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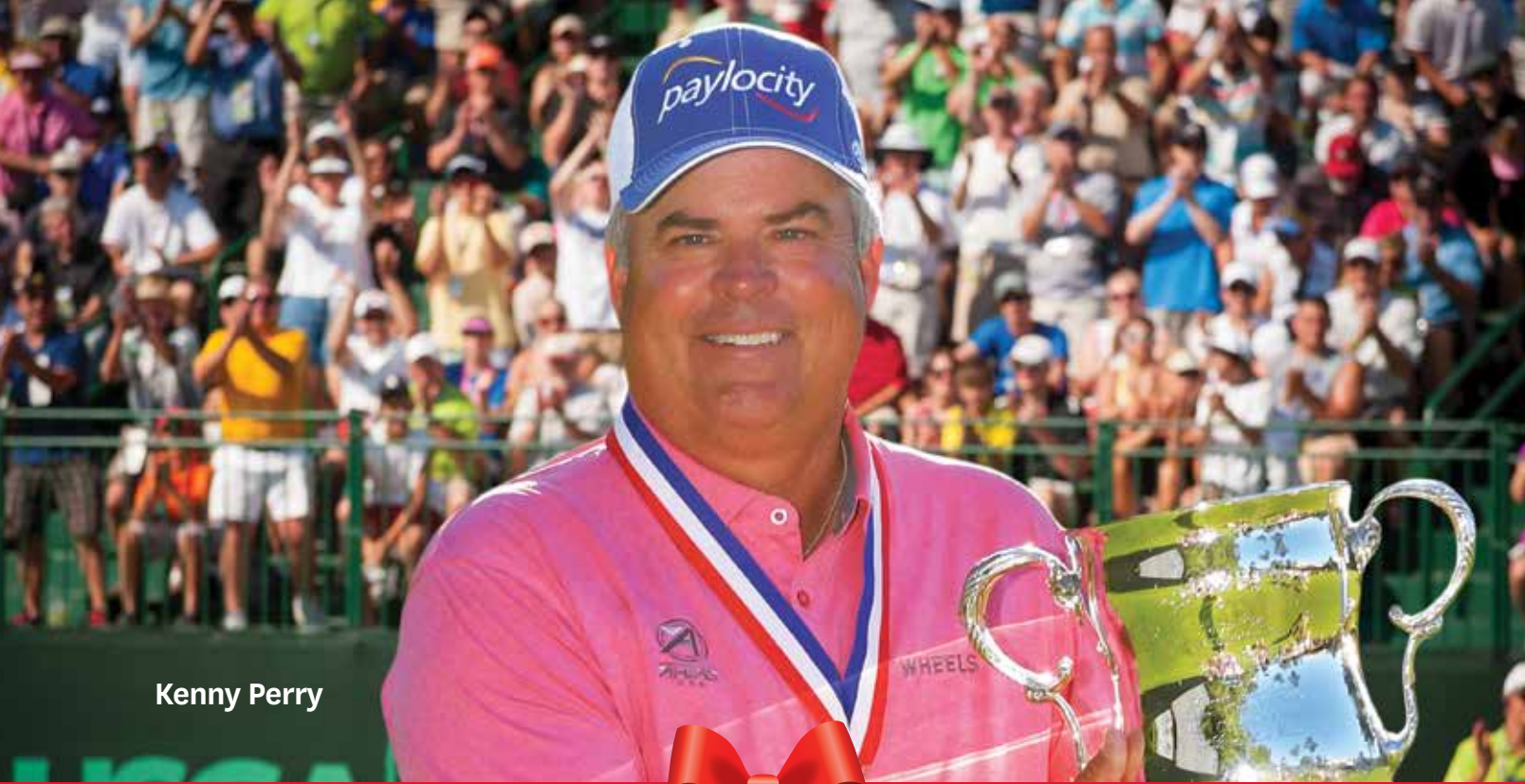
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CASA PLUMBERO PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT CAMPBELL

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No Time Like the Present



PHOTOGRAPH BY JO ANNE HARADA

GOLFERS AND other competitive athletes extol the virtues of being “in the moment.” Stay in the present. Don’t stew over the birdie putt you just missed or project the personal-best score you will shoot after you’ve parred the remaining holes. The old “one-shot-at-a-time” approach works best.

However, having majored in history in college, I instinctively look at the past, which is good for debates about Confederate statues and year-end Top Tens, but not so good when you publish a magazine that comes out eight times a year. I admit there isn’t a whole lot that’s newsy about reading recaps in December about events that took place in September and October. Yet we’d be remiss not to cover them, albeit briefly.

So how can such a publication be “in the moment”?

You’ll naturally (and quite literally) find plenty of “present” in this issue’s gift suggestions (page 32), and our guide to travel-proofing your game (page 58) brims with timeless tips and advice that you can use when visiting the troika of “diamonds in the desert” (page 51) that appears on our cover.

While citing its history, Andy Bigford’s paean to Pebble Beach (page 54) fetes its eternal American-ness as it continually shines its star in anticipation of the 2019 U. S. Open, which will take place on Pebble’s 100th anniversary.

Looking ahead may have its pitfalls. But the coming year portends plenty of golf-related excitement in Colorado.

First and foremost, in celebration of its centennial, The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs will welcome legends of the game to compete in the 2018 U.S. Senior Open June 25 - July 1. A gala, fireworks and other festivities are scheduled. Throughout the year, the legendary resort will celebrate its milestone with themed packages and pricing for rooms.

Also, for the first time in nearly a decade, Colorado will open a new course. TPC Colorado will debut in Berthoud next spring. Situated amid three reservoirs, the Art Schau-peter-designed course features sod-faced and pot bunkers, links-like terrain and waterfront holes with mountain views. It can stretch nearly 8,000 yards to challenge Web.com Tour players but multiple teeing areas shrink it to manageability for mere humans.

For the first time in more than a century, Colorado women won’t have a separate golf association from the men. How will the unified Colorado Golf Association function? And for the first time in a century, City Park Golf Course won’t be open for play. Will tee times be tougher to get on other Denver city courses?

On the private club side, sources report that at least two golf-centric Front Range clubs hope to make substantial capital improvements to attract more than just golfers with new family-friendly amenities. After the boards review and vote, we’ll let you know.

With the largest purses of any state open in the country, the CoBank Colorado Opens will continue to impress everyone with the quality of competition and the inspiring presences of PGA and LPGA stars at The First Tee clinics. Who will this year’s special guests be?

Speaking of special, we hope Westminster’s Jennifer Kupcho, a junior at Wake Forest University, overcomes last year’s disappointment and wins this year’s NCAA individual title. We’ll also be watching as Colorado Junior Golf Alliance Players of the Year Hailey Schalk and Davis Bryant continue their local domination and take their successes to the national level.

Company-wise, look for our website to undergo significant changes, and for our schedule of tournaments to be better than ever.

Last, on a personal note, for the first time in 12 years, I will be playing with something other than Dimension Z irons. Thanks to a masterful fitting with Mitch Anderson at Club Champion Golf, I am now hitting clubs appropriate to my swing statistics. I don’t anticipate momentous results, but I’ll certainly have my moments. —JON RIZZI



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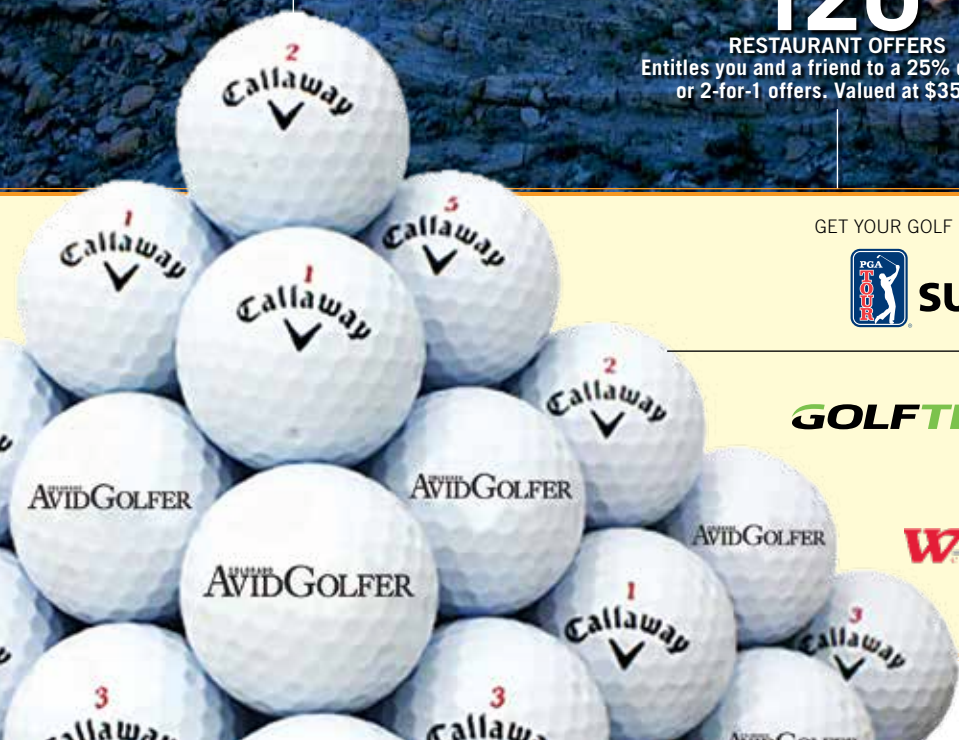
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Antler Creek, Falcon EXCLUSIVE	\$28	\$35	\$35	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12	Yes	3
Applewood, Golden	\$30	\$30	\$30	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 1	Yes	3
NEW Aurora Hills, Aurora EXCLUSIVE	\$36/\$43	\$36/\$43	\$36/\$43	M-F after 1, S-S after 1	Yes	1 P/S = 3
Breckenridge, Breckenridge*	\$75	\$99	\$75	SS: M-Sun any time, PS: S-Th after 12	Yes	3
The Bridges, Montrose*	\$35	\$49	\$35	Any day after 11	Yes	3
Broadlands, Broomfield	\$40	\$45	\$40	SS: any time, PS: M-Th after 12	Yes (SS)	3
Broken Tee, Englewood	\$34	\$34	\$34	M-Th after 12	No	3 P/S = 9
Buffalo Run, Commerce City	\$41	\$41	\$41	M-F any time, S-S after 2	Yes	3
Cedaredge, Cedaredge	\$35	\$40	\$35	Any day, any time	Yes	Unlimited
Cheyenne Mountain Resort, Colorado Springs EXCLUSIVE	\$75	\$98	\$75	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 1	Yes	3
Coal Creek, Louisville, EXCLUSIVE	\$40	\$50	\$40	M-F after 11	No	3
Colorado National, Erie	\$45	\$49	\$45	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 1	Yes	3
CommonGround, Aurora EXCLUSIVE	\$50	\$50	\$50	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12	Yes	3
Country Club at Woodmoor, Monument EXCLUSIVE	\$36	\$45	\$36	Any day after 11	Yes	2
Devil's Thumb, Delta	\$31/\$36	\$36/\$41	\$31/\$36	Any day after 10	Yes	2
Eagle Ranch, Eagle EXCLUSIVE	\$35	\$55	\$35	Any day after 11	Yes	2
Eagle Trace, Broomfield	\$30	\$30	\$30	M-Th after 11, F-S-S after 12	Yes	3
EagleVail, Avon*	\$59	\$59	\$59	SS: any time, PS: any day after 1	Yes	3
Family Sports, Centennial	\$19	\$21	\$19	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 11	Yes	Unlimited
Foothills, Denver	\$36/\$51	\$36/\$51	\$36/\$51	M-Th before 8 or after 1, F-S-S after 1	Yes	4
Four Mile Ranch, Cañon City	\$35	\$38	\$35	M-F any time, S-S after 1	Yes	3
Fox Acres, Red Feather Lakes	\$50	\$60	\$50	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 11	Yes	Unlimited
Fox Hollow, Lakewood	\$48	\$48	\$48	M-Th after 1, F-S-S after 2	Yes	Unlimited
Golf Granby Ranch, Granby	\$35	\$55	\$55	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 11	Yes	Unlimited
Grand Elk, Granby	\$32/\$39	\$45/\$54	\$39/\$45	M-Th after 11, F-S-S after 12	Yes	1
Grand Lake, Grand Lake	\$35	\$55	\$40	Any day after 12	Yes	3
Green Valley Ranch, Denver EXCLUSIVE	\$39/\$49	\$49/\$59	\$39/\$49	Any day after 12	Yes	1 P/S = 3
Haymaker, Steamboat Springs	\$67	\$87	\$67	Any day, any time	Yes	Unlimited
Heritage Eagle Bend, Aurora	\$34/\$40	\$50/\$56	\$34/\$40	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 11	Yes	3
Highlands Ranch, Highlands Ranch	\$49/\$60	\$59/\$70	\$49/\$60	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12	Yes	SS:2, PS:1 = 5
Homestead, Lakewood	\$38	\$38	\$38	M-Th after 1, F-S-S after 2	Yes	Unlimited
The Greg Mastriona at Hyland Hills Gold Course, Westminster EXCLUSIVE	\$45	\$45	\$45	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12	Yes	3
The Greg Mastriona at Hyland Hills Blue Course, Westminster EXCLUSIVE	\$24	\$24	\$24	Any day, any time	Yes	Unlimited

19 EXCLUSIVE OFFERS

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GOLF COURSE	1/1-5/31	6/1-8/31	9/1-12/31	AVAILABLE TEE TIMES	WEEKENDS	ROUNDS
The Greg Mastriona at Hyland Hills Par 3 Course, Westminster EXCLUSIVE	\$12	\$12	\$12	Any day, any time	Yes	Unlimited
Indian Tree, Arvada EXCLUSIVE	\$38	\$38	\$38	Any day after 12	Yes	3
Inverness, Englewood	\$60	\$80	\$60	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12	Yes	3
NEW Ironbridge, Glenwood Springs	\$69	\$79	\$79	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 11	Yes	4
Keystone Ranch, Keystone*	\$80	\$110	\$80	Any day after 11	Yes	Unlimited
King's Deer, Monument EXCLUSIVE	\$25	\$40	\$25	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12	Yes	2
Legacy Ridge, Westminster	\$45	\$45	\$45	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 1	Yes	Unlimited
The Links, Highlands Ranch	\$36/\$41	\$40/\$45	\$36/\$41	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12	Yes	1 P/S = 3
Littleton Golf & Tennis Club, Littleton	\$29/\$31	\$34/\$36	\$29/\$31	M-Th after 11, F-S-S after 1	Yes	3
Lone Tree Golf Club & Hotel, Lone Tree	\$58	\$68	\$55	M-Th after 11, F-S-S after 12	Yes	Unlimited
The Meadows, Littleton	\$40/\$54	\$40/\$54	\$40/\$54	M-Th before 8 or after 1, F-S-S after 1	Yes	4
Murphy Creek, Aurora EXCLUSIVE	\$38.50/\$46	\$38.50/\$46	\$38.50/\$46	M-F after 12, S-S after 1	Yes	1 P/S = 3
Omni Interlocken, Broomfield*	\$60	\$72	\$60	M-Th any time, F before 12, S-S after 12	Yes	3
Pelican Lake Golf Club, Windsor*	\$45	\$60	\$50	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12	Yes	3
Perry Park Country Club, Larkspur EXCLUSIVE	\$79	\$79	\$79	T-Th after 11:30	No	2
Pole Creek, Tabernash	\$58	\$58	\$58	M-Th after 11, Su after 11	Sunday	Unlimited
Quail Dunes, Fort Morgan	\$20	\$25	\$20	Any day, any time	Yes	4
Raccoon Creek, Littleton	\$39/\$45	\$39/\$45	\$39/\$45	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12	Yes	4
Raven at Three Peaks, Silverthorne*	\$55	\$99/\$50	\$55	SS: any day after 12 PS: M-Th after 12, F-S-S after 4	Yes	Unlimited
Redlands Mesa, Grand Junction	\$55	\$55	\$55	Any day after 11	Yes	3
The Ridge at Castle Pines, Castle Rock* EXCLUSIVE	\$54	\$65/\$79	\$54	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 1	Yes	1 P/S = 3
The River Course at Keystone, Keystone*	\$80	\$110	\$80	Any day after 11	Yes	Unlimited
Saddle Rock, Aurora EXCLUSIVE	\$40.50/\$48	\$40.50/\$48	\$40.50/\$48	M-F after 12, S-S after 1	Yes	1 P/S = 3
South Suburban Par 3, Centennial	\$9	\$9	\$9	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12	Yes	Unlimited
Sumo Golf Village, Florence	\$25	\$30	\$25	Any day after 12	Yes	2
Tiara Rado, Grand Junction	\$40	\$45	\$45	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 11	Yes	3
Todd Creek, Thornton EXCLUSIVE	\$40	\$45	\$40	M-Th after 10, F-S-S after 12	Yes	Unlimited
Vail Golf Club, Vail	\$59	\$99	\$69	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 1	Yes	2
Walking Stick, Pueblo	\$36	\$36	\$36	M-Th any time, F-S-S after 12:30	Yes	Unlimited
Walnut Creek Golf Preserve, Westminster	\$45	\$45	\$45	M-Th after 11, F-S-S after 1	Yes	Unlimited
Yampa Valley, Craig* EXCLUSIVE	\$30	\$30	\$30	M-Th after 11, F-S-S after 12	Yes	2

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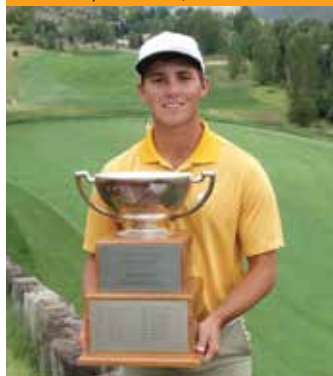
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Here's to the Winners

Paying tribute to the CGA's and CWGA's 2017 champions.

AS THE COLORADO Golf Association and Colorado Women's Golf Association move toward becoming one as the Colorado Golf Association, we will unify our efforts to delivering championship competition for amateur golfers across Colorado. The CGA recognizes and congratulates both organizations' 2017 major champions. We look forward to another exciting calendar of events in 2018.

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GLENN WORKMAN,
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University of Wyoming, Senior

Colorado Women's Golf Association
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Lone Tree Golf Club, Lone Tree



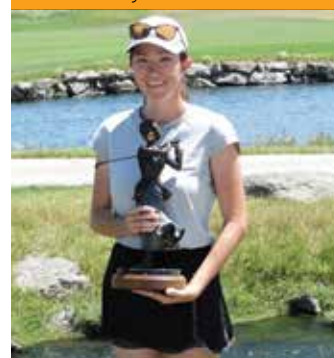
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EMILY GILBRETH,
Highlands Ranch Golf Club
University of Houston, '17 Graduate

Colorado Golf Association
46th CGA SENIOR AMATEUR
CHAMPIONSHIP
Meridian Golf Club, Englewood



STEVE IVAN,
Patty Jewett Golf Course, Colorado Springs

Colorado Women's Golf Association
35th CWGA SENIOR STROKE PLAY
CHAMPIONSHIP
*Mariana Butte Golf Course,
Loveland*



KIM EATON,
Mesa, Ariz.

Colorado Golf Association
31st CGA MID-AM CHAMPIONSHIP
Keystone Ranch Golf Course, Keystone



CHRIS THAYER,
Walnut Creek Golf Preserve,
Westminster

Colorado Women's Golf Association
CWGA CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP
The Ranch Country Club, Westminster



COLORADO GOLF CLUB
(Robin Thorsen, Gwyn Wheeler, Leigh
Ann Post, Ann Motokane), Parker



Fore the Win

For a full list of 2017 tournament winners and Players of the Year, visit coloradoavidgolfer.com or check coloradogolf.org or coloradowomensgolf.org.



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The CWGA

PLAY AWAY, LADIES

IN THE PINK: The Riverdale Women's Golf Association flies high during its annual event for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.



Sweet Charity

Giving comes naturally to Colorado's ladies' golf leagues.

GOLF RAISES MORE MONEY for charity than all other sports combined. According to the National Golf Foundation, "annually, the game generates \$3.9 billion for philanthropic causes which are unrelated to the golf industry."

The women of our state do their best to contribute to that number, showing that the ladies of Colorado play for a purpose. Leagues across the state run week-to-week tournaments as well as fundraisers that help support causes battling issues such as breast cancer, Alzheimer's Disease and domestic violence, among others.

Numerous philanthropic tournaments annually take place across the state. Here are three we would like to highlight.

Every year, the **Riverdale Women's Golf Association** hosts a golf tournament benefiting the Susan G. Komen Foundation. All members get to the course at dawn the day of the tournament and get right to work covering Riverdale Dunes in pink—from the cup linings to the flags on the flagstick to the balloons attached to the golf carts.

Family, friends and people from around the state filled every spot this year, creating a field of 144 golfers. There were even a few unlucky "wait-listers." The RWGA has been hosting this tournament for 19 years now, and this year alone they raised \$9,000 for the foundation.

The ladies of the association also banded together to create a handcrafted quilt to serve as the grand prize of a raffle, generating a winning bid of \$1,200. The winner donated the quilt to a children's hospital in the Brighton/Erie area.

Another popular charity tournament is the **Western Slope Triple Play Tournament**. This year was the fifth year for the tournament that benefits the Hilltop Latimer House, a Grand Junction-based safe-haven for those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault. Each year, the committee and the sponsors of the tournament raise approximately \$20,000. This year, they raised \$17,000, with \$4,000 coming from a silent auction and bringing the five-year grand total to \$97,000.

Ninety-nine golfers played a sequence of three courses—Bookcliff Country Club, Tiara Rado Golf Course and The Golf Club at Redlands Mesa—over three days. The Friday-Sunday event brought people from all over the state to support a great cause.

A very popular charity tournament for the ladies' leagues around Colorado Springs is the Play for Pink Golf Tournament hosted by the **Broadmoor WGA**. The tournament benefits the Penrose Cancer Center in Colorado Springs and is played at The Broadmoor, the site of the 2018 US Senior Open.

As you might guess, the tournament doesn't take long to sell out. This year, 132 players each paid an entry fee of \$190—\$100 of which went to the Cancer Center and the other \$90 covered costs and favors for the event. Proceeds from sponsored tee signs honoring friends and family affected by cancer went directly to the cancer fund, bringing the total generated by the tournament to \$19,000. This was the ninth year for the tournament, and each year the committee tries to beat the contribution it made the previous year.

It is safe to say that the charitable sum generated by Colorado's ladies' leagues annually reaches well into the six figures. The CWGA applauds these women and is excited to share their stories. ♡

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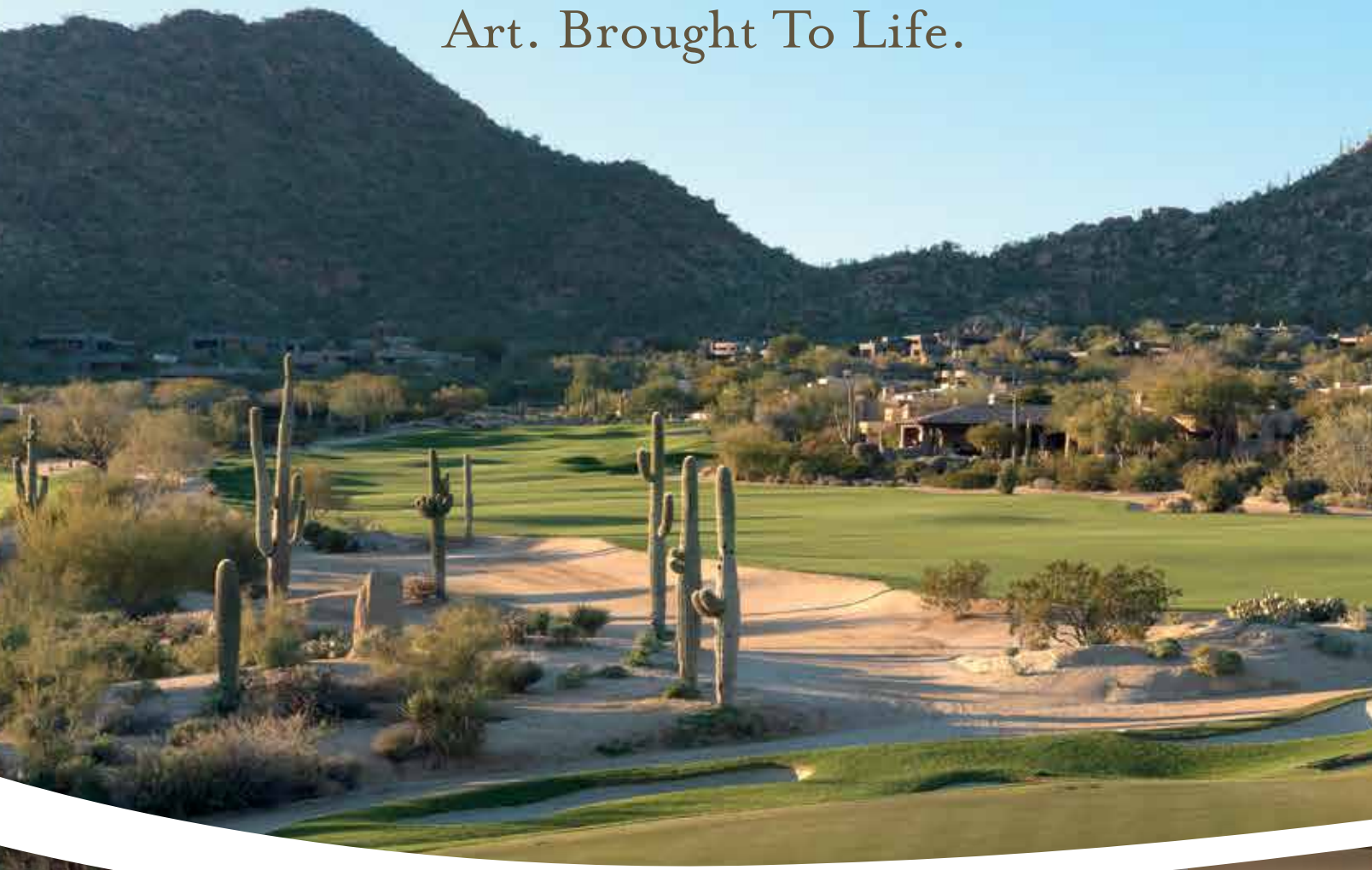
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PLAN OF ACTION: The new clubhouse aspires to attract golf and non-golf events.

City Park's Facelift

THE PETITIONS, public discussions and legal challenges regarding Denver's controversial reworking of **City Park Golf Course** have all but ended. The Tom Bendelow-designed course closed November 1. Now the redesign—prompted by the need for new stormwater detention areas to reduce neighborhood flooding—can begin.

With Hale Irwin serving as a consultant, Todd Schoeder of Broomfield's iCon Golf Studio laid out a new course, the design of which should put to rest any design objections to bulldozing the 105-year-old layout.

Using aerial photographs of the original course taken in 1933, Schoeder saw little resemblance between it and the 2017 version. "Over time, the routing was changed and bunkers removed to improve pace of play," he explains. So Schoeder came up with a new "sporty" layout with larger greens and tees, and eight holes that follow the same corridors as the original Bendelow design. "I also incorporated many of the same elements Bendelow did," he explains, "but with more variety and direction changes."

The length of the course will be 6,623 yards instead of the most recent 6,708, but, Schoeder says, "it will play longer; instead of a par 72 it will be a par 70, with three par 5s, five par 3s and 10 par 4s."

Schoeder's routing will feature returning nines, with the eastern part of the site consisting of the first seven holes and, unlike now, a 300-yard range that will allow practice with every club. The 11 remaining holes, as well as the four-hole First Tee facility, will cover the western part of the course, where holes 11-16 will also function as stormwater detention. A 1.08-acre reservoir will come into play on holes 13 and 15, with a snaking channel also factoring into holes 13-16 as it winds towards the 17th tee box—at the corner of York and 26th, where the clubhouse had existed since 2002.

"The integration of the storm water and wetlands channel that flows through will make for a much more interesting golf course than the one we had," Director of Golf for the City of Denver Scott Rethlake says. "It'll be a feature golfers will enjoy."

Rethlake also believes people will love the new clubhouse. Currently sited at the lowest point of the property, the clubhouse will relocate to the highest—in the center of the course. A new road leading from 23rd Avenue will deliver golfers to the sleek Johnson Nathan Strong-designed structure with spectacular views of downtown and spaces designed chiefly to host golf tournaments but also to attract non-golfers and accommodate small events and meetings. denvergolf.com



Are Park Hill's Days Numbered?

The drama surrounding another one of Denver's historic courses continues.

Park Hill Golf Club, which opened at 35th and Colorado in 1931, is owned by the Clayton Family Trust and managed by Clayton Early Learning, which have relied mainly on course revenue—currently generated through an operator agreement with Arcis Golf—to fulfill the mission of providing early education to thousands of low-income children in northeast Denver. But Clayton needs \$1 million annually to operate and Arcis pays \$700,000. So with the Arcis agreement expiring at the end of 2018, Clayton struck a \$20.5 million deal with the city on September 21. Or so everyone thought. On November 17, the city suspended its plan when it discovered that Arcis had options for two five-year lease extensions and a right of first refusal to purchase the land—a decision it had until July to make. The city, which intends to use at least 25 of the course's 155 acres for stormwater detention, has tabled the purchase for the foreseeable future and may consider other measures of acquiring the land. thefutureofparkhillgolfcourse.com



PHOTOGRAPH BY EJ CARR

JUNIOR ACHIEVERS: Davis Bryant and Hailey Schalk, both of whom won their 2017 state high-school championships and every Junior Golf Alliance of Colorado major in which they competed, triumphed in the season-ending Tour Championship at Cherry Hills Country Club, leaving no doubt as to who would be the JGAC Players of the Year. juniorgolfcolorado.org



Reggie Makes the Cut

THIS FALL, Perry Park Country Club in Larkspur enlisted the services of a nimble, 640-pound greens specialist named Reggie. The Cleveland native had so impressed Perry Park Course Superintendent **Justin Daigle** during their initial encounter at the 2015 Golf Industry Show in San Antonio that Daigle finally convinced the club to bring the Reggie aboard—a decision Daigle, his staff and members of the club have not regretted.

“Reggie” is actually the nickname Daigle’s crew gave to the Cub Cadet RG3 robotic mowing machine. Backed by more than \$30 million in research and development, the \$45,000 product features 14 blades, three rollers and enough artificial intelligence to master the nuances of each green and continually compensate to improve mowing patterns. Independent odometers on each side account for sloped surfaces and a front-mounted radar detects objects in its path, slowing or stopping it as the situation dictates.

The RG3 arrived at Perry Park late this summer. After setup and programming, purer rolls on the greens soon followed. In addition to not needing to be rolled after they’ve been mowed, the greens no longer require double-cutting, because the RG3’s blade-spin produces 30 percent more clipping yield than traditional walk mowers at the same height. Perry Park soon committed to robotic mowing of all putting surfaces, becoming the only course in Colorado—and one of only three in the country—to do so. While Daigle initially was concerned about employee reaction, he reports his “staff has been incredibly receptive to the technology, as it helps them provide a better product with less effort.”

To Daigle’s point, the 26 minutes the staff previously spent walk-mowing each green can now be used to tackle hand-raking bunkers, string-trimming heads, cleaning up debris, repairing ball marks, filling divots and executing other maintenance tasks previously performed as golfers arrived to play. “We’re getting things done in a third of the time,” Daigle says. “And you can’t put a price on a quiet golf experience.”

What he can put a price on is the money saved over the course of Reggie’s five-year lease. Daigle calculated a two-person reduction in hard-to-retain seasonal laborers zeroes out the cost. Plus, the four sealed lead-acid batteries that power the electric RG3 save an estimated \$2,500 annually in gas and oil—with the added benefit of keeping the air around the course cleaner and the greens free of leak damage.

With improvements to its course and coffers, Perry Park has also embarked on an expansion of its clubhouse—the construction of which will presumably not involve robots. perryparkcc.com

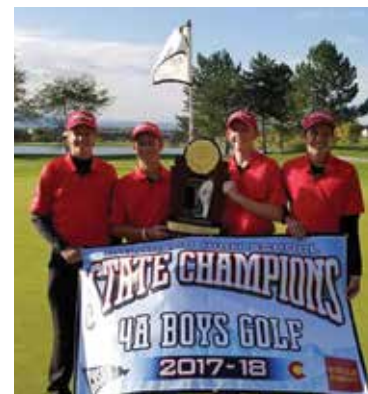


PUTTING FOR DOUGH: Competing against a field that featured PGA TOUR golfers John Cook, Tommy Armour III and Brad Faxon, Longmont’s **Cole Nygren** (center) won the All Pro Championship Hosted by **Brad Faxon** (far right) at the inaugural Major Series of Putting (MSOP) in Las Vegas. Held at the temporary MSOP Stadium adjacent to the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino, the two-day (Oct. 30-31) match-play event ended with Nygren, who turned pro this spring after graduating from Cal Poly, defeating 2007 U.S. Amateur winner Colt Knost, 3 & 2, and taking home \$15,000. msop.com



Topped Out

When Thornton’s **Thorncreek Golf Club** reopens next spring, it won’t have **Topgolf** as a neighbor. After residents near the proposed site on the southeast corner of I-25 and 136th Avenue filed two suits to block the 65,000-square-foot facility, the Dallas-based company has abandoned its plan to open its second Colorado location there. Topgolf is now shopping for another Thornton location or one in nearby Broomfield or Westminster to build an identical facility to the wildly popular 102-bay driving range and restaurant at the corner of South Havana Street and East Easter Avenue in Centennial. topgolf.com



High-School Crucible

The sport is golf, not tennis. But this year’s CHSAA High School Championships could also have been called the Davis Cups. On October 3 **Davis Long** of Peak to Peak (Lafayette) and **Davis Bryant** of Eaglecrest (Aurora) respectively won the 3A and 5A State individual championships at Indian Peaks and CommonGround golf courses. Another player whose name begins with “D”—Darren Edwards of Thompson Valley (Loveland)—captured the 4A at Raccoon Creek. In the team competition, Peak to Peak used home-course advantage to win the 3A in a playoff with Kent Denver; the Montrose Indians—comprised of three sophomores (**Micah Stangebye**, **Dawson Hussong**, **Ryan Lords**) and freshman **Jordan Jennings**—took the 4A. In the 5A, Regis Jesuit captured its third consecutive title—and seventh in the last eight years. chssanow.com

Fording Augusta

ON SEPTEMBER 16, Kaden Ford of Colorado Springs became the fourth Coloradan ever to qualify for the Drive, Chip & Putt Nationals at Augusta National Golf Club, which takes place the Sunday before the 2018 Masters. The Discovery Canyon High School freshman won the regional qualifier at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, posting 139 points (67 in driving, 17 in chipping and 55 in putting) en route to a three-point victory over Carsen Sillman of Jackson, Mo. and 17 over Joshua Gallegos of Belen, N.M.

Ford lists his home course as The Club at Flying Horse, where he advanced by finishing second in the DC&P Local Qualifier August 2. He achieved the same result at Aurora's CommonGround Golf Course in the Sub-regional, qualifying for the Regionals, where only the winner advances.

Ford joins 2016 DC&P finalists Arielle Keating, Caitlyn Chin and Luke Trujillo. That same year, Trujillo, currently a senior and a teammate of Ford's at Discovery Canyon, also captured the state high school 4A championship. The Golf Channel will televise the DC&P Nationals from Augusta on April 1. drivechipandputt.com



SEE YOU IN APRIL: Kaden Ford (left) edged alternates Carsen Sillman and Joshua Gallegos to win the DC&P regional.

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Danny Harvanek



Jim Bunch

They're Hall That

THE COLORADO GOLF HALL OF FAME will induct two new members at its May 20 gala at Sanctuary Golf Course in Sedalia: Evans Scholars Foundation Chairman **Jim Bunch** and PGA Master Professional **Danny Harvanek**.

Bunch has held prominent volunteer positions in both the Western Golf Association and the USGA. His involvement in the former organization, which oversees the Evans Scholars Caddie Scholarship program, stems from his youthful experiences caddying for WGA leaders at Glen View Club northwest of Chicago.

Moving to Denver in 1970, Bunch in 1992 became a WGA director from Colorado, which had an Evans Scholars House at the University of Colorado. In 2012, Bunch ascended to the top volunteer position of WGA chairman. His two-year term resulted in the addition of a 15th Evans Scholars House (at the University of Oregon) and the BMW Championship—the signature fundraising benefit for the Evans Scholars Foundation—twice being named the PGA Tour's Tournament of the Year.

In 2014, with Bunch chairing the board of trustees for the Evans Scholars Foundation, the BMW took place at Colorado's Cherry Hills Country Club, for which it again received the Tournament of the Year honors. He remains chairman of the ESF.

Bunch served on the 15-member USGA Executive Committee from 2003 to 2010. He chaired the organization's Rules of Golf, Grants and Finance Committees, as well as the committee to select the prestigious Bob Jones Award before resigning from the USGA to devote more time to the ESF.

Harvanek joined the staff at Cherry Hills in 1979. Five years later, the new Bear Creek Golf Club tabbed him as its first PGA head professional. He became president of the Colorado PGA Section in 1988, and in 1990, '91 and '92 the organization named him its Golf Professional of the Year.

As the first director of instruction at The Golf Club at Bear Dance, he earned the Colorado PGA's Teacher of the Year award and its Junior Golf Leader of the year honor after establishing the First Golf & Literacy Elementary School Program in the Denver Metro region.

In 2007, this devotion to and success with juniors earned him the prestigious national PGA Junior Golf Leader Award. His work helped pave the way for the Colorado PGA Golf in Schools Program, which began in 2011 and has reached in excess of 70,000 students.

As 2016 Colorado Golf Hall of Fame inductee Ann Finke, who was also recognized by the PGA of America as a national Junior Golf Leader in 2010, put it, "Danny's ideas and vision led to the eventual restructuring of all junior golf in Colorado."

At the May banquet, the Hall of Fame will also honor the **Colorado Women's Golf Association** (Distinguished Service), **Mark Pfingston** (Golf Person of the Year) and **Rich Billings** (Lifetime Achievement). Junior Golf Alliance Players of the Year **Hailey Schalk** and **Davis Bryant** will receive the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame's inaugural Future Famers Award, given to the outstanding boy and girl golfer under the age of 20. coloradogolfhalloffame.org

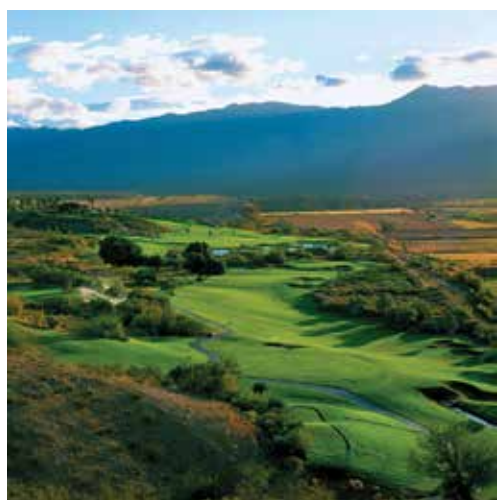
Golf by Numbers



TOP-10 FINISHES,

including a win at September's Ocean Course Invitational at Kiawah Island, marked the fall season of Coloradan **Jennifer Kupcho's** junior year at Wake Forest University. The season resumes with February's Northrop Grumman Regional Challenge in California. Kupcho ranks third in the World Amateur Golf Rankings.

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Geoff Keffer



Rick Cole



Bryan Hackenberg



Scott Erwin

A Pro Foursome

OUR LAST ISSUE announced the 2017 Colorado PGA Section Awards—except for the four bestowed at the annual awards gala, which took place at Colorado Golf Club October 27, after the magazine went to press.

To no one's surprise, **Geoff Keffer** of the Greater Golfer Development Center at Park Hill Golf Course won the OMEGA Dow Finsterwald Player of the Year for the fifth time in the last six years. Finishing near or at the top of nearly every event in which he played, Keffer's point total of 7,559.57 eclipsed his closest competitor's tally by more than 2,000. Winning the OMEGA Senior Player of the Year was 64-year-old **Rick Cole** of Eaton Country Club, who finished second in the Sectional Championship and had four first-place finishes overall. Former University of Kansas player **Bryan Hackenberg** edged University of Colorado Assistant Coach Patrick Grady for Apprentice Player of the Year.

The Section's Vic Kline Award, which recognizes a Colorado PGA Board Member's outstanding service and leadership to the Section, went to **Scott Erwin**, the Owner Representative/PGA Director of Golf at Maroon Creek Club in Aspen. A former player on the PGA Tour in Europe, South Africa, Asia and Canada, Erwin has worked as an instructor, club manager and operations director at clubs across the country. He oversaw Maroon Creek's major course renovation in 2013 and served on the Colorado PGA Board from 2015 through 2017, assisting fellow PGA Members to advance their careers and improve their compensation. coloradopga.com



100 Years in 12 Months

To celebrate its centennial, in 2018 **The Broadmoor** in Colorado Springs will host the **U.S. Senior Open** June 25 - July 1, highlighted by a black-tie gala and fireworks on June 29, the date the grand hotel will officially turn 100. But an occasion this momentous is too big to limit to one weekend. From January ("The Early Years") and February ("A Month of Romance") through September ("The Season of Adventure") and into December ("The Next Chapter"), each month of 2018 will commemorate a specific era in Broadmoor history with special events, activities, and packages. And to kick off this special year, the resort is offering what could be its best deal of 2018: a special Colorado Appreciation rate January 12-16, starting at \$149 per night for a classic guest room. broadmoor.com

Golf by Numbers



2

Colorado PGA Golf Professionals, **Joe Assell** of GOLFTEC (center) and **Kyle Heyen** of Hiwan Golf Club

(second from right), joined colleagues **Scott Ashworth** (Four Seasons Resort Lanai, Hawaii), **Tim Fries** (Transit Valley Country Club, Amherst, N.Y.) and **Matthew Long** (Sandia Golf Club, Albuquerque) to run in November's TCS New York City Marathon. As Team PGA REACH, they raised approximately \$30,000 in support of PGA REACH, which provides dynamic programming in support of youth, military and diversity/inclusion. Assell finished in 3:39:38, Heyen in 4:29:15. PGA REACH is an Official Charity Partner of the marathon. coloradopga.com



9

shots under par—a personal-best 207 for three rounds—secured Colorado

State University's **Katrina Prendergast** her first collegiate win at October's University of California, Irvine Invitational. The junior from Sparks, Nev. shot a 70-66-71 on the par-72 Santa Ana Country Club course. csurams.com



The Son Rises over Wine Country

Following his legendary father's lead, Colorado's David Duncan uncorks Silver Oak's potential.

By Jon Rizzi

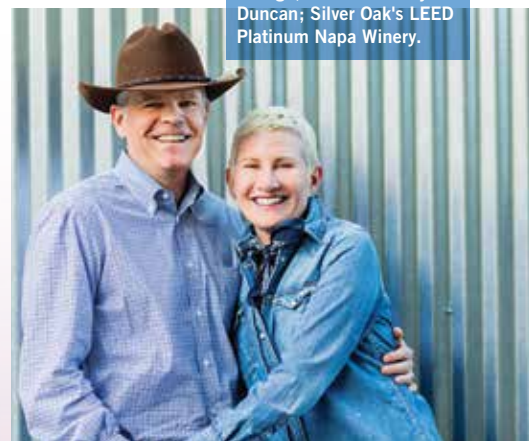
THE OCTOBER FIRES that whipped through Northern California's wine country consumed 200,000 acres, killing at least 41 people, displacing 100,000 more and leaving as many as two-dozen wineries and vineyards damaged or destroyed. Apart from some personal losses endured by employees, Silver Oak Cellars and its sister, Twomey Cellars, sustained "little direct impact from the fire," according to Silver Oak CEO and President David R. Duncan.

The news came as a great relief to the multitudes of Silver Oak aficionados across Colorado and the U.S. who have made the brand's iconic Napa and Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignons among the best-selling and well-respected wines in the world. On February 3, hundreds of devotees will flock to its Oakville Winery to attend the Release Day of the 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon—a \$50-per-person pilgrimage highlighted by limit-

less wine and plates of delicious food prepared by Winery Chef Dominic Orsini.

The Oakville Winery receives throngs of visitors daily, many of their cars sporting "Life is a Cabernet" license-plate holders. They come not just to taste vintages or buy the bottles (Napa runs \$125, Alexander Valley \$75), but also to celebrate and reflect on their own personal Silver Oak connections, what Duncan calls "bottle stories."

"It's amazing and deeply gratifying to hear people talk about the impact our wines have on their lives," says the CEO. "It's really about the people and the experiences: the couple that drinks it on every anniversary or always serves it on Thanksgiving; the people who made it a part of a memorable meal; even the tattooed Millennials who say they love Silver Oak because it's been on their parents' tables for as long as they can remember." Relishing this, Duncan freely gives out



WINING AND WINNING: The latest Alexander Valley vintage; David and Kary Duncan; Silver Oak's LEED Platinum Napa Winery.

his email address and invites posts on Twitter and Facebook, many of which appear at silveroak.com.

Silver Oak, which David's father, Ray Duncan, co-founded in 1972 with vintner Justin Meyer, may have helped put California on the international wine map, but its origin story is 100-percent Colorado.

That story begins in 1958, when Ray Duncan, a Notre Dame grad and Korean War veteran,





BOTTLE STORIES:
Silver Oak emphasizes the personal relationship people have with their wines.

moved from Indiana to Durango to join his father in wildcatting oil and gas. He founded Duncan Oil, and in 1965—the same year David, the youngest of his four sons, was born—also founded Purgatory Ski Resort. In 1968, the family moved to Denver, where Duncan Oil still headquarters.

Visiting college friends Jack and Mary Novak of Spottswoode Winery in the Napa Valley in 1970, the entrepreneurial Duncan saw an opportunity in the budding California wine business and started buying land to grow and sell grapes. He met Meyer, a Christian Brothers winemaker, who convinced him also to open a winery devoted exclusively to producing a rich, complex Cabernet Sauvignon achieved through an extensive aging program of approximately 25 months in Ameri-

“My father once told me something Justin Meyer said in the ‘80s. ‘Raymond,’ he said, ‘the way I look at it, the barrel you’re producing is worth \$30; the one I’m producing is worth \$30,000. I’ll never forget that.’”

can oak barrels and 15-20 months of cellaring in bottle. Silver Oak’s first vintage, the 1972 North Coast Cabernet Sauvignon, produced with grapes from its Alexander Valley vineyard, didn’t go on sale until 1977. (That pattern continues to this day: Silver Oak released its 2013 Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon in August 2017; the 2013 Napa Valley releases in February.)

From the get-go, connoisseurs raved about Silver Oak, which by the early 1980s featured two wines per vintage—one each from grapes harvested in their respective valleys and made into wine at separate wineries.

By the late early ‘80s, the cult of Silver Oak had begun. It found fertile ground in Colorado, thanks to Ray Duncan’s high profile in the state’s business and philanthropic communities. His involvement extended to golf as well, when in 1981 he became one of the 12 founders of Castle Pines Golf Club, started by fellow oilman Jack Vickers.

David attended Cherry Hills Elementary School, where he vividly remembers teacher Ruth Ann Steele’s “Clean Air, Land and Water” ecology lessons. While at Kent Denver and during breaks from his studies at Notre Dame, he played “at least 150 rounds” at Castle Pines. “Then I went to work for the oil company,” he says. “Eventually someone—I think it was Mr. Vickers—strongly

suggested I become a member or stop coming. So I joined. I’m still a member, to honor my father’s legacy, though I honestly haven’t played a lot of golf.” The 23 handicap still keeps his card at Castle Pines, where he last recorded a round in 2002.

In addition to stroking putts, the teenaged Duncan spent summers riding horses, roping cattle and baling hay at Diamond Tail Ranch, the family ranch just south of the Wyoming border. There he developed the work ethic and environmental and agricultural appreciation that would carry over during trips with his father to Napa and Sonoma.

After working as Duncan Oil’s exploration manager, David became its president while pursuing his MBA at the University of Denver. His final project? A financial model for Silver Oak Cellars.

Why not for Duncan Oil? “My father once told me something Justin Meyer said in the ‘80s,” David remembers. “‘Raymond,’ Justin said, ‘the way I look at it, the barrel you’re producing is worth \$30; the one I’m producing is worth \$30,000.’ I’ll never forget that.”

When Meyer retired in 2002, Ray asked David to move to California and run the business. David’s brother Tim would serve as vice president. Three years earlier, the Duncans had started Twomey Cellars, which today produces distinctive Merlots in its Calistoga winery and Pinot Noirs and Sauvignon Blancs in Healdsburg.

Ray Duncan died in 2015. “My dad was an amazing guy,” David says. “I worked side-by-side with him for 25 years. In no way did he quit and I take over. But I had to make it my own. You incrementally do what you do and make it better.”

David got his first trial by fire 11 years before October’s conflagrations. In February of 2006, he arrived at Silver Oak’s original winery in Oakville to find it engulfed in flames. The management team retreated to Ray Duncan’s home on the property. “What are we going to do?” CFO Rickie Piña said.

“I said, ‘We’re going to rebuild the winery!’” David recalls. “You could just feel the tension leave the room. It was a seminal moment.”

Not only did they rebuild the winery, they did

it David’s way. Combining the lessons he learned in Colorado with innovative leadership, he seized the opportunity to rethink the business. He employed forward-thinking proprietary technologies and analytics from Silicon Valley companies and installed 1,500 solar panels to power the site. He achieved sustainability by building with thousands of reclaimed white oak 4-by-4s and another 550 tons of chipped-face limestone from a dismantled Kansas flourmill. The winery was the first commercial winery in the world to be Platinum LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified by the United States Green Building Council. Visiting is itself a “bottle story.”

The same distinction should apply to Silver Oak’s new Alexander Valley Winery, which is scheduled to open early in 2018. Located on the lush 113-acre former estate of the Sausal Vineyards and Winery in Sonoma County, the state-of-the-art structure is employing the same sustainable principles the Oakville winery, incorporating alternative energy sources, water-reuse solutions, reclaimed building materials, LED lights and the kinds of ecologically progressive elements that would have made Mrs. Steele proud.

David and his wife Kary, a dermatologist, have three children. He sits on the boards of numerous California industry, charity and civic organizations—many of which have raised millions in wildfire relief aid—and even sings in a band of winemakers known as the Silverado Pickups. “I’m a Wine Country cowboy,” he croons. “My soul is in the soil, and my blood runs through these vines.”

But it’s the way David Duncan has run the company for the last 15 years that hits the highest note. On his watch, Silver Oak and Twomey have acquired no fewer than 16 vineyards and in 2015 became the first North American winery to own and operate an American oak-barrel cooperage, giving the winery total control over the quality and supply of the barrels that give Silver Oak Cabernet Sauvignon its distinct aroma, flavor and texture.

“We’re not in pursuit of more,” Duncan says, “we’re in pursuit of better, and there’s no question in my mind—and the market supports it—that we’re making the best wines we’ve ever made.”

For that he credits a loyal and devoted staff, especially Nathan Weis, who in 2016 succeeded the retiring Daniel Baron as director of winemaking. Weis, Baron and Justin Meyer are the only winemakers in Silver Oak’s 45-year history. “Consistency has built the brand,” Duncan says. “People identify with the style. They trust it. That’s my favorite word about Silver Oak: *Trust*.”

Jon Rizzi is the editor of *CAG*.



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Your Plan for '18

Not all golf improvement comes from better technique. Instead, develop a better strategy for each hole. By Trent Wearer

THANKS TO RANGEFINDERS and on-course GPS, we know the exact distances to every hole. But on your approach shots, the hole is not necessarily the correct target or area to which to hit your shot. For each hole you literally need to map out a strategy.

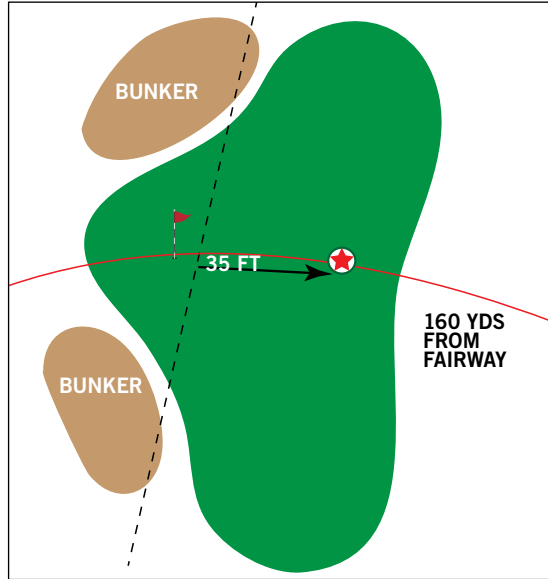
BE REALISTIC: The first aspect to a better strategy is arriving at a realistic outcome with regard to proximity to the hole. Ultimately you need to find out how close you hit your shots to a specific target. But consider: From the fairway, 150-175 yards out, the average PGA Tour player hits it 28 feet from the target; from the rough at the same distance, 43 feet. Also, from that distance, they only hit the green 63 percent of the time. You're not as good as those guys, so you need to choose targets that allow even more room for misses.

MAP YOUR APPROACHES: With the winters being less busy, head out to your home course and diagram each approach shot.

- If the course doesn't already have a drawing of each green, get out your paper and pencils and draw the shape of each green including any hazards or trouble spots around it.
- Know the typical club that you hit into each green (Let's say it's an 8-iron on Hole 1) as well as the distance that you hit it—and don't lie to yourself! (For the purposes of this piece, let's say your 8-iron goes 160 yards).
- Determine how close you hit the ball with that club to a target. Let's estimate that you hit it 35 feet from a target. (Find this out by going to the course early or late, hitting a few approaches and stepping them off. You can also have a session with a teacher with a launch monitor.)

KNOW AND GO LOW: Armed with a plan will allow you to score better—even if you're having an off day. Just make sure to move your target even farther away from the trouble. You may not shoot your best score but you'll salvage a decent score—and lose fewer golf balls. 

Rated the #1 Teacher in Colorado by his peers and *Golf Digest* since 2013, Trent Wearer is a three-time Colorado PGA Teacher of the Year and the recipient of the Colorado PGA's Player Development Award. With the unparalleled accomplishments of his students, he has been elected as a Top 25 Elite Master Junior Coach in the U.S. by Future Champions Golf (FGC) Tour. He is a Golf Channel Academy Lead Coach and the author of the popular practice book, *Golf Scrimmages*. He and his award-winning staff coach people of all ages and abilities at Meridian Golf Club. TrentWearerGolf.com; 303-645-8000



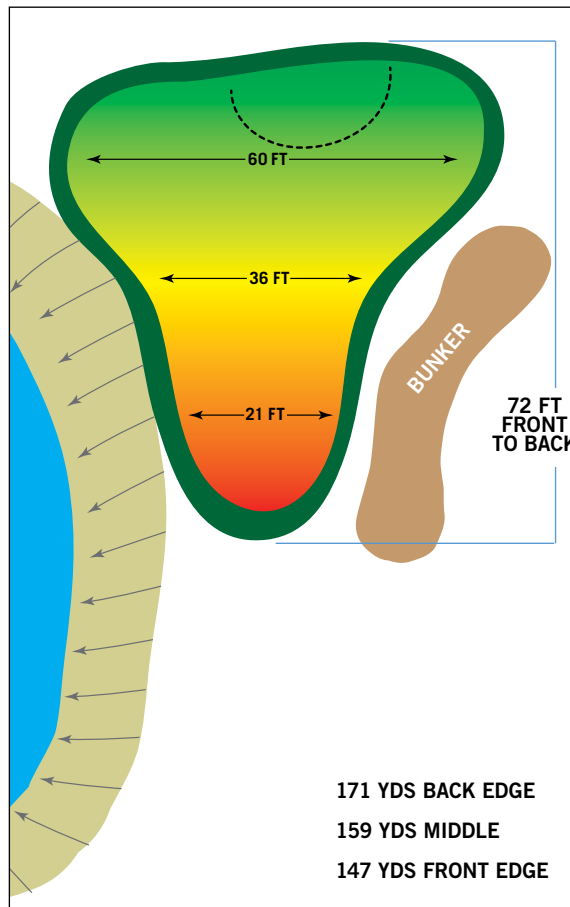
APPROACH 1:

Trouble Behind

From the closest edge of the trouble (black dashed line) step off 35 feet to the safe side to establish your target (see red star). That star/target gives you 35 feet to miss it left and not go in the trouble/bunkers and 35 feet to the right so at least you now have an easy chip than being short-sided in the bunker.

If the pin is located where the star is, take dead aim! But even if the pin isn't where the star is, the star should serve as your target. Here's why:

If the pin is in back, avoid bringing the back bunker more into play and risking a short-sided up-and-down. If the pin is in front, shoot for the star. You'd rather have a 20- to 40-foot putt from the star to a front pin than find yourself short of the green to the right.



APPROACH 2:

Trouble All Around

From the fairway, the grass between the left fringe and the water makes this shot seem benign. But its slope won't hold a ball, so the water basically starts at the left fringe.

Without considering hole locations, first think about the widths of the green. This one has three areas: the front at 21 feet wide, middle at 36 and back at 60. Knowing this alone should prompt you to hit to the back or middle-back part of the green.

This green is 72 feet (24 yards) deep, so if it's a front pin of 150 you're going to need to add at least 10-12 yards to put you in the yellow area.

If the pin was in the red area, whether or not you go at it depends on the club and how accurate you are with it. A lower handicapper might go at it with a wedge but as the shot/yardage gets longer, shot dispersion gets bigger so the player would hit beyond/over the red area giving them more area to miss right and left.

The red area with a club over a 9-iron is a very low percentage shot. Even if you avoid the water and find the bunker, a bunker shot to the red area will likely not hold the green and end up wet. If you're in the bunker with the pin in the yellow or green area, a shot from the bunker gets easier because you have some room beyond the hole.



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Ideas for what to give the golfer this season—or put on your own wish list.

By Suzanne S. Brown

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^ **SWEET TREATS** The batches of toffee that Kelly Wherry whipped up in her Denver kitchen more than 20 years ago for friends and relatives were so popular she turned her candy-making into a business. Her family recipe, perfected and expanded with novel flavors like pumpkin spice, now sells in more than 150 shops nationally. Holiday flavors include eggnog and starlight mint, as well as salted caramel and traditional English toffees. Choose four ¼-pound cartons and send them in a gift box for \$45; or make ¼-pound selections for \$10 each, which make great hostess gifts or stocking stuffers. Looking for a company gift? **Miss Kelly's Candies** customizes packaging with company branding on all flavors. See the full product line, which includes cocktail caramels, at misskellyscandies.com

< **BOTTLE SERVICE** Boulder-based **EcoVessel** set out to make a better bottle and succeeds in a number of ways. Many of the company's designs are triple-insulated with copper, stainless steel and a vacuum center that keeps beverages hot for eight hours or cold for 36. Bottles have interchangeable tops that include a flip spout, stainless steel top with a dual opening and carry strap, or a push-button top with lock. Another innovative feature in the Perk is a removable strainer that can be used for tea, fruit or ice. Various shapes, sizes and colors are available, including copper mugs and wine tumblers, \$18 to \$33. ecovessel.com



> **SOCKS APPEAL** It's hard to know which character pair to give as a gift from **Stance's** "Caddyshack" socks collection. Will it be Carl Spackler—the wacky greenkeeper played by Bill Murray in the 1980 cult film—or the gopher he tries to annihilate? Then there's funny, cranky Judge Smalls. No matter the choice, all treat the wearer's feet to anatomically correct designs for the left and right feet, cushioning support and moisture-wicking fabric, \$16-\$20 per pair. stance.com

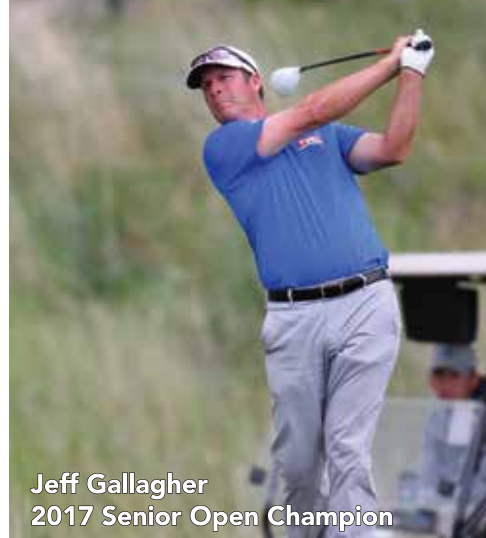




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> **IN THE PINK** Cool pink, blue and white are the perfect antidote to winter's drabness and make up the color palette designers at **EPNY** chose for its Ice Ice Baby collection. In addition to the variety of separates in the line is a vivid pink dress and undershorts trimmed in a print with contrast interlocking circles, \$114. For stores call 800-926-8010; more from the collection at epnygolf.com



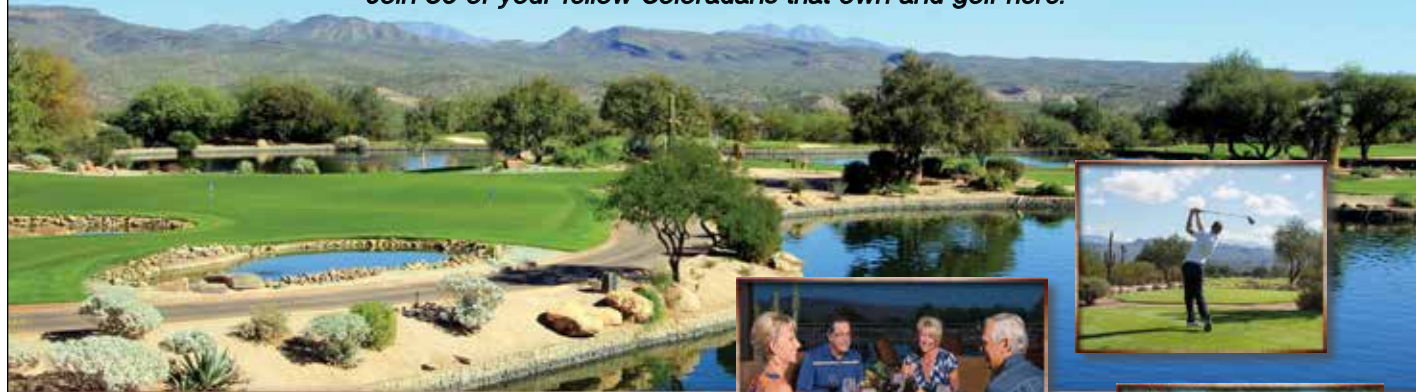
> **COVER STORY** Bright pops of color and Swarovski crystal-studded knit covers will add sparkle to her driver, fairway and hybrid clubs as well as her game. Linda Faye started **Just4Golf** when she couldn't find feminine accessories and now offers head covers in singles or sets in a variety of colors and patterns, including dots, stripes and argyle. The 3-piece lime set is \$59, sparkle dots are \$78, and made-to-order driver cover with 250 crystals is \$198. just4golf.com

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A Holiday Party To Remember

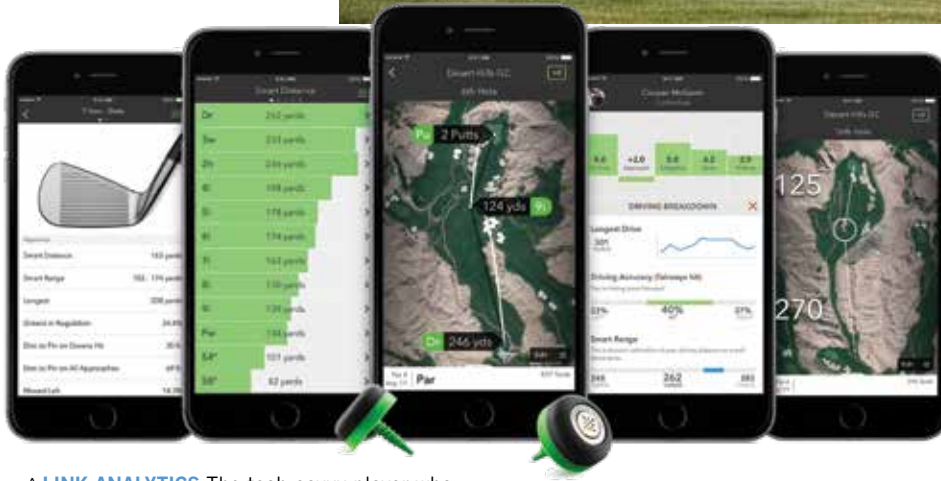
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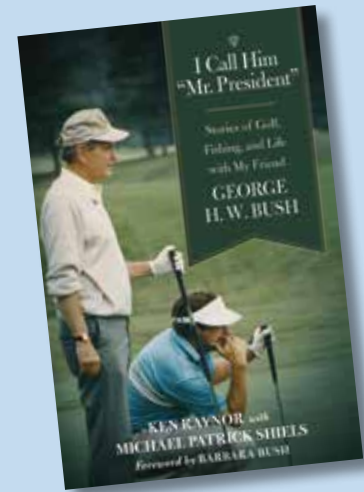
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^ **LINK ANALYTICS** The tech-savvy player who wants to take some of the guesswork out of the game will love receiving the **Arccos Golf 360**, which combines shot tracking, GPS 2.0 and a proprietary analytics platform. The device has sensors that the golfer applies to his clubs, then the Arccos 360 records the shots and analyzes the data to help him make better decisions while on the course. After completing a minimum of five rounds, the golfer can access the Arccos Caddie, an artificial intelligence platform that uses data from Arccos users as well as GPS info to give golfers suggestions for on-course strategy, provides accurate GPS distances to any point and also calculates "plays like" yardage that measures the impact of wind and elevation, \$250. Arccosgolf.com

> **CLOSE TO THE VEST** Brad Franklin started his Toronto-based **Bradley Allan** men's golf collection just over a year ago, but he brings years of experience and knowledge to his products, having worked as a golf professional and as a product developer and designer in the golf apparel industry. Franklin loves natural fibers like pima cotton, but recognizes the need for performance materials, so he develops his own fabrics. Among the items in his fall collection is the graphite mélange gray quilted nylon vest with PrimaLoft insulation for lightweight warmth. Like the rest of the collection, it will function as well on the course as in the city, \$149. bradley-allan.com



Presidential Pardon?

The #MeToo revelations in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal have justifiably sullied some people's perceptions of former President George H.W. Bush, who reportedly touched some women inappropriately while confined to his wheelchair. But for the many admirers of the 41st Commander in Chief, *I Call Him "Mr. President,"* by his longtime buddy, PGA Professional Ken Raynor of the Arundel Golf Club in Kennebunkport, Maine, provides an intimate portrait of a friendship the two men forged over decades of "cart polo" (Bush's version of golf), fishing, horseshoes, White House dinners and more. The president comes off as a compassionate, self-assured and self-effacing leader who won't cut the line at an ice-cream stand but is prankster enough to get Phil Mickelson to crash a wedding with him; he's an unrepentant Roger Whittaker fan with enough civility to cross the aisle and befriend the man who denied him a second presidential term. Near the end of the book, considering the long friendship between the Raynors and the Bushes, Barbara Bush asks the PGA pro if her husband "has ever said, 'Call me George?'" "No, he has not," Raynor replies. "I think he knows I would not be comfortable with that." Given such sensitivity, it's troubling to think the 93-year-old former president would not know how uncomfortable his alleged actions could make some women. \$25; skyhorsepublishing.com

—Jon Rizzi

Suzanne S. Brown is the former fashion and features editor for *The Denver Post*. She also contributes to *Mountain Living* and *Colorado Expression*.



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INCA SPOT: For four years, Pisco Sour has plied diners with Peru's wide-ranging mélange of flavors.

From Lima with Love

Pisco Sour brings the deliciously diverse flavors of Peru to Park Meadows.

By Gary James

OF ALL THE FANTASTIC CUISINES that have spread over the globe, Peruvian food hasn't gotten the attention it deserves. The unique glory of the cornerstone dishes—laden with complex textures, a vibrant combination of tastes and visual appeal—is on full display at Pisco Sour Restaurant & Lounge.

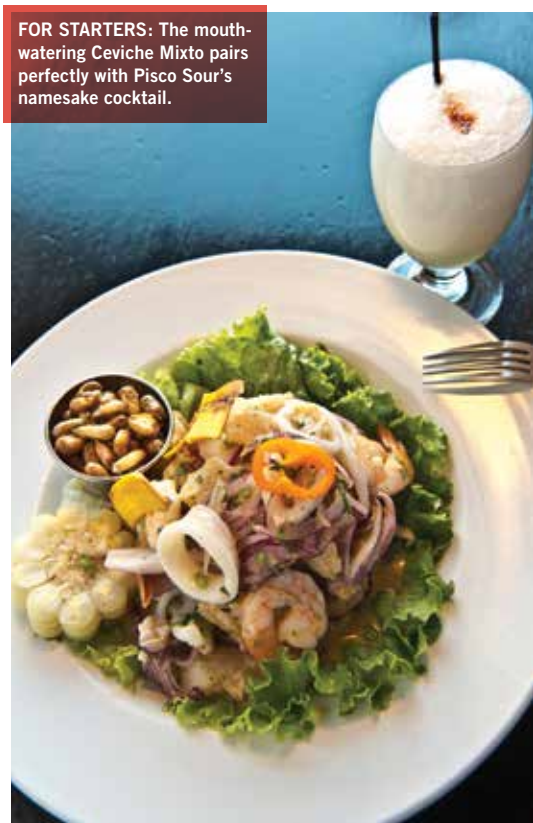
Renato Castillo, the proprietor of the handsome family owned-and-operated venue, hails from Lima, the capital of his native Peru. "We started in Denver with a grocery store serving a little food," he explains. "Then we had a restaurant on East Colfax for ten years or so. We've now been in Park Meadows for about four years."

Peruvian music fills his sleek, spacious restaurant, which commands a corner location just south of C-470, near the iFLY skydiving tower. Colorful paintings, blankets and other celebrations of Peru's unique culture festoon the walls.

As reflected by its diverse geography and agriculture, Peru's culinary fusion developed over a long process of cultural exchange. The indigenous population, including the Incas, was conquered by Spain, ushering in numerous European influences. West African slaves added to the ethnic makeup; in the port of Callao, boatloads of laborers from China and immigrants from Japan looked for work (Alberto Fujimori, the son of Japanese settlers, served as the country's president from 1990 to 2000).

The namesake drink at Pisco Sour is redolent of history as well. Victor Morris, an American volunteer, opened a bar in Peru circa 1916. After a few years of making whiskey sours, he tired of importing the dark spirit and used pisco, basically Peru's form of grape brandy. The resulting classic cocktail mixes the tartness of key limes whipped with egg white for a smooth, full body, and a few gentle drops of Angostura bitters settle in the sweet, tangy froth. "The bitters aren't important if you drink through a straw," Castillo explains. "But if you drink straight out of the glass, the bitters are so you don't smell the egg white."

FOR STARTERS: The mouth-watering Ceviche Mixto pairs perfectly with Pisco Sour's namesake cocktail.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY PHIL MUMFORD

**STIRRING
STIR-FRY:**
The classic
Lomo Salrado



mused. "But we've had potatoes for millions of years in Peru! The potato was taken from Peru back to Spain, and then introduced in Holland when the kings got together, and then France got it from Holland. In America, there's the russet, the red potato, the Yukon gold. But we have over 4,000 varieties in Peru!"

Other meat dishes of note include Bistec a lo Pobre—a pan-seared ribeye steak, sautéed with tomato, mushroom and onion, with steamed rice, fried plantains and a fried sunny-side-up egg on top—and the daringly delectable Anticucho y Pancitas, a nod to the street food sold by the African-Peruvian community. The Anticucho, a kabob of marinated and grilled veal heart, comes paired with sautéed Pancitas (tripe) and a spicy rocoto pepper sauce.

The seafood dishes are equally sublime. The Mahi Mahi a lo Macho bursts with flavor, a fresh filet that's buttermilk battered and fried, with shrimp, calamari, octopus and green lip mussels in a rich seafood creamy sauce over steamed rice. The epic Arroz Con Mariscos, an homage to classic Spanish paella, looks like a portion of the rainbow, also combining shrimp, octopus, calamari and green lip mussels.

Pollo a la Brasa, the famous rotisserie chicken of Peru, is served with Peruvian mayonnaise, a spicy green pepper sauce (*aji verde*) and a yellow pepper sauce. You can order a quarter, half or whole bird.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PHIL MUMFORD

Ceviche, the dish most closely associated with Peru, emerged from a fusion of Japanese cuisine, prepared with fresh fish, limes, onions, spicy peppers and fresh cilantro; the acidity in the lime juice "cooks" the seafood. "In Peru, the rawer the better," Castillo says. "We leave it in the citrus longer for the U.S." The Ceviche de Tres Colores is a sampler featuring a yellow bell pepper sauce, a spicy and creamy rocoto red pepper sauce and a classic white sauce.

But on a recent visit, it was impossible to resist the Ceviche Mixto for a combination of seafood—fresh Corvina sea bass ("South America's halibut"), calamari and shrimp marinated in cit-



EXOTIC TREAT: Ice cream
made from the lúcuma fruit

rus, with cilantro, onion, rocoto, tortilla strips and even some potato served as an accompaniment, along with succulent chunks of Peruvian corn on the cob—a bigger, chewier kernel, starchier and not as sugary as the small kernel yellow or white sweet corn North Americans prefer. The corn also came in its toasted/fried preparation, a staple in Peru's cuisine. Try this *cancha* and you'll never settle for a bag of Corn Nuts again.

Lomo Saltado is the most popular traditional entrée, with marinated slices of tender beef, onion, tomato and cilantro mixed in the Chinese stir-fry tradition in a Pisco ginger sauce. The hearty dish is accompanied by fluffy white rice and home fries.

"Everyone here thinks of French fries as the property of McDonald's or Burger King," Castillo

Alfonso, our polite and attentive server, insisted we try the lucuma ice cream for dessert, it being the most popular flavor in his nation. "It's similar to a mango," he said of the nutritious Peruvian fruit. "But we don't eat it as a fruit. We like it in ice cream and milk shakes."

Drizzled with butterscotch, it turned out to be way more than ice cream, something more nuanced in flavor, like every other top-quality delicacy on the menu. So how many more reasons do you need to give Pisco Sour a try?

9234 Park Meadows Dr. #100, Lone Tree
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Read more of Contributor Gary James' Fareways columns on coloradoavidgolfer.com.



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27 Holes, 277 Homes

Pole Creek, Grand County's foremost golf course, is also a great place to live all year long.

Text and Photographs by Martin Yeager

WITH MORE THAN 250 golf courses and private clubs across Colorado, we have numerous choices to live where we play. As winter takes hold, we often shift our definition of “play” from the fairways to the slopes. Finding a place to call home that offers both activities is one of the best reasons for living in Colorado.

Which brings us to Grand County's Pole Creek Golf Club, the perennial 27-hole favorite among *Colorado AvidGolfer* readers and the home to a distinctive collection of 277 residences and home sites located just outside the quiet town of Tabernash.

Surrounding the course is The Fairways, a collection of fine homes and open building sites—each offering a minimum of two acres. There's also Pole Creek Meadows, which extends the community with both existing homes and open lots without the higher costs associated with fairway living. Pole Creek is a year-round community with two ski areas—Granby Ranch and Winter Park—less than 25 minutes away.

For years, Tabernash remained another sleepy mountain town bordering the highway. It still appears that way, but just a mile up the road, Pole Creek Golf Club hides away in the hills just west of town, an unassuming entry to an exceptional mountain sanctuary. Chiefly

designed by Denis Griffiths, whose credits also include Lakewood's Fox Hollow, Pole Creek emerged in three phases between 1982 and 1999, redefining the area into a year-round destination with world-class amenities.

Mary Moynihan, who has worked at Pole Creek since 1994, manages the clubhouse, a distinctive, welcoming structure that opened in 2009. The perfect setting for special events, the clubhouse keeps its restaurant open with a limited schedule during the winter, primarily for the year-round residents at The Fairways. Pole Creek is part of the larger Fraser Valley Recreation District—a collection of active venues that enrich the lifestyle of those fortunate to live in the area.

REALTY CHECK

The Fairways at Pole Creek consists of 277 home sites with approximately 80 impressive residences completed. A limited number of the homes are on the market with prices ranging from \$1.1 million up to \$4.25 million. Each property sits on a minimum of two acres, ensuring privacy for the homeowner as well as protecting the golf course's extraordinary fairways and views.

The YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch borders the community to the west, preserving the



219 COLUMBINE LANE, THE FAIRWAYS AT POLE CREEK

3 bedroom, 5 bath

Located on the 8th tee/Meadows course

4,448 finished square feet on two levels.

Offered at \$1,100,000

Located along the 8th tee on the Meadows course, the residence is surrounded by tall pines and aspens, creating an exceptional setting. Situated on 2.01 acres, the home features a stunning outdoor veranda with an additional walk out lower level patio. The main floor master suite features its own access to the outdoor living space. Beautifully finished in natural wood and stone, the home reflects its surroundings with its graceful architecture and natural light. Offered by Melanie Lee with Liv Sothebys International Realty.

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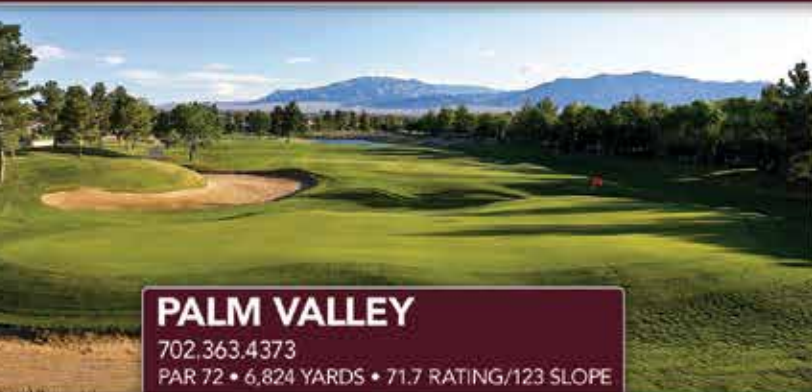
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PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARTIN YEAGER



2049 COUNTY ROAD 511, THE FAIRWAYS AT POLE CREEK

2-acre home site

Located between the 4th green and 5th tee box on the Ridge course.

Offered at \$243,000

This is an exceptional building site located along the western edge of the course adjacent to the YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch with its miles of open meadows, hiking/snow shoe trails and amazing 360-degree views. Utilities are aligned with the paved roads while home will require well and septic. Neighboring home site is already built with open space on the opposite side. The site provides a perfect grade for building your new home. The property is offered by Janene Johnson, Real Estate of Winter Park.

360-degree vistas for The Fairways, ranging from a number of 14ers to miles of open meadows. Janene Johnson, longtime resident of the Fraser Valley and a realtor with Real Estate of Winter Park offers her own insights: "I would describe the area as authentic. I love visiting resort communities like Vail and Aspen, but I love coming home even more. The pretenses are gone and for me, this is Colorado at its best."

Home sites in the Fairways range from \$69,900 to \$275,000, with the views and fairway locations determining the difference. Utilities are in place along the roadway, while each site requires its own separate well and septic. Anticipate a longer construction timeline, as demand for new home construction is growing across Grand County.

Additionally, neighboring communities offer greater value with lower prices and smaller lots. Pole Creek Meadows offers homes priced from the mid \$600,000 up to \$975,000 with lots available from \$89,000. A few miles north lie a collection of established neighborhoods including Alpine Park and Winter Park Highlands offering smaller land parcels with home prices starting in the mid \$300,000s.

Collectively, the communities surrounding Pole Creek offer a wide range of options for year-round living or owning a second home. The location is perfect for skiing, fishing, hiking and the addition of a four-season clubhouse makes living in the area complete. The golf club is meticulously maintained and as soon as the cold weather wraps up another ski season, the fairways will be waiting.

MARKET REVIEW

The mountains are not the only golf communities that see a slow down this time of year. Currently, there are 295 homes for sale in golf communities



with 1,010 sold since January 1st. The number of homes for sale has remained stable though specific golf communities show fewer days on market due to a low number of homes available. Looking ahead, we anticipate the first three months of the year to be consistent with 2017-representing 205 of homes sold in the first quarter with sales increasing in the early spring. If you are considering a home purchase in 2018, now is a great time to start exploring your options. We have created a specialized home search website for golf communities at FairwaysColorado.com.

Martin Yeager, Colorado Avid Golfer's Real Estate feature writer, is a realtor with the Colorado Fairway Home Team at Keller Williams DTC. He is available at Martin@FairwaysColorado.com and 303-668-9373.

Special thanks to Mary Moynihan, Clubhouse Manager at Pole Creek, Janene Johnson with Real Estate of Winter Park and Melanie Lee with Liv Sotheby's International Realty for their insights and assistance.

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The Great American Beer Trends

The GABF provides a window into what's hopping.

By Cody Gabbard

OCTOBER'S GREAT AMERICAN BEER Festival (GABF) brought to the Colorado Convention Center a total of 800 breweries and 7,227 competitive entries in 191 categories. Beyond its \$28.6 million economic impact on the city of Denver, the GABF serves as the beer world's litmus test for what styles are trending and which breweries are the next big things.

At last year's festival, for example, sours were the rage, with the lines to try Wicked Weed of North Carolina wrapping around entire sections. The Asheville brewery is now the main sour beer producer for the multibeer conglomerate AB InBev.

So what trends did this year bring—and what local beers best reflect them?

NEW ENGLAND-STYLE IPAS have been featured in several Tapping In articles this year—with good reason. It continues to be far and away the fastest growing style across the country. It was hard not to walk by a booth this year without a reference to another “Fluffy,” “Dry-Hopped,” “Kettle-Hopped” or other similarly described IPA. To get a good understanding of the style and its originations, check out the citrusy Bottle Rocket, a Pale Ale from **Wormtown Brewery** in Worcester, Mass. and Annie Oatley from Night Shift Brewing in Everett, Mass., which has citrus flavors and just a hint of bitterness that doesn't linger.



COLORADO'S VERSION: Look for Juicy Bits or any of its derivations from **WeldWerks Brewing** (508 8th Avenue, Greeley). In a blind taste test by certified beer judges at *Craft Beer & Brewing Magazine*, Double-Dry Hopped Juicy Bits scored a rare, perfect 100 score in a contest that included hundreds of other beers. (Weldwerks' Medianoche won a GABF gold medal this year in the Wood- and Barrel-Aged Strong Stout category.)

SIMILARLY REGIONAL STYLES are appearing. With over 5,000 breweries and counting in the United States alone, the market is getting more crowded every day. With that comes more specialization as well as more focused trends. In addition to the New England-style IPA, other regions are also starting to carve out their own specialties.

The Midwest seems to be cultivating a culture for saisons and farmhouse beers. **Crane Brewing Company** in Raytown, Mo. has perfected the balance of subtlety and complex flavors. Farmhouse IPA with Brett has that distinct American hop flavor of fruit and pine, but is not assertively bitter. The dry, refreshing Trailsmith is perfect for capping off a long, hard day—the saison's original purpose in the Wallonia region of Belgium.

Chicago's **Off Color Brewing*** masters the art of subdued flavors that are no less complex. Apex Predator, its flagship farmhouse ale, is drinkable,



Heady Medal

Colorado beers took home 38 medals (14 gold, 14 silver, 10 bronze), with **Lone Tree Brewing** as the only multiple winner for its Mexican Lager (gold in the American-Style Lager or Malt Liquor category) and Hop Zombie (silver in Imperial Red Ale). Denver produced eight medalists, followed by Fort Collins' five. Gold medal beers came from across the state, including Alamosa (**Square Peg Brewwerks'** Waverly Tulip) and Fruita (**Copper Club Brewing's** F-Town Amber).

complex and not overly yeast-dominant. The stripped-down malt and hop bill let the yeast shine and provide a range of fruit-forward and spice flavors.



COLORADO'S VERSION: Denver's Pecos Street is Denver's Franco-Belgian beer corridor, with **Bruz Beers** in the north (1675 W 67th Ave #100) and **Diebolt Brewing Company** in the south (3855 Mariposa St.). Bruz specializes in Belgian beers ranging from Dark Strong to Witbier, while Diebolt focuses on French-inspired Saisons.

Florida has recently coined "**FLORIDA WEISSE**" for its fruited Berliner-style Weisse beers. Berliner Weisse is an extremely low alcohol (typically less than 4% ABV and sometimes less than 3% in its origin city of Berlin), moderately tart and highly carbonated sour beer. Originally, syrups made from raspberry, woodruff and other flavors were added to the beers after being served. American breweries, especially in Florida, have added their own local spin with tropical fruit additions such as passionfruit and guava.



COLORADO'S VERSION: Although this newly minted style may be attributed to the Sunshine State, the land of 300 days of sunshine cleaned up at GABF this year. **Little Machine Beer's** (2924 W 20th Ave, Denver) Razz Against the Machine, a tart, raspberry beer won gold in the American-Style Fruit Beer category. The Blackberry Table Sour from **Baere Brewing Company** (320 Broadway, Denver) won bronze in the Berliner-Style Weisse category.



BARREL AND MIXED-FERMENTATION ONLY beers aren't new to the beer scene. What is new are breweries focusing exclusively on them. Two standouts at this year's GABF both hail from California and had the lines to prove their popularity.

The **Rare Barrel**, based in Berkeley, offers a constantly evolving list of bottles, many of which

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are dosed with large amounts of fruit, the full flavor of which is complemented by a bracing acidity. San Diego's **Modern Times Barrel House**** focuses on the sour and funky and benefits from Michael Tonsmiere, who literally wrote the book on how to brew mixed-fermentation beers. Many Modern Times beers also showcase how sour beer and fruit play off of one another so well. The beers have a surprisingly full body and loads of sour complexity.

COLORADO'S VERSION: **Paradox Beer Company** (10 Buffalo Ct, Divide) is a self-described "barrel-aged American sour feral and wild ales" producer. Acidity and earthy funk aren't the only flavors in Paradox's beers though, with many undergoing secondary fermentation with fruit additions. No fruit is too exotic, with past varieties including plum, pear, pumpkin and coconut.



A RETURN TO CLASSIC STYLES is emerging among some of the better brewers, partially in response to the independent beer world's constant envelope-pushing with extreme beers.

Jeff Bagby of **Bagby Beer Company** (Oceanside, Cal.) embodies this spirit. One of the forefathers of the brash beer movement, he's brewed thousands of award-winning, hop-loaded batches at Southern California's famous Pizza Port chain. His new brewery isn't just hop bombs, but a laundry list of classics, all brewed to stylistic perfection. Sweet Ride, a Bohemian-style Pilsner, stands out not for its complex flavors but more for its thirst-quenching attributes and clean flavors. Bagby also won



a silver medal this year for Herd of Turtles, a refreshing Baltic-style Porter.

COLORADO'S VERSION: **Call to Arms Brewing Company** (4526 Tennyson St., Denver) is as close as I've come to enjoying near-flawless beers in every glass, with every thinkable style making an appearance on their tap list at some point. The three founders are all former employees of Avery Brewing Company, making for a perfect pedigree for brewing a range of well-made beers. Oats and Hose Oatmeal Porter is a stalwart on the tap list, with all of the richness of a standard porter with additional velvety texture from protein-rich oats. 🍷

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Contributor Cody Gabbard writes *CAG's Tapping In* column. Read more of his writing at coloradoavidgolfer.com.

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Made for the Mountains

2018 Mercedes-AMG E63S

Options include a German sedan, an Italian SUV and what may be Ford's sweetest truck ever.

By Isaac Bouchard

SEISMIC SHIFTS in the automotive sector mean that more than two-thirds of all new vehicles sold or leased are trucks and SUVs. How each type might fit into one's lifestyle is of course a personal matter; herein we look at how they play in the current Rocky Mountain landscape.

2018 MERCEDES-AMG E63S

MSRP: From \$104,400

EPA Ratings: 15/22mpg; 18mpg combined

Starting in the 1980s, the sports sedan, most often from a premium German marque, became the status symbol many aspired to—myself included. To this day, the genre's potent combination of sports car-humbling performance and practicality remains compelling.

So in a bid to keep these machines relevant, even stalwarts like BMW are moving to offer all-wheel drive in what were once "purist" rear-driven machines. Mercedes got there first, with the new E63 and even more over-endowed E63S sedan and wagon. Now you can roll in your 603hp Benz regardless of any capriciousness from Mother Nature.

Hooliganism hasn't been forgotten, however: you can put the variable AWD system into a "drift" mode and slide the E63S sideways all you want—at least in your fantasies. In the world the rest of us inhabit, the system's other settings help harness the hand-built, twin-turbo's 627lb-ft muscle.

The E63S is almost subtle in its styling, with the current Mercedes tapered teardrop shape meaning an aggressive grill and gaping intakes sweep back over smooth flanks to a pert tail; de-badged it could be mistaken for a four-cylinder E300 with AMG styling options, while still obliterating 0-60mph in just over three seconds.

While this Q-ship mien may not fit into our current culture of extravagantly displayed wealth and power, the Mercedes' interior certainly won't leave anyone in doubt about what it is. Voluptuous sweeps of carbon fiber and stitched leather frame huge screens for the instruments and easy to use COMAND infotainment system, and the supportive front seats cup the occupants in all the right places.

That's vitally important since the Mercedes serves up such outrageous performance; that you can dial it back via de rigueur modes for throttle, steering, shocks and shift speeds means this AMG hotrod makes a great luxury ride as well—though back seat space is not exactly generous.

This Mercedes has enough of the practicality of a modern crossover to make it a valid alternative for single-vehicle use in Colorado. And as trucks and SUVs gobble up more and more market share, the E63S becomes a truly standout choice.

2018 ALFA ROMEO STELVIO

MSRP: From \$41,995

EPA: 22/28mpg; 24mpg combined

I'd heard from multiple journalists that the Stelvio was, simply put, the best handling crossover or SUV they'd ever driven. That's a pretty definitive statement, but after time behind the wonderfully well-shaped, thin-rimmed wheel of the Alfa, I would concur.

Built on an amazing new platform soon to be shared with other Chrysler, Dodge and possibly even Jeep vehicles, the Alfa simply devours curves with flat, precise moves and superb body control. That it also rides really well on huge wheels and suppresses road and wind noise well equates to an appropriately premium experience.

The interior doesn't quite live up to the rest of that descriptor; while not exactly cheap, some competitors feel more substantial. The Alfa infotainment system is functional and easy to use but lacks the breadth of talent of those found in top German machinery. But the Stelvio interior is roomy and functional, and its rigid, lightweight structure allows the sole engine option (for now anyway; a 505hp twin turbo V6 comes next year) of a 280hp, 2.0-liter turbo to deliver ample thrust.

A low redline and anemic sound go against traditional Alfa character; it's more of a torque monster, with 306lb-ft of twist, meaning it pulls hard, has very little lag and is well matched to the eight-speed automatic. And

M-B Lite

2018 Mercedes-AMG C43 Coupe

With the prices of cars like the E63S now climbing to astonishing levels, it is great to know that most of that vehicle's greatness is available in the C63 sedan, coupe and convertible for about 40 percent less (the coupe starts at \$55,900). This AMG's biturbo V6 has 362hp and 384lb-ft, which makes it quick (0-60mph in 4.1sec), while its new 9-speed gearbox shuffles cogs like a luxury car or rips off racecar-like manual shifts with equal aplomb.

Standard AWD makes it a great year-round car for our locale, and its interior has much of the luxurious feel of big brother E-class. The C43 has the ability to mimic a luxury car's excellent ride and refinement or tear up a back road, like the monster E63S. It doesn't quite have the emotional pull of that much more expensive machine, but it certainly continues the recent success Mercedes has had in pushing its AMG lineup ahead of archrivals Audi and BMW in the making of truly focused driver's cars.



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2018 Alfa Romeo Stelvio

when you do want to control it manually, the giant aluminum shift paddles let you indulge in all the Schumacher F1 daydreams you can conjure—and run to 60mph in the mid-fives.

If you are going to need the added practicality of a high riding hatchback, and don't want to be seen as following the herd—or simply don't want to see five other crossovers just like yours in every parking lot—the Alfa Romeo Stelvio is a terrific choice.

2017 FORD F-150 LIMITED

MSRP: From \$60,200

EPA Ratings: 17/22 mpg; 19mpg combined

Ford's half-ton pickup has long been the best-selling vehicle in the United States; what's new is how far the company has pushed it up-market, stealing sales from traditional luxury brands in the process.

The Limited model makes an excellent case that these rural refugees now fit as well—or better—into most peoples' lives than either a sedan or an SUV. The F-150's rigidly rectilinear styling is nicely enhanced by the Limited model's brushed trim and 22-inch footwear, but the low profile tires that wrap those rims degrade ride quality over typical Colorado urban roads.

On the highway things are much better; strap a load to the Ford, as I did when I hauled my 24-foot, enclosed trailer cross-country, and it all settles down nicely. Thousands of miles of open road gave me the opportunity to really appreciate how far Ford has come on interiors, with great shapes, beautifully turned out real wood trim and supply finished, well shaped seats, whose heating, cooling and especially massage functions helped the miles pass as painlessly as possible.

The driving position is perfect, there's massive storage in the cab, and even backseat occupants commented on how luxurious it was

as they stared out the full-length sunroof. The latest, Sync3 infotainment system is fast and fairly idiot-proof, and the Sony audio system quite nicely resolved over 160GB of music and podcasts.

For 2018 the F-150 gets some nice styling updates, more standard equipment and enhancements for most engines and transmissions. My Limited's absurdly potent combination of 365hp/470lb-ft, 3.5-liter EcoBoost V6 and greased lighting 10-speed automatic carries over unchanged. It is astonishing in its ability to pull passes over the Continental Divide with almost diesel-like reserves of torque, although the fuel economy is nowhere near that type of engine.

For those who tow on a regular basis, the upcoming V6 diesel or even normally-aspirated V8 are better options. When not hooked to a loadstone, the Ford runs like a rocket, and handles very well too.

Steering precision is excellent, which really helped in strong crosswinds across Utah and Nevada, and was aided by the lane-keeping and anti-sway features Ford has baked into its latest safety systems. I also much appreciated the active cruise control, which made dealing with California's idiotic 55mph towing speed limit and congestion much less painful.

That the F-150 Limited combines the level of luxury, decorum, panache and practicality it does, all while offering the kind of bandwidth of load lugging and hauling that only a pickup inherently embodies, means to me that it actually makes more sense for active Coloradans than the heretofore more obvious choices of sports sedan or premium SUV. 🚗

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



2017 Ford F-150 Limited

Diamonds *in the Desert*

Three Arizona gems to play this winter



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Par/Yardage: Par 72/5,036-7,517 Yards

Architects: Schmidt-Curley Design and Fred Couples

Fall/Winter golf rates: \$89-\$164

(Preferred rates to Troon and Copa Card-holders; book at AkChinSouthernDunes.com for the Best Available Rate)

#MiniDunes: 6 Holes, Par 18, 487 Yards (\$12 for unlimited Play; juniors under 17 free when accompanied by paying adult)

Recent Accolades: #5 in Arizona and #84 the US (GOLF Magazine's "Top 100 Courses You Can Play," 2017); #86 Best U.S. Resort Course (Golfweek, 2017)



IF YOU ASKED a random golfer to identify Arizona clubs ranked in the Top 100 by both *GOLF* and *Golfweek* magazines, chances are, they would quickly default to ones within the borders of Scottsdale.

However, the savviest of golfers, golf-course architecture aficionados and even those who plan tour-level events will also reply: "Ak-Chin Southern Dunes!"

Yes, this diamond in the desert, located on 320 acres of annexed Ak-Chin Community tribal land, offers an "Australian Dunes-like" design surrounded by stunning mountain and desert views. This past year, the club moved up to #84 in *GOLF*'s Top 100 Courses You Can Play rankings, while maintaining its spot among *Golfweek*'s Top 100 Best Resort Courses in the Country—an honor it has held since converting to a resort-daily fee operation a handful of years ago.

The national rankings of "The Dunes" should continue as the Ak-Chin Community remains committed to creating an exceptional golf experience through club leadership (under the direction of Troon Golf) that dedicates itself to delivering the exceptional guest experiences and agronomic standards that are Troon Golf hallmarks.

Ak-Chin Southern Dunes never rests on its laurels. Its recent multimillion-dollar renovation has been met with high acceptance, as evidenced by its continued

ascent in the national rankings and verified by its tournament schedule.

In terms of professional events, "The Dunes" recently hosted the PING Southwest Section PGA Championship and Web.com Tour Qualifying School (the first step towards qualifying for the PGA Tour). Amateur events include The Saguaro Amateur Championship, Arizona Golf Association Amateur Championships and U.S. Open qualifying events. The club even welcomes top NCAA events, serving as a host venue for the University of Wyoming.

For beginners, juniors and those who just want to have fun, there's the six-hole, 487-yard #miniDunes designed by Brian Curley that opens every afternoon (except Mondays) and is free for juniors under the age of 17 when accompanied by a paying adult.

The quality of the Southern Dunes experience extends to its stylish clubhouse and the appetizing fare in the Arroyo Grille.

So no matter your level of golf skill, the "Top 100" Ak-Chin Southern Dunes needs to be on your must-play list. Visit this diamond in the desert, and you will be "in the know" with the savviest of golfers who can attest to why Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club continues to climb the national rankings.



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Website: TroonNorthGolf.com

Reservations: 480-585-5300

Par/Yardage: Par 72/5,084-7,039 yards
(Monument); Par 71, 4,831-7,009 yards
(Pinnacle)

Architect: Tom Weiskopf

Fall/Winter golf rates: \$125-\$299 (Pre-
ferred rates to Troon Cardholders; book at
TroonNorthGolf.com for Best Available Rate)

Recent Accolades: #1 "Best Golf Courses
in Scottsdale: Must-Play Desert Gems"
(*USA Today*, 2016); #1 in Arizona & #25
in the US (Pinnacle Course) and #4 in
Arizona & #58 the US (Monument Course)
(both in *GOLF Magazine's* "Top 100
Courses You Can Play," 2016)



SCOTTSDALE
ARIZONA

TROON NORTH GOLF CLUB stands as the hallmark of the desert golf experience, with two iconic courses that meander through the natural ravines and foothills of the high Sonoran desert in the shadows of Pinnacle Peak. The challenge, visual sensation and special ambiance of Troon North set the standards by which all others are measured. The immaculately groomed courses and exceptional level of customer service create the renowned Troon Golf Experience.

This exceptional experience keeps getting better, as the club completed an extensive enhancement project of the famed Monument course in 2017. The project updated green complexes to their original shape, size, and contours by utilizing GPS coordinates from architect Tom Weiskopf's original design. Greens were then resurfaced with creeping A4 bent grass and approaches also were resurfaced. Every bunker on the course was renovated and refreshed with the addition of new Pioneer bunker sand.

"We are committed to providing our guests with the finest course conditions on the planet at our flagship facility," said Dana Garmany, chairman and CEO of Troon. "Through these enhancements on Monument, we are proactively improving and reinvesting in one of the top daily-fee courses in the nation. We plan to execute a similar improvement project on the Pinnacle course

next summer to keep both courses at the top of golfers' bucket lists."

Guests at Troon North will also appreciate such enhanced "experiential" offerings as Visage GPS systems and forecaddies and caddie offerings from CADDIEMASTER during the prime season of November through April.

Troon North Golf Club is also the perfect place to improve your game. Home to the Callaway Performance Center, Troon North's PGA Professionals and master fitters create a comfortable environment where you can shave strokes off your score and discover how custom equipment can improve your performance.

Before or after golf, be sure to make time to take in the scenic Sonoran desert views while dining at the club's Dynamite Grille. Dynamite Grille is a favorite of golfers, area residents and guests from throughout the region who come to enjoy the fresh and contemporary cuisine in a relaxed setting. Overlooking the 18th hole of the Pinnacle course, Dynamite Grille and its flexible event space is a popular spot for special celebrations, company gatherings or just an after-golf libation on the expansive patio as you enjoy the great Scottsdale weather.



THE SUN IS SHINING brighter than ever on SunRidge Canyon Golf Club these days. With the recent completion of numerous course enhancements, the SunRidge Canyon experience just keeps getting better.

Golfers who have played the Keith Foster design may wonder how this desert gem could possibly be improved, as the layout was already as amazing as the scenic elevation changes and dramatic desert vistas surrounding it.

Major course enhancements began three off-seasons ago and included resurfacing the greens with slick new Champion Ultra-Dwarf Bermuda greens. This year's improvements, completed in 2017, included the removal of bunkers on seven of the 18 holes for better playability and pace of play, without reducing the challenge for the lower handicapper.

Already recognized as one of the Top 20 "Best Courses You Can Play" in Arizona by *GOLF* Magazine prior to the enhancements, SunRidge Canyon continues to be a must-play for those visiting the Scottsdale area.

From the famous (or infamous) stretch of finishing holes known as The Wicked 6, to the post-round fun and entertainment found in the club's bar and grill of the same

name, the SunRidge Canyon experience goes beyond the birdies, bogeys and pars that happen on the golf course.

Wicked Six Bar & Grill has become the place for visiting golfers and local residents to relax, unwind and enjoy delicious food and beverage offerings. This modern American tap house features gourmet burgers, sandwiches, wraps, wood-fired artisan pizzas and chef specialties that include a new signature dish: Rattlesnake Pasta. Friday nights are one of the highlights of the week with a bagpipe performance at sundown. Whether enjoying the tunes from a local musician, grabbing a quick bite before your round or sipping libations while watching the sunset, the Wicked Six Bar & Grill provides the perfect dining destination for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Improving your golf game is the goal at SunRidge, which offers top instruction from its stable of PGA Professionals as well as club fitting at Hot Stix Golf Performance Center. Located at the practice facility at SunRidge Canyon, Hot Stix offers brand-neutral, tour-quality fittings, equipment and builds designed to improve performance in all areas. No visit to SunRidge Canyon is complete without a Hot Stix club-fitting experience.

Don't let the sun set on your Scottsdale golf vacation without a visit to SunRidge Canyon Golf Club.



SUNRIDGE CANYON

Location: 13100 SunRidge Drive, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

Website: SunRidgeGolf.com

Reservations: 480-837-5100

Par/Yardage: Par 71/4,989–6,823 yards
(Four sets of tees plus one Hybrid set)

Architect: Keith Foster

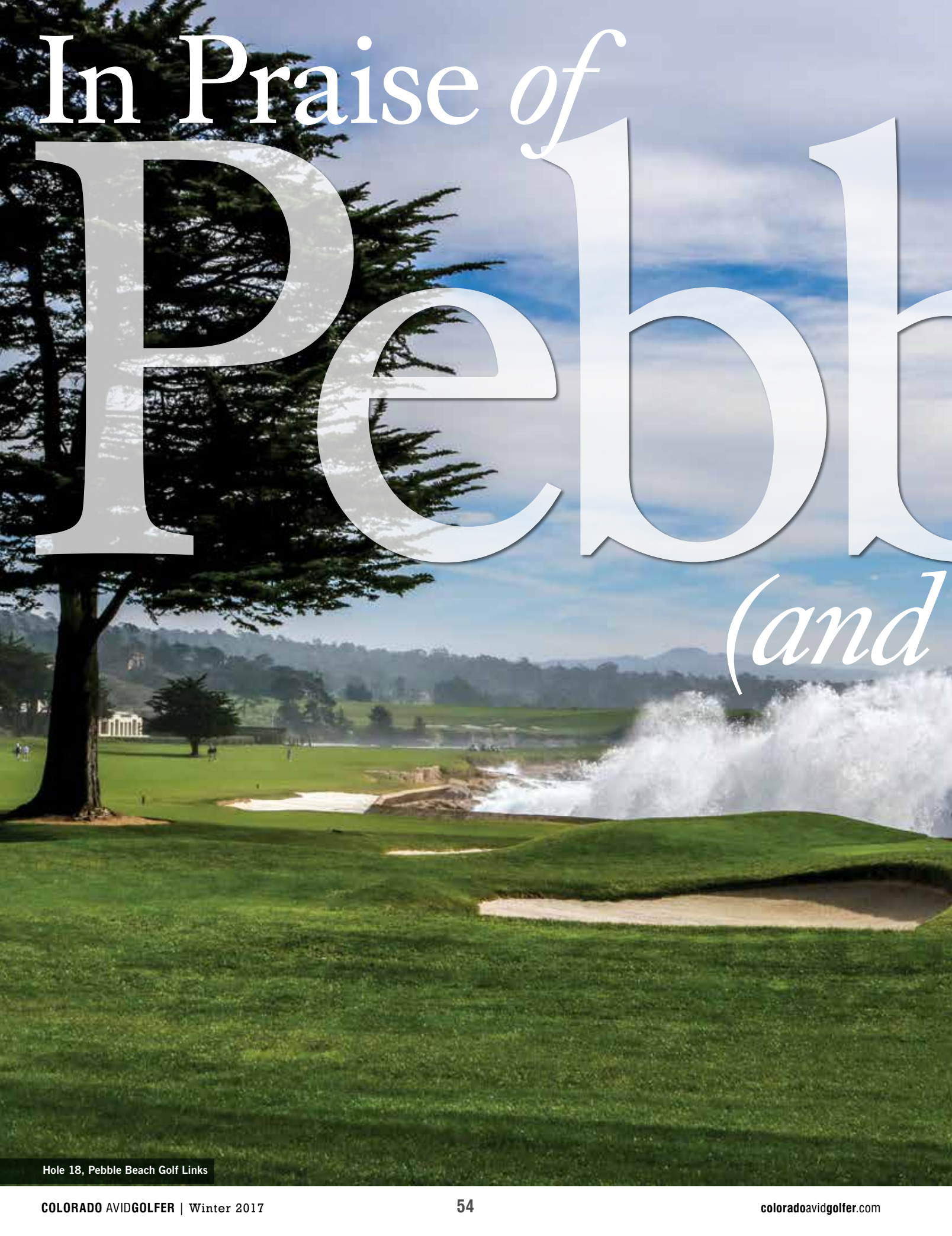
Fall/Winter golf rates: \$89-\$199

(Preferred rates to SRC & Troon Cardholders; book at SunRidgeGolf.com for Best Available Rate)

Recent Accolades: #17 "Best Courses Near You" & State by State (*GOLF Magazine*, 2016-17); #1 "Best Golf Course" (*New Times* "Best of Phoenix," 2016); #23 Best Course You Can Play in Arizona" *Golfweek's* Best, State-By-State, 2017; #4 Top-Rated Course in Arizona (*Golf Advisor*, 2015)



SCOTTSDALE
ARIZONA



In Praise *of* Pebble *(and*

Hole 18, Pebble Beach Golf Links



Pebble

Monterey)

THE 1919 ORIGINAL *is what makes American golf great, while the Peninsula's other jewels push it to the top of any bucket list.*

By ANDY BIGFORD

IT TOOK UNTIL 1972 for the once-stuffy United States Golf Association to stage its U.S. Open Championship at a course the public could actually play, the Pebble Beach Golf Links. Thirty-two-year-old Jack Nicklaus faced a Pacific baptism of his own when he glared into a stiff wind on Pebble's now-famous, 218-yard, par-3 17th hole in the final round. He responded by short-hopping a 1-iron off the flagstick for a tap-in two that sealed the 11th of his 18 "majors."

Both the "best golfer ever" and what many consider to be the "best golf course ever" acquitted themselves rather nicely on that long ago day. In a wind-ravaged final round on marble-slick greens, in conditions described as a "landscape of horrors," Pebble extracted an average score of 78.8 from the field. Nicklaus shot what was perhaps the best 74 ever recorded en route to a 72-hole total of 2 over par.

Thirty-six years later, when Pebble finally acquired a key parcel of prime oceanfront land it had sought for eight decades, it turned to Nicklaus to design another iconic Pebble Beach par-3, the cliff-hugging 5th. The work remains a highlight in Nicklaus' second career as an architect, which includes some 400 courses worldwide.

"If I had only one more round to play," the Golden Bear has famously said, "I would play it at Pebble Beach." No disagreement here, and in fact his statement could be expanded to this: "If I had only one week to play, I would play it on the Monterey Peninsula."

"There's not another destination that has what we have on the Monterey Peninsula," observes Patrick Freeman, the director of golf and tournaments for Pebble Beach Resorts. Freeman, who is busy preparing Pebble to host its sixth U.S. Open in 2019 to celebrate its 100th year anniversary, isn't just referring to the courses under the Pebble Resorts umbrella (a lineup that also includes Spyglass Hill, which many golfers believe is every bit Pebble's equal; the Scottish-style Links at Spanish Bay; and the circa-1897 Del Monte, the oldest continuously played course west of the Mississippi).

The Peninsula's two-dozen courses also feature, for those with the right connections, the incomparable Alister Mackenzie-designed Cypress Point and the magnificent Monterey Peninsula Country Club, where the recently restored Dunes and Shore courses make it arguably the best 36-hole private club in the country. And, if you expand your horizons slightly to encompass the entire Monterey Bay, Pasatiempo Golf Club, the public-access, not-to-be-missed Mackenzie gem, is just 50 minutes to the north in Santa Cruz.

But let's begin with the wonder that is Pebble, the very definition of American golf, where the holes and shots you've watched for decades on TV are even more dizzying and dazzling in person. For its timeless design, tournament tradition, stingy challenge, white beaches and craggy slopes, Pebble stands above all the thousands of courses that have opened

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PEBBLE BEACH COMPANY

since its debut in 1919...and that despite, or perhaps because of, its truly humble and very American origins.

Pebble was a last-ditch real estate play, and a quick, cheap one at that; course construction cost less than \$100,000. Samuel F. B. Morse represented the property's owner, and was charged with creating a buzz to sell the 18,000-acre parcel, with the golf links serving as the beacon. (Morse, a distant cousin of the telegraph and Morse code inventor of the same name, would ultimately found Del Monte Properties, buy the land himself, and in five decades at the helm become known as the "Duke of Del Monte.")

The early 1900s were the Golden Age of golf design, with the likes of Mackenzie, Donald Ross and A.W. Tillinghast creating exclusive enclaves with blue-blood pedigrees such as Oakland Hills, Winged Foot and Augusta. In contrast, Pebble would open its gates to everybody, hire one of the first U.S.-born golf professionals (Californian Harold Sampson), and select its designers because they were cheap (free) and geographically desirable. Jack Neville and Douglas Grant lived nearby, enjoyed decorated amateur careers, and had the vision. Besides the free design services, Morse budgeted for a cost-efficient greens keeping crew, comprised primarily of goats.

Grant and Neville made the most of their once-in-a-lifetime opportunity; the latter was overly modest about the design accomplishment, always crediting the canvas. "It was all there in plain sight," he told the *San Francisco Chronicle* in 1972, the year of that first U.S. Open. "It took a little imagination, but not much." In the early 1920s, British architect William Herbert Fowler was engaged to enliven what was then an anti-climactic, short par-4 18th, transforming it into today's 535-yard fireworks display, maybe the best finishing hole in golf. But other than that, and Nicklaus' work on the 5th in 1998, Pebble has changed remarkably little over the century.

Pebble is a refreshing hybrid—a links-like course in places, for sure, but always standing on its own identity. The greens are relatively fast, true (despite the poa annua) and tiny. At an average of 3,500 square feet, they are the smallest on the PGA Tour, and roughly a third smaller than those at, say, Bandon's acclaimed Pacific Dunes. Likewise, the fairways are relatively lush (except during U.S. Opens), while affording unrivaled proximity to the Pacific. There are forgettable holes, but nothing matches the sparkle and tumble of Stillwater Cove, or the adrenaline rush of holes 4-10 (the testosterone-testing approach to No. 8 remains Nicklaus' favorite) and 17-18.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PEBBLE BEACH COMPANY



Hole 5, Pebble Beach Golf Links

PHOTOGRAPH BY TGO



The Tap Room



Hole 7, Pebble Beach Golf Links

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PEBBLE BEACH COMPANY



Hole 3, Spyglass Hill Golf Course



The Lodge at Pebble Beach

PHOTOGRAPH BY TONY



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PEBBLE BEACH COMPANY



Fairway One Cottage Patio

PHOTOGRAPH BY SHERMAN CHIU

In contrast to the natural, unmarred views along, for example, the North Sea or the Oregon coast, Pebble is surrounded by development—and a slew of \$15-million-plus homes (the landmark estate behind the 10th green, once owned by Gene Hackman, recently sold for \$27 million). But these are part of the Pebble fabric, and rather than apologize, Pebble embraces it, including the addition this fall of the Fairway One lodging complex to the left of the first hole.

Famous for its weather, Pebble can see sun, fog, wind, and rain co-mingling on any given day. But on average, it blows much less here than at most oceanside courses. When I hit a choked-down 6-iron into a stiff, rainy gale at Pebble's signature 106-yard par-3 seventh, our caddie said it was the strongest wind he'd seen in years. And by the time we reached the 9th, the sun was shining and the wind was down.

For these reasons and for several generations, Pebble reigned as the perennial "bucket list" leader among North American golf destinations. With Bandon Dunes muscling into the discussion in the past decade, the beautiful thing is that the two could not offer more divergent experiences. Pebble is cashmere to Bandon's tweed. "We are aware they are there," Pebble's Freeman says of the Oregon upstart, "but it doesn't change what we do."

You are going to pay more for Pebble, where the walk-up rate has risen to \$525 a round. Furthermore, to guarantee tee times at Pebble, guests need to book a room for at least two nights at one of its three properties: The Lodge at Pebble Beach (including the new Fairway One), The Inn at Spanish Bay, and the most luxurious property, Casa Palermo. Rooms start at roughly \$840 per night and climb upward toward the price tag of a compact SUV for a multi-night stay. (For perspective, in that U.S. Open year of 1972, a Pebble golf package, including room, board and green fee, cost about \$50 a day.)

September through mid-November are the busiest, most expensive months, when a three-night stay is usually required. But after that, the resort offers "Fall and Winter Stay and Play Packages," valid mid-November through the end of March, that are fairly reasonable. Pebble's creative resort reservations staff can help create your perfect package and offer an array of incentives and credits. One starter package has two golfers sharing a room at the Inn at Spanish Bay for two nights, playing 18 holes at Pebble and Spanish Bay, and paying less than \$1,500 per person. But the real savings kick in with three- and four-night itineraries.

There is another way, and that is booking other accommodations on the Peninsula and testing your luck with last-minute tee time availability for the crown jewel. It's best to be a single or double, more of a long shot for a foursome. Holidays increase your odds (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, July Fourth, etc.), and have the Pebble tee time reservation number (800-877-0597) on speed dial; you can book 24 hours in advance, with the line staffed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

In my three visits to the Peninsula, we hit the jackpot on the last trip, when I was visiting a college roommate who now happens to own a vacation bungalow in Carmel, and who rather fortuitously had the priceless connections that got us on both Cypress and Monterey Peninsula CC. We also had an 8:30 a.m. weekday tee time at Spyglass, and when a spot for two opened at Pebble on the same morning, the staff seamlessly switched us. Paired at random with a CNN political commentator and a master sommelier (who later walked us through the wine list in the Tap Room), it was the best \$500 I've ever spent.

Pebble Beach Resorts' other courses, especially Spyglass, are more than memorable... they just aren't Pebble. Outside of the resort company lineup, the best of the rest of the public-access courses on the Peninsula might be the Robert Trent Jones, Jr.-designed Poppy Hills, home of the Northern California Golf Association. Jack Neville's other commission, Pacific Grove Golf Links, offers a roughly \$60 greens fee and is proudly touted as "the poor man's Pebble," with a back nine that skirts the ocean. The Bayonet and Black Horse courses, former military tracks before the decommissioning of Fort Ord, have been redesigned by Gene Bates. For inland options, Carmel Valley Ranch Golf Club is a beautiful resort with the only Pete Dye-designed course in Northern California, while the Quail Lodge and Golf Club was recently renovated by Todd Eckenrode of Origins Golf Design.

If you fail to win the tee sheet lottery for Pebble, you can experience the Pebble magic by cruising 17-Mile Drive (there's even an app for that), enjoying a meal at the Tap Room in the Lodge, or catching the evening bagpiper at Spanish Bay. Then again, even with the high price of admission to stay on-site and guarantee your round at Pebble, it might be one of the best values in all of golf. 🏌️

Contributor Andy Bigford is the editor of Warren Miller's *Freedom Found*, which is now available in a second hardcover printing on Amazon and at bookstores.



How to Travel- Proof Your Game

A WORLD OF *advice*
on preparing for your
next golf trip.

AT SEPTEMBER'S Flor de Caña Open in Nicaragua, American Michael Buttacavoli won the longest sudden-death playoff (10 holes) in PGA Tour Latinoamérica history. However, golf fans may remember the 29-year-old former Rice University standout better for his well-documented sudden-death matches with airlines earlier this summer.

In June, Buttacavoli missed a chance at qualifying for the U.S. Open when the airline lost his clubs between Ecuador and Florida. After he withdrew from the qualifier, the sticks turned up.

Then, a month later, Buttacavoli's bag again went missing when he flew to London to qualify at Woburn for the 147th Open Championship. This time, the wise young Owl had lined up a local friend's set as a contingency—although his clubs arrived on another flight in time for him to finish five shots behind Ian Poulter for the third and final spot.

From missing clubs to missing putts, golf travel can challenge even the most seasoned players. We got some frequent flyers to weigh in on how best to take your game on the road.

PACKING

Watch your weight. Anything heavier than 50 pounds incurs an airline surcharge. "I always clean out my golf bag to lighten it so I can pack extra stuff in the traveling case, up to the 50-pound limit," says Denver Golf Expo owner and operator Mark Cramer.

Dress the part. When invited to play an exclusive club for the first time, know the dress code. "On my initial visit to Monterey Peninsula Country Club, I arrived in nice golf shorts and was promptly told pants are mandatory," says Colorado Open Golf Foundation CEO Kevin Laura. "I had already dropped my luggage and travel

bag at the hotel and it was a beautiful day so I had no rain gear. I was unable to buy anything in the golf shop (member charge only). Thankfully a player in my group had rain pants in his travel cover and loaned them to me."

Streamline. "Only bring 10 clubs," Colorado Golf Association Executive Director Ed Mate advises. "You won't miss the other four."

Don't "excessorize." For a five-day trip, don't pack for ten. Bring an outfit for each day but no need to take more than a sweater or windbreaker. A vest makes an easy layering piece. And remember, "You can always send clothes to the cleaners," says Colorado Golf Hall of Fame member Kent Moore, who also advises packing no more than five balls if you're heading to a competitive tournament. "If you need more, it won't matter anyway."

Spike the Softspikes. Don't pack golf shoes; wear them. Major manufacturers all boast stylish, cleat-free, deep-treaded shoes that function not only on the course, but also along the concourse, in the clubhouse and around town. As examples, *CAG* contributor and avid golfer Suzanne Brown points to Ecco's BIOM and Casual Hybrid lines (us.shop.ecco.com); Skechers' Go Golf line (sneakers.com) and FootJoy's Pro/SL and Club Casuals (footjoy.com).

Don't forget to Dopp. Nothing can ruin a golf trip faster than an untended wound or injury. Keep a first-aid kit in your golf bag stocked with Band-Aids, sunscreen, fingernail clippers, aspirin, insect repellent, atomic balm, antibiotic cream and New-Skin or tape for blisters.

PROTECTION

Show some club love. Stiff-arms aren't just for running backs. Club Glove's Stiff Arm (clubglove.com), a \$30 telescoping crutch that protrudes from your golf bag and wedges into the top of a travel bag, absorbs the full force of impact on clubs. "I've taken more than 100 golf trips, and I have never had a shaft broken using the Stiff Arm," says Colorado Golf Hall of Fame member Gary Potter. "Put it on the longest possible setting that still fits in the travel cover," adds fellow Hall of Fame member Kent Moore. "It's much cheaper than a new driver."

Cover Your Assets. There's no guarantee you'll be reunited with your



clubs upon arrival. With the majority of airlines limiting coverage for sports equipment, look into purchasing additional travel insurance (plus an optional rider to cover the clubs). Also,

make sure to include your golf equipment on your homeowner's policy schedule (as you would expensive cameras, jewelry, etc.). And hold onto your baggage claim ticket.

He who hesitates... may lose his clubs. "I always make a point to get to the baggage claim as quickly as possible," Potter says. "Golf clubs are very conspicuous, easy targets to purloin."

Eclipse the sun. The pain of sunburn can ruin a golf vacation, and the carcinogenic effects of ultraviolet radiation can ruin your life. Sunscreen at resorts can cost double or triple what you'd pay at a home, so remember to bring and apply SPF-30 sweat-proof "sport" sunscreen on all exposed skin, and wear hats, shirts and pants made of UVA- and UVB-protective fabrics.

Arm Yourself. Nike, UnderArmour and other brands make UV-protective sun sleeves, which have the added benefit of compression to prevent muscle fatigue and sore elbows.

Get shady. Golf-specific sunglasses will protect your eyes and aid in reading greens.

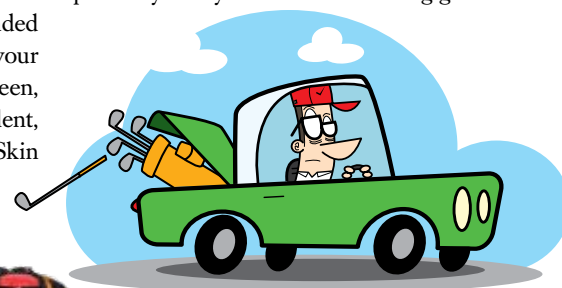


ILLUSTRATION BY DAVE PALMER

TRANSPORT

How do you roll? Invest in a Sun Mountain Clubglider (shop.sunmountain.com), a durable travel case with two sets of wheels (see top of page) for incomparable ease of pulling.

Case study. "I use a small bag in a soft-sided travel cover with a Stiff Arm," Potter says. "Hard cases are often tough to fit into rental cars."

Fly Southwest. The carrier still allows two bags—including golf totes under 50 pounds—to fly free.

Ship, don't schlep. With airlines charging for bags and oversized luggage, toting your sticks can run north of \$200 for a round trip. For about the same amount of money, Ship Sticks (shipsticks.com)



ILLUSTRATION BY DAVE PALMER

Blades of Worry

BONE UP ON BERMUDA

Whereas bentgrass carpets the greens on most Colorado courses, Bermuda grass blankets the majority of putting surfaces in warm-weather climates. “It’s more than an aesthetic difference,” says LPGA Professional Elena King of Denver. “Bermuda differs from bent chiefly in that thicker blades and the grain—the direction in which the grass grows—dramatically affects the speed and break of putts.”

GET THE GRAIN. To determine the direction of the grain on Bermuda grass, King advises asking the following questions:

- **Which way is west?** Bermuda grows parallel to the ground, towards the setting sun.
- **Is the green shiny or dull?** Shiny is with the grain; dull, against it.
- **What does the cup look like?** One side will be brownish and worn; the other will have a healthy green tint with blades growing over the cup, showing the direction of the grain, typically toward the sun, water or ocean.
- **What’s the rub?** Scrape some grass on the *fringe* (not the putting surface, which breaches rule 35-1f).

If the blades brush up, you’re against the grain:



PHOTOGRAPH BY EMIL KARA

If the blades lay down, you’re with the grain:



PHOTOGRAPH BY EMIL KARA



PHOTOGRAPHS BY EMIL KARA



PUTT WITH PURPOSE. To negotiate Bermuda greens, King recommends:

- **Stroke the ball 20 percent harder** going against the grain and 20 percent softer with it. The grain can even pull the ball on an uphill putt.
- **Play more break** than you normally would on bent (see top).
- **Commit to your line.** Indecision will likely create a tentative stroke causing the ball to be influenced more by the grain, especially on cross-grain putts.

DON’T GET ROUGHED UP. “Everyone talks about Bermuda greens, but the rough takes even more getting used to,” explains Michael Ritter, the PGA general manager at Grand Elk Ranch & Club in Granby. “The ball nestles down, and Bermuda at rough-length looks like some jungle vine that will never let go of your ball. But the grass will not provide as much resistance as you’d expect. It will come between the clubface and the ball, so count on less spin than you would normally get. Play the ball slightly back in your stance, hit it with a descending blow like you would from Colorado rough and allow for more run than usual.”



PHOTOGRAPH BY MACKENZIE COHEN

KNOW YOUR POA

The invasive bluegrass known as poa annua can cause smooth bentgrass greens to pill like a rayon sweater, causing putts to bump off-line. Yet putting surfaces up and down the West Coast—including Riviera and the Pebble Beach and Torrey Pines courses—are pure spongy poa, which tends to hold footprints and spike marks and rolls slower and bumpier later in the day as the grass grows quickly and unevenly.

MINIMIZE POA THREE-PUTTS. Play early in the day if possible. Even then, putting on poa requires an aggressive stroke to keep the ball on its intended line. “The best thing you can do is get the ball rolling over end over end,” says Mackenzie Cohen, an assistant professional at Pebble Beach Resorts, who draws a meridian on her ball (above) to see its rotation. A former Colorado High School state champion and member of two NCAA National Championship teams, Cohen learned to accept poa’s unpredictability. “If you get the ball to roll consistently on the line you choose, you can’t get frustrated,” she says. “Just know you hit it well and the grass will do what it does.”

ROLL, DON’T BOUNCE. Hitting it well on poa means not having it skid or bounce for the first couple of feet. While parroting Brandt Snedeker’s “pop shot” is one option, try playing the ball slightly forward so you contact the ball with a slightly upward putting stroke. This will impart topspin and get it rolling on top of the grass. Using a putter with higher than two or three degrees of loft can accomplish similar results.



PHOTOGRAPH BY MACKENZIE COHEN

provides reliable door-to-door service to hotels, golf courses and homes, and insures your clubs up to \$1,000, with an option of up to \$3,500 in additional insurance.

Bring cash. Service professionals—bellmen, drivers, valets, caddies, bag and locker-room attendants—like “a little something, you know, for the effort...” They usually don’t break 20s or take credit cards. “Bring plenty of small bills,” Colorado Golf Hall of Famer Janet Moore recommends. “People like to feel appreciated.”

ACCLIMATE

Travel today, play tomorrow. Try not to schedule golf on the day you arrive. Changes in air pressure on a plane don’t only affect your hearing. They can affect your inner ear and, ergo, balance—as can a bumpy flight, boat ride or a twisty drive from the airport.



Rest easy. “Go buy a pillow if a hotel doesn’t have good ones,” advises Janet Moore. “It’s not worth getting a stiff neck.” She also always brings a Bluetooth Bose travel speaker to listen to familiar music on the road.

Stay strong. Not all hotels have a gym. Easy-to-pack resistance bands increase power, stability and range of motion. Do a routine of 20 chest presses, core rotations (both sides), rows and straight-arm pull-throughs. Always secure the bands firmly to a bed, door, etc.

ON COURSE

Adjust your attitude. “Bad weather, a bad hotel room, late flights, back spasms, smoky rental cars—all are just little bumps in the road,” says Janet Moore. “Have the attitude that nothing is going to bother you, and be grateful for an experience most people will not have.”

Adjust for altitude. “If you turn up your nose at anything under 7,200 yards in Colorado, you’ll be surprised at how long 6,700 yards can play in Florida or Hawaii,” cautions Michael Ritter, the PGA general manager at Granby’s Grand Elk Ranch & Club. “Your first day, play a shorter version of the course and figure out the distance you’re



ILLUSTRATION BY DAVE PALMER

getting on your average drives, not just the great ones. Notice how much more difficult it is to carry fairway bunkers or water hazards. Try to gauge if this altitude is one or two clubs different on your approach shots. Then you can figure out the appropriate tees for the rest of the trip.”

Watch the wind. At lower altitudes, the denser air will have a greater effect on your ball flight. “Shots played into the wind will be knocked down more than the usual math will suggest,” Ritter says. “If it feels like a one-club wind and you add one more for sea level, consider adding yet one more. You might go long, but don’t be surprised if you’re just fine.”

Don’t Hazard a Guess. With all the available golf-related apps and GPS products (*SkyCaddie.com*, *GolfLogix.com*, *18birdies.com*), there’s no excuse for not knowing the distance of a carry, or being surprised by a stream fronting a hole. At the very least, buy a yardage book or hire a caddie.

Watch your consumption. “Eating healthfully on the road, especially at locations with good restaurants, can be a challenge, but it definitely helps performance,” advises Kent Moore.

Drink wisely. Excessive tipping can turn a memorable golf experience into a forgettable time. Try Magic Bullet (*drinkmagicbullet.com*), an all-natural, blood orange-flavored “hangover eraser” that neutralizes alcohol toxins and tastes great alone or in a cocktail. Who knows? It might give you an edge on your overserved buddies.

Silence the phone. Unless you’re using it for on-course GPS guidance, keep your Smartphone in Airplane Mode during a round. Why invite distraction? You can still take photos but free yourself from the annoyances from which you’ve escaped.

Heed Jim Brown’s advice. “If you are traveling to Ireland or Scotland for 10 days of golf,” the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame treasurer cautions, “be sure to call your wife at least once or twice.”

Share your best travel advice at coloradoavidgolfer.com.





iPura Vida!

At every glorious turn, Costa Rica's
RESERVA CONCHAL *delivers a version of paradise.*

By TASKA CAMPBELL

BEFORE TEMPERATURES dip below your uncomfortable range, why not head somewhere where “whitecaps” describe ocean waves and not snow-peaked mountains, where navigating the terrain requires clubs and balls rather than skis and poles.

That place is Reserva Conchal Beach Resort Golf and Spa, a luxury resort situated between white sand beaches and a “dry” tropical forest in the Guanacaste region of Costa Rica’s sparkling northwestern Pacific coast.

Within the resort’s vast 2,300 acres lies the five-star all-inclusive Westin Golf Resort & Spa, featuring 60,000-square-foot Reserva Conchal Beach Club and highlighted by an extensive swimming pavilion, modern workout facilities, fine dining, an exquisite spa and access to watersports.

But the crown jewel of Reserva Conchal is its championship golf course.

Designed by Robert Trent Jones II—

whose Colorado gems include Arrowhead, Crested Butte and Keystone Ranch—the par-71 Reserva Conchal layout stretches to more than 7,000 yards. The architect smartly routed the course between the azure Pacific waters and lush greens of the neighboring tropical forest. The returning nines feature amazing ocean vistas with unforgettable holes meandering through tropical lakes, rugged ravines and ample elevation changes.

Notable golfers such as Jesper Parnevik and Hale Irwin have notched rounds here, as has the legendary instructor David Leadbetter. The list of accomplished players grew substantially in May when Reserva Conchal hosted the PGA TOUR Latinoamerica Essential Costa Rica Classic. The inaugural tournament—sponsored by the Costa Rica Tourism Institute—was the country’s first PGA TOUR event in more than 30 years, and the field consisted

of 144 professional golfers from more than 25 countries. Guatemala’s José Toledo won with an 18-under-par, two shots ahead of Australian Ryan Ruffels.

Consistently ranked among the top 30 layouts in the Caribbean and Mexico, Reserva Conchal was the first golf course in Costa Rica bestowed certification by Audubon International. The course also boasts a world-class practice facility and learning center offers four green complexes, bunkers, chipping and approach areas, and an expansive practice tee. It offers single- and multi-day golf clinics, as well as PGA TOUR Academy featuring certified instructors from famed TPC Sawgrass.

Golf reigns supreme at Reserva Conchal, but other outdoor activities rank a close second. With one of the top beaches in Central America, relaxing by the ocean is a must, and there’s no better place to soak in the rays than at the resort’s beach club,



HAPPY PLACE:
Reserva Conchal's five-star offerings range from 18 holes of tour-worthy golf to 10 swoon-worthy restaurants; from exhilarating watersports to wildlife viewing to world-class spa treatments.



from which you can launch a kayak or watch humpback whales frolic in the ocean.

Explore the property's extensive trail network and Reserva Conchal's lush, 96-acre wildlife refuge, which is home to myriad species of colorful birds and butterflies, 12 species of mammals (among them coatis, capuchins and howler monkeys), reptiles such as iguanas, as well as multihued amphibians and copious native trees, plants and flowers.

The all-inclusive Westin Golf Resort and Spa, Playa Conchal sits on a pristine stretch of white sand and provides the ultimate in elegance—with personal concierge services at the Royal Beach Club and sumptuous amenities standard of the Westin brand. Additional five-star touches include 10 on-site bars and restaurants—including the exquisite Catalinas, Faisanella and Las Candelas—and the aptly named Heavenly Spa.

Adding even more luxury, in late 2018 the W Costa Rica, Reserva Conchal will open and place this part of Costa Rica among the elite in world-class destinations. The W will offer 151 guestrooms, and contemporary luxury touches and amenities such as a W Living Room lifestyle lounge, specialty restaurants, meeting space, a destination bar and lounge, an infinity edge pool and spa.

For larger groups or those looking to stay in paradise a while, Reserva Conchal has premium one-, two- and three-bedroom private residences, and a four-bedroom penthouse that overlooks the Pacific.

The fall and winter are the best times to visit Reserva Conchal. Vacation packages at the Westin start as low as \$249 per night via its Par-5 Golf Package. For those seeking a longer stay in paradise, there's the Experience Golf Package, which includes seven-night, all-inclusive accommodations.

And why Costa Rica versus other tropical locales? Per a recent Happy Planet Index (yes, there is such a thing), Costa Rica was named the "happiest country on Earth" based on global data on life expectancy, experienced wellbeing and ecological footprint.

Costa Rica is also one of the safest countries in the world for Americans. Costa Ricans, known colloquially as *ticos*, are extremely welcoming and enjoy interacting and helping tourists. The nearest airport, Liberia, is modern, and clean, and you can usually be off the plane and on your way in less than 15 minutes. Major carriers fly into Liberia from Denver with only one stop, and then it's a scenic one-hour drive to Reserva Conchal. 🍷

For more information on a Reserva Conchal escape, visit reservaconchal.com

Up and on the Rocks

THE RESORT NAME is irrefutably solid—**The Boulders**. It's literal, eternal, strong. It both describes the defining geological features of the two Jay Morrish-designed courses and suggests the Sisyphean nature of a game that eludes mastery despite our tireless efforts. The perfection to which we aspire does exist in the courses' exquisite beauty and in experiencing it with the benefit of the resort's sage instructors and professional caddies. Quality permeates the 1,300-acre property in aptly named Carefree. Not only does *Golf Digest* currently rate it the Best Golf Resort in the Southwest, but this year *Travel + Leisure* readers voted it the Best Hotel in Arizona, thanks to spectacular upgrades in its ruggedly refined suites and casitas. The otherworldly spa delivers a smorgasbord of treatments that leaves you feeling as balanced as the giant prehistoric rocks framing the resort's eight tennis courts, four pools, three restaurants and spectacular lounge. theboulders.com

ARIZONA ROCKS: The first green on The South Course at The Boulders Resort & Spa in Carefree.



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