

Best of Our Valley 2011: Golf

Written by Nichole Brophy

From the Valley's toughest course to the best post-round watering hole, voters selected the stars in all things golf.



Best Clubhouse Spa

Alvea Spa at Encanterra

Encanterra's Alvea Spa can be likened to that of a world-class resort yet members of the esteemed club, located in the San Tan Valley, enjoy the full-service amenities 365 days of the year. From massage therapy to every beauty treatment under the sun, Alvea teams with top professionals for all its spa offerings. 480.677.8071, www.alveaencanterra.com.

Best View Second-Year Winner

South Course at The Boulders

It's true that no other Arizona course will get golfers as up-close-and-personal to centuries-old desert boulder formations as the South Course at The Boulders. Surrounding mountain ranges and magnificent boulder outcroppings make the South Course one of the most unique golf experiences in the Southwest. 480.488.9028, www.theboulders.com.

Best Instructor Second-Year Winner

Donald Crawley at The Boulders Resort

As a "Top 100 Teacher in America" per GOLF Magazine, Donald Crawley is certainly well known in the golf instruction circuit. Lucky for locals, Crawley, director of the Boulders Golf Academy, instructs from the prestigious Boulders Resort and caters to golfers of any skill level looking for improvement. 480.488.9028, www.theboulders.com.



Most Challenging Course Second-Year Winner

North Course at The Boulders

Truly desert golf at its finest, the North Course at The Boulders provides a test of golf by way of pristine fairways, challenging green complexes and sensationally distracting views. 480.488.9028, www.theboulders.com.



Best Golf Community and Best Private Club Second-Year Winner

Mirabel

Boasting Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired architecture, the clubhouse at Mirabel acts as the luxurious anchor to the acclaimed master-planned community. Voters propelled the club to the top of the category for its menu of amenities, stellar golf offerings and soothing ambience. 480.437.1500, www.mirabel.com.

Best 19th Hole

Bernard's Restaurant at Ocotillo Golf Resort

Aside from the typical 18, often the make-it-or-break-it hole for a golf club is the unassuming 19th. Ocotillo Golf Resort earned a birdie from voters for its exceptional Bernard's Restaurant, a favorite among Valley golfers who like to enjoy a round after the round. 480.917.6660, www.ocotilogolf.com.

Best Golf Clothing & Shopping

In Celebration of Golf

Our voters loved In Celebration of Golf so much that even after both Scottsdale locations closed the retailer came out on top. Lovers of all things golf can still stock up on artwork and accessories reminiscent of sport's history at the company's closeout Web site. www.celebrategolf.com.

Best Pro Shop Five-Time Winner

The Boulders Resort

With a grand selection of the finest in golf apparel and accessories, The Boulder's desert-centric pro shop is the place to stock up before the round. 480.488.9028, www.theboulders.com.