Best of Our Valley 2012 Winners

Written by Arizona Foothills Magazine

For the third year, AZFoothills.com has asked readers who and what their favorites are, offering thousands of nominees chosen by e-mailed nominations from the public, editors and focus groups. After millions of votes were casted at AZFoothills.com over the past 60 days, the winners have been determined and the best of each category this year will be featured in the March 2012 issue, a tell-all guide to the coolest people and places in the Valley of the Sun. Stay tuned because you are all invited to Scottsdale Quarter for the Best of Our Valley Finale Party!

With the wide variety of categories and a number of nominations, you are bound to recognize some of the names of your favorite Valley people, places and things. Find out if your favorite burger joint, golf community, radio personality or even a Valley resident is the winner for the Best of Our Valley. Check out the categories for Best of Our Valley 2012 winners.

Bret Michaels won with the total most votes and will be featured on the cover of the March 2012 Issue! Johnjay and Rich, from 104.7 KISS, came in second with just a few votes behind! This is the second year in a row that a male has won the cover, a different approach from always having a beautiful lady grace our pages.

Your favorite people in the Valley have been chosen. Alison Johnson, American Cancer Society, took the lead as the Most Fashionable Woman Over 30 this year. It was a close race, but William Smith, DJ, won Most Fashionable Men Under 30 with his amazing colorful Nike Shoes. If you are always looking for a good party, Steve LeVine, Owner of Steve LeVine Entertainment & Public Relations, is the man for the job, the winner for the Marketing Guru category.

We always want to know what rock stars are doing, and we found out thanks to Bret Michaels, who won Top Celebrity Twitterer with 70 percent of the votes. For the second year in a row, Bob Parsons, Founder and CEO of GoDaddy.com, won with 70 percent of the votes too in his category for Most Influential Man in the Valley. Parsons and Renee also won Favorite Valley Couple. Go Bob! Your vote for Most Influential Woman in the Valley is Kari Yatkowski, Founder and President of Haven Charitable Foundation. Father Reese, President of Brophy College Preparatory Academy, won The Most Influential in Valley Education.

The Best News Station this year is 3TV. From dawn to dusk, 3TV's award-winning journalism team satiates the Valley's local and national news cravings. Presenting news updates throughout the day and informative broadcasts at convenient hours, 3TV has earned a reputation as Arizona's go-to news source. As a testament to the Valley's appreciation for the news station, it took home 12 Best of Our Valley nods. News Anchor of the Year, Beverly Kidd, joined the 3TV family in August 2001. Starting off on the anchor desk for the weekend morning show, Kidd is now the evening news anchor and health reporter. She knows how to get our attention and tell us everything we need to know! For the third year in a row, your Favorite Local Morning Show is "Good Morning! Arizona." Everyone dreads an early alarm clock, but Valley residents agree that the morning slump is easier to get over when "Good Morning! Arizona" is on. For the second year in a row, your Favorite Nightly Newscast is News at 10, 3TV. When looking to catch up on the day's events, our voters chose 3TV's News at 10 as the best broadcast to watch when the sun goes down.

We have to give the biggest shout out to Carey Pena, 3TV and Nadine Toren, KPHO TV. These lovely ladies battled it out for Most Fashionable News Anchor until the very end. Carey Pena took the win by only 0.66 percent. Congrats Carey!

Who was the winner that successfully helps drivers navigate rush hour? This year, the Best Traffic Personality is Jason Christopher from 102.5 KNIX. Although he is the co-owner of Muscleman Music & More, he makes it his priority to tell you where traffic is.

Lady La has more than three years of Phoenix morning show experience and nearly 50,000 MySpace, Facebook and Twitter fans/followers. Clearly, she has a loyal fan base that wanted to bring her to the top and be recognized as this year's Best Local Radio Talk Show or DJ. Although the race was close between Johnjay and Rich 104.7 KISS morning show, she managed to take the win. However, Johnjay and Rich

won Best Local Radio Talk Show or DJ: Morning Drive. The rush hour grind can put a damper on any day. Luckily, Johnjay and Rich blasts an epic lineup of sidesplitting segments like 'War of the Roses' and 'Second-Date Update' that make our voters want to stay in their rides longer.

For more wins in media, your favorite Best Local Radio Talk Show or DJ: Daytime was Aaron Taylor, 104.7 KISS. Taylor is the reason fans don't touch the dial during drive time. Taylor "represents DJ's and people all over the world that dust off the hates and do what makes them happy regardless of what others say!" Super Snake, 101.5 KZON won Best Local Radio DJ: Afternoon Drive. Super Snake, the "Voice of the Valley," has made his claim to fame as the top radio personalities in the country though his extensive history as a radio extraordinaire. His flamboyant voice keeps listeners intrigued. 92.3 KTAR won Best Talk Radio Station. When getting from A to B, Valley voters tune into 92.3 KTAR for all their news and talk radio fixations. However, country fans and Arizonians believe the Best Radio Station is 107.9 KMLE. Scooping up the nod for Best Radio Station, it is clear that listeners love to hear all things country. When you have the best hits all day, it makes it hard for people to change the station.

For three years and counting, Eddie Matney won Most Influential in Valley Food. We are proud to share that Matney, owner and chef of Eddie's House in Old Town Scottsdale, has been a culinary force in the Valley since 1986. For those who visit him at Eddie's House, he suggests his favorite: the mint Sumac-grilled lamb chops. When he isn't sautéing, braising or searing, he loves spending time with his family and fly-fishing.

The Best Catering, Benedict's Catering, won over second-place competitor, M Catering by Michael's. As for more tasty treats, The Mint Bar and Lounge won the Best Sushi.

Luci's Healthy Marketplace won with 81.59 percent of the votes for Best Grocery Store and Best Cup of Coffee. For the second year in a row, The Best Speakeasy was Mabel's on Main with 71.62 percent of the votes. The Best Bakery Classic Cakes & Confections won, the third year in a row, with an astonishing 76.08 percent of the votes. Your favorite yogurt place, Tasti-D-Lite, won again this year too with 74.52 percent of the votes.

The Mint Bar and Lounge also won for The Most Glamorous Place to Party beating out the competition by 41.76 percent. Smashbox was also another great contender for the best places to party in Scottsdale and ended up winning this category.

There were many close calls and fierce competition this year. We had many people who won by only a few percentages. Find out who won and proves to be the Valley's Best.

The Best Dermatologist was a close call Dr. Burrell Wolk won by only 2 percent. Wolk had 50.87 percent of the votes, while his competitor, Dr. Paul English, had 48.4 percent of the votes.

The Best Department Store Dining only had two contestants, Café Nordstrom at Nordstrom and NM Café at Neiman Marcus. However, the competition was aggressive with Café Nordstrom winning by 2 percent, with 51.85 percent of the votes. NM Café was close behind with 48.15 percent of the votes. This clearly was no landslide, but our voters finally supported Café Nordstrom with the win.

The Best Home Accessory Store was the next category that had intense competition. Your favorite place to shop for lamps, sofas and decorations was between two fabulous stores. Copenhagen came in second place with 39.58 percent of the votes and Domestic Bliss won with 41.67 percent of the votes.

Best Custom Home Builder was also a huge contest between Argue Custom Homes, Desert Star Construction and Kitchell. Argue Custom Homes won with 37 percent of the votes, but Kitchell came in second with 7 percent of the votes behind them. Desert Star Construction stayed in the race coming in third with 27.7 percent of the votes.

All in all, it was an amazing contest this year, and we are excited to feature all of our winning contestants in the March Issue.

For now, take a look at all the winners:

To see the winners in the **People** category, click here.

To see the winners in the **Media** category, click here.

To see the winners in the **Arts and Entertainment** category, click here.

To see the winners in the **Health and Self** category, click here.

To see the winners in the **Kids** category, click here.

To see the winners in the **Companies and Professionals** category, click here.

To see the winners in the **Food and Restaurants** category, click here.

To see the winners in the **Nightlife and Cocktails** category, click here.

To see the winners in the **Home and Design** category, click here.

To see the winners in the **Stay and Play** category, click here.

To see the winners in the **Escapes** category, click here.

To see the winners in the **Shopping** category, click here.

To see the winners in the **Transportation** category, click here.

To see the winners in the **Golf** category, click here.

To download your **Best Of Our Valley Winner Logos**, click here.

To advertise in **Best of Our Valley 2012 Issue**, click here and click here.

You can brag about your success by ordering **reprints**, **postcards**, or **wood plaques**, click here for your order form and click here for the website.

We are now accepting **nominations for Best of Our Valley 2013**, click here.

People

Best Arizona Foothills Cover Model	August Issue: Eden Viza
Best Twitter Picture from AZFoothillsMag Followers: Men	@John_R_Scott
Best Twitter Picture from AZFoothillsMag Followers: Women	@bbellecouture
Favorite Couple in the Valley	Bob and Renee Parsons
Marketing Guru	Steve LeVine, Owner of Steve LeVine Entertainment & Public Relations
Most Fashionable in the Valley Over 30- Men	Micah Johnson, Founder and Executive of MediaStars
Most Fashionable in the Valley Over 30- Women	Alison Johnson, American Cancer Society
Most Fashionable in the Valley Under 30- Men	William Smith, DJ
Most Fashionable in the Valley Under 30- Women	McKenna Wesley, Model
Most Influential in Valley Education	Father Reese, President of Brophy College Preparatory Academy
Most Influential in Valley Food	Eddie Matney, Owner, Eddie's House
Most Influential in Valley Nonprofit	Debbie Gaby, Nonprofit Owner and Philanthropist
Most Influential in Valley Politics	Sheriff Joe Arpaio
Most Influential Man in the Valley	Bob Parsons, Executive Chairman and Founder of GoDaddy.com
Most Influential Woman in the Valley	Kari Yatkowski, Founder and President of Haven Charitable Foundation
Top Celebrity Twitter	@bretmichaels

Media

Best Anchor- Weekends	Tess Rafols, 3TV
Best Country Radio Station	107.9 KMLE
Best Jazz Radio Station	95.5 KYOT
Best Local News Website	azfamily.com
Best Local Radio Talk Show or DJ	Lady La 101.5 KZON
Best Local Radio Talk Show or DJ- Afternoon Drive	Super Snake, 101.5 KZON
Best Local Radio Talk Show or DJ- Daytime	Aaron Taylor, 104.7 KISS
Best Local Radio Talk Show or DJ- Morning Drive	Johnjay & Rich, 104.7 KISS
Best News Station	3TV
Best Radio Station	107.9 KMLE
Best Rock Radio Station	98 KUPD
Best Talk News Radio Station	92.3 KTAR
Best Today's Hits Radio Station	101.5 KZON
Best Traffic Personality	Jason Christopher, 102.5 KNIX
Favorite Afternoon or Evening Show	Valley Dish, 12 News
Favorite Anchor Team	Carey Pena & Fields Moseley, 3TV
Favorite Local Blog or Website	Phoenix Bites
Favorite Local Daytime Show	Your Life A to Z, 3TV
Favorite Local Morning Show	Good Morning! Arizona, 3 TV
Favorite Meteorologist or Weather Personality	April Warnecke, 3TV
Favorite Nightly Newscast	3TV News at 10
Favorite Sportscaster	Tim Ring, 3 TV
Favorite TV Personality- Afternoon or Evening News- Female	Linda Williams, FOX 10
Favorite TV Personality- Afternoon or Evening News- Male	Marc Martinez, FOX 10
Favorite TV Personality- Morning or Daytime- Female	Destry Jetton, 12 News
Favorite TV Personality- Morning or Daytime- Male	Scott Pasmore, 3 TV
Most Fashionable News Anchor	Carey Pena, 3TV
News Anchor of the Year	Beverly Kidd, 3TV

Arts and Entertainment

Best Annual Charity Event	Compassion with Fashion, AZ Humane Society
Best Annual Fashion Event	Scottsdale Fashion Week
Best Annual Gala	Suns & Stars Gala, Phoenix Suns Charities
Best Annual Valley Event	Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction
Best Automobile Auction	Barrett-Jackson
Best AZ Cheerleaders or Dance Team	ASU Cheerleaders
Best Concert Venue	US Airways Center
Best Haunted House	Dark Scares, Mesa
Best Local Band/Musician	The Walkens
Best Museum	Musical Instrument Museum
Best Pro Sports Team	Phoenix Mercury
Best Special Event Venue	The Boulders Resort
Best Sporting Event	Waste Management Open (Phoenix Open)
Best Wedding Venue	The Farm at South Mountain
Favorite Special Event DJ	Mr. P-Body, DJ
Most Elite Men's Group	Phoenix Thunderbirds

Health & Self

Best Alternative Exercise Option & Personal Training	The Body Lab Pilates +
Best Alternative Spa Treatment	Bliss Spa, W Scottsdale
Best Board-Certified Plastic Surgeon	Dr. Patti Flint
Best Day Spa or Nail Salon	Bliss Spa, W Scottsdale
Best Dentist or Dental Team	John Harman Dental Care
Best Dermatologist	Dr. Burrell Wolk
Best Facial	Bliss Spa, W Scottsdale
Best Family Doctor	Dr. Jan Zieren
Best Fertility Doctor	Dr. Daniel Rychlik, MD, FACOG
Best Gym	Mountainside Fitness

Best Hair Extention Stylist	Lisa Fresa Palacios, Sachi Salon
Best Hospital Group	Scottsdale Healthcare
Best Mani/Pedi	Bliss Spa, W Scottsdale
Best Massage	Bliss Spa, W Scottsdale
Best OBG/YN	Dr. Tara Brodkin
Best Orthodontist	Dr. Ben Larrabee
Best Pediatric Dentist	Desert Ridge Pediatric Dentistry
Best Resort Spa	Golden Door Spa,The Boulders Resort and Golden Door Spa
Best Salon	Zolton's Salon and Day Spa
Best Waxing	Bliss Spa, W Scottsdale
Best Yoga Studio	Sutra Midtown Yoga

Kids

Best Birthday Party Spot- Kids	Great Play Children's Gym
Best Kid-Friendly Hotel	Arizona Grand Resort
Best Kid's Clothing	Urban Kidz
Best Kid's Entertainment Indoors	Great Play Children's Gym
Best Kid's Entertainment Outdoors	Wildlife World Zoo
Best Kid's Restaurant	18 Degrees
Best Private High School	Nortre Dame Preparatory High School
Best Private or Charter School	Mesa Preparatory Academy
Best Toy Store	Auntie Em's Miniatures

Companies & Professionals

Best Advertising Firm	Zion & Zion
Best Bankruptcy Law Firm	Lewis & Roca LLP
Best Catering	Benedict's Catering
Best Data Centers	PhoenixNAP
Best Estate Planning & Trust Administration Law Firm	Joseph M Udall, PLC
Best Event Design & Decorations	Creative Occasions
Best Florist	White House Design Studio
Best Graphic Design	Zion & Zion
Best Intellectual Property Law Firm	Lewis & Roca LLP
Best Investment Firm	Morgan Stanley
Best Job Search Web Site	Jobing.com
Best Laundry/Dry Cleaning/Alterations	Fifth Avenue Alterations
Best Modeling Agency	Empire Talent & Modeling Agency
Best National Valley-Based Company	GoDaddy
Best Photographer- Commercial	Chadwick Fowler, Chadwick Fowler Photographics
Best Photographer- Events	Michael Levack, Levack Photography
Best Photographer- Family & Portraits	Michael Levack, Levack Photography
Best Photographer- Fashion & Beauty	Christos Sewell, Christos Sewell Photography
Best Photographer- Real Estate & Interiors	Dan Raustadt, Bigger Picture Images
Best Photographer- Weddings	Chadwick Fowler, Modern Wedding Scenes by Ch
Best Private Banking	National Bank of Arizona
Best Public Relations or Marketing Firm	Zion & Zion
Best Real Estate Law Firm	Lewis and Roca LLP Lawyers
Best Realtor- Ahwatukee	Pam Eagan
Best Realtor- Chandler	Amy Jones
Best Realtor- Glendale	Susan Ramsey
Best Realtor in the Valley	Pam Eagan
Best Realtor- Paradise Valley	Ronnie Gilbert
Best Realtor- Phoenix	Wendy Walker
Best Realtor- Scottsdale	Gilbert Houseaux
Best Realtor- Tempe	Thomas Tokoph
Best Social Networking and Online Media Firm	Zion & Zion
Best Web Design, Programming or Management Firm	Silverleaf Design
Best Wedding Planners	A Day to Cherish
Family Law	Gloria Cales
Most Philanthropic Company	GoDaddy.com

Food & Restaurants

Best Asian Cuisine & Sushi	The Mint
Best Bakery	Classic Cakes & Confections
Best Breakfast	First Watch
Best Burger	Smash Burger
Best Business Lunch Spot	Bistro 24, The Ritz-Carlton, Phoenix
Best Comfort Food	Eddie's House
Best Culinary Event	Scottsdale Culinary Festival
Best Cup of Coffee	Luci's Healthy Marketplace
Best Date Spot	The Mission
Best Department Store Dining	Cafe Nordstrom at Nordstrom
Best Farmers Market	Phoenix Public Market
Best Frozen Treat- Ice Cream, Gelato, or Custard	Gelato Dolce Vita
Best Frozen Treat- Yogurt or Low-Cal Alternative	Tasti-D-Lite
Best Gluten-Free Menu	The Melting Pot
Best Grocery Store	Luci's Healthy Marketplace
Best Health Food or Vegetarian Food	Fresh Mint
Best Italian	Nick's
Best Juicy Steak	Durant's
Best Lunch Spot - Fun	The Herb Box
Best Mexican Food	Black Chile Mexican Grill
Best New Restaurant	Black Chile Mexican Grill
Best Outdoor Seating	Carefree Station Grill & Bar
Best Place to Watch the Big Game	Arcadia Tavern
Best Private Dining Room	Table XII, Sanctuary Camelback Mountain Resort a
Best Resort Restaurant	Deseo, Westin Kierland Resort & Spa
Best Seafood	Mastro's Ocean Club
Best Slice	Venezia's Pizza
Best Spa Cuisine	Golden Door Spa Cafe at The Boulders
Best Sunday Brunch	Carefree Station Grill & Bar
Best Tea Spot	The Ritz-Carlton, Phoenix
Best Valley Food Truck	Epic Hot Dogs
Most Amazing Restaurant Interior	AZ88
Old Favorite	Pinnacle Peak Patio

Nightlife & Cocktails

Best Arizona Craft Beer	Four Peaks Brewing
Best Arizona Winery	Pillsbury Wine Company
Best Bartender	Sarah Aguirre, The Roxy
Best Biker Bar	Dirty Dogg Saloon
Best Cocktails	The Mint
Best Comedy Club	Stand Up Live
Best Cougar Bar	Blue Martini
Best Gay Bar	BS West
Best Happy Hour	Postino Winecafe
Best Margarita	Carefree Station
Best Nightclub or Lounge	American Junkie
Best Place to Stock Up on Alcohol	Total Wine & Spirits
Best Pub and Brewskis	Four Peaks Brewery
Best Speakeasy or Hidden Spot	Mabel's on Main
Best Spot for Drinking Activities	Geisha A Go Go
Best Wine Bar	Postino Winecafe
Most Glamourous Place to Party Best Place to Party in Scottsdale	The Mint Smashboxx

Home & Design

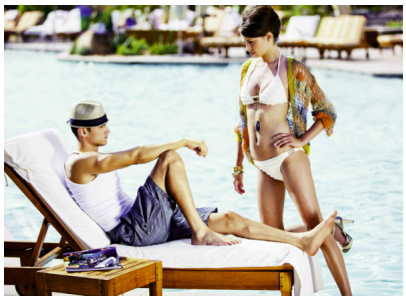
Best Architect	Erik Peterson, PHX Architecture
Best Condo Development	The Landmark
Best Custom Cabinets	Goodall Wood Creations
Best Custom Homebuilder	Argue Custom Homes
Best Design Firm/Designer	Danielle Jacques Designs LLC
Best Design Firm/Store	Ethan Allen
Best Flooring Company	Craftsman Court Ceramics
Best Furniture/Home Store -National	Ethan Allen
Best Furniture/Home Store-Local	Parnian Contemporary Modern Furniture
Best Home Accessory Store	Domestic Bliss
Best Homebuilding Company	Rosewood Homes

Best Landscaping	Berghoff Design Group
Best Luxury Rentals	Desert Parks Vista at DC Ranch
Best Master-Planned Community/Development	Vistancia
Best Pool Company	Mossman Brothers Pools, Inc.

Stay & Play

Best Casino	Gila River Casino- Lone Butte Casino
Best Dog Boarding Facility	Sonoran Desert Pet Resort
Best Downtown Phoenix Hotels	Westin Phoenix Downtown
Best Lobby Bar	The Ritz-Carlton, Phoenix
Best Movie Theatre	Harkins
Best Party Resort Pool	Hotel Valley Ho
Best Relaxing Resort Pool	The Westin Kierland Resort and Spa
Best Resort	Westin Kierland Resort and Spa
Most Luxe Accommodations	Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa

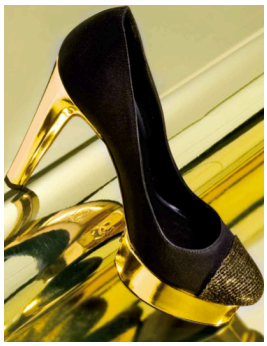
Escapes



Best Las Vegas Casino	Mandalay Bay
Best Las Vegas Pool	Encore/Wynn- Encore Beach
Best Las Vegas Resort	Wynn
Best Los Angeles Resort	L'Ermitage Beverly Hills Hotel
Best Orange County Resort	St. Regis Monarch Beach
Best San Diego Resort	Tower 23

Best Travel Website	Kayak.com

Shopping

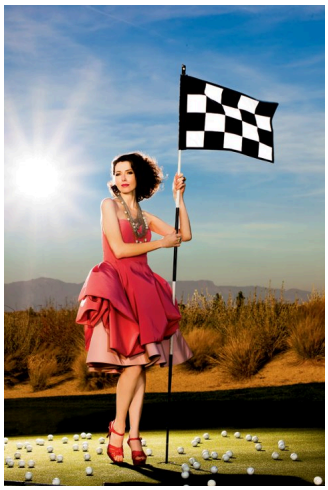


Best Athletic Gear	Lululemon
Best Boutique- Local	JAM
Best Boutique- National or International	Kate Spade
Best Cosmetics and Skincare	Saks Fifth Avenue
Best Deal Web Site	Groupon.com
Best Denim	Industrie Denim
Best Department Store	Saks Fifth Avenue
Best Discount Store	Nordstrom Rack
Best Engagement Ring Store	Coffin & Trout Fine Jewelers
Best Fashion Week	Phoenix Fashion Week
Best Fragrance Selection	Saks Fifth Avenue
Best Gift Shop	Do Me a Favor
Best Glasses	LensCrafters
Best Handbags and Accessories	Saks Fifth Avenue
Best Local Fashion Designer	Angela Johnson, Angela Johnson Designs
Best Local Jeweler	Coffin & Trout Fine Jewelers
Best Local Jewelry Designer	Claudia Kretchmer
Best Local Jewelry Designer Female	Jacqueline Nerguizian Fine Jewelry
Best Local Jewelry Designer Male	Randy Coffin, Coffin and Trout Fine Jewelry
Best Local Watch Selection	Coffin & Trout Fine Jewelers
Best National Jeweler	Tiffany & Co.
Best Outlets or Discount Shopping Center	The Outlets at Anthem
Best Pet Shop	Oh My Dog! Boutique + Spa
Best Place to Hoard Fashion & Accessories for Cheap	Charming Charlie's
Best Shoe Shopping	Saks Fifth Avenue
Best Shopping Center- Indoors	Scottsdale Fashion Square
Best Shopping Center- Outdoors	Desert Ridge Marketplace
Best Stylist	Shannon Campbell
Best Swimwear Shopping	Aqua Beachwear
Best Technology & Gadgets	Microsoft Store
Best Vintage or Secondhand Store	Vintage by Misty
Best Web Clothing Shopping	Saks.com
Best Wedding Dress Shop	Mariee
Best Year-Round Resortwear	Calypso St. Barth

Transportation

Best Airlines	Southwest
Best Dealer Service- Audi	Audi North Scottsdale
Best Dealer Service- BMW	BMW North Scottsdale
Best Dealer Service- Cadillac	Coulter Cadillac
Best Dealer Service- Infiniti	Infinti of Scottsdale
Best Dealer Service- Lexus	Bell Lexus
Best Dealer Service- Mercedes-Benz	Scottsdale Schumacher Mercedes-Benz
Best Limo & Sweet Rides	The Driver Provider
Best Valet	American Valet

Golf



Best 19th Hole	Bernard's Restaurant at Ocotillo Golf Resort
Best Clubhouse Spa	Encanterra
Best Golf Clothing & Shopping	Vans Golf Shop
Best Golf Community	Mirabel
Best Instructor	Donald Crawley at The Boulders Resort and Spa
Best Private Club	Mirabel
Best Pro Shop	The Boulders Resort
Best View	South Course at The Boulders Resort
Most Challenging Course	North Course at The Boulders Resort