

Upon reflection, it's safe to say that Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones got it all wrong. Time, truly, is not on his side. Nor, more importantly, is it on the side of most golfers. While we may never identify the masochist who invented golf so many centuries ago, it is safe to say he had far more time available back then than we ever will. Who among us – besides perhaps our Golfer-in-Chief – can regularly budget the four or five or six hours it takes to play a round of golf?

Golf course managers across the nation have, of course, spent many sleepless nights pondering this question. Some have created speed-of-play programs aimed at getting players through rounds in under 4.5 hours. Others have rigged their courses up in various loops of 12 holes and four holes to accommodate busy schedules. Still others have just split courses into separate nines to promote nine-hole rounds.

It's easy to find a nine-hole course, or a 18-hole (or more) facility that will sell a nine-hole round. But what about after the final putt drops? This is where GOLFChicago comes in. Fortunately for time-sensitive area players, the metro area is home to over a

dozen terrific stand-alone nine-hole courses along with larger golf facilities which offer more than 18 holes.

Herewith, a gazetteer to some of the better courses and bistros, some at the course and some nearby, where time-strapped players needing hydration and food following their rounds can both raise a glass and chow down. It is by no means complete, so consider it an appetizer to what can be found in our area.

#### Cantigny Golf, Wheaton

We start in the western suburbs, where Cantigny Golf has embraced nine-hole golf in a big way. The 27-hole complex in Wheaton is promoting a "Couples Nine and Dine" event on Saturday, June 16 that includes nine-hole green fees, range balls, prizes for net and gross winners, an obstacle course putting contest and a BBQ dinner with head pro Patrick Lynch. They set a fine table at Cantigny. The two-person scramble event will be repeated on July 21 and, assuming its success, summers and years into the future.

[www.cantignygolf.com](http://www.cantignygolf.com)

#### Sydney R. Marovitz Golf Course, Chicago

This popular nine-hole gem rests east of Lake Shore Drive on the city's north side and features terrific views of both the city and Lake Michigan. Built as a nine-hole addition to the original (and now long-gone) nine holes at Diversey Ave. in Lincoln Park, the 3,265-yard course was among two in Chicagoland ranked among the 25 best nine-hole courses in America by *Golf World* in 2010.

As the golf course is just a few blocks away from Wrigley Field, there are more dining and pub options here than any other place in the city. The Cubby Bear Lounge (where you might find a band playing after twilight golf) at Clark and Addison and Murphy's Bleachers at Waveland and Sheffield are fan favorites with a Cub-centric atmosphere, while fine dining options include Mia Francesca (3111 N. Clark St.), Diva Thai & Sushi Bar (3542 N. Halsted St.), and the newly constructed Budweiser Brickhouse Tavern (3647 N. Clark St.) immediately northwest of the ballpark.

[www.sydneymarovitz.cpdgolf.com](http://www.sydneymarovitz.cpdgolf.com)

#### Downers Grove Golf Club, Downers Grove

No guide to nine-hole courses in metro Chicago can exclude this remarkable layout. Celebrated as the site of Charles Blair Macdonald's first design, the original Chicago Golf Club was built on farmland in Belmont (which later became Downers Grove) and was so successful it compelled club members to purchase an additional plot of land in nearby Wheaton. After the club changed addresses in 1895, the Downers Grove property was operated by the Illinois Golf Club for a year, briefly farmland again, and evolved into the Belmont Golf Club in 1899 on some of the same property Macdonald used, plus an adjacent plot of land.

It is that course that transitioned 69 years later when the city park district purchased it. Downers Grove says only five holes remain from that design, largely that of Herbert James Tweedie, after renovations were made over the years to accommodate a driving range.

Built on a surprisingly hilly landscape, the course winds through trees that were surely not part of Macdonald's original



# Nine, Dine and Wine

Area golf courses serve up couples nine and dine specials

By Neal Kotlarek

continued on page 32



**Nine, Dine and Wine**

continued from page 23

vision of the property. One of the course's original holes, the long par-3 No. 8 may just be America's first redan hole as the green slopes aggressively to the right around a bunker.

There can be no better name for a restaurant unassociated with a golf course than Another Round Bar & Grill, at 5141 Main St. in downtown Downers Grove. There are 22 beers on tap in this Blackhawks fan haunt, including Gumballhead by Three Floyds, and complemented by killer mac(donald?)

and cheese. The restaurant is located less than five minutes from the golf course. [www.dgparks.org](http://www.dgparks.org)

**Schaumburg Golf Club, Schaumburg**

Like the aforementioned Cantigny Golf, Schaumburg Golf Course was built as a 27-hole complex in 1926, the private Westmoor Country Club. Even in the middle year of a three-year renovation – one nine a year – the course will feature the luxury of late afternoon Nine & Dine events which launch on May 11 and have a continuous schedule through August 10. The \$30 package includes green fee,

cart and a \$12 voucher that night at the clubhouse's elegant Chandler's Chophouse & Grill.

The Langford and Moreau design was purchased by the village's park district in 1989 and renovated by renowned area architect Bob Lohmann, whose firm is now reprising its effort. Over the years, the course has hosted U.S. Open Qualifying events and the CDGA Mid-Am Championship. All three nines feature bentgrass fairways and undulating terrain.

[www.schaumburggolf.com](http://www.schaumburggolf.com)

**Bolingbrook Golf Club, Bolingbrook**

While Bolingbrook is an 18-hole course, the club is setting aside nine holes for a Couples Nine & Dine event on Friday, May 18 from 5:30–8 p.m. Spousal duos will compete in this net Peoria two-person scramble with prizes and hors d'oeuvres and drinks afterwards.

The 18-hole championship golf course was designed by Arthur Hills and Steve Forrest and stretches to 7,134 yards from the championship tees. The club's spectacular clubhouse features The Nest Bar & Grill with daily food and drink specials.

[www.bolingbrookgolfclub.com](http://www.bolingbrookgolfclub.com)

**Silver Lake Country Club, Orland Park**

Built in 1963, the executive nine known as Rolling Hills was created to complement the 36 holes on the property for decades, and inspired by the nine-hole course at Augusta National that opened three years earlier. Designed in-house by superintendent Ray Didier and pro Dudley Smith, and recently tweaked after the long-needed addition of a driving range necessitated the rearrangement of the South Course, Rolling Hills has seven par 3s and pair of drivable par 4s that might as well be par 3s on a windy day.

It's a quick play, fun for couples and beginners, and close to Orland and Tinley Park's vibrant shopping and restaurant scene, which includes The Tin Fish (18201 S. Harlem Ave.), the Bonefish Grill (15537 S. La Grange Rd.), a Cooper's Hawk Winery (15690 S. Harlem Ave.), a Rock Bottom restaurant (16156 S. La Grange Rd.), Isabella Italian Cafe (17211 S. Oak Park Ave.), and the perennially-crowded Cheesecake Factory on the west side of Orland Square, not far from Macy's, or, as traditionalists call it, Marshall Field's.

[www.silverlakecc.com](http://www.silverlakecc.com)

Bon appetit!

**ON THE CORKSCREWS**

STEPHEN HAWK

In 1976, an Englishman who owned a wine shop in Paris hit upon the idea of holding a blind tasting pitting ten of France's and California's best producers against one another. He enlisted nine French wine experts as judges; the French wines included the 1970 Haut-Brion, the 1970 Mouton Rothschild, and the 1973 Domaine LeFlaive Puligny-Montrachet Les Pucelles.

The famous tasting has come to be known as The Judgement of Paris. No one expected the upstart Yanks to really put up a fight against the French heavyweights. However, when the votes were tallied, the judges were shocked to discover they had awarded the top prize for the red to the 1973 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon, and top prize for the white to Chateau Montelena Chardonnay, both from Napa Valley. It was the shock heard 'round the world, and legitimized California as a world-class wine-making region.

Chateau Montelena has seen three cycles of family stewardship. The winery was founded in 1882 by Alfred L. Tubbs, a European immigrant and entrepreneur. The original property was 254 acres of rugged, stony, and loose land just two miles north of Calistoga at the base of Mount Saint Helena. (Montelena is a contracted form of Mount Saint Helena.) By 1896 Tubbs' winery was the seventh largest in the Napa Valley.

The Tubbs family sold the winery in 1958 to Yort and Jeanie Frank, who were looking for a peaceful spot to retire. The setting inspired Frank to excavate a lake and add landscaping to reflect the Chinese gardens of his homeland.

The modern renaissance of Chateau Montelena started under the leadership of Jim Barrett, who purchased the winery in 1972. The vineyard was cleared and replanted, and the chateau was renovated and outfitted with modern winemaking equipment, complemented by the highest-quality grapes from the Napa Valley. Shortly thereafter, Chateau Montelena stunned the wine world with its win at the 1976 Paris Tasting.

**2015 Montelena Chardonnay \$58**

This wine is brilliantly clear with a golden-straw color. The nose suggests pineapple and stone

**Can't Keep 'em Down on the Farm After They've Seen Puhree**

fruit. On the palate, there are flavors of fresh orange zest and ginger which segues into a long and spicy finish. The wine was aged for 10 months in 100% French oak.

Serve this legendary wine with white-fish with filbert and lemon sauce, chicken Marsala, or duck with mustard and leeks.

**2015 Montelena Cabernet Sauvignon \$61**  
Dark ruby in color, this wine offers rich, complex aromas of fresh raspberries, strawberry jam, vanilla and black pepper. In the mouth, this wine makes a full soft round entry, after which the acid builds nicely, supporting the dominant flavor of dark stone fruit. Plenty of fine-grain tannin completes the mouthfeel, followed by a tremendous long finish.

Pair this Cabernet with beef in wine on skewers, grilled pork New Orleans, or leg of lamb in balsamic vinegar.



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