

GOLFChicago

Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

Fall 2015, Vol. 19 No. 6

Mount Prospect Golf Club Unveiled

Holiday Gift Guide

Arizona: The Golf State

Dave Pelz: Short Game Advisor

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NOTES FROM GREG AND DAVE

The footballs are flying. In just three games our beloved Bears have dipped into a familiar place. At least our Cubbies are making a charge toward the playoffs. While we are trying to contain our excitement for the Cubbies, it is exciting to chase success. And for Chicagoans, we have experienced minimal post season success during the fall season. The usual attitude is, "Here we go again ..." However, golf is a different story.

We will argue that autumn is golf's greatest season because every bucket of balls and round of golf is a bonus. We feel like we are cheating Mother Nature, especially when local courses are open through Thanksgiving. At a recent eye doctor appointment, my optometrist confessed that he catches golf fever when school is called back into session. Like most of us, during the summer he is too busy with his children's activities to even think about playing golf. But in the fall, he can adjust his schedule and get an early morning round in before head-



"Let's just say I needed to get my confidence back."

ing to the office. An added perk is that when October rolls in, his rusty swing is grooved. I think most of us play our best rounds as the leaves are changing. Fall golf brings the oranges, browns, and yellows in the tree tops. During morning rounds, we play into a mystical, misty fog. Afternoon golf adds depth to our eyes with bulbous, cumu-

lonimbus puffs against a blue sky. And our twilight tee times usually fill our nostrils with the smells of burning leaves that take us back to our youth. Fall golf is magical and requires an extra layer of clothing to protect ourselves from sensory overload. Ahhh, this is our season. Soon enough we will be preparing snow blowers for Arctic blasts. But until then, get out and enjoy the season on a golf course. Rounds are usually just over four hours, the green fees are heavily discounted, and the kids are at school. Forget about carrying paid time off into 2016; get out to the course and enjoy a little autumnal splendor.

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Founder: Bill Daniels

Publisher: Dave Weretka

Editor: Greg Jourdan

Art Director: Stephen Hawk

Senior Writer: Neal Kotlarek and Todd Mrowice

Instructional Staff: Billy Klemz, Dave Pelz, and Carl Rabito

Editorial Contributors: Tim Cronin, Stephen Hawk, Rory Hughes, Brad Jourdan, Greg Martin, John Morrissett, and Sheri Warren

Photography: Greg Jourdan and Group 27

Advertising and Marketing inquiries should be directed to:

Dave Weretka
815-741-8005
dweretka@golfchicagomagazine.com

Editorial inquiries should be directed to:
Greg Jourdan
gjourdan@golfchicagomagazine.com

Business Offices
3701 Juniper Avenue
Joliet, IL 60431
815-741-8005
dweretka@golfchicagomagazine.com

Editorial Offices
490 Meadow Lane
Hinckley, IL 60520
gjourdan@golfchicagomagazine.com

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Glide to Destination

Sometimes you feel like you need an extra arm to carry your luggage and golf bag through the airport. Once United Airlines scraps their moving walkway at O'Hare International, Sun Mountain's new ClubGlider suitcase will be a cherished accessory for travelers. In addition to smooth, pivoting caster wheels, the ClubGlider suitcase has extendable legs to ease the wait while you are checking your bags. Other key features are multiple handles and a TSA-approved lock.

The suitcase is constructed with durable ballistic-style nylon and is ready for less-than-gentle treatment on the tarmac. The ClubGlider luggage line also includes a carry-on bag with the same features as its big brother.

\$349.99 (suitcase)
www.sunmountain.com



Pigskin Kicks

New Balance has added a new style to their golf lineup. The 574LX features a spikeless golf shoe with a brown, leather pigskin upper and footbed cover. These shoes have the look and feel of a football—Go Bears!

The 574LX weighs just over 12 ounces and has a two-year waterproof warranty. The outsole places a premium on stability and utilizes the company's NDurance® rubber outsole for maximum durability. Just in time for fall football fanatics, this shoe looks great with jeans, but it is built for the course.

Patterned after New Balance's popular lifestyle shoe, the 574LX is available in a range of sizes, including wide. The 574LX will be available for purchase in mid-October.

\$169.95 www.newbalance.com



Hybrid Heaven

The new Titleist 816H1 and 816H2 merge next-generation technology with a classic design. The H1 model has a larger profile and inspires confidence in mid-to high handicappers. The H1's clubhead size leans more toward a fairway wood than a traditional hybrid. The H2 is more compact, yet the slight offset gives the club an iron-like interaction with the turf.

Both models utilize a high MOI for higher shots that land softly onto the green. 816H hybrids are designed with beveled edges on the sole and Active Recoil Channel to promote solid contact from any lie this side of playable. The Titleist SureFit Tour adjustable hosel and SureFit weight technology ensure a custom fit for all players. The new 816H is a club for all players!

\$249 www.titleist.com



True Blue

Mizuno's new S5 wedges will be the coolest club in your golf bag. The S5's blue Ion finish is forged with the company's Grain flow-forging process to promote a unique, intimate feel in a golfer's hands. The Blue Magic S5 also sports a new design that veers from traditional wedges with a new "silhouette" head shape. Mizuno's Quad Cut grooves deliver more spin than a political campaign manager, so expect your short game to shine. If you need PGA Tour proof, then know that Mizuno staffer Luke Donald participated in the design and immediately added Blue Magic to his bag.

Available in 25 different loft/bounce options, the S5 Blue Magic is available in right- and left-handed models.

\$129.99 www.mizunousa.com



Re-Introducing Bertha

Callaway's Big Bertha drivers have provided the watermark for drivers since the product line's inception in 1991. The latest Great Big Bertha driver offers golfers the next frontier in big stick technology.

That technology begins with R*MOTO; the design and construction creates a hotter and thinner face than previous Bertha drivers. The company's R*MOTO, along with a sliding, 10-gram sliding weight, adds forgiveness when you miss the sweet spot. The Optifit adjustable hosel provides eight unique settings to influence loft, lie, and face angle. When you get the Great Big Bertha in your hands, the combination of technology and design delivers a new standard for big stick expectations.

\$449.99 www.callawaygolf.com

Hit It Longer

Everyone who plays golf is constantly searching for a way to hit it farther. One way that is often overlooked is the bending and subsequently unbending of the right elbow. The elbow is a hinge, a powerful source of leverage. Properly utilized, it can add 11 percent more speed, which equates to more distance in your shot. During the backswing, the right elbow should begin bending when your hands reach your right knee and complete the bending (90 degrees) when your hands reach shoulder height. At the top of the backswing, the right forearm will be parallel to your spine angle and the elbow will be bent to a 90 degree angle. This

position will look much like a major league baseball batter awaiting a pitch.

On the downswing, the reverse happens. The right elbow must begin to unbend gradually beginning from the shoulder, and should be completely unbent by the time the hands reach the right knee cap. This process of allowing the elbow to straighten (unbend) on the downswing returns the right arm to its original address position. Unbending the right elbow creates speed and induces the lag in the wrists.

A common error that I see all the time is the player driving the right elbow towards

INSTRUCTION

JOURNEY TO BETTER



Carl Rabito



his hip. The act of driving a bent elbow toward your hip does not add power, in fact, it causes a casting action or early release, resulting in miss hits and loss of distance. Keeping the elbow bent on the downswing also causes the right shoulder to dip, which causes the hips to spin out to soon during impact. This is a big reason that a lot of people slice.

The right elbow is a hinge-power source: pure leverage. Unbend your right elbow and you will gain more speed and distance. *Bolingbrook Golf Club is the home of Rabito Golf.*



INCORRECT: right elbow driving toward hip



INCORRECT: unbending of elbow caused right shoulder to dip



CORRECT: right elbow unbending correctly



CORRECT: right arm returned to address position

A Simple Plan for Better Wedge Play

INSTRUCTION

SHORT GAME ADVISOR



Dave Pelz



The merits of being a better wedge player are obvious: by knocking wedge shots closer, you're facing shorter putts, and a higher probability of one-putting. Tour players knock wedge shots taken from 50 to 100 yards in the fairway to within 17 feet of the cup on average, and the best in the world can stick it to within 10 feet without batting an eye. Call me partial to the short game, but for my money, there's no better feeling in golf than catching a wedge right in the middle of the sweet spot and watching it fly high and stop next to the pin. Pulling this off is both athleticism and art.

The "secrets" to catching wedges crisp and knocking them close are anything but secrets. Here (in no particular order) are the three most important basics for hitting your wedges flush:

1. Play the ball in the middle of your stance. This will encourage you to strike the ball with a descending blow so you get less grass between the ball and the clubface.

2. Make your follow-through longer than your backswing. This will help you accelerate into and through impact.

3. Clean the grooves on your club-face after every shot and opt for a higher-spinning, urethane-covered ball. These gear adjustments will ensure a Tour-style "one-hop-and-stop" landing with limited rollout.

There's a point to pairing a long follow-through with a short backswing: It encourages you to remain aggressive between these endpoints. Otherwise, your contact will turn to mush. I see everyday players of all skill levels become hesitant, handsy or indecisive as they swing their wedges into impact. Let me be

clear: Impact is no time to think about...well, anything! Impact is "Go!" time. If you must think about something as you approach the ball, make it simple and helpful: "Accelerate and extend." Acceleration and extension give you shot-stopping backspin and centered contact on the clubface. Ideally, you want your left arm to "snap" straight as you strike the ball.

Here's your new wedge plan. First, find the backswing length that matches the distance you need to carry the ball to the pin. Next, make a few rehearsal swings, using these motions to flush out any doubt or hesitation. Then immediately settle into your stance and swing, thinking only about accelerating into impact and extending your left arm. With some practice, you'll be throwing darts at the green—and looking like a pro while doing it.



Spectacular Golf and New Outdoor/ Fitness Amenities Offer Something for Everyone at Desert Mountain

The Desert Mountain Club is a private golf and lifestyle community in Scottsdale, Arizona, that is ranked among the 10 top private golf and residential clubs (by Platinum Clubs of America) in the United States.

Home to six award-winning Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf courses, Desert Mountain also offers the Jim Flick Golf Performance Center, dedicated to one of the greatest instructors of all time, and Desert Mountain's

group exercise space, enhanced spa and salon space with a resort-style ambience, family poolside locker rooms and poolside restrooms, a bigger youth activity center, and other improvements. In addition, a new quick-serve café will bring the number of Desert Mountain dining options to 10 for members and their guests.

The club recently launched a new generation of lifestyle amenities to reflect the expanding

Mountain COO/General Manager Robert Jones. "Research indicates that outdoor recreation is a growing priority for more than 140 million Americans. It's not just a 'nice to have' amenity. For 2015 and beyond it is a 'must have' amenity."

The Ranch features a 15-mile trails system offering seven trails that originate from and return to a single trailhead. Each trail offers a different experience for all skill levels.

Equestrians can enjoy a 12-stall stable and two corrals for staging horseback rides through dramatic desert terrain as well as for training new riders.

For those wishing to get a little closer to nature, we suggest overnight luxury camping in a lovely and secluded area of the property featuring canvas tents with redwood floors, a bath/shower with hot and cold running water, plush towels, soaps and lotions, and full-size beds with mattresses. Chef-prepared meals are also offered.

Groups of all sizes have access to

our open-air gathering space with rustic seating for presentations, programs, musical performances, and other activities.

Jones added that recent research confirmed the findings of a commissioned survey of Desert Mountain members who indicated their support of a true western wilderness experience without having to leave Desert Mountain. "Horseback riding, hiking, and other outdoor experiences are among the most desired amenities among the club's target demographic today."

For Desert Mountain Club membership information, please contact Nicole Forbes, 480-595-4318 or nforbes@desertmt.com or visit www.desertmountain.com.

PGA Director of Instruction from 1987 to 2005. The center features the most advanced technology in the industry today.

In addition, six architecturally-distinct clubhouses offer nine restaurants and grills, including the Apache Steakhouse, Constantino's for casual Italian cuisine, and The Arizona Grill, a member favorite featuring regional comfort food, salads, and sandwiches.

A renovation of the Sonoran Fitness Center is underway and is scheduled for completion in fall 2016. The renovation of the center, which was built in 1993, will add more than 17,600 square feet of space. Plans include expansive new fitness, training, and

tastes of today's club members. The Ranch is a western outdoor amenity located within a pristine 3,000-acre desert preserve at Desert Mountain's northern boundary. A variety of outdoor activities offer a true taste of the West, including hiking and mountain biking on an award-winning, 15-mile trails system, horseback riding and horsemanship lessons, luxury camping, and facilities for presentations, stargazing, interpretive nature talks, and more.

"While club members and their guests will always enjoy an unparalleled golf experience, we now offer family lifestyle amenities that can be utilized throughout the year and that contribute to the quality of life for our residents," explains Desert

DESERT MOUNTAIN TEMPERATURES

Month	Avg. High	Avg. Low
January	62 F	41 F
February	65 F	43 F
March	70 F	46 F
April	79 F	52 F
May	88 F	60 F
June	97 F	70 F
July	98 F	76 F
August	97 F	74 F
September	94 F	70 F
October	83 F	59 F
November	70 F	47 F
December	62 F	40 F

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Contact Nicole Forbes at 480-595-4110 or membership@desertmountain.com
Scottsdale, Arizona | www.DesertMountain.com | Desert Mountain memberships are by invitation only.

Amelia Island Resort Serves Spectacular

DESTINATIONS

Neal Kotlarek

Florida's Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort is kind of like a hotel version of that Leonardo DiCaprio character in the hit 2002 movie "Catch Me If You Can." You remember the storyline: DiCaprio plays a guy named Frank Abagnale who travels from one town to the next while believably impersonating a doctor, an airline pilot, a school teacher, and an assistant attorney. OK, although the parallel might be a weak one, this elegant complex 45 minutes from the Jacksonville, Florida, airport is defined in completely different ways by different guests. Some come to enjoy the facility's 3.5 miles of spectacular, pearl-white beaches. Others come to see and be seen at one of the two spectacular ocean-side pools, or to experience two or more of the diverse dining options, or to play tennis on one of 23 clay courts. And still others come to test their skills on one of three championship golf courses, each, of course, with a completely different personality.

If there is a consistent theme across the 1,350-acre property, it's the feeling of com-

munity that unites full-time residents with incoming guests. Over my short three-day stay at the resort, I was provided helpful tips by folks eager to serve up assistance and advice. Along with recommendations on where to get the tastiest appetizers ("crab cakes at the Verandah Seafood Restaurant"), I was advised on the best spot to hike ("Drummond Point boardwalk") and the best spa services to enjoy.

"We pride ourselves on the resort's welcoming spirit," says Donald Stamets, managing director of the complex. "There are so many things to do across the property that guests feel compelled to share their experiences with each other." Stamets adds that this spirit is enhanced by thematic events that bring people together. An annual "Fish to Fork" Culinary Weekend event features visiting chefs who prepare fish caught fresh off the island's coastline. Diners mingle with the chefs and each other as they vote on the best presentations.

Beneficiary of an \$85 million renovation in 2013, Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort has a long history as a celebrated golf

destination. The marquee attraction is the Oak Marsh Course, a classic Pete Dye design that opened in 1972. Provided an amazing landscape of salt marsh creeks, moss-draped heritage oak trees, and oceanfront, Dye built a lavish collection of holes that are challenging and visually stunning. Don't be deceived by the course's modest length of 6,500 yards, as the landing areas for most of the par 4s are tightened by water and sand bunkers. The first few holes play over inland property and provide players with their best opportunities for pars and birdies. The 540-yard No. 2 snakes its way through oaks, sand bunkers, and a pond to a small, undulating green. At 317 yards, No. 3 looks like a cakewalk on the scorecard, but a landing area squeezed by two sand bunkers motivates a decision to hit a long-iron off the tee to set-up a mid-iron approach shot.

The final two holes on the front nine may determine the success or failure of your final score.

The 342-yard No. 8 features a fairway split by a river leading up to the green. A successful

tee shot here sets up a short-iron approach over the river to a long green protected by a devious bunker. The 527-yard No. 9 is the course's signature hole, as its entire right side is flanked by a spectacular marsh landscape. A long drive and a good second shot gives way to a short approach to narrow putting surface. Don't leave the green without admiring the natural beauty of the wetlands behind you.

You may just want to stop into the pro shop between nines to pick up a few more sleeves of balls as the back nine features marshland or ponds on all but two holes. The 377-yard No. 15 is only 377 yards from the championship tees, yet the long bunker that stretches on your right from tee to green virtually forces tee shots on this dogleg right to stay out of the trouble to the left side of the landing area. From there, a deft mid-iron shot to a smallish green is made more difficult by even more sand bunkers.

The 441-yard No. 17 is the toughest hole on the course. The hole begins from a peninsula tee built in the middle of the

wetlands. The tee shot to an undulating fairway must avoid the marsh along the left side of the hole and a sand bunker on the right side of the fairway. From there, a long-iron approach must somehow avoid the marsh and three bunkers to reach a slender putting surface.

The landing area on the 523-yard No. 18 is surprisingly generous. Forget about trying to reach this green in two, however, as the green is cut off by a bisected river that protects both its front and left side. As on No. 9, spend a little extra time to enjoy the surroundings.

Players on the first hole of the Ocean Links Course are excused if they feel a slight sense of *déjà vu*. While Bobby Weed is credited as the designer of this 6,300-yard gem, the first eight holes of the course (along with No. 17) were originally designed by Pete Dye in 1972. Weed extended the course to 18 holes in the late 1990s with the addition of Nos. 9 through 16 and No. 18. Both architects were provided ample plots of beachside property to create five holes along the Atlantic Ocean.

The 347-yard No. 4 is a challenging par 4 that features a hilly fairway paralleling the beach. Tightening the landing area further are two towering palm trees that rest on the left side of the landing area. Avoid these trees somehow and you are left with a short-iron approach shot to a raised green.

Holes 5 and 6 are consecutive oceanside par 3s. The 152-yard No. 5 features a green protected by dunes and natural grasses on the left side and the ocean on the right. No. 6 is no less intimidating as the player must overcome a large swatch of dunes to reach a large kidney-shaped putting surface.

Highlighting the back nine of the Ocean Links Course are two par 3s. The green of 187-yard No. 15 is surrounded on all sides by dunes and natural grasses. The 135-yard 18th hole serves up an island green made far less intimidating by an additional landing area short and to the right of the flagstick.

"The Ocean Links Course is an outstanding counterpart to the Oak Marsh Course,"

continued on page 52



Oak Marsh 9 and 18



Ocean Links 15 and 16

SWEET HOME CHICAGO

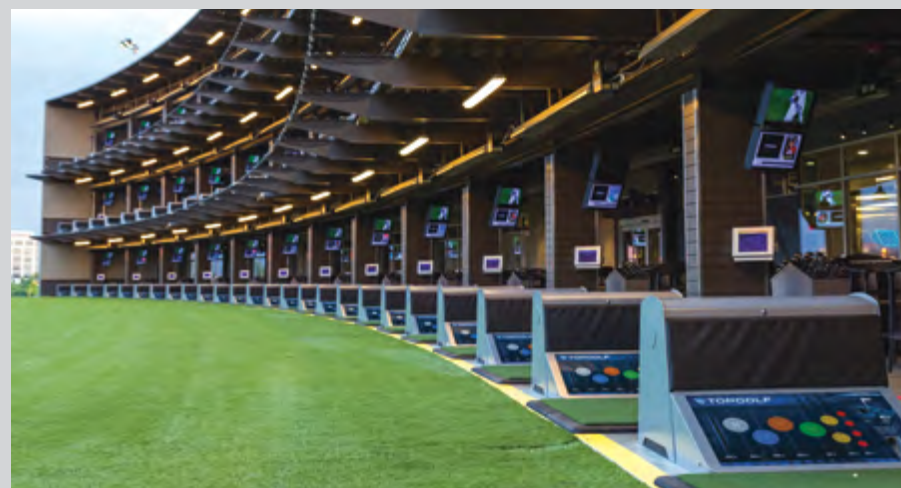
Chicago Spotlight

Topgolf Naperville Redefines The Golf Experience

Not too long ago, a golf driving range was defined as a dozen or so tee boxes resting in a field surrounded by a fence and decorated here and there with flagsticks. If the range owner was so inclined, additional amenities in the trailer that served as a service counter might've included some cold beverages and maybe a few partially-melted Snickers bars.

Even from a half-mile away, it is blatantly apparent that the new Topgolf complex in Naperville has more in common with a Las Vegas casino than it does with the driving ranges of yore. A long walkway from a huge parking lot takes guests into an elegant glass and brick \$20 million complex that serves as a cross between a sports bar, a nightclub, a trendy restaurant, an arcade, and an entertainment center that just so happens to also serve up the most exciting driving range experience of your life.

Sound too good to be true? Just ask one of a few hundred revelers who launched balls into the wee hours of the morning at Topgolf's grand opening party on September 1st. A DJ led a dance party on a rooftop terrace lined with chefs cooking up shrimp kabobs and slicing up slabs of prime rib. The complex's



102 climate-controlled hitting bays were alive with golfers who sipped on exotic beverages in between watching sports highlights on high-def screens in between taking turns on hitting golf balls.

While there are ample reasons to visit Topgolf without even hitting a golf ball, the fact is that the driving range aspect of the complex is even more dynamic than all of the entertainment amenities that go with it. In 2000, two brothers in England envisioned a new kind of golf experience that combined competition with entertainment. Players hit microchipped golf balls at targets on an outfield to score points. Picture a massive carpeted dartboard that uses flagsticks as targets. Shots hit close to the flagsticks register higher points than those hit further away. Tally those points at the end of a game to determine the winner. No need to bring pencils or paper to perform those extrapolations as computers do all the work and flash the totals on brightly lit screens. Even the old-fashioned method of collecting golf balls has changed as balls are delivered directly to your mat by a dispenser. Just wave your club in front of a light and out comes the ball ready to launch.

In between swings, players can order anything from chicken wings to quesadillas to turkey avocado wraps to burgers, along with a beverage menu complete with alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages of your choice, including the latest in microbrews. While waiters and waitresses cater to both your food and beverage needs, you may just want to take in a performance at the live entertainment stage, or visit one of the property's three bars, or play a game of pool or foosball or shuffleboard.

"We are really excited about how the city of Naperville has embraced us," says Brett Hintz, Topgolf Naperville's director of operations. "We hired 450 local residents to staff the operation and we are confident that we will become an asset to the community."

For prices, menus and group reservations, visit Topgolf Naperville on the web: www.topgolf.com/us/naperville. —Neal Kotlarek

Down Memory Lane

Chicago was Hagen's Kinda Town

Before Arnold Palmer, there was Walter Hagen, a player who put on a show and whom the public found irresistible. Hagen won several times in the Chicago area, and twice at Olympia Fields Country Club. One of his five Western Open triumphs came there, in 1927, but two years before, he collected the third of his five PGA Championship crowns at Olympia, a success not without its harrowing moments.

He knocked off Bill Mehlhorn, then playing out of north suburban Westmoreland Country Club, by a 6 and 5 margin in the 36-hole final – opening with an eagle 3 on the par-5 first hole of what today is the North Course, but before that, Hagen had to fight hard to get through several rounds.

Hagen was the defending champion, but chose to play in the stroke-play qualifying rounds, so his score was used to place him in the bracket, and he met medalist Al Watrous in the first round. They would trade the lead in the afternoon 18, Hagen losing a one-hole advantage at the 36th hole when he failed to save par after missing the green.

They would go three more holes – to the third on the North – before Hagen scrambled for a par and Watrous bogeyed. The Haig was through to the second round.

A 7 and 6 rout of Mike Brady moved Hagen to a quarterfinal match with Canadian Open champion Leo Diegel. Hagen stumbled early, was 4 down after eight holes, and 5 down at lunch.

In the afternoon round, which was played on Olympia's No. 3 Course, Hagen rallied, winning three of the first six holes, but was still 3 down with four holes to play.

Hagen scrambled for par on the 33rd to cut the gap to 2 down. Matching bogeys on the 34th made Diegel dormie. Another halved hole, and it was over.

But, Hagen would have none of it. He won the 35th with a birdie when Diegel could only par, and won the 36th when Diegel couldn't get up-and-down from a greenside bunker.

This was vintage Hagen, and on the fourth extra hole, the 40th of the match, he used a big drive and solid approach to set up a two-putt par while Diegel topped his tee shot and failed to match the Haig, losing with a bogey.

William Richardson of *The New York Times* lauded Hagen, calling the comeback victory "the greatest of the many he has won during his matchless record as a professional golfer."

A victory that helped secure Hagen's position as the people's choice. —By Tim Cronin

GOLFChicago Wire

Marquette University Freshman Earns Chip Beck Evans Scholarship

Josey Benandi wasn't even born when Chip Beck fired a 59 at the Las Vegas Invitational to change her



life. In 1991, Beck was the recipient of \$500,000 from the Hilton Hotels chain for equaling Al Geiberger's record low score at a PGA Tour event. An additional \$500,000 was awarded to the PGA of America and PGA Tour charities for the remarkable feat. At Beck's request, both associations earmarked their shares for the Chip Beck Evans Scholarship fund. At the BMW Championship Pro-Am reception held September 14th, Benandi was recognized for her hard work as a caddie at Ridgemoor Country Club, along with her high school achievements to earn a full housing and tuition scholarship. She is now a freshman at Marquette University in Milwaukee where she plans to study engineering.

Beck, who serves as a director of the Western Golf Association which support the Evans Scholars program, called it "gratifying" that he has been able to help deserving caddies from around the country continue their higher educations. "The Chip Beck Evans Scholarship is something I'm going to be proud of long after my playing days are over," he said. "Golf has been good to me, and I welcome the opportunity to give something back to the game."

Benandi spoke about her experiences at Ridgemoor C.C. located on the city's northwest side. "I have worked very hard at being a caddie," she said. "The job has helped to shape me into the person that I am today and eventually the person I would like to become."

More than 10,000 deserving caddies from across the nation have been awarded Evans Scholarships. The Evans Scholars program has been recognized as one of golf's favorite charities and is one of the country's largest privately sponsored scholarship programs.

For more information on the programs, visit www.wgaesf.org.

'It's in the Hole!' Murray Brothers Elected in Caddie HOF

Actor and former Saturday Night Live cast member Bill Murray was elected into the Caddie Hall of Fame during a ceremony following his



it happens.' And when he hits a good shot, you go: 'Well, that's really who you are.' "

Ed Murray, who earned an Evans Scholarship, reflected on the bond created between a caddie and his client. "A good caddie makes a member feel like part of a team and like you're trying to accomplish something together," he said.

participation in the Gardner Heidrick Pro-Am at Conway Farms Golf Club prior to the BMW Championship. Also elected were Murray's five brothers, all of whom caddied at Indian Hill Club in Winnetka, and who helped inspire the 1980 classic comedy movie, *Caddyshack*.

Murray reminisced about his days as a caddie. "It's an ability to look at a player when he hits a bad shot and go 'ehhhh ...

Bill Murray's portrayal of Bushwood Country Club's hapless greenkeeper Carl Spackler helped immortalize the film *Caddyshack*. The movie was co-written by older brother Brian Doyle-Murray, who also played caddie master Lou Loomis in the movie.

The Caddie Hall of Fame is administered by the Western Golf Association. The Hall, whose members

include Chick Evans, Tom Watson and golf developer Mike Keiser, highlights the tradition and importance of caddying by recognizing and celebrating individuals who have devoted their lives to the game of golf through caddying or by supporting the role played by caddies.

Niles West's Liston Tees It Up With PGA Tour Star

To say that Niles West High School senior Bryan Liston's year is off to a great start is a bit of an understatement.

After earning a spot on this year's junior varsity golf team, Liston, who spends his summers playing golf for Special Olympics of Illinois, was recently moved up to play with the varsity team in a match against Waukegan High School. His score of 47 was a near-career best for



Bryan and helped lead the Wolves to a meet victory.

But it was the day after the match that will be one of Bryan's most memorable days ever.

Through the assistance of the Chicago District Golf Association's 'Sunshine Through Golf' program, Bryan had the opportunity to tee it up with PGA Tour player golfer Will McGirt, who was in town to compete at the BMW Championship being contested at nearby Conway Farms golf club. McGirt, a 12-year Tour veteran, is actively involved with Camp Spearhead in Greenville, South Carolina, a summer program for children and adults with special needs.

Liston and McGirt played the first five holes at the prestigious Knollwood Club in Lake Forest, and enjoyed getting

to know one another. McGirt even hopped in a green-side sand trap on the par 5, fifth hole to offer Liston an extended lesson on bunker play.

After exchanging handshakes, Brian was then presented with a custom-built Wilson sand wedge by the Knollwood staff. The club had belonged to Pdraig Harrington, who happens to be one of Liston's favorite PGA Tour players.

With his dad on the bag and mom in the gallery, it was a very proud day both for the Liston family and the Niles West golf program.

"I couldn't be more proud of what Brian has accomplished this season," said first-year Niles West golf coach Dave Silbar. "There is no bigger Niles West fan than Bryan and he is a total team leader." Silbar adds, "His time with Will McGirt will be a memory to last a lifetime."

Billiter Captures Second IPGA Major for 2015

Merit Club's Jim Billiter's paced the field and won the 93rd Illinois PGA Championship at Medinah Country Club's Course One. The victory is Billiter's second IPGA major for the 2015 season. In



May, Billiter won the Illinois PGA Match Play title at Kemper Lakes. Capturing the Illinois PGA Championship in the same year puts him in company with eight other players, seven of whom are in the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame.

It was anything but smooth sailing for Billiter, who survived a case of the hooks,

including the tee shots on the 10th, 11th, and 12th holes.

"I had no business making par," Billiter said.

But, he did on all three occasions, twice thanks to remarkable recoveries from behind and around some of Medinah's thousands of trees. Billiter one-putted the first five holes on the back, including birdies on the 13th and 14th, and then parred in. Billiter and Conway Farms Golf Club's Matt Slowinski were the only two competitors to card sub-par rounds at the championship. Slowinski finished two strokes back with a 206. I was happy with the way I played today," Slowinski said. "I tried to make it interesting. It was going to be hard to catch Jim. When he hit bad shots, he was making nice pars, and on his good holes, he made birdies. He didn't really let anyone get close."

"I didn't think I could ever win this one," Billiter said. "I'm more a match-play guy." Billiter added, "I never thought I could win one major, much less two."

Defending champion Mike Small's even-par 70 lifted him to a tie for seventh at 2-over 215.

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2015 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

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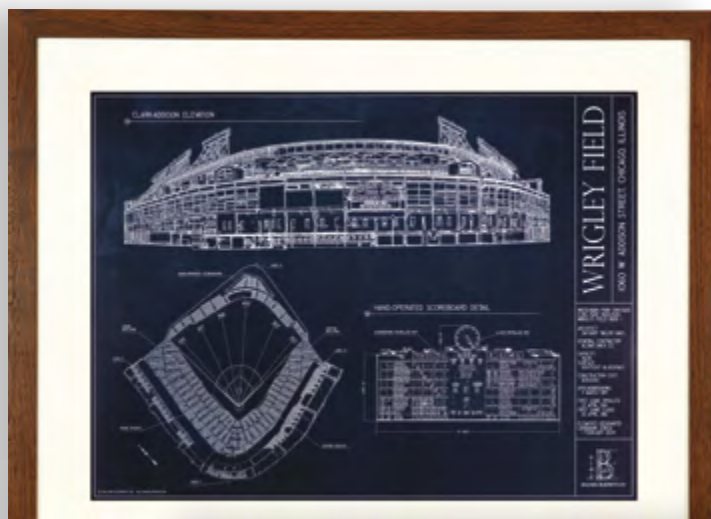


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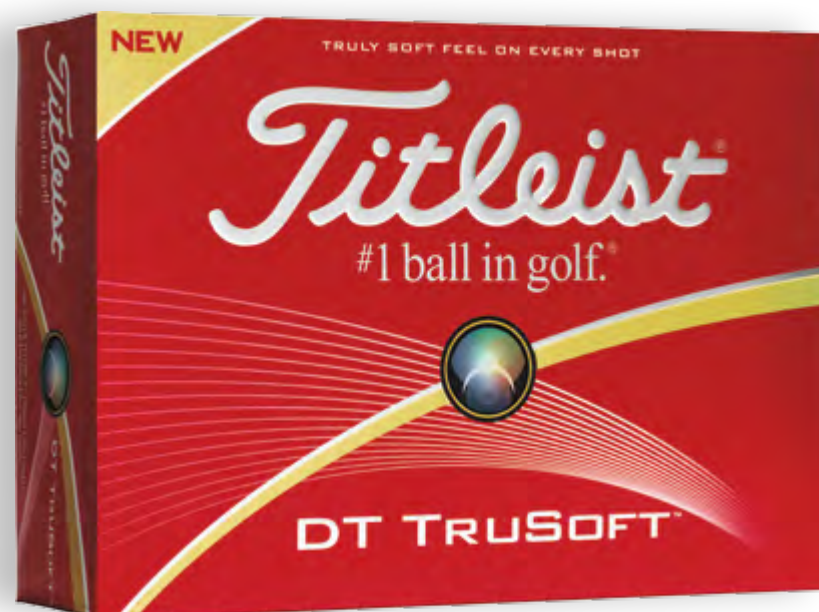
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Diora 2013 Pinot Noir

Inspired by the signature golden hills that frame the landscape of the Santa Lucia Mountain range, Diora is adopted from "D'or," a French term meaning "golden." It debuts with a dark shade of burgundy in the glass, followed by aromas of black cherries, brown sugar, and mocha. The palate of concentrated fruit flavors is dominated by black cherry, anchored by bright acidity. Round, soft, and full-bodied, with a long finish. \$30 www.dfvastastingroom.com



2015 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



Mount Prospect Golf Club Reboots for the Next Generation of Golfers

Esler Renovation Earns High Praise

By Todd Mrowice

Photos: Nile Young

Our great city and surrounding suburbs are filled with rich tradition when it comes to the game of golf. Many legends have passed through, leaving behind memories that are forever part of Chicagoland's golf landscape. There are certain courses that have roots that run as deep as the history of the game in our country; however, contemporary expectations often require literal bulldozers to those preserve those roots. It's part of keeping up with a game that is forever evolving.

Mt. Prospect Golf Club has been a part of the local golf scene since 1926, when it was originally named Northwest Hills Country Club. The course opened as a nine-hole layout, nine more holes were added in 1927, and the original clubhouse was finished in 1930. So for nearly a century the course has been withstanding the test of time. Over those years, Mt. Prospect Golf Club has gained a cult following, especially within the neighborhood in which the course resides. To say that the course and 19th hole have "regulars" would be a severe understatement.

When the Mount Prospect Park District recently commissioned Esler Golf Design for a complete makeover, it did so knowing that Dave Esler and his team would be renovating a course that had not had its greens, bunkers, or fairways changed in their 90 years of existence. Esler, whose renovation work can be found locally at Chicago Golf Club and Shoreacres Country Club, brought a vision of challenging plateau greens, deep bunkers, and elements of British links-style golf holes.

When the course re-opened on August 1, it was instantly recognized that the \$7.1 million overhaul changed what the golf community knew as Mt. Prospect Golf Club. A somewhat simplistic layout with not too many twists and turns has been replaced with a challenging course accented with false-front greens, deep bunkers, and some of the most menacing green complexes this side of Lake Michigan.

When I finished my first round on the renovated layout, the main thing I took away was a resounding feeling of completeness. I imagined all parties involved with the renovation sat



down with a list of 500 or so items that might need to be addressed with check boxes next to them, and they just went ahead and checked them all.

Every green was resodded with the latest A-type hybrid bent grass. The top-down project also includes a new irrigation system, new bunkers, storm-water retention system, rebuilt tee boxes and fairways, new practice facilities, and much more. It's safe to say Mt. Prospect got everything on its Christmas list this year.

“Chicagoans have such a high architectural IQ, I want to see that extend into golf and hope it will be fun for folks to dissect the allusions and architectural references,” said Dave Esler. “Some are pretty obvious, some slightly obscure.”

Quite possibly the biggest difference to patrons will be the re-routing of holes. The first four holes on the back nine were altered to make way for the new par-3 10th hole (135 yards), the par-4 11th hole (435 yards), and the par-3 12th hole (180 yards). The back nine concludes with holes 14 through 17 on the same routing as the original layout, but the 18th hole did change direction slightly. The purpose of the big change on the back nine was to create a better finish to your round and allow for the new driving range and short game area next to the clubhouse. Alternations didn't end on the course either, as Mt. Prospect Golf Club now offers practice facilities comparable to the best in the area. The shiny new range has 25 stations and rolls out over 300 yards, all on bentgrass turf. The old 12th green is now that short game area complete with practice bunkers and a practice green—all designed to mirror what you'll see on the course. Director of Golf Brett Barcel has had a front row seat to the renovation and is proud of the job that has been accomplished.

“A lot of area courses have been renovated, but few have been specifically designed to capture their original design concepts, or have been created in classic design,” said Barcel. “The style of the course is unique in a market where courses are a lot alike in terms of the modern design architecture. If most courses are a Target or a Walmart, we are more of a boutique.”

As previously mentioned, the new greens are menacing. I'd categorize them as fun, severely undulating, challenging, and rewarding. But that's not all. When “Joe Golfer” who's never seen the course, let alone the renovation, takes a look at the scorecard and finds that the tips cover only 6,305 yards, it's understandable why you'd conclude it's going to be an easy day. Not so fast though. Dave Esler made sure to make you earn a decent score with the flat stick. Hit the par-5 15th hole in two did you? Congrats and best of luck not three putting. That could be said for any of the newly designed greens though, especially if you find yourself well above a front pin, or well below a back pin location.

“At the end of the day the fun is in the playing for most, but the historic characteristics add another layer of enjoyment for a lot of players,” said Esler. “Mt. Prospect will provide an opportunity for public golfers to experience a style of golf that has only been accessible to the very, very few and fortunate.”

The re-design of the course and facilities makes all golfers in the Chicagoland area the fortunate ones. Mt. Prospect Golf Club should be quickly added to your “must play” list because it's no longer your father's (or grandfather's for that matter) old layout.

Mt. Prospect Golf Club | 600 South See-Gwun Ave.
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Great Golf and Outstanding Value Served up at Prince Edward Island

DESTINATIONS

Dave Weretka



Crowbush #9

The debate over the identity of America's "golf capital" has gone on for decades. Folks from the south say that it's Myrtle Beach. Folks from the west claim that it's California's Palm Springs area. And some Midwesterners chime in that Northern Michigan's outstanding array of courses puts that area into contention.

All that being said, it comes as no surprise to golfers that similar such arguments are made elsewhere around the globe. Some Canadians proudly call the 48 courses in Niagra their golf capital. Others declare the entirety of British Columbia the country's golf mecca.

While I don't claim a stake in any of these arguments, I returned from a September golf trip in Canada prepared to maintain that Prince Edward Island off the Gulf of St. Lawrence has quickly achieved the lofty status of these aforementioned golf destinations. Boasting 32 layouts, all within an hour's drive of each other, PEI takes a back seat to none when it comes to majestic landscapes, pristine conditions, and outstanding golf architecture.

A renowned region for growing potatoes and cultivating shellfish, PEI entered the conversation as a golf destination some 21 years ago when the provincial government developed the Links at Crowbush Cove, a

fantastical 18 holes built over rolling sand dunes and native spruce forests alongside the Atlantic Ocean. Built by Thomas McBroom, the 18 holes feature stacked sod bunkers and swirling winds to provide a links feel to a property recognized as Canada's best new golf course in 1994.

The construction of Crowbush Cove served as a fine complement to Green Gables Golf Club, a short distance up the coastline in Prince Edward Island National Park. That classic Stanley Thompson design has been heralded since it was built in 1939 as much for its location near the house that inspired the teen novel "Anne of Green Gables" as

for its pedigree as a world-class layout. The 6,874-yard gem was one of the first courses built on the island and maintains much of its original character, despite some major routing changes made to it during the early 1980s due to dune migration.

These two courses, alone, would have placed the island on the golf map if no other construction followed. Instead, dozens of area entrepreneurs and investors became intrigued by the possibilities golf offered the island's economy. Despite the downturn in golf construction in the U.S. during the early 2000s, one course after another was unveiled in an amazing display of chutzpah, many of them less than an hour's drive from Charlottetown, the provincial capital of PEI. Moreover, most can be played with a green fee well south of \$75 US. I booked a room at the elegant The Holman Grand Hotel (www.theholmangrand.com) which overlooks the city harbor, and features spa services and a short walk to the Charlottetown night life.

Fox Meadow Golf Course is only seven minutes from downtown, but offers both spectacular rural panoramas and views of the city harbor. At 6,836 yards from the back tees, the course is an ample test, as wide tee shot landing areas are tightened by sprawling sand bunkers and ankle-deep native grasses. The outstanding golf course is complemented by a world-class practice facility. The Fox Golf Academy is managed by top CPGA professionals who oversee two driving ranges, a short-iron range and various putting greens. Affordable camps and clinics are readily available.

Opened in 2001, just as the PEI golf boom was starting, the 6,915-yard Glasgow Hills Resort & Golf Club was designed by Les Farber and is a must-play course. Diverse terrain along with dramatic views of the River Clyde and the Gulf of St. Lawrence area are readily available across the course. Highlighting the front nine is the 367-yard No. 9, a wild dogleg left that calls for a precision tee shot to the landing area to set up a short approach shot to an island green further protected by two pot bunkers to the left of the flag and a narrow sand bunker behind the flagstick. Beware of No. 10, a downhill dogleg right that also slopes heavily to the right to make it difficult to keep your tee shot in the fairway. Following



Dundarave #8



Brudenell #11



Green Gables #13



your round, make sure to save some time for a cold beverage to go with complimentary fresh locally-cultivated steamed mussels.

Anderson Creek Golf Club was designed by Graham Cook and has hosted over 50 amateur tournaments since the 6,651-yard championship course opened in 2003. Located in Stanley Bridge just minutes from the breathtaking Cavendish Dunes, the layout features massive greens, impeccable conditioning and many confrontations with the namesake creek. As at Glasgow Hills, Anderson Creek G.C. features complimentary steamed mussels following your round.

Even though it's now considered one of the older courses in the area, the Links at Crowbush Cove remains one of the island's premier golf experiences. Enthusiastically rated at 4.5 stars by *Golf Digest* magazine, the course overlooks the north shore dunes of PEI and stretches to 6,903 yards. Following a curvaceous 409-yard par 4, the 366-yard No. 2 is a dogleg right that calls for a tee shot around or over four deviously placed sand bunkers to the right of the landing area. Skirt past those and you're left with a short-iron approach shot over a few more sand bunkers protecting a rolling green. Remember the days of yore when par 3s were fun and charming and not nerve-rattlingly difficult? The 113-yard No. 17 will make you smile and bring a par or birdie to your scorecard as a huge tee area opens up to a large multi-tiered green. Overcome the wetlands in front of the tee and you can't wait to get to the green for your birdie putt. Beyond outstanding golf, the Links at Crowbush Cove provides outstanding value, as an 18-hole round is only \$70 at peak season. And that's based upon the Canadian dollar which is extremely favorable to the U.S. dollar as of this writing.

No trip to the island is complete without a visit to the aforementioned Green Gables Golf Club in Cavendish. This forested, seaside course serves up classic, no-frills architecture over a heavily forested property. Fans of Robert Trent Jones golf courses will quickly find parallels with Stanley Thompson's work. Massive sand bunkers flank many sides of the large, rolling greens. Introduced in 2015, Green Gables Golf Academy features CPGA professionals providing affordable lesson options for golfers of all skill levels.

While there are well over a dozen other worthy golf courses to reference for this article, the best way to learn more about golf on Prince Edward Isle is to book a flight and visit the island's website to plan a trip. Go to www.golfpei.ca to learn more.

Neal Kotlarek contributed to this article.

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 aren't attending a spring-training game, 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.

WELCOME TO TPC SCOTTSDALE

Nestled in the Sonoran Desert just outside of Scottsdale, Arizona, the PGA Tour's TPC Scottsdale offers championship golf with panoramic views of the natural terrain and stunning McDowell Mountains. Home of the largest-attended tournament in professional golf, the Waste Management Phoenix Open, TPC Scottsdale is a masterful blend of challenge and playability.

TPC Scottsdale features two championship courses to enjoy—the world famous Stadium Course and the stunning Champions Course. Host of the Waste Management Phoenix Open, TPC Scottsdale's renowned Stadium Course was created by architects Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish who were directed by then PGA Tour Commissioner Deane Beman to build a similar "Stadium Golf" design like that at TPC Sawgrass – allowing all spectators a perfect view of the tournament. The Stadium Course is rivaled in beauty and playability by the Club's magnificent Champions Course, a true desert-style gem.

Back and Better Than Ever
The City of Scottsdale began an extensive renovation of TPC Scottsdale's Stadium Course and Clubhouse on April 1, 2014. Completed by the original and famed architect Tom Weiskopf, the project included the relocation of four greens, resurfacing of all greens,



reshaping and regrassing of all tee complexes, relocation and reshaping of all bunker complexes, replacement of cart paths, and re-landscaping of desert areas. Several holes look completely new from their original design. The result is a course that's more aesthetically pleasing to resort guests and strategically more challenging to PGA Tour players during the Waste Management Phoenix Open. Tour players from the 2014 WMPO gave rave reviews of Weiskopf's renovation.

"The course looks great," said Keegan Bradley. "They did an unbelievable job redoing the course. A lot harder, but still very fair. I think this is a great test."

In addition to the course, TPC Scottsdale's Clubhouse also received a facelift under the direction of architects Allen & Philp, which included additional locker rooms and meeting space, and interior upgrades to the entire facility. Construction of both the Clubhouse and golf course were completed in November, marked by a Grand Reopening ceremony, attended by local, national, and golf media, as well as Tom Weiskopf.

In addition to the improved course conditions, the

renovation has secured TPC Scottsdale's place as one of the finest golf clubs in one of the world's top golf destinations.

"The renovation project of TPC Scottsdale's Stadium Course and Clubhouse has helped reposition the Club as a premiere resort destination not only in the Phoenix/Scottsdale market, but in the country," said Brad Williams, General Manager & Regional Director of Operations for TPC Scottsdale. "Under the direction of Tom Weiskopf, with funding provided by the City of Scottsdale, the renovated Stadium Course offers a more visually appealing and strategically demanding experience to resort guests and Tour players alike. The renovated Clubhouse provides a casual and contemporary place to shop, dine, drink, or soak up the history of TPC Scottsdale and the Phoenix Open."

Sibling Rivalry Has its Benefits

Rivaling its famous sister, the Randy Heckenkemper-designed Champions Course offers a true desert golf experience. Recognized 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. Considered a "hidden gem" by locals, the par-71 course features five par-3s and a diverse variety of par 4s and par 5s creating a thrill for golfers of all skill levels. Soon after opening, the course hosted the first stage of Q-School for the PGA Tour, along with the final stage of Q-School for the Champions Tour in 2009, and will continue to host this stage every other year.

Championship Golf is Just the Beginning

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, celebrated eatery The Grill, beautifully appointed locker rooms, and more.

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Luxurious accommodations are available at the adjacent AAA Five-Diamond Fairmont Scottsdale Princess Resort, offering spacious, beautifully appointed guestrooms and suites, award-winning restaurants, 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 *Condé Nast Traveler* one of the "Top 10 Best Spas in North America."



SIBLING RIVALRY HAS ITS BENEFITS

Hole 13, Stadium Course



Hole 15, Champions Course

Play the Stadium Course and enjoy recently renovated greens, tee boxes and bunkers on every hole throughout our championship layout. Not to be outdone, tee it up on the equally magnificent Champions Course, which rivals its famous sister course in both beauty and playability. Two legendary courses. One location. TPC Scottsdale.

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ENCHANTMENT RESORT AND SEVEN CANYONS

Surrounded by the towering red rock walls of Boynton Canyon in Sedona, Enchantment Resort combines the rugged grandeur of the Southwest with equal parts luxury and Native American culture. It's a hideaway like no other. All guest rooms and suites are within casitas that feature beautiful hardwood floors, regional décor, and magnificent views. All accommodations have private decks; some offer kitchenettes and include kiva fireplaces. The experience is complete in every way; choose from more than 100 activities a week including hiking, mountain biking, tennis, and swimming. Enjoy dining at a variety of distinctive restaurants, all amid glorious settings. Experience Mii amo, a destination spa at Enchantment which has recently been named #2 in the World by the readers of *Travel + Leisure*, where life-enhancing treatments leave you feeling nurtured and restored.

Adjacent Seven Canyons, Enchantment's exclusive 18-hole championship course, boasts of incredible scenery within 100,000 acres of pristine National Forest land and towering red rock canyons. Designed by Tom Weiskopf, this par-70 course is situated at 4,600 feet which delivers

mild temperatures year-round. A challenging, rewarding layout, it measures 6,746 yards from the championship tees, and has subtle contours and small greens, narrow landing areas, and artfully-placed bunkers and water features. Seven Canyons has been acclaimed as one of America's 50 Greatest Golf Retreats by *Golf Digest* and is consistently ranked as one of the best.

Enchantment guests can enjoy "Member for a Day" privileges with access to the Performance Center and complimentary club transfers and storage. Resort guests may also enjoy "Seven Treatments for Seven Canyons Golfers," a new collection of treatments designed by Mii amo, that include: Yoga for Golfers, Mindful Golf Meditation, and Golf & the Law of Attraction which are designed to improve your game. To relax post-game, there's the Seven Canyons Champion (a winning combination of hydrotherapy, massage, and reflexology), the Competitor's Facial, Reflexology and the Herbal Detox Poultice massage.

"We are excited to welcome Seven Canyons to Enchantment Group's portfolio of award-winning properties," said Mark Grenoble, President and CEO of Enchantment Group.

"Ranked among the top residential courses in the country, Seven Canyons complements Enchantment Group's equally revered Enchantment Resort and Mii amo Spa."

The Resorts delicious cuisine at a choice of options, all with breathtaking views is an added highlight at this canyon retreat. The signature restaurant, Che Ah Chi, features modern American cuisine using many Arizona-sourced ingredients. Tii Gavo features Southwestern-inspired fare, and View 180 offers small plates for sharing with wines by the glass and specialty cocktails.

Camp Coyote is Enchantment Resort's program designed to educate and entertain children ages 4 to 12. Trained counselors guide camp-goers in exciting activities that explore the region's culture and natural environment. Highlights include nature walks. Native American influenced arts and crafts include sand painting, beadwork, or weaving dream catchers.

For meetings and gatherings of 10 to 400, the Meeting Village comprises more than 13,000 square feet of indoor meeting space, including 11 function rooms, an expansive executive board room, three ballrooms with patios and floor-to-ceiling windows, and versatile smaller function spaces. An additional

20,000 sq. ft. of outdoor venue space offers dramatic scenery and starry skies.

There are a number of specials and packages available at the property—including two that include golf as part of the experience:

Spa and Golf Package

This package includes a luxurious guest room at Enchantment Resort, breakfast each morning, a 60-minute spa service at Mii amo, and one round of golf at Seven Canyons, the private Tom Weiskopf-designed golf course each day you stay.

Unlimited Golf Special

Enjoy unlimited golf at Seven Canyons golf course, designed by Tom Weiskopf, with our special golf offer.

Luxurious Accommodations in a Casita Guestroom

One round of golf at Seven Canyons per person, per night; Free golf replay all day.*

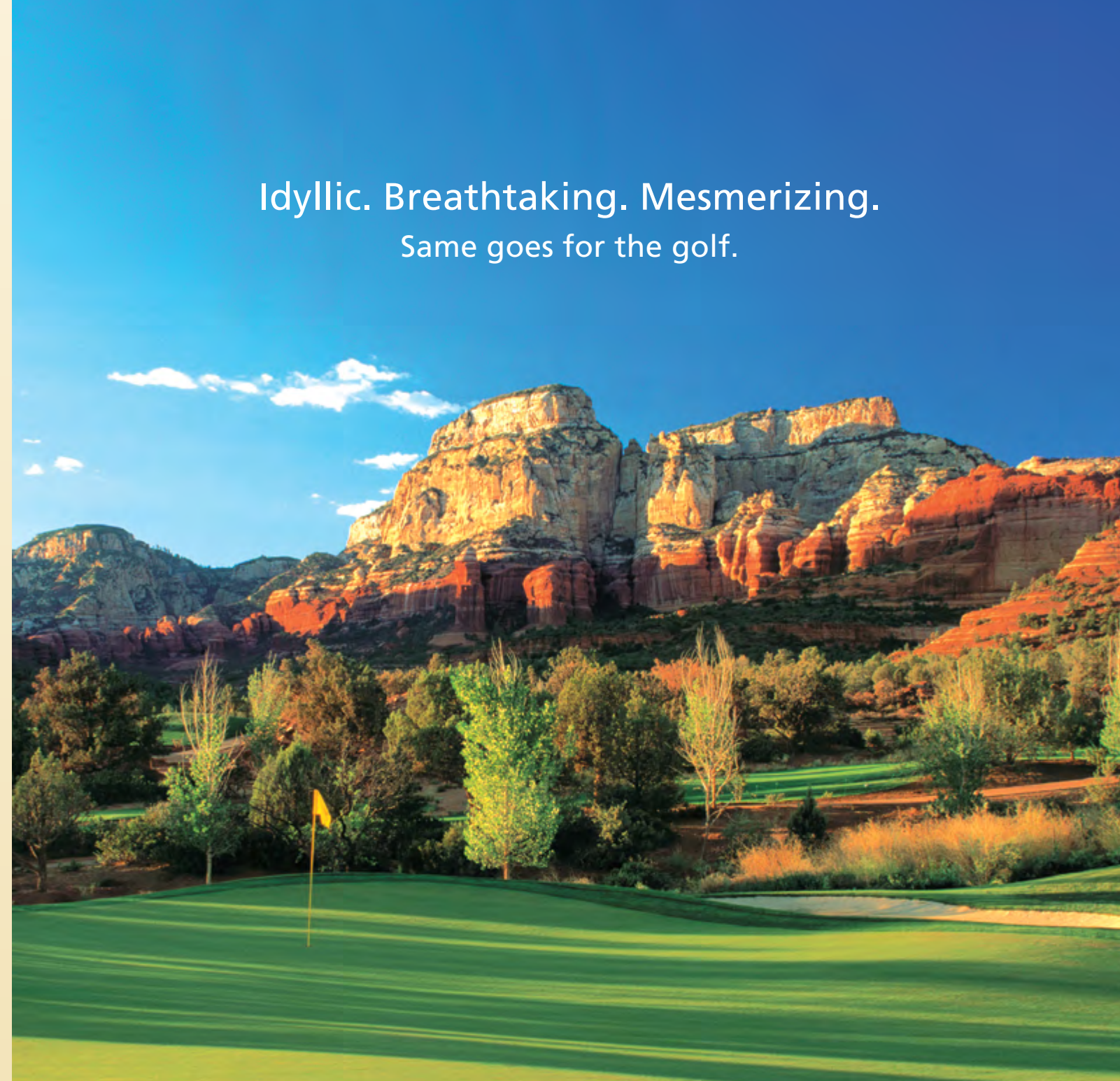
Unlimited use of the practice park, including the driving range.

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STAY AND PLAY AT CHANDLER, ARIZONA'S NEWLY-RENOVATED CROWNE PLAZA® SAN MARCOS GOLF RESORT

The Crowne Plaza® San Marcos Golf Resort offers its guests a foursome of reasons to stay and play. Featuring remarkable championship golf, world-class amenities, superb hotel accommodations and upscale dining, you'll quickly discover why San Marcos is considered an oasis in the desert. Built in 1912 by Chandler founder Dr. Alexander J. Chandler as the centerpiece to a master-planned community, the Mission Revival-style hotel is located in the heart of Historic Downtown Chandler and has attracted numerous presidents, dignitaries and celebrities over its storied history.

In stark contrast to most traditional desert target golf courses, the par-72, 6640-yard parkland-style San Marcos Golf Course features lush tree-lined fairways, manicured greens, sparkling water features, and an abundance of indigenous flora and fauna. The San Marcos Golf Course boasts a recent multi-million dollar renovation and now includes a brand new state-of-the-art irrigation system that produces year-round premium playing conditions, expanded lakes, new tee boxes, reconstructed bunkers with new sand, and green enlargements on a handful of holes. The result is

a strategically-diverse and visually-stunning layout that makes for an enjoyable challenge for golfers of all playing abilities.

Complementing the golf course renovations is the club's spectacular clubhouse facility, which was completely redesigned to preserve its historic elegance and charm. Original terrazzo floors adorn the 5,000 square foot space, while high-vaulted wooden ceilings accentuate the unique architecture and history of the golf course. Clubhouse facilities include a world-class golf shop, convivial bar and grill, and a variety of outdoor lounge spaces that allow guests to take in the scenic greens.

After a successful round of golf, spread out and relax in one of the Resort's 248 newly renovated guests rooms. Standard rooms feature 410 square feet of living space, complete with either one king or two queen beds and a full-sized couch. If space is what you are looking for, enjoy the extra accommodations of a Junior Suite, which features 640 square feet of living space complete with one king bed and an adjacent living area, fitted with a pull-out sofa, wet bar, and full-sized couch. For added luxury during your stay, upgrade to the Presidential

Suite, which provides guests with 880 square feet of opulent space and features a large, luxurious bathroom. All rooms and suites come standard with 42-inch flat-screen televisions, complimentary wired and wireless high-speed internet, 24-hour in-room dining, CD player and stereo, workspace and desk with lamp, speaker phones with voicemail, coffee maker, and morning newspaper available at the front desk. Guests will also enjoy a full private patio or balcony with every room.

After you refresh and get settled into your room, head down to AJ's Café for breakfast, lunch, or dinner where they offer contemporary American cuisine focused on local produce and products, natural meats, and sustainable seafood. If informal is more your fancy, then the 1912 Lounge is just for you. Here, you can enjoy decadent appetizers and hand-crafted cocktails in a relaxing atmosphere before heading out for a night on the town. Other hotel amenities include a luxurious outdoor pool lined with palm trees and furnished with comfortable lounge chairs; the private cabanas provide the perfect atmosphere for an outdoor pool experience, and they sit alongside a 24-hour business center and a state-of-the-art fitness center.

Still looking for something to do? Look no further, because The Crowne Plaza® San Marcos Golf Resort has a plethora of local attractions located just beyond the resort walls. A wide variety of shops and restaurants are within walking distance from your hotel room. Everything from sports bars to country bars, micro-breweries to Irish pubs, wine bistros to southwestern fare. Downtown Chandler features countless things to do, including shopping, dining, and a nightlife full of local flavor.

A variety of attractively-priced stay-and-play packages have recently been unveiled, along with an array of featured nightly accommodations at the Crowne Plaza San Marcos Golf Resort, breakfast for two, and one round of golf per person per night, starting at just \$229 a night. Rates are based on double occupancy on a space available basis.

The Crowne Plaza® San Marcos Golf Resort is located at 1 North San Marcos Place in Chandler. For tee time reservations or to book a stay and play package, please call (800) 528-8071 or visit www.sanmarcosresort.com.

Stay & Play



Featuring remarkable championship golf, world-class amenities, superb hotel accommodations and upscale dining, the historic Crowne Plaza® San Marcos Golf Resort in Chandler, Arizona, offers visitors a *foursome* of reasons to stay and play.

Come **Stay & Play** at San Marcos and enjoy the newly enhanced San Marcos Golf Course with lush, tree-lined fairways. Follow-up your round with a savory lunch or dinner in our on-site dining room,

or a refreshing dip in our outdoor pool. Any of our 248 recently renovated and spacious rooms offer the perfect oasis after a full day.

Stay & Play Packages at Crowne Plaza® San Marcos Golf Resort are available, **starting at only \$229 per night!** Packages include:

- **Breakfast for two**
- **One round of golf per person, per night stayed**
(Rates are based on double occupancy on a space available basis)



To book your **Stay & Play Package**, call (800) 528-8071 or visit www.sanmarcosresort.com



1 North San Marcos Place, Chandler, Arizona 85225

SENSORY OVERLOAD AT WE-KO-PA



When you think of the ultimate Arizona golf experience, what comes to mind? Is it the stunning scenery, on-course and off? The glorious mountain vistas in every direction? Do you envision gently rolling fairways ribboning through a lush desert landscape, with every hole framed by Southwestern flora?

We-Ko-Pa Golf Club, located just minutes from Scottsdale, is that special place you're thinking of. Since December 2001, all talk of We-Ko-Pa's Cholla Course has revolved around the gifts that nature has bestowed, and rightly so. Located on the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, We-Ko-Pa is blessed with jaw-dropping mountain vistas in every direction. In fact, "We-Ko-Pa" is the Yavapai pronunciation for "Four Peaks Mountain," a rugged rock formation that looms imposingly to the northeast.

"In terms of desert scenery, the breadth of the views out here has no equal," says We-Ko-Pa General Manager Matt Barr. "At any point in the round, you can look up and see a distinctive natural landmark, such as the Four Peaks to the northeast and Red Mountain

to the south, or the McDowell Mountains to the west."

Throughout one's round, you are greeted with all sorts of amazing light displays, as the shadows that are cast by the interplay of sun and mountains approach the artistic. At sunset, the colors and textures approach the surreal.

We-Ko-Pa's Cholla Course is the handiwork of architect Scott Miller. So spectacular are the views on the Cholla Course that the sound, strategic playing value of the holes that Miller designed could possibly get overlooked. Your first trip around will convince you otherwise. The variety in the routing and pacing of the holes will keep all levels of golfers entertained from opening tee shot to final tap-in.

"The variety that the Cholla Course provides is remarkable," says Barr. "The teeth of the course are its collection of par 4s. We've got a number of holes that will demand the biggest and best from scratch players, such as the 4th, which runs about 470 yards and the 6th which checks in around 435 to 440. Number 16 is another stout par 4, a dogleg left. However, balance is provided by holes such as number 1, a drive and pitch-type hole, and by the 15th, which

is drivable under the right conditions."

The Cholla Course features an ideal blend of doglegs and straightaway holes, a mix of slender and ample fairways, and a balance of benign and rugged green complexes. The long and strong will challenge all of Cholla's 7,225 yards, but well-spaced multiple tee boxes allow every type of player to enjoy the course, especially from the friendly front tees, which measure 5,289 yards.

The noted golf course architectural team of Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw designed We-Ko-Pa's second 18, the award-winning Saguaro Golf Course. Open since December 2006, Saguaro has design elements not commonly found in the desert Southwest. Saguaro is much like the older more traditional courses found on the east coast, where greens are close to tees and the course follows the natural movement of the land making walking easy and enjoyable.

In Saguaro, Coore and Crenshaw re-introduced the all-important art form of tying the entrances to the greens into the greens themselves. The majority of the greens are open in front to allow for run-up shots.

It is the subtle pitch and roll of the terrain on the approach to the greens that give each hole much of its unique playing characteristics.

Stretching 6,912 yards from the tips and playing to a par 71, Saguaro has been featured in numerous golf publications including *Golfweek*, which currently ranks it as the #1 public access course in Arizona. In addition, *GOLF* magazine named Saguaro one of the "Top 10 Best New Courses You Can Play" in the United States in 2007 and it currently sits at #41 on *GOLF*'s list of "Top 100 Courses You Can Play."

"This piece of land has some very interesting natural movement to it," said Crenshaw of the Saguaro course. "I think this golf course is pretty unique for the desert. People are asked to play different shots and find solutions to new challenges when playing this course."

We-Ko-Pa's two courses, Cholla and Saguaro, have much in common – both are meticulously maintained, both have received high praise from the golf media and consumers alike, and both offer a tranquil golf experience free of houses and roads, thus preserving the unobstructed mountain views of the Sonoran Desert. Or, more succinctly put, We-Ko-Pa is "Arizona's ultimate golf experience."



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HIGH DEFINITION GOLF AT VERRADO GOLF CLUB



Over 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.

Shortly after debuting in January, 2004, *GolfWeek* awarded the Verrado Golf Club 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* 2014 Best Courses you can Play ranking of #9 of the 25 best in Arizona.

With 18 championship holes, the golf course features a dramatic mountainside setting with massive rock outcroppings, large desert washes, picturesque box canyons, and dramatic elevation changes. The course also offers magnificent views of the nearby White Tank Mountains and the Phoenix skyline. From the tips,

Verrado 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 "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, demanding 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 off 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 error long on your approach shot for the best chance at par. With only two possible pin placements, this tiny green slops 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 clubhouse and the entire valley beyond. 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 compliment 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 Verrado Golf Club has a reputation for hosting some of the best golf tournaments in the Valley. The Gateway/All American Pro Tour puts the Verrado Golf Club on their schedule every year, and sometimes twice. Additionally, Verrado hosts the Banner Thunderbird tournament, the Buckeye Valley Chamber, The Aqua Fria Foundation, Walmart, Westmarc and many other top charity fundraisers.

Verrado Golf Club continues to top the list of great courses in Phoenix. The developer who brought it all to life, DMB, Inc., opened Verrado's newest district, Victory, in January of 2015. Victory is the coolest new 55-and-older community to hit Arizona in years! Check it out at www.verrado.com.

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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

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

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, AZ 85331
Phone: 480-488-0398
www.ranchomanana.com



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All Year Long



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

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



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AK-CHIN SOUTHERN DUNES

Center Stage Desert Golf

Sprawling across some 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 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 six hole 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.

Created by golf course architect Brian Curley with help of major championship winner Fred Couples, Ak-Chin Southern 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. 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 since its celebrated opening in 2002, serving as an annual U.S. Open qualifying site, several top collegiate men's and women's golf tournaments, 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.

Arroyo Grille 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 cold beer or one of the expertly 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 Arroyo Grille patio is the perfect place to take in the remarkable desert sky sunset with the green expanse of the golf course center-stage.

Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club's distinctive clubhouse and Arroyo Grille provide exquisite indoor and outdoor spaces perfect for intimate weddings, events, and meetings. The banquet room 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. With corporate and charity golf outings on the rise, Ak-Chin Southern Dunes continues to offer competitive rates and packages. Stay & Play Packages are available year round with neighboring hotels, including Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino & Resort, just minutes from the golf course. Ak-Chin Southern Dunes has also recently partnered with sister Troon properties Whirlwind Golf Club and Ocotillo Golf Club and designed the Southern Swing Package. This is the ideal package for golfers looking to play three prestigious, high-ranking, but uniquely distinct public golf courses in the Greater Phoenix area.

A recent two million dollar golf course enhancement project has transformed Ak-Chin

Southern Dunes into a more player-friendly venue while maintaining the integrity of the game at this championship-level course. The main focus of this enhancement was to repair and restore bunkers, with each receiving new drainage, liner, and sand. The second stage of the project was the creation of a new six-hole short course located on the practice facility. "#miniDunes" is one-of-a-kind, and the first course named with a hashtag. The focus of #miniDunes will be to grow the game of golf by incorporating clinics, social media interaction, and most important, a fun environment for all ages and ability levels. Yardages on #miniDunes range from 50 to 100 yards in length.

For more fun and excitement off the course, the nearby Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Resort boasts the perfect complement to Ak-Chin Southern Dunes' incredible golf experience with its unique 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 include a movie theater, bowling alley, and arcade.

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Tee off on two 18-hole championship golf courses—home to the LPGA Founders Cup—and relax after rounds on the links with the resort's acres of turquoise pools, the world-class Revive Spa, and unique dining experiences.

At Wildfire Golf Club, Faldo Championship and Palmer Signature courses are sure to challenge golfers of every level and thrill with their rugged desert setting.

The par-71 Faldo Championship Course was designed by three-time Masters and three-time British Open champ Nick Faldo. Carved into the Sonoran desert, the Faldo Course features a total of 6,846 yards, generous fair-

ways, and ample landing areas for the not-so-straight and narrow golf swing, keeping golfers out of the surrounding desert flora. Designed with the help of Schmidt-Curley Golf Course Design, the course affords stunning views of the McDowell Mountains, Camelback Mountain, and Piestewa Peak. The 7,145-yard, par-72 Palmer Signature Course, designed by Arnold Palmer, features generous fairways and large, undulating bent grass greens. The vast 151-acre layout meanders through picturesque arroyos with centuries-old saguaro cactus. Five different tee markers allow guests to test their game and improve their range.

In addition, Wildfire Golf Club features the finest in practice facilities, including an all-grass driving range, putting and chipping greens, a green-side practice bunker, and state-of-the-art GPS in all golf carts.

Four acres of turquoise pools, including a meandering lazy river, 89-foot water slide, and interactive dancing fountains for little ones will delight families looking to relax. The grand Wildfire pool, topped by glowing fire at night, is the resort's largest pool and serves as a beacon in the center of the shimmering waterways.

With an abundance of eateries to choose from, guests will find that JW Marriott Desert Ridge

Resort & Spa has redefined resort dining. From elegant Italian cuisine in Tuscany to steaks and seafood at Meritage Steakhouse, southwest American fare at stonegrill, handcrafted small plates and cocktails at twenty6 lounge, and gourmet poolside fare at Just a Splash, the dining options are varied for pleasing the entire family.

The world-class Revive Spa offers a diverse menu of spa experiences that incorporate beautiful, tranquil settings and indigenous flora into signature treatments where ancient rituals join cutting-edge techniques. Guests will enjoy the dramatic Sanctuary swimming pool lined with rows of towering palms and relaxing in private cabanas.

Treatments run the gamut from Swedish massages and facials to such innovative body treatments as the Turquoise Blue Sage Body Ritual, which uses the energies of indigenous turquoise gemstones to offer a deeply relaxing experience for the body and soul.

In addition to spa services, a spacious, fully-equipped indoor fitness club offers strength training, cardiovascular workouts, and classes such as yoga, Tai Chi, and Pilates.

Enterprising shoppers will want to visit nearby malls including Desert Ridge Marketplace and High Street. The beautiful open-air malls allow guests to experience Arizona's spectacular year-round climate with

everything from boutiques to special bargains.

The Sonoran desert provides plenty of walking and hiking trails that are bursting with exploration opportunities.

Pinnacle Peak and its 150-acre park offer trail signs to describe the flora, fauna, geology and cultural history of the area. Camelback, named for its camel-shaped rock formation, provides moderate to challenging hiking trails within its 75.8-acre park.

Hikers who appreciate the desert scenery will also want to visit the resort's Desert Botanical Garden. With more than 20,000 plants and cacti, the garden features a one-third-mile Discovery Trail.

Those in search of a little culture will enjoy a visit to Taliesin West in nearby Scottsdale. The former winter home of Frank Lloyd Wright, this architectural masterpiece showcases the famed architect's ability to blend buildings and natural environments.

Arizona is rich in Native American heritage and the Heard Museum's world-renowned Native American art and artifact collection is the best place to see, hear, and touch your way to the past.

For more information about the Unlimited Golf Package, call 480-293-5000 or visit jwdesert-ridge.com.



PLAY FALDO. PLAY PALMER. REPEAT.

Experience a championship golf resort vacation like no other at the AAA 4-Diamond award-winning JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa. Start your day in the comfort of your luxurious guest room with views of the McDowell Mountains, followed by a bountiful breakfast buffet in the new Stonegrill restaurant. Relax in one of four sparkling pools, float down the lazy river or splash down the waterslide. Enjoy unlimited championship golf at Wildfire Golf Club - home of the LPGA Founders Cup and voted "Best Courses You Can Play" by Golfweek Magazine and "Best Resort Course in the Southwest" by Travel & Leisure Golf Magazine. Enjoy a tranquil treatment at Revive Spa. Dine at one of five unique restaurants. Or simply relax and enjoy our 316-acre playground in the stunning Sonoran Desert. Unlimited fun awaits!

UNLIMITED GOLF PACKAGE – FROM \$319 PER NIGHT

Includes a luxurious resort room, daily breakfast buffet at Stonegrill restaurant, unlimited golf and use of practice golf facilities, complimentary golf cart with GPS and bag storage, advanced tee times and 20% discount at resort golf, spa and tennis retail shops.

To book your stay, visit marriott.com or call 800.835.6206 and use rate code GOF when booking.



© 2014 Marriott International. Valid seven days a week through May 31, 2015. Package is good for one or two adults based on package purchased. Unlimited golf is valid from 3:00 pm the day of arrival. A limited number of rooms are available for this promotion. Tax is additional. Offer does not apply to groups of 10 or more rooms. Offer cannot be combined with any other promotions. Blackout dates may apply. Advance reservations required. Other restrictions apply. Rates are per room, per night and based on availability at the time of reservations. For tee time reservations up to 120 days in advance, please call 480.473.0205. Breakfast buffet is in Stonegrill and is a \$22 value per person.

Back to Action

I hope that it was a successful golf season, free of injury with plenty of picturesque shots to remember as you slog into our Midwest winters. However, if you had an injury, most commonly low back pain, you are not alone as chronic back pain affects two-thirds of adults at some point.

The golf swing involves all the motions of the lower back. Pain or limitations in any of these motions will alter your swing and create very frustrating results. It does not take injury or trauma as age and gradual degeneration are frequently the issue. Fortunately, you can prevent a loss of motion in the spine and decrease your chance of injury by performing a few basic stretches.

The lower lumbar rotation stretch is performed while lying on your back with both knees bent and the bottoms of your feet flat on the floor. Roll your knees to one side while keeping both shoulders flat (picture 1). Rotate until you feel a gentle stretch in the lower back region and hold for 30 seconds. Perform three repetitions of the exercise to each side twice a day.

The prayer stretch gets its name because of the position in which it is performed. Feel free to try it before any four-foot putt to save par, but it is probably more effective as a stretch. Sit back on your heels while you are face down and reach forward with your arms (picture 2). You will feel a stretch in the lower back all the way up to the shoulders, depending on which areas are tightest. After reaching forward, try reaching to the right side with both arms and then to the left (picture 3). Hold each position for 30 seconds and three repetitions.

The final exercise (not shown) is in standing and addresses back extension or a backward bend. Stand tall with hands on hips. Lean backwards arching your lower back within a comfortable range. Hold the position one or two seconds for five repetitions. This is an exercise that can be performed frequently throughout the day. It is especially effective if your work or daily activities require prolonged sitting or lifting.

For most people these exercises are appropriate twice a day. But if you have pain in the lower extremities or back you should contact your doctor before attempting. Another reason to consult your doctor about the exercise is if you have had back, hip or knee surgery as they may not be appropriate for you.

The beauty of these exercises is you can have them done before you get to the bathroom to start the morning routine, or while watching your favorite show at night. Add a few simple stretches to your day and prepare yourself for next golf season. I hope that these exercises will prevent injury on the course, and as we deal with the snow-shoveling season.

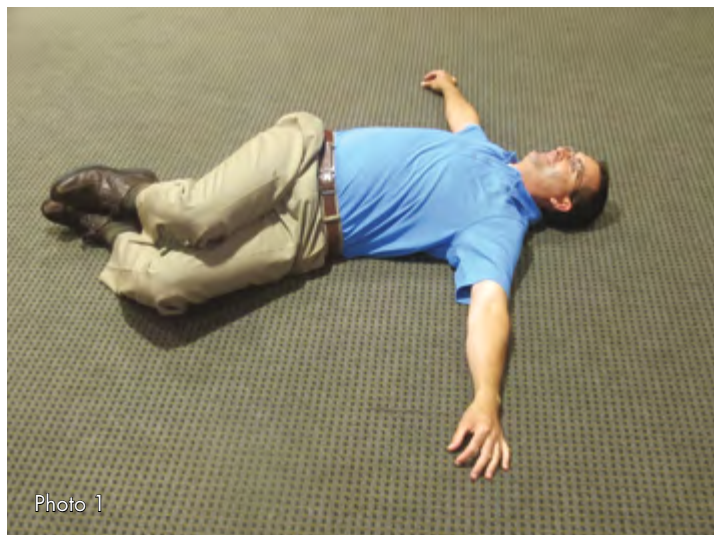


Photo 1



Photo 2

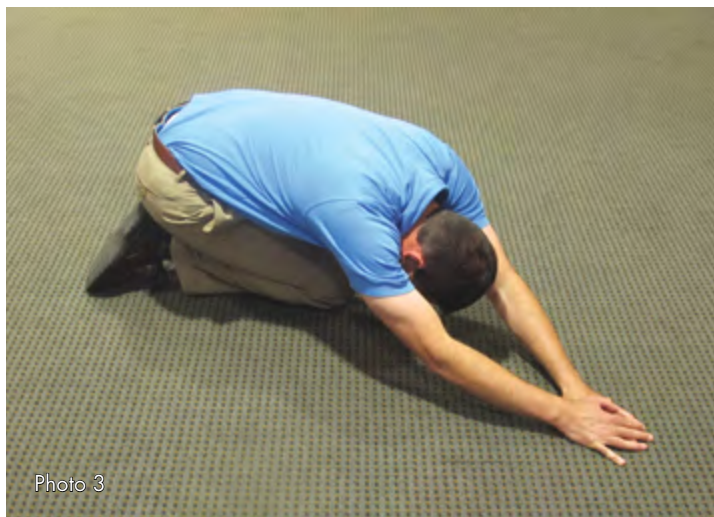


Photo 3

THE FITNESS EDGE

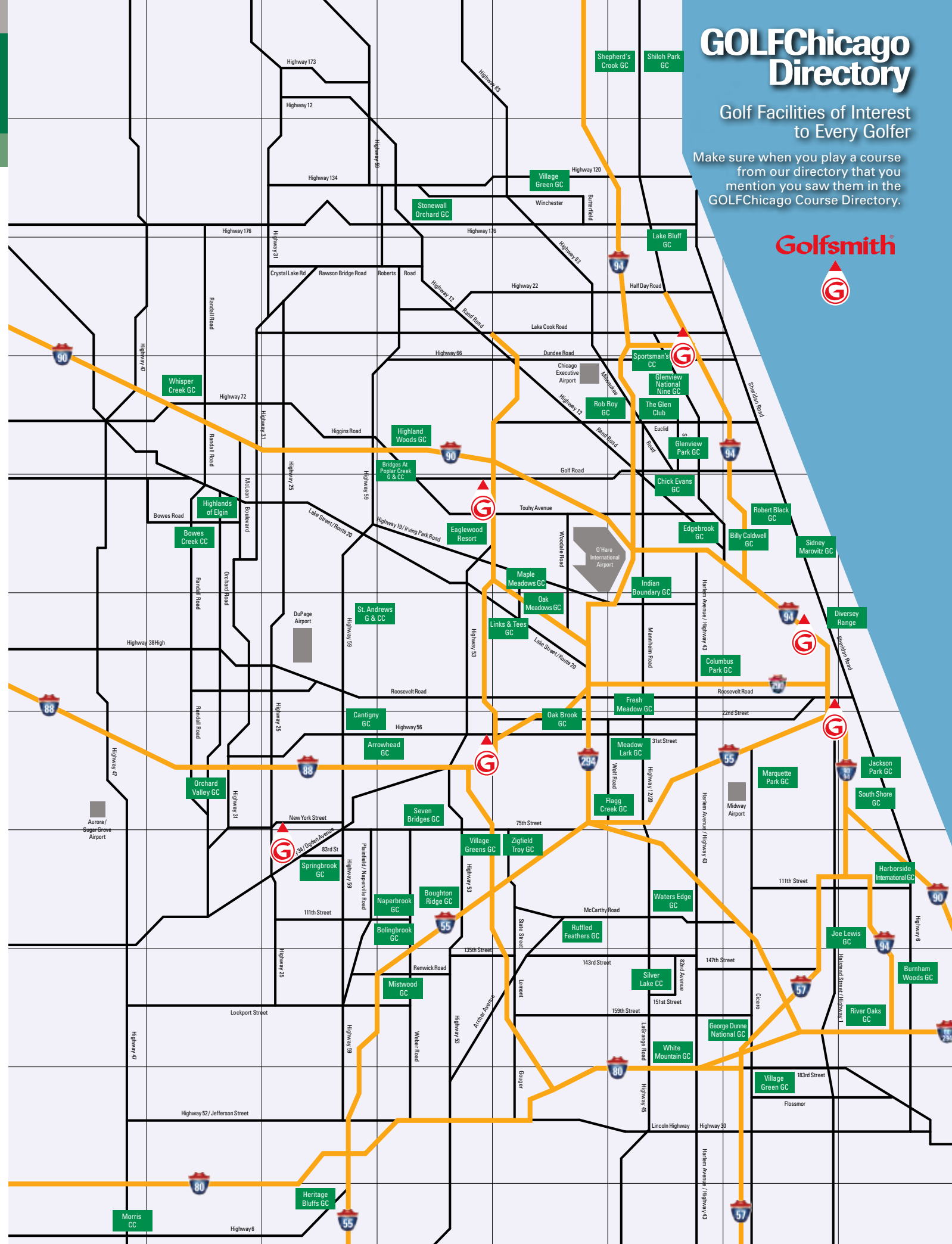
Brad Jourdan

GOLFChicago Directory

Golf Facilities of Interest to Every Golfer

Make sure when you play a course from our directory that you mention you saw them in the GOLFChicago Course Directory.

Golfsmith





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. The West, East, and South Courses feature new bunker renovations and enhancements. The practice area includes a lighted driving range, putting green, and chipping green. Group and individual golf lessons are available.



Bolingbrook Golf Club

630-771-9400
2001 Rodeo Dr.
Bolingbrook, IL 60490

bolingbrookgolfclub.com

Bolingbrook Golf Club features a championship golf course designed by Arthur Hills and Steve Forrest, 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 Blvd.
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 can play that day because you are ... Member for that Day!



Cantigny Golf

630-668-8463
27w270 Mack Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60189

cantignygolf.com

Designed by Roger Packard, Cantigny is both challenging and breathtakingly scenic.

The Red Oak Club rewards program is new for 2015 and free to join.

The Cantigny Golf Academy is a prime practice and learning center. 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 an exceptional experience for planners and guests.



golfTec

10 Chicagoland Locations
golftec.com

Chicago - Halsted Row
773-755-4653

Chicago - Lincoln Park
773-871-4653

Deerfield 60015
224-330-4020

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
847-517-1845

Vernon Hills 60061
847-327-0605



Harborside International G.C.

312-782-7837
11001 S. Doty Ave. East
Chicago, IL 60628

harborsidegolf.com

Located just south of the loop in the City of Chicago, Harborside features two championship-style links courses designed by renowned architect Dick Nugent.

Harborside is home to Chicago's largest practice facility, a prairie style clubhouse, and The Pier at Harborside restaurant.

Harborside's Port and Starboard courses rank annually among the Midwest's list of best courses you can play.



The Highlands of Elgin

847-931-5950
875 Sports Way
Elgin, IL 60123

highlandsofelgin.com

The new Quarry nine and the Original nine holes flow over beautiful rolling terrain, creating a diverse collection of holes. The new nine holes reclaim an old stone quarry, and are routed to take maximum advantage of the unique and dramatic landforms that were left behind. Four holes hug the top of the bluff thirty to forty feet above the water, providing golfers with incredible views and numerous shot options on each hole.



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. The course measures 6,589 yards from the back tees and offers three additional sets of tees to accommodate all skill levels. Lake Bluff Golf Club takes great pride in the immaculately conditioned bent grass fairways and greens. Other amenities include a full-service golf shop, private and group instruction, and an exceptional dining experience at the new Hel's Kitchen.

The club hosted the 44th Annual Lake County Amateur.



Chicago Park District Golf

312-245-0909
cpdgolf.com

Great Golf in the Heart of the City.

With six courses, three driving ranges, and two miniature golf courses, there's golf enjoyment for the whole family.

PLUS...save EVERY DAY, secure early tee time access and more with the CPD Players Advantage Card!

- Robert A. Black: 9 Holes
- Sydney R. Marovitz: 9 Holes
- Jackson Park: 18 Holes
- Columbus Park: 9 Holes
- Marquette Park: 9 Holes
- South Shore: 9 Holes
- Diversey Range

The only double-deck range in Chicago.



Forest Preserve Golf Courses | Cook County

800-460-0010
forestpreservegolf.com

Affordable GOLF. Friendly SERVICE. Fantastic EXPERIENCE.

Forest Preserve Golf offers something for every golfer. PLUS ... save EVERY DAY with the FPG Golf and Rewards Card!

- Billy Caldwell: 9 Holes
- Burnham Woods: 18 Holes
- Chick Evans: 18 Holes
- Edgebrook: 18 Holes
- George Dunne National: 18 Holes
- Harry Semrow: Driving Range & Mini Golf
- Highland Woods: 18 Holes
- Indian Boundary: 18 Holes
- Joe Louis: 18 Holes
- Meadowlark: 9 Holes
- River Oaks: 18 Holes



The Glen Club

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

theglenclub.com

Chicago's finest semi-private golf experience.

The Glen Club is a stunning Tom Fazio designed championship course located on the former site of the historic 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.

Enjoy the grand 48,000 square-foot clubhouse, superb dining, 21 overnight guest rooms, a grand ballroom, and the finest in corporate amenities and membership.



Golfsmith

6 Chicagoland Locations
golfsmith.com

South Loop
312-792-3490

Fox Valley 60504
630-585-0872

Highland Park 60035
847-579-0219

Lincoln Park 60614
773-281-1494

Downers Grove 60515
630-495-4880

Schaumburg 60173
847-969-0347

Buy it. Try it. Keep it. Or return it and get another.

If for any reason you are not satisfied within the first 30 days after your club purchase, return your clubs to Golfsmith and receive a credit of up to 90% of the original purchase price toward your next club purchase.



Mistwood Golf Club

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

www.mistwoodgc.com

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.

- *Golf Magazine's* "2013 Best U.S. Renovation You Can Play"
- Golf Range Association of America "2013 Top 50 Golf Ranges."



Oak Brook Golf Club

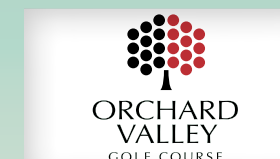
630-368-6400
oak-brook.org/recreation

18 Holes - Par 72
Yardage: 5341 - 6541

The Oak Brook Golf Club is a classic playing experience with a superb blend of challenges where every hole requires solid shot-making from tee to green. The par 4s will utilize every club in the bag; the par 3s are a devilish balance of risk and reward; and the par 5s offer multiple playing strategies from conservative to bold ... and all on manicured greens and fairways. The course features a well-stocked pro shop, delightful grill and outdoor patio, men's and women's locker rooms, expansive all-grass driving range with three chipping and putting greens, and six PGA teaching professionals.

PLUS...a program for everyone!

- SAVE on every round with the OV Rewards PLUS program.
- UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the PPP card.
- Annual Memberships and MORE!



Orchard Valley Golf Course

630-907-0500
2411 West Illinois Ave.
Aurora, IL 60506

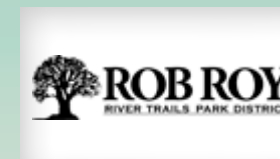
orchardvalleygolf.com

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.

PLUS...a program for everyone!

- SAVE on every round with the OV Rewards PLUS program.
- UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the PPP card.
- Annual Memberships and MORE!

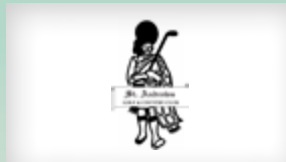


Rob Roy Golf Course

847-253-4544
505 E. Camp McDonald Rd.
Prospect Heights, IL 60070

www.robroygc.com

Winding through 51 acres, the beautiful 9-hole Rob Roy Golf Course will challenge golfers at any skill level. The 3,022-yard course is narrow and tree-lined, requiring accuracy with water, sand traps, and other strategically-placed obstacles around the course. Rob Roy also includes a lighted driving range with 52 hitting stations. Bring the whole family for mini golf, and grab lunch overlooking the course at the 10th Hole Bar & Grille. There is something for everyone at Rob Roy!



St. Andrews Golf & Country Club

2241 Route 59
West Chicago, IL 60185
630-231-3100

standrewsgc.com

36 Holes:
Course #1: par 71,
5116-6920 yards
Course #2: par 72,
5341-6818 yards
Located 30 miles west of Chicago in West Chicago. Since 1926, Chicago-area golfers have sought out St. Andrews for its two championship courses and top-ranked Practice Center. With its vast rolling terrain, mature trees, and historic setting, St. Andrews offers quality facilities for discerning golfers, golf outings, and leagues, as well as permanent tee times. Guests will also enjoy premium range balls, motor carts with tablet GPS, and selections from J.J.'s Bar & Grill.

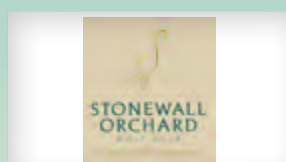


Silver Lake Golf Course

14700 82nd Avenue
Orland Park, IL 60462
708-349-6940 x4

www.silverlakecc.com

Silver Lake Golf Course is the premiere public golf course of the Chicago southland. Family owned and operated since 1927, the course features 36 championship-golf holes, a natural-grass driving range, and a dedicated short-game area. Silver Lake GC is also home to the award-winning "Rolling Hills," named Chicago's #1 Sporty 9 for almost two-decades.



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 in rotation with Olympia Fields and Medinah Country Club as host site for the Illinois PGA Section Championship held every Fall.



Water's Edge Golf Course

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

watersedgegolf.com

Rated 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!

- SAVE on every round with the Edge PLUS Pass
- UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the Edge Practice Club

Fox Bend Golf Course

630-554-3939
3516 Route 34
Oswego, IL 60543
foxbendgolfcourse.com

Par 72

Yardage: 6,890 – 5,325

Weekday: \$38 walk

\$54 ride

Weekend: \$43 walk

\$59 ride

Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes

Twilight Rates: Yes

Banquets/Outings: Yes

Resident rates available

Green Meadows Golf Club

630-810-5330
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

*Frequent specials on

course website

Discount Program: Yes

Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes

Twilight Rates: No

Banquets/Outings: No

Hamilton County Golf

Indiana's Premier Golf Destination!

indianapremiergolf.com

Kids Golf Foundation of Illinois

Golf Changes Kids' Lives
630-466-0913

P.O. Box 610

Sugar Grove, IL 60554

kidsgolffoundation.org

Links & Tees Golf Facility

630-458-2660

Addison, IL 60101

Recognized in 2011 by *Golf Range* magazine as one of the

top 100 learning facilities in

North America.

addisonparks.org

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

East 9 - Par 34

Yardage: 2,815 - 2,427 yds.

Rate: \$16 walk / \$25 ride

Discount Program: Yes

Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes

Twilight Rates: Yes

Banquets/Outings: Yes

Naperbrook Golf Course

630-378-4215
22204 W. Hassert
Boulevard
Plainfield, IL 60585

golfnaperville.org

Par 72

Yardage: 6677

Weekday: \$39.50

Weekend: \$49.50

Mid-day Rates: Yes

Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes

Super 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

Sentry World

866-479-6753
Stevens Point, WI 54481

18 holes

Par 72

6,951 yards

sentryworld.com

Shepherd's Crook

847-872-2080
351 N. Green Bay Rd.
Zion, IL 60099

shepherdcrook.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: \$41.50

Weekend: \$51.50

Mid-day Rates: Yes

Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes

Super Twilight Rates: Yes

Banquets/Outings: Yes

Western Golf Association / Evans Scholars Foundation

westerngolfassociation.com

Zigfield Troy Par 3

630-985-9860
1535 W. 75th Street
Woodridge, IL 60517w

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Course Managers:

For inclusion in this directory, or to update your listing, please call 815.741.8005 or email us at

dweretka@golfchicagomagazine.com



Whisper Creek Golf Course

12840 Del Webb
Boulevard
Huntley, IL 60142
847-515-7680

whispercreekgolf.com

Luxury Golf at a Whisper

of a Price!

Whisper Creek Golf Club is a fair test for a gamut of golfers. From beginners to scratch golfers, anyone who appreciates a day on the course will come away feeling rewarded by a round at Whisper Creek.

PLUS...a program for

everyone!

- SAVE on every round with the Whisper Rewards PLUS program
- UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the PDP card
- Annual Memberships and MORE!



White Mountain Golf Park

9901 179th Street
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-478-4653

whitemountaingolfpark.com

Learn. Practice. Play.

- Executive course offering 9 holes of competitive golf
- Practice Range with artificial and grass hitting stations, and heated, covered stalls
- Mini Golf park offering 18 holes
- Professional instruction for all levels and abilities
- Fully stocked golf shop
- Party room perfect for events, fundraisers and more!

PLUS...earn FREE stuff with the Playback Rewards program – join TODAY!



White Pines Golf Club & Banquets

500 W Jefferson Ave
Bensenville, IL 60106
630-766-0304

whitepinesgolf.com

36-hole championship course situated on over 240 acres, has been a favorite among Chicago area golfers since 1928. Ten minutes from O'Hare International Airport, White Pines in Bensenville is a perfect choice for anyone looking for a challenging game of golf any time of the year.

White Pines Golf Club offers a superb setting, sure to make you feel like you are "away from it all."

Arlington Lakes Golf Club

847-577-3030
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Blackberry Oaks

630-553-7170
Bristol, IL 60512
blackberryoaks.com

Bonnie Brook GC

847-360-4735
2800 N. Lewis Ave.
Waukegan, IL 60087
waukegangolf.org

Boughton Ridge

630-739-4100
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

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



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twitter.com/GolfChiMag



Destinations

continued from page 13



Oak Marsh #9

says Aaron Merritt, the affable Director of Golf at the resort. "The ocean views and the sea breezes combine to give the course its distinctive character."

Guests at the resort may reserve tee times a day in advance at the resort's

acclaimed private Tom Fazio-designed Long Point Course, based upon availability. The 6,775-yard course was completed in 1987 and winds its way through three distinctive settings: marshlands, oceanfront dunes, and an oak and pine forest. Over its

history, the course has hosted the Florida Women's Amateur as well as men's U.S. Open qualifying events.

No visit to the Omni Amelia Island is complete without enjoying the culinary delights served up at the nine restaurants across the property. Executive chef and Oak Park native Daven Wardynski has brought national acclaim to the resort by complementing premium meats and fresh seafood with locally-sourced ingredients, some of which come straight out of the resort's own greenhouse and beehives. "It's a virtual 'chef's playground,'" says Wardynski. The greenhouse includes two 500-gallon tanks filled with fish which provide nutrients to multiple varieties of organic lettuce, herbs, and heirloom tomatoes grown exclusively for use at the resort's restaurants.

Omni Amelia Island Plantation managing director Stamets states that the beehives, the greenhouse, and an organic garden are perfect fits for the resort's holistic approach to guest preferences for a healthy lifestyle. "Amelia Island is a celebration of nature," he says. "It's just common sense to complement those natural wonders with natural, nutritious and delicious food offerings."

Along with residences and condominiums, accommodations at the resort include 404 deluxe oceanfront rooms and executive suites. Business groups are provided a conference center, a ballroom, meeting rooms and, an event lawn.

For more information on Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort, visit the property's website: www.omniameliaislandplantation.com.

Chip it Closer - Sink More Putts - Improve Your Sand & Wedge Play



DAVE PELZ
SCORING GAME SCHOOL

Ready to Play Your Best Golf?

Join the Pelz staff at Cog Hill to learn the skills and confidence you need to take your game to next level. Change the way you look at *Up and Down*.

pelzgolf.com

800-735-9868

Team HandCraft

Cheryl Indelicato is part of the third generation of the family that owns Delicato Family Vineyards. Delicato offers wines under such brands as Black Stallion, Bota Box, Gnarly Head, La Merika, Massimo, and many others.

Although born into the wine business, doing odd jobs at the winery as a little girl, her parents insisted that their children graduate from college and gather outside experience by working elsewhere for at least three years before coming back to the family business, if they wished to do so.

Accordingly, Cheryl earned a Registered Nursing degree in 1985 and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business in 1989. However, the family wine-making enterprise kept its hold on her, and she returned to the fold in 1990, working in various facets of the business.

All the while, she dreamed of creating her own wine brand. "I have always wanted to create my own wine with a style and flavor profile that appealed directly to women," says Cheryl.

Cheryl began the project, called HandCraft Artisan Collection, in early 2010 when she teamed up with veteran winemaker Alicia Ysaia to develop a wine that would be fruit-forward, distinct and easy to enjoy—similar to the field wine blends that Cheryl recalled from her family's dinner table. The line includes Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Petite Syrah, as well as the more rarely seen (for California) Pinot Grigio and Malbec, featured below.

As part of her passion to make a positive difference in people's lives, Cheryl created "HandCraft Cares" to support important causes with financial and in-kind donations. She is involved in a number of initiatives at the community level to increase awareness and early detection of breast cancer. Since 2012, HandCraft has contributed \$220,000 to support breast cancer research, prevention, and awareness.

2014 HandCraft Pinot Grigio \$12 This pinot grigio underwent a cold-temperature fermentation and was aged entirely in stainless steel, for those of you put off by any oak. It is nearly colorless in the glass. But, no worries. The nose offers aromas of peaches and tropical fruit, with a floral background.

In the mouth, the wine is medium bodied, with flavors of melon and key lime. It offers a nicely balanced, crisp acidity, and the finish is relatively short.

Enjoy this easy-going wine with Swordfish with Tarraogn Beurre Blanc, Tomatoes, and Black Olives, Chicken Marsala Burgers, or Crab with Bok Choy and Egg Stir Fry. \$12 Deep purple in the glass, this Malbec delivers aromas of plums and blackberries on the nose. The ripe plum continues as you begin to taste, complemented by a hint of dusty cocoa. The wine has a medium body and a medium finish, accompanied by a fair amount of tannins, but nothing excessive. A good value at this price.

This wine would go nicely with Guinness Pub Burgers, Oaxacan Black Mole with Braised Chicken, or Slathered Mesquite-Smoked Ribs.

ON THE CORKSCREWS

Stephen Hawk



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A Case of Mistaken Hosel Hockey

They're merciless. They are golf's unspoken disgraces. They seize your throat like Cujo and choke out your soul. They call into question your golf swing. Your sanity. Your humanity. They induce panic like black ice on a highway, like locking eyes with the weird cousin in public, like a toilet-paperless Porta-John.

Think running out of gas in strange, scary city. A dead furnace at 2:00 am on a Sunday in February. Malfunctioning sedatives before a colonoscopy.

But they're not just panic, they're confused panic, like someone strangling you from behind, in the dark, while they ask you an impossible Trivial Pursuit question.

They're not like a slump in baseball or basketball because those don't sneak up on you. The Shanks attack you like a figment of Robert Allenby's imagination outside a Honolulu strip club. And they arrive at the worst times, like when you're hosting your father-in-law and his buddies at your home club.

I'm one over through two, lining up my second shot on a long par 4. I had settled into a rhythm with Bill and his buddies. We're even for the moment—not that I'm counting. Luckily, we get along and we share a fondness for his daughter and for golf. I tell myself he's better because he's retired and plays more, but in truth he's just better. That stings. A little background on Bill: 1) I can't tell you what he did for a living. 2) When suitors came to the house when my wife was in high school, he would position himself prominently at the kitchen table, cleaning his gun. Think De Niro in *Meet the Parents* meets De Niro in *Goodfellas*. Just a little more intimidating.

I finish my pre-shot routine, begin my remarkably mediocre backswing—later Bill likened it to that of Jim Furyk (my least favorite tour player)—with my 4 iron, start down, release, and ... there goes a flaming squirrel headed on a line toward the wrong hole.

And so begins the most befuddling, horrifying six holes of my life.

Anyone who's suffered the shanks knows their paradoxical nature: on the one hand, you know they can't possibly last; on the other hand, you know they're not called "the shank." The plurality of the affliction makes it that much more sinister. Those unspeakable putting woes are not called "the yip." If so, Ian Baker-Finch might be on the course instead of welling up in the booth every time an Aussie drains a three footer.

Back to my round with Bill. To compound the crisis, he tries to help, "Relax, Rory. You're trying too hard because my friends are here." To which I politely respond, "No offense Bill,

but I don't give a (bleep) about your friends." Now consider in what context speaking to your father-in-law like this would be acceptable. Had I taken that tone anywhere but on the golf course in the midst of a tussle with the shanks, I'd be limbless at the bottom of the Chicago River.

Truth is, I'm not nervous—at least I don't feel nervous. And yet his "help" actually pisses me off even more. Here I am, a 36-year-old man being spoken to like a three-year-old trying to catch a Nerf football. It's beyond embarrassing. It's emasculating.

For the first time ever, I'm relishing longer holes because that means I can hit a shank-immune club. Alas, I stripe a driver, then a hybrid on #6, walk confidently to the green, putt out, then half-strut to the #7 tee with cautious optimism.

#7 calls for a 5-iron—when you're fighting the shanks, just the word "iron" causes dread. As I stand over the ball, I'm reminded of my high school Humanities teacher, who taught us that organized religion arose to answer three simple questions: Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where are we going? After scuttling a scalded dog 30 yards off line, through the pine trees, and onto the fifth tee, I was asking the same three questions about the shanks. I'm not one to argue about religion, but I can say, definitively—thanks to the shanks—that there is a hell.

People often describe golf as "humbling." I'll spot you a few more letters: at its worst, golf is humiliating. There is nowhere to hide, no clock to save you, no teammate to pass the ball to, no injury to feign, no coach to ask for a breather. A shooting slump in basketball means you might be missing the hoop by a few centimeters; in golf—while in truth the difference is even smaller—what's visible is a miss that is not only off line, but potentially dangerous. Baseball is different because the odds are you won't hit the ball. Three out of ten is actually pretty good.

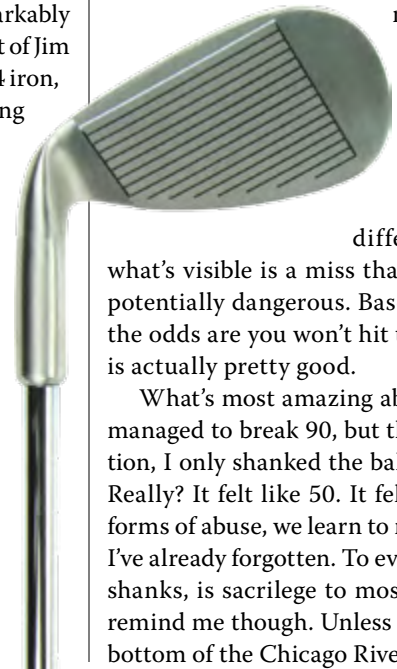
What's most amazing about that day is not that I managed to break 90, but that upon closer examination, I only shanked the ball four times. Four times? Really? It felt like 50. It felt infinite. But like other forms of abuse, we learn to repress the shanks; in fact I've already forgotten. To even speak those words, the shanks, is sacrilege to most golfers. I expect Bill to remind me though. Unless I can't hear him from the bottom of the Chicago River.

AGAINST THE GRAIN



Rory Hughes

Anyone who's suffered the shanks knows their paradoxical nature: on the one hand, you know they can't possibly last; on the other hand, you know they're not called "the shank." The plurality of the affliction makes it that much more sinister.





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