

The background of the cover is a photograph of a golf course. In the foreground, there are several sand traps on a green lawn. In the middle ground, there are lush green trees. In the background, a large, multi-story brick clubhouse with a prominent green dome is visible under a clear blue sky. The title 'GOLFChicago' is overlaid at the top, with 'GOLF' in yellow and 'Chicago' in red. An American flag is partially visible behind the 'O' in 'GOLF'.

GOLFChicago

Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

Fall 2012, Vol. 16 No. 7

39th Ryder Cup At Medinah

Holiday Gift Guide

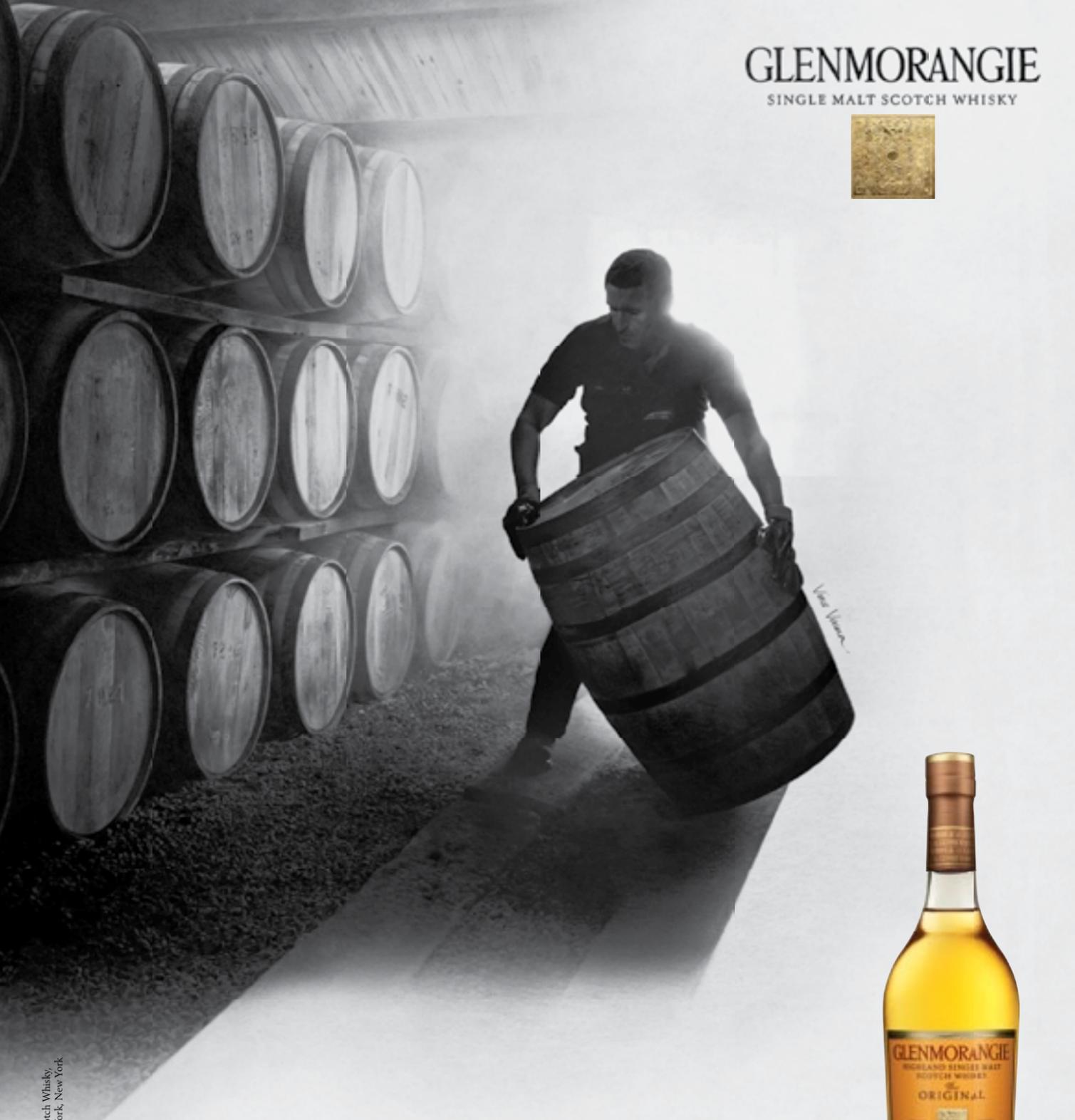
Coast to Coast Destinations

Arizona Escapes

Dave Pelz: Short Game Advisor

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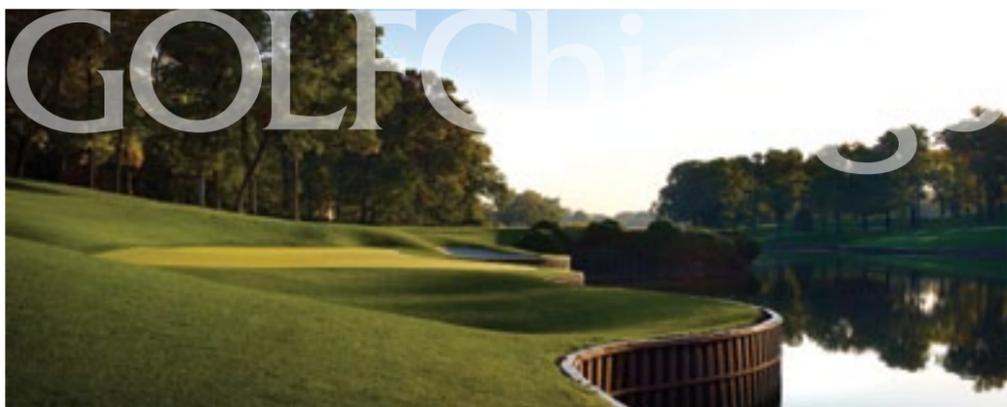


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The biggest event to hit Chicago's golf scene has arrived! The excitement, patriotism, and flavors of the Ryder Cup will be remembered for a lifetime. In this issue, our senior writer Neal Kotlarek shares a sneak peek at crucial holes and the back story for what will be the world's stage at Medinah Country Club. This is not Medinah's first dip into golf history, but the Ryder Cup will surely become a cherished memory and experience for all golfers across the Windy City.

As we reflect on Chicago's golf season, the watermark was the lack of water. The record high temperatures, rising gas prices, and the continued bogey economy affected the number of rounds played; however, unlike many predictions, we did not see courses go to seed. Our local courses have become more creative to keep play on their turf. 'Coupon golf' kept

foursomes on the hunt for deals, and proactive golf courses enticed golfers to spend their money on the local links. The reduced green fees continue to flow across Chicagoland.

Value golf is another element of why Fall Ball is our favorite season.



As we wind down on the 2012 season, there is finally time to play golf in a comfortable climate. We beat the heat, now it is time to pull out the fleece tops and enjoy the season that colors our landscape with the beauty of change and the hope of one more round before the white stuff blankets our bunkered playgrounds.

If this issue is in your hands, then it is a safe bet we are out banging balls around leafless trees in shirtsleeves and maybe even a stocking cap. We hope see you at the 30th Annual Chicago Golf Show, February 22 - 24, 2013. But until then, stay in touch at our facebook.com fan page, and look for updates and new resources on all things golf at www.GOLFChicagoMagazine.com.

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GolfChicago Magazine is published 7 times per year: March through September.

A Good Walk

The days of grandpa's old three-wheeled pull cart have evolved. What used to be associated with AARP members has evolved into high tech performance carts for golfers of all ages. Bag Boy has changed the dynamics of pushcart innovation with their new TriSwivel pushcart with SwivelTech™ technology. The 9.5-inch front wheel can be locked parallel with the rear wheels when trekking up and down hills, or when SwivelTech is employed, users experience unparalleled maneuverability. Tee boxes and greenside parking were never this easy, nor is packing the TriSwivel in the car. The unit will fit into your trunk or passenger seat.

The TriSwivel is loaded with features like a handle-mounted brake, a storage bag, a scorecard holder, and even a drink holder. Bag Boy has raised the bar for walkers, so get you feet on the turf and start seeing the course from the fairway instead of a golf car seat.

\$250
www.bagboy.com

Get a Grip

When fall golf begins across Chicagoland, we often see three seasons in the same day. Nike's All-Weather Gloves are a game-changer in wet conditions. The wetter they get, the more grip they provide.

The synthetic micro-fiber palm is thin, so unlike most weather gloves, you'll still feel the club. During a recent round in a steady rain, our tester admits these gloves were an unfair advantage. His playing partners were frustrated to the point of quitting after nine holes while he wanted to finish the round. If you like to swing in the rain, then Nike's All-Weather Gloves will help keep you on the course and your scorecard respectable.

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The Traveling Golfer

A quality travel bag for golf clubs is a lot like insurance. The high price tag for premium protection is difficult to justify...until you need it. Club Glove USA is the

#1 travel bag on the professional tours with over 90% of the players using one of the company's bags to get their sticks to the next event. If these players trust a brand, then your comfort will be piece of mind when you check in your clubs for that winter golf away.

Club Glove USA's Last Bag weighs less than 11 pounds and is made of single-piece burst-proof construction.

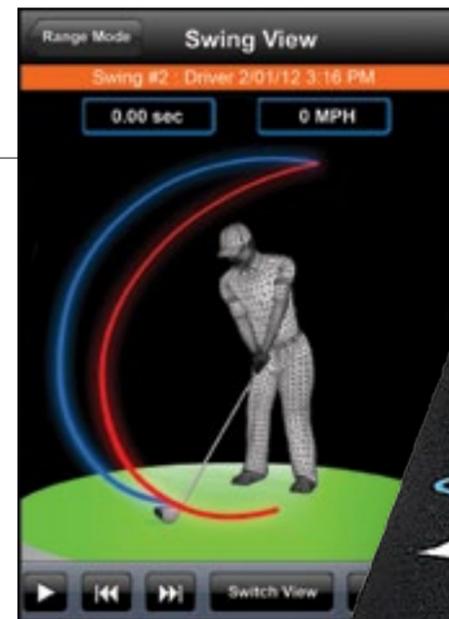
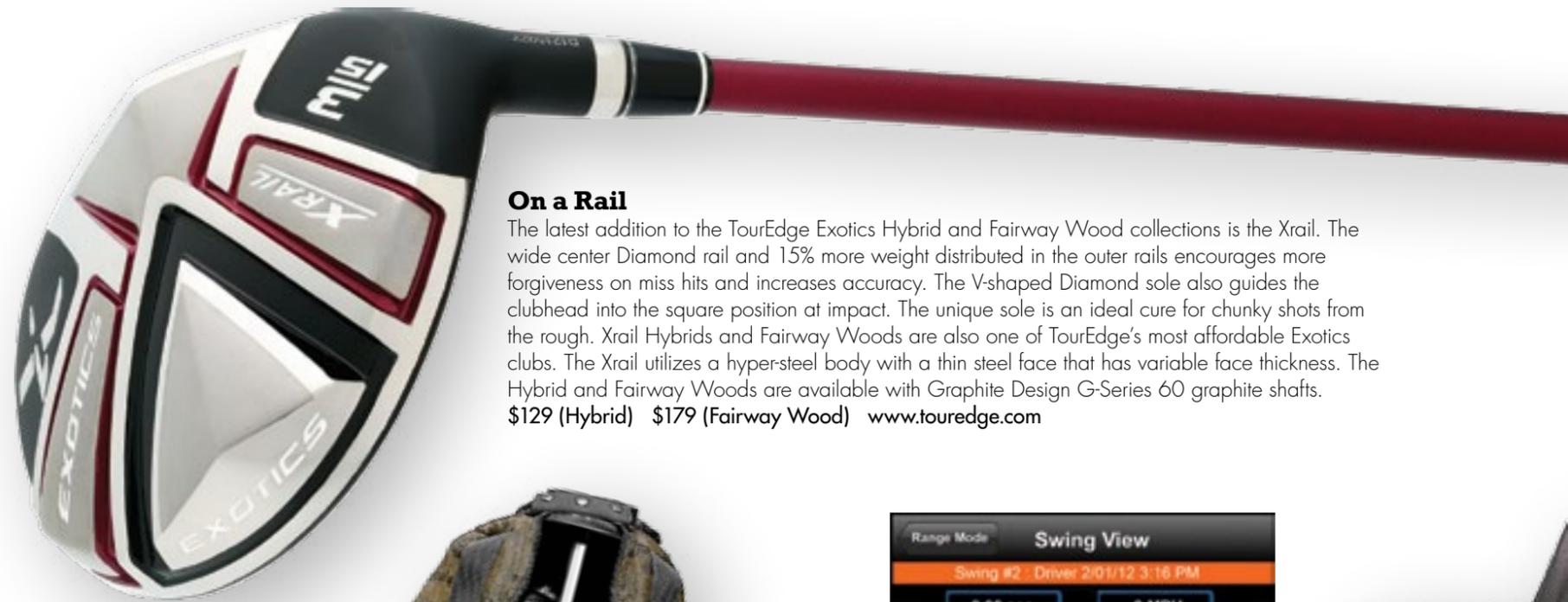
The company's Invista™ Cordura® 1000 D water-resistant nylon is three times stronger and lasts up to five times longer than standard polyester. This bag is designed to handle the roughest treatment airlines can dish out.

Club Glove USA backs the Last Bag with a limited lifetime warranty. **\$299** www.clubglove.com



On a Rail

The latest addition to the TourEdge Exotics Hybrid and Fairway Wood collections is the Xrail. The wide center Diamond rail and 15% more weight distributed in the outer rails encourages more forgiveness on miss hits and increases accuracy. The V-shaped Diamond sole also guides the clubhead into the square position at impact. The unique sole is an ideal cure for chunky shots from the rough. Xrail Hybrids and Fairway Woods are also one of TourEdge's most affordable Exotics clubs. The Xrail utilizes a hyper-steel body with a thin steel face that has variable face thickness. The Hybrid and Fairway Woods are available with Graphite Design G-Series 60 graphite shafts. **\$129 (Hybrid) \$179 (Fairway Wood)** www.touredge.com



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Great Escapes From Buried Lies

Short Game Advisor



Dave Pelz



When faced with a badly buried lie in the sand, you have to adjust your expectations for the result of the shot. If you can get the ball on to the green with a chance to one-putt, that's a big win for any golfer. When you approach a buried lie, it is a hideous sight. The ball is plugged almost entirely below the surface and it's really easy to hit a low, ugly screamer over the green.

Since it's impossible to create a lot of backspin, most golfers think they can't get it close. Trust me, you can still save par. Toss out your negative thoughts and trust a new technique the next time you are faced with one of those "dead" lies in the bunker. The "Cock and Pop" is a shot I learned from my good friend and Champions Tour pro Tom Jenkins.

In the Cock and Pop method, you'll play the ball off your back foot and close the

clubface at address so the toe of the club will enter and dig into the sand first [photo 1]. When you take your backswing, you'll take the club back just a short distance, but you'll cock your wrists as much as possible before making your descending blow [photo 2].

Pop down onto the ball and don't make a significant "full" follow-through, as you would in a normal sand swing. Just pop down on it! [photo 3] The resistance of the sand will square the clubface as it flips the ball onto the green. Expect a lower trajectory than from a normal blast.

Try a few Cock and Pop shots from buried lies the next time you practice. Your shot pattern will be more spread out than normal, but trust the technique and you'll be surprised at how often you give yourself a chance of getting up and down when it looks impossible.

Great escapes to you!



Photo 2

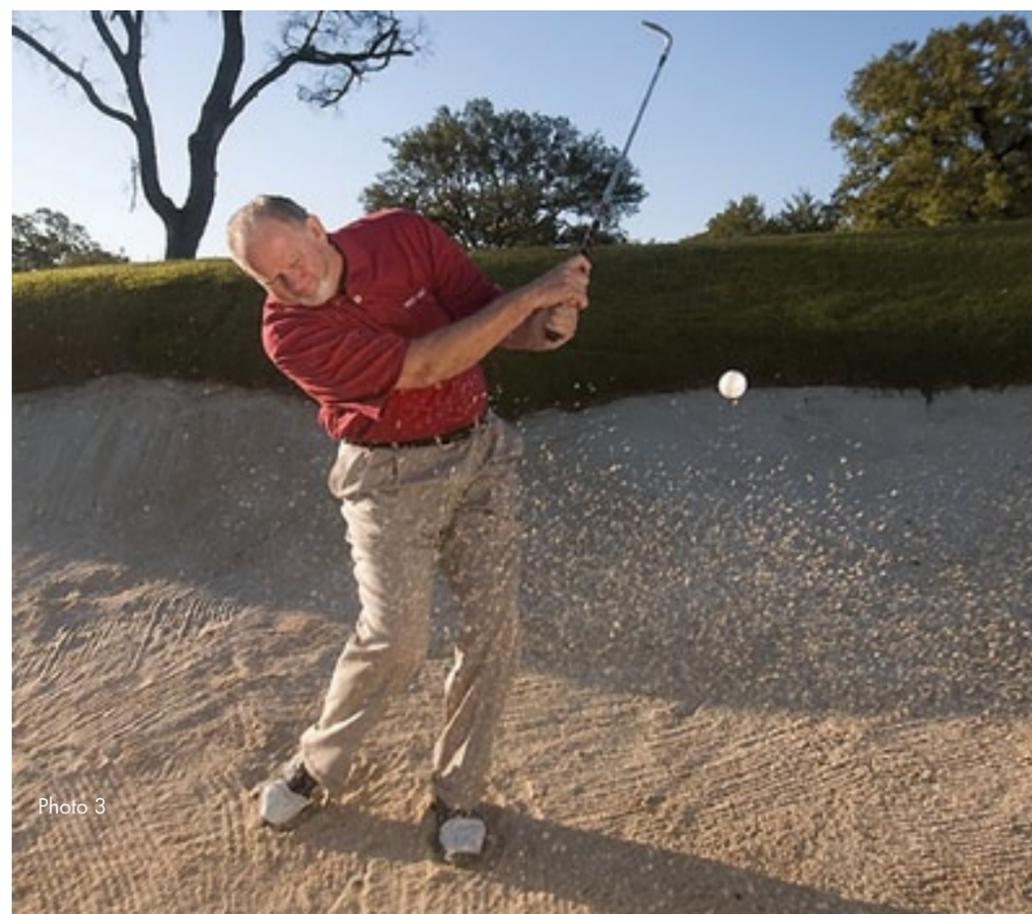


Photo 3



Photo 1

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With all due respect to Rahm Emanuel, Michael Belot may just have been the busiest Chicagoan this summer. As Director of the 2012 Ryder Cup Matches, Belot has been in charge of planning and executing the world's biggest golf event. "It truly is," Belot acknowledged in a recent interview, "the Super Bowl of golf."

Come September 28, the efforts of the PGA, Medinah Country Club and throngs of volunteers will bear fruit following years of planning and enabling when the world's best players tee off to launch three days of intense competition. America's top 12 players will compete against Europe's premier dozen with each team determined to capture a trophy that has seemingly gained in luster each year since it was first unveiled in 1927 by British vegetable-seed merchant Samuel Ryder.

No matter the previous successes, endorsements and trophies won by each of the participants, even experienced pros acknowledge the personal significance of making the Ryder Cup team. "The Ryder Cup has been

the goal of every American player," asserted Hunter Mahan a few days after he learned that he didn't make this year's line-up.

Arnold Palmer, whose 23 lifetime points in Ryder Cup play is second only to Nick Faldo's 25 points, expressed in his memoirs why he thinks the event is so important. "It simply wasn't about playing for money. It was about playing for something far grander and more personal."

Tom Watson simply calls it "a big adventure" due to all of the variables involved in an 18-hole match between top-tier players. A single missed putt, an errant approach shot, or a poorly directed tee shot is oftentimes the difference between winning a match and losing it. While walking such a tightrope is tough enough when playing for hundreds of thousands in prize money, it becomes even tougher when competing on behalf of your peers and to represent your country. According to the players, these stakes magnify the Ryder Cup's intensity. Smooth swings all of a sudden lose their fluidity. Throats become drier. Hearts start pounding. And three-foot putts, usu-

ally treated like tap-ins by these guys, become wrenching exercises in self-discipline.

The specialness of the event promises to be compounded by the depth of talent on both sides. All 24 players on both teams rank among the top 36 in the world and 13 of them rank among the top 15 in the world. Team America is led by Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, and 2012 Masters Champion Bubba Watson. Team Europe is helmed by Rory McIlroy and Luke Donald—two of the top three players in the world. With Lee Westwood, whose world rank is #4, also on the team, it makes sense why many experts have made Europe favorites to retain the cup earned at Celtic Manor in Wales in 2010.

"They're going to be tough; they are every year," acknowledges U.S. team captain Davis Love III. "I'll tell you this: I love my team," he proclaims.

Dealt a seemingly perfect hand of a small field of outstanding players and a tournament-tested layout like Medinah's #3 course, one might be led to believe that the matches are a cinch to manage.

continued on page 31

Ready, Set, Go!

Medinah Country Club Set to Host 2012 Ryder Cup Matches

SWEET HOME CHICAGO

Champions Tour on its Way

Chicago's golf fans will get something to cheer for in 2013 as both the PGA Tour and Champions Tour return to the Chicago area.

The BMW Championship—being played at Crooked Stick in Carmel, Indiana, Sept. 3-9 this year—comes back to Illinois next fall to Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake Forest.

But the big news is the return of the Champions Tour, which will bring the Encompass Championship to North Shore Country Club in Glenview on June 17-23. Encompass Insurance is based in Northbrook.

The last time the men's senior circuit was in the area was in 2002 for the SBC Senior Open at Harborside International, marking an end to a seven-year run of tournaments.

North Shore CC most recently hosted the 2011 Western Amateur, breaking its long hiatus from tournament golf. The club hosted professionals at the 1933 U.S. Open and the 1928 Western Open.

Golf is a wonderful exercise. You can stand on your feet for hours watching somebody putt.

—Will Rogers



GOLFChicago Challenge on Facebook

Does this hole look familiar? It's on one of the most popular courses in Chicagoland. If you are the first to correctly identify it, you will win a \$25 Golfsmith Gift Card.

'Like' GOLFChicago Magazine on www.facebook.com, then post your answer after October 1. Earlier entries will be not be eligible for the prize.

Oak Meadows G.C. to Host Memorial Event

Addison's Oak Meadows G.C. and Maple Meadows G.C. will play host October 2nd to a unique golf event benefiting the Maryville Academy golf program. The 10th Annual Greg Marrero Memorial Tournament celebrates the life of the area golf professional who taught at the academy. After his death in 2001, a group of friends honored Marrero's life by holding an annual event that pairs an area golf professional with an amateur in a 27-hole Ryder Cup-style format. Other participants are welcome to play a traditional round of golf.

The match play event begins at 9:30 while the Family & Friends event begins at 11:30. The \$175 registration fee includes golf, cart, lunch, dinner, and prizes. For more information contact Nancy Woulfe at 847-294.1982 or woulfen@maryvilleacademy.org.

Golf is not a fair game, so why build a course fair?
—Pete Dye

Hole-in-One Contest At Ryder Cup Matches

Janis Joplin once asked for divine intervention so that she could acquire a Mercedes-Benz. All spectators at this year's Ryder Cup matches will have the opportunity to accomplish that same feat in one sweet swing. The luxury automobile manufacturer is hosting a hole-in-one contest on a 150-yard par 3 over water on Medinah's #1 Course throughout the event.

Every fan who rings up an ace will receive the keys to a 2013 GLK 350 with a limit of one auto per contestant. The hole is located just inside the country club's main gate. Each spectator can take one shot per day during gate hours. Even bad shots will be rewarded as each registrant receives a \$500 credit toward the purchase of a car.



Smith Captures U.S. Mid-Amateur Title at Conway Farms G.C.

Nathan Smith of Pittsburgh became the first four-time winner of the U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship by scoring a one-up victory over Garrett Rank of Canada in the event's 36-hole final conducted at Conway Farms Golf Club in Libertyville.

Smith, 34, became just the 15th person in USGA history to win the same championship at least four times. Others who have accomplished that feat include Jack Nicklaus, Mickey Wright, Carol Semple Thompson, and Bobby Jones.

The 2012 U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship, for players ages 25 and older, is one of 13 national championships conducted annually by the United States Golf Association, 10 of which are strictly for amateurs.

Both Smith and Rank earned exemptions to play in next year's U.S. Mid-Amateur in Alabama. Smith will also likely receive an invitation to the 2013 Masters Tournament, his fourth opportunity to play in one of golf's most prestigious tournaments.



Nathan Smith



Garrett Rank

Golf is typical capitalist lunacy.
—George Bernard Shaw

Area Golf Domes Set To Open This November

Even before autumn's first frost sets in, golf domes and indoor practice facilities across the metro area are announcing plans for the winter season. In Bolingbrook, Mistwood Golf Club owner Jim McWethy plans to open Bolingbrook Sports Dome on November 17. Formerly known as the Ditka Dome, the completely renovated 60,000 sq. ft. heated facility will feature 50 hitting stations, two putting greens, a chipping area, and a practice sand bunker. The multi-use dome is attached to a 100-seat restaurant that has been open since mid-May. For directions and more information, visit www.bolingbrookgolfdome.com.

The opening date for Bensenville's White Pines Golf Dome is set for November 1. Voted one of the top 10 domes in America in 2010, 2011, and 2012 by *Golf Range Magazine*, the 300'w x 300'l x 100'h facility serves up 50 hitting bays, golf lessons, swing analyses, club-fitting services, demo days, simulator, and—most importantly—lots of fun. For directions and more information on White Pines Golf Dome, visit: www.whitepinesgolfdome.com.

All I've got against golf is it takes you so far from the clubhouse. —Eric Linklater

Orrick Bests Malm, Small To Win State PGA Championship

Thirty-five-year-old Steve Orrick of Decatur Country Club fired a final round 65 to beat Chris Malm and Mike Small and capture the 90th Illinois PGA Championship. The victory was of historic proportions as no club professional from outside the Chicago area had won this tournament since 1952. Playing at Stonewall Orchard Golf Club in Grayslake, Orrick vaulted past 2012 PGA Match Play Championship winner Malm (who finished second) and 9-time Illinois PGA Championship winner Small (who finished fourth).

Orrick's 7-under-par final round score featured seven birdies and no bogies. Finishing third was David Paeglow of Kishwaukee C.C.



Photo: Nick Novelli / Illinois PGA

**Illinois PGA Tournament Results:
The 90th Illinois PGA Championship
Stonewall Orchard Golf Club, Grayslake, Illinois
Final Results**

1. Steve Orrick, Mt. Zion, CC of Decatur
72, 70, 65 = 207 [-9]
2. Curtis Malm, Aurora, St. Charles CC
72, 66, 74 = 212 [-4]
3. David Paeglow, DeKalb, Kishwaukee CC
72, 76, 67 = 215 [-1]
4. Mike Small, Champaign, University of Illinois
70, 71, 75 = 216
- T5. Travis Johns, Oswego, Twin Lakes GC
73, 74, 70 = 217 [+1]
- T5. Jim Sobb, Barrington, Ivanhoe Club
72, 72, 73 = 217 [+1]
7. Frank Hohenadel, Tinley Park, Midlothian CC
70, 77, 72 = 219 [+3]
- T8. Simon Allan, Chicago, Westmoreland CC
73, 77, 70 = 220 [+4]
- T8. Jordan Schroeder, Bartlett, Barrington Hills CC
72, 77, 71 = 220 [+4]
- T8. Dan Olsen, Chicago, Beverly CC
74, 73, 73, = 220 [+4]
- T8. Chad Callan, Oglesby, Deer Park GC
72, 71, 77, = 220 [+4]
- T8. Rich Dukelow, Orland Park, Cantigny Golf
73, 71, 76, = 220 [+4]
- T13. Garrett Chaussard, Chicago, Cog Hill Golf & CC
75, 76, 72 = 223 [+7]
- T13. Billy Rosinia, Indian Head Park, Flagg Creek GC
71, 78, 74 = 223 [+7]
- T13. Scott Baines, Chicago, Bryn Mawr CC
74, 73, 76 = 223 [+7]
- T16. Jason Lee, Forest Park, Ridgemoor CC
75, 73, 76 = 224 [+8]
- T16. Brian Brown, Clarendon Hills, Naperville CC
78, 71, 75 = 224 [+8]
- T16. Mike Harrigan, Chicago, PGA Life Member
71, 76, 77 = 224 [+8]
- T16. Connie DeMattia, Golf, Cantigny Golf
71, 74, 79 = 224 [+8]

Gaylord Golf Mecca Celebrates 25 Years

One of Chicagoans' favorite golf getaways celebrated its 25th anniversary in September. The modest northern Michigan city of Gaylord is the hub of some of the Midwest's grandest golf courses, including four championship courses at Treetops Resort. In total, the Mecca incorporates 17 golf courses, including layouts

designed by Tom Doak, Tom Fazio, Robert Trent Jones, Sr. and Rees Jones.

"It has been an amazing journey," said Paul Beachnau, executive director of the Gaylord Area Chamber of Commerce. "We made it through some incredibly rough economic times that hit Midwesterners particularly hard. "But our group stuck together and continued

to make investments in the golf courses and in marketing them. The 2011 results speak for themselves." Indeed, the number of rounds played at Gaylord area golf courses increased by 13.5% last year with golf and accommodation sales combining for \$21.5 million in revenue.

Along with Treetops Resort, Gaylord Golf Mecca properties include Garland Resort, Otsego

Club, Marsh Ridge G.C., Black Forest G.C., Elk Ridge G.C., and Black Lake G.C. According to Beachnau, late September and the entire month of October are some of the best weeks to visit these properties due to both the autumn beauty and significant fall season discounts.

For more information, visit www.gaylordgolfmecca.com or call 800-325-8621.

**2012
Glenmorangie
Team
Championship
Invitational**

Black Sheep Golf Club in Sugar Grove hosted 26 two-man teams for the 5th annual Glenmorangie Team Championship Invitational. The field consisted of players from Chicago's private clubs. Each two-man team tackled the prestigious David Esler-design at Black Sheep, which played over 7,000 yards. Team Exmoor Country Club shot a blistering 68 to bring home this year's championship. Exmoor's Blake Johnson (2010 Glenmorangie champion) and Kyle Nathan defeated the invitational's strongest field to date.

In addition to sponsoring the stellar play on the much-heralded Sugar Grove course, Glenmorangie donated \$1,000 to the First Tee Chapter of Fox Valley in Aurora.



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Fazio Masterpiece Highlights Spectacular Grand Del Mar Resort

By Dave Weretka

Nestled in San Diego's Los Penasquitos canyon, Grand Del Mar Resort is exquisite in every sense of the word. No less than *Condé Nast* magazine declared that this sprawling property just east of Interstate 5 is one of the "World's Best Places To Stay." All this praise is deserved, despite the fact that the resort opened a scant five years ago. Beautiful Mediterranean-themed architecture, marble floors, a 75-foot-long mosaic tile fountain, hand-crafted carpets, cathedral-sized ceilings, and thousands of newly planted trees are all touches that make this resort big, elegant and spectacular. Throw in the perfect So Cal weather and you can't help but wonder if you've stumbled upon a modern Eden.

Developed by Manchester Financial Group at a cost of \$270 million and 150,000 man-hours, the resort hotel piles on the guest amenities, including a 21,000 sq. ft. spa, four swimming pools, a fitness center, tennis courts, and an equestrian center. The centerpiece of the property is a Tom Fazio-designed championship course that stretches across 380 acres of the canyon preserve.

The 7,160-yard course is a wonderful test with spectacular views of the countryside as well as of the resort. It is truly a walk through nature. Scenic valleys give each hole a secluded feeling with very few holes adjacent to each other. While the landscape around you is dramatic, the course topography provides gentle rises and falls. Wide fairways greet your tee ball and tempt you to take some aggressive lines of play. Large, snaking white sand bunkers—a Fazio trademark—can be found across the entire layout.

The two best holes on the course are, not coincidentally, the two most dramatic holes. The 480-yard, fourth hole is listed as the most difficult hole on the course.



Florida's Sun Shines Brightly for Golfers

By Dave Weretka with Neal Kotlarek

PGA NATIONAL RESORT
PGA National Resort & Spa is a celebration of golf. Located in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, this sprawling and splendid property is home to five championship courses. Home of the PGA Tour's Honda Classic, The Champion course was designed by Jack Nicklaus. Most Tour fans know The Champion course for its famed "Bear Trap" sequence—a three-hole stretch that perplexes and usually vexes golfers when played into a headwind. But PGA National is much more than 90 holes of magnificent golf. It is a full-service resort committed to serving up great experiences and great food.

The 2,340-acre vacation and meeting destination will complete a massive \$22 million improvements project in October. One can easily get lost on the property for a week by sampling all the fabulous amenities, including spa services, swimming pools, racquet sports, and multiple dining options. Although the resort was a beehive of activity during our visit, expect personalized services from both the resort and golf staffs.

The property's name seems to ensure that its focus will always be on our favorite pastime. The five courses were designed by a virtual all-star cast of great architects led by Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, and Tom & George Fazio. Amazingly, each course is distinct from its counterparts. The Palmer has a Scottish feel. The Haig—a tribute to tour legend Walter Hagen—allows players provides generous landing areas and multiple approach shot options. The Squire, named after the amazing Gene Sarazen, offers a test of shot-making and creativity. Even though my favorite was The Champion, it was less because of the course's reputation for testing the world's greatest players and more because of the surprising changes



But don't be intimidated by the length, as the blue tees reduce this par 4 to a far more playable 412 yards. The tee is perched high above the canyon floor, thus providing both amazing scenery as well as a great launching pad for a descending drive that gains extra carry. While the tee shot landing area is generous, it sets up a difficult long-iron or wood to a narrow sloping green.

The 416-yard, fifteenth hole is almost a bookend to the aforementioned fourth hole. The tee is located on the highest point of the golf course, providing still another breathtaking panorama. A forced-carry over brush is required to reach another generous landing area. Don't be fooled by the open view to the green from here as the fairway dips to the left of the green to capture and collect all approach shots in that direction. A sand bunker to that side only adds to the difficulty.

The 363-yard length on hole 18 seems to indicate a cupcake finish to the course. Nothing could be further from the truth, as bunkers protect the tee shot landing area. Closer to the green, a creek bisects the fairway while deep sand bunkers lie in waiting to the left of the putting surface. Tightening the approach further is a large, beautiful waterfall that protects the right side.

The resort's golf staff, headed by Shawn Cox, Director of Golf, offers private and group lessons to sharpen your game. In addition to the on-site staff, Dave Pelz holds his Scoring Game School on the grounds. Dave Stockton, Jr. of Dave Stockton Golf Academy has recently joined the staff to help hone your short game.

As with every aspect of Grand del Mar, dining at the resort is unrivaled. Addison is the hotel's signature restaurant and is a must for those seeking pampering. The establishment's wine collection spans over 3,600 selections. The plating presentation by the staff was perfectly timed during my visit and each course featured an amazing wine pairing.

Accommodations at the resort cross the spectrum from great to spectacularly decadent. The hotel's new "Coast to Canyon" golf package kicks off this fall and includes overnight accommodations at The Grand, a round on the legendary



Scenic valleys give each hole a secluded feeling with very few holes adjacent to each other.

The property's name seems to ensure that its focus will always be on our favorite pastime. The five courses were designed by a virtual all-star cast of great architects.



of topography over the flat south Florida landscape.

The Champion was originally designed by the aforementioned Fazio brothers and was redesigned in 1991 by Nicklaus. Its modest length (for a tournament course) of 7,048 yards is less relevant than some imposing statistics: 107 bunkers and 16 out of the 18 holes featuring water hazards. That said, don't expect to reduce your handicap by attacking the flagstick.

Don't fret if you leave any of the courses with aches and pains. The 40,000 sq. ft. Spa at PGA National offers sports massages along with a wide array of services provided in 32 treatment rooms. Those looking to soothe their minds and bodies head for the facility's "Waters of the World" where one can bathe in the pristine waters of Salies de Bearn from the Pyrenees Mountains.

Now thoroughly rejuvenated and relaxed, head to the property's 33,000-sq.-ft. fitness center or play tennis on one of 19 Har-Tru tennis courts. Other offerings include racquetball, jogging paths, fitness classes, a lap pool and five tournament-certified croquet lawns.

Dining options include the Ironwood Steak & Seafood Restaurant featuring Waygu and Black Angus beef dry-aged for 21 days and cooked to perfection at 1200 degrees. Other dining and drinking options include the Monte Cristo Lounge, the Waters of the World Café, and the iBar.

Information on fall packages for PGA National Resort can be found at www.pgaresort.com. From October 16 to January 12, the resort is running a fall golf package that includes lodging, unlimited golf [surcharge for The Champion], 50% off the Leadbetter Golf Academy Daily Clinic, and breakfast for \$199 per day.

BOCA RATON RESORT & CLUB Built in the 1920s, this Waldorf Astoria property is synonymous with elegance and luxury. You can't drive anywhere in this community of the rich and famous and not notice the tall pink sprawling Mediterranean-style resort facility designed by legendary architect Addison Mizner.

The centerpieces of the 356-acre oceanside complex are two



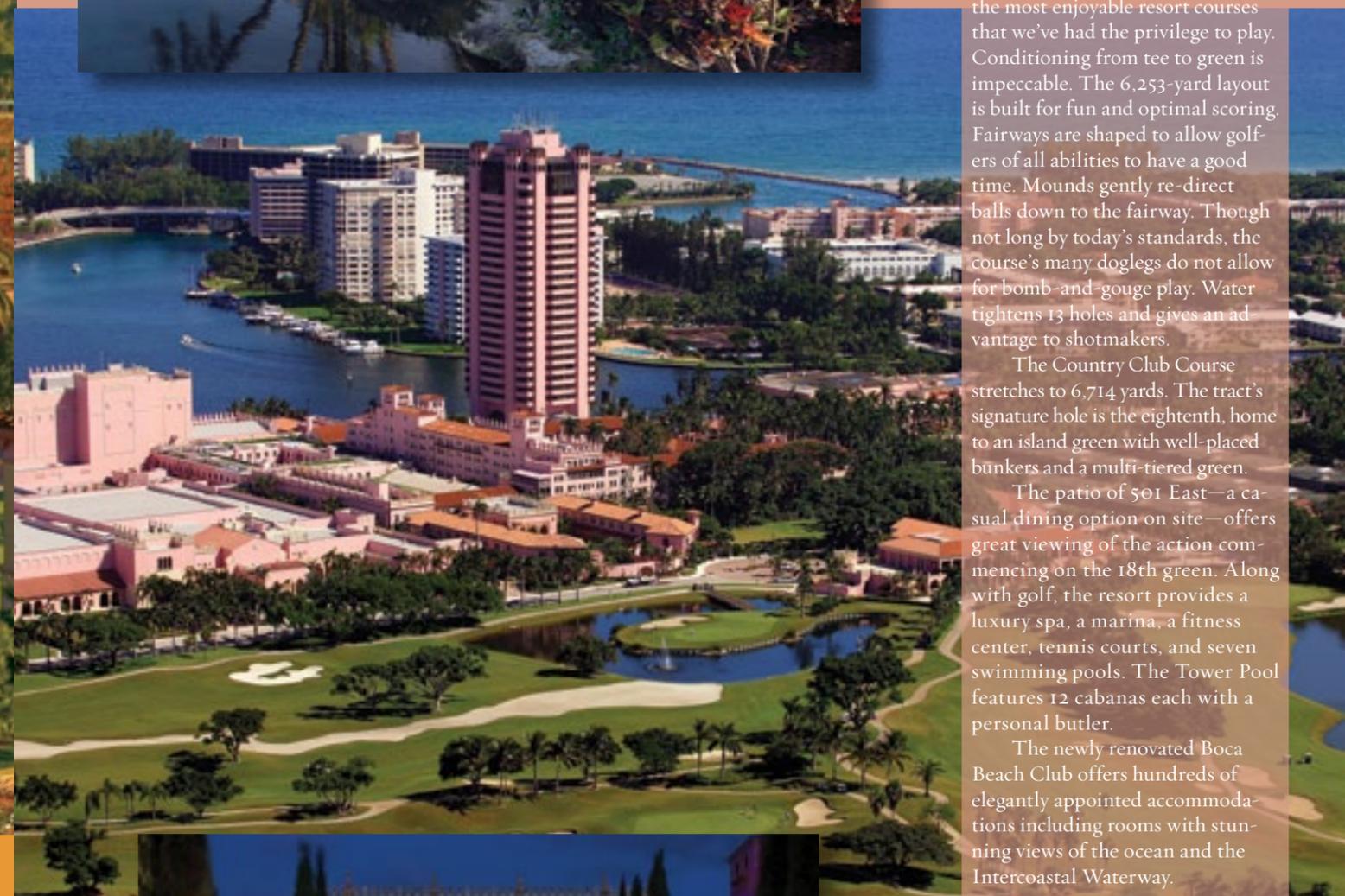
championship courses: the Resort Course and the Country Club Course. The Boca Resort has a rich tradition and history and claims former PGA Tour stars Sam Snead and Tommy Armour as past PGA professional staff members. Many guests book rooms specifically to receive lessons at the renowned Dave Pelz Scoring Game School

The Resort Course is one of the most enjoyable resort courses that we've had the privilege to play. Conditioning from tee to green is impeccable. The 6,253-yard layout is built for fun and optimal scoring. Fairways are shaped to allow golfers of all abilities to have a good time. Mounds gently re-direct balls down to the fairway. Though not long by today's standards, the course's many doglegs do not allow for bomb-and-gouge play. Water tightens 13 holes and gives an advantage to shotmakers.

The Country Club Course stretches to 6,714 yards. The tract's signature hole is the eighteenth, home to an island green with well-placed bunkers and a multi-tiered green.

The patio of 501 East—a casual dining option on site—offers great viewing of the action commencing on the 18th green. Along with golf, the resort provides a luxury spa, a marina, a fitness center, tennis courts, and seven swimming pools. The Tower Pool features 12 cabanas each with a personal butler.

The newly renovated Boca Beach Club offers hundreds of elegantly appointed accommodations including rooms with stunning views of the ocean and the Intercoastal Waterway.



nearby Torrey Pines South course, and unlimited golf at the Grand Golf Club. Check out the Grand Del Mar Resort website for more package information.

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Miura Golf, the legendary Japanese maker of the world's finest forged golf clubs, is cooperating with K.J. Choi, the world-class Korean golfer, to offer a special, limited edition replica set of the Miura forged irons Choi used to win the PLAYERS Championship on the PGA Tour.

The K.J. Choi Special Limited Edition Irons by Miura include the exact same Miura-forged CB-501 model 4-iron through pitching wedge that Choi carried at TPC Sawgrass, plus special Miura 54- and 59-degree wedges. The clubs feature shafts by KBS, the same model Choi used, plus special Miura grips made by PURE Grips. Special graphics designed for these sets alone adorn each club.

Only 300 sets of these special clubs will ever be made. Each club bears its own set number, displayed as in this example -- 001/300 -- to show that it is part of one of only 300 sets that will ever exist.



When the weather outside is frightful, once you get home slip out of those wet clothes and into a dry martini made with **Blue Ice G Vodka**. Blue Ice G is the third and newest in the Blue Ice line. It is made from a high quality blend of American grain, distilled four times, and filtered five times to ensure Blue Ice's signature taste, smooth but full-bodied.

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This wristlet from The Classic Collection features golden golf-ball beads. \$49
www.SportyChicDesigns.com

2012 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



Taking what Sunice does best and applying it outside of the raingear spectrum has resulted in the **Sunice Pro-Sport Collection**. This category features WindStopper® by Gore as its high-end performance gear, resulting in lightweight and fashion-driven layering pieces. These most breathable, 100% windproof, highly water-repellent styles available from Sunice include the new Triberg, a super-lightweight and four-way-stretch jacket; the Malaga is the vest version incorporating the same features. The Dundee, York, and Birmingham all provide new design options in our famous WindStopper-lined sweaters. The WindStopper can be worn as an outer layer on a chilly/windy day, and that's why it's the perfect gift!



If you need a stocking stuffer for the golfer that must try everything, why not gift a few more yards? The **TIPS Super Tee** is available in different lengths and colors, and promises to add a few extra yards to users. These tees are long-lasting and conform to USGA and R&A Rules. **\$5.99** www.startingtimegolf.com



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2012 HOLIDAY GOLF GIFT GUIDE

4 HOLES

That Will Determine the 2012 Ryder Cup Champion

by Neal Kotlarek

Match play, according to two-time Ryder Cup team member Johnny Miller, "exposes your character and how much of a will to win you have in your heart."

That said, character and heart will be on full display across Medinah Country Club's #3 Course come September 28th – 30th when 24 of the world's best players battle each other in the 39th Ryder Cup Matches. Led by three of the top four players in the world rankings, Team Europe is considered a slight favorite to retain the cup earned in 2010 at Celtic Manor Resort in Wales. Given home field advantage and a strong team anchored by Tour veterans Tiger Woods, Steve Stricker, and Jim Furyk, Team USA is expected to put up an excellent fight. Don't count them out.

The team match play format that makes this event distinct from every other event on the PGA Tour tends to place emphasis on a small number of holes that can change the context of a match. These holes are either long and susceptible to bogeys or short and amenable to birdies. If you are one of the lucky few to have secured tickets to attend the matches, you may wish to arrive early to receive a good vantage point on one of these four holes. According to a number of experts, there is a reasonable likelihood that one or all of these will determine which team is spraying itself with champagne on Sunday evening.

All inset photos © Photography by Gary W. Kellner / Dimpled Rock, LLC



No. **5**
536 yards
Par 5

On a course that stretches to 7,658 yards, easy-birdie holes are few and far between. Even the shortest par 3 on the course, No. 2, plays to a grueling 192 yards. With two of Medinah's par 5s set up at over 600 yards, only two others can be considered modest by today's high-tech standards.

Gary D'Amato, prize-winning golf writer of *The Milwaukee Journal*, plans to keep an eye on one par 5 in particular: "No. 5 could be a pivotal hole early in matches, many of which could be all square going into the shortest par 5 on the course. The green is reachable in two after a good drive and invites a risk/reward approach into the elevated putting surface. The gallery's roar after an eagle by Team USA would reverberate through the fairway-interrupted forest that is Medinah. Conversely, an eagle by the Europeans would put a screeching halt to early U.S. momentum. In any case, expect to see some fireworks on No. 5. Even in the alternate shot format, par probably won't win the hole and likely will lose it."

Michael Nolan, Tournament Director of the 2012 Matches, echoes D'Amato's opinion. "Players will be expected to make birdie on No. 5. It's a true risk/reward hole. I think you'll see lots of scoreboard shifting after each group walks off that green. There will be more wins and losses on this hole and not a lot of pushes."

If that Mayhem guy from the insurance commercials were to sponsor a hole at Medinah during Ryder Cup week, this "short" par 4 would undoubtedly be the one he'd select. While listed on the scorecard at 391 yards, No. 15 will definitely be adjusted in the course set-up to give players a chance to reach this green off the tee.

Master architect Rees Jones was brought back to Medinah following his 2003 re-work of the Tom Bendelow-designed course specifically to adjust greens and to make No. 15 a dramatic match-play hole. Players seeking to win a hole down the stretch will reach into their bags for the long stick and ignore the sand bunkers in front of this green and the collection area behind it.

"There's not another hole on the course like No. 15," says Nolan. "It's going to be absolutely exciting to observe how players approach this hole. The members love this hole because it's fun and playable. I think the Ryder Cup players will enjoy how No. 15 allows for different strategies depending on wind conditions and hole setup."

No. **15**
391 yards
Par 4



No. **16**
482 yards
Par 4

The 1999 PGA Championship is remembered by many golf fans for the approach shot struck by a young Sergio Garcia on this par 4. The Spaniard had hit his tee shot dead next to a large oak nearly 200 yards from the green. He proceeded to hit his 6-iron second shot on the green with his eyes closed. The miraculous approach kept him in contention for the title eventually won by Tiger Woods.

Mike Munro, owner of White Pines Golf Dome in Bensenville, says he will be keeping an eye on No. 16 throughout each day's matches. "Many members consider this to be the hardest par 4 on the course. It measures 452 yards and plays every bit of it due to its significant elevation change from the tee to the green. The hole is a big dogleg left and requires a high and long tee shot to clear many large trees located on the left side of the fairway. Longer hitters, especially those that hit it from right to left, will look at this hole with excitement, while the shorter hitters may struggle to make par. As if the tee shot isn't hard enough, the second shot must land on a severely elevated green which makes stopping the ball extremely difficult. Only the top of the flagstick is viewable from the fairway. Balls that come up short of the green pose the possibility of rolling back nearly 100 feet. Most golfers will likely make bogey if they end up in this precarious position at the base of the green. Shots hit long in the tall rough will have difficulty in getting up and down due to the back to front contoured green.

"Don't be surprised," Munro continues, "if the PGA puts the pin in the back right quadrant on Sunday which will put the deep bunker directly in front of it very much in play. From there, a skillful sand shot is needed to get the ball up and over the deep lip of the bunker and make it stop in the narrow crook of the green. The 16th hole has been a pivotal hole for many other Ryder Cups played at other great courses. It promises to be again this year."



Anyone who has played Medinah #3 over the years knows No. 17 to be the course's signature par 3. With a tee perched high above the green fronted by water and supported by a huge sand bunker, the hole is as beautiful as it is dangerous. According to Michael J. Scully, Director of Golf at Medinah, look to this hole for chills, spills, birdies, and bogies. "The key here will be the wind off Lake Kadajah," he says, adding, "and the nerves of trying to win a match to win the 39th Ryder Cup. Hitting this relatively flat green will be the key with being long or left, making up and down quite difficult."

In previous championships held at Medinah, including the 1990 U.S. Open won by Hale Irwin and the 2006 PGA Championship won by Woods, the pin position on No. 17 played a significant role in how the competitors challenged the hole. Even when the flagstick is tucked near the front of this green, players attempt to steer tee shots just over the lake so as to leave an uphill birdie putt.

No. **17**
193 yards
Par 3

© Medinah Country Club/Premier Aerials LLC

Ready, Set, Go!

continued from page 11

But it's not as easy as it sounds. Thousands of details are involved in planning the event, from player meetings to golf course conditioning to a reception at the Akoo Theatre in Rosemont for volunteer management. "It's all a fun challenge," Belot said. "But the challenge isn't in managing the details we know; rather, it is in preparing for the unexpected—things like bad weather and how that could affect traffic and parking and the television schedule.

"What makes this event different from other events," Belot said, "is the international aspect. There's the gala to schedule and then there's opening ceremonies—and then, by the way, you do play golf!"

The role requires Belot, who lives in Wheaton with wife Katie and two sons, to wear many hats from managing ticket sales to marketing and public relations efforts to parking and traffic management. "We have over 800 acres of property to work with at Medinah," he said. "And yet there is no dead or unused space anywhere."

Everyone in attendance over the three days of the event, Belot said, will feel the electric atmosphere that the Ryder Cup generates. "There's a feeling on site that can't be described," he said. "The roars heard during these matches are unlike the roars you hear at other tournaments, even the majors," he added. "That's the fun of being there."

Playing conditions at Medinah are expected to be superb. Rees Jones was brought to the course in 2009 to recontour and rebuild 11 greens in a \$1.5 million renovation. "Rees did an excellent job of making the course both playable for the members and yet challenging for the world's best players," Belot said. While the PGA provided input, opinions and thoughts on renovations made to the course prior to the matches, club members oversaw all stages of the process.

The most significant change made on the course in this renovation was that a new short par 4 was created to create a classic risk-reward challenge that will encourage players to try to reach this green off the tee. According to Jones, the new 15th "comes at a crucial point in the round, following the long par-5 14th and before the famous closing three-hole stretch," he said. "The landing area and the green have shifted slightly up the slope to the left, while the new two-acre pond protects the entire right side of the hole."

"We can't wait for people to come out and experience the Ryder Cup," Belot stated. "I believe," he added, "that it's going to be absolutely exciting."



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A d v e r t i s e m e n t

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

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

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

You will find much more than bunkers and tee boxes while on holiday in Arizona. The desert has

Arizona Chicago's Southwestern Oasis

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.

hundreds of species of living creatures that are not in the Midwest, including jaguars near Tucson.

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.

Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club

Maricopa, Arizona

Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club is located on 320 acres of spectacular desert terrain in Maricopa, Arizona, 30 minutes southeast of Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport.

The nearby Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Resort offers 300 luxurious guest rooms set amid lush landscaping and luxurious amenities.

Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club's distinctive clubhouse and Grille109 provide exquisite indoor and outdoor spaces for intimate events and meetings. Our banquet room, Venue109, can comfortably accommodate groups up to 100. Call 480.367.8949 for more information.

Ak-Chin Southern Dunes offers world-class golf and complete practice facilities with an extensive short-game area, practice putting green and dual-ended practice tee. On-site PGA professionals are available for custom club fitting as well as individual and group lessons and clinics. Grille109 caps off the club's exceptional amenities by providing a laid-back dining experience with a sweeping view of the Estrella Mountains.

Sprawling across more than 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 expanses—this world-class, Troon Golf-managed club offers impeccable course conditioning, unmatched playability, and superlative customer service, thus ensuring an unparalleled round of extraordinary golf.

Sculpted by master architect Brian Curley, with the help of golf legend Fred Couples, 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. The course's 109 strategically placed flashed-up bunkers—totaling a massive 12 acres of sand—add challenge to the experience and encourage golfers to hit their drivers on nearly every hole. Meanwhile, calculated approach shots into small, well-designed greens complexes place a premium on precision. And with no homes on or around the golf course, Southern Dunes allows golfers to experience 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, the host of two Arizona Amateur Championships, and home to two PGA Tour Q-School second-stage 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, Southern Dunes' five sets of tees still provide novices with both a unique challenge and a memorable day of golf. Simply stated, Southern Dunes doesn't just offer desert golf; it presents golfers of all skill levels and abilities with the very best golf in the desert.

For even more fun and excitement off the course, the nearby Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Resort boasts the perfect complement to Southern Dunes' incredible golf experience with its one-of-a-kind blend of first-class gaming and amazing amenities, which include an idyllic courtyard with an exotic swimming pool and swim-up bar.

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Tee It Up At This Arizona Fab Five From Foothills Golf Group

The Duke, Club West, Ahwatukee CC, Foothills, and Ahwatukee Lakes

When the winter is dragging on in the Midwest, your mind can't help but wander to the lush fairways, stately saguaros, and warm weather that grace Arizona all winter long. And once you get to the Grand Canyon State, the choice of courses can be overwhelming for the first-time desert golfer. One group in particular serves up the perfect combination of fun-filled desert golf at a great value: Foothill Golf Group. All five FGG courses (Club West Golf Club, Foothills Golf Club, The Duke Golf Club, Ahwatukee Country Club, and Ahwatukee Lakes) are located in close proximity to Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and will make your Arizona getaway a great one.



Those that start off their Arizona vacation at the group's home base, the Foothills Golf Club, won't be disappointed. Designed by the internationally acclaimed duo of Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish (the same combo that designed TPC Scottsdale where the WM Phoenix Open is played), The Foothills boasts a par 72 desert-style course that is accented by rolling fairways and 65 strategically placed bunkers set against a rocky desert terrain. For tee times at the Foothills Golf Club, visit www.thefoothillsgc.com or call 480-460-4653.

Located just a few minutes west of Foothills (think 36-hole days) is the Brian Whitcomb / Ken Kavanaugh designed Club

West Golf Club that boasts four sets of tees ranging from 4,985 yards in length to as much as 7,142 yards from the back tees. The course's elevation and beauty distinguishes itself from other Phoenix golf courses, and scenic views of the nearby South Mountain range are as abundant as saguaros in the desert. For more information on Club West Golf Club, visit www.clubwestgolf.com or call 480-460-4400.

Golfers that mosey on over to The Duke Golf Club in nearby Maricopa, will keep coming back for more. This 7011 yard, David Druzisky design was ranked as the "#1 Player Friendly Course in Phoenix/Scottsdale" by *Golf Tips Magazine* and is known for its laid-back Old West-inspired ambiance. For more info on The Duke, visit www.thedukegolf.com or call 480-844-1100.

Located in the Phoenix suburb of Ahwatukee (pronounced roughly 'aah waa two key') Ahwatukee Country Club was designed by Arizona golf legend John Bulla. This 6,713 yard, par 72 layout combines the beauty of its desert landscape with mature tree-lined fairways—giving the course a more traditional feel. Located just minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, Ahwatukee CC is the perfect course to begin or end your Arizona Golf Vacation. Also be sure to tee it up on neighboring Ahwatukee Lakes Golf Club, where the short but fun Gary Panks design serves up an 18 hole, par 60, executive course that has been honored as one of the Top 25 Executive Courses in the nation. For more information on Ahwatukee Country Club or Ahwatukee Lakes, visit www.ahwatukeegolf.com, call 480-893-1161, or follow the conversation on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ahwatukeegolf or on twitter at: www.twitter.com/ahwatukeegolf.

All of these Foothills Golf Group courses deliver fun desert-inspired golf at a great value that won't hurt your pocket book—especially for those that book on-line at their official websites, where the best rates are offered. So what are you waiting for? Put aside that snow blower, buy your ticket to Arizona, book your tee times at Foothills Golf Group courses, and get out here.



FIVE OF ARIZONA'S great golf values

With five great Arizona courses to choose from you get the highest quality on the golf course, and save enough money to play another round. Check out these great values...



ahwatukeegolf.com
480.893.1161



ahwatukeegolf.com
480.893.3004



clubwestgolf.com
480.460.4400



thedukegolf.com
480.844.1100



thefoothillsgc.com
480.460.4653

Book tee times online to get the Best Rates Guaranteed!

The Golf Club Scottsdale

Scottsdale, Arizona

Sitting in the shadows of the McDowell Mountains, amid indigo skies and the lush Sonoran Desert, The Golf Club Scottsdale presents a private golf experience unlike any other. With an award-winning clubhouse, unparalleled service, and one of the finest golf courses in the entire Southwest, it's no wonder this club has been racking up countless accolades as a must-visit golf destination in the Grand Canyon State.

The Golf Club Scottsdale is distinguished by what can only be called a true golf masterpiece. Protected by thousands of acres of spectacular desert landscape, this premier par-72 course—designed by Jay Morrish and Dick Bailey—pays

the club's award-winning course. Comprising nearly 14 acres, the practice center features numerous target sites, putting greens, short game areas, and practice tees, as well as an expansive driving range.

To complete the overall golf experience, The Golf Club Scottsdale also features a one-of-a-kind hacienda-style clubhouse. Covered porticos and courtyards give this extraordinary 25,000 square-foot facility a traditional Old-World ambiance, while men's and women's locker rooms, private and club dining rooms, and an elegantly appointed golf shop present members with all the amenities they need to



homage to the tradition of the game with classic routing, undulating fairways, and well-manicured greens. Stunning views of the desert's pristine Saguaro forests and soaring red-rock mountains further add to the course's majesty. And with no homes to obstruct these spectacular vistas, golfers can fully immerse themselves in each and every round.

The Golf Club Scottsdale also offers one of the largest practice facilities in the Southwest—a perfect complement to

enjoy the comfort and camaraderie for which The Golf Club Scottsdale is known.

Membership has grown substantially since the launch of our new membership offering of family golf memberships starting at \$25,000. It's a terrific value at that price for an outstanding private golf club experience! For more information about The Golf Club Scottsdale, call Sharon Carry, Membership Director 480-281-1040 or visit www.TheGolfClubScottsdale.com.



"Top Ten Best Private Golf Clubs"
Golf Digest

"One of '10 to Take Your Breath Away'"
Golf Magazine

THE GRAND TRADITIONS OF THE GAME

At The Golf Club Scottsdale we're dedicated to the time honored grand traditions of the game. Our 7,561 yard Jay Morrish and Dick Bailey designed course was created by golf purists for the golf purist and is unencumbered by homes as it winds its way through the unspoiled

saguaro forests of North Scottsdale. Our authentic Hacienda styled clubhouse evokes the casual charm and rustic beauty of the grand ranchos of days gone by. A private club restricted to 350 fortunate members, The Golf Club Scottsdale leaves nothing



to chance when it comes to relaxation and enjoyment from our perfectly manicured fairways and greens to our artfully planned and executed cuisine by one of Arizona's finest culinary staffs.

A remarkable Sonoran Desert setting offers solitude and tranquility year-round, and

since membership isn't tied to real estate ownership, members are free to live where they wish while enjoying all the traditions of club membership. To learn more about our membership program contact Sharon Carry at 480-281-1040.



THE GOLF CLUB SCOTTSDALE

FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION CALL 480.281.1040

29001 NORTH 122ND STREET, SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85262 • THEGOLFCLUBSCOTTSDALE.COM

Warm Up Your Game at Los Caballeros Golf Club

Wickenburg, Arizona

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

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

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

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



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

LCGC is on the grounds of Rancho de los Caballeros, a 20,000-acre ranch resort that has been family-owned since its opening in 1948. Kicking off its 65th season on October 12th, The Ranch offers resort amenities and uncommon western activities for guests looking for an authentic southwestern experience. With only 79

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

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



PUT THE CART
before the horse.

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

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



HORSES | SPA | GOLF | SUN

800-684-5030

www.ranchodeloscaballeros.com

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

Rio Verde Country Club. Golf...and a Whole Lot More.

Rio Verde, Arizona

Located in Rio Verde, one of Arizona's premier active adult communities, Rio Verde Country Club offers spectacular golf, breathtaking scenery, and a strong social presence among the membership. It is nestled in the heart of the beautiful Sonoran Desert within the Tonto National Forest and McDowell Regional Park, and features more than 900 diverse homes and townhomes, a local church, a post office, and small commercial center, providing that highly sought after small-town feel.

Rio Verde Country Club boasts not one, but two, outstanding golf courses offering plenty of variety for all levels of play. Both courses were redesigned by Tom Lehman in 2009, and are traditional parkland-style courses, as opposed to the numerous target-golf desert courses that you see at other clubs in the Valley.

Both Quail Run and White Wing are great walking courses, but there is no trail fee for those golfers that want to use their personal golf carts. The club also is extremely conscious of the female golfer, having one of the more active women's golf associations in Arizona.

The hub of the Rio Verde social scene starts at the elegant 27,000 square-foot southwestern-style clubhouse, which offers three restaurants featuring a distinct variety of dining options. Whether it's a casual slice of pizza and a beer in the Verde Pub, or a more upscale dining experience in the Copper Room, there is something for every occasion. Additionally, Rio Verde's spacious ballroom, considered to be one of the largest among the private clubs in Arizona, stands ready to host bigger social gatherings for special events and weddings.

When not playing golf, members at Rio Verde Country Club have a myriad of other activities to enjoy. The community has six tennis courts, a recently renovated swimming pool, a fully-equipped state-of-the-art exercise facility, a Saddle Club, hiking and biking opportunities, and a community center that offers a countless number of activities.

One of the most unique and most popular features that Rio Verde has to offer is the Rio Verde Ranch, a southwestern-style outdoor area situated on the banks of the Verde River that hosts Western-style cookouts and other social events.

The golf and socially active members make the club stand out, but it's Rio Verde's location that really sets it apart. It's far enough away from the hustle and bustle of the Phoenix and Scottsdale area to enjoy the serene beauty of the Arizona desert, yet it is close to all of the dining and entertainment options that the Valley has to offer. It is only 10 minutes to Fountain Hills, 20 minutes to Scottsdale and only 45 minutes to downtown Phoenix and Sky Harbor International Airport, making it an ideal location.

Rio Verde Country Club has a diverse membership with a strong Midwestern presence, as nearly 45 percent of its members hail from the Midwest, which includes a large contingent from Illinois and the Chicago area. That might be because of the affordable real estate that Rio Verde offers compared to the inflated pricing of the private clubs in nearby Scottsdale.

The community features custom homes and charming villas overlooking manicured fairways and majestic mountains, ranging in size from 2,000 to 5,000 square feet and priced from \$200,000 to more than \$1 million. Additionally, there are a handful of custom home lots available anywhere from \$60,000 to \$280,000.

If you want to be a part of a place that has exceptional golf, a vibrant and active community, and is located in one of the most desirable winter locations in the country, then Rio Verde Country Club is the place for you.

For more information about memberships, including Rio Verde Country Club's special Preview Membership, or to arrange a tour and complimentary golf, contact Jo Lewis at 877-746-8373 or jlewis@rioverdecc.com. For more information about Rio Verde Country Club and the many amenities it has to offer, visit the new club website at www.rioverdecc.com.



Golf...and a whole lot more

Surrounded by majestic mountain views and the stunning High Sonoran Desert on the outskirts of Scottsdale, Ariz., Rio Verde is a private golf community like no other. Featuring two championship golf courses, an abundance of social activities and an elegant 27,000 square-foot clubhouse that serves as the cornerstone of the community's social scene, Rio Verde is one of the premier active adult golf communities in Arizona.

Call (877) 746-8373 for more information about Rio Verde Country Club's special membership offers or to arrange a complimentary tour of the courses and facilities during your next visit to the Valley of the Sun.



18731 East Four Peaks Blvd.,
Rio Verde, AZ 85263

(877) 746-8373
RioVerdeCC.com

Win a Round of Golf With Brandel Chamblee

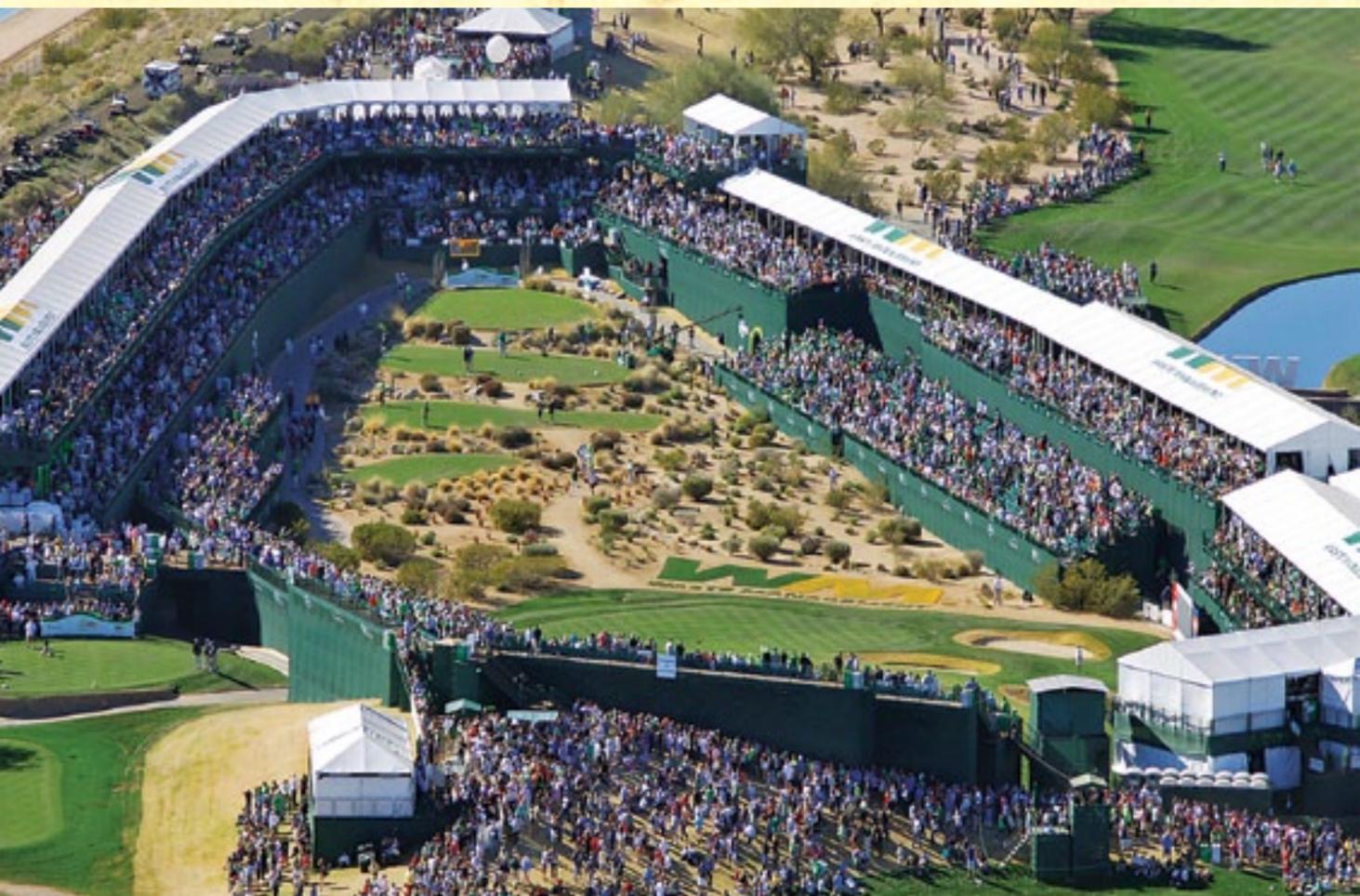
The world's finest golf destination launches ILoveScottsdaleGolf.com.

For a limited time, visitors can write their own "Rules for Scottsdale Golf" and enter to win a trip to Scottsdale to play a round with Golf Channel Analyst and PGA Tour Professional Brandel Chamblee. The contest is part of a new golf marketing partnership between Chamblee and the Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau.

"I've traveled and played golf in every corner of the world. Scottsdale is the best there is, hands down," says Chamblee.

Scottsdale. Chamblee is featured prominently on the site, writing regular blog posts and touting "Brandel's Rules for Scottsdale Golf." The tongue-in-cheek series highlights all of the fun to be had both on and off Scottsdale's golf courses. It's also where visitors can enter to win the trip to Scottsdale and view complete details and contest rules.

Touting itself as "The World's Finest Golf Destination" is a bold claim, but Scottsdale has the numbers to back it up. At last count, there were 51 golf courses within the city limits and more than 200 in the surrounding area. Add to that 70 world-class



"I've been telling people this for years and now I get to do it as the destination's official golf ambassador. I work in Florida, but I choose to live in Scottsdale. What does that tell you?"

As a service to the throngs of golfers that visit Scottsdale every year, the Scottsdale CVB launched www.ilovescottsdalegolf.com, an easy-to-navigate site and one-stop-shop for all things golf in

resorts and spas, the magnificent Sonoran Desert, and an award-winning dining and nightlife scene, and you've got a destination that rivals any on the planet. And when you factor in Scottsdale's climate, with an average 330 days of sunshine each year, a median temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit and less than eight inches of rain per year, you've got a golf retreat that can't be beat.

BRANDEL'S RULES FOR SCOTTSDALE GOLF

NEVER FORGET YOUR CAMERA... BECAUSE THE SCENERY IS SPECTACULAR

One of the things I love most about golf in Scottsdale is the scenery. Everywhere you look — it's just incredible. And, the Sonoran Desert isn't bad either.




Scottsdale
The world's finest golf destination.™

I Love Scottsdale Golf and I promise you will, too. Learn more about how we play the game and start your next Scottsdale golf adventure at iLoveScottsdaleGolf.com

— Brandel Chamblee, Golf Channel analyst and nature lover

Welcome to TPC Scottsdale

Scottsdale, Arizona

Woven into the Sonoran Desert with panoramic views of the McDowell Mountains, the PGA Tour's TPC Scottsdale boasts 36 holes of inspiring golf on two spectacular layouts and a scorecard full of world-class amenities, making it one of Arizona's premier golf resort destinations. The magnificent Champions Course, a true desert-style gem that challenges low handicappers and novices alike, rivals TPC Scottsdale's renowned Stadium Course (host of the Waste Management Phoenix Open) in beauty and playability. An award-winning golf shop, the celebrated TOURAcademy TPC Scottsdale teaching facility, unmatched dining, and luxurious accommodations at the adjacent AAA Five-Diamond Fairmont Scottsdale Resort complete this golf oasis.

The Hallmark of Desert Golf

Named by *Golfweek* as one of the "Top 30 Municipal Golf Courses in the U.S. for 2008" and by *Golf Digest* among the "Top 75 Golf Resorts in North America," TPC Scottsdale's

experience "a day in the life" of a PGA Tour player by testing their skills on the same immaculately manicured, superbly maintained layout. Lush green parcels of turf are woven through a rugged tapestry of arroyos, saguaro cacti, and other natural features, with 72 deep, strategically-placed bunkers and twisting greens creating a beautiful but significant challenge.

Celebrate Greatness at Every Turn

Fast becoming one of the most lauded public courses in the west, the brilliant Randy Heckenkemper-designed Champions Course offers a true desert golf experience amidst the splendor of the Sonoran Desert. Named by *Golfweek* among the "Best New Courses for 2008" as well as one of the "Top 30 Municipal Golf Courses in the U.S.," and included on The Robb Report's prestigious "Best of the Best" list for 2008, the Champions Course boasts more than 7,100 yards of undulating fairways, pristine greens, and challenging bunkers. The par-71 course meanders over natural ravines and picturesque foothills, with



magnificent par-71, 7,216-yard Jay Morrish / Tom Weiskopf designed Stadium Course serves as host of the Waste Management Phoenix Open, the largest spectator golf event in the world. When the tournament is not in play, resort golfers can

five par 3s and a diverse variety of par 4s and par 5s creating a thrill for golfers of all skill levels. A quartet of dramatic finishing holes make this exquisite golf gem a "must play" at prices commensurate with municipal golf facilities.



Hole #16, The Stadium Course

Elevate your game to professional status.

Test your skills at TPC Scottsdale and take your pick from two award-winning courses: the Stadium Course, where the PGA TOUR's greatest compete during the Waste Management Phoenix Open, and its rivaling sister course, the Champions Course. Plus, enjoy the same VIP treatment typically reserved for the pros.

Special Offer:

Save 15%* on your round
Use promo code **CHICAGO**

Book Online: TPC.COM/SCOTTSDALE

Or Call: **866.222.8424**

* Offer valid on rounds booked through April 7, 2013. Subject to availability.


Scottsdale
The world's finest golf destination.



Scottsdale

SunRidge Canyon Golf Club

Scottsdale, Arizona

It's been a long hot summer, hopefully filled with time well spent on the golf course. But as the days get shorter, the on-course opportunities become subject to the whims of winter. Luckily, that's when Arizona's many golf clubs are in full swing. And few offer a Sonoran-style golf experience like SunRidge Canyon Golf Club.

New this season, the club constructed a comprehensive game-improvement center. It's an ideal place for instructors at the world-renowned Jim McLean Golf School to help their students find the sweet spot a bit more often. The indoor/outdoor facility also features a club-fitting suite manned by Hot Stix Golf. The

before doubling back up the slope on the way in. This subtle elevation change lies at the heart of the dramatic and challenging golf experience.

Speaking of challenge, SunRidge Canyon has it in spades. Dubbed the Wicked Six, holes 13 – 18 require careful consideration. In fact, one could make a case that this group represents the most difficult and scenic set of holes in the Valley.

After taking on the Wicked Six, SunRidge Canyon's hacienda-style clubhouse provides a fitting place to tally up the scorecard over cold beverages. And most golfers tend to gravitate towards the Player's Pit, a comfortable patio setting



combination of ball flight and data collected by Trackman allows the fitters to effectively uncover the best fit for every swing.

The improvements are part of a commitment to elevate the golf experience at SunRidge Canyon to new heights. Don and Cindy Misheff purchased the club a few years back with the intent of creating a place that is more of an extension of their home than an investment. So be sure to say hi to the couple sitting on the patio sipping wine; it's probably them.

The 6,823-yard, par-71, Keith Foster-designed golf course unfolds around the rugged ridges and shady canyons unique to the Sonoran Desert. Golfers descend gradually on the way out

that features a unique sundial fire pit for those crisp Arizona winter evenings. With large expanses of glass that open to a spacious patio, the clubhouse is designed to enhance the sights and sounds of Arizona's unique lifestyle with stunning views of Four Peaks and Superstition Mountains framing the background.

The diversity of golf in Arizona provides an experience to fit just about any type of golfer. SunRidge Canyon just happens to belong to that rare category that combines the finest elements into one package.

To book a tee time or for more information call 480-837-5100, or visit www.SunRidgeGolf.com.

CHICAGO WINTER? OR SCOTTSDALE.

Join us at SunRidge Canyon Golf Club



W A R M S U N . B L U E S K I E S . G R E A T G O L F .

480.837.5100 / 800.562.5178 / SUNRIDGEGOLF.COM





zona
HOTEL & SUITES
SCOTTSDALE



SUN RIDGE



LIVING AND DINING AREA



ONE OF FOUR SPARKLING POOLS



GRAZE PATIO



DOUBLE QUEEN BEDROOMS



ZONA'S ENTRANCE



FULL KITCHEN

SCOTTSDALE GOLF PACKAGES

Zona's **Golf Specialists** are at your service, packaging great hotel rates with the best tee times at championship golf courses. With a prime North Scottsdale location, Zona is minutes from the TPC (home of the Phoenix Open), Troon North, Grayhawk and many other **must play courses** in the Valley of the Sun.

In addition to helping you plan your premier golfing experience, our **Golf Specialists** can also book your stay at Zona Scottsdale. Choose from our variety of large suites, ranging from 1 to 4 bedrooms, and our **Golf Specialists** will take care of the rest! Hotel amenities include **4 sparkling pools**, 4 hot tubs, a fitness center and on-site restaurant, **Graze Desert Grille**. The one-stop Zona Golf Specialists make your stay effortless and fun.

GREAT DEALS, GREAT COURSES!

CALL:
800.903.4057

WEB:
ZonaScottsdaleGolf.com

EMAIL:
Golf@ZonaScottsdale.com

7677 E. Princess Blvd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

- **OUR GOLF SPECIALISTS PROVIDE PREFERRED RATES AND TEE TIMES**
- **PRIME NORTH SCOTTSDALE LOCATION**
- **VERSATILE SUITES WITH 1 TO 4 BEDROOMS, EACH BEDROOM WITH ITS OWN PRIVATE BATH**

ZONASCOTTSDALEGOLF.COM



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Get In The Zone

Unconscious Scoring
 By Dave Stockton with Matthew Rudy
 \$27.50
 126 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN: 978-1-592-40776-7
 www.penguin.com

After the 2011 U.S. Open, Rory McIlroy credited his runaway victory to Dave Stockton, his new coach. A year later, with a killer short game in his quiver, McIlroy is now the Number One player in the world. *Unconscious Scoring* is a solid resource for every golfer from beginners to polished professionals. Stockton focuses on the mental aspect of performance with simple instruction that breaks the short game into two aspects—high shots and low shots.

Furthermore, the framework of these two shots is built upon controlling low shots with your left hand and high shots with your right hand. Much like Stockton's bestselling *Unconscious Putting*, this latest effort with Matthew Rudy is delivered with examples and easy-to-replicate techniques. Stockton also spices his instruction with PGA Tour stories of where he learned the techniques and who inspired his lessons. While several of Stockton's teachings date back to the 1960s, he has worked with some of the greatest players of our era. When your classroom includes McIlroy, Phil Mickelson, Yani Tseng, and Matt Kuchar, your credentials are difficult to argue against.

As our rounds across Chicagoland become a race against sunset, *Unconscious Scoring* requires little more than active reading and practice range time with a shag bag of balls.

If you are looking to change your game, then this book will do a lot more than shave a few strokes off your scorecard.

On the Flat Screen

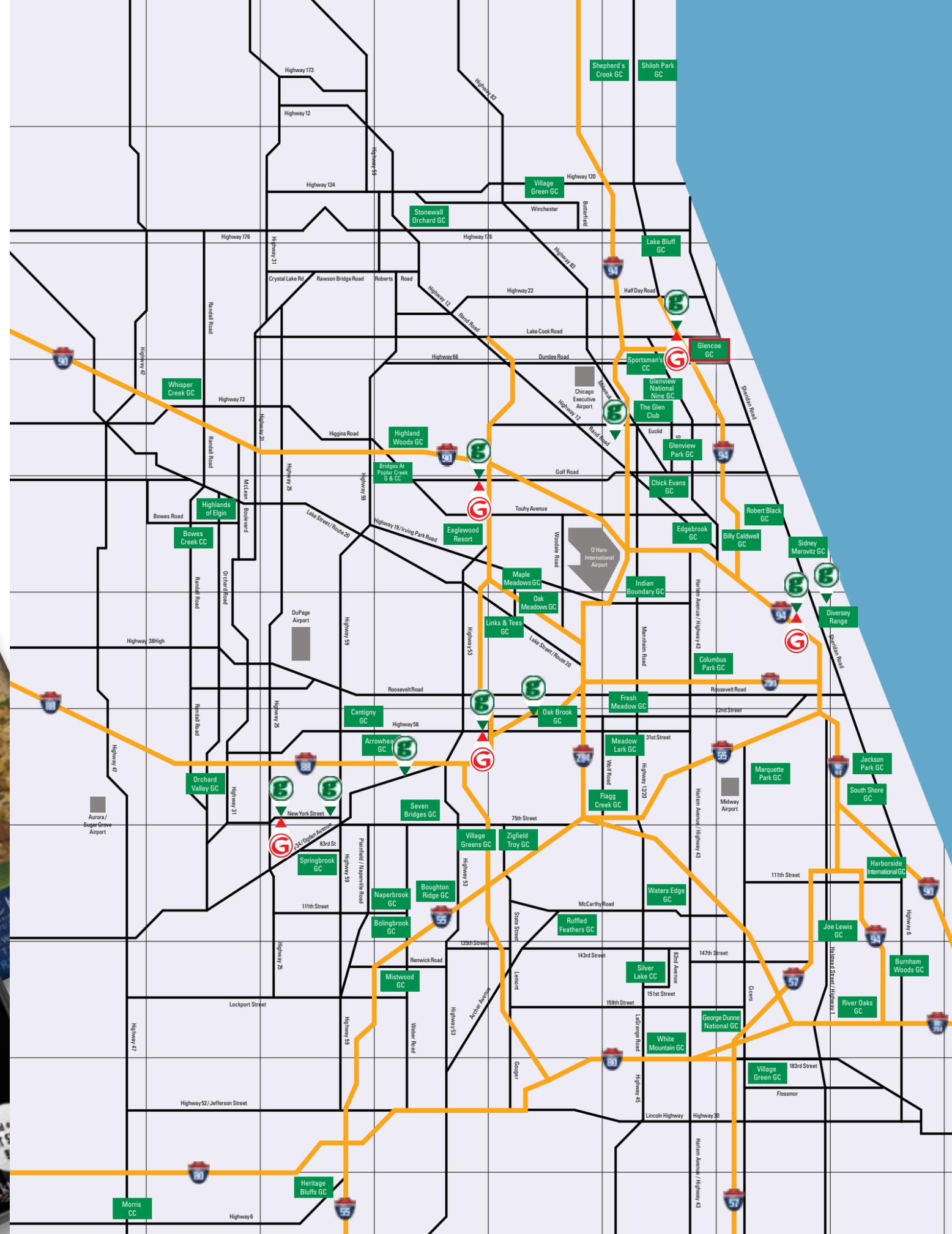
Dave Stockton is called "The Pro Tours' Hottest Coach," and in his *Unconscious Putting* DVD, viewers will find out why so many of the world's top players rely upon his Signature Approach to create wins on Sunday afternoon. *Unconscious Putting* reveals his individualized approach to the putting stroke. Much like his text, Stockton's teaching style throughout the video is simple and straightforward. If you are a living-room putter during the snowball season, then this DVD will show you the way to putt for dough. *Unconscious Putting* is available at www.stocktongolf.com for \$29.99.

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





Bittersweet Golf Club

847-855-9031
875 Almond Road
Gurnee, IL 60031
www.bittersweetgolf.com

In Season Rates:
Monday - Friday
Early Bird: 6 - 8 am:
\$35 with a cart and range balls
Prime: 8 am - 2:30pm:
\$39 including cart
Twilight: \$29 with cart
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings:
Up to 144 Players

Weekend and Holidays
5 - 10 am:
\$59 Cart, \$49 Walking
10 am - 12 pm:
\$49 Cart, \$39 Walking
12 - 2:30 pm
\$39 Cart, \$29 Walking
After 2:30:
\$29 Cart, \$24 Walking

18 Championship Golf Holes
Par 72 Yardage:
4952 - 6751
Rating/Slope
70.0/121 - 73.3/135
Premier Practice Facility
with PGA instruction
Lighted grass tee driving range

Named best golf course by the readers of the Daily Herald in 2010, Bittersweet Golf Club is a challenging and scenic 18-hole golf facility conveniently located in Gurnee, Illinois, with easy access to the toll way (I-94 and Eden's Expressway). Bittersweet offers the public 18 holes of challenging golf and an excellent practice facility with lighted driving range with natural grass tees.



The Bog

800-484-3264
262-284-7075
3121 County Road I
Saukville, WI 53080
www.GolfTheBog.com

18 Holes: Par 72
Yardage: 5100 - 7200
Top Course Rating: 75.3
Slope: 143

Seasonal Rates:
\$55 - \$95
Carts: \$15
(view website specials)

- Arnold Palmer Design
- Ranked in the Top 10 Best Overall Golf Courses in Wisconsin by *Golf Digest*
- 4.5 Stars by *Golf Digest* Highest Rated Golf Course in Milwaukee
- 297 acres of wetlands, woods, rolling hills, and wildlife habitat.
- Bentgrass greens, tees and fairways; bluegrass roughs; native grasses, and wildflowers.
- Five sets of tees for all levels of golfers.
- 117 bunkers and 10 holes where water hazards come into play.

Premier Practice Center

- Range Tees: 40000 sq ft
- Putting green: 4000 sq ft
- Bunker and chipping area
- Target greens: 6
- Full Amenities
- Golf Outing Specialists!
- Located off I-43, Exit 96 just 25 minutes from Milwaukee

www.GolfTheBog.com



Bolingbrook Golf Club

630-771-9400
2001 Rodeo Drive
Bolingbrook, IL 60490
www.bolingbrookgolfclub.com

18 holes
Yardage: 7104 - 4931
Rating/Slope
73.8/135 - 68.2/116

Mon - Th: \$98, includes cart with GPS and range balls
Fri - Sun: \$110, includes cart with GPS and range balls
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Practice Facilities: Yes
Banquet/Outings: Yes

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

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



Bowes Creek Country Club

847-214-5880
1250 Bowes Creek Boulevard
Elgin, Illinois 60124
www.bowescreekcountryclub.com

18 Championship Golf Holes
Yardage: 6794 - 4756
Rating/Slope:
73.2/142 - 68.1/121

Member for a Day Rates allows unlimited play for the day
Mon - Th: \$79 / golf, cart, and range
Fri - Sun: \$98 / golf, cart, and range
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Practice Facility: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquet/Outings: Yes

Here at Bowes Creek Country Club, our patrons are not treated like an everyday customer. You can buy a membership for the year or you can pay to be a Member for a Day! Instead of standard green fees, we offer a daily membership. The Member for a Day Fee will allow you to play unlimited golf with cart and allow you full use of the practice facility. There will be no limit to the amount of golf you want to play that day because you are... Member for that Day!
A Rick Jacobson Designed golf course, it is everything you want in a golf course. "We tried to give the course a rustic look and used big, sweeping bunkers with fingers of grass drifting into the sand and fescue grasses as lips on the bunker faces," Jacobson said.



Cantigny Golf

630-668-8463
27w270 Mack Road
Wheaton, IL 60189
www.cantignygolf.com

27 holes
Yardage per 18:
7,055 - 5,183
Rating/Slope:
74.2/140 - 70.4/122

Mon - Th: \$85 walking
Fri - Sun: \$95 walking
Cart: \$20 (7 days)
Caddie:
\$20 per person plus tip
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight rates: No
Practice Facility: Yes
Banquet/Outings: Yes

Cantigny was named "Best New Public Course in America" by *Golf Digest* in 1989, and since then has been a "Top 100 Public Course." It has hosted numerous championships, including three Illinois State Amateurs and the 2007 U.S. Amateur Public Links. Designed on spectacular terrain by Roger Packard, the course's beauty will take your breath away. The impressive Cantigny Golf Academy opened in 2008, and junior golfers thrive at the 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links.

Great golf and excellent food go together at Cantigny. As an incentive to sample the cuisine, golfers in 2012 will receive a \$10 voucher good for same-day redemption at Fareways Grill inside the clubhouse. You'll get a voucher when you play 18 holes at the regular rate during non-peak times—Monday through Thursday all day and Saturday/Sunday afternoons.



Chicago Park District Golf

312-245-0909
www.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 no matter where you live or work in the city. Play Your Favorite CPD course today!

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

Robert A. Black – 9 Holes
2045 W. Pratt Boulevard

Sydney R. Marovitz – 9 Holes
3600 N. Recreation Drive (Lake Shore Drive)

Jackson Park – 18 Holes
6401 S. Richards Drive

Columbus Park – 9 Holes
5701 W. Jackson Boulevard

Marquette Park
6700 S. Kedzie Avenue

South Shore
7059 South Shore Drive

Diversey Range
141 W. Diversey Parkway



Flossmoor Country Club

708.798.4700
1441 Western Avenue
Flossmoor, IL 60422
www.flossmoorcc.org

"South Chicago's Premier Private Golf Club"
Founded 1899

Golf Course Architect
Herbert J. Tweedie, 1899
Redesigned by:
Raymond Hearn, 2009

Yardage, Rating/Slope
7136, 75.5/144
6764, 73.7/138
6437, 72.2/134
6112, 70.6/130
5503, 72.9/133

- Member Amenities
- PGA Professionals On Staff
 - Newly Designed Pool Complex
 - Meeting & Banquet Rooms up to 300
 - Top-rated Jr. Golf Program
 - Tennis Programs For All Ages
 - Excellent Dining Experience

Flossmoor Country Club provides golfing enjoyment, competition and family entertainment in the south suburbs of Chicago. In 1899, Flossmoor Country Club was founded and is now one of the oldest existing clubs in the Midwest and home to a classic style, world-class golf course. With rich history and traditions, the "Flossmoor Experience" emanates through various member golf tournaments and social events culminating in the finest club experience Chicago has to offer.



Forest Preserve Golf Courses | Cook County

800-460-0010
www.forestpreservegolf.com

Affordable GOLF. Friendly SERVICE. Fantastic EXPERIENCE.

Forest Preserve Golf offers something for every golfer. With ten courses, four driving ranges, and a miniature golf course, you are sure to find a place to call your home course.

PLUS...save EVERY DAY with the NEWLY revised FPG Golf and Rewards Card!

Billy Caldwell – 9 Holes
6150 Caldwell Avenue

Burnham Woods – 18 Holes
14201 S Burnham Avenue

Chick Evans – 18 Holes
6145 Golf Road

Edgebrook – 18 Holes
6100 N Central Avenue

George Dunne National – 18 Holes
16310 S Central Avenue

Harry Semrow – Driving Range & Mini Golf
1150 E Golf Road

Highland Woods – 18 Holes
2775 Ela Road

Indian Boundary – 18 Holes
8600 W Forest Preserve Avenue

Joe Louis – 18 Holes
13100 S Halsted Street

Meadowlark – 9 Holes
11599 31st St

River Oaks – 18 Holes
1 Park Avenue





The Glen Club

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

Offering a unique blend of membership and daily fee play.

2012 Green Fees range from \$105 - \$185. General public may reserve starting times seven days in advance. Practice range is included in green fee. Carts: \$24 Caddies are available upon request.

Renowned golf course architect Tom Fazio brilliantly transformed the once-flat runways of the Glenview Naval Air station into a nationally acclaimed 18-hole layout, featuring dramatic elevation changes, meandering lakes, and running streams. Following its debut in 2001, The Glen Club was thrust into the national spotlight earning recognition from *Golf Magazine*, *Golf Digest* and *Sports Illustrated*. The Glen Club has hosted numerous professional and elite amateur events and is the home course for Northwestern University's men's and women's golf teams.

- A *Golf Magazine* Top 100 You Can Play in the United States.
- *Golf Digest* Best places to Play 4.5 Stars.
- Home of The Illinois Golf Hall of Fame.
- Stay in one of our finely appointed overnight rooms.



Glencoe Golf Club

847-835-0250
621 Westley Road
Glencoe, IL 60022
www.glencoeclub.com

Par 72 | Yardage: 6,539
Rating / Slope
Blue: 71.6/130
White: 70.3/127
Red: 72.8/127

Weekday Fees
Early bird: \$30.00
Prime: \$ 41.00
Twilight: \$ 28.00
Super Twilight: \$ 23.00
Weekend Fees
Prime: \$ 49.00
Twilight: \$ 32.00
Super Twilight: \$ 23.00

- Sr./Jr. Discounts
- Grass Tee Range
- Outings Available

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

The Golf Academy will now be featuring two of the area's best players to share their formula for success through private lessons, clinics, and summer camps. Bill Sakas and Travis Johns have both competed with impressive results in the professional ranks and bring that knowledge to their teaching. Learn the basics or improve your competitive edge with experienced instructors who back up their knowledge with tournament golf experience.



Glenview Park Golf Club

847-724-0250
800 Shermer Road
Glenview, IL 60025
www.golfglenview.com

18 holes
Par 70
Yardage: 6,133

Mon - Th: 18 holes \$39
Mon - Th Twilight:
9 holes \$24
Mon - Th: Super Twilight:
(after 5 pm) \$20
Fri - Sun: \$48
Fri - Sun Twilight:
9 holes \$30
Fri - Sun/Holidays Super
Twilight:
(after 5 pm) \$20
Cart Fees:
9 holes \$10/rider
18 holes \$16/rider
Twilight \$13/rider
Tee Time Specials
available at www.golfglenview.com

Experience pure golfing enjoyment at the Glenview Park Golf Club. Beautifully landscaped with an extensive variety of trees, shrubs, and flowers, this 18-hole, 6,133-yard, par-70 course features a choice of three bent grass tee boxes on every hole. The Glenview Park Golf Club offers the amenities of a private club but is open to the public and close to home. Since 1955, when the Glenview Park District purchased the Chesterfield Golf Course and began operating it as the Glenview Park Golf Club, the course has been continually upgraded and improved to add to your golfing enjoyment.



golfTec

10 Chicagoland Locations
www.golftec.com

Chicago - Halsted Row
60657
2847 N. Halsted Road
773-755-4653

Chicago - Lincoln Park
60614
2782 N. Clybourn Ave.
Building C
773-871-4653

Deerfield 60015
360 S. Waukegan
Suite B-2
224-330-4020

Des Plaines 60016
353 N. River Road
847-299-5431

Downers Grove 60515
2020 Butterfield Road
630-932-4653

Fox Valley 60505
4302 E. New York Street
630-723-5215

Naperville 60563
1163 E. Ogden Avenue
Suite 401
630-579-9390

Oakbrook Terrace 60181
18W100 22nd Street
Suite 101B
630-396-2020

Schaumburg 60173
905 E. Golf Road
847-517-1845

Vernon Hills 60061
701 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Suite 116
847-327-0605



Golfsmith

5 Chicagoland Locations
www.golfsmith.com

Aurora - Fox Valley 60504
Yorkshire Plaza
4302 East New York
Street
630-585-0872

Chicago - Highland Park
60035
135 Skokie Valley Road
847-579-0219

Chicago - Lincoln Park
60614
2782 N. Clybourn Avenue
Bldg. C
773-281-1494

Downers Grove 60515
2020 Butterfield Road
630-495-4880

Schaumburg 60173
905 E. Golf Road
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. It's that easy to buy your clubs with confidence. Finally, a test drive for golf clubs - brought to you by Golfsmith.



The Highlands of Elgin

847-931-5950
875 Sports Way
Elgin, IL 60123
www.highlandsofelgin.com

18 Championship Golf Holes
Yardage: 6510 - 5568
Rating/Slope:
71.6/128 - 66.8/116

Mon - Fri:
\$35 walk / \$54 ride
Weekends / Holidays:
\$43 walk / \$62 ride
Jr./Sr. Rates: Weekdays
Only
Practice Facility: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquet/Outings: Yes

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.

The prairie-style clubhouse with stunning golf course views is now open. The clubhouse features event rooms with expansive ceilings, full-scale food and beverage operations, locker rooms, and an expanded golf shop. The facility also features a lighted practice facility offering bent grass tees, 30 hitting stations, short game area, and a 9,000 sq. ft. putting green.



Harborside International G.C.

312-782-7837
11001 S. Doty Ave. East,
Chicago, IL 60628
www.harborsideinternational.com
harborside3@aol.com

36 holes
Port Course
Yardage: 7,164 - 5,164
Rating/Slope:
75.1/132 - 70.4/123
Starboard Course
Yardage 7,166 - 5,110
Rating/Slope:
75.0/132 - 70.5/120

Mon - Thu: \$82 includes cart & range balls
Fri - Sun: \$95 includes cart & range balls
Twilight Rates: Yes
Practice Facilities: Yes,
57-acre
Banquet/Outings: Yes,
Phil Stefani's

Located just 16 minutes from Downtown Chicago, directly on I-94, Harborside is the home of the PORT & STARBOARD Courses designed by Dick Nugent in the links tradition of windswept Scottish and Irish seaside courses. Ranked by *Golfweek's* 2010 "Best Courses You Can Play" Starboard #11 & Port #12 in Illinois and also the host of the Champions Tour in 2002. Amenities include a 24,000 sq. ft. Prairie Style Clubhouse with food and banquets by the Phil Stefani Restaurant Group and a 57-acre practice facility. Harborside is truly "Chicago's Course."



Lake Bluff Golf Club

847-234-6771
355 W Washington Ave
Lake Bluff, IL 60044
www.lakebluffgolfclub.com
proshop@lakebluffgolfclub.com

18 holes
Yardage: 6589 - 4969
Rating/Slope:
71.3/124 - 67.0/114

Mon - Fri: \$39 walking
Sat - Sun: \$49 walking
Cart fees:
\$18 (Mon - Sun)
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Practice facilities: Yes
Banquet/Outings: Yes

Lake Bluff Golf Club was established in 1968 and in its 44-year history the course has become a "must-play" destination for golfers. Located on the scenic North Shore of Chicago, the golf course is one of only a few public facilities offering private club caliber amenities.

Lake Bluff Golf Club takes pride in the conditioning and playability of the course with features such as a million dollar state-of-the-art irrigation system. The professionally stocked Pro Shop and the Village Grill, which serves delicious food and a wide selection of beverages, are a couple of the superior amenities available to guests of the club.

Tee times specials are available exclusively through the club's website.





Mistwood Golf Club

815-254-3333
1700 W. Renwick Rd.
Romeoville, IL 60446
www.mistwoodgolf.net
info@mistwoodgolf.net

Yardage: 6,768 - 5,231
Rating/Slope:
72.2/137 - 69.8/126

Mon - Th: \$35 - \$41 walking
Fri - Sun: \$42 - \$61 walking
Cart Fee: \$18
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Practice Facilities: Yes
Banquet/Outings: Yes
PGA Pro: Visanu Tongwarin

Home of the Illinois
Women's Open
Rated 4½ stars by *Golf Digest*

Centered around a beautiful 67-acre lake, Mistwood is designed to challenge and reward golfers of every level. From the moment you arrive at Mistwood you will relish a classic golf experience including impeccable split fairways, highly-manicured and terraced greens, and an expert and attentive staff. Designed by Ray Hearn, Mistwood hosts the prestigious Illinois Women's Open and proudly features the five best finishing holes in the state. Other amenities include an 18-acre practice facility, a full-service pro shop, golf instruction, and a spectacular restaurant offering a versatile menu.

Driving Directions to Club: Exit I-55 at Weber Rd and proceed south 4 miles to Renwick Rd. Turn right. Club is one mile on the right. Only 40 minutes from downtown!



Orchard Valley Golf Course

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

- Excellent course conditions and guest service
- 6,750 yards from the tips, yet enjoyable for all skill levels
- Conveniently located minutes off I-88 & a short drive from the western suburbs
- Visit Orchard's Bar & Grill for fantastic food & drink specials

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!



Seven Bridges Golf Club

630-964-7777
One Mulligan Dr.
Woodridge, IL 60517
www.sevenbridges.com

18 holes
Yardage: 7111- 5262
Rating/Slope:
74.6/144 - 68.5/130

Spring Rates: \$42 - \$75
Summer Rates: \$48 - \$107
All Rates include golf cart equipped with GPS
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Practice Facilities: Yes
Putting and Chipping Green & Hitting Bay
Banquet/Outings: Yes

Seven Bridges Golf Club, conveniently located in Woodridge, Illinois, enjoys a reputation for being one of the most innovative golf courses in the market. Depending on tee placement, Seven Bridges provides a setting in which golfers of all levels have to rely on their own guile to make the right shot-making decisions. A scenic, perfectly-groomed course, this Dick Nugent design has matured and grown into its well deserved reputation as a challenging yet rewarding test of your game.

Seven Bridges has been awarded 4 stars by *Golf Digest* and is the former host of the Michael Jordan Celebrity Golf Classic.

Seven Bridges offers a variety of programs to suit your golfing needs:

- Golf Pass Program
- Twilight Club
- Permanent Tee Times
- Corporate Memberships



Stonewall Orchard

847-740-4890
25675 W Highway 60
Grayslake, IL 60030-9629
www.stonewalloorchard.com
info@StonewallOrchard.com

18 holes
Yardage: 7074 - 5375.
Rating/Slope:
74.7/148 - 71.7/130

Mon - Th: \$70 walking
Fri - Sun: \$77 walking
Cart fees:
\$14 (Mon - Th)
\$18 (Fri - Sun)
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Practice Facilities: Yes
Banquet/Outings: Yes

A Final Stage Qualifying site for the 2009 U.S. Open and host of the Illinois Section PGA Championship, the Arthur Hills-designed Stonewall Orchard Golf Club features 65,000 mature pine and oak trees, rolling fairways, tranquil wetlands and native wildlife across 18 brilliant holes. Consistently ranked as one the top courses in Illinois, Stonewall Orchard's pure greens and perfectly manicured fairways make this a must-play for Chicago's golf aficionados.



Water's Edge Golf Course

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

Best Places To Play By *Golf Digest*

Water's Edge is Chicago's south side destination course. This championship 18-hole golf course with bent grass greens and fairways offers:

- Superior course conditions and friendly service
- 6,400+ yards of golfing excellence, yet playable by all levels
- Complete day/night practice & range facility
- Visit 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.
Much MORE!



Whisper Creek Golf Course

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

- Meticulously maintained course conditions
- 7,000+ yards from the tips; yet playable by all levels
- 5-star experience and service with a smile
- 20 minutes west of Schaumburg — an easy commute from anywhere in the Chicago area.

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

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

Learn. Practice. Play.

- Executive course offering 9 holes of competitive golf: surprising terrain and sloping greens make this layout fun for anyone — whether you're an experienced professional or a beginner
- Practice Range with 35 artificial hitting stations, over 13,000 square feet of grass hitting stations, and heated, covered stalls
- Mini Golf park offering 18 holes, including water features, elevation changes, and playful layouts
- Professional instruction for all levels and abilities
- Fully stocked golf shop featuring the latest in golf apparel, equipment, and accessories
- Party room perfect for events, fundraisers and more!

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

Arrowhead

630-653-5800
26 W. 151 Butterfield Rd
Wheaton, IL 60189
www.arrowheadgolfclub.org
Par 71
27 Hole Golf Course
South/East 72/132
Yardage: 6734
South/West 72/132
Yardage: 6692
West/East 72/131
Yardage: 6637
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes
Restaurant/Bar: Yes

Blackberry Oaks

630-553-7170
Bristol

Bonnie Brook GC

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

Boughton Ridge

630-739-4100
Bolingbrook

Bridges of Poplar Creek Country Club

The Grill at Poplar Creek:
847-781-3664
Banquet: 847-884-0219
Tee Times: 847-781-3681
Driving Range:
847-781-3653
Fax: 847-310-3621
1400 Poplar Creek Drive
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
www.poplarcreekcc.com

Bristol Oaks Golf Club

262-857-2302
16801 75th St.
Bristol, WI 53104
www.bristolosaks.com

The Bull

800-5THEBULL
Sheyboygan Mays, WI

Coyote Run Golf Course

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

Eaglewood Resort and Spa

630-773-3510
1401 Nordic Rd.
Itasca, IL 60143
www.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

The First Tee of Aurora & Fox Valley

630-499-0680
1001 Hill Avenue
Aurora, IL 60505
www.thefirstteeaurora.org

The First Tee of Greater Chicago

773-885-8258
2901 W. Lake Avenue, Suite A
Glenview, IL 60025
www.thefirstteegreaterchicago.org

Flagg Creek Golf Course

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

Glenview National 9 Golf Club

847 657-1637
2800 West Lake Avenue
Glenview, IL 60026
www.golfglenview.com
glenviewnational9@glenviewparks.org
9 holes
2,000 yards
Par 31
Green Fees (per 9 holes)
Mon - Thu: \$16
Fri - Sun/Holidays: \$18
Juniors play free* Mon - Thu when accompanied by a paid adult.
*Up to three juniors

Grand Geneva Resort and Spa

262-248-8811
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

Green Meadows Golf Club

630-810-5330
18 W 201 West 63rd Street
Westmont, IL 60559
www.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!
Home of the 2012 BMW Championship
September 3-9 at Crooked Stick Golf Club
www.indianaspremiargolf.com

Indian Oaks Country Club

815-824-2282
Shabbona, IL
9 Holes
3,379 yards
www.indianoakscscc.com

Kids Golf Foundation of Illinois

Golf Changes Kids' Lives
630-466-0913
P.O. Box 610
Sugar Grove, IL 60554
www.kidsgolffoundation.org
info@kidsgolffoundation.org

Links & Tees Golf Facility

630-458-2660
Addison, IL
Recognized in 2011 by *Golf Range Magazine* as one of the top 100 learning facilities in North America.
www.addisonparks.org

Maple Meadows Golf Club

630-616-8424
272 Addison Rd.
Wood Dale, IL 60191
www.DuPageGolf.com
West 18 - Par 70
Yardage: 6,438 - 5,339 yds.
Weekday: \$27 walk / \$44 ride
Weekend: \$35 walk / \$52 ride
*Frequent specials on course website
Discount Program: Yes
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

Martin Design Partnership, Ltd.

Golf Course Architecture and Design
630-482-2532
335 N. River Street
Suite 201
Batavia, IL 60510
www.mdpltd.com

Naperbrook Golf Course

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

Oak Brook Golf Club

630-368-6400
2606 York Road
Oak Brook, IL 60523
www.oak-brook.org/recreation
Par 72
Yardage 6541 - 5341 yds
Weekday: \$65.00 w/cart
Weekend: \$69.00 w/cart
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

Oak Meadows Golf Club

630-595-0071
900 N. Wood Dale Road
Addison, IL 60101
www.DuPageGolf.com
Par 71
Yardage: 6,718 - 5,628 yds.
Weekday: \$32 walk / \$49 ride
Weekend: \$40 walk / \$57 ride
*Frequent specials on course website
Discount Program: Yes
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: No

SentryWorld

866-479-6753
Stevens Point, WI
18 holes
Par 72
6,951 yards
www.sentryworld.com

Shepherd's Crook

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

Shiloh Park

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

Springbrook Golf Course

630-848-5060
2220 W. 83rd Street
Naperville, IL 60564
www.springbrookgolfcourse.org
Par 72
Yardage: 6,896
Weekday: \$40.00
Weekend: \$50.00
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

Village Greens

630-985-3610
Woodridge

Western Golf Association / Evans Scholars Foundation

www.westerngolfassociation.com

White Pines Dome

630-776-0304, ext. 5
Bensenville, IL
www.whitepinesdome.com

Zigfield Troy Par 3

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

On The Corkscrews

Leo McNeal

Pretty Little Poppy

After a legendary career of over 45 years toiling in the vineyards of Sonoma County, Richard Arrowood opened his latest (and perhaps final) winery, Amapola Creek, in 2005. Amapola is Spanish for "poppy," and the creek that bears the name runs through the estate. When in bloom, the golden poppies line the creek and offer a lovely sight with the vineyards and mountains in the background.

The 100-acre ranch (purchased in 2001) that is home to Amapola Creek is situated on the western slope of the Mayacamas Mountains, which rise between and separate the Sonoma and Napa valleys. Although his wife Alis envisioned the site as the perfect place for a peaceful retirement, Richard had other ideas, and immediately set about selecting the best 20 acres of the property for use as the centerpiece of Amapola Creek Winery.

The mountainside estate vineyards are footed in red-brown volcanic soils, and are California Certified Organic. The winery itself is an "organic handling facility," reflecting the Arrowoods' commitment to making wine in the most natural way possible, as well as their "prevention not intervention" philosophy. The solar-powered winery is a small-production, ultra-premium facility with state-of-the-art equipment. To preserve quality, total annual production is just 3,000 cases.

2010 Chardonnay, Russian River Valley \$45
The Rued and Dijon Chardonnay clones that make up this wine were grown by a single farmer, Joseph Belli, a long-time friend and associate of Arrowood's. The harvest was aged for 10 months in new and old French oak, under malolactic fermentation, and yielded a mere 210 cases.

The nose features aromas of stone fruits such as nectarine and peach, with a hint of flint. Those flavors continue on the palate, along with highly-integrated oak and structural acidity. It's all wrapped up with an unctuous mouthfeel and long finish. Drink this unfined wine now, or hold for up to 10 years.

2008 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon \$60
The fruit for this wine came from the high elevation Arrowood estate acreage, which

features the aforementioned mineral-rich basaltic volcanic soils, and cooling breezes from San Pablo Bay.

This is the fourth Cabernet released by Amapola. The wine was aged for 24 months in new and seasoned French and American oak. This elegant wine shows excellent harmony and structure. The nose opens with cherries, black fruits, and cassis, plus a suggestion of cedar. The taste features effusive blackberry, plum, and currant. The fruit is offset by a pleasing dustiness, and is accompanied by a mouthfeel of firm acidity over fine tannins. A delicate hint of toasty oak and vanilla displays the true varietal nature of Cabernet Sauvignon. Consider buying a case, and enjoying a bottle for the next twelve years.

Do you have questions, comments, or suggestions? Feel free to drop me an email at leo849@mchsi.com.



leo849@mchsi.com

Golf...and a whole lot more

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Clash of the Titans

Four years ago this past August, I was a part of a roundtable discussion (along with *GOLFChicago* publisher Dave Weretka) talking about the United States' chances in the Ryder Cup at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Kentucky.

I remember, clearly, doubting that the Americans would win on home soil, due in large part to the absence of Tiger Woods and the presence of three automatic-qualifying rookies and three additional rookie captain's picks.

I remember clearly, because the United States won 16½ to 11½ to break a three-tournament winning streak by the Europeans.

That victory, along with a narrow, one-point loss at the Celtic Manor resort in Wales in 2010, has me thinking the United States will win its second Ryder Cup this millennium at Medinah Country Club September 28-30.

Like in 2008, three rookies have automatically qualified: Jason Dufner, Keegan Bradley, and Webb Simpson, and another was selected by way of a captain's pick in Brandt Snedeker. Like 2008, Steve Stricker was a captain's pick as well.

The team was rounded out by captain Davis Love III with veteran Jim Furyk and Dustin Johnson as his other two picks.

"I think we have got a great team," Love III said. "I think we are extremely deep this time; I think deeper than we have ever been."

Four years ago, you had Anthony Kim, Ben Curtis, and Boo Weekley playing their way in. This year, you have Dufner, who is No. 7 in the world (as of September 4th) and has two wins, three runner-ups, and an additional 11 top ten's since the beginning of 2011, as well as two recent Major champions: Bradley and Simpson.

Toss in a motivated Woods and fellow major champions Bubba Watson, Zach Johnson, and Phil Mickelson along with Players champ Matt Kuchar, and the U.S. team seems loaded for bear.

"[The] Ryder Cup means everything," said Bradley, who watched the U.S. win at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts, in 1999. "It's going to be a real challenge for me that week to stay calm and not get too excited. It's a great event. I can't wait to play."

"I think we've got one of the best teams in a while. I think a lot of really good guys, we're all very close. I think it's going to be a good match."

"In the past, I was leery of teams heavy on rookies, mostly because of the abnormal pressure the Ryder Cup creates."

"You know, you're not just playing for yourself," newly minted PGA Champion and European team member Rory McIlroy said. "You're playing for your teammates. You're playing for your country. And that brings a whole different type of pressure."

Yet in the last two Cups, the rookies who played their way into automatic spots proved they belonged, and recent U.S. captains Paul Azinger and Corey Pavin have struck gold with their rookie picks.

"It's such a huge opportunity for me to be in my first Ryder Cup and look forward to getting to Medinah and making Davis look like he's a genius and play as good as I possibly can," Snedeker said.

Two of the U.S. rookies—Bradley and Dufner—have admitted they have never seen Medinah Country Club and had planned to get in a few practice rounds before the end of the month, which will be necessary considering the European team includes World No. 1 McIlroy, No. 2 Luke Donald, No. 4 Lee Westwood, and No. 9 Justin Rose.

Graeme McDowell, Sergio Garcia, and Francesco Molinari are also in the top 25.

"The European Team is obviously great," Love III said. "They are playing well. [Captain] José Maria [Olazabal], like me, had a tough choice and he did a great job. You know, I know they are going to be tough; they are every year. But I can tell you this: I love my team. I'm excited about my team, and I can't wait to see how it matches up."

Europe, once again, is formidable, but this is one of the few years in recent history where the Americans can feel like the favorite going into a Ryder Cup. The team has 15 wins and three majors this year. Toss in a sold-out gallery in a golf-starved, sports-crazed market like Chicago and the U.S. team has a distinct advantage.

"Any time you can put the stars and stripes on your sleeve and play some golf ... this is the closest I'll get to the military, so for me it's about representing our country and playing some golf and hopefully win it," Watson said. "But all in all, just like the athletes in the Olympics, all you're trying to do is represent your country well and show people some exciting golf."



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