Written by Written by Arizona Foothills Editors Monday, 16 March 2009 14:53 - Last Updated Thursday, 19 March 2009 14:16

Our constant sunny skies and upscale resort developments have created a hot zone for not only tourism, but world class golf. Here are our favorite reward-winning courses:

Mirabel 37100 North Mirabel Club Dr. Scottsdale, AZ 85262



Overlooking the 18 green of the Mirabel course, The Desert Lodge, inspired by early 1900's craftsmanship, provides a rustic retreat for those golfers with a captious appetite. By blurring the line between the indoors and out, this beautifully built dining room incorporates Arizona's design elements borrowed from the praised styles of Frank Lloyd Wright. But above the five-star architectural detailing lies the exceptional service and dinning. From barbecue to gourmet creations, The Desert Lodge offers a full range of delights. The club exudes comfortable elements that relax the mind, body, and soul in order to incorporate the casual elegance of Arizona living to the complete experience of its visitors. Membership to Mirabel's resort-style amenities are restricted to 350, but are not limited to property owners. Take the time to experience this hidden treasure in Scottsdale's foothills.

Estancia

27998 North 99th Place Scottsdale, AZ 85262



This world-class golfing community provides impeccable amenities and services to its prominent associates who enjoy gracious living. With Pinnacle Peak as its central backdrop, Estanica's exquisite golf course, designed by Tom Fazio, is the key ingredient to this community's elixir of life. The utmost attention to fine detail and seclusion was given to the development of this members-only association built around the concepts of exclusivity, uniqueness, and an active lifestyle. The Clubhouse itself is old-world luxury with state-of-the-art, fine architectural detailing making its Estancia's property owners proud to be called members of the finest private golf club in the valley. The homes surrounding the intelligently designed course echo the affluent comfort of the community as they are all custom designs with unique characteristics. If you are privileged enough to play this invitation only course and visit the exclusive neighborhood, be sure to take a moment and breath in the air of the favored few.

Forest Highlands Golf Club

657 Forest Highlands Flagstaff, AZ 86001



Located in the forests just south of Flagstaff, Forest Highlands Golf Club gives its visitors nothing short of a memorable experience. Both the Canyon and the Meadow golf courses brave their contestants yet provide ample support for developing golf aficionados. Nature is called upon and gives a spirit of enchantment to these courses as they weave through forests, meadows, canyons, and mountain slopes. Having two courses provides the opportunity to establish two clubhouses, an element of luxury Forest Highlands did not overlook. Each clubhouse has its own characteristics and charm. The Canyon Clubhouse offers a refined elegance with exquisite dinning reminiscent of an East Coast country club, while the Meadow Clubhouse pays homage to the rustic charm of Northern Arizona with its heavy wood interior and relaxed outdoor porch. The Forest Highlands Golf Club is devoted to providing its exquisite community of golf-lovers with two of the best courses expanding the 1,100-acre enclave that is best known for its relaxed luxury.

Grayhawk 8629 East Thompson Peak Parkway Scottsdale, AZ 85255



After a long day's worth of golf and sun you need to treat yourself to a refreshing drink, and there is no better place to do that than at Grayhawk's acclaimed 19 Hole, Phil's Grill. Named after local Phil Mickelson, Phil's is fun and inviting. Here you will find a relaxed, sports bar atmosphere where you can unwind and cool off. Their wide selection of drinks and tasty food will satisfy any hungry golfer who needs a boost of energy. With large sofas, comfortable leather chairs, and big screen televisions, Phil's Grill is all about the sportsman and woman's recuperation. A lively bar with a friendly staff waits to greet you as you come off of the 18 green to a refreshing and beautiful escape. Grayhawk's testing courses, the Talon and Raptor, will give its contestants a reason to rejuvenate their sporting enthusiasm. A great day of golf should be followed by a great time of relaxation. So, if you play the Grayhawk courses, treat yourself to a slab of ribs and an ice-cold beer at Phil's Grill.

Seven Canyons 755 Golf Club Way Sedona, AZ 86336



Surrounded by 100,000 acres of untouched Coconino National Forest, this private golf club has captured our attention as Arizona's most scenic golfing destination. The Seven Canyons residential community is built around this astounding course yet does not intrude on those who are fortunate enough to play the fairways. Words alone cannot give this course and its location any justice. The sunset-colored rocks of Sedona make for the perfect backdrop to the vibrant green turf of each hole. The 18-hole, par-70 course has its own personality- one that aggressively challenges its players yet carefully forgives those who are less experienced. As one of America's best modern golf courses, Seven Canyons offers its limited private membership with exclusive amenities such as the Performance Center where professional coaches and golf instructors work with the unique skills and goals of each student in order to approach successful growth in the sport of golf. The Performance Center will customize technique, equipment, training, and exercise for each student who seeks help with a passion for development. Seven Canyons also provides an exquisite Practice Park for its members where players can attend to their progression as an all-around better player. Seven Canyons is a breathtaking site situated on 200 acres that calls to the serenity of any avid golfer with the most discriminating of tastes.

The Foothills Golf Club 10999 Best Golf Lane Scottsdale, AZ



The 18-hole Foothills course at the The Foothills Golf Club facility in Phoenix, Arizona features 6,968 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 72. The course rating is 73.2 and it has a slope rating of 132 on Bermuda grass. Designed by Jay Morrish, ASGCA/Tom Weiskopf, the Foothills golf course opened in 1987. American Golf Corporation manages this facility, with Mic Sternard as the General Manager.

The Rim Golf Club 2101 East Rim Club Drive Payson, AZ 85541



This isn't so much a golfer's paradise as it is a golfer's heaven. With immaculately manicured grounds nestled in the boulders of Payson's mountainsides, The Rim's par-71, 18-hole course takes full advantage of the natural environment and championship design. The celebrated team of Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish incorporated the dramatic views and elevation changes of the area to create a private experience that requires much focus from those eager to test their golfing skills. Novices don't be dismayed; this course has been crafted to be enjoyable for all players of all abilities. In order to maintain the serene atmosphere found in the town of Payson itself, The Rim limits its membership to 295 property owners at The Rim Golf Club. There are unique benefits to obtaining these prized memberships at The Rim. Those who wish to play a last-minute round can sign-up Saturday mornings for "The Game" and join a scheduled group of golfers who, at the end of the day, may even invite their new guest to a drink or meal at the five-star restaurant located in the Clubhouse. This program encourages a friendly atmosphere and strengthens the community of people who share a passion for golf.

Troon North Golf Courses 10320 East Dynamite Blvd. Scottsdale, AZ 85262



Two well-crafted courses designed, once again, by Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish integrate the rocky terrain of the area into wide fairways and a demanding layout. Encounter forgotten vistas of North Scottsdale's granite boulders and cacti forests as you wind your way through these par-72 courses. Both the Monument and Pinnacle courses tender difficult advances for those seeking to test their golfing expertise. Yet both sets of 18 holes encourage even the casual golfer to an enjoyable day of fun. Troon North is a world-class membership provider that pampers its guests with extraordinary services. The 37,000 square foot, full service clubhouse offers every service imaginable to its first-rate clientele. Depending on your individual desires, Troon North extends multiple variations of golf and club memberships to property owners while extending a warm welcome to the public who is encouraged to play these two five-star courses. Relax your inner workaholic and enjoy the pristine atmosphere found just minutes of the bustling desert. For the greatest overall golfing experience, escape to Troon North.

Ventana Canyon

6200 North Clubhouse Lane Tucson, AZ 85750



This course extends over 107 vards of South Sonoran Desert and offers expansive views that look onto the terrain of Mexico. This traditional style target course is set in anything less than a traditional environment. Cutting through washes and canyons, hole 3 is the picturesque location for challenging shots. The undulating green is arduous and fast, but it's the perfect test for any golfing champion. Hole 3 is just one of 18 on the fabulous Mountain course at Ventana Canyon. This spectacular golf club also offers the Canyon course which slopes along and around Esperro Canyon and Whaleback Rock. Whether capturing the native wildlife or the jaw dropping design of the Mountain Number 3, if you play Ventana Canyon you are guaranteed a picture worth a thousand words.

Wildfire Golf Courses 5350 East Marriott Drive Phoenix, AZ 85264



Offering two immaculate courses, the Palmer Signature Course and the Faldo championship Course, Wildfire is our top pick for resort golf courses. Earning public praise for beauty, location, and design, this set of 18-hole courses provides any golfer with great opportunity to challenge and build on existing skills. The complete practice facility, including and expansive driving range, offers another means of focusing attention on specific training. Spacious greens of the Palmer Signature course present its players with subtle challenges that won't leave them feeling cheated of a superior golfing experience. The Faldo Championship Course, sitting on 174 acres of pristine desert, features sprawling fairways and 106 sand bunkers. Sate -the-art GPS screens with CBS Sportsline Tickers on each golf car give players a more technical look at the seemingly uncomplicated game of golf. Located in the foothills of Scottsdale, the Wildfire Golf Club offers hotel guests and Valley residents a great escape without the sometimes-inconvenient drive of other wonderful courses.