



Big Cedar Leaves You Breathless

Located deep within the Ozark Mountains of Missouri lies an unexpected destination that just might be the next big thing in golf. Big Cedar Lodge is a premier wilderness resort, stretching along the shores of Table Rock Lake, that has long been hailed as a world-class resort.

Inspired by a commitment to conservation, Johnny Morris, the founder of Bass Pro Shops, created Big Cedar Lodge to encourage visitors and their families to connect with the great outdoors. Within moments of entering the property, it is easy to see that nature was the muse behind the resort's design. A winding entry road takes you deep within the lush hills of the Ozarks, calling you to slow down and take in the beauty that surrounds, as the road travels over trickling water crossings and showcases stunning vistas. As you take your last turn, the scene opens to reveal the hidden oasis: secluded cabins tucked into the hillside, Adirondack

style lodges that blend seamlessly into their wooded backdrop, a charming chapel reminiscent of your grandparent's country church and a collection of restaurants and activities that are thoughtfully placed to not disrupt of the natural splendor of the land.

The captivating setting is only the beginning of what makes this luxury, rustic retreat so inviting. The amenities and attractions at Big Cedar Lodge have been artfully designed to ignite an excitement for nature within guests of all types. Every restaurant uses the beautiful lake views as its backdrop and every attraction incorporates natural elements, like birch trees that line the entry of the resort's 18,000 square-foot spa. Once you've settled into your room for the evening, you will enjoy natural touches like the crackle of a real wood-burning fireplace in your cabin and rustic décor. Some of the premier accommodations offer custom details like a glass floor with a

trickling stream below or an outdoor shower that, while private, showcases views of the lake.

But what does all of this have to do with golf? Founder Johnny Morris, along with some of the most legendary names in golf, have spared no detail in creating a multi-course destination at Big Cedar Lodge that masterfully incorporates the spectacular Ozark Mountain beauty into four (soon to be five) distinctive courses.

The first course, Top of the Rock, is a Jack Nicklaus design and holds the honor of being the first par 3 course to be included in an official PGA Tour sanctioned event, hosting the Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf from 2014 to 2019. This world-class golf facility is positioned high in the Ozark Mountains and overlooks breathtaking views of Table Rock Lake. Each of the carefully crafted nine holes showcase unique elements including an island green on the sixth hole. The Arnold

Palmer-designed driving range features 10 fully-lit target greens ranging from 55 to 285 yards. While at the driving range you will be surrounded by views of the "Cathedral of Nature," a canyon with towering rock formations that was unearthed after a sinkhole opened in 2015, revealing a true natural wonder.

Overlooking the driving range are multiple restaurants and attractions including Arnie's Barn, a 150-year-old barn relocated from Arnold Palmer's hometown that now serves as a restaurant and pro shop. A round of golf at Top of the Rock includes an experience you truly can't get anywhere else. Each golfer receives a pass for the Lost Canyon Cave and Nature Trail where you will take your golf cart through a stunning nature trail complete with waterfalls, scenic overlooks and even a drive-thru cave with cave bar.

Buffalo Ridge is an 18-hole, Tom Fazio designed course that is intended to bring you in close contact with nature.

Native prairie grasses line the course, and as you play, you will travel over many streams via Amish-built bridges and take in views of waterfalls, lakes and caves. Notably, the championship course gets its namesake from the free-ranging North American bison that roam the ridge. This serene, par-71 course has been rated the No. 1 course in Missouri by *Golf Magazine* and holds a *Golf Digest* rating of 4.5 stars out of 5.

For the Mountain Top course, Morris teamed up with World Golf Hall of Fame legend Gary Player to create a 13-hole, par-3 short course that delivers an unparalleled experience for golfers. Sharing a similar passion for nature and golf, and through a joint pioneering spirit, the two created a renowned golf experience for all skill levels. Holes range from 66 to 221 yards, giving players the opportunity to hit a variety of shots using several different clubs. The course routes through some of the most dramatic and unforgettable views in the Ozarks. Thousands of hours of painstaking pick and shovel excavations revealed 300-million-year-old limestone formations, creating an over-the-top experience for golfers. Before or after the round, you won't want to miss stopping by the Mountain Top Grill and Clubhouse for a drink as you take in the hilltop views from the building's floor to ceiling windows.

Continuing the theme of nature-inspired courses with incredible views, Ozarks National is a breathtaking, 18-hole championship course designed by renowned architect duo Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw. The course measures 7,036 yards from the back tees and features challenging carries and a variety of visually appealing approach shots that are highlighted by the native habitat. The walkable design is intended to highlight incredible views of rolling ridges and the Ozark Mountain landscape. One of the course's most interesting features includes a 400-foot



Falls Lodge



Mountain Top Hole 9



Payne's Valley Hole 2



Buffalo Ridge Hole 12



Ozarks National Hole 8



Payne's Valley Hole 2



Mountain Top Hole 18



Mountain Top Hole 13

wooden beam and plank bridge, which connects the tee box and fairway of the 13th hole and stands 60 feet above a flowing creek.

Rounding out Big Cedar's collection of bucket list-worthy courses is Payne's Valley, the first public access course designed by 81-time PGA Tour winner Tiger Woods. Set to open in 2020, Payne's Valley pays tribute to Ozarks native and World Golf Hall of Fame member Payne Stewart. The championship course offers a style of play that will allow golfers of all skill levels to fall in love with the game as well as the beauty of the region. Payne's Valley will showcase some truly one-of-kind features like a dramatic bridge gliding over the water on hole No. 5 and the bet-settling hole 19 known as "The Big Rock."

Beyond the game of golf, Big Cedar is home to countless restaurants and attractions. Two marinas, a 10,000-acre nature park, expansive shooting facility, world-class spa, natural history museum and a 50,000 square-foot activity center are just a few of the activities to keep you entertained when you're not on the links. Dining options span from homestyle cooking to Mexican cuisine with an Ozarks flair, and each restaurant features, you guessed it, spectacular views.

There is no denying that Johnny Morris has created something truly special at Big Cedar Lodge. Whether you are a nature enthusiast or you prefer the modern comforts of home, Big Cedar Lodge will leave you feeling pampered while you marvel at the beauty of Mother Nature. For the golfer, both novice and experienced, this is a destination you simply have to see to believe, and now getting to Big Cedar is easier than ever before. New, direct flights through Frontier Airlines allow you to fly direct to Big Cedar through the Branson airport. Start planning your stay and play getaway to America's Next Great Golf Destination today.



Kauai: Play in the Garden

By
Neal Kotlarek
and
Dave Weretka

While historians have had great difficulty discerning the Biblical location of the Garden of Eden, there is good reason to suspect that it was located on Kauai, the northernmost island in the Hawaiian chain. Teeming with emerald valleys, sharp mountain spires and jagged cliffs, Kauai is appropriately nicknamed the “Garden Island” due to its dramatic beauty, enhanced by tropical rainforests, forking rivers and cascading waterfalls.

The diverse landscape of the island creates a myriad of options for outdoor activities. One can kayak the Wailua River or hike the rugged trails of Kokee State Park or perhaps snorkel on Poipu Beach. Over the decades, happily, entrepreneurs found a way to set aside at least some of this spectacular topography for golf course design.

There are four shores on Kauai, each named for a compass point. Three of the four feature golf. The north side of the island is home to the majestic Princeville Makai Golf Club. In the east shore city of Lihue rests the stunning Puakea Golf Club. And the south shore is host to Poipu Bay Golf Course.

If you venture there – and you should – here is what you’ll find:

Princeville Makai Golf Club
Ranked among the 100 great golf courses in America by *Golf Digest*, Princeville Makai Golf Club emulates some of the great links courses of the world by serving up six oceanfront holes as well as great views of Hanalei Bay below the tees and greens.

Designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr., the course received a \$6 million makeover in 2010 and instantly soared into its position as one of the Hawaiian Islands’ premier golf destinations. Unlike many other Hawaiian golf courses, Princeville Makai provides landscape changes across its 18 holes to give an almost Midwest north woods feel to the property.

The course’s signature hole is the seventh, a 213-yard par 3 calling for a challenging tee shot over scenic cliffs onto a green surrounded by white sand bunkers and surreal views of the mountains and the Pacific Ocean.

Princeville Resort is a massive 9,000-acre master-planned community of homes and condos all overlooking the bay. Rooms and suites are complemented by various dining options including the Makana Terrace, the Princeville Bar and the Nalu Kai Restaurant.

Puakea Golf Club
Even though the Pacific Ocean is the essential reason to visit Hawaii, this remarkably intimate golf course in Lihue builds a strong argument that towering volcanic cliffs and massive ravines can serve as impressive substitutes for the ocean views. Indeed, golfers at Puakea catch only a few glimpses of the ocean during their tour of the course. But the Robin Nelson design, built over 200 historic acres of dramatic palm tree-filled property, captivates the imagination with great views of the island from points high and low.

Once used as a sugar plantation, the land upon which the course was built takes steep turns toward, alongside and away from the volcanic cliffs. Large, deep bunkers abut



Paukea Hole 13



Paukea Hole 11



Kauai Napali Coast / Photo: Maverick Helicopters

many of the green sites to create challenge alongside great beauty. Although relatively long at 6,954 yards, the course actually plays shorter due to the firm and fast fairways. Greens are smooth and true.

Two of the favorite holes on the course are the downhill par-3 sixth, located next to the preserve and the delightful, sweeping par 5 11th, which provides both mountain landscapes and a great view off the tee of Puakea's signature red sand bunkers.

Poipu Bay

The website for the spectacular Poipu Bay promises “a course unlike any other.” Tucked between verdant mountains and rugged ocean cliffs, this Robert Trent Jones Jr. layout truly lives up to its billing. Built over 210 oceanfront acres, Poipu Bay features 85 bunkers, five water hazards and over 30 acres of tropical plants and flowers. Challenging enough with all those obstacles, the varying trade winds that sweep across the property only add to the intrigue.

Many of professional golf’s greatest players tackled Poipu Bay from 1994 to 2006 when it served as annual host to the PGA Grand Slam of Golf.

Play the first three holes in par or better and your score is guaranteed to be a collector’s item. The 416-yard first hole is a little less ominous than its yardage, as those trade winds tend to blow directly behind the golfer. Nevertheless, two fairway bunkers on the left side of the landing area and a weaving bunker (a Trent Jones Jr. trademark) to the left of the green make the par 4 even tougher.

The 482-yard second would seemingly be an easy par 5 based upon its length. It plays, however, directly into the wind to make reaching the green in two virtually impossible. Six bunkers fiercely protect the left front of the green and must be avoided at all costs.

The 185-yard third is sort of a hybrid of its predecessor holes as winds tend to swirl across the par 3. Relatively wide open off the tee, the hole is the longest and toughest par 3 across the entire course. So it only gets easier from here.

While the design of Poipu Bay is outstanding, the real star of the course is nature. Panoramic vistas provide outstanding views of the ocean where it is not uncommon to spot humpback whales off shore and Hawaii’s endangered nene geese flying on and around the course. The course is also home to several historical sites as it was designed on land that once served as a place of worship. Handmade stone walls estimated to be over 500 years old can be spotted in areas around the layout but golfers are forbidden to enter these culturally sensitive sites.

Wailua Municipal Course

First built as a 9-hole course in the 1930s, Wailua became an 18-hole championship course in 1961. The acclaimed muni has hosted three USGA Amateur Public Links championships and was voted by *Golf Digest* as one of Hawaii’s best 15 courses. Located on the island’s east side, the course features well-groomed fairways and greens and cheap green fees. If there is a negative to the course itself, it’s that it’s so popular among locals that it can be hard to get a tee time.

Plus, all of the players on the course during mid-day can slow the pace of play.

The Ocean Course at Kokuala

Generally considered one of the best courses in Hawaii, the layout was designed by Tom Weiskopf. The best hole on the stunning property is No. 14, renowned across the islands as a “quintessential Weiskopf par 4.” The exception to the design, of course, is that the green juts out over the ocean where players have a decent chance to view spinner dolphins and humpback whales cavorting in the Pacific.

Kauai Points of Interest

It only makes sense that your visit to paradise includes deluxe accommodations. My personal preferences are Kauai Beach Resort and Ko’a Kea Hotel & Resort. Nestled amongst tropical forests, volcanic mountains and golden sands, Kauai Beach Resort’s central location provides easy access to the spectacular Na Pali Coast to the north and its amazing

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Boyne Still Stands Out

By Neal Kotlarek

With over 650 public courses, Michigan is among the greatest golf destinations in America. While reviewers compiling top ten lists debate which among these are the best, none of them can dispute that Boyne Golf is the state's premier resort destination in terms of quantity, diversity and quality of offerings. Three resorts all located within a short drive of each other serve up 10 impeccably manicured championship courses.

What started as a mere adjunct to two Northern Michigan ski hills has evolved into a virtual Golf Eden. In Harbor Springs, Boyne Highlands offers four courses all cut through dense forested land. In Petosky just to the south, the sprawling Inn at Bay Harbor complex features three distinct nines

located just off Lake Michigan along with Crooked Tree Golf Club perched high atop bluffs towering above the inn. And at Boyne Falls, about 30 minutes to the east of Petosky, the Alpine and Monument courses rest at the base of the renowned 414-acre Boyne Mountain ski hill.

"Each property has its own distinct look and feel," said Ken Griffin, director of golf sales and marketing at Boyne Resorts, in a July interview. "Some golfers like to stay at one resort during their stay while others like to hop around all three resorts to enjoy the different landscapes."

Indeed, an extended visit over all three complexes takes players through thick forests, over quarries, alongside cliffs and literally among the clouds.

Boyne Highlands

The most expansive of the three resorts at 3,500 acres, Boyne Highlands made its name as a golf property in 1966, when Robert Trent Jones Sr. designed the Heather Course. Still recognized as one of Michigan's premier layouts, the course was recognized as 2018 Golf Course of the Year by the Michigan Golf Course Association. Over the years, the scenic and rolling layout has hosted the Michigan Amateur Championship four times as well as numerous junior and celebrity tournaments. The course's chief attributes are its white sand bunkers, slightly elevated greens, natural wetlands and blueberry bogs.

Six sets of tees allow players to choose their preferred difficulty level, as the course can be stretched to a tough 7,143 yards or to a downright gentle 5,743 yards. While the course has memorable par 3s and one particularly difficult par 5 around a lake, the par-4 final hole is the Heather's most interesting hole due to a large pond resting between the tee shot landing area and the edge of the green. Legend has it that Boyne founder Everett Kircher wanted Jones to adjust the course's design to add the pond for additional drama. Despite Jones's protests, Kircher insisted that the pond be added. In tribute to this design element, almost every Boyne course features a water element to it.

The Donald Ross Memorial Course recognizes the spectacular design work performed by that legendary designer. A plaque is stationed at every tee to acknowledge the course that inspired each hole design. Among the courses so honored are Royal Dornoch, Inverness and Michigan's very own Oakland Hills.

The Arthur Hills course was designed by Hills and has over time become the favorite course to play across the entire property. The designer was provided the most dramatic land on the property to use as his palette. And, indeed, the tremendous elevation changes on the 13th hole allow for not just a great hole but a breathtaking



Bay Harbor Quarry Hole 6



Bay Harbor Links Hole 7



Boyne Highlands Hills Hole 18

view of the Northern Michigan forests. The 6,919-yard course is characterized by wide, undulating fairways, large greens and curvaceous bunkering.

The Moor Course is a members' favorite that twists and turns through the forested land. Dogleg par 4s are the dominant theme of the course which has been designated as an American Junior Golf Association course.

Just as the golf courses of Boyne Highlands offer great diversity, lodging on the property is available in the main lodge for individuals and small groups. Additional luxury can be found at the Heather Highlands Inn. Larger groups may opt for two, three and four bedroom condominiums or three-bedroom Ross Cottages and Arthur Hills Townhomes.

Even though golf is the dominant theme of Boyne Highlands, non-playing family members have ample entertainment options including zipline adventures, scenic chairlift rides and even a Young Americans Dinner Theatre featuring incredibly talented performers singing Broadway and pop hits while paired with sophisticated cuisine. The dinner theatre has been an annual staple of the resort since 1978 and runs from early June to late August.

Boyne Mountain Resort

The two courses at this resort are in many ways bookends. The Alpine weaves from atop a mountain and thus features fantastic views. The counterpart 18, the Monument, is situated on less severe land and recognizes the works of legendary golf architects.

The 10-minute golf cart ride from the clubhouse upwards to the first tee of the Alpine Course provides players a good indication of the type of topography over which the entire course was built. The first hole is a dogleg left starting from a peak high above the property and then heads downward towards a green tucked behind mature forests. Greens across the course are wide

and protected by either water, sand or both. The annual home of Michigan's Tournament of Champions, the Alpine is as entertaining as it is challenging.

Just as the Boyne Highland courses pay tribute to the works of Arthur Hills and Donald Ross, the Monument goes one step further and borrows traits from the famous works by some of golf's great designers, including Dr. Alister Mackenzie, Pete Dye, George Fazio and Ross. Undulating greens, wetlands and large bunkers add to the challenge.

A true family resort, Boyne Mountain features lots of amenities along with golf, including bike trails, a spa, a pool and a water park. Lodging options include accommodations at the Clock Tower

Lodge as well as condominiums, villas and even Mountain Cabins.

The Inn at Bay Harbor

On July 12, 1994, I stood outside a tent in sweltering weather along with thousands of dignitaries and locals as we watched the ceremonial demolition of century-old cement factory smokestacks located within a deep Petoskey quarry. At the time, it seemed preposterous to imagine that this quarry and surrounding land would one day be home to one of the most elegant resort properties in the entire country.

Today, 25 years following that implosion ceremony, the Inn at Bay

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Bay Harbor Quarry Hole 8



Boyne Mountain Monument Hole 11

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Michigan's Magical Mountain Combines Golf and Family Fun

By Neal Kotlarek
and Dave Lockhart

Betsie Valley Hole 1

From my 40 years covering the Midwest golf scene, I've learned there is no single formula to ensure the success of a golf resort. Some properties bring in famous golf designers or legendary pros to build courses with instant name recognition. Others expand properties to include multiple courses to lure extended stay visitors. Still others partner with casinos to entice groups on an active night life following a day on the links.

Chris and Jim MacInnes built Crystal Mountain Resort & Spa following their own unique vision. The pair surrounded the two championship courses at their Thompsonville property with amenities that would interest and excite the entire spectrum of guests. They built a water park for young guests. They built luxury cottages and townhomes around the courses so golfers and families could indulge themselves during their stay. They constructed bike trails and walking trails down and alongside the ski hills which have made the resort a winter destination since its inception in 1960. They set aside 30 acres for an art park featuring over 50 sculptures, poetry stones and an outdoor amphitheater. And over the past 20 years they have invested \$100 million in development to create a resort community unparalleled across all of Michigan.

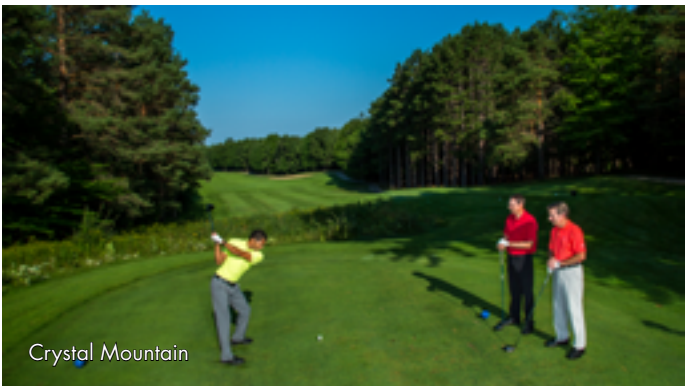
"Guests who arrive for the first time are amazed," said Brian Lawson, director of public relations. "Some drive into the resort perhaps expecting to



Crystal Mountain



Crystal Mountain



Crystal Mountain



Crystal Mountain

see a rustic resort that offers a few amenities between ski seasons. Once they settle in and look around, they discover a facility that caters to just about everyone from ages 1 to 101. Along with great golf and an amazing practice facility, we offer the 18,500 square foot Crystal Spa which honors the art and beauty of Northern Michigan while providing a wide array of treatments and services.

“During the summer, we also offer a 1,700 foot long alpine slide going down the mountain to thrill kids, teenagers and the young at heart,” Lawson said. “And our great accommodations also serve as a home base to explore the best of Northern Michigan, including Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore or a kayak tour on one of the area’s scenic rivers.”

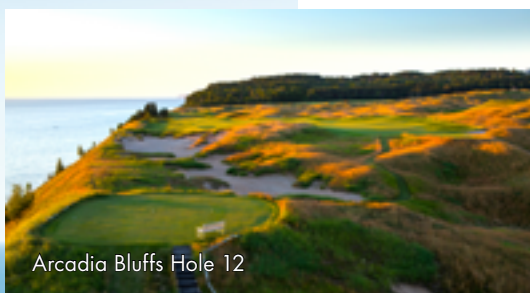
The cornerstones of this four-season resort remain the two golf courses which contrast in style and topography. Betsie Valley plays to 6,567 yards and is a great walking course as holes are cut through forested land and across and alongside creeks and ponds. In contrast, the Mountain Ridge course traverses up and down the hills that have made Crystal Mountain one of the Midwest’s premier ski resorts.

A scenic five-minute ride up to the first tee from the clubhouse serves notice that players will have to elevate their games to challenge this spectacular 7,007 yard par-72 layout. And while many of the first few holes of each of the two nines are laid out over gently rolling terrain, the landscape changes dramatically across the course and particularly over the final four holes. Following the spectacular par-4 No. 15 – which features a sprawling waste bunker extending the entire length of the hole – the player ascends a cart path into the heavens.

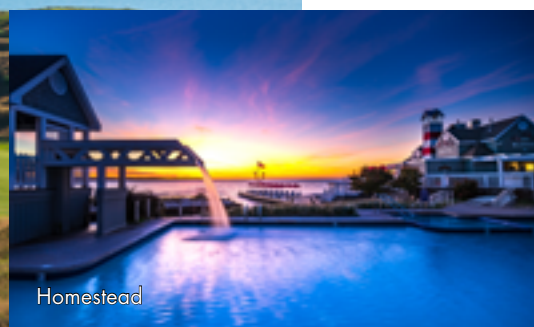
Once arriving near the 16th tee, take a few minutes away from your round to enjoy the wondrous view of the Betsie Valley far below. When you get around to the next task at hand, look to hang your drive alongside the tree line on the right side of the dogleg right par-4 No. 16. This decision cuts your approach shot down from a mid-iron to a short iron, as the green is perched on an incline.

The 17th hole is a relatively short par 3 made shorter yet by the steep drop in elevation to a green virtually surrounded by sand. Happily, No. 18 is a par-5 birdie hole that plays shorter than the 568 yards listed on the scorecard.

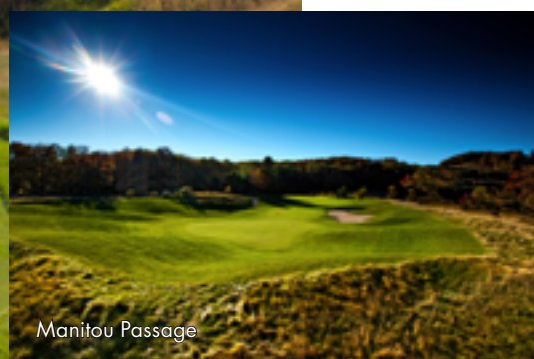
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Arcadia Bluffs Hole 12



Homestead

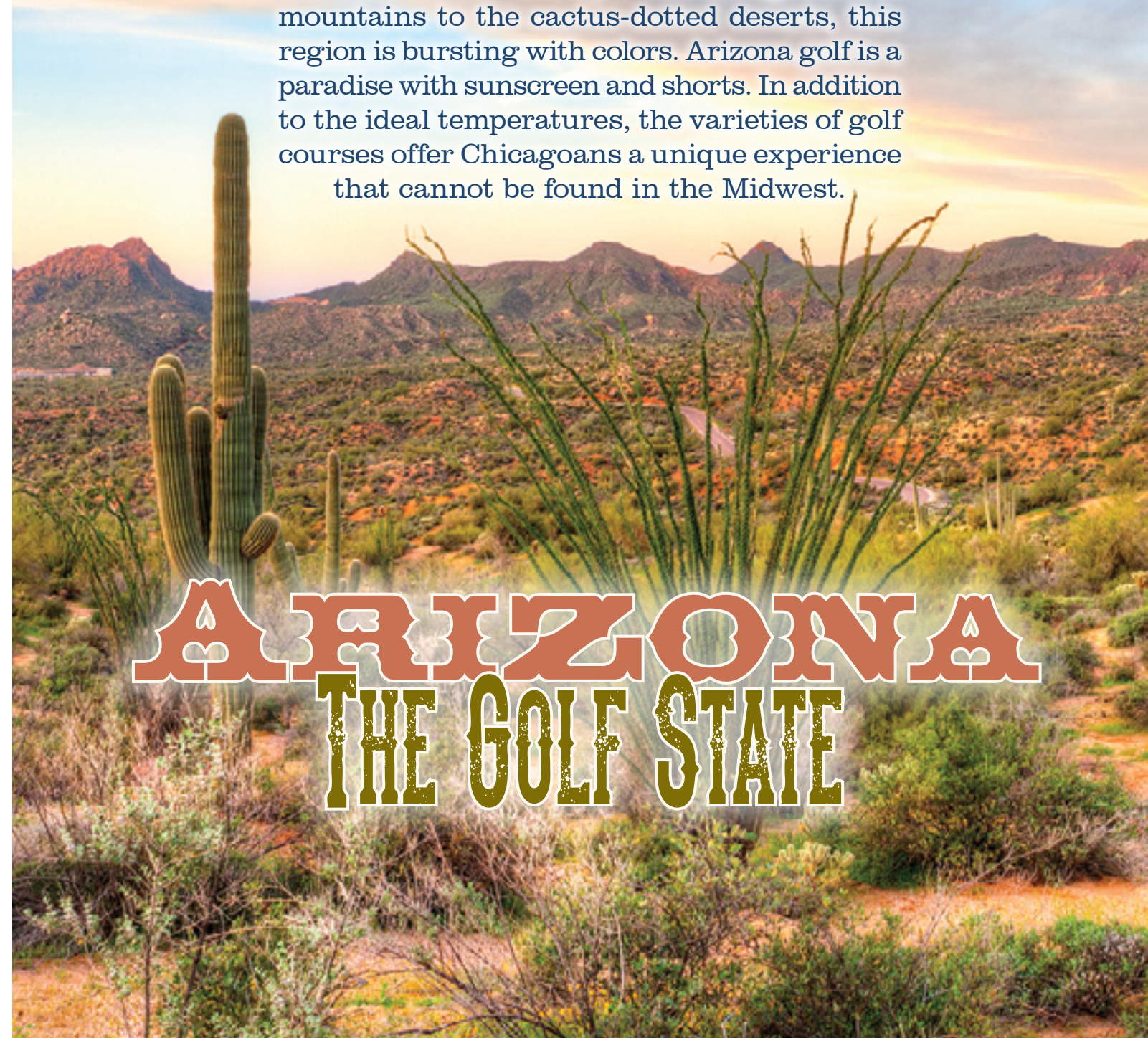


Manitou Passage

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When the snow begins to dust the streets across Chicagoland, Arizona is where Windy City golfers jettison the street slush and their snow shovels for a Sonoran retreat. From the greater Phoenix metropolitan area to Tucson, great golf is as abundant as sunshine. With nearly 300 sunny days per year, this destination tops the country in sunshine, especially during the winter months.

Ditat Deus, the state’s motto, translates to “God Enriches.” From the cooper-and-orange banded mountains to the cactus-dotted deserts, this region is bursting with colors. Arizona golf is a paradise with sunscreen and shorts. In addition to the ideal temperatures, the varieties of golf courses offer Chicagoans a unique experience that cannot be found in the Midwest.



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

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

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

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

It’s easy to see why the course has won so many accolades, including making the list of “America’s Top 50 Courses for Women” by *Golf Digest* in 2010. Most holes don’t have extensively long forced carries from the tees, and the same is true for nearly all the greens that are accepting of low-bouncing shots hit short of the green. The course was also selected as being in the top 10 courses in Arizona by *Ranking Arizona* magazine during the same year.

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

green, the facility certainly provides a cozy spot to relax after an enjoyable day on the links.

In addition to offering cold beverages, great care is taken to ensure the menu is second to none and that it fully embraces the local flavors of the southwest. Chef Eric Flatt and his staff also aim to preserve Arizona’s heritage through cuisine and by sharing the stories of the property’s past. They fuse Southwestern and Native American ingredients and present them in a warm, welcoming atmosphere rich in Arizona lore. Many areas of the restaurant feature historic photos of the property from the years as one of Arizona’s most successful dude ranches in the 1940s.

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

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




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Already well known for its two great golf courses just east of Scottsdale, We-Ko-Pa is now a Sonoran Desert destination.

The Cholla course at We-Ko-Pa Golf Club burst on to the Scottsdale scene in December 2001 as an early Christmas gift wrapped in some of the most scenic Sonoran Desert on the planet. The Saguaro course followed in 2006. Since then, both have racked up an impressive list of accolades.

But until recently, the We-Ko-Pa experience was more of a day trip – drive out, play golf, drive back. Now, with the emergence of the resort and other fun-filled amenities, that has changed. We-Ko-Pa has been transformed into a viable vacation destination.

It all began a couple years ago, when the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation took over operations of the existing resort off of Highway 87 and rebranded it the We-Ko-Pa Resort & Conference Center. Today, the resort features all the vacation-type amenities one would expect, including 246 contemporary guest rooms and suites, Southwestern-inspired cuisine, luxurious spa and salon services, and a heated outdoor pool. And it’s well-suited for groups of all shapes and sizes.

In fact, they added new Golf Suites as a convenient and comfortable lodging option for stay-and-play vacations. Each of the four newly designed golf-themed suites accommodates four to five guests in two deluxe rooms connected by a living room with a pullout sofa and kitchen.

“The Golf Suites are ideal for anything from casual buddy trips to corporate outings,” said Matt Barr, general manager of We-Ko-Pa Golf Club. “They allow groups to gather together after the round and continue the fun in a spacious, comfortable setting where they can play cards or watch the game of the day.”

This certainly satisfies the where-to-stay question, but how about the what-to-do factor? Quick answer: golf and other fun stuff.

Cholla and Saguaro have much in common. Both are meticulously maintained, receive high praise from golf media and guests alike, and offer quality experiences punctuated by the sights and sounds of the desert and nothing else. But they’re not without distinction. Cholla features desert golf-style challenges, while Saguaro was designed with more of a traditional look and feel.

“We couldn’t be happier with the way the golf courses turned out,” said Barr. “They each have a unique personality, and the surrounding desert is teeming with wildlife and mountain views.”

Saguaro – designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw – incorporates desert golf with traditional golf course design. It’s built for walking, with greens situated near the next tee. It follows the natural movement of the land, and the playing corridors are wider – some much wider – compared to

Cholla. When the particular patch of ground is flat and open, the hole is, too. Likewise, when the landscape pitches and rolls, so does the layout.

The Cholla course, designed by Scott Miller, offers a dramatic test of golf that plays through shady arroyos, over desert ridges and amid some of the most picturesque Sonoran Desert on the planet. For this reason, Cholla is widely considered as one of the most pristine desert golf experiences in the Southwest with no homes or other development to spoil the sweeping views of the nearby river valleys, Red Mountain, Four Peaks and the rest of the majestic Superstition Mountains. The aesthetic charm of Cholla appeals to golfers just as much as its strategic challenge.

But you can’t play golf every day, right? Wrong! These two courses have enough twists and turns to keep even the most discriminating golfer as interested in their 50th round as their first. However, Fort McDowell Adventures opens up an entire desert full of other recreational activities like hiking, guided desert tours, TomCar tours, cowboy cook-outs and much more.

For those who’d like to test their luck at a game of chance, Fort McDowell Casino Resort is next door. It’s a full-service gaming facility offering slots, keno, bingo, a card room and blackjack. It also offers a half-dozen eating and drinking outlets, along with live entertainment at the Lucky 7 Saloon.

The Fort McDowell Casino Resort is currently undergoing a massive renovation project including the building of a brand-new casino building scheduled to open in the summer of 2020.

While the name We-Ko-Pa, which means Four Peaks in Yavapai, is rightfully recognized for its award-winning duo of dramatic golf courses, it’s obviously grown into much more. It’s now a place to stay and play – golf or otherwise.



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AN ENTERPRISE OF THE FORT
MCDOWELL YAVAPAI NATION

Picture a round or two among cottonwoods, cows and cholla, set against Arizona’s dramatic Santa Cruz mountainous ranges.

Just a zippy 35-mile drive south of Tucson International Airport, and 20 miles north of Nogales, Mexico, Tubac Golf Resort & Spa is nestled within Santa Rita and Tumacácori Mountain ranges, on historic and picturesque 1789 Otero Ranch.

Opening in 1959 with celebrity backing by crooner Bing Crosby, the resort is celebrating its 60th fabulous year, having played host to Hollywood’s mid-century icons, shooting a collective total of 60 Western feature films in the area over time. And Hollywood simply cannot get enough of Tubac, filming the 1996 romantic comedy, “Tin Cup” starring Kevin Costner within the resort grounds. The film explores Roy McAvoy’s (Costner) fall from pro golfing grace to instructor/occasional caddy to his nemesis, David Simms (Don Johnson). After meeting new pupil Molly (Rene Russo), Roy vows to not only win the U.S. Open, but to also win Molly’s heart. Trouble is, Molly is arch-rival David’s girlfriend.

Red Lawrence designed the 27-hole championship course spanning both sides of the Santa Cruz River offering challenging, undulating elevations, coupled with spectacular views. The course includes the Anza Nine, Otero Nine and Rancho Nine. The Otero Nine pays homage to the estate’s original owners, while Tucson-based course architect, Ken Kavanaugh designed eight of the new nine holes, with three of those eight holes deemed suitable for golfers of any ability. Bent grass greens and Bermuda grass fairways – over seeded with winter rye in fall – yield a truly stunning course. Split rail fencing defines cart paths and fairways, while the pro shop is brimming with the latest and greatest golfing accessories, equipment and ensembles. Cantina serves as a shady oasis, offering refreshing beverages and made-to-order simple yet moreish Mexican fare to sate thirst and hunger after a grueling nine, 18 or 27 holes. Proper attire with soft spikes is expected and required on the public course.

Lovebirds truly rate Tubac Golf Resort & Spa, with many opting to propose, wed or renew their sacred vows within the estate’s achingly romantic, replica 17th-century mission-style chapel. Beloved guests appreciate authentic furnishings adorning each of the 98 charming lodgings, while the lauded spa and salon is a haven for those in need of pampering.

Tranquil indoor and alfresco patio dining awaits at historic Stables Ranch Grille with its jaw-dropping view. Giant old growth cottonwoods stand protectively behind an island green with a par-3, 140-yard finishing hole with split rail fencing, waterway teeming with geese and ducks, cattle languidly grazing and the Santa Rita Mountains rounding out the idyllic vista.

Spanish Colonial lodgings vary with casitas, haciendas, posadas and the sophisticated Otero Suite – each honoring Arizona’s storied past with eclectic flair – and most rooms feature a patio to enjoy sublime Southwestern sunrises or sunsets. Guests can

be as spirited or sloth-like as their mood: golf, tennis, unwind at the desert spa, or unwine(d) by saddlin’ up to the bar to consider an impressive array of tequilas to whet the most discerning of whistles at the tack room-inspired Stables Ranch Bar.

Tubac is steeped in history with ancestral and geopolitical ties to Mexico, Spain and the USA, dating back to the early 1700s. Just like the resort, the artistic township celebrated its 60th year in business – hosting the annual Tubac Arts Festival in February 2019, gaining popularity each year. Take a leisurely one-mile stroll or two-minute drive to Tubac’s Town Center and unearth its countless treasures.

For those who’d rather remain within the grounds, there’s Pancho’s – the resort’s onsite home décor and interior design service. Housed within a 100+ year old barn, complete with grain silos, resident husband and wife fossickers Dennis and Lorraine Rowden have scoured the globe in search of an eclectic array of Southeast Asian, Southwestern and Spanish Colonial pieces to adorn your space. The Gift Shop is your go-to for takeaway refreshments, overlooked toiletries, stationery and souvenirs.

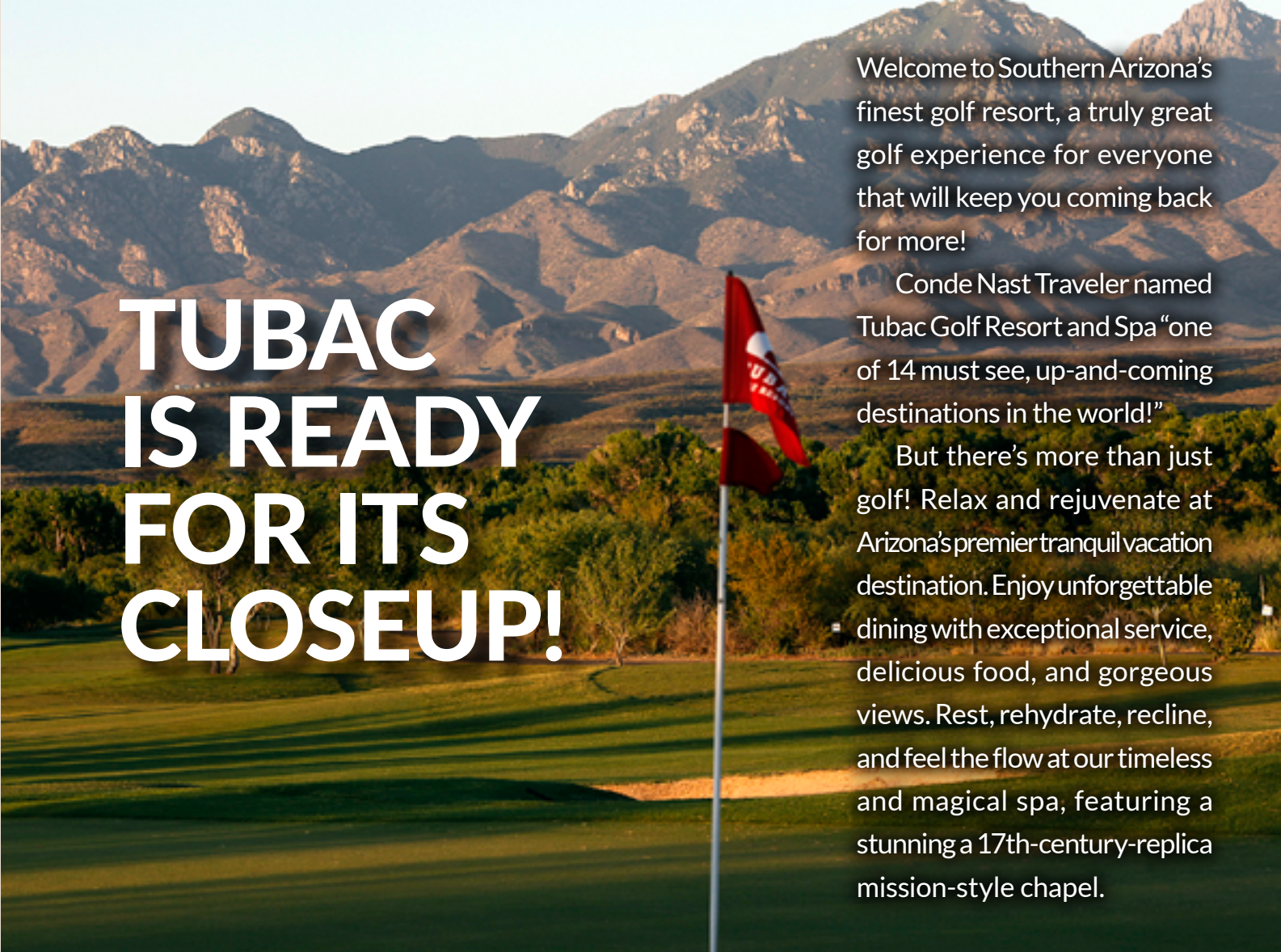
Respected global travel tomes agree that Tubac is atop of many bucket lists.

Condé Nast Traveler named Tubac 1 of 14 ‘Must see, up-and-coming global destinations,’ *USA Today Travel* named Tubac ‘1 of 10 best cold weather escapes in the USA,’ and *Tucson Lifestyle Magazine* declared the Spa at Tubac Golf Resort ‘Best Resort Spa.’

Be sure to add Tubac Golf Resort & Spa to your list and book your lodgings, tee and spa times for the upcoming busy fall and winter seasons.



Tubac Golf Resort & Spa



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Conde Nast Traveler named Tubac Golf Resort and Spa “one of 14 must see, up-and-coming destinations in the world!”

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Golf in Panama: Your Ship has Come In

BY DAN VUKELICH

Under a partly cloudy sky on a pleasant 85-degree day, I stood mesmerized as massive cargo ships hundreds of feet long stacked with thousands of truck-sized shipping containers lined up to rise and fall with the water level of the Panama Canal like so many super-sized kids' bathtub toys. From the spectators' balcony above the Miraflores Locks of the canal, the 1914 engineering project, called one of the seven modern wonders of the world, I watched as ships of all sizes – a container ship, a cruise ship, a pleasure boat – floated by, ushered along by mooring lines and tugs. Over the course of its 40 miles, the canal's locks raise and lower such ships 85 feet above sea level while they cross the Isthmus of Panama.

Built and operated by the United States, the canal was deeded to Panama by President Jimmy Carter in 1979. Since 1999, the Panamanians have run the canal. In 2016, they completed a larger set of locks to handle vessels too big for the original canal—so-called Panamax ships, the biggest ocean-going vessels on the planet.

A day for a visit to the canal is an absolute must for any Panamanian golf trip.

Wait. What? Golf in Panama, you say? That's right. In a nation that once hosted 75 U.S. military installations, it's inconceivable there'd be no golf courses there. In fact, the first golf course in Panama was up and running by 1916. Within 12 years of the

canal's opening, the Canal Zone already had four courses.

Today, some of Panama's 14 golf courses are stops on the Web.com Tour and the PGA Tour LatinoAmerica.

The country's two top courses, both designed by Jack Nicklaus, are amenities of the Santa Maria Hotel & Resort in Panama City and the Buenaventura Golf & Beach Resort, a seaside getaway on the Pacific coast about 69 miles to the west of Panama City.

The city itself is ethnically and racially diverse and bustling, sometimes called the capital of Central America. It ranks in the top 50 cities in the world for the most skyscrapers. The mix of old and new is striking. Many of the buildings in the Casco Viejo, or Old Town, date from the 1600s, and these ancient buildings rapidly are being transformed into trendy shops, clubs and restaurants. With its narrow cobblestone streets, the Casco Viejo has the look and feel of Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the banking district of Downtown Panama City could be mistaken for Chicago's North Michigan Avenue.

A city dating back 400 years will boast a lively history, and Panama City is no exception.

The British privateer Henry Morgan looted and burned the original city in 1671, but it was rebuilt two years later on a nearby peninsula. The area first came to the attention of the U.S. during the California Gold Rush in 1849

when a railroad built across the Isthmus of Panama cut weeks off the shipment of gold headed for the U.S. East Coast.

In the late 1800s, the French tried unsuccessfully to build the Panama Canal, but abandoned work after 20,000 deaths, mostly from yellow fever and malaria. After the French failure, the U.S. stepped in to complete the canal. By aggressively spraying for mosquitoes, yellow fever was eradicated and malaria reduced dramatically. For 85 years, the U.S. controlled a swath of Panama five miles on either side of the canal, but after contentious negotiations and Senate hearings in the 1970s, by treaty all land and facilities in the Canal Zone reverted to the Panamanians.

That economic engine still drives Panama, and made possible the boom that brought forth today's golf destinations.

Santa Maria Hotel & Golf Resort

This impeccably manicured par-72 course plays from 5,258 to 7,000 yards from four sets of tees. It's essentially a private club, accessible only by members, guests of members and guests staying at the hotel a mere 50 yards from the first tee.

Opened in spring 2018, the course has all the usual Nicklaus trademarks – plenty of right-hand doglegs, grass bunkering around the putting surfaces and devilish multi-level greens. As you might expect from Troon Privé, Troon's private-club management arm that runs the Santa Maria, conditions and service are both superb.

"It's very friendly, and truthfully, the greens are the course's only defense," says Curacao-born Oliver Riding, Santa Maria's director of golf, who played for two and a half years on the PGA Tour LatinoAmerica.

The course is surrounded by signs of the booming economy of Panama City. Construction cranes dot the skyline. The roadways nearby are all new. Nearly all of the half dozen gleaming hi-rises that frame many views on the course weren't there just three years ago, Riding says.

The 182-room five-star hotel, a Marriott-affiliated property, is so close to Panama City's Tocumen International

Airport – barely a 10-minute drive – you can be on the first tee less than an hour after clearing customs.

A round at Santa Maria is \$175, but golf packages available through Marriott's website run between \$199 and \$399 a night and will get you lodging and breakfast for two, spa discounts and a round of golf and cart for one player for each night's stay.

Buenaventura Golf & Beach Resort

Buenaventura, in contrast to the urban Santa Maria, is a pastoral seaside destination near the town of Rio Hato in Coclé Province. The hotel, also affiliated with Marriott, and the golf course, run by Troon, are the focal points of an upscale retirement and second-home community. In March, the course hosted a LatinoAmerica Tour event. The resort features a resident mixologist who creates drinks using local ingredients in an air-conditioned palapa bar set over a

Panama at a Glance

How to Get There

United and Copa Airlines operate up to six daily nonstop flights from O'Hare. Advance-purchase roundtrip economy fares range from \$440 to \$650. No time zone change means no jet lag, so the five-and-a-half-hour flight to Panama City's Tocumen International Airport is a breeze.

When to Go

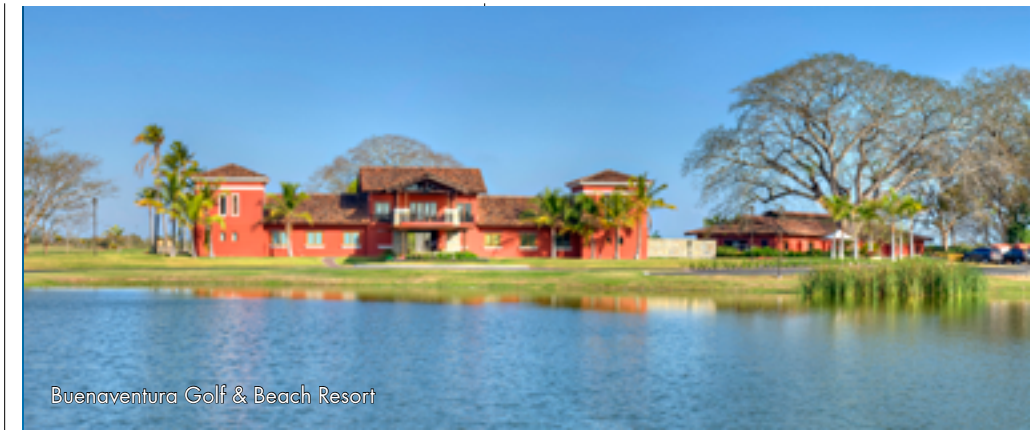
Panama gets 100 inches of rain a year, most of it falling from May through November, when you can expect it to rain for at least a short time every day. The dry season is December through mid-April but comes with some wind. Year-round temperatures range from a low in the high 60s in the morning to the low 90s in the afternoon. Along the Pacific Coast to the west, it's a little drier.

Once on the Ground

Although the language of Panama is Spanish, you'll have no trouble getting by with just English. The currency, the balboa, is permanently pegged to the U.S. dollar – in fact, the dollar has been legal tender in Panama since 1904. While Panama produces balboa coins in the denominations of U.S. coins, they don't print any paper money. Founded in 1519, Panama City now is a modern city of 880,000 residents. It features a five-year-old subway system. Its drinking water is safe and the seafood is spectacular.



Buenaventura Golf & Beach Resort



Buenaventura Golf & Beach Resort

Santa Maria Hotel & Golf Resort



lagoon. It has nine restaurants and bars that feature food ranging from sushi to pizza to Spanish tapas. Unique to Buenaventura is an art gallery selling works of some of the indigenous people of Panama. Sale proceeds benefit the artists.

The par-72 golf course, built by Nicklaus in 2012, has four sets of tees and plays from 5,822 to 7,383 yards. In contrast to Santa Maria, Buenaventura's Paspalum Platinum greens are quite forgiving and the fairways are exceedingly generous. Plenty of poincianas, a brilliantly colored flowering tree, stand along the course's margins.

Alfonso Castiñeira, Buenaventura's Spanish-born director of golf and a LatinoAmerica tour veteran, likes to point out several massive corotú (enterolobium cyclocarpum) trees around the property that the property owner directed the Nicklaus team to preserve. The canopies of these 90-year-old corotús are so massive a wedding with as many as 100 people could comfortably gather in their shade. In fact, two majestic corotús come into play on No. 16, a par 5, where their canopies narrow the usable fairway significantly. Additionally, "There are two big lakes which make the hole very demanding," Castiñeira says.

Stay-and-play golf packages at the 118-room Spanish colonial-style Buenaventura hotel start at \$210 per night. Packages include unlimited golf for two, breakfast for two, one spa visit per person per stay, plus complimentary paddleboard, kayak and tennis and volleyball-court access. The resort can also arrange round-trip transportation between Panama City's Tocumen International Airport.

Buenaventura features a high-tech Cobra equipment fitting and instruction center. For non-golfers, the resort can arrange eco-tours, horseback riding, jet skiing, zip line and waterfall tours, rum-tastings, deep-sea fishing and four-wheeling tours.

Dan Vukelich is a freelance golf writer who edits newmexicogolfnews.com in Albuquerque, N.M.



Santa Maria Maria Hotel & Golf Resort



Buenaventura Golf & Beach Resort



Santa Maria Maria Hotel & Golf Resort



Santa Maria Maria Hotel & Golf Resort

ON THE CORKSCREWS

STEPHEN HAWK

Welcome to the second opportunity to review some wine terms you may not be familiar with, but should prove helpful.

Enophile or Oenophile. Someone who enjoys wine. That's us.

Enoteca is Italian for "wine cellar," but is more broadly applied to any wine shop that offers an extensive selection of high-quality wines.

Fiasco. Remember those bulbous, straw-covered bottles of cheap Chianti from the 1970s? Those are fiaschi. They are rarely seen anymore, because the cost of hand-wrapping each bottle of such plonk can't be justified.

Filtering a wine assures its clarity. Filtering through pads or membranes just before bottling removes yeast cells and other microorganisms, as well as sediment. Once a nearly universal process in winemaking, filtering is now being avoided by makers of "natural" wines.

Fining is also a clarification process. Activated carbon, activated charcoal, bentonite, casien, egg whites, gelatin, isinglass and nylon all may be used to capture suspended particles in wine by absorption, causing them to settle to the bottom of the container. Filtering is then usually used to remove the fining agent.

Grand Cru is French for "great growth." It is used in Burgundy for the top ranking a vineyard can receive, but may or may not translate into the highest-quality wine. In Bordeaux, the designation is bestowed on some châteaux, but, unlike in Burgundy, it confers little value.

Grappa is the Italian counterpart to France's Marc. It is made from pomace, the residue remaining in a wine press once the juice has been extracted. This fiery distillation can vary widely, and come in unaged and aged expressions.

Hang Time is that period from grapes' early maturity until harvest. Proper hang time can improve the fruits' depth and complexity. However, too much time on the vine will produce overripe grapes of lesser quality.

Inoculation is a technique whereby the winemaker adds an active yeast culture or malolactic bacteria to the juice to reliably

Say What? (Part 2)

start the primary fermentation with known strains.

Kir is an apéritif made by adding a dose of cassis to white wine. When the white wine is Champagne, the drink is a Kir Royale.

Lees is the sediment that precipitates during fermentation and aging, and consists mainly of dead yeast cells and grape particles. Wine may be left on the lees for a time to develop flavor, but it is ultimately removed by racking.

Maceration is the time grape juice spends in contact with the skins and seeds. For white wines, maceration can be quite short. For red wines, maceration can be relatively long.

Malolactic Fermentation is a biochemical reaction where bacteria converts malic acid to lactic acid and carbon dioxide, making the young wine softer, smoother and more complex. The process is used for most red wines, but much more judiciously for whites so their acidity is retained.

Mead is a beverage made from fermented honey, water, yeast and flavorings. Mead is an ancient drink, but not widely seen until recently, since some craft brewers are beginning to produce it in limited quantities.

Meritage rhymes with heritage, and don't let anyone tell you different. The registered trademark was coined in 1988 by a group of California vintners to establish standards for their blended wines made with traditional Bordeaux varietals and methods.

Mulled Wine is heated and steeped with various dried fruits and spices. Sugar is often added, as mulled wine tends toward bitterness, especially if red. It may also be dosed with a spirit, usually brandy. Since it will be considerably altered, choose a wine that is drinkable but inexpensive. Something different to consider for this winter, eh?

Must is the juice of grapes fresh from the crusher, and can also contain pulp, skins and seeds.

A **Négociant** is a person or firm that sells and ships wine. Although usually just a wholesaler or distributor in America, in Europe negicants can be and often are involved in every aspect of wine, from buying grapes to bottling and shipping the finished product.



There's Nothing Shy About This Cabernet

Dakota Shy was founded by industry veterans Todd Newman and Tom Garrett in 2008, determined to ultimately create a world-class estate of their own. They began by sourcing Cabernet Sauvignon grapes from a range of vineyards throughout Napa Valley.

Dakota Shy purchased its estate in 2014. It dates back to the 1850s, when George Yount took possession via the Spanish Land Grant. Along side the vines, there are 1.2 acres of Italian and Spanish olives from which Dakota Shy presses their own oil.

In addition to the estate, Dakota Shy continues to source grapes from all over Napa Valley. These sites offer unique and varied characteristics that Dakota Shy relies on in the creation of their Cabernets.

This wine opens with notes of stone and spice on the nose. Flavors of grass, oak, dried cherry, cocoa and minerals follow. The medium body is supported by well integrated oak and tannin. If you don't want to cellar it, decant for three to four hours before serving. Available only by allocation.

www.dakotashywine.com

smhawk@winervana.com

Kalalau Trail, just minutes from the airport. The resort is also home to the aforementioned Ocean Course at Kokuala. Along with a great beach and suites with views of the ocean, gardens and mountains, the resort serves up a wide array of amenities. Three of the four pools are lagoon style and include waterfalls. The Hawaiian Rainforest spa offers a full array of services and treatments. Dining options span the gamut from pool-side fare to candlelit dinners.

Voted among the top five resorts in all of Hawaii by *Travel + Leisure Magazine* in 2019, Ko'a Kea Hotel & Resort is located just off the shore of Po'ipu Beach. Constructed on the site of a hotel that had been devastated by Hurricane Iniki in 1992, the hotel features fabulous spa services, an outstanding pool, Oceanside fire pits and an award-winning restaurant featuring locally-sourced ingredients. Luxury accommodations include 121 boutique oceanfront, ocean view and garden view guest rooms with balcony or patio. And you are walking distance from The Shops at Kukuila, where you will find unique boutiques and multiple dining options. One of our favorites was Kaiwe Roots offering Kaiwe wood-grilled barbeque dishes with a unique island touch.

For many golfers, the main focus of an exotic trip to an island paradise is great architecture, good conditions and the availability of cold beverages. When it comes to Kauai, however, a bird's eye view of the island is well worth the diversion. Maverick Aviation Group provides memorable helicopter tours over the island's natural landmarks: the Na Pali Coast and Waimea Canyon. A second tour called "Kauai Discovery" also emanates from the Port Allen Airport and hovers above the western section of the island which is virtually inaccessible through any other means of transportation.

Two must-see tours on any visit to Kauai are Waimea Canyon Lookout and Hanalei Bay. Carved thousands of years ago by rivers and floods that flowed from Mount Waialeale's summit, the canyon is home to the Waimea River. While there are three "official" lookouts over the canyon, the main one boasts an elevation change of 4,000 feet and the breath-taking views are well worth each foot of journey. Hanalei Bay is the largest bay on the north shore of the island and consists of nearly two miles of beach, surrounded by mountain. The crashing surf has been a favorite among surfers for decades.

Harbor is a thriving community featuring a premier yacht club, an equestrian center, a deep-water marina, boutique shopping, 32 neighborhoods and a two golf courses that traverses across distinctly different environments.

Everything about Bay Harbor Golf Club is vast and dramatic. The 14,000-square foot clubhouse sits atop a bluff overlooking Little Traverse Bay. The Links Course begins from the base of a bluff and then rises quickly to holes that tower above the bay. Like all three of the nines at Bay Harbor, the Links Course was designed by Arthur Hills, who dug deep into his bag of tricks to create memorable holes from start to finish. Called by some the "Pebble Beach of the Midwest," the course features miles of uninterrupted views up and down the lake front, including a terrific par 5 that ends on a green perched on a cliff high above the bay.

The Quarry Course nine contrasts greatly with its counterparts as holes stretch inland around and across the aforementioned cement quarry. Highlighting the nine is No. 8, a nifty par 3 that begins from a lofted perch before dipping to a green a short distance from the bay. Referenced as Bay Harbor's answer to the 7th at Pebble Beach, the hole is both fun and exhilarating.

The Preserve may be less dramatic than the other two courses but is just as fun. Huge fairways allow players to fire away off the tees toward fairways protected on both sides by hardwood forest. Wildflowers, lush grass and native wetlands lead to a spectacular final par 3 protected on the left side by Lake Michigan.

Across the highway from the Bay Harbor complex, Crooked Tree Golf Club was carved through stands of centuries-old hardwood and provides amazing views of the bay. The course is characterized by undulating greens and large stretches of natural wetlands.

No stay at the Inn at Bay Harbor is complete without dinner at the Vintage Chophouse. Celebrated as the only waterfront dining on Little Traverse Bay, the restaurant serves up amazing dishes including Maine Lobster Pappardelle and 30-day aged Prime Delmonico.

Amenities available at the inn include a full-service spa and a four-hour excursion aboard a private yacht exploring the open waters of Lake Michigan or the unique beauty of Lake Charlevoix.

Once back at the clubhouse (also home to high-end condominium accommodations thematically linked to the great castles of Scotland), enjoy a pint of ale while planning your next adventure.

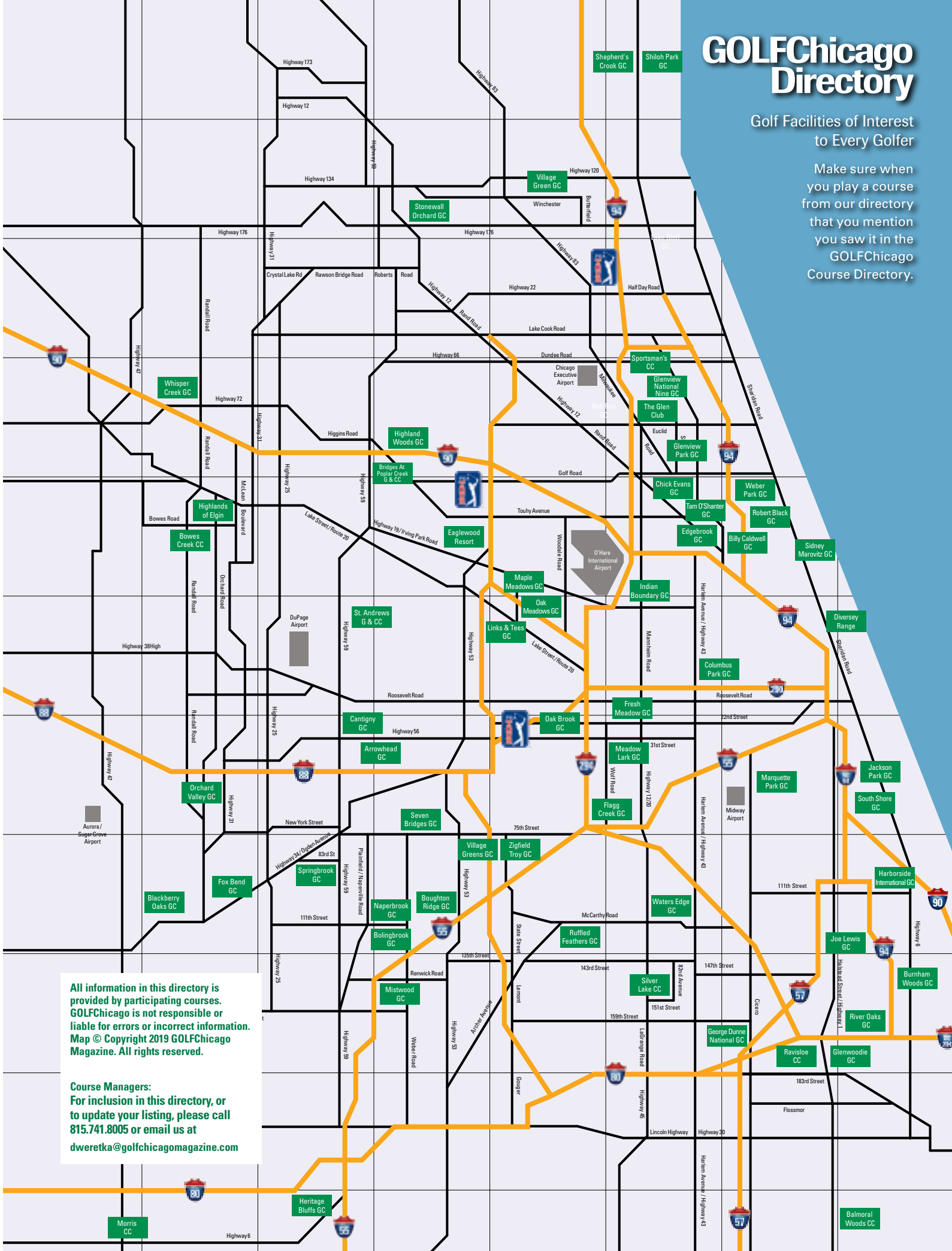
No lengthy stay at the resort is complete without a visit to aforementioned Sleeping Bear Dunes – a 70,000-acre national park featuring sand dunes towering 460 feet above Lake Michigan. One of the natural wonders of the Midwest, the dunes provide amazing panoramas of the Michigan skyline and feature one site that slides directly into the refreshing waters of Lake Michigan.

Once back at the resort, golfers with sand still on their minds can sign up for an array of clinics, private lessons and elite classes that include instructions on how to properly extract one's ball from a deep bunker. According to Greg Babinec, resort head professional and one of the nicest guys on the planet (and the Michigan PGA's 2018 Professional of the Year), the golf schools provide options for teaching every ability level. "We make a fun game even more fun no matter your abilities," he stated. "On any given day, we have business groups, kids and couples hitting golf balls only a short distance away from some of state's top high school and college players."

Once your swing is fixed, Crystal Mountain Resort & Spa also serves as the home base to explore other area golf courses, including Arcadia Bluffs (review featured in this issue), only a short drive away from the resort, and Manitou Passage Golf Club. Designed by golf legend Arnold Palmer, the latter course winds through forested land and alongside the cherry trees which made this part of Michigan famous.

"The course serves up a fantastic golf experience in a beautiful setting," Palmer said during the layout's grand opening when it was called King's Challenge. It was purchased in 2009 with the course's name changed to highlight the waterway separating two nearby islands from mainland Michigan.

"You can't beat golf in Northern Michigan," said Babinec, who also serves as cross-country ski manager at the resort during winters. "Chicagoans love coming to Northern Michigan for a whole bunch of reasons, including the outstanding courses but also the clear skies, the commune with nature and the genuine hospitality of the people who live here."



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