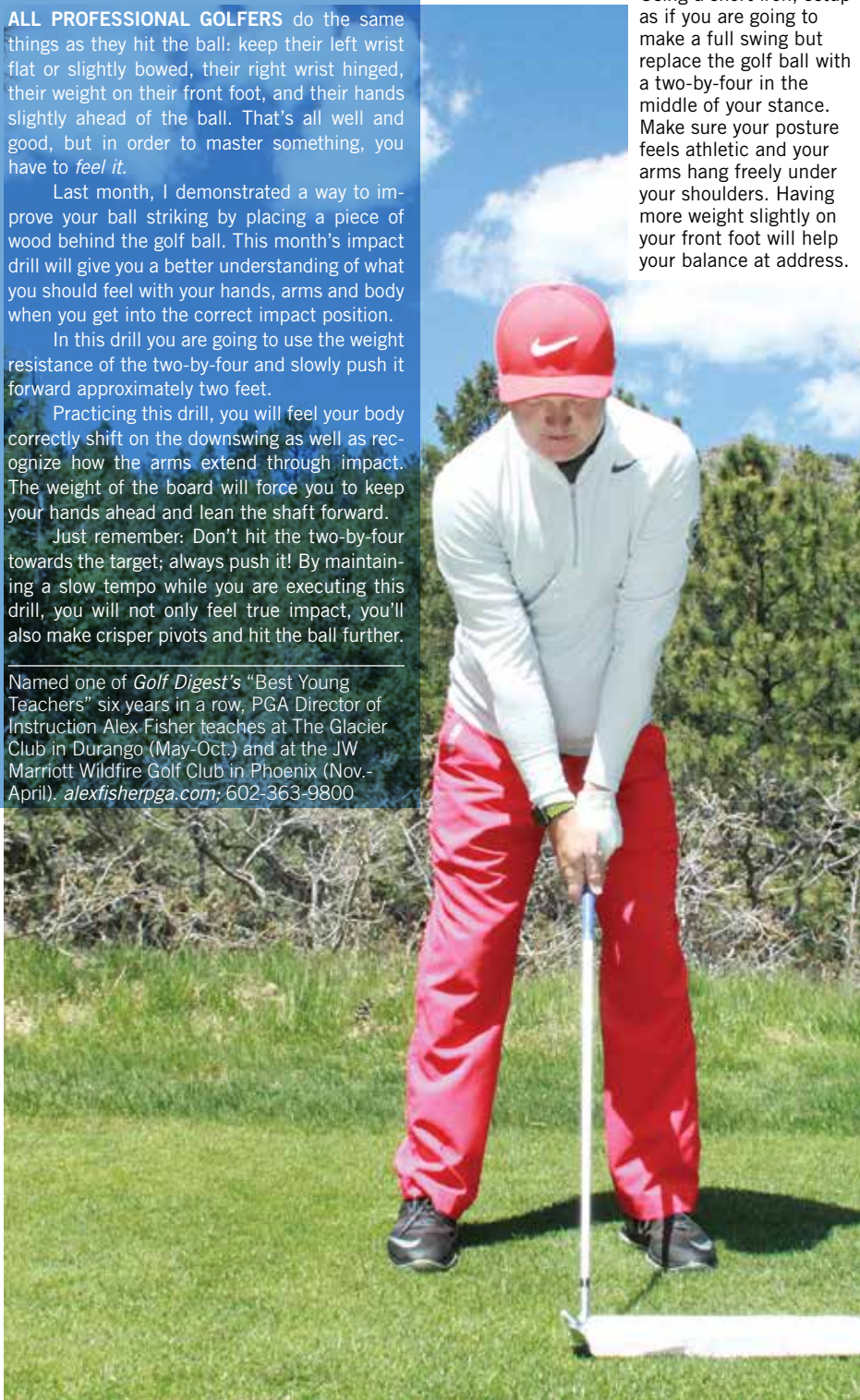
EASY DOES IT

Limit your backswing so your left arm is parallel to the ground and your right arm remains tucked in. If your wrists have fully cocked, the shaft of the golf club should be at a 90-degree angle to your left arm. To create width in your golf swing, feel like you are trying to get your hands as far as possible from your body. It's key to keep your weight on the inside of your feet so that you don't sway off of the golf ball.



MAINTAIN LAG

As you start your downswing, it's critical to keep your right wrist hinged and right elbow tucked into the side of your body. If you extend your right arm too soon or unhinge your wrists you will cast the club and lose significant power.





GO SLOW

As you slowly return the club back to the two-by-four, your left wrist should be flat and right wrist still hinged, with the majority of your weight remaining on your front foot. Your left arm should remain straight and the right arm soft like a wet noodle. The purpose of this drill is to understand the correct sequence of the swing through impact, so make sure everything moves slowly.



EXTEND YOUR ARMS

After initially making contact with the two-by-four, your right arm should start to extend so that you are able to push the board at least two feet. To avoid the dreaded “chicken wing,” you should feel like you are trying to get the club head as far away from your left shoulder as possible. Your left wrist should remain flat with your right palm facing the ground. As your weight continues to shift, your right heel should elevate slightly.

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BOURGEOIS BREWED: Resolute's stylishly spare taproom; colorful beers from Locavore and a righteous pint from Living The Dream.

Superb in the Burbs

A host of breweries located in Denver's southern suburbs are elevating classic styles and redefining the neighborhood hangout. *By Cody Gabbard*

RESOLUTE BREWING COMPANY takes its aesthetic less from the outdoorsy live-oak décor found in most Colorado breweries and more from the clean lines of the farm-to-table, fast casual restaurants prevalent throughout the Denver area. Like the nearby tech and financial firms that office nearby, these beers are all business and follow their styles to perfection with little to no rough edges.

The brewery's name derives from what head brewer Zac Rissmiller calls the founders' "resolute attitude" to make quality beers and be a positive force in the community. He also admits they were all quite stubborn when it came to their own ideas of the perfect namesake, so it was only appropriate to honor that obstinate spirit.

A favorite of the five-o'clock crowd, the taproom gets busy early with those ready to put their cubicles behind them. Tucked into a small strip mall it can be easy to miss, but is only a few minutes from I-25 and C-470 and easily accessible from anywhere near the Denver Tech Center. Food trucks are on-hand daily, so it can also be a good choice for a quick post-work dinner.

The beers are all well made but Resolute Hefeweizen encompasses everything notable about them. It's true to style, with all of the qualities of this German classic slightly accentuated. It has a fluffy mouthfeel without being too full and big banana and clove flavors

from the yeast esters (a chemical byproduct of fermentation). Head brewer Zac Rissmiller attributes the amped-up profiles to years of smoking, saying he had to bump up the flavors of his beers in order to taste them.

Outside of the well-executed standard styles, Resolute also offers experimental small-batch beers, including the recent Arnold Palmer Pale Ale, created by adding tea to the boil and blending in lemonade after fermentation. Tea can either be too delicate to add any flavor or too astringent when over-used. The lemonade balances the tea's harshness. The APPA is dry with a sharp lemon bite and flavorful fruitiness—and a refreshing nod to Arnie's classic concoction.

7286 S. Yosemite St., #110, Centennial

LOCATORE BEER WORKS

Located a few fairway shots from Columbine Country Club, Locavore Beer Works has been a Littleton staple since 2014. Locavore caters to its neighborhood, with its family-friendly space, replete with a cabinet full of board games, homemade non-alcoholic sodas and walls filled with works for sale by local artists. The expansive taproom spills onto front and back patios.

Locavore boasts an impressive twenty drafts with both nitro and cask handles. For those not familiar with Locavore's regular offerings or just want to know more about some of the styles on tap, each table features a flipbook describing the

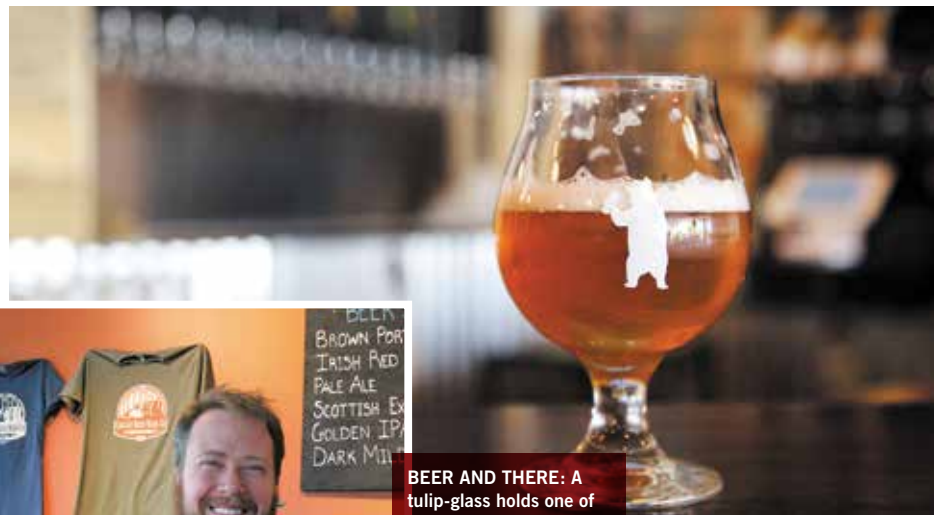
ingredients and flavors of the flagship beers.

Two beers worth the trip are Oncorhynchus T. IPA and Loggerhead Standard American Lager. A single-hop beer, Oncorhynchus has the aroma of fresh hops hitting the boil kettle. English grains provide a robust backbone with some toast and caramel. The resinous Chinook variety of hops stick to the tongue for a classic take on the West Coast IPA.

Although marketed as an introductory beer for those new to the independent brewery scene, Loggerhead perfectly exemplifies the light lagers made popular by large breweries, but with much more flavor. Loggerhead drinks super clean with no off-flavors and has a sweet corn characteristic resulting from the addition of the oft-derided, all-American ingredient of maize.

5950 S Platte Canyon Rd., Littleton





BEER AND THERE: A tulip-glass holds one of 105 West's English ales, Castle Rock Beer Co. owner Mark Quinnell and the solid Rockyard.



LIVING THE DREAM BREWING

The no-pretensions, stripped-down taproom of Living the Dream belies its more bourgeois surroundings near Chatfield State Park. Patrons can expect uniquely interpreted beers with equally unique names like the Helluva Caucasian Stout, a white russian cocktail-inspired beer made with chocolate, vanilla, espresso and peanut butter. Living the Dream also incorporates Colorado's unofficial state flower—the hop—into a large portion of its beers with a range of IPAs, Double IPAs and even a Coffee IPA as part of its experimental series.

12305 N Dumont Drive, Littleton

105 WEST BREWING COMPANY

105 West is a veritable supergroup for brewing with the founders having backgrounds in mechanical engineering, molecular biology and the Siebel Institute of Technology for brewing. With such diverse CVs, it's not surprising the brewery typically rotates through an entire new draft list about every two weeks. Each beer highlights a singular flavor. A perfect example, the Lemondrop Lager, focuses on everything lemon with the other ingredients acting as complements. A zesty lemon zing is forefront with some herbal hop bitterness and clean malt flavor in the background. Not to be boxed into style parameters, 105 West also brews up novelties like the Deez Nutz, a light-bodied brown where creamy peanut butter takes center stage from the first smell to the last gulp.

1043 Park Street, Castle Rock

CASTLE ROCK BEER COMPANY

Many English-style beers can be characterized as easy drinking and low in alcohol with a malt-accentuated flavor and focus on balance. These characteristics stand in stark contrast to more

brash, higher alcohol American-styles, but this doesn't mean less flavor, and nailing the delicate balance that is the hallmark of many of the English styles can be difficult to achieve. Castle Rock Beer Company has taken on the task of confronting these Continental beers head-on with adroitly balanced brews. There isn't a bad one in the lot, and my short pours disappeared all too quickly. To experience everything English, the Sellars ESB (Extra Special Bitter) serves as the archetype—clean and bright with toffee and toasty malt flavors all tied together by a characterful English yeast. This will be my growler beer for summer barbecues; the easy-drinking yet complex flavors will complement most dishes, especially grilled ones.

1514 Perry Street, C106, Castle Rock

ROCKYARD AMERICAN GRILL & BREWING COMPANY

Castle Rock's oldest brewery throws back to the original 1990s brewpubs with both a hefty list of bar fare and seasonal brews. The beers include standbys such as a Blonde, Stout, IPA and Red Ale, as well as more contemporary styles. Some of those include Lil' Bro Session IPA, a beer selected from a homebrew competition, and Dog House Red, a barrel-aged beer fermented with brettanomyces (a "wild" yeast only recently tamed by modern labs) that's rich in dark fruit and tartness and can be cellared for years. Rockyard releases a seasonal brew or two on tap every month.

880 Castleton Road, Castle Rock

Contributor Cody Gabbard regularly writes the Tapping In column. Read more at coloradoavidgolfer.com/lifestyle.

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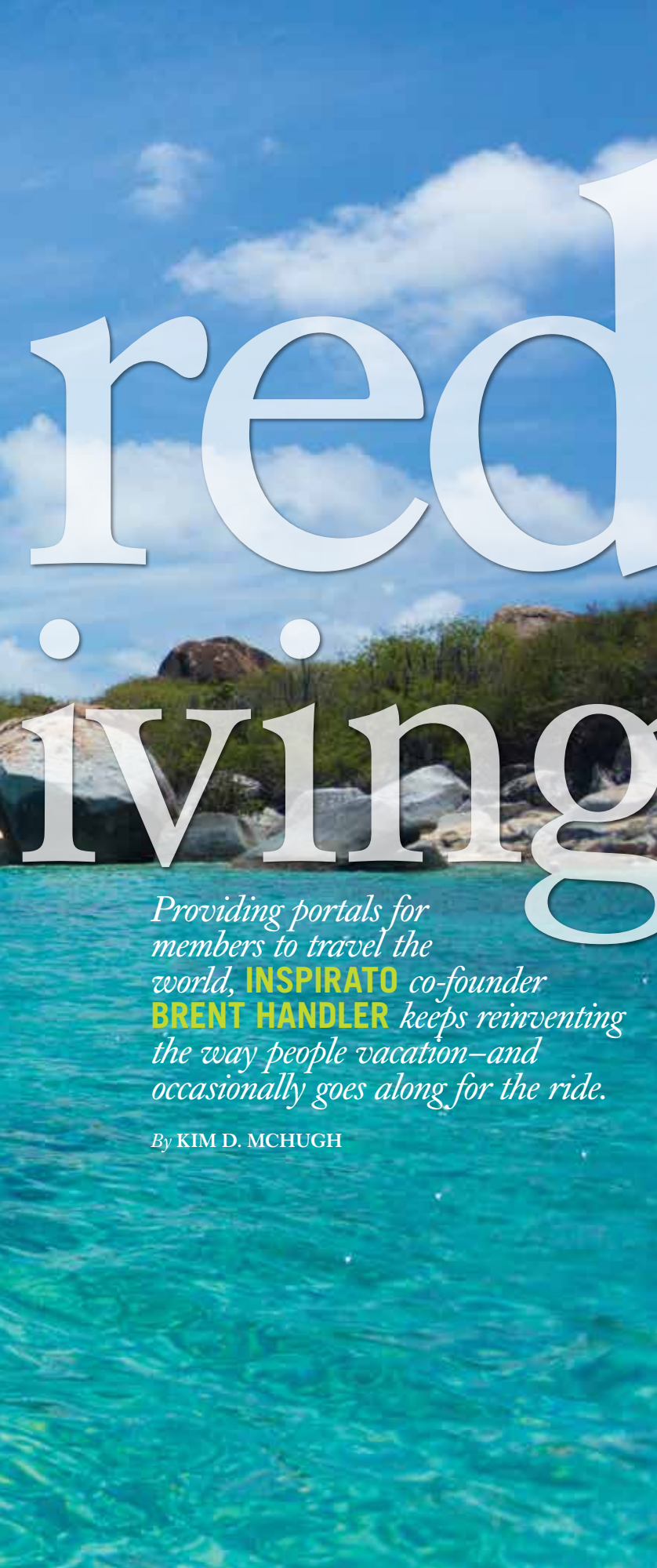


Inspi ri



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF INSPIRATO

AZURE THINGS: Inspirato Yacht vacations sail to the Caribbean, Mediterranean and Baltic seas.



*Providing portals for members to travel the world, **INSPIRATO** co-founder **BRENT HANDLER** keeps reinventing the way people vacation—and occasionally goes along for the ride.*

By KIM D. MCHUGH

BRENT HANDLER is a stand-up guy. Literally. Working from his standing desk on the sixth floor of the historic Sugar Building on the corner of Blake and 15th Street in LoDo, the self-proclaimed serial entrepreneur is gazing at an oversized, flat screen computer monitor perhaps contemplating the next iteration of Inspirato. The co-founder and CEO of the burgeoning private travel membership club steps away from his desk, welcomes me to the company's offices with a firm handshake and, with the enthusiasm of a proud dad pointing out the accomplishments of his children, takes me on a tour.

In the early minutes, I learn that these offices used to house Exclusive Resorts, a members-only destination travel club that Brent and his brother Brad co-founded in 2002. That business gave and still gives members the opportunity to stay in luxury properties worldwide, while enjoying a service level that was like what could be experienced at a high-end resort (think Four Seasons, St. Regis), including a personal concierge. Exclusive Resorts also rewarded Brent with a way to realize a dream he'd envisioned growing up in Denver's Southmoor Park neighborhood.

"I remember being a little kid riding my bike through Cherry Hills, looking at the houses and thinking, 'wow', this would be amazing one day to be able to live in a house like this or have access to a house like this," he says. "I always had this thing for houses. Even when I was a kid and we were on vacation, I would grab real estate magazines that showed luxury homes."

An accomplished tennis player as a freshman at Thomas Jefferson High School, he put his entrepreneurial skills in play going door-to-door in Cherry Hills, tennis racquet and photocopied flyers in hand (there was no Internet or Facebook Messenger back then), hoping to sell lessons to the parents of promising young players. In high school, he taught at the Harvest House in Boulder, and he ultimately ended up attending the University of Colorado.

Upon graduating in 1991 he put his undergraduate degree in business to work at Xerox, followed by sales positions at a few other software-related startups and tech businesses associated with services centered around computer training and education. But it wasn't until he learned about a business in Vail that sparked the idea for pursuing a career change.

"There was a group called the Crescent Club, which I think was the original destination club," Handler explains. "They had four houses—one in Vail, one in Scottsdale, one in Cabo San Lucas and one in Steamboat Springs. I really liked that concept."

At the time Handler and his wife, Kirsten, owned a small townhouse on the Eagle River in Minturn. While the second home was a terrific weekend escape, the time and money spent associated with its upkeep started to outweigh the benefits of ownership. Serendipity intervened when an article in The Denver Post caught the entrepreneur's eye. It featured Private Retreats, whose business model was built around members being able to stay in luxurious, company-owned homes in the world's most desirable vacation destinations.

"This idea that you didn't have to be married to one vacation home and have all the maintenance, and instead have access to hundreds of homes by just joining the club—the idea



HAWAIIAN HIDEAWAY: An Inspirato Residence on the Big Island's Kohala Coast.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF INSPIRATO

really resonated with me,” Handler adds.

In 2004, two years after launching Exclusive Resorts, the brothers sold majority ownership to AOL founder Steve Case, a move that turbocharged the company. Today the destination club dominates the space with north of 4,000 members benefiting from access to over 400 homes in over 120 locations around the world. In 2006, Brent’s “idea” garnered him a spot in the final round in Ernst & Young LLP’s Entrepreneur of the Year competition for the Rocky Mountain region. By 2007, even though the enterprise was doing exceptionally well, the 2008 financial crisis factored into Handler deciding to leave Exclusive Resorts in 2009 to explore a new endeavor.

Teaming again with his brother, Brian Corbett and Martin Pucher, the result was Inspirato. Italian for inspired, it launched in early 2011 with the mantra “when you travel well, creating lasting memories with family and friends, you live a more inspired life.”—a touchstone on which Inspirato relies to create memorable escapes for its members. In 2012, Handler reconnected with David Kallery, the former COO of Exclusive Resorts, who is now Inspirato’s President.

“I met Brent in 2004, and shortly after meeting him, we began working together,” says Kallery. “Brent wants Inspirato to be one of the most recognized brands in hospitality. He’s spent the last 15 years working on companies that change the way families think about travel/vacations, and I would say that he has quite literally changed thousands of people’s lives. Imagine the incredible vacations they’ve had and the memories that were created.”

Members at Colorado Golf Club, Kallery

and Handler do their best to play weekly during the golf season, where they have a relaxed environment for decompressing.

“I love being on the golf course with him; we mix the time with discussions about the business and our golf game. But in addition to working hard, he is likely the most competitive person I have ever worked with,” quips Kallery. “Whether it is a game of ping-pong or a friendly game of golf, he doesn’t like to lose.”

Word is that the CEO once challenged the entire company to play against him in ping-pong, and, using his iPhone 6, beat all but one person.

That competitive nature found its way into Inspirato’s business model by

“I would say Brent has quite literally changed thousands of people’s lives. Imagine the incredible vacations they’ve had and the memories that were created.”

way of membership fees that are rather affordable. Inspirato members choose from three membership levels priced at \$10,000, \$20,000 and \$30,000 respectively, plus first year annual dues of \$3,400. Conversely, to belong to Exclusive Resorts costs between \$85,000 and \$250,000, plus a daily rate averaging \$1,275.

Members keep multiplying at a rapid pace with the count hovering around 15,000. Drawn by an ever-growing portfolio of spectacular vacation homes, memory-making travel experiences and opportunities to stay in luxe hotels and resorts, members continue to embrace this inspired way to enjoy life. Chip Fuller, a member since 2012, benefited from the club’s extraordinary service when he went to The Masters in 2016.

“It’s incredibly difficult to organize

a golf trip like The Masters, especially if you’ve never been before,” Fuller explains. “I was looking for a first-class trip for myself and my clients; a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Inspirato put together a trip to The Masters that blew us all away. We stayed at a luxurious and relaxing mansion that was converted into a bed-and-breakfast, attended several great cocktail parties and dinners with a group of likeminded golf enthusiasts and unique speakers, and had all our requests met by the very accommodating and energetic staff. It was like going to The Masters with an old friend that had been attending for decades and knew all the tips for making it an incredible experience.”

Accompanied by his wife and family, Fuller vacations with Inspirato several times a year, and they are always impressed with the quality of the homes. He sees a trip to the Ryder Cup as the next golf-centric one on his list. He hopes to go in 2018 to Le Golf

National near Paris with several clients that are accustomed to high-end service, which he knows Inspirato is expert at delivering.

Handler, who admittedly didn’t vacation too often before starting the two travel clubs, is getting better at doing so.

“Despite being in the travel business the longest I’d ever been away from Colorado in my lifetime had been three weeks,” says Handler. “I did it twice, once when I went to Europe for maybe 22 days, and again when I graduated from CU and went to the Xerox training facility in Leesburg, Virginia.”

Though he often works 60-hour weeks, he’s managed to layer in elements of the good life by way of family getaways and more time on the golf course. Accompanied by his wife and three children, ages 12, 17 and 19, the family skis at Vail as frequently as possible

during weekends in January, February and March, returning over select summer weekends to play golf and mountain bike. Coming in a close second are the family's Silversea cruises, which have taken them to the Mediterranean twice, the Greek Islands, the fjords of Sweden and St. Petersburg, Russia. The Handlers have vacationed on the Big Island of Hawaii every other year for 12 years.

court, spa tub, and heated swimming pool with a diving board and a dozen floats. The family belongs to Colorado Golf Club and Glenmoor Country Club, and Handler's business connections have allowed him to play a dozen rounds a year at other clubs around town like Castle Pines Golf Club, as well as at New Jersey's legendary Baltusrol Golf Club, in the TaylorMade Pebble Beach Invitational and at Punta Mita in Mexico.

"I see him becoming a great player," Walker says. "Brent and I have a side bet that if he becomes a single-digit handicap, he'll send me to the Caribbean."

"I like to say that I chose a lifestyle that I wanted, and then I chose a career that allowed me to experience that lifestyle," Handler explains. "My career, frankly, has allowed me to enjoy the best life one could ever really hope for. I have great opportunities to enjoy so many of the best places in the world with family and friends."

Still, all the available travel adventures notwithstanding, one of his and Kristen's greatest pleasures is having family and friends over to their Cherry Hills Village backyard, which is home to a badminton

Growing up, he seldom teed up, preferring tennis to golf and playing maybe four times a year as a twenty-something adult. In the late-90s/early 2000s, his focus was on parenting three kids and overseeing the flourishing travel businesses. But when he turned 40 (he'll be 49 in October), he began setting aside time to improve his game.

Handler, a 13.5 handicap, appreciates the game's humbling nature. When he carded a 108 during a tournament, it prompted him to do what he could to improve.

"I'd say Brent had kind of hit a wall



DROPPING SHOTS: A tennis background sharpens Handler's greenside touch.

PHOTOGRAPH BY TERNIA BUTLER-MELONE

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where he wasn't getting any better," says GolfTEC's Ty Walker, Regional Manager of Colorado and Director of Instruction for Denver Operations. "He occasionally plays in high-end tournaments and was struggling to find a reliable game, so he reached out."

Walker adjusted Brent's grip and swing mechanics, and one of GolfTEC's club fitters, Toby Archuleta, helped Handler transition from an old set of Ping G20 irons to a set of Callaway Epic irons and woods. Between the revised swing, new clubs and a strong lesson plan, Handler's game is turning around.

"We do one hour lessons twice a month, depending on Brent's schedule," adds Walker. "The great thing about Brent is that he has good mechanics and the touch is there. He's amazing with his wedges. With his tennis background, he picks up quickly on how, say, topspin translates into a push/draw type golf shot. He's been able to make the changes in his swing and make them stick. When you have touch in this game, and you now have clubs souped up to hit the ball far, I see him being a great player."

In fact, Walker hopes Handler improves significantly. "Brent and I have a side bet that if he becomes a single digit handicap, he'll send me to the Caribbean," Walker laughs.



RAISING A GLASS: Handler toasts the inspired life at Colorado Golf Club.

"Seriously, I usually try to give clients an incentive because when you have a stated goal, you have a better chance of reaching it."

For all that he's accomplished as a businessman, he recognizes that he is not only blessed and fortunate to be able to do what he does for a living, he's in the position to enrich the lives of others. First at Exclusive Resorts and now at Inspirato, through its philanthropic division, Inspired Giving, Handler and his colleagues have been instrumental at either helping raise funds for various schools, hospitals and charities, or have donated a significant number of vacations, netting tens of millions of dollars for charity. Given his affinity for tennis, it's no surprise Handler is on the advisory board of the Andre Agassi Foundation

for Education, and Inspirato has donated vacations for auction with proceeds going to support Grand Slam for Kids.

The company has lent its support to all the private schools along the Front Range and over five-dozen public schools. Recently, events in Colorado, Missouri and California raised approximately \$70,000 for charities including the Albert Pujols Family Foundation, Vista Center and SaddleUp Foundation, and in July, a single event raised \$96,000 for the Vail Valley Youth Foundation.

"We get more than one request a day for trips to auction for charity," explains Handler. "It doesn't take very long for that to really add up. Early on my brother and I recognized that you're not going to get where you're headed if you don't have a team of people who are helping you, and people aren't going to help you if you don't help others. In our family, it was always about how you contribute to your community and what you could do beyond yourself. That is what is important." ●

Contributor Kim D. McHugh, a Lowell Thomas Award-winning writer, has covered travel, hospitality, cuisine, architecture, skiing and golf.

PHOTOGRAPH BY TANIA BUTLER-MELONE

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TRAVEL

From Tee to Shining Tee

A coast-to-coast look at five lavish golf destinations

PHOTOGRAPH BY PEBBLE BEACH COMPANY

PEBBLE BEACH RESORTS

If America has a St. Andrews, this could very well be it. The legendary location on the Monterey Peninsula features the power trio of Pebble, Spanish Bay and Spyglass (as well as the underrated Del Monte and the par-3 Peter Hay), and sumptuous accommodations at The Lodge at Pebble Beach, Inn at Spanish Bay and Casa Palermo. Fairway One, the newest addition to The Lodge, opens late this summer, offering 30 oversized guest rooms and three two-story cottages overlooking the first fairway. One of a dozen memorable dining options, The Tap Room remains the classic choice for a post-round repast, and the Forbes Five Star Spa at Pebble Beach provides a 22,000-square-foot sanctuary for the senses. Pebble Beach will host its sixth U.S. Open in 2019 in celebration of the resort's centennial. pebblebeach.com; 800-877-0597

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SEA ISLAND RESORT

In June 2016, five years after purchasing The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Philip Anschutz took sole ownership of this venerable enclave on Georgia's Golden Isles. Ten years younger than The Broadmoor, Sea Island has hosted titans of commerce, entertainment and politics, remaining the only U.S. resort ever to host the G8 Conference. Highlighted by the moss-draped live oaks that dominate the area, the five-mile island comprises several distinct luxury properties. The stately Addison Mizner-designed Cloister at Sea Island—which sits in close proximity to the Sea Island Yacht Club and The Spa at Sea Island—boasts accommodations in its main building, Beach Club and Ocean Residences, and features four restaurants, including the Georgian Room, Georgia's only Forbes Five Star dining destination. Golfers usually opt for the AAA Five Diamond, Forbes Five Star Lodge at Sea Island, an intimate, sumptuous 43-room hotel and golf clubhouse for the Seaside and Plantation courses, which this November welcome the PGA Tour's RSM Classic hosted by Sea Island resident Davis Love III (Love and his brother Mark also designed the nearby Retreat Course). Sea Island's state-of-the-art Golf Performance Center helps everyone from beginners to Masters champions. Additionally, 130 of the 600 privately owned, uniquely decorated Cottages at Sea Island are available for seasonal rental. seaisland.com; 855-572-4975





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Rebel Without a *Pause*

*With Scottsdale National and PXG, iconoclast **BOB PARSONS** has roared into the golf world, upending the business models for both kinds of golf club—the one you join and ones you play.* By ANDY BIGFORD

WE ARE BARELY into the first hole at “The Other,” the just-opened, fantastically fun, and cleverly named course at tech-billionaire-turned-golf-entrepreneur Bob Parsons’ surreal Scottsdale National Golf Club, when I fail to comply with one of the club’s sacred maxims: “No inconvenience for the guest.”

Despite numerous friendly reminders from our attentive caddies, my auto-reflex kicks in after hitting a 9-iron into the elevated first green, and I bend down to the wide Bermuda fairway to replace my divot. Moments later, I prove unworthy again when I seek to fix a ball mark on the immaculate, sprawling 007 Bent green. Perhaps because I’ve fallen into that pleasant daze you get when absorbing a refreshingly different course, or because I find myself embracing Parsons’ vision of making this an Augusta-Pine Valley-Cypress Point of the Southwest, I can’t help “inconveniencing” myself. A few holes later, I mindlessly devolve into a futile search for a rake (there aren’t any) to clean up my mess in a bunker—before being gently reminded (again) that I should not bother with such menial tasks.

Six months later, when I finally catch up with Bob Parsons over the July Fourth weekend, he happens to be in Aspen, playing the exclusive Maroon Creek Club and field-testing the latest prototypes from his ascendant golf equipment startup, PXG. “We want to deliver the finest golf experience available,” he explains of the

Scottsdale National policy, adding that with a greens crew shadowing golfers, the club ensures that the repair of divots and ball marks and the raking of bunkers are all performed “perfectly.”

“We have no ‘rules’ whatsoever,” Parsons continues, “though we do have one thing: No member shall impinge upon another member’s good time. If it makes you happy to wear cutoff jeans and flip-flops with your hat on backwards, and to talk on your phone while going down the fairway, be my guest. But at the end of the day, nobody actually does that.”

Harley-riding, heavily-tatted, earring-adorned Bob Parsons, who turns 67 in November, is a complicated guy, a man of contradictions. He’s a hard-working, self-made billionaire who is on one hand boisterous and brash, and on the other a sweet soul, an ordained minister who deflects praise to his staff. Along with his wife, Renee, he is donating half of their estimated \$2 billion fortune via The Giving Pledge, a philanthropic effort founded by Bill Gates and Warren Buffett. Parsons, whose fortune sprang from his founding of dot.com juggernaut GoDaddy, is injecting huge breaths of fresh air into the often-stuffy golf business, into which he came like a hurricane.

After a misbegotten youth in Baltimore, Parsons found life-changing discipline with the Marines in the Vietnam War, along with

the shrapnel he still carries and a Purple Heart. As a rifleman on Hill 190, his only goal was to “be alive for mail call the next day.” After the war, he used the GI Bill to graduate magna cum laude from the University of Baltimore, taught himself code, then launched Parsons Technology, the software company he eventually sold to Intuit for \$64 million in 1994. After moving to Arizona, his next move was GoDaddy, where he struggled mightily for years before building it into a powerhouse, thanks in no small part to the racy TV ad he ran during the 2005 Super Bowl, which immediately increased market share by 50 percent. After divesting himself as majority stakeholder of GoDaddy in 2011, he considered buying an NFL franchise before finding a calling closer to his heart and home.

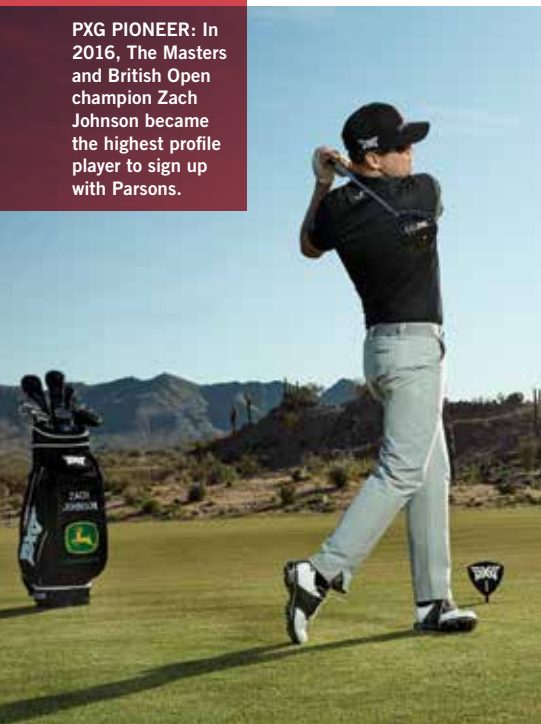
Golf Club Scottsdale was a classy but struggling private club with a top-tier course (designed by Jay Morrish and Dick Bailey) that had been brought to the mat by the Great Recession, hemorrhaging both money and members. Parsons was attracted by the incredible vistas, the undeveloped land that surrounded the club, and by the absence of houses that line most courses in the Valley of the Sun. He bought it in 2013 for \$600,000 and debt, renamed it Scottsdale National, and announced his intentions to model it after Augusta as an exclusive, national-membership club.

Then came his “letter heard ’round the golf world,” the diatribe that caught fire on

the Internet, in which Parsons chastised his multi-millionaire members for their lack of support and spending at the club, embodied by their excessive number of rounds and lack of clubhouse spending. He introduced his new rules, capping member play at 30 rounds annually and instituting a \$100 daily service fee (it did cover cart rentals). But he also generously offered to refund any departing member their entire initiation fee, which ranged from \$110,000 down to \$25,000 during the recession, rather than the required 50 percent. Sixty-five members hit the exit, while 110 stayed. (The letter storm has largely passed, but Parsons still enjoys recounting what one resignee gave as her reason for departure: "Because Bob Parsons is an a**hole.") Meanwhile, Parsons made a promise to those members who bought into his vision that they would soon enjoy a world-class experience, from service to facilities—and he has more than delivered.

Parsons estimates he's spent \$250 million

PXG PIONEER: In 2016, The Masters and British Open champion Zach Johnson became the highest profile player to sign up with Parsons.



YOUNG GUN: Two-time LPGA major champion Lydia Ko defected from Callaway to PXG in January.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF PXG

on the club, noting that in business you don't always get your capital expenditures back right away, or ever—and that the club provides invaluable synergies for PXG. The infusion includes a makeover to the final four holes on the original Mine Shaft course, staff investments and pay increases, and improved food and beverage. Then there are the big ticket items: the purchase of an adjacent 273 acres of land (previously targeted for a housing development), the construction of "The Other" by Jackson Kahn Golf Course Design, plus a massive new clubhouse set to

be completed next May. Parsons also tossed in a nearly indescribable, deliciously difficult par-3 course he christened The Bad Little 9 The Bad Little 9 (also created by Jackson Kahn, but with Satan as co-designer).

So, to check the scorecard, the current estimated 125 to 150 members at Scottsdale National now have 45 incredible holes to play, a new clubhouse on the way, and a devoted, talented staff. Parsons eventually rescinded the cap on member rounds, and also reduced the service fee. Life is good.

If Parsons' Scottsdale National efforts were audacious, his next move was completely over the top: Launching a high-end golf club company, which he dubbed PXG (Parsons Xtreme Golf), into an extremely challenging marketplace. Ever since he'd become obsessed with golf in the 1980s while working long days at his Iowa-based Parsons Technology, Parsons has found golf club technology fascinating. Begging credentials from his local club pro, he was a

engineer, and laid out the marching orders: Design innovative new clubs that are sleek, sexy, look like a blade but play like a cavity back, and launch the ball farther, straighter and higher. Oh, and spend as much time and money as necessary.

After much trial and error, the final solution was the discovery and use in the forged irons of a thin, light elastomer that served as an internal cavity back, allowing engineers to dramatically thin the clubface and expand the sweet spot. After launching PXG in the fall of 2014, Parsons brought on Ryan Moore and then signed an A-List of tour players, including major champions Zach Johnson, Charl Schwartzel and Lydia Ko, plus accomplished golfers with colorful personalities: Christina Kim, Billy Horschel, Pat Perez, Gerina Piller, and, most recently, Pac-12 champion Wyndham Clark.

While the retail golf market is governed by intense competition, short product cycles, price-cutting and low margins, Parsons pledged not to go there, instead choosing to operate only at the high end of the sales channel, through custom clubfitting outfits, private clubs and other top courses, and direct from PXG headquarters. The clubs run \$5,000 for a 14-club set, which includes the mandatory custom fitting. Single irons cost roughly \$300 per, double the market norm. Consumers can also buy into the three-day, two-night \$17,500 PXG Xperience, which includes accommodations at the Scottsdale Four Seasons, an outdoor fitting of your new PXG set, a tour of the PXG facility, plus several meals and three rounds at Scottsdale National with a PXG ambassador. For \$100,000 for two people, add in a private plane for transportation, and a breakfast and round with the founder himself.

At PXG's 35,000-square-foot facility, where the number of employees has more than tripled in the past year, customers are escorted through a premier clubfitting experience while black-uniformed workers build clubs to custom specs in the back.

Some Colorado club pros question the cost/benefit equation for PXG, and note it will be difficult for the company to repeatedly innovate like the big brands. But Dan Sultz, the owner and founder of D'Lance Golf in Englewood, says PXG has been a game-changer for his shop's gear sales. "Bob created the Tesla of the golf business. He's got a good business model. We blew our sales expectations away. And in all the testing we've done, PXG is the most consistent across the face."

About the only downside for Parsons

is that his index has risen from 9 to 12.5 because he is always testing new prototypes: His scoring consistency, particularly on and around the greens, has suffered. He says PXG is “going to scare” the \$100 million revenue mark for 2017 (despite sluggish hard-goods sales across the country), and is being distributed in 31 countries; the U.S. market is tops, but Asia and even the Middle East are also strong. Parsons vows he will never fall into the discount mass-market game. “That would be the beginning of the end...and we’d get beaten to death,” he says before pledging the company will be profitable “one day.”

Back at Scottsdale National, on the edge of the Sonoran Desert perched in the hills of North Scottsdale at a cool elevation of 2,670 feet, I’m reflecting on the rollercoaster ride that is “The Other.” Designed by up-and-comers Tim Jackson and David Kahn, it is a 6-6-6 special: Six sets of tees feeding six par 3s, 4s, and 5s. With apologies to the “naturalists,” crews had to move more than a million cubic yards of desert to unleash it, and they also tagged, removed, and then delicately replaced hundreds of Saguaro cacti and other cacti, trees and bushes. The course still flows naturally and affords

PAR-3 PERFECTION: The Other’s beautifully framed, narrow-necked 11th.



stunning views of the valley, 3,173-foot Pinnacle Peak, and surrounding mountains.

Nigel Spence, an Australian who helped put the Colorado State University golf program on the national radar in the mid-1990s and is now the director of golf here, calls the desert transformation “inexplicable.” He’s also at a loss for words in

categorizing the new course, before settling on this: “It’s an Alister MacKenzie-type links course in the desert with some Midwestern style thrown in.” Good luck hitting the green from the tips on the 519-yard par-four 5th (“Buzzard”), even though it’s 21,000 square feet (13,000 of which is pinnable). All six par 3s are spectacular, but the 11th,

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LAST SHOT: A sea of sand peninsulates the green on the Other's finishing hole.

"Blind Squirrel," is Parsons' favorite. Not surprisingly, the owner also likes "Butterfly," the risk-reward drivable par-four 17th, where I was pin high with my drive before finally coaxing in a sidehill 8-footer for a double. "Butterfly has teeth that will bite your nuts off," laughs Parsons. Above all, "The Other" is just massively fun to play, and can range from friendly to diabolically difficult depending on the tees you choose.

I'd come to Scottsdale National at the invitation of my good friend Chip Freund, a

St. Louis native who is a longtime member here (the initiation today involves being sponsored by a member, then playing golf with the boss, who is the final arbiter). This is my third visit, but my first since Parsons took over. I had wondered about Chip when he received the now-infamous letter and told me he was going to stick it out, but now I realize that he's just a lot smarter than I am. As a member at other premier clubs, he's seen club management and member committees in action (and inaction) and trusts Parsons to

do things right, and quickly. (Parsons once quipped that those traditional three-person club committees can be really effective, "as long as two of the people are out of town.")

At the end of the day, Parsons is ideally suited for the role of "benevolent dictator," just like the lords of Augusta National, and he backs it up 24/7 through attitude and actions, whether it is ongoing investments or spending a half-million dollars so Scottsdale National can host what Parsons calls the best member-guest event in the world, dubbed the Wild West Invitational. "We are in the entertainment and hospitality business," he says. "When one of our members asks for something, the answer is always 'Yes.'"

Near the end of our conversation, I finally ask Parsons the obvious: "So you didn't get into the golf business to make money?" A long, warm laugh follows, while I imagine him reviewing all the trials, tribulations and adrenaline-fueled achievements of his labors of love in the golf world.

"That," Parsons finally answers, "is an understatement." ●

Andy Bigford is the editor and collaborator of Warren Miller's autobiography, *Freedom Found*, the second printing of which will be available Sept. 1 at warrenmiller.net/freedom-found.

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Colorado's New Tour Stop?

TPC could very well stand for *The Perfect Community*. By JON RIZZI

NEARLY A DECADE has passed since a new golf course opened in Colorado. But to say TPC Colorado, which debuts next spring in Berthoud, was worth the wait understates its significance.

Designed by Highland Meadows architect Art Schaupeter, the TPC Colorado course occupies 110 acres of a new 800-acre development called Heron Lakes—so named because it comprises Lonetree, McNeil and Welch reservoirs and hosts a sizable heron rookery. The Lonetree Marina will offer waterside dining in view of the larger boats plying the waters, while the McNeil Beach Club will attract kayakers, paddleboarders and other recreationists.

To the west, Longs Peak, the Twin Sisters and distant serrated silhouettes rise to create a striking backcloth. Nearly nine miles of hiking and biking trails will ribbon the property, the final build-out of which calls for 1,118 homes—comprising multimillion-dollar custom estates, luxury cottages, high-end condos, townhomes and patio homes. Although downtown Berthoud and I-25 lie just minutes away, 30 acres of the enclave is zoned for mixed use, allowing for small businesses. The 40,000-square-foot clubhouse, scheduled for completion next summer, will serve as the community hub and afford a perch from which to see the action on the course.

And there'll be plenty of that. Not only will the layout feature the state's longest hole—the 762-yard 13th—but it will also stretch to 7,962 yards for the Web.com Tour players who could be competing here as early as 2019.

That's right. If all goes according to plan, TPC Colorado will become a regular stop for

players hungry to earn their PGA Tour card—and the golf fans hungry to see them.

It also should become a regular stop for anyone who wants to play 18 remarkable holes. Though it's a beast from the tips, TPC Colorado won't be regarded as much for its length—each of the four sets of “men's” tees trims 500 to 700 yards, with the lone set of forward tees clocking in just north of 4,100—



SNEAK PEEKS: Sod-faced bunkers dwarf a visitor; trees line the tight par-3 8th (top).

as for its features and strategy. The holes play into and against the fickle waterfront winds and feature classic characteristics such as sod-faced and pot bunkers, fescue rough, a Biarritz green, closely mown green surrounds and varying fairway and green sizes.

One of three reachable par 4s, the short sixth suggests the 10th hole at Riviera. A 104-yard St. Andrews-esque Hell Bunker yawns menacingly on the long 13th, and the 164-yard par-3 16th evokes the 16th at Augusta National. Nicknamed “Center Stage,” the hole requires a plunging tee shot from near the clubhouse patio to a heavily bunkered

green framed by McNeil Reservoir and the mountains beyond.

Its affiliation with the PGA Tour means TPC Colorado will maintain the highest standards of service and course conditions. “They require a practice putting green near the 10th tee,” explains General Manager Larry Collins. “There'll also be a grill along the water, right by the ninth green.”

Having worked at TPCs in Florida, Tennessee and Arizona, Collins is well qualified to run this operation. He liaises with the development team of Jon Turner, Chris Frye and Jim Birdsall, and numerous TPC personnel, including Senior Vice Presidents Cal Roth and John Huggins—with whom he worked at TPC Plum Creek in Castle Rock in the 1980s. “Their support is unbelievable,” Collins says.

The semi-private club will welcome public play when it opens next spring, but a variety of membership packages are available. Charter memberships run \$25,000 with monthly dues of \$325-\$425. Those who purchase a home in Heron Lakes pay \$12,500 and \$325, while those who buy in its exclusive Rookery subdivision get the initiation waived. The club also sells junior and corporate memberships. Members get access to the TPC Network of courses.

“We've sold 21 memberships since the roll-out at the end of June,” Collins reported in mid-July. “Our prospect list through word-of-mouth is now 180.” Heron Lakes has also sold 109 of the first 126 lots offered.

It seems the wait has been well worth it. ●

For more information, visit tpc.com/colorado/heronlakescommunity.com



The Leading Edge

The **DENVER FOUR SEASONS'** signature restaurant heads a list of haute hotel eateries. By GARY JAMES

THE STANDARD HOTEL restaurant used to get a grim prognosis, an operation kept afloat by expense-account dinners or, worse, out-of-town tourists like the rube who asked about the time of meals.

"Sir, breakfast is served from 6 to 10, lunch from 11 to 3, and dinner from 5 to 10."

"Well," he replied, "when am I going to get time to see the city?"

The dining places of big hotels invested in lavish breakfast buffets, high tea and/or swanky lounges. But now, with so many choices for world-class establishments and chefs in Colorado, hotel restaurants have now become destinations of their own for the hottest fine dining. Case in point: Edge, the signature restaurant of the Four Seasons Hotel in Denver.

"Twenty years ago at a Four Seasons Hotel, you had to wind through the lobby, go up a set of stairs or an escalator, and enter a posh dining area that had the Four Seasons brand on every napkin, server uniform and so on," notes Edge's Restaurant Chef Zachary Rozanski. "It's a different experience now."

That ethos is reflected from the direct entrance from the street to the gourmet cuisine. Executive

Chef Simon Purvis has developed menus all over the world (he's from Portsmouth, England), and upon his arrival at Edge, he immersed himself in progressive Colorado cuisine—the beef and lamb is Colorado-ranched, fish is from Alamosa, and much of the fruit is from the Rocky Ford Valley. Rozanski worked his way up from line chef to now running the kitchen.

You'll be happy with any table in the modern, open space (especially near the large picture windows), but you're better served by asking to be seated in Alan's section. He's been at Edge since the restaurant opened in 2010, and his first-rate service provides a knowledgeable complement to the masterful culinary creativity.

You get to cook Edge's signature 900-Degree Hot Stone appetizer yourself. The rounded stone is set in an oven overnight so it reaches said temperature; you dunk a bite (your choice of four or eight pieces of wagyu beef or ahi tuna) into an imported cherry blossom shoyu and sear it on the stone. The Lump Crab Cake, served with marinated cucumber and sweet chili butter, is seasoned and cooked to perfection. "No filler" crab cakes don't exist, as a little bit of "glue" is needed so they stay together; Edge goes for the absolute minimum.

But the appetizer that reigns supreme is the Spanish Octopus Terrine. A wonderfully pungent squid ink aioli is spread on a large platter, with dollops of smoked romesco (the roasted red pepper and toasted almond sauce originating in Northeastern Spain) and some watercress and fennel for color and texture. In the center is a hub of tender pulpo parts (okay, tentacles), sliced and perfectly charred. Alan paired it with a glass of Albarino, one of Spain's tastiest white grapes.

The exceptionally good Edge Caesar salad gives a nod to contemporary style, with a fresh mix of romaine, lemon, garlic and Parmesan cheese,



Brown Knows

Fine dining at **Palace Arms**, at the Brown Palace Hotel in downtown Denver, implies quality over quantity. But there's nothing like the posh, old-world atmosphere—the conversation of your dining companions can be heard!—and oenophiles can lose themselves in the extensive wine list, one of the largest anywhere (and a recipient of "Best of Award of Excellence" from *Wine Spectator*). brownpalace.com



WYLD Life

WYLD, the upscale, rustic hotel restaurant in the Ritz-Carlton at the base of Bachelor Gulch ski slope in Avon, is so named for its location on the "edge of wild." Signature dishes include an open-face lamb dip (shaved Colorado lamb, horseradish cream, crispy onions and au jus) and toasted grilled cheese (with Haystack chili jack, vacherin and fontina cheeses, paired with a tomato soup shooter). Open daily for breakfast and dinner. ritzcarlton.com





Star Power

Penrose Room, the elegant eatery atop The Broadmoor's South building, offers European cuisine amid spectacular views of Colorado Springs and Cheyenne Mountain. It's a superior dining experience, one that perennially receives a five-diamond rating from AAA and a five-star one from Forbes. The menu offers prix fixe meals of three, four and seven courses. To add to the refined, magical experience, diners can dance in between servings to the soothing sounds of a stellar jazz ensemble. broadmoor.com



Four-peat

Elway's, named after the beloved Denver Broncos Hall of Famer, is the swank restaurant at the Ritz-Carlton in downtown Denver (other locations include the Lodge at Vail, Cherry Creek, and DIA). The reputation of the elegant chophouse is based on hand-cut, aged USDA prime steaks, supplemented by other killer entrees—Colorado rack of lamb, King Canyon buffalo rib eye and the signature Smash Burger. elways.com

There are some killer sides, too, from Lobster Mac & Cheese to Purvis' updated take on Bubble and Squeak, a mashed potato dish. "It's his way of honoring his home country," Rozanski explains. "It's so named because when you fry mashed potatoes, it bubbles and hisses along the edges because there's no other way for the heat to escape. The traditional recipe comes from leftovers, so we cook up small bits of onion, celery and carrot."

That superb dish was typical—from beginning to end, every moment of the meal was memorable. Don't be tethered to the lodging and miss out. Edge is an essential Denver dining experience.

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Contributor Gary James writes Colorado AvidGolfer's Fareways column. Read more of his work at coloradoavidgolfer.com.

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a razor-thin slice of focaccia replacing the croutons—and a white anchovy dipped in a tempura batter and deep fried (no “yuck” allowed—you need that little zing).

The inventive dinner options are beef-heavy—Edge is the uncommon restaurant serving a classic Kansas City strip (basically, a bone-in cut from the short loin). All of the custom dry-aged steaks are grilled over pecan wood, another rarity in Denver.

“We get our wood from Texas,” Rozanski said. “When the pecan nuts are harvested, we buy up the wood from the trees that are cut down and replanted. We’ve tried different types of wood, but this is the right stuff—milder than hickory, and it burns cooler than most other woods.”

You get the same subtle fruity flavor of the pecan wood by ordering the Dry Aged Pork, a savory chop brightened up by a magical accompaniment of sweet wild berries, served on a bed of fingerling potatoes (slightly smashed and flash fried in duck fat) and topped with a little crumble of pie crust. If you're into a piscatorial pleasure, the Miso-Glazed Black Cod, served with shitake mushrooms and baby bok choy, is a sweet variation on the Nobu-style recipe.



DINING

Aspen

THE WILD FIG

315 E Hyman Ave.
thewildfig.com; 970-925-5160

This intimate and charming brasserie transports you to the Latin Quarter with globe lamps, white Métro tiling, plush burgundy banquettes and bill of fare handwritten on mirrored walls. Drawing from French, Italian, Greek, Spanish and Moroccan cuisines, the menu drips with flavors. Starters include mussels in a curry coconut broth and spicy gazpacho with shrimp and avocado. Jalapeño butter peppers the flatiron steak frites, while a harissa rub seasons the roasted chicken. Like any Mediterranean restaurant worth its sea salt, Wild Fig's fish dishes reign supreme. Proof comes in the forms of Executive Chef Pompeyo Lopez's marvelous Fish in a Bag and special Spanish Seafood Stew.

AND...**The Wild Fig** is owned by the **CP Restaurant Group**, whose Aspen portfolio includes the elegant **Monarch Steakhouse** (411 South Monarch Street), where Siberian Osetra highlights the caviar selection, the bespoke manhattans come in titivating iterations and the 32-oz tomahawk rib eye is perfect to share with a choice of eight sauces (such as a Cream Sherry Mushroom Ragout) and eight "crowns" (including king crab legs and seared diver scallops). monarchaspen.com; 970-925-2838



Dining *Across Colorado*

Beaver Creek

SPLENDIDO

17 Chateau Lane
splendidorestaurant.com; 970-845-8808

Splendido epitomizes the Beaver Creek experience. Located in the opulent Chateau Beaver Creek, the restaurant, under new owner-chef Brian Ackerman, dedicates itself to impeccable service and exquisite preparations of classics like Colorado Lamb, Idaho Trout, Dover Sole and Peking Duck. Treat yourself to the Lamb Carpaccio or King Crab, or go all-in with the Royal Osetra Blini appetizer followed by the decadent Côte de Boeuf with morels and cheesy aligot potatoes. For a final flourish,

savor the orange soufflé with Grand Marnier. AND...**Beano's Cabin**, which for more than 30 years has provided après-ski dining, features summer hours Wednesdays through Saturdays until September 23. Hike or take a 10-minute shuttle van, one-hour horseback ride or a 20-minute tractor pulled wagon ride to the restaurant, where a \$107 prix-fixe five-course dinner rewards those who make a reservation. More than a novelty, Beano's delivers superb gourmet cuisine in the form of Dungeness Crabcakes, foie gras, coffee-spiced venison and other delicacies. beanoscabinbeavercreek.com; 970-754-3463



Telluride

ALLRED'S RESTAURANT

Mountain Village
 St. Sophia Gondola Station
allredsrestaurant.com;
 970-728-7474



Perched at 10,551 feet above sea level and accessible only by a free five-minute gondola ride from either Telluride or the Mountain Village, **Allred's** boasts one of the most amazing dining ambiances in Colorado. Full-length picture windows overlook a sea of aspen and the town of Telluride more than a thousand feet below. The elevated cuisine is every bit the equal of the views—and both change with the seasons. Starters can include crispy shishito peppers, scrumptious potato croutons with grana padano cheese, and diver scallops with pickled rhubarb; try entrees such as cider-brined pork chops with white cheddar grits, juniper bourbon marinated elk strip loin, waygu beef carpaccio and ricotta cavatelli. An extensive wine list and the charm of General Manager Mario Petillo complete the top-of-the world experience.

Durango

EOLUS RESTAURANT

919 Main Ave.
eolusdurango.com; 970-259-2898

Though its Homeric name suggests Greek cuisine, this eclectic eatery draws inspiration from Mount Eolus, a fourteener in the nearby San Juan Mountains. The menu features Asian influences, with Pork Steamed Buns and no fewer than five types of sushi roll,



as well as an unconventional Lobster Corn Dog and Lobster Burger (a dressed-up half-lobster tail atop grass-fed beef in a bun). The seafood stew is sublime, as are the grilled hanger steak, pork chop and salmon. A Wine Spectator Award of Excellence winner, **Eolus** also features an earthy, atmospheric dining room and rooftop patio.

AND... *Pssst*, want a sidecar with that shave? Just get the password from the website and head to **The Bookcase & Barber**—a former bookstore that's now an actual barbershop with a false bookcase that (upon utterance of the password) opens into a fittingly appointed Prohibition-style speakeasy with superb cocktails named for the famous writers who favored them. The Faulkner is a mint julep, the Fitzgerald, a gin rickey; the Hemingway comes in two parts: a Daiquiri and Death in the Afternoon. It's all served with sly smile and plenty of style. thebookcaseandthebarber.com



Haute



Vail

MATSUHISA

141 E Meadow Drive
matsuhisarestaurants.com/vail; 970 456 0021

Vail teems with can't-miss, high-end restaurants—from **Sweet Basil** to **Pepi's** to **Pendulum** to **Elway's** to **Cucina**. Don't overlook **Matsuhisa Vail**—one of Chef Nobu's three Colorado creations—in the five-star Solaris development. It sports a stone fireplace, outdoor fire pits, custom woodwork and large indigenous stone pillars and walls. Floor-to-ceiling windows reveal a panoramic view of Vail Mountain, and the front of the restaurant expands into a sprawling outdoor patio. The encyclopedic menu is just as expansive, covering multiple styles of Japanese cuisine, with spins on sushi, sashimi, tempura, udon and more. Abalone with Light Garlic Sauce, Yellowtail Sashimi with Jalapeño, Black Cod Miso and Whitefish Tiradito rate as the signature dishes, but for a real treat, spring for the \$175 Omakase—the chef's daily creation, custom-made for you.

High-Yield Wines

By Dave Buchanan

MAYBE YOU'RE SELF-SECURE enough to think it's no one's business how much you paid for the new Lexus or custom-made putter or even those golf shoes your wife swore were Manolo Blahniks. So you certainly don't worry about making a bidding war out of a wine list. We all know there are ways to impress friends without breaking the bank, which leaves more in your wallet for that new driver you've been eyeing. A few suggestions for wines whose value far exceeds their price. And don't worry: we're not telling anyone how smart you are. Let them figure it out.



REDS:

Barón de Magaña 2010 Navarra (\$24) Round, generous and delightfully textured, this Merlot/Cabernet Sauvignon blend (touched up with Tempranillo and Syrah) expresses a Bordeaux-like personality.

Tommasi Ripasso 2013 DOC Valpolicella Classico Superiore (\$25) Full-bodied and spicy, with deep plum-like fruit flavors, thanks to the Ripasso style of winemaking.

Beaulieu Vineyard 2014 Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon (\$45) Tons of structure along with blackberry, caramel and earthy mint end in a juicy, tannin-supported finish.

Animo 2013 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (\$85) Bright, full-bodied, with subtle oak, and touches of minerality and plums and blackberries.

Beaux Frères Ribbon Ridge 2014 Pinot Noir (\$90) Oregon does Frère right. This softly oaked offering has lovely spice and tastes of fresh Oregon plum, currants and violets.

Far Niente Oakville 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$150) Spice, dark berries and mushrooms start the journey with dark plum, licorice and sweet tannins to finish.

Cakebread Cellars Napa Valley 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$160) Ripe, dark fruits (think blackberry, boysenberry) melded with cassis and plum notes. A touch of Cabernet Franc makes this sexy and rich.

WHITES:

Wente Vineyards Eric's Small Lot 2014 Chardonnay (\$28) This bright, unoaked Chardonnay done in the Old World style has hints of lemon zest and Mandarin orange and finishes with green apple and pear.

Domaine Gueguen 2015 Chablis (\$18-\$30) Stylish and crisp, full of stone fruit and hints of lime, with a linear acidity that holds it all together.

Chateau d'Esclans Rock Angel 2016 Côtes de Provence Rosé (\$26) Somewhat new to the American market, lit by red currants, cranberries and an herbal character that adds enough grip to pair with many foods.





2017 McLAREN 720S

In less than a decade the fabled racecar builder—second only to Ferrari in F1 wins—has established itself as a credible maker of road-biased supercars as well. While still perhaps a bit less emotional than its mid-engine rivals from Maranello, the incredible pace of development McLaren maintains ensures that the new 720S combines almost all the track capability of the earlier 675LT and even the seven-figure P1 hypercar with the civility of the 570GT and 650S models. First up in McLaren's second generation of the "Super Series," it employs a fully active suspension to combine a compliant ride with epic road holding. The 720S also introduces a revised carbon passenger cell, which has bigger door apertures to aid entry and exit and thinner pillars to increase visibility. A revised, 4-liter version of the company flat plane-crankshaft V8 generates the power of 710 horses, propelling the newest Macca to sub-3-second 0-60 mph acceleration. *From \$285,800.*

Pleasure

As automobiles automate, these high-end vehicles hold sacred the time-honored joy of driving. By ISAAC BOUCHARD

YEARS AFTER THE ROBOTS take over, car enthusiasts will sit around, lamenting the last, glorious days of the human-piloted automobile. Amongst the ones they'll fondly recollect are these, ranging far in mission yet united by the level of passion and excellence they display in their design and execution.

2018 RANGE ROVER VELAR

Leveraging sister company Jaguar's F-Pace platform, Range Rover comes out with perhaps the most gorgeous SUV ever. All sweeping expanses of teardrop aluminum and glass, stretched over show car-sized footwear, it is simply stunning—inside and out—with a level of uncluttered luxury that in some ways eclipses the Sport model, which sits above it in the Range Rover hierarchy. The latest version of the firm's cloud computing-based infotainment interfaces, dubbed Touch Pro Duo, looks promising in its clean presentation and enhances the cockpit's sense of occasion. Power is supplied exclusively by supercharged V6 engines and while the Velar can still venture off road, its natural habitat looks to be chic urban areas, where its signature aesthetic will make most all other crossovers look passé overnight. *From \$50,000.*



2017 ASTON MARTIN DB11

The DB11 represents the first of a series of new machines from the venerable British firm. Built from a thoroughly updated version of the Aston's bonded aluminum component set, its electronic architecture comes from new minority owner Mercedes and helps insure the long-term viability of the company. Its lines mix classical and modernism in a complex sonnet of aerodynamic management, such as the AeroBlade "virtual" rear spoiler, and its sumptuously intimate cockpit is Aston's best effort to date. The DB is powered by a new, big-hearted 5.2-liter V12. Its 600hp is plumped up by turbocharged boost, meaning gobs of low-end torque to go with the sonorous soundtrack. An unapologetic Grand Touring machine (more singularly focused cars will follow) it hearkens back to an era of epic road trips across vast open spaces yet it feels completely at home in our modern age. *From \$214,820.*

2017 MERCEDES AMG GT R

AMG, the onetime race shop for Mercedes, has been brought totally in-house. Far from watering down this madhouse's offerings, the new patronage has helped unleash perhaps the finest driving Benz sports car ever, the GT R. Its 577hp, twin turbocharged "hot vee" eight is still hand assembled, and allows this outré coupe to out-gun—and even outrun—Porsche's epic GT3 machines. The GT R's visage pays homage to the legendary gullwing 300SLs of a century past, and while it is laden with tech—adjustable front aero, four-wheel steering, configurable damping and exhaust, and a dizzying array of combinations of stability and traction control intervention—the driver remains the focus. Top guns can left-foot brake to balance the car in corners—something many modern machines forbid—and even adjust ride height of the coilover suspension for track usage. One of the most visceral cars on the market, the AMG exists to allow drivers to perform at their best. *From \$157,000.*



Machines



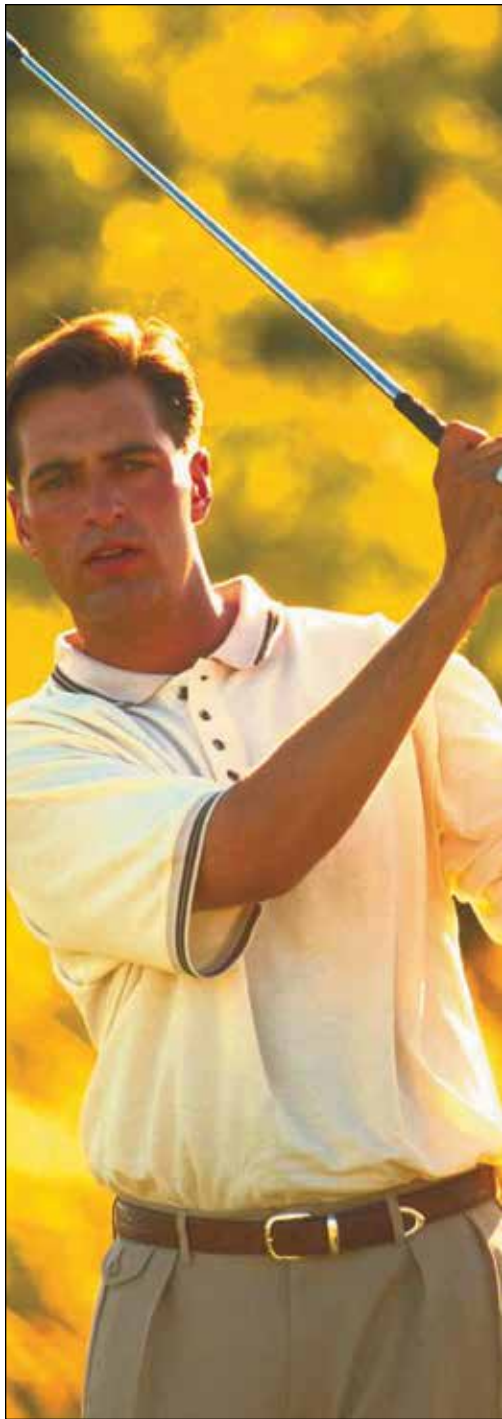
2019 LUCID AIR

Tesla showed people would pay six figures for a sexy and fast electric vehicle. In fact, the Model S is the top selling high-end sedan in the US. Lucid—staffed by many of Tesla's top talent—takes the EV to the next level with the Air, whose captivatingly simple yet bold exterior design makes most current vehicles look cluttered and heavy-handed. Its interior is a work of genius, leveraging the packaging efficiencies of its drive system and thin-screen interfaces to free up copious amounts of space for humans to luxuriate in. The technology onboard is sensational, from the F1-derived airflow patterns woven into its aluminum unibody, to in-house, power-dense electric motors and next-gen batteries that can unleash more than 1,000 horsepower for hypercar-rivalling AWD acceleration—an insane 0-60 mph in 2.5 seconds—yet can provide up to 400 miles of range. Stellar handling and luxurious ride quality result from the Air's ultra-low center of gravity, regenerative-valve air springs and computer-controlled torque vectoring. The latest autonomous sensors and updateable, connected onboard systems mean the Lucid stands a good chance to be as future-proof as any means of transport in our hyperdrive age can be. *From \$52,500 (subtracting federal tax credit available to buyers of battery electric vehicles).*

2018 BMW CONCEPT 8 SERIES

A harbinger of an all-new BMW flagship that will arrive next year, the Concept 8 yanks BMW out of the staid styling language that often mires the current lineup. A few simple lines and voluminous forms define the gorgeous bodywork, and the company promises the production machine will hew closely to this prequel. The Concept 8 strikes a pleasing balance, being more dramatic than the Mercedes S-class coupe yet more elegant than the new Lexus LC models. The BMW's interior is also a refreshing return to form, with an obviously driver-focused set of enveloping forms and cleanly presented tech. Power is likely to come from one of the twin turbo V8s in the Bavarian's stable, with a probable 600-plus horsepower in top versions. *Pricing not yet available.*





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2017 FORD GT

A half-century after beating Ferrari at its own game—24 punishing hours of endurance racing at LeMans—the Americans returned to France with a skunkworks-developed, carbon fiber-chassised racer and won again. The resulting road car is equally focused, with everything honed to a razor-edged ferocity that makes the GT one of the great performance cars of our time. While noise reverberates through the lightweight carbon fiber body and Spartan passenger cell, this Ford will certainly share garage space with more cossetting machinery that's better suited to daily usage. The GT exists as a passion project and technological showcase, from its 647hp version of the EcoBoost V6 and twin-clutch seven-speed race 'box through to its active aerodynamics and an electronically controlled suspension that lowers the car two inches at the flick of a switch, thereby increasing spring rate. All this and an ultra-sophisticated traction management enable it to lap with the fastest cars in the world. While the price may seem exorbitant for something wearing the Blue Oval, only 1,000 will be built over the next four years, meaning it will almost certainly appreciate in value. From \$450,000.

Automotive Editor Isaac Bouchard (303-475-1462) is the owner of Englewood-based Bespoke Autos. Read more of his writing at bespokeautos.com and coloradoavidgolfer.com/lifestyle.

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FEET ACCOMPLI

Ryder Gauteraux was crafting custom cowboy boots long before turning his skills to another type of footwear: golf shoes. He says it's not unusual for a former PRCA saddle bronc rider to hit the links. "We'd travel from town to town and as long as we were winning money, we'd go golfing," says Gauteraux, 42, who lives and works in Wallace, Idaho. Just as he makes cowboy boots one at a time from materials like American alligator, he does the same with golf shoes. And it's not an easy process to get a pair. He insists on meeting clients in person, measuring them and personally delivering the shoes, which typically sell for \$7,500 to \$8,500. "I'm not doing it for the money; I do it because I can build something special that you won't find anywhere else, and that's not possible without sitting down with a person," says Gauteraux, whose styles are an amalgam of a "1920s businessman-golfer-gangster with some cowboy and western influences." Gauteraux grew up in a log cabin in Oregon, without electricity, running water or a telephone. "I learned how to build things and I desired the nicest things because I didn't have them," he says. Visit **Gauteraux & Co.** at 525 Cedar St. in Wallace, Idaho, call him at 541-410-5317, or visit bloodsweatleather.com.

Wear to

Clothes and accessories for the well-heeled golfer. By SUZANNE S. BROWN



STYLE THAT GOES THE DISTANCE

Peter Millar clothing appeals to men who appreciate a refined sense of style, high-end fabrics and a pop of color and pattern. The company, which started in North Carolina in 2001, has been expanding around the country, including a store in Denver built by veteran luxury retailers Craig Andrisen and Dave Morton of Andrisen Morton. For the golf course, Peter Millar uses performance fabrics in tops, pants and outerwear worn by such PGA Tour pros as Brandt Snedeker. And for off-the-course wear, there are such choices as camel hair-wool blend sport coats that are perfect for dinners at the club. The Winter Excursionist Blazer, \$898, is quarter-lined, has notched lapels, real horn buttons and seven inside pockets. Peter Millar, 250 Columbine St., #120, Denver, 303-515-2222; petermillar.com

TORY STORY

Tory Burch has earned a loyal following among fashion-conscious women with her extensive sportswear and accessories collections that debut each season at New York Fashion Week and are sold at high-end retailers like Neiman Marcus as well as her own stores. Now she's swinging into collections for golf and tennis, as well as yoga and running. Her elegant updates on preppy classics for the golf course include a polo sweater in cashmere, \$248, merino wool short-sleeve sweater, \$188, quilted vest, pants, \$228, and such stylish accessories as a golf tee wristlet, \$98, and patent leather loafers, \$278. torysport.com





CHART A ROUND FROM YOUR WRIST

GPS golf watches have become a must-have accessory with golfers who want to track the details of their game, but **Garmin's** new Approach S60 has features that set it apart from the pack. The touchscreen-readable in sunlight—has the club's layout in full color, tracks distance from anywhere on the course, identifies hazards, and measures distance to the target adjusted for slope. The device, which has a 10-hour battery life before needing recharging, will also measure shot distance and has a club tracking option that can be used for analysis after the round. In addition, it has features that analyze swing tempo and strength. The S60 comes with interchangeable bands and is available in black or white for \$400, or with a black leather band and scratch-resistant ceramic bezel for \$500. And in case you are so preoccupied with charting all this info, it will also do something as mundane as tell you the time so you know if you're keeping pace. garmin.com

Play Now

LEATHER OR NOT

Sure, having the latest high performance clubs are a priority for your game, but the bag you put them in makes a statement as well. Missoula, Montana-based **Sun Mountain** has come out with a leather series with bags that look like something your granddad might have carried, but with features that today's golfers can appreciate. The stand bag has carbon-fiber legs as well as full-length club dividers and graphite shaft protection. Among its other benefits are a built-in handle at the top for ease in lifting and moving, a full-length pocket for clothing, a velour-lined valuables pocket and three accessory pockets. It comes in three color combos and retails for \$550. Other options in the line include a Sunday bag, cart bag, head covers and putter covers. sunmountain.com



LE CROCODILE ON COURSE

Originally founded as a tennis brand, **Lacoste** is making strides in golf these days. (Jean René Lacoste went against tradition in the 1920s by wearing and then designing short-sleeved knit shirts instead of long-sleeved wovens, and his nickname was "le crocodile," hence the familiar logo). Young PGA Tour pros like Daniel Berger and Fred Wedel are sponsored by the brand, which is known for its sleek, body-conscious fit along with high-performance fabrics. The company will provide uniforms for both the U.S. and international teams in this year's Presidents Cup tournament at Liberty National Golf Course in New Jersey on Sept. 26-Oct. 1, and there will be fan wear to go along with the official looks. Daniel Berger wears the technical jersey half-zip sweater, \$295, and gabardine pants, \$145; Fred Wedel wears the long sleeve light down jacket, \$250 and ultradry tech jersey polo, \$98. Available at Lacoste boutiques and lacoste.com





The Superstore's Superstar

Dick Sullivan, the CEO of golf's largest interactive retailer, talks shop.

COLORADO AVIDGOLFER *With so many people moving to the Denver area, can we expect to see another PGA TOUR Superstore in Colorado?*

DICK SULLIVAN Denver is certainly an attractive market with many avid golfers and tennis players, and while I can't say definitively if/when we will open another local destination, it's a market where we would love to grow our presence.

CAG *How has PGA TOUR Superstore succeeded primarily as a bricks-and-mortar business?*

DS It's all about providing an experience that is second to none. We offer non-traditional retail services like interactive hitting bays, expansive putting greens, clinics, advanced custom fittings and lessons from PGA professionals. That said, our online business is growing at triple the rate of our brick-and-mortar stores. We make it easy for customers to shop with us wherever they want.

CAG *You added a brand-agnostic fitting bay to more than half your stores. How is that going?*

DS The PGA TOUR Fitting Van Experience is a higher-end fitting with access to more than 600 combinations of shafts, heads and grips. We've found that customers who spend an hour with

us in this private setting and really want to test out a variety of options, love the experience, and recommend us to their friends.

CAG *You ascribe much of the store's success to the same "experiential" approach that worked for The Home Depot. What are your most memorable experiences in business and in golf?*

DS I've had the privilege of working for Arthur Blank (founder of The Home Depot and owner of PGA TOUR Superstore) for 25 years, and there is no better teacher or mentor. We've made a lot of memories together. My favorite golf memory came in the late '90s at the Paine Webber Invitational at TPC Piper Glen in Charlotte. It was Arnold Palmer's event and I was lucky enough to play 18 holes with "The King" in the pro-am.

CAG *How does the store contribute to the communities in which the stores are located?*

DS: We have a partnership with The First Tee where we work with local chapters in every community where we have stores. We don't just give financial resources; we host more than 3,000 kids every year in our free kids clinics designed to teach and show them how much fun golf can be.

CAG *Do you belong to a club?*

DS Cuscowilla, a Ben Crenshaw design nestled in the middle of Georgia's lake country, just 70 miles east of Atlanta on beautiful Lake Oconee.

CAG *What are the "emotional attributes" that appeal to you about golf?*

DS Golf touches the heart. It's a game that brings happiness and frustration and it inspires you to be your best, yet it's a constant challenge and you have to work at it but there's something satisfying about when you have a good round or make a memorable shot.

CAG *What initiatives have your stores instituted to reduce golf's numerous barriers to entry?*

DS First, it's important to note that there really aren't big barriers. Booking an inexpensive tee time has never been easier. You can rent golf clubs or get complete sets for a few hundred dollars. Our stores allow people to practice in high-tech hitting bays and on large putting greens. As for the time it takes to play a round, what's better than spending four to five hours in the sunshine with family and friends on a beautiful course? I think I just described heaven. 🌞



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