

GOLFChicago

Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

September 2013, Vol. 17 No. 7

Scotland **Where the Game was Born**

Destination: Cancun **Holiday Gift Guide**

The Rabito Golf Foundation
Fitness Edge

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NOTES FROM GREG AND DAVE

It is that time of year again. We are not talking this time about the gridiron gladiators. And as for the pennant race, Chi-Town baseball is racing ahead to spring training and, tragically, not toward the post-season. What we are gleeful about, of course, is the shopping season for golfers. There are deals on green fees and even bigger deals in the pro shop. If you have delayed purchasing new golf clubs because of a budget crunch, you were prudent and are due to be rewarded. That same driver you couldn't afford in March is now \$200 cheaper as the season winds down. Most equipment manufacturers are releasing next year's models before the holidays, so discounts are everywhere.

It was great seeing the BMW Championship back in town. Conway Farms had the feel of a major championship as the best pros in the world took aim at the pins. Zach Johnson is not only one of the most talented players on the Tour, he's also a great guy and an ambassador of the annual John Deere Classic. The pride of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Johnson thrilled the galleries with a final round 65 for a two stroke victory over Nick Watney. He would be the first to agree that the true champion of the tournament was the Evans Scholars Foundation who will receive proceeds approaching \$3 million—all to be directed toward scholarships for area caddies.

Just prior to the BMW, architect Tom Doak stopped by Chicago to talk about the huge renovation project he's been overseeing at Medinah Country Club's #1 Course. Once considered a lesser challenge than the famed #3 Course, it now has six new holes, and—if early reviews are to be believed—could possibly play host one day to a major championship. Weather willing, the target date for the re-opening of the course is Memorial Day, 2014.

As the 2013 season winds to a close, we want to thank our readers for their continued flood of e-mails and suggestions. We try to keep our fingers on the pulse of what Chicagoland's golfers want from a golf publication. We are proud to be your golf source and pledge that 2014—our 18th season—will be as exciting, entertaining, and educating as you have come to expect.

Now get out and play some golf before the snow flies!

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Man Cave Essentials

Don't wait for the holidays to accessorize the cave. Whether your Man Cave is in the basement, or the shed, SKLZ has two 'must have' items for all golfers. The Quickster (\$119.99) portable practice net is 6' x 6' and can be set up, or broken down, in less than two minutes. It even comes with a carrying case! The Quickster will handle every club in your bag and leave you worry-free as you pound balls during the snowball season.

SKLZ latest innovation is the Glide Pad (\$99.99). This launching pad features a premium artificial turf and a clever system that reduces vibration and actually glides as you take a divot. This is one of those "you gotta try it to believe it" gadgets that will change your practice sessions. SKLZ also designed the Glide Pad to accept full-length tees, so this real grass-like hitting mat can be used for irons and big sticks.

www.sklz.com



Revamped Cardiff

The spikeless golf shoe is here to stay. Ashworth's Cardiff ADC, or All-Day Cushioning, features a leather upper and an unbelievably comfortable sockliner. Available in men's and women's models, the new Cardiff ADC looks as good on the course as it does at the office. Justin Rose wore these spikes en route to his 2013 Open Championship. Rose trusted the performance and surely enjoyed the comfort as he strolled the links on his way into golf's history.

In addition to comfort, Cardiff ADC is available in six colorways for men, and four colorways for women. \$120 www.ashworth.com



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\$225 (Jacket) \$225 (Pant)
www.adidasgolf.com



Long and Exotic

Tour Edge's Exotics drivers just got longer. With a new industrial appearance, the XCG7 is a break from the XCG series. The latest model, to be released next month, delivers the same cutting edge technology as prior models, but offers a completely different sensory experience. Visually, the sole introduces an industrial feel with newly designed weight pads. The XCG7 has a muscle-car feel to it; moreover, the audible feedback is more powerful and hits your ears with a distinct piercing sound. We love it!

We also love the added yardage. In addition to increased distance, Tour Edge seems to have locked in the ideal shaft for the XCG7 with the Fujikura Fuel shaft. The adjustable system allows golfers to set the XCG7's loft between 8.5° and 12°.

\$299.99 www.touredge.com



Maximum Flight Control

Over the past two years, Titleist CB and MB 714 Series irons haven't changed much—mostly because they did not need to. Player feedback left the R&D team with the challenge to fine-tune the thoroughbred of irons. The new CB and MB series feature a "pre-worn" leading edge that provides a smoother interaction with the club and turf. Other tweaks by the R&D team include weight and cavity adjustments to optimize ball flight and trajectory control.

This is a player's club with minimal offset and a thin top line; be sure to look for the new CB and MB series irons in the bag of your next club champion.

\$125 per club/steel www.titleist.com

The Rabito Foundation: An Opportunity for Excellence

Securing a full ride to play golf in college is a long journey that involves junior golf tournaments, traveling to marquee events, and making contacts with the right people. It is also an expensive journey. Unlike other high school sports where the elite players are showcased at high school games and meets on the court, field, or pitch, golf's elite players earn their mettle in junior events that send them across the country to play against the best of the best. For most families, to go all in and position their children for a full scholarship is a bit of a dice game, and the stakes can be a huge fiscal burden.

For 25 years, Carl Rabito has worked with the world's best players from the major professional tours around the world. From his work with college players to the LPGA and PGA Tours, Rabito, and his golf schools, have produced champions. Rabito understands that most families are not in a position to toss their savings into a child's golf swing. "Golf is expensive. I see parents make it happen with great sacrifice. My foundation wants to give a few families a chance to compete without worrying about the costs to build a complete

game to compete at the next level." Rabito also has involved community business leaders with the program to provide opportunities for mentor relationships and a perspective on how golf can change lives.

Beginning October 1, The Rabito Foundation will begin preliminary auditions for an opportunity to receive free instruction and guidance for high school golfers. The program provides golfers a chance to change their lives through golf. From properly fitted equipment to instruction to obtaining a college scholarship and placement, the Rabito Foundation is firmly committed to building champions. The scaffolding begins with an intensive program that involves swing analysis, on-course training, and a guided instructional program. Rabito shares, "We are going to award a golf education worth thousands of dollars. This is big stuff." Amazingly, the Foundation's program requires just sweat equity from the selected candidates, not a financial planner to reshuffle the family's savings. Candidates who are selected will enter the program ready to begin an education with concrete goals, rigorous instruction and a practice curriculum.

GROWING THE GAME

Greg Jourdan

The Rabito Foundation is hoping to provide the resources and skill sets that will lead to a champion. The merit-based program is seeking players in grades seven to ten who are ready to commit to an intensive program. The tryouts will determine the best candidates for the program. The ultimate goal for the foundation and Rabito is to build a highly skilled player, instill ethical conduct, and promote good citizenship. Rabito adds, "We are not just building a golfer. We are building a better person who represents their community and golf in the highest regard." While the outcomes are a few years away, the Rabito Foundation is paving a new path for young golfers and their families that could fulfill the dream of a kid searching for a way to golf at the next level.

Final auditions will be conducted on October 19 and 20 at the Bolingbrook Golf Club. For more information, contact Rick Nelson, Director of Instruction, at Bolingbrook Golf Club and Rabito Golf at 630-771-9400 ext. 4500 or email Rick at rnelson@kempersports.com.

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Hot Springs Village, Arkansas is hosting a special weekend for the outdoor enthusiast, headlined by the first annual **Dusk Scare** – a 4-mile competitive run through the Ouachita Mountains. It's a challenging course full of natural beauty, and a few not so natural surprises (beware of Zombie attacks).

Saturday, November 2 | 4-Mile Run | 2:30 pm | Hernando Trail
Register and find out more information at HSVZombieTrailRun.com

OTHER GREAT EVENTS TAKING PLACE NOVEMBER 2ND

- Bird Watching Eco Walk** | 8:00 am | Magellan Beaver Dam Trail
- Geocaching Walk** | 9:00 am | Cedar Creek Trail
- Cycling Fun Tour** | 9:00 am | Hernando Trail East
- Dog Costume Parade** | 10:00 am | DeSoto Spillway Trail
- Golf Cart Decoration Contest** | 10:00 am | Balboa Spillway Trail
- Segway Trail Ride** | 11:00 am | DeSoto Marina Trail

Looking for a new place to call home? Then, sign up for our **Open House Weekend Nov 2-3** at VisitHSV.com and get a personal tour of available homes. Hot Springs Village has affordable housing, low property taxes, awesome scenery and plenty of activities to keep you busy.



Working for Next Year

We are entering fall in Chicago and, unfortunately, once again our baseball teams are looking forward to next year. Just like the Cubs and Sox, since there are plenty of beautiful weekends before winter season, it is a good time to start training for a better game next year.

A golf swing requires balance, timing, flexibility, strength, and a comprehensive program that will improve your swing in addition to your overall fitness. The old perception that Pilates and yoga are for wiry, overly flexible people does not hold true anymore. Yoga and Pilates have been integrated into training regiments for top-level athletes and can be adjusted to meet the needs of most golfers.

Varieties of yoga range from mildly strenuous to highly intense exercise. There are considerations for which is best for your overall health, fitness level, and if relaxation/meditation is a need. Vinyasa (flow) yoga and Ashtanga (power) yoga are two types that will give an intense workout that removes any preconceived ideas that yoga is not a workout.

If you are looking for less intense exercise, or are a beginner, consider Hatha yoga or a restorative yoga. Regardless of intensity, all forms of yoga will improve overall strength and flexibility in addition to increased balance and focus. For the golfer who needs to improve shoulder, trunk, and hip flexibility, yoga will give you a greater range of motion along with better body control. The added consistency in your swing, along with the flexibility and strength, will add distance and accuracy to your shots. If you happen to be a golfer that stresses out over those pesky four-foot putts, then the mind-body integration qualities of yoga could save you a few strokes and headaches each round.

Pilates has been around since the early 1900s with an early concentration on training and rehabilitating dancers. Pilates has become a popular fitness method because it addresses flexibility and core stabilization. There are several variations that range in intensity level, but most Pilates programs are similar and will make you work. Pilates places a strong emphasis on strengthening

THE FITNESS EDGE

Brad Jourdan PT, DPT

and stabilizing the core muscles along with promoting proper posture. The emphasis on posture will translate to a solid back position during your swing. By generating more power through the core and by increasing rotation through the trunk and hips, you will be able to move your hips and legs through the ball more efficiently. Improved accuracy and increased distance are also a nice reward.

Driving distance and accuracy are great reasons to add either of these programs to your exercise routine. But there are other benefits that include decreasing your risk of injury by improving muscle balance, improving your endurance to produce quality shots for 18 holes, and prolonging the years you can play at a high level. When you employ these exercises into your workout routine, you will look much better on the course with a slimmer waistline and toned muscle. Another side effect of Pilates and yoga is you'll need to save some cash this off-season. After just a few months of exercise, you will need to buy shorts and shirts that fit your new physique next year.



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Soirée in the Sandhills

OFF THE BEATEN CART PATH

Wayne Mills

A new golf course opening in the United States is a big deal these days. When it is a Tom Doak-designed course in the now legendary Sand Hills of Western Nebraska, it is huge. When it is at the utterly unique Dismal River Club, already home to an iconoclastic Jack Nicklaus-designed course, it becomes epic.

Club CEO and part owner Chris Johnston—a dead ringer for comedian Ron White in looks and demeanor—said he wanted a companion course to help draw more visitors and members to this remote outpost. He nailed it with the Doak addition.

Sitting on 3,000 acres of windswept high prairie land in Hooker County (pop 1,000) near the town of Mullen (population 351) at the end of a 20-mile single lane road, you don't so much visit Dismal River as make a pilgrimage. "It's a dude ranch for golf," Johnston proudly announces.

After contacting several architects in 2010 about the proposed course (including Tiger Woods) Johnston and Doak came to an agreement. "Mr. Doak doesn't just take any course," he said. "You don't 'pick' him. He 'picks' you."

"I always want to do something different than I've done before, and something different than the neighbors," Doak said when asked about being compared to the existing Nicklaus course. "We've worked next to several of the best courses in the world before—Pacific Dunes was next to Bandon Dunes; Sebonack was next to Shinnecock Hills and The National, and The Renaissance Club is next to Muirfield in Scotland. You're unlikely to "beat" those neighbors in the rankings, so you're better off just trying to build a course that's different and has a character of its own, and see what people think."

Once on the job, Doak had to focus on a routing plan. "I knew I would want to gravitate down toward the river. It's a unique feature that none of the other courses in the region have available, both the river and then the giant bluff on the opposite bank. It helps orient the golfer, whereas on other courses in the area, you sometimes just feel lost among all the dunes."

Speaking of orienting among the dunes, there is a common perception, or perhaps misconception, that the challenge in designing a sand hills course isn't finding holes

so much as eliminating many of the possibilities. It isn't quite that easy. "Everyone says you could find 1,000 different holes in the sand hills, but the truth is that most of them would feature blind shots, and a lot of them would run into a dead end where there wasn't another good hole to follow them," said Doak. "Trying to string a bunch of great holes together is a bit more difficult than we make it look, when we succeed."

Once the routing had been settled, there was often very little earth moving to be done because the terrain and soil profile is just vegetated dunes covering an ocean of fine sand. No drain pipe was needed anywhere. Bunkers weren't constructed in the conventional sense, they were just dug out wherever needed and left to weather.

"Some of the greens were just laying there; there were several of them that took less than one hour to shape!" Doak exclaimed. The entire course from soup to nuts came in under \$2 million, which is practically unheard of today, especially with a marquee architect.

If the construction of the Doak course at Dismal River was a bargain, then Wild Horse

Golf Club in Gothenburg was an outright steal at under a million dollars.

Conceived by a couple of local farmers who were frustrated that their nine-hole muni kept flooding every time it rained, Wild Horse had no business succeeding—the farmers called it the Cart Before the Horse course—but through the efforts of the local community and a pair of golf course construction veterans, it has.

Dave Axland and Dan Proctor, who had been building courses with Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore for years, found out about the Wild Horse project just as they were finishing up at the venerable Sand Hills Golf Club in Mullen, and convinced the farmers to let them design and build their golf course. That was a fortuitous decision.

Without any mapping or topographical data they went about building Wild Horse by eye and on foot. Area farmers became so fascinated by what they were seeing they would stop by every morning with their equipment to bust up the sod and do what little shaping was necessary.

The result at Wild Horse is a stunning combination of generous fairways framed

by prairie grasses on rolling dunes, greens open to run up shots, and dramatic blowout bunkers galore.

Clearly the most complete golf experience in the Nebraska Sand Hills is at The Prairie Club in Valentine, just south of the South Dakota border.

Founder Paul Schock states the mission, "I do not like the fact that avid golfers can't get on great golf courses, so I want this place to be a club where there will always be a place for somebody who can't afford to be a member... we need more of the truly great golf available to more people. That's a key part of our vision and always will be."

Featuring the Tom Lehman designed Dunes course, the Graham Marsh designed Pines course, and a 10-hole par 3 layout by Gil Hanse, the Prairie Club offers lodging in the 31 clubhouse rooms plus four cabins along the Snake River Canyon. Fine dining is available in the Canyon Room with additional seating in the casual bar area.

The golf is stupendous at the Prairie Club. The Dunes is a monstrous golf course with 80-yard-wide fairways, bunkers that

could hide a small army and an array of uphill and downhill shots that make yardage calculations a faint guess. The Pines is a bit more traditional in scale and plays into the adjoining pine forest to the edge of the Snake River. The two complement each other perfectly. The Hanse course is just a sweet little walk in the park.

If you're a golfer looking to play courses similar to those in the motherland of Scotland without the time, expense, and hassle of international travel, then the Sand Hills of Western Nebraska is your next best bet.

Dismal River Golf Club
308-546-2900
www.dismalriver.com

Wild Horse Golf Club
308-537-7700
www.playwildhorse.com

The Prairie Club
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www.theprairieclub.com

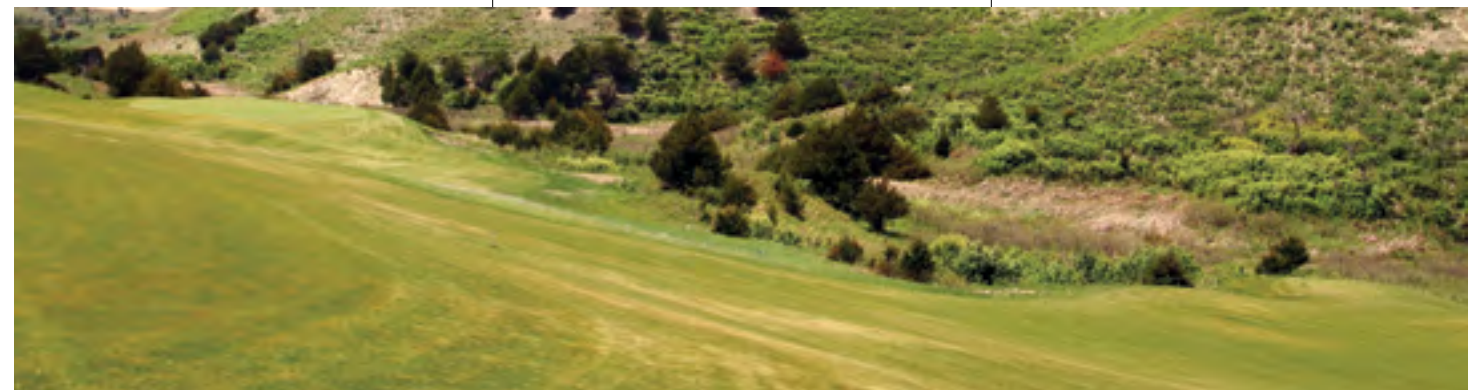
The Prairie Club Hole 4



Dismal River Golf Club Hole 6



The Prairie Club Hole 5



Stick Your Finish

It's common to hear a television golf commentator praise a tour player for having great flexibility when they finish their swing with their shoulders and hips facing left of the target. This leads people to believe the more you turn the better you are. The player may possess great flexibility, but it does not mean it's the best place to finish a golf swing.

There needs to be an end point to the golf swing—a very specific ending point to

the swing. The proper end or finish point to a golf swing should be the one in which the player's chest, hips, and thighs all face exactly at the target. If your shoulders are overturned at the finish of the swing, it is an indication that the shoulders and hips are out of sequence. When the shoulders have overturned it typically means the hips have "out raced" or moved too soon, ahead of the shoulders. This is a major catalyst for slicing

the golf ball.

The idea is to have the hips, shoulders, arms, hands, and club finish the swing at the same time. A proper swing does not end when your body can't move anymore; it ends when your body is facing the target. Imagine a gymnast's dismount; there is a precise end point to the routine.

This is the classic case of where less is more.

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my trip to the Auld Sod in July included golf at some of the great courses across the northern part of the country, along with spectatorship at the Aberdeen Asset Management Scottish Open—one of the game's great spectacles. In between those events, I visited a few castles, took a tour of the Glenmorangie distillery in Tain and made the acquaintance of a handful of new friends. While golf is a year 'round sport here, the season is classically defined as starting in April and stretching through September. Summertime offers many positives, beginning with temperate weather. Tee times on the great links courses that dot the country—starting with the Old Course at St. Andrews—are at a premium during this time frame. Perhaps the best justification for booking one's trip between June and July is the impossibly long days with the sun rising just past 4 a.m. and setting at around 10 p.m. The obvious implications on the number of rounds one can play during a full day tantalize the mind and stimulate the soul.

While the distance between the Edinburgh and the Highlands may seem imposing on the map, the fact is that it's just under a three-hour ride across a stunning landscape that makes the drive seem even shorter.

Here is a recap of my journey's highlights:

The Nairn Golf Club

Heralded by many national golf publications as one of Scotland's top 10 courses, Nairn was built in 1887. Over the years, this links has hosted the British Amateur and, most recently, both the 1999 Walker Cup matches and the 2012 Curtis Cup. The links was built over a highland wilderness of gorse and heather, and features spectacular views of the Moray Firth on every hole.

The first seven holes play along the coastline and crisscross up gentle rises surrounded by heavy rough. "Nae wind, nae rain, nae golf," goes

GREAT SCOT! HOME OF GOLF SET TO HOST 2014 RYDER CUP MATCHES

By Dave Weretka
with Neal Kotlarek

Simply put, all avid golfers—regardless of age, handicap, or geography—must eventually find their way to Scotland, the Home of Golf. The lure of this ancient land is unmistakable yet difficult to define. Perhaps it is the rolling rural landscape that draws us. Or perhaps it is the spray of the waves churning in from the sea. Or perhaps it is the hospitality of the Scots, many of whom can trace their roots back for centuries. Probably, it's all of the above. Whatever the reason, or reasons, for touring this great country, everyone who visits inevitably comes home with a lifetime of anecdotes, stories, and amazing experiences.

the Scottish aphorism. While the fair weather during my trip eliminated one of the variables, I must admit that the delightful breezes during my round at Nairn made the first seven holes much easier to navigate than I expected. Hard and fast is the mantra here, which makes tee shots bound a few extra yards, but it also means that approach shots need to be calculated for the additional roll.

The putting surfaces across the property are immaculate. The fairways offer humps and hollows and thus make even lies about as easy to find as lawyers who undercharge for their services. Hole #3 is a testy dogleg left that tempts players to carry a corner that is devilishly guarded by three bunkers. Hole #4 is a short par 3 that heads toward the sea wall. Featuring a bowl-shaped green, this may be one's best chance at birdie on the course.

The championship course's finishing hole, appropriately nicknamed "Home," is a long but accommodating par 5 as it tends to play downwind. Avoid the thick rough that lines the left side of the fairway to set-up a short-iron approach to a putting surface guarded by sand bunkers on both sides. There's no better feeling in the world than making birdie on the final hole of a great links course!

The Golf View Hotel and Spa is just a short walk from Nairn's first tee. The hotel serves up 42 rooms—most facing the sea—and provides a comfortable environment to unwind and recount your strokes. A pool, spa, fine dining, and other amenities are also available.

Castle Stuart

Page through the property's stroke-saver book and savor the quote: "Castle Stuart itself reflects an appreciation that the game of golf is more about error and recovery than it is about perfection. Its ethos is more about redemption than it is about punishment." How, possibly, could the general manager of this great golf course have written this before

The Nairn Golf Club Hole 2



The Nairn Golf Club Hole 3



The Nairn Golf Club Hole 4



observing me take one mighty whack with the big stick? The Great Kreskin would've been proud!

Castle Stuart was home to the Aberdeen Asset Management Scottish Open the past few seasons, including the event that concluded in July with a resoundingly popular victory by adopted Scotsman Phil Mickelson. You'll remember that Lefty followed up that national championship with an Open Championship victory a week later. The 2014 Aberdeen Asset Management Scottish Open will be contested at Royal Aberdeen in Aberdeen on July 10-13, 2014.

The fairways of Castle Stuart are wide and receptive. Or, at least they seem so off the tee until one observes a driver take a wild bounce into the gorse adjacent to the second cut of rough. Views of the sea and several landmarks of the Highlands are omnipresent. These include the Kessock Bridge and the Chanonry Lighthouse. The ruggedly natural setting offers 18 individual, secluded links holes. The wispy fescue that lines several holes reminds one of gentler times when competitors in Open Championships stood a fairly good chance of recovering from an errant tee shot with a full shot to the green. Recovery out of this rough is feasible so long as one navigates the sand bunkers that oftentimes stand guard beside the putting surfaces. Says Mark Parsinen, the club's managing partner, "No map is necessary; just a good eye and ability to look, listen and choose." If time provides the opportunity, visitors to Castle Stuart should seek out multiple opportunities to play this wondrous and challenging links track.

Royal Dornoch

Not too many decades ago, this 18-hole championship course in the charming town of Dornoch was known only to a savvy few. The rise of Royal Dornoch in world course rankings is relatively recent, as it was designed way back in 1886 by Old Tom Morris, and managed by course professional



Castle Stuart



Castle Stuart



The Carnegie Club Links at Skibo Castle

(and legendary architect) Donald Ross. Yet, due to its remote location—and difficult access because of limited roads to the area—it did not receive its due recognition until the 1970s when Tom Watson and Ben Crenshaw sung its praises.

While the scenery, including wondrous views of Dornoch Bay, may distract one into playing above his or her handicap level, the crowned greens that define the course are as devious as they are intriguing. Even a slightly errant approach to the putting surface virtually ensures an awkward chip shot to the flagstick.

Royal Dornoch has not been part of the Open rotation solely due to its remote location and limited infrastructure to hold events of that magnitude. That said, the course has played host to British Amateur championships. A true links, it starts innocently enough with a short par 4 and quickly turns up the pressure with a 167-yard hole that honorary member Watson has called the most difficult par 3 he's encountered due to the crowned green that accepts only the truest of tee shots. Anything less either finds deep sand bunkers or veers off the putting surface. The third hole is the gateway to the most beautiful stretch of holes in the world as each plays alongside the bay. Magnificent contours, sweeping dunes, huge deep bunkers, and gorse bushes all add to both the scenery and the difficulty.

No review of Royal Dornoch can ignore the signature hole No. 14 nicknamed "Foxy" on the scorecard. Described by Harry Vardon as "the most natural hole in golf," this 440-yard par 4 features wild dunes that protect the left side of the fairway and a series of hillocks that protect the right side. While no man-made hazards defend the hole, its narrow raised green makes the long-iron or wood approach shot extremely difficult to negotiate. A par here makes one's round a rousing success.

continued on page 28



Royal Dornoch Hole 2



Royal Dornoch Hole 10



Royal Dornoch Hole 17

Hot and Spicy: Golf to Dye For in Cancun

Over the course of 18 seasons, Golf Channel has seen The Big Break become a fixture in its weekly lineup. The program's tremendous amount of success has given producers a reason to be picky as to where their next installment will take place and what course will play host. So when it was determined that season 19, which has aired throughout the summer, would take place at Mexico's Iberostar Playa Paraiso Golf Club, there was solid justification for the show to be heading south of the border.

Located in Riviera Maya, the Playa Paraiso course is everything you want in vacation golf, and a whole lot more. Designed by P.B. Dye (Legends Club, Fisher Island) this track is set

in the middle of the jungle and gives you plenty of playable options, but you'll need a machete if you choose to overlook those options.

A par 72 weighing in at 6,897-yards, it feels like every bit of a heavy weight at the end of the day. It would be an understatement to say that straight shots are rewarded on this course. The middle of the fairway is your very best friend as Dye has done an outstanding job at bringing in the jungle ever so tightly, especially on the par 4s. It's quite obvious why this course also plays host to the Monday qualifier for the PGA Tour's Mayakoba Classic.

The par 5s are where the average golfer will be punished at Playa Paraiso Golf Club. These

DESTINATIONS

Todd Mrowice

monsters stretch from the tips to 523, 576, 584, and 526 yards. In case you're wondering, that's just over 32% of the total yardage. While hitting it nice and straight will help you out, if you don't have some giddy up off of the tee, then these holes will instantly become par 7s.

Dye's acclaimed father, Pete, isn't known for giving breaks on par 3s with his golf course designs. That courtesy must have skipped a generation with P.B. because three of the four "short holes" are over 200 yards. Most amateurs will shoot hybrids and fairway woods off of these tees. The 12th hole may even require a driver if it's into the wind, setting up at a healthy 225 yards.

Rated the 7th best course in all of Mexico by *Golfweek* Magazine, the Iberostar Playa Paraiso Golf Club shows what true rolling fairways and dramatically undulating greens are supposed to look like. After 18 holes you'll want to take a "big break" of your own at the Iberostar Grand Paraiso Hotel. This all-inclusive resort goes above and beyond luxury with four a la carte restaurants and traditional Mayan décor throughout the entire property. The staff and service is second to none, and it will be a repeat destination if you enjoy rest and relaxation.

continued on page 54



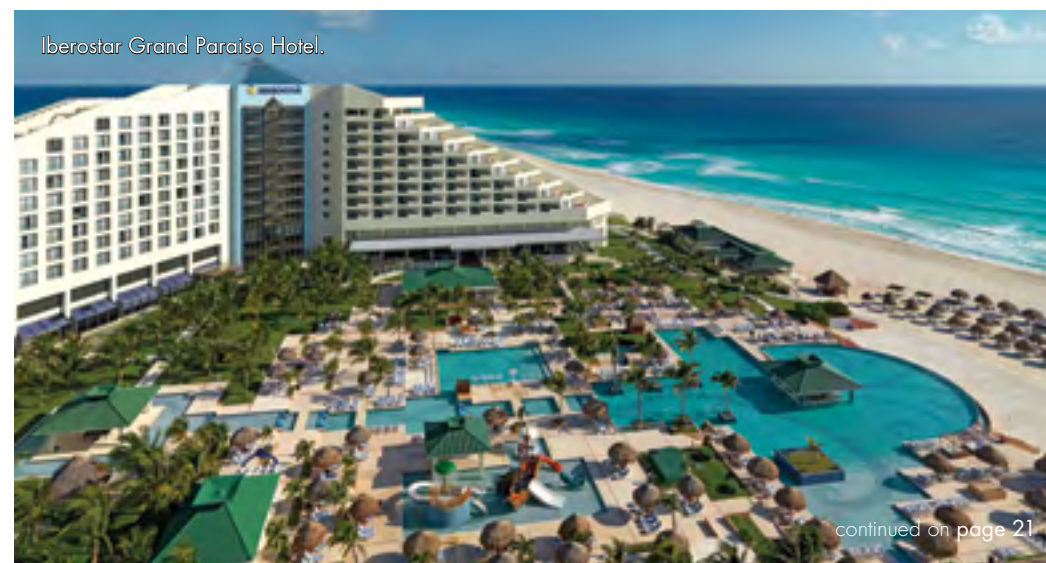
Iberostar Riviera Maya



Playa Paraiso Golf Club



Cancun Golf Club



Iberostar Grand Paraiso Hotel.

continued on page 21

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Gem and Breathe

Technology is featured in Antigua Women's Spring 2014 collection. For example, the exclusive Desert Dry™ technology absorbs and wicks moisture quickly and evenly, achieving the most-efficient evaporation possible to keep golfers comfortable and dry. The fabrics in Antigua's Gem and Breathe polos utilize a pattern to allow for quick moisture displacement. Gem features a tonal geometric patterned face with a flat back, allowing a smooth, silky feel against the golfer's skin.
www.antigua.com



'Tis the Season to be Jolly

Celebrate the joy of the holidays with Bollinger Special Cuvee Brut (\$60). This elegant bubbly is pale gold, with a rich "cheesy" nose and full mouthfeel. The clean taste has only a hint of yeast. Mango, fleshy pear, and honey flavors show very good depth, picking up refreshing citrus pith and mineral nuances with air.
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www.macanudo.com

2013 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Coffee Table Bliss

The Bandon Dunes coffee table book will be available in October, but do not expect many copies to be available after the New Year. The book showcases the world's greatest golf resort and will retail for \$100. A limited edition version will be released with a price of \$500. The limited edition version comes with five prints of the courses, velum page signed by Mike Keiser, Kidd, Doak, Coore and Crenshaw, and an exquisite case.
www.bandondunesgolfshop.com



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The van der Hagen Luxury Shave Set (\$20) is the ideal gift for the man who has everything. The set is packed with all the tools he will need to lather and enjoy a close shave. The perfect stocking stuffer for dads, boy-friends, and husbands, not to mention secret Santa exchanges.
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Full Swing at Tour Edge

Full Swing Golf offers the ultimate golf simulator experience. With high definition graphics, a quiet hitting screen, and E6 technology, the company's Champion series simulators have all the bells and whistles plus much more. While we cannot all own a \$46,000 golf simulator, the latest technology is available at Tour Edge Golf (Batavia) for groups and individuals who schedule a clubfitting session. Tour Edge provided GOLFChicago a demo of their new Champion Simulator with dual ION Technology and we left completely impressed. The Ion Performance Cam accurately measures ball spin characteristics such as back spin, side spin and spin axis, so there is no fooling this system with a juiced swing that would fool run-of-the-mill simulators. The graphics were state-of-the-art and included rolling waves and rustling leaves that gave us a 4D feel as we whacked balls out onto Pebble Beach's first hole.

Tour Edge uses the simulators for instructors and club fittings. The company also uses Full Swing to help them with new, yet-to-be-released clubs. Tour Edge's Vice President of Operations Tony Herb shared, "From a manufacturer's standpoint, Full Swing simulators prove our product's performance." Herb adds, "We've had a few simulators here and this is the best one."

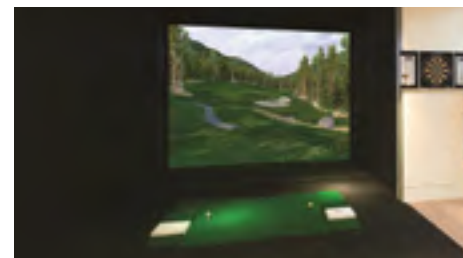
Golfers can experience Full Swing Golf simulators (www.fullswinggolf.com) at Bogies (Oswego), and all Dick's Sporting Goods retailers across Chicagoland. Tour Edge's simulators are only available during scheduled club fittings, with one of the company's partnering IPGA professionals, and by appointment.

Area Indoor Golf Facilities Feature Newest Amenities

The opening date for Bensenville's hugely popular White Pines Golf Dome is set for November 1st. Voted one of the top 10 domes in America in 2010, 2011, and 2012 by *Golf Range Magazine*, the 300'W x 300'L x 100'H facility serves up 50 hitting bays, golf lessons from PGA professionals, swing analyses, club-fitting services, enhanced X-Golf Simulator, demo days featuring the hottest new clubs and—most importantly—lots of fun. New features for the new season are a TrackMan Launch Monitor for use as both a teaching aid and equipment fitting, and a SAM Putt Lab. The dome will also introduce the Players Service program focusing on the development of junior golfers. Managed by John Perna and Dan Kochevar, the program includes instruction, physical fitness, swing analysis and club fitting. For directions and more information on White Pines Golf Dome, visit www.whitepinesgolfdome.com

Both the McQ's Sports Bar & Dome and the Mistwood G.C. Performance Center in Romeoville offer outstanding facilities and instruction from area PGA professionals. McQ's is a completely renovated 60,000 sq. ft. heated facility featuring 50 hitting stations, two putting greens, a chipping area, a practice sand bunker and a full-service sports bar and grill. For more information, visit www.mcqsdom.com.

Featured in the August issue of *GOLFChicago*, the Mistwood Performance Center opened this summer and is housed in an elegant 5,000 sq. ft. building featuring 11 heated hitting stations, two teaching bays, a putting lab, and a full service bar with eight flat screen TVs. For more information, visit www.mistwoodgolf.net.



Cantigny Set To Host 2013 Chicago Open in October

Twelve long years have passed since the conclusion of the Chicago Open, once one of the Midwest's elite open events. Since the Open's origins in 1914, winners have included some of the game's greatest players, including Gene Sarazen, Sam Snead, Ben Hogan and Luke Donald. The 54-hole event is now back and will be played Oct 7 – 9 at Cantigny Golf in Wheaton.

Geared toward aspiring PGA Tour professionals, club professionals, and top amateur players, the Chicago Open has a guaranteed purse of \$50,000 and a field of approximately 120 golfers. Five qualifiers were held across Illinois and neighboring states throughout September.

"When we heard the Chicago Open was coming back, and that the Illinois

Junior Golf Association would be its beneficiary, we jumped at the chance to be the host golf course," said Patrick Lynch, Cantigny's head golf professional. "It's going to be a fun three days and we're thrilled to support IJGA and its mission of providing golf opportunities for kids across the state.

This will be Cantigny's first Chicago Open but the golf course is a proven venue for important amateur championships. In June it hosted the 2013 Illinois State Women's Amateur and in 2014 Cantigny will welcome its fourth Illinois State Amateur. Cantigny also was chosen for the 2007 U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship, conducted by the United States Golf Association.

Spectators are welcome free of charge. More information about the tournament is online at www.thechicagoopen.com.

While playing golf today I hit two good balls. I stepped on a rake.
—Henny Youngman

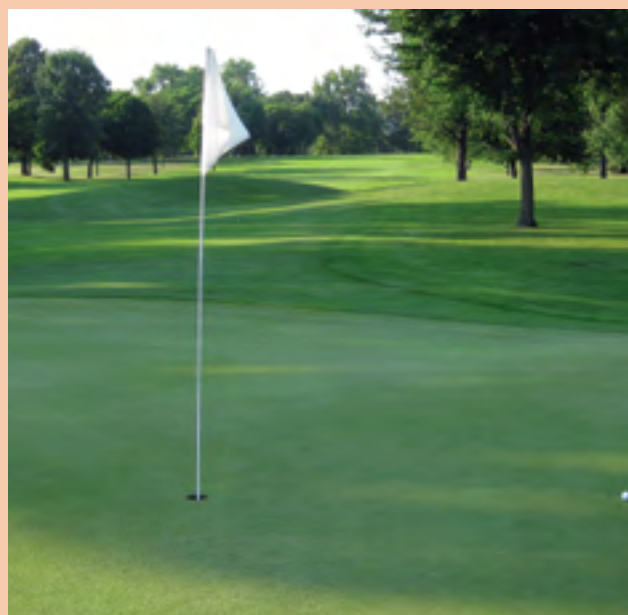


BMW Champion Johnson Celebrates With Scholars

BMW Championship Winner Zach Johnson met with Evans Scholars Justin Cruz (left) and Yesenia Juarez (right) following the trophy ceremony at Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake Forest. All proceeds from the BMW Championship benefit the Evans Scholars Foundation which has sent more than 10,000 student caddies to college since 1930.

The Evans Scholars Program awards full housing and tuition scholarships to students who have strong caddie and academic records and financial need.

Juarez (Beverly C.C.) and Cruz (Park Ridge C.C.) are both juniors at Northwestern University.



GOLFChicago Challenge on Facebook

Does this hole look familiar? If you are the first to correctly identify it, you will win a \$25 Golfsmith Gift Card.

'Like' GOLFChicago Magazine on www.facebook.com, then post your answer after October 3. Earlier entries will not be eligible for the prize.



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DOWN MEMORY LANE

Tim Cronin

Spieth Impressive, but Smith Was First

Jordan Spieth's rise to prominence was boosted into orbit when he won the John Deere Classic at TPC Deere Run in July. That set him on a path that earned him a President's Cup berth as a Tour rookie. But Spieth is not the first rookie to crash a team party.

Ever hear of Horton Smith? The Joplin Ghost, sportswriters nicknamed him when he won seven times during his first full year on what was then the winter tour.

This was 1928-29. Smith was 20, as Spieth is now, when he won the Oklahoma City Open and the Catalina Island Open, knocking off Walter Hagen in the latter, before 1928 was out. Smith went on to win five more tournaments, including the fat \$5,000 prize for claiming the La Gorce Open, and the prestigious North and South Open at Pinehurst, before March was out.

Seven wins as a rookie! That prompted the PGA of America to put Smith on the U.S. Ryder Cup team. He won his singles match against Fred Robson at Moortown Golf Club in Leeds, England, though the U.S. lost the overall match, then crossed the English Channel and won the 1929 French Open—on his 21st birthday.

Three years later, Smith took a club job, becoming the head professional at Oak Park Country Club. In 1934, his third year at Oak Park, he won a new event on the circuit: the Augusta National Invitation Tournament. And he won it again two years later.

Ever hear of The Masters?

Great Tradition, Classic Layout At Kankakee Elks Country Club

Less than an hour's drive from Chicago's south suburbs, Kankakee Elks Country Club is a hidden gem both because of its St. Anne location and because of its fascinating history. Designed by the legendary Midwest architect William B. Langford and his partner Theodore Moreau, the layout offers many of Langford's trademark features, including elevated greens and memorable short holes. Ranked as the #8 public golf course in Illinois by *Golfweek Magazine*, the course is a must-play for all fans of traditional architecture.

Once known as Hieland Lodge Golf Club and Kankakee Shores Country Club, the club today is a public facility featuring a restaurant, snack shop, and 18 holes of great golf. Don't be fooled by the course's modest length of 6,430 yards from the blue tees. Following the tough 198-yard No. 15, the final three holes are all par 4s over 400 yards long.

For tee times and more information, visit this delightful club's website: www.elksclub627.com

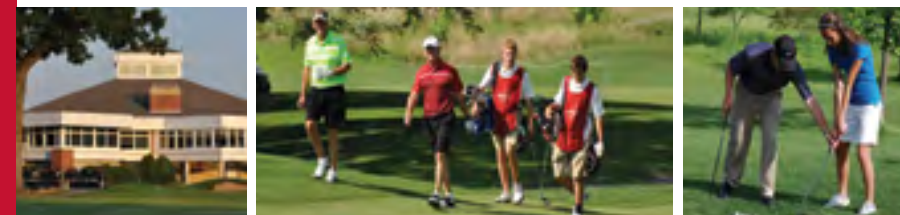
New Name, Same Passion At Swan Lake Golf Academy

The former U.S. Golf Academy in Plymouth, Indiana, has changed names but continues to provide expert instruction and club-fitting services. The Golf Academy at Swan Lake was renamed to integrate with the moniker of its partner property, Swan Lake Resort. PGA Director of Instruction Brian Natzel says that the academy continues to provide expert instruction using state-of-the-art analysis equipment including a TrackMan Launch Monitor. A 7,000 sq. ft. year-round indoor facility complements a 20-acre outdoor complex that features five executive practice holes.

Across the street from the academy, Swan Lake Resort features two 18-hole championship courses along with hotel accommodations, cabins, and fairway villas. For more information, visit the resort's website: www.swanlakeresort.com.

Golf is so popular simply because it is the best game in the world at which to be bad. —A.A. Milne

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Great Scot!

continued from page 19

The Scottish Highlands FAQ

Getting There: American Airlines, Delta, British Airways, and Virgin Atlantic all have flights to Edinburgh Airport. I took an evening flight, which allowed me to catch some sleep on the plane and land in Scotland late morning the next day due to the time zone change.

Package Deals: Golf fanatics looking for the ultimate Scottish golf trip should consider the 2014 Ryder Cup Package from custom golf tour agent PerryGolf. The service offers three packages Sept. 24 – 29, 2014 that include accommodations at the Fairmont St. Andrews; golf at various courses including St. Andrews and Kingsbarns, and attendance at the Ryder Cup. Visit the company's website for more information: www.perrygolf.com

Places to Stay: My itinerary included stays at The Golf House near Inverness and the Links House in Dornoch.

Other Courses to Play: Here are some other great Highlands golf courses to consider:

The Carnegie Club Links at Skibo Castle designed by Donald Steel.

If you need a break from the winds of a links course, then take on a few of the local Parkland and Heathland courses such as Grantown-On-Spey, which are the works of Willie Park with some assistance and consulting by James Braid.

Another gem that doesn't get much ink is Boat of Garten. The Boat is set alongside the River Spey and is part of the Cairngorms National Park. Several snow capped mountains were visible during our visit and made for a peaceful backdrop. This James Braid design requires some thinking and will test you with some blind shots. Use the directional poles as guides and may par await you

Things to See and Do: Along with visits to various castles and pubs across the Highlands, I highly recommend a tour of at least one of the great distilleries across the area. My tour of the Glenmorangie Distillery in Tain provided a fascinating look at the intricacies involved in creating a single-malt scotch. Along with knowledge of the mashing and fermenting processes, the tour also provides tastings of some of the finest scotches on the planet.

For more information on the home of golf, visit www.visitscotland.com.



Phil Mickelson

ARIZONA CHICAGO'S SOUTHWESTERN OASIS

Mention golf and the Sonoran desert and players immediately envision a towering saguaro cactus reaching for the sunshine, while the desert floor painted in rich greens takes golfers on a step-stone journey. For Chicago's snowbirds, the mild winter season in Arizona is one of the reasons to own a traveling bag for your golf clubs.

This is *the* destination for golfers. Flights from Chicago's airports are usually direct, and that translates into an "off the tarmac" round soon after you sign for that rental car.

If you spend a little time on the practice green, you'll quickly discover that one of the fastest-growing states is filling with former Chicagoans that voted with their feet against snowplows and window-scraping and have relocated to the desert.

The golf courses of Arizona are not unlike the Sonoran Desert; despite a harsh climate, abundant wildlife and native plants thrive in this environment. As do the golf courses and resorts.

If you are between spring training games, hiking around Tucson, or shopping in Scottsdale, an exciting round of golf is just minutes away.

You will find much more than bunkers and tee boxes while on holiday in Arizona. The desert has hundreds of species of living creatures that are not in the Midwest, including jaguars near Tucson. A snowball season getaway to the painted

deserts of Arizona should include a half-day Sonoran Desert Tour from Desert Wolf Tours. The excursions are truly unique in that guests (over the age of 18) do the driving in Tomcars,

which were originally developed for use by the Israeli Defense Forces special operations units. Desert Wolf Tours owns a fleet of these vehicles that guests self-pilot during guided tours through the beautiful Sonoran Desert.

Participants experience the Sonoran Desert up close, where they may see javalinas, desert mule deer, coyotes, rattlesnakes and more. Visit Desert Wolf Tours' website at www.desertwolftours.com.

Most PGA Tour fans are somewhat familiar with The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess thanks to its affiliation with the PGA TOUR's Waste Management Phoenix Open. For one week each year, it is the epicenter of golf's "Greatest Show on Grass."

However, for the other 51 weeks, the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess is known to sophisticated golf travelers as the ultimate desert oasis. Whether you are looking to play a round, pamper yourself at a resort, play a PGA Tour course, or chase a white ball in a jaguar's backyard, Arizona golf provides a great escape from frostbite and flurries. Be sure to make this the year you soak in the warmth of Arizona.

Participants experience the Sonoran Desert up close, where they may see javalinas, desert mule deer, coyotes, rattlesnakes and more. Visit Desert Wolf Tours' website at www.desertwolftours.com.



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United States by *Golfweek* magazine. There are 27 holes with distinctive character and design, each crafted by legendary Jack Nicklaus, one of the sport's most talented and charismatic figures. The luxury golf resort has elevations ranging from 2,300 to 3,200 feet, and combines the most spectacular landscapes with expert design, main-

members-only dining, lighted tennis courts, the spectacular members' boardroom, indoor and outdoor entertainment, and many other amenities, it's considered by many as quite close to heavenly perfection.

Accenture Match Play

The Golf Club at Dove Mountain is home to the annual WGC Accenture Match Play Championship, which brings 64 of the world's best golfers together to compete in the highest prize-money tournament in the world, practically in your backyard. With exciting head-to-head match play, it's the most traditional form of golf competition; rather than measuring total strokes, match play counts the number of holes won. For the 2013 Accenture Match Play Championship, Matt Kuchar held off defending champion Hunter Mahan to win the coveted Walter Hagen Cup, his first victory of 2013. The Accenture Match Play Championship will again be played here February 17–23, 2014. The event, which is the first of four World Golf championships of the season, has been played in the Tucson area since 2007, and at The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain since 2009.

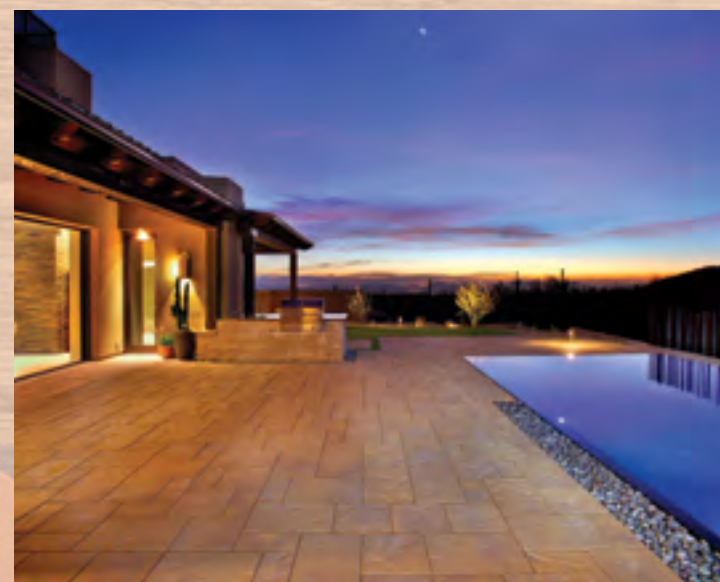
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are eight inspired floor plans to suit every need. The design staff will incorporate your desires into the perfect custom residence to reflect your family and your lifestyle. Your home will be a relaxing haven where you can unwind, while management by The Ritz-Carlton provides the added touch of world-class service with valets, concierge services, cooks, housekeepers, and much more. Homes in The Residences range from the high \$600,000s to more than \$2 million. And yet, there's more. Much more—because you will have access to indulge in legendary hotel amenities available at The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain.

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Everyone has his or her own idea of the perfect day. Imagine The Ritz-Carlton as part of your everyday lifestyle. When you own a residence here, you could wake up every morning to the inspiring challenge of 27 unique Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf holes right outside your door. Indulge in legendary resort amenities, such as an award-winning spa, three resort pools with private cabanas, water slides for kids, tennis courts, fitness classes, and more. Explore more than 25 miles of hiking trails on 850 acres of natural desert beauty, perfect for quiet evening walks or ambitious all-day hiking and biking. Enjoy the world-class cultural and educational offerings available in nearby Tucson. A discerning yet laid-back lifestyle that revolves around golf and outdoor living awaits you and your family at The Residences at The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain.



home designs, to spectacular vistas of towering saguaro cacti and the magnificent Tortolita Mountains. While the rest of the country copes with rain and snow, you'll be basking in sunshine 350 days a year. Just minutes outside of Tucson, Arizona, nature herself will make your heart beat a little faster with every awe inspiring view.

tenance, and management, creating a timeless blend of beauty and challenge on every hole. In its constant effort to preserve and protect the lush desert, the Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course makes use of numerous "green" technologies. Efforts include everything from using reclaimed water for the courses and landscaping to preservation of natural washes as havens for wildlife.

Community life centers around the award-winning 45,000-square-foot exclusive clubhouse that answers every wish of the avid or casual golfer. With luxurious

The Golf Club at Dove Mountain
Play where the pros play—every day if you like. The Golf Club at Dove Mountain has been named one of the "Best Courses You Can Play" in the

Home of WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship



THE RESIDENCES®
AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, DOVE MOUNTAIN

MARANA, ARIZONA



HOMES RIVALED ONLY BY THEIR surroundings.

Not to be outdone by Mother Nature, The Residences at The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain was crafted with a meticulous attention to detail. Nestled high in the Sonoran Desert outside of Tucson, The Residences combines an unrivaled selection of luxury homes with 27 inspiring holes of Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf and the legendary amenities of The Ritz-Carlton hotel. Our customizable homes are priced from the high \$600,000s to more than \$2 million.

Take a closer look.

877-899-9936 | theresidencesdovemountain.com
6302 West Sunlit Bridge Place | Marana, AZ 85658



The Residences at The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain are not owned, developed or sold by The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C. Dove Mountain Investors, L.L.C., uses The Ritz-Carlton marks under license from The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company L.L.C.



RANCHO MAÑANA GOLF CLUB

AN EXPERIENCE THAT TRULY REPRESENTS THE UNIQUENESS OF GOLF IN THE ARIZONA DESERT

Rancho Mañana Golf Club, located in the high Sonoran Desert, in historic Cave Creek, Arizona, boasts some of the state's most breathtaking views and challenging holes of golf. Situated along an original Pony Express stop and U.S. Cavalry watering hole, Rancho Mañana Golf Club has continually ranked among *Golf Digest's* "Places To Play" and is regarded as "One of Arizona's Most Scenic Golf Courses." Convenient to most Scottsdale and Phoenix resorts and hotels, the course has become a valley favorite of visitors from around the country due to its unique beauty and native surroundings.

From the first hole, the front nine takes golfers through the Town of Cave Creek's name sake, Cave Creek Wash, one of the last remaining riparian areas in the state. Each subsequent hole ventures upward to higher elevations, where one can witness some of the state's most breathtaking views. Nowhere else in the Valley of the Sun can a golfer simultaneously view picturesque images of Camelback Mountain, Mummy Mountain, Squaw Peak, Black Mountain, South Mountain, and the dramatic Tonto National Forest,

with its distinctive Elephant Butte.

Golfers then begin to meander back towards the site of a once-thriving, western dude ranch—now the clubhouse and restaurant facilities, with their original, rustic structures. From there, Rancho Mañana's back nine allows one to encounter a slightly different experience, as golfers work their way around a lush oasis of water-guarded holes with 360 degrees of unobstructed mountain views, where Mother Nature's vast array of wildlife can be found, including the likes of bobcats, roadrunners, rabbits, and mule deer.

Although the par 70 layout features dramatic elevation changes and acres of unspoiled desert terrain, Rancho Mañana is well known for its fairness and playability for golfers of all abilities. Built in the late 1980s, the course has had time to mature, and a few key renovations throughout its history have improved it with age. The recently renovated bunkers provide just the right amount of challenge without creating undue stress caused by shoulder-deep traps sometimes encountered in the game.

It's easy to see why the course has won so many

accolades, including making the list of "America's Top 50 Courses for Women" by *Golf Digest* in 2010. Most holes don't have extensively long forced carries from the tees and the same is true for nearly all the greens that are accepting of low bouncing shots hit short of the green. The course was also selected as being in the top 10 courses in Arizona by *Ranking Arizona Magazine* during the same year.

The 19th hole is usually of equal importance to the golf course itself for any golf experience, and the Tonto Bar and Grill is only a few short steps away and captures the rustic desert ambiance of years gone by with hand-carved beams of the historic ranch ceiling still in place. With two dining areas inside and a covered patio overlooking the 11th green, the facility certainly provides a cozy spot to relax after an enjoyable day on the links.

In addition to offering cold beverages, great care is taken to ensure the menu is second to none and that it fully embraces the local flavors of the southwest. Chef Eric Flatt and his staff also aim to preserve Arizona's heritage through our cuisine

and by sharing the stories of our property's past. They fuse Southwestern and Native American ingredients and present them in a warm, welcoming atmosphere rich in Arizona lore. Many areas of the restaurant feature historic photos of the property from the years as one of Arizona's most successful dude ranches in the 1940s.

The restaurant has also received numerous awards and accolades, including being honored by *PHOENIX Magazine* in their list of the valley's Top 100 Restaurants, and a continuous honor from *Wine Spectator Magazine* due to the extensive wine selections that are available.

Rancho Mañana is an experience that truly represents the uniqueness of golf in the Arizona Desert. For tee times, call Rancho Mañana Golf Club at 480-488-0398 or visit www.ranchomanana.com. For restaurant reservations/information, call Tonto Bar & Grill at 480-488-0698.

Rancho Mañana Golf Club

5734 E. Rancho Manana Boulevard
Cave Creek, Arizona 85331
Phone: 480-488-0398
www.ranchomanana.com



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Unspoiled Desert Terrain...
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The world's finest golf destination.



THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT DESERT MOUNTAIN

For more than two decades, Desert Mountain in Scottsdale, Arizona, has offered its members one of the greatest private golf and lifestyle experiences in the world.

Home to six award-winning Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf courses, Desert Mountain also provides diverse amenities that the entire family can enjoy in a stunning location with dramatic views of metro Phoenix and Scottsdale, natural landmarks, and the lush desert landscape of the

site at www.desertmountain.com.

Each Desert Mountain course provides an individual playing experience at all skill levels. Dramatic elevation changes, from 2,700-foot Renegade to 3,400-foot Outlaw, rolling fairways, impeccable course conditions, and far-reaching views distinguish Desert Mountain's 108 holes from other desert courses. The Cochise Course has brought the club another

tors of all time and Desert Mountain's PGA Director of Instruction from 1987 to 2005. The center features the most advanced technology in the industry today. "The scope and sophistication of the technology and the fact that it's all located in one facility is something that just doesn't exist anywhere else in the marketplace," said Desert Mountain COO and General Manager Robert Jones. Among the center's capabilities are 3-D motion capture, Doppler radar, and four-camera video motion analysis to help golfers of all skill levels improve and understand their game.

But Desert Mountain is more than just golf. Six architecturally-distinct clubhouses offer nine restaurants and grills under the direction of Executive Chef Michael Hoobler, who has extensive experience with upscale membership communities and high profile resorts in the Phoenix area, including the Royal Palms and the Arizona Biltmore. From the Apache Clubhouse offering natural steaks aged onsite, and Constantino's at the Chiricahua Clubhouse offering a casual Italian menu, to the Spanish cantina that is the Arizona Grill at the Outlaw Clubhouse, there is something for every taste here.

The 25,000-square-foot Sonoran Clubhouse features the fitness center and spa and is the hub for family activities. Cardiovascular and weight training equipment, an aerobics room, personal training, fitness instruction, and resort-style pools are offered. Situated

on 10 acres at the Sonoran, the Desert Mountain Tennis Complex offers nine USTA-certified courts utilizing hard clay and grass playing surfaces. Each court has its own pergola with misters and refrigerated bottled water for comfortable, year-round play. Also at the Sonoran is the Youth Activity Center with programmed activities and events for kids. A full line-up of scheduled events includes hourly playtime, junior tennis and golf clinics, popular daytime and evening events, themed youth camps, and family activities.

For those seeking a true wilderness experience, Desert Mountain offers a 6.6-mile private hiking and biking trail system within a pristine 3,000-acre natural preserve in the community. Consisting of three wilderness trails that share frontage with national forest land, the Desert Mountain Trails System recently received the American Trails Developer Award from the non-profit American Trails organization.

"We are continuing to add world-class family lifestyle amenities that contribute to the quality of life for our residents," explained Jones. When completed, the trails will extend more than 14 miles.

To learn more about becoming a member of Desert Mountain, contact Membership Relations Director Nicole Forbes at 480-595-4318 or nforbes@desertmt.com. For more information about all that Desert Mountain has to offer, visit the website at www.desertmountain.com.



Northeast Valley.

Recently, the club introduced new, market-based membership opportunities that do not require the purchase of property. These include: An Equity Golf Membership with a \$65,000 starting price for an initial contribution; an Equity Club Membership-Lifestyle for a \$10,000 initial contribution; and an Equity Golf Membership-Junior for a \$5,000 initial contribution. For information, contact Membership Relations Director Nicole Forbes at nforbes@desertmt.com or at 480-595-4318, or visit the web-

claim to fame as the host of the 2012 Charles Schwab Cup Championship, the season-ending event of the Champions Tour featuring the 30 top players on the tour's official money list. The tournament will return to Cochise in 2014 and 2016.

The club offers the most extensive golf practice facility in Arizona, including multiple pitching, chipping, putting, and bunker areas, and four separate practice ranges with target greens. But the newest golf amenity is the \$1.6 million Jim Flick Golf Performance Center, recently dedicated to one of the greatest instruc-



Great golf is just the beginning...

Six Championship Jack Nicklaus Signature Courses All in One Location
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

NEW MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE
Market-Based Golf Memberships | Lifestyle Memberships | Junior Golf Memberships



State-of-the-Art Jim Flick Golf Performance Center | Six Distinctive Clubhouses
Nine Restaurants & Grills | Nine-Court Tennis Complex | Spa/Fitness Center
Youth Activity Center | Private Hiking & Biking Trails

MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE WITHOUT PURCHASING PROPERTY

Contact Nicole Forbes at 480-595-4318 or nforbes@desertmt.com
Scottsdale, Arizona | www.DesertMountain.com | Desert Mountain memberships are by invitation only.



OB SPORTS DELIVERS

There's plenty to give thanks for this fall, especially if you are headed to Arizona for a golf getaway. You can expect weather that is tailor-made for golf: bright, sunny and warm during the day. By this time, summer's triple digit temperatures are a distant memory.

Whether you're escaping the cold weather, squeezing in a round during a family vacation, or rounding up your buddies for some golf in the desert, OB Sports will help plan every step of your golf getaway. The destinations in the OB Sports Collection offer

services and golf experiences that will exceed the expectations of even the most seasoned golf traveler in your group.

They will also remove all the guesswork from finding this golf-rich area's best places to play. You'll barely have to wait to get to the first tee. Just minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, you will find both ASU Karsten, a Pete Dye links-style course and one of the nation's top campus courses, and Longbow, ranked as one of the state's top 25 courses you can play by *Golfweek*. The

highly-awarded Raven Golf Club-Phoenix, with thousands of Georgia pines lining its fairways and a backdrop of mountains and the Phoenix skyline, is a must play.

Sedona Golf Resort with its famed red rocks and Eagle Mountain with its jaw-dropping elevation changes are both visual treats and exhilarating challenges. And a golf trip to Arizona wouldn't be complete without a visit to McDowell Mountain. Over at Palm Valley, with courses by Arthur Hills and Hale Irwin, a creative blend of

desert and resort style golf make for arguably one of the Valley's most complete golf experiences.

All OB Sports courses offer the best rates on tee times when booking direct through each of the club's official websites. For a quick listing of courses visit OBSports.com/chi. For all their stay and play package offers, go to OBSportsGolfVacations.com.

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Goodyear, Arizona
palmvalleygolf.com/chi
623.935.2500

MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN
Scottsdale, Arizona
mcdowellmountaingc.com/chi
480.502.8200

ASU KARSTEN
Par 4, 10th Hole

Longbow
Mesa, Arizona
longbowgolf.com/chi
480.807.5400

RAVEN GC- PHOENIX
Phoenix, Arizona
ravenphx.com/chi
602.243.3636

SEDONA GOLF RESORT
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obsports.com/chi

Scottsdale
The world's finest golf destination.



WARM UP YOUR GAME AT LOS CABALLEROS GOLF CLUB

Cold temperatures are well on their way, but that doesn't mean your game needs to hibernate for the winter. Instead, head to the sunny southwest for a golf getaway you'd be hard-pressed to find anywhere else—an award-winning championship course situated on a majestic guest ranch resort.

Los Caballeros Golf Club (LCGC) is a semi-private golf club set at the foot of the Bradshaw Mountains in the Sonoran Desert. This lush desert course winds through a scenic mountain backdrop and offers beautiful driving ranges, putting greens, and

a short-game practice area. Constructed in 1979 by Greg Nash and Jeff Hardin, this masterpiece of design features rolling terrain, two beautiful lakes, strategically placed bunkers, and four sets of tees that allow the course to be set up for a wide variety of playing levels.

LCGC is on the grounds of Rancho de los Caballeros, a 20,000-acre ranch resort that has been family-owned since its opening in 1948. Kicking off its 65th season on October 12th, The Ranch offers resort amenities and uncommon western activities for guests looking for an

authentic southwestern experience. With only 79 casitas, The Ranch offers guests an intimate setting to escape the hustle and bustle of modern life, and the extensive menu of activities is sure to appeal to anyone who visits The Ranch.

If you're looking for an outdoor activity besides golf, be sure to sign up for one of the two daily horseback rides, where you'll be matched with an experienced wrangler who will cater the ride to your ability. For an added challenge, try your hand at team penning, a team-based horseback riding challenge where guests herd cows into designated

pens. If rest and relaxation is your vacation style, be sure to head to The Spa at Los Caballeros, which offers a wide variety of massages, scrubs, facials, and more.

Located an hour drive outside of Phoenix in Wickenburg, Arizona, Los Caballeros Golf Club and Rancho de los Caballeros proudly present Sonoran desert golf in its most spectacular surroundings. For a complete golf package with casita accommodations, three meals daily, and golf, please visit www.ranchodeloscaballeros.com, email reservations@sunc.com, or call 800-684-5030.



PUT THE CART
before the horse.

Leave chilling wind and snowy weather behind in favor of a sunny Southwestern retreat where great golf is available 365 days a year.

Situated just a quick drive from Phoenix, Rancho de los Caballeros offers award-winning golf, luxurious casita accommodations and three meals daily at a historic guest ranch with our popular Golf Getaway Package. Starting at \$395 per night for two people.*



HORSES | SPA | GOLF | SUN

800-684-5030

www.ranchodeloscaballeros.com

**Plus tax and gratuity. Based upon availability.*



MAKE UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES AT ZONA HOTEL AND SUITES

Planning an Arizona golf vacation? Located in North Scottsdale, Zona Hotel & Suites is dedicated to creating the perfect golf trip, whether that's with friends, family, or a significant other. Scottsdale and its surrounding areas provide a breadth of golf course options from which to choose, including traditional desert-style courses, mountain courses, and even a few parkland-style

more than 40 years of combined experience booking golf packages in the Valley. They are both extremely knowledgeable and are willing and able to take care of all your trip's details. Our golf specialists are *on-site*, not across town, and they have personal relationships with Directors of Golf at Zona's preferred courses. So, if your plans change or you want to

Club (Monument & Pinnacle), and We-Ko-Pa (Cholla & Saguaro). If you'd like to take the guesswork out of the trip, we've created our "one and only" stand-alone package that allows guests to choose from any of these eight magnificent golf courses for one daily price, which includes lodging, breakfast, golf, shared golf car, use of the

touches such as spacious living and dining rooms will make you feel right at home—consider Zona your home base during your Scottsdale golf vacation. Our suites are not just spacious; they come fully loaded with everything needed to make your stay as comfortable as possible, including in-room washer/dryer, fully equipped kitchen (not a kitchenette) with all necessary utensils to prepare a "home"-cooked meal, and dining room as well as a separate living room. And, each bedroom features its own private bath.

Additionally, our property's 14 lushly landscaped acres includes four sparkling pools and four spas, a modern fitness center, business lounge, 24-hour concierge, and complimentary resort-wide Wi-Fi. The icing on the cake, however, is Zonas' on-site restaurant Graze Desert Grill, which uses an inspiring variety of locally grown ingredients featuring American fare, infused with flavors of the Southwest. Whether you're looking dine inside, al fresco, or while relaxing by one of our pools, Executive Chef Keith Osmundson will tempt your taste buds with mouth watering cuisine.

If it sounds like we take pride in creating unforgettable golf trips, it's because we do. For nearly two decades Zona Hotel & Suites has been the leader in Scottsdale golf vacations. One call, one place—Zona has it all!

Call 800-903-4057 or email golf@zonascottsdale.com to book your Zona Golf Package today!



layouts. So, if you're looking to get a full Arizona golf experience, we've got you covered with preferred access to more than 50 of the area's top courses, including several private courses that are only available to Zona guests—more than any other property in the Valley. And, if you've never golfed in the Valley of the Sun before, Zona offers two secret weapons: Tedd Maitland and Steve Nicodemus.

Tedd and Steve are our golf specialists, who have

get in an extra round, they can usually call in a favor or two. And, if you still aren't convinced, we offer a complimentary shuttle service to select courses. When we say we'll take care of all the details, we really mean it!

While Tedd and Steve specialize in custom packages, almost 50 percent of all tee times booked are played at Grayhawk Golf Club (Raptor & Talon), TPC Scottsdale (Champions & Stadium), Troon North Golf

practice facilities, and all taxes and service fees.

Combine all of that with 1-, 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom/4-bathroom suites and the ability to create customized packages, and Zona Hotel and Suites is at the top of the leaderboard. Speaking of room accommodations, we offer 431 spacious suites ranging in size from 300 to 1,800 square feet, all recently upgraded with brand new furnishings, linens, artwork, and appliances. Distinctive



THE GOLF BUDDY TRIP. ONE CALL FOR THE PERFECT GOLF VACATION PACKAGE - BOOK NOW!

Zona Hotel & Suites is dedicated to creating the perfect golf buddy trip with golf specialists onsite to handle the details leaving you plenty of time to work on your game. Located in North Scottsdale, Zona offers:

- Accommodations in 1-, 2-, 3- & 4-bedroom/4-bathroom suites
- Choice of more than 50 golf course partners including several private club options
- 330+ days of sunshine and an average year-round temperature of 70 degrees
- On-site personal Golf Vacation Specialists
- Customizable golf packages
- Complimentary ground transportation to and from select golf courses
- And a whole lot more...

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EXPERIENCE A HIGHER LEVEL OF PLAY AT TUCSON'S LA PALOMA COUNTRY CLUB

Tee off among the majestic saguaro cacti and the newest level of luxury at the rejuvenated Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course at Westin La Paloma Resort and Spa. Novices, scratch golfers, and every golfer in-between find this stunning, award-winning 27-hole course challenging yet relaxing; the way the game was intended.

'beauty factor' these course enhancements allow consistency of play from bunker to bunker and green to green.

Operated by Troon Golf, La Paloma Country Club's award-winning Jack Nicklaus Signature Design course is exclusive to Westin La Paloma Resort guests and Country Club members. Adorned by the high Sonoran Desert's

the Ridge Course, but play all three and judge for yourself!

Hill Course

The 3,463-yard, par 36 Hill Course starts golfers off with stunning views of the Santa Catalina Mountains and weaves its way through the Saguaro-studded desert landscape. It presents encounters with natural arroyos, saguaro cacti and risk/reward shot decisions. The Hill Course rating/slope information is based off of the 18-hole combination of the Hill and Ridge courses. **Signature hole #8** 157 yards, par 3. On this short hole, two of the three strokes should be putts. A short iron over a deep valley to a green must be accurate in finding the pin, or the player will have a challenging putt on this moderately contoured green.

Ridge Course

The Ridge Course, at 3,554 yards and par 36, is considered by many to be the most picturesque nine holes available in Southern Arizona. Jack Nicklaus combined the spectacular views with a natural desert landscape design that demands careful shot selection. The Ridge course rating/slope information is based off of the 18-hole combination of the Ridge and Canyon courses.

Signature hole #4 199 yards, par 3. The mountains form a magnificent backdrop for this hole. It plays across the edge of a canyon 30 to 40 feet below the fairway to a well-contained green guarded on the back and left side by grassy hollows and mounds.

Canyon Course

True to its name, this 3,534 yard par 36 layout offers numerous elevated tee shots down to the manicured fairways at the bottom of the desert canyon through which the course has been created. Jack Nicklaus designed a challenging, but fair, experience that rewards well placed shots. The Canyon course rating/slope information is based off of the 18-hole combination of the Ridge and Canyon courses.

Signature hole #7 445 yards, par 4/5. Enjoy the view, but be sure your tee shot is long and to the right on this signature, yet very difficult, hole. A major wash to the left hand and a sloping hill to the right guard the fairway. The approach shot will be a blind one to a green that is cut into a hillside 30 feet higher than the fairway. **Instruction**

Take your game to a higher level with the help of La Paloma Country Club's PGA golf professionals. Complete full-swing and short-game schools for group and private lessons are available by request. La Paloma Country Club professionals also have the capability to provide visual feedback with the most advanced electronic golf swing analysis tool on the market, the JC Video Analysis System.

For additional information on La Paloma Country Club, visit www.lapalomacc.com or call 520.299.1500. For information about The Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa, visit westinlapalomaresort.com or call 520.742.6000. For reservations, call 1.800.westin.1.



As part of a recent \$35 million resort-wide renovation, all 27 holes of La Paloma Country Club's Jack Nicklaus Signature design received rejuvenation of bunkers and greens and are open for play. This project dramatically changed the aesthetics of the golf course, creating the look and feel of a new facility, while keeping the traditions of this championship layout. The fresh, fine white sand in the reshaped bunkers beautifully compliment the refreshed green surfaces covered in the same lush Mini Verde Bermuda turf found at TPC Sawgrass. Beyond the

natural beauty, "The Golden Bear's" Signature Design course is a golfer's paradise. *Golf Digest*, *Golf Magazine*, and *Conde Nast Traveler* have rated the La Paloma Country Club course among the best in the United States. *Golf for Women* recognized La Paloma as one of the country's most women-friendly courses.

Having opened in 1984, each course is named according to its relationship with the terrain. The courses are at an average elevation of 2,700 feet, in the foothills of the stunning Santa Catalina Mountains. One might argue the best views are found on

ELEVATE YOUR GAME

And Your Golfing Standards with Unlimited Golf

Take a stroke off your game on our 27-hole Jack Nicklaus signature design golf course with refreshed green surfaces and bunkers. Enjoy stunning vistas, picturesque desert landscape and impressive fairways along the course. After your round, discover a new level of luxury with our \$35 million resort-wide renovation from redesigned guestrooms, an expansive new pool area and more.

BOOK OUR UNLIMITED GOLF PACKAGE WITH RATES FROM **\$144** PER PERSON/PER NIGHT. VISIT WESTINLAPALOMARESORT.COM/GCDEAL OR CALL 866.716.8137 AND MENTION RATE PLAN GCDEAL

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WELCOME TO TPC SCOTTSDALE

Woven into the Sonoran Desert with stunning panoramic views of the McDowell Mountains, the PGA Tour's TPC Scottsdale boasts 36 holes of inspiring golf on two spectacular layouts and a scorecard full of world-class amenities, making it one of Arizona's premier golf resort destinations. Host of the Waste Management Phoenix Open, TPC Scottsdale's renowned Stadium Course is rivaled in beauty and playability by the Club's magnificent Champions

Arizona Avid Golfer, and Arizona Golf Association as one of the top courses in the area, the Champions Course boasts more than 7,100 yards of undulating fairways, pristine greens and challenging bunkers. *Golfweek* also named it one of the "Top 30 Municipal Courses in the U.S." The par-71 course meanders over natural ravines and picturesque foothills, with five par 3s and a diverse variety of par 4s and par 5s creating

designed Stadium Course serves as host of the Waste Management Phoenix Open, the largest spectator golf event in the world. During the 51 weeks of the year when the tournament is not in play, resort golfers can experience "A Day in the Life" of a PGA Tour professional by testing their skills on the same immaculately manicured, superbly maintained layout. Lush green parcels of manicured turf are woven through a rugged tapestry of arroyos, saguaro cacti, and other natural features, with 72 deep, strategically-placed bunkers, and twisting greens creating a serenely beautiful but significant challenge.

Championship-quality Amenities at Every Turn

The PGA Tour's TPC Network of premier properties sets the industry standard for outstanding golf, superb amenities and unmatched personalized service. The Club's two award-winning layouts are complemented by a world-class golf shop, named by *Golf World Business* among the "Top 100 Golf Shops in America;" The Grill, named the #1 steak and seafood eatery in Arizona; beautifully appointed men's and women's locker rooms; and a professional walking caddie program November through April and available upon request on the Champions Course.

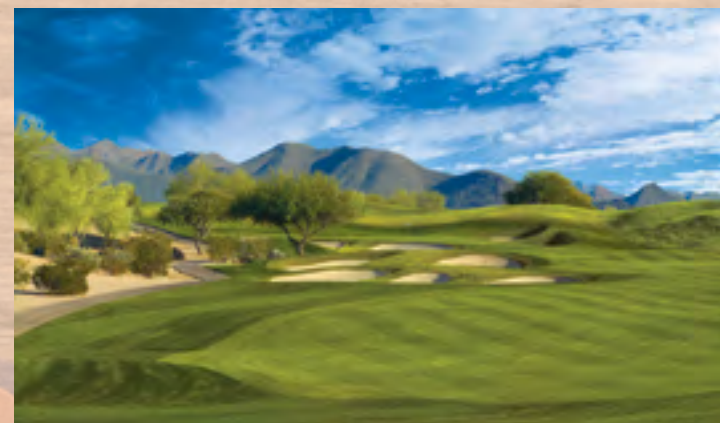
TOURAcademy TPC Scottsdale

Golfers can hone their golf skills at TPC Scottsdale's acclaimed TOURAcademy,

where top PGA Professionals utilize state-of-the-art technology and on-course instruction to provide a highly personalized curriculum tailored to each student's individualized needs. From mastering golf fundamentals and grooming consistency to executing strategic shot placement, students enjoy an unparalleled teaching experience in a serene, relaxing ambience. Private and group lessons, as well as two-, three-, and four-day golf school, and accommodations are available. Also available are the services of Cool Clubs, the world's leading golf club fitting company—where highly trained experts combine cutting-edge technology, the latest brand name equipment and personalized service to help take golfers' games to a new performance level. For more information on the TOURAcademy TPC Scottsdale, call 888-877-9219 or visit www.touracademy.com.

Play, Stay, Rejuvenate

Luxurious accommodations are available at the adjacent AAA Five-Diamond Fairmont Scottsdale Princess Resort, offering spacious, beautifully appointed guestrooms and suites; award-winning restaurants including the AAA Four Diamond gourmet Mexican restaurant, La Hacienda; an exclusive golf concierge service; five pools; seven tennis courts; a full-service fitness center; expansive banquet and meeting facilities; and Willow Stream Spa, ranked by *Conde Nast Traveler* one of the "Top 10 Best Spas in North America."



Course, a true desert-style gem that challenges low handicappers and novices alike. An award-winning golf shop, the celebrated TOURAcademy TPC Scottsdale teaching facility, unmatched dining, and luxurious accommodations at the adjacent AAA Five-Diamond Fairmont Scottsdale Princess Resort complete this remarkable golf oasis.

a thrill for golfers of all skill levels. A quartet of dramatic finishing holes make this exquisite golf gem a "must play." Soon after opening, the course played host to the first stage of Q-School for the PGA Tour, along with hosting the final stage of Q-School for the Champions Tour November 2009, and will continue to host every other year.

Sibling Rivalry Has its Benefits

Rivalling its famous sister in both beauty and playability, the Randy Heckenkemper-designed Champions Course offers a true desert golf experience amidst the splendor of the Sonoran Desert. Recognized by *Golfweek*,

The Hallmark of Desert Golf
Named by *Golfweek* #6 on its list of the "Top 30 Municipal Golf Courses in the U.S. for 2008" and by *Golf Digest* among the "Top 75 Golf Resorts in North America," TPC Scottsdale's magnificent par-71, 7,216-yard Jay Morrish/TomWeiskopf

WHAT SEPARATES AN AMAZING COURSE AND A MAGNIFICENT COURSE? IN THIS CASE, ABOUT 27 FEET.



Hole #15, The Champions Course

The Champions Course at TPC Scottsdale may not enjoy the limelight as much as her sister, but she's a beauty with a backbone. Just a gimme away from The Stadium Course lies Scottsdale's only other destination for championship golf. **The only real decision is which to play first.**



Hole #17, The Stadium Course

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Call 480-585-4334



Scottsdale



INSPIRATION AT OMNI RESORTS TUCSON NATIONAL

Inspired by the sweeping views of the Santa Catalina Mountains and the rich history of golf, the artful blend of natural beauty and recreation is elevated to a new level of discovery at the Omni

Tucson National Resort. Recent enhancements offer guests the Mountain Vista Collection of guestrooms, nestled in the heart of the resort, and the renowned Catalina Course. An array of outdoor entertain-

ment venues include dining terraces and the Cabana Bar, coupled with Tucson's only 4-star Forbes rated spa, tennis courts, two-highly acclaimed golf courses, infinity-edge pool, private function space,

and gardens. Enjoy fine dining at Bob's Steak & Chophouse or unwind with casual club fare at Legends Bar & Grill. Experience it all and more at this Four Diamond destination resort.



Your driver awaits.

Set in the foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains, the Omni Tucson National Resort offers impeccable views and an unforgettable setting. Here you'll experience world-class golf built on a tradition of excellence and framed by the inspiring beauty of nature. Play our renowned Catalina Course or try the Sonoran Course for a desert-style adventure. Whether you come to test your game or simply to enjoy the scenery, you'll be elevated to a new level of discovery.

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OMNI RESORTS
tucson national



A PURE EXPERIENCE AT AK-CHIN SOUTHERN DUNES

Sprawling across 320 acres, Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club provides a welcoming, laid-back ambiance, a place where the world melts away and the game of golf becomes the focus. Here, amid uninhibited 360-degree views of Arizona's magnificent desert expanse, this world-class, Troon Golf-managed facility offers impeccable course conditioning, unmatched

Dunes' creative routing, native grasses, and rugged, unbridled landforms pay tribute to the game's great links-land courses while also offering a pleasant departure from Arizona's prevailing desert golf architecture. The Sonoran Desert's mature trees and unique landscape cradle the course's 109 strategically placed bunkers—totaling a massive 12 acres of sand—and

since its celebrated opening in 2002, serving as an annual U.S. Open qualifying site, the host of two Arizona Amateur Championships and home of early-stage PGA Tour Q-School tournaments. And while the tips—which stretch the course to more than 7,500 yards—have challenged some of the most skilled players in golf, Ak-Chin Southern Dunes' five sets of tees still provide novices with both a unique challenge and an unforgettable day of golf. Simply stated, Ak-Chin Southern Dunes doesn't just offer desert golf; it presents golfers of all skill levels and abilities with the very best of championship golf in the desert.

Grille109 caps off the club's exceptional amenities by providing a laid-back dining experience with a sweeping view of the Estrella Mountains to the west. No reservations required, guests and players are welcomed in to the Grille to enjoy the views while discussing their game over a cold beer or one of the chef-prepared menu items. From house-smoked pork and brisket, to specialty burgers and salads, there is something to please every palate. Dinner menu options are sophisticated, yet approachable, with the focus always on providing a peaceful and enjoyable experience for guests. When the weather is perfect, and it predictably always is, the Grille109 patio is the perfect place to take in the remarkable desert sunset with the green expanse of the golf course center-stage. Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club's distinctive clubhouse and

Grille109 provide exquisite indoor and outdoor spaces perfect for intimate weddings, events, and meetings. The banquet room, Venue109, can also comfortably accommodate groups up to 150; and talented event and wedding planners are on site to help execute the perfect gathering at any price point.

For even more fun and excitement off the course, the nearby Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Resort boasts the perfect complement to Southern Dunes' incredible golf experience with its one-of-a-kind blend of first-class gaming and amazing amenities, which include an idyllic courtyard with an exotic swimming pool, swim-up bar and 300 plush and newly remodeled guest rooms. The UltraStar Multitainment Center at Ak-Chin Circle is another option for entertainment after that round of golf. Amenities at the Multitainment Center, which opened in 2012, include 24 pure digital movie theaters, laser tag, dining, 24 lanes of bowling, and an arcade.

Ak-Chin Southern Dunes is proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community and managed by Troon Golf, the leader in upscale golf management. Ak-Chin Southern Dunes is located in Maricopa, Arizona, just 30 minutes from Phoenix's Sky Harbor Airport. Please visit GolfSouthernDunes.com for the "Best Available Online Rate" and for information regarding the course, specials and upcoming events.

Visit Ak-Chin Southern Dunes; It's a completely pure experience!



playability, and superlative customer service, thus ensuring an unparalleled round of extraordinary golf. Ak-Chin Southern Dunes offers world-class golf and complete practice facilities with an extensive short-game area, practice putting green and dual-ended practice tee. On-site PGA professionals are available for custom club fitting as well as individual and group lessons and clinics.

add challenge to the experience and encourage golfers to hit their drivers on nearly every hole. Meanwhile, calculated approach shots into small, well-designed greens complexes place a premium on precision. With no homes or development on or around the golf course, Ak-Chin Southern Dunes allows golfers room to swing with wild abandon while experiencing both the beauty of the tranquil surroundings and pure golf at its finest.

A true testament to its greatness, Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club has proudly played host to numerous major tournaments and events

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Southern Dunes Golf Club is managed by Troon Golf, the leader in upscale golf course management.



480.369.8949
GolfSouthernDunes.com



FLY TO THE RAVEN VERRADO

Approaching its 10th Anniversary, the Raven Golf Club at Verrado is among the Best in the Valley, and there's more to come!

Almost ten years ago, DMB, Inc. unveiled what has become the wildly successful master-planned community of Verrado. Set on just over 8,800 acres once used as the Caterpillar proving grounds, DMB, Inc. gave carte blanche to Tom Lehman and John Fought toward creating what is now one of Phoenix's premier golf destinations.

tion changes. The course also offers magnificent views of the nearby White Tank Mountains and the Phoenix skyline. From the tips, the Raven plays to nearly 7,300 yards, giving even the most accomplished player a thrilling test of golf. However, course architects Fought and Lehman created the course with generous landing areas and five sets of tee boxes ensuring players of all abilities a legitimate chance at par.

Claiming all holes are worthy of the ever popular

ing hole requires a tee shot hit just right of the massive rock outcropping in order to successfully reach the fairway. Once safely on the fairway most will find they are faced with a long iron into a well protected green. Although a fairly easy green to read, make sure to adjust for the slope of the White Tanks.

If you had to pick just one, hole #13 a short par 4 dead uphill, would be the one. Only 310 yards sounds like a walk in the park, but not here. Hit a middle iron off the tee and

pliment each of them, and service to make them all unforgettable, what else could you ask for? Well, the dining at Verrado Grille is equally impressive, whether enjoying dinner on the patio while watching a beautiful sunset, hanging out with friends listening to live music in the Grille on a lively Friday night, or having a family gathering in the dining room, you'll be treated like one of the family at the Verrado Grille. With menu items ranging from Center Cut Filet Mignon to the Chopped Summer Salad, most will find something delicious to fit their palate.

The Raven at Verrado has a reputation for hosting some of the best golf tournaments in the Valley. The Gateway/All American Pro Tour puts the Raven at Verrado on their schedule every year, and sometimes twice. Additionally, the Raven hosts the Banner Thunderbird tournament, the Buckeye Valley Chamber, The Aqua Fria Foundation, Walmart, Westmarc, and many other top charity fundraisers.

Heading into 2014 and beyond, the Raven at Verrado will continue to top the list of great courses in Phoenix. A new addition to the management team, Jay Critcher, General Manager, will fine tune the operation. Jay will also spearhead the team in bringing the first new golf course to Phoenix in many years. DMB, Inc. is currently working on a brand new Active Adult community with a dedicated golf club and amenities which should break ground by the end of 2013!



Shortly after debuting in January, 2004, *GolfWeek* awarded the Raven at Verrado with America's Best 2005 – Top 40 New Golf Courses. Many accolades have since followed, including *Golf Magazine's* Top 10 New Golf Courses You Can Play, *Golf Digest's* Power Rankings, and most recently *GolfWeek's* 2013 Best Courses You Can Play.

With 18 championship holes, the golf course features a dramatic mountainside setting with massive rock outcroppings, large desert washes, picturesque box canyons, and dramatic eleva-

“signature hole,” Verrado is without only one, instead choosing to highlight four of the best.

If you like downhill par 3s, hole #3 is for you. At 222 yards, perched well above the green, this tee box offers great views of the surrounding valley. Play to the middle of the green and walk away satisfied with par. Notable fall offs on this green would be the deep bowl on the right side leading to a difficult pitch back onto the green.

At 477 yards, hole #8 is a par 4 with the #1 handicap title attached. This long, demand-

error long on your approach shot for the best chance at par. With only two possible pin placements, this tiny green slopes back to front on both tiers. Good luck!

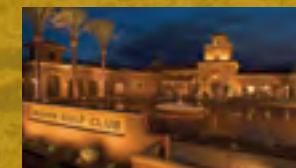
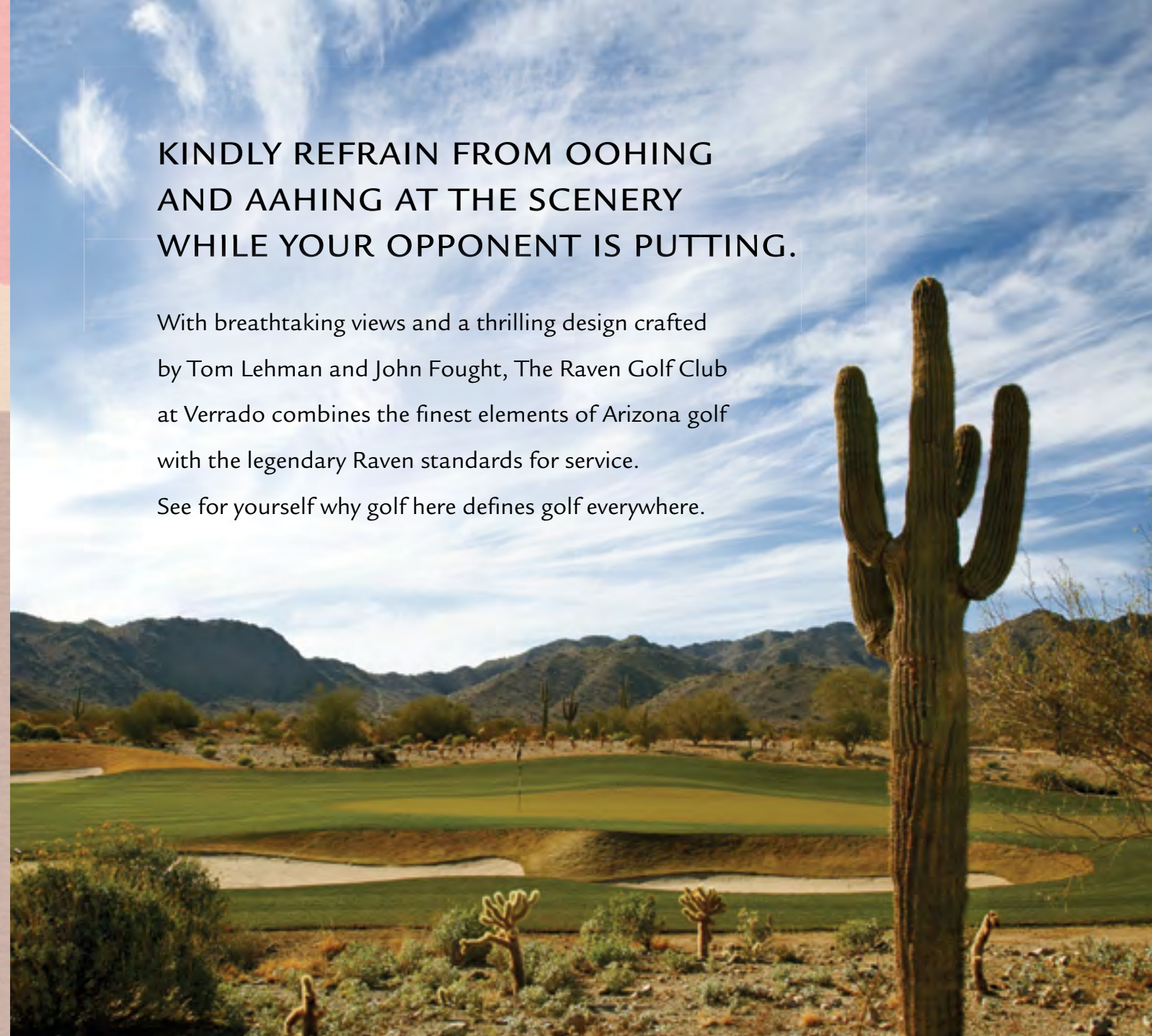
Everyone loves a great finishing hole, and this par 4, 495 yard hole just might be the best in Arizona! Playing downhill and downwind this hole provides a great view of the club house. After successfully navigating the fairway bunkers, one is faced with another downhill shot to a well protected green.

With so many great holes, course conditions to com-

KINDLY REFRAIN FROM OOHING AND AAHING AT THE SCENERY WHILE YOUR OPPONENT IS PUTTING.

With breathtaking views and a thrilling design crafted by Tom Lehman and John Fought, The Raven Golf Club at Verrado combines the finest elements of Arizona golf with the legendary Raven standards for service.

See for yourself why golf here defines golf everywhere.



www.ravenatverrado.com

4242 North Golf Drive, Buckeye, AZ 85396 | 623.388.3000



THE FAIRMONT SCOTTSDALE PRINCESS

IT OFFERS MUCH MORE THAN A PARTY

Most golf fans are somewhat familiar with The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess thanks to its affiliation with the PGA Tour's Waste Management Phoenix Open.

For one week each year, the resort and its neighbor, the TPC Scottsdale, are transformed into "The Greatest Show on Grass." It's the golf world's answer to Mardi Gras with more than half a million spectators, a stellar field, and the most infamous par 3 on Tour—the

and tea, complimentary hors d'oeuvres (served between 4:30 and 6 p.m.), complimentary continental breakfast (served between 6:30 and 10:30 a.m.), an honor bar, and a dedicated concierge team to assist with all guest needs.

Dining options range from the casual to the sublime. A perennial favorite among guests and local residents alike is La Hacienda by Richard Sandoval. Voted the No. 1 Mexican Restaurant in

and certified all-natural Angus beef, as well as the finest cuts of poultry and fish available. All are slow-poached in butter, grilled and finished over seasoned wood-fueled flames and served with a variety of delicious, modern-classic American side dishes and complemented with expertly paired wines or handcrafted cocktails.

However, for golf travelers, the real draw is The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess' commitment to providing guests with the finest golf experiences Scottsdale has to offer. To do this, the resort has created its Leisure Services Team, a dedicated crew of local golf experts capable of assisting guests with all of their golf needs. The Leisure Services Team specializes in securing guaranteed tee times at Scottsdale's top golf facilities, creating personalized itineraries for individuals, groups, tournaments, or golf clinic participants, and coordinating ground transportation between the resort and the selected golf courses.

Complementing The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess' commitment to golf travelers is the latest offering from Well & Being at Willow Stream Spa. This rejuvenating sanctuary within The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess provides guests not only with world-class luxury spa and salon services but also with medically guided, personalized and fully integrated wellness programs, enabling them to use their passion for golf as the catalyst for an overall more healthy and fulfilling lifestyle.

"We believe passionately that golf can be the founda-

tion to an overall healthy lifestyle," said Craig Cristello, exercise physiologist at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, and part of the elite team at Well & Being. "Many call golf the game of a lifetime, and it truly can be if we take the steps to address each of those elements. Using a guest's love of golf as motivation, our experts will work with them on an individual basis to enhance their athletic performance, reduce physical pain, improve nutrition and provide motivation to keep them going. Obviously, this all leads to benefits outside of golf, as well."

The most popular program for golfers is Well & Being's Total Immersion Golf Performance Experience. Guests work one-on-one with Well & Being's experts in exercise physiology, sports psychology, nutrition and massage therapy to design programs specific to the individual's needs—improving their game through body, mind and spirit. Following, they leave with detailed and customized programs and recommendations such as: skin care regimen, nutritional guidelines, personalized strength and flexibility program, as well as tools to assist with mental clarity and focus.

In addition, Well & Being at Willow Stream offers a world-class spa and salon, cutting-edge fitness and training programs, as well as mind-body classes, including yoga and meditation, healthy meals, cooking classes, and much more. For more information, visit www.fairmont.com/scottsdale.



16th on the TPC Scottsdale Stadium Course. But for the other 51 weeks, the AAA Five-Diamond Fairmont Scottsdale Princess is the ultimate desert oasis with luxurious accommodations, award-winning dining, spectacular pools, world-class golf, and a warm, welcoming ambiance.

Accommodations throughout the resort feature well-defined living and work areas, terraces, wet bars, refreshment centers and oversized luxury bathrooms. However, guests may also choose to indulge in Fairmont Gold accommodations which feature a private reception area, a private guest lounge with complimentary coffee

Arizona by *Ranking Arizona*, La Hacienda serves up fresh, authentic Mexican cuisine with unique modern twists, including indigenous ingredients, lighter dishes, and unexpected pairings of traditional foods. La Hacienda also offers the most comprehensive tequila selection in Arizona with more than 200 varieties of tequila from 36 different labels and an expert, trained and certified by the Mexican government, on hand to help choose the perfect selection. The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess also is home to Bourbon Steak by Michael Mina. This upscale, contemporary American steakhouse serves only American Kobe

Fairmont
GOLF



The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess



The Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa, Sonoma



The Fairmont Kea Lani, Maui



The Fairmont Southampton, Bermuda

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For reservations or more information on our golf destinations and golf packages, please contact your travel professional, call 1 866 840 8209 or visit fairmontgolf.com

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- RIVER GLEN COUNTRY CLUB ★ WOOD WIND GOLF CLUB



IndianasPremierGolf.com

Destinations

continued from page 21

If being directly on the beach is more your speed, the Iberostar Cancun is just 30 minutes north and has become one of the premier resorts in Mexico since opening in 2011. Much like the Playa Paraiso, the Iberostar Cancun is an all-inclusive resort that offers a top-notch experience at a great value. With 426 ocean-view rooms, the resort has the largest stretch of beach of any hotel in Cancun in addition to seven pools and five bars. If you're a foodie, you'll enjoy all four restaurants (Gourmet, Japanese, American Steakhouse, and Mexican) in addition to a well-equipped buffet.

Directly across the street from the resort lies the Iberostar Cancun Golf Club. Designed by World Golf Hall of Famer Isao Aoki (Orange County National), this course isn't as difficult as the Playa Paraiso but gives golfers of any level a good test. However, if you happen to play this course on a day that the wind is blowing you could find yourself clubbing up or down on every shot.

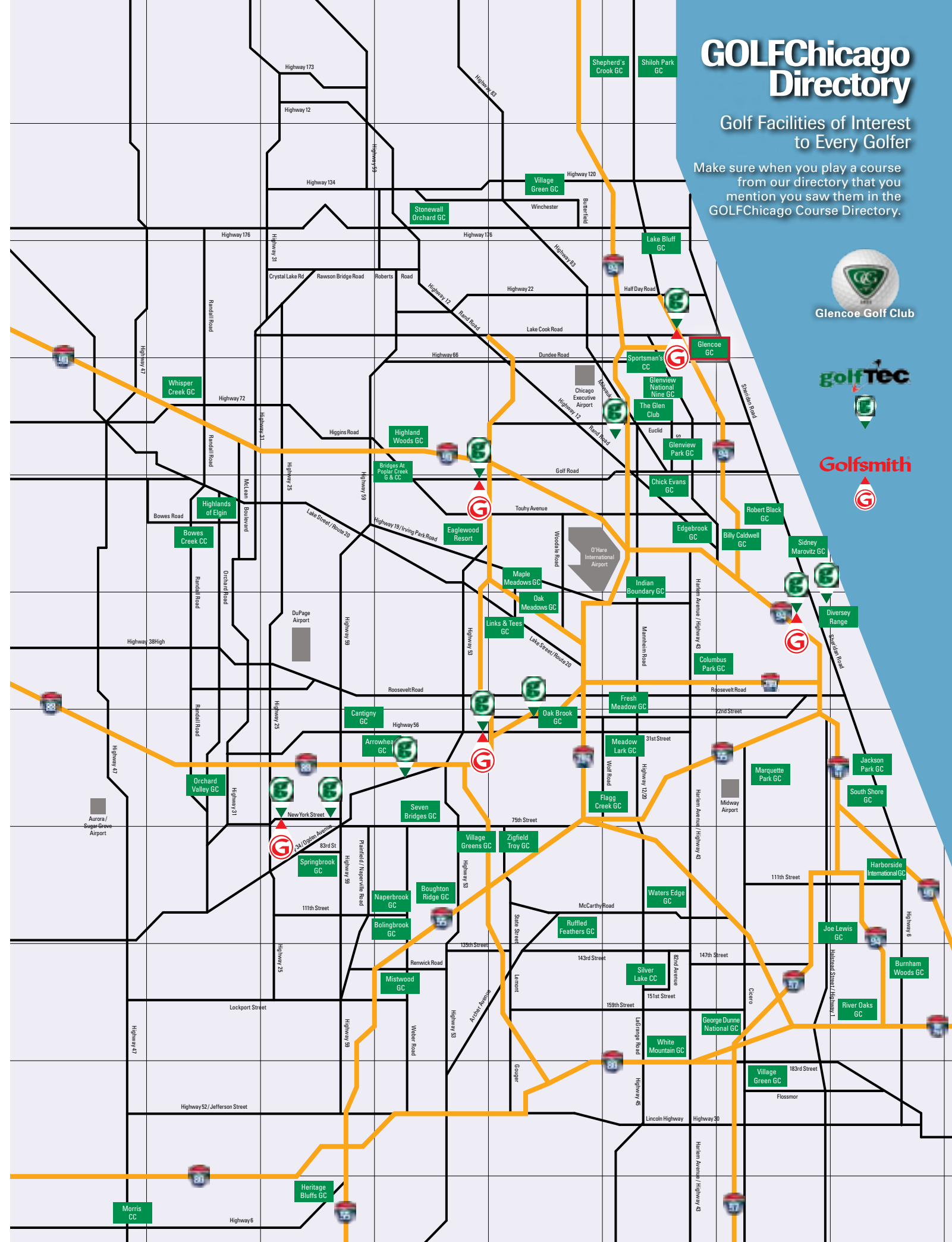
Also a par 72, the Iberostar Cancun is 6,734-yards from the tips, 71.1/121. If the course being pressed against the ocean isn't scenic enough, there are remnants of the El Rey Mayan ruins around the course as well.

For being relatively flat, this course offers an array of different hazards. Water comes into play on 10 holes, as does a fair amount of sandy wasteland that varies in depth. Some strategic doglegs can punish longer hitters such as the par 4 6th and the 345-yard 15th hole, which is the shortest par 4. Bombing your driver past the safe landing spots spells deep trouble on either.

One of the signature holes at the Iberostar Cancun Golf Club is the 570-yard 16th hole. This par 5 is not only long, but it can hurt you for a long way as bunkers guard the left side of this hole for nearly 250 yards. Not to mention that the front and left sides of the green are guarded by water. If you've got yourself a good round going, this one can end it for sure.

Between the ocean, the palms, and the crocodiles, this course can remind you a lot of golfing in Florida (without the humidity).

The ideal trip for any golf enthusiast would be staying at either the Iberostar Playa Paraiso Resort in Riviera Maya or the Iberostar Cancun and sampling both golf courses. The difference in playability and challenge is vast, but both leave you satisfied and ready for a cerveza or two after your round. All snacks and beverages are included with your green fees after all. *Arriba!*



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Glencoe Golf Club





Arrowhead

630-653-5800
26W151 Butterfield Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60189

arrowheadgolfclub.org

Arrowhead Golf Club is recognized for its beautifully maintained course and inviting atmosphere.

Arrowhead is a public course which offers impeccable golfing conditions at affordable rates on three separate par 72 18-hole layouts surrounded by forest preserve. Players are enjoying new bunker renovations and enhancements to the West, East and South Courses. The practice area includes a lighted driving range, putting green and chipping green. Group and individual golf lessons available.



Bolingbrook Golf Club

630-771-9400
2001 Rodeo Drive
Bolingbrook, IL 60490

bolingbrookgolfclub.com

Bolingbrook Golf Club features an Arthur Hills and Steve Forrest designed championship golf course, an exceptional practice facility with a learning academy, state-of-the-art GPS-equipped golf carts, and a 76,000 square foot clubhouse with men's and women's locker rooms, lounges, two full-service restaurants, and full banquet facilities. Memberships are available.

Bolingbrook Golf Club was named #28 in the 2010 *Golf World* Readers' Choice Awards for best public course in the country, named to the 2009 *Golfweek* Best Courses You Can Play list, and received 4½ stars from *Golf Digest*



Bowes Creek Country Club

847-214-5880
1250 Bowes Creek Boulevard
Elgin, Illinois 60124

bowescreekcc.com
bowescreekcountryclub.com

Here at Bowes Creek Country Club, our patrons are not treated like an everyday customer. You can buy a membership for the year or you can pay to be a Member for a Day! Instead of standard green fees, we offer a daily membership. The Member for a Day Fee will allow you to play unlimited golf with cart and allow you full use of the practice facility. There will be no limit to the amount of golf you want to play that day because you are... Member for that Day!



Cantigny Golf

630-668-8463
27w270 Mack Road
Wheaton, IL 60189

cantignygolf.com

Designed by Roger Packard, scenic Cantigny hosted the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship in 2007 and is home to the 2013 Chicago Open, Oct. 7-9. The Illinois State Amateur returns to Cantigny in 2014. The Cantigny Golf Academy is a prime practice and learning center, and junior golfers thrive at the 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links.

Cantigny's 27 holes are ideal for outings ranging from 16 to 220 golfers. The course employs a full-time golf event coordinator to ensure a good experience for planners and guests.



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Des Plaines 60016
847-299-5431

Downers Grove 60515
630-932-4653

Fox Valley 60505
630-723-5215

Naperville 60563
630-579-9390

Oakbrook Terrace 60181
630-396-2020

Schaumburg 60173
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847-327-0605



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5 Chicagoland Locations
golfsmith.com

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Elgin, IL 60123

highlandsofelgin.com

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11001 S. Doty Ave. East,
Chicago, IL 60628

harborsideinternational.com

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- Joe Louis: 18 Holes
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The Glen Club

847-724-7272
2901 West Lake Ave.
Glenview, IL 60026

theglenclub.com

The Glen Club is a stunning Tom Fazio designed championship course located at the former Glenview Naval Air Station. In the heart of a 195-acre refuge, The Glen Club features rolling terrain, dramatic elevation changes, tranquil lakes, and striking vistas.

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Glencoe Golf Club & Golf Academy

847-835-0250
621 Westley Road
Glencoe, IL 60022

glencoeclub.com

The Glencoe Golf Club, known for excellent course conditions and lightning fast greens, is a great escape from the sights and sounds of the city, located only 20 minutes north of Chicago, just off the Edens Expressway.

- Grass tee practice range
- Short game practice area
- Jr./Sr. Discounts
- Golf Academy featuring premiere junior programs, clinics, and private lessons.



Lake Bluff Golf Club

847-234-6771
355 W Washington Ave
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

lakebluffgolfclub.com

Located on the scenic North Shore of Chicago, Lake Bluff Golf Club offers a beautiful and challenging layout in a traditional parkland setting. Lake Bluff Golf Club takes great pride in the immaculately conditioned bent grass fairways and greens. The club anxiously awaits hosting the 42nd Annual Lake County Amateur this August 27 and 28.



Mistwood Golf Club

815-254-3333
1700 W. Renwick Rd.
Romeoville, IL 60446

mistwoodgolf.net

Mistwood Golf Club, with its recent multi-million dollar renovations and new state of the art golf-learning center, has become one of the premier golf experiences in the Chicagoland area. Mistwood, host of the Illinois Women's Open, features new Scottish style stacked sod-wall bunkers, which are not something seen in traditional American golf. Other amenities include a full-service pro shop, golf instruction, and wonderful dining.



Orchard Valley Golf Course

2411 West Illinois Avenue
Aurora, IL 60506
630-907-0500

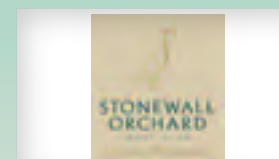
orchardvalleygolf.com

6th Best Public Course in Illinois by *GOLF Magazine*.

One of Chicagoland's best public courses, *Golf Digest* ranks Orchard Valley 4½ Stars! A true championship layout featuring wetlands, lakes, roughs, water hazards, waterfalls and more.

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Stonewall Orchard

25675 W Highway 60
Grayslake, IL 60030
847-740-4890

stonewallorchard.com

Cutting through hundred-year old oak and pine trees, Stonewall Orchard Golf Club has quickly become one of Chicago's most prolific public golf courses.

Since opening in 1999, The Arthur Hills-designed gem located in northwest suburban Grayslake has served as Final Stage Qualifying site for the U.S. Open and currently sits on rotation with Olympia Fields and Medinah Country Club as host site for the Illinois PGA Section Championship held every September.

To learn more, visit stonewallorchard.com or call 847-740-4890.





Water's Edge Golf Course

7205 West 115th Street
Worth, IL 60482
708-671-1032
watersedgegolf.com

Best Places To Play By *Golf Digest*.

Water's Edge is Chicago's south side destination course. This championship 18-hole golf course offers bent grass greens and fairways, and a complete day/night practice and range facility, along with The Edge Bar & Grill for great meals and daily specials.

PLUS...a program for everyone!

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- UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the Edge Practice Club



Whisper Creek Golf Course

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Waukegan, IL 60087
waukegangolf.org

Boughton Ridge
630-739-4100
Bolingbrook

Coyote Run Golf Course
708-957-8700
800 Kedzie
Flossmoor IL 60422
coyoterungolf.com
Par 71
Yardage: 6,478
Weekday: \$50 w/cart
Weekend: \$60 w/cart
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes, \$31 w/cart, Mon.-Thu. only
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

Eaglewood Resort and Spa
630-773-3510
1401 Nordic Rd.
Itasca, IL 60143
eaglewoodresort.com
Par 72
Yardage 6,015 - 5,410 yds.
Weekday: \$39.00 w/cart (Spring Rate)
Weekend: \$45.00 w/cart (Spring Rate)
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

Flagg Creek Golf Course
708-246-3336
6939 S. Wolf Road
Countryside, IL 60525
flaggcreekgolfcourse.org
Par 33
Yardage: 2493 – 1865
Weekday: \$14 (resident) \$18 (non res.)
Weekend: \$16 (resident) \$20 (non res.)
Cart Fee: \$16
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

Fox Bend Golf Course
630-554-3939
3516 Route 34
Oswego, IL 60543
foxbendgolfcourse.com
Par 72
Yardage: 6,890 – 5,325
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Weekend: \$43 walk \$59 ride
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes
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Grand Geneva Resort and Spa
262-248-8811
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

Green Meadows Golf Club
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18 W 201 West 63rd Street
Westmont, IL 60559

DuPageGolf.com
Par 30
Yardage: 1,888 - 1,545 yds.
Weekday: \$14 walk \$22 ride
Weekend: \$16 walk \$24 ride
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Discount Program: Yes
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: No
Banquets/Outings: No

Maple Meadows Golf Club
630-616-8424
272 Addison Rd.
Wood Dale, IL 60191
DuPageGolf.com
West 18 - Par 70
Yardage: 6,438 - 5,339 yds.
Weekday: \$32 walk \$49 ride
Weekend: \$41 walk \$58 ride
*Frequent specials on course website
Discount Program: Yes
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

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Naperbrook Golf Course
630-378-4215
22204 W. Hassert Boulevard
Plainfield, IL 60585
golfnaperville.org
Par 72
Yardage: 6677
Weekday: \$38
Weekend: \$48
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

Oak Brook Golf Club
630-368-6400
2606 York Road
Oak Brook, IL 60523
oak-brook.org/recreation
Par 72
Yardage 6541 - 5341 yds
Weekday: \$67.50 w/cart
Weekend: \$71.50 w/cart
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

Oak Meadows Golf Club
630-595-0071
900 N. Wood Dale Road
Addison, IL 60101
DuPageGolf.com
Par 71
Yardage: 6,718 - 5,628 yds.
Weekday: \$32 walk \$49 ride
Weekend: \$41 walk \$58 ride
*Frequent specials on course website
Discount Program: Yes
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: No

Shepherd's Crook
847-872-2080
351 N. Green Bay Rd.
Zion, IL 60099
shepherdsCrook.org

Shiloh Park
847-746-5500
23rd and Bethesda Blvd.
Zion, IL 60099
shilohparkgolf.com

Springbrook Golf Course
630-848-5060
2220 W. 83rd Street
Naperville, IL 60564
golfnaperville.org
Par 72
Yardage: 6,896
Weekday: \$40
Weekend: \$50
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

Village Greens
630-985-3610
Woodridge

Zigfield Troy Par 3
630-985-9860
1535 W. 75th Street
Woodridge, IL 60517

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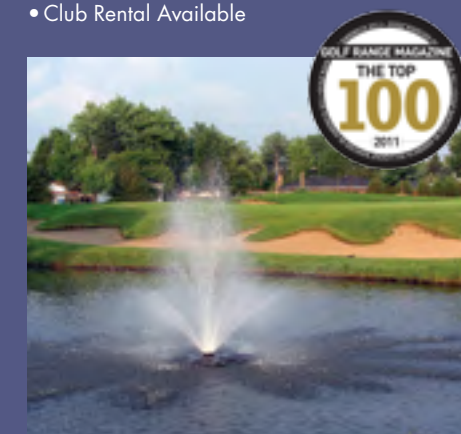
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ON THE SHELF

Between the Covers

As the Chicagoland golf season winds down, it is time for golfers to begin preparations for next season. In addition to pounding balls at indoor ranges, let's crack the spines of two books that could help your emotional and spiritual game.

Contrary to popular practice, hurling a lob wedge into a pond is not the only quick fix to combat a skulled shot from a greenside swale. *The Successful Golfer* is a toolbox for specific mental blocks that affect scorecards and peace of mind. McCarthy and Jones address 50 of the most common faults that can ruin an otherwise pleasant round of golf. Readers will develop strategies to help them deal with a variety of emotions. The authors conducted extensive research that ranged from studies on the yips to the chunks to the shanks. Yes, these ailments have physical symptoms; however, an emotionally ready golfer is rarely reduced to a bad shot becoming a distraction for the entire round, or even an entire season. If you are searching for swing consistency and an emotionally healthy hobby, then *The Successful Golfer* is just what the swing doctor ordered.

The much-awaited sequel to *Golf's Sacred Journey—Seven Days at the Links of Utopia* is here. In *Johnny's U.S. Open: Golf's Sacred Journey 2*, the protagonist returns to Utopia, Texas, for a tune-up for the U.S. Open. Since the original book—which was also made into a motion picture—tens of thousands of people have visited the golf course in Utopia. With increasing traction, Cook's golf titles can be mentioned in the same breath as *Golf In The Kingdom*.

In *Johnny's U.S. Open: Golf's Sacred Journey 2*, Cook's readers will learn more about Johnny's background and his family. The sequel also paints Johnny's spiritual teachings with a broader brush that teaches life lessons beyond the golf course. Johnny intrigues us again with his old school methods and the unveiling of a new swing—the Utopia Pre-Set. If you enjoyed Cook's *Golf's Sacred Journey—Seven Days at the Links of Utopia*, then a return to Utopia, Texas, in *Johnny's U.S. Open: Golf's Sacred Journey 2* is a must-have edition on your shelf.

Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch

Much more than just a winery, Holman Ranch in Carmel Valley, California, has a long and rich history. Originally, the land was part of a much larger area controlled by the Mission San Carlos Borromeo del Rio Carmelo when the area was still controlled by Mexico.

In 1928, San Francisco businessman Gordon Armsby purchased 600 acres in the Los Laureles area of the Valley, including what would be Holman Ranch. Armsby built a classic Spanish-style hacienda on the property, which served as an exclusive hideaway for many Hollywood celebrities including Charlie Chaplin and Theda Bara.

In the 1940s, financial troubles hit Armsby, forcing him to sell. The new owners transformed it into Holman's Guest Ranch.

Holman Ranch quickly became the center of social life in Carmel Valley. In the tradition of their predecessors, the Holman's had the pleasure of hosting Hollywood's finest: Clark Gable, Vincent Price, Joan Crawford, and Marlon Brando to name a few.

In 1989, Dorothy McEwen stepped in to preserve the Ranch's historic past as a private estate and event facility. She restarted overnight accommodations in guest cottages, founded The Stables, and planted vineyards, although her dream of a winery was never realized.

Thomas and Jarman Lowder purchased Holman Ranch in 2006, and the winery finally became a reality. The Ranch has proven to be quite hospitable for winemaking. The local hills hold back the marine layer and broad breezes, which is beneficial for producing quality fruit. Sedimentary soils throughout the vineyards provide good soil drainage.

After your next round at Pebble Beach, a visit to Holman Ranch is just a twelve-mile-inland drive away.

2011 Carmel Valley Chardonnay \$28
This Chard shows pale gold in the glass. The nose is mostly citrus, with hints of honey and acetone.

The citrus really comes through on the palette, with plenty of lemony tartness. Although this wine spent some time in barrel, you'd hardly know it. If you are averse to heavy, buttery Chardonnays, then this is the wine for you. That hint of honey is repeated

on the long (for a white) finish. And, don't overchill. Remove it from the refrigerator after just a half-hour or so.

The citrus and acid here would nicely complement Cold Poached Scallops, Sesame Chicken, or Pheasant with Leek and Pecan Stuffing. ■■■■

2011 Heather's Hill Pinot Noir \$37
Heather's Hill pours a bright, clear ruby into the glass. The nose suggests dusty boysenberry. There is a light to medium body, typical of Pinot Noir. The taste is all about dark stone fruit (and a little cola), supported by moderate tannins and good acidity. There is some zing to the finish, with hints of tobacco as well. Be sure to air out this wine for an hour, or even two.

There's still plenty of nice weather before winter sets in, so enjoy this wine with Pasta Primavera, Raspberry Chicken, or Pork Chops with Black Currant Preserves. ■■■■

ON THE CORKSCREWS

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How Low Can You Go

Early in tournament week at the BMW Championship at Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake Forest, magic was on the mind. The number “59” was bandied about by more than one member of the media, especially the locals, as they watched the top 70 players in the FedEx Cup standings get their first look at the Tom Fazio-designed layout in Chicago’s north suburbs on some warm, windless days.

“Yeah, that’s the only thing they’ve got,” world No. 1 Tiger Woods said of the wind being the course’s only defense.

Sure enough, on Thursday Brandt Snedeker shot a 63, highlighted by a run of seven straight birdies. Then, Jim Furyk captured the magic on Friday—carding just the sixth 59 in PGA Tour history—with a bogey on his card.

“It kind of dawned on me at the turn that it would only—‘only’ is a tough way to say it—but it only takes 4-under on the front, which doesn’t seem too far out of reach to kind of break the barrier of 60,” Furyk admitted.

While Furyk joked that having only six members of that magical club would suit him, Matt Kuchar came close to making it seven the following day with a 61.

“It crossed my head,” he said of the magic number. “I got off to a good start and then had a thought on the last hole, gosh, if I hole this out from the fairway, it’s a 59. I think I got it at least to scare the hole a little bit.”

Zach Johnson wound up being crowned champion at 16-under, earning his 10th career victory. With only 70 players in the field, the Western Golf Association and PGA Tour were going to get a noteworthy champion. Woods was in contention, as was Winfield native and local hero Kevin Streelman. University of Illinois alumnus and Wisconsin resident Steve Stricker was also in the mix.

The design of the tournament sort of lent itself to that, but unlike the grumbling you heard following the 2011 tournament at Cog Hill, players reacted well to Conway Farms.

“I’ve been very proud the way Conway Farms has looked on TV, how it’s held up,” said Conway Farms member and former world No. 1 Luke Donald. “I think there’s been a mixture of some really great scores. We saw Jim Furyk’s 59, we’ve seen a lot of high scores from some quality players, as well, and I think that spread is a good indication of a good championship golf course. I’ve heard a lot of positives from the players, and I think overall it’s been a success.”

“There’s just a few spots you can’t hit it, and I’m sure they hit it in those spots; a couple fescue areas and some water hazards,” said Streelman, one of only a handful of players that had played the course before

FROM THE FRINGE

Insights on the PGA Tour



Jim Owczarski

tournament week. “There’s just a couple holes out there that can really bite you if you hit it in the wrong spot. The same holes you hit them in the right spot you can attack and make birdies. You can see it, when it starts blowing over 20 over here, it gets a little finicky.”

Most of the players were complimentary, acknowledging it would be a birdie fest if there was no wind to contend with. Many liked the green complexes, including the new champions, but it wasn’t all sunshine and roses.

One player, when asked his impressions, paused for a couple of breaths, and could only offer: “It’s well conditioned.”

You can’t make everyone happy, but assuming the title sponsor extends its partnership, the BMW Championship will return to Conway Farms in 2015. “It’s a great test,” added Snedeker. “I think it doesn’t really favor anybody in the field. It’s kind of a wide open kind of golf course where anybody, short hitter, long hitter, great ball striker, poor ball striker can all have a chance, so I think it’s a great venue.”

Other host options are starting to be put on the table as well. Medinah Country Club had Tom Doak just renovate its No. 1 course and Olympia Fields Country Club has always been an ardent supporter of the WGA. Then there’s Cog Hill and Dubsread. For their part, the WGA hasn’t completely ruled a return out.

“It was a part of the Western Golf Association for 20 years, hosting our championship,” WGA Vice President of Tournaments Vince Pellegrino said. “They’ve been a great partner and they’ve had a wonderful run. We’re at Conway Farms this year—what’s the future’s going hold? We don’t know. But we haven’t gotten rid of Cog Hill from any future considerations.”

Guthrie’s Remarkable Season

Jordan Spieth didn’t win a major championship, but few players who have had as an incredible a year as the rookie from Texas. He went from having no status on the PGA Tour to a captain’s pick for the U.S. Presidents Cup team. An improbable victory at the John Deere Classic in July basically clinched his Rookie of the Year status, but it says a lot that it took that kind of year to overshadow the freshman season of Luke Guthrie.

Guthrie, who earned his 2013 card through the Web.com tour money list, not only made the FedEx Cup playoffs, but advanced to the second round at the Deutsche Bank Championship. He didn’t win in the 2013 regular season, but the Quincy native and University of Illinois alumnus recorded two top 10s and six top 25s while earning just under \$1 million. At the conclusion of the BMW Championship, he was the 87th-ranked player in the world.

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I think it doesn't really favor anybody in the field. It's kind of a wide open kind of golf course where anybody, short hitter, long hitter, great ball striker, poor ball striker can all have a chance, so I think it's a great venue.

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