

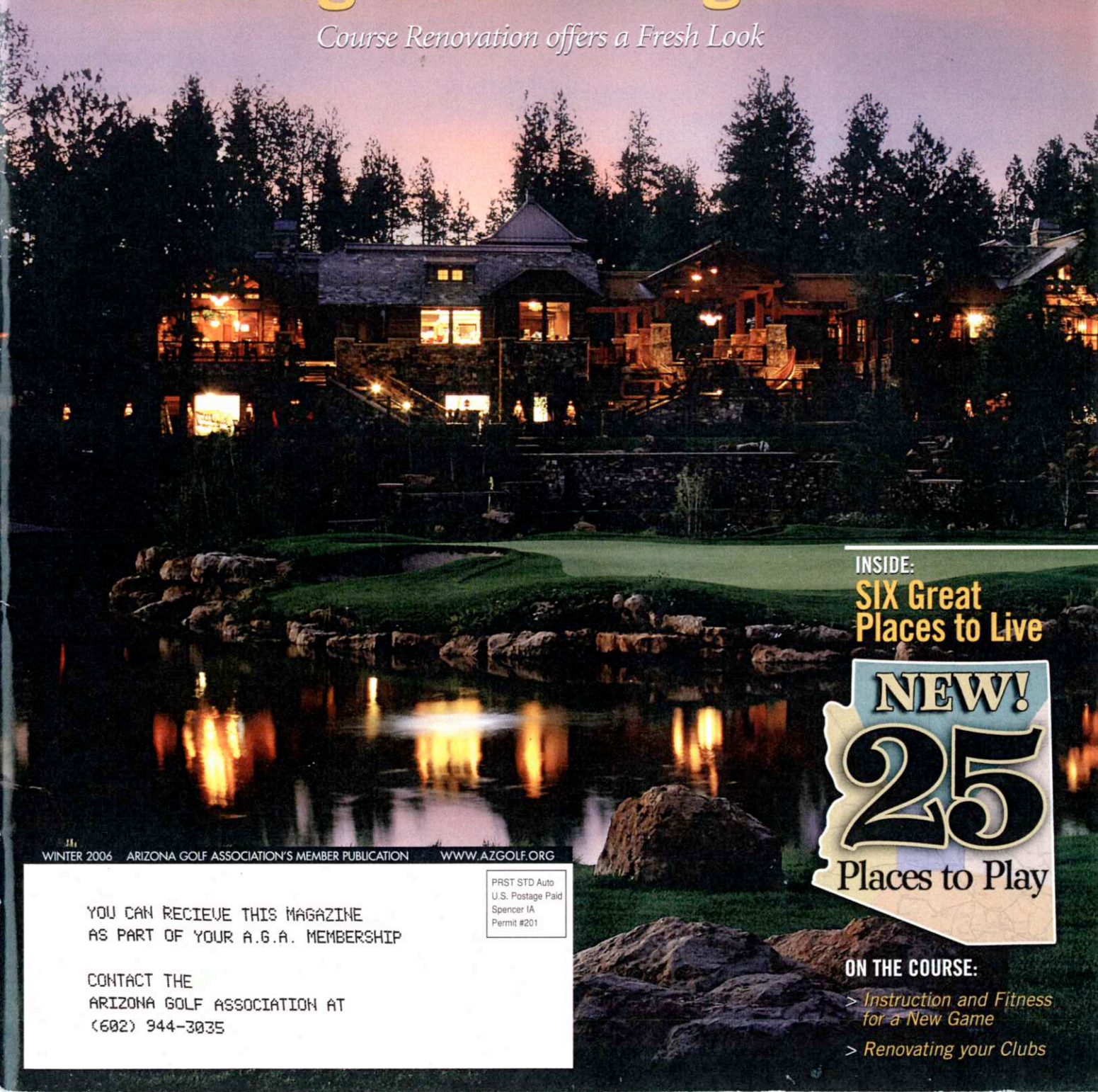
# ARIZONA

THE STATE OF GOLF



## Reflecting a New Image

*Course Renovation offers a Fresh Look*



INSIDE:  
**SIX Great  
Places to Live**

**NEW!**  
**25**  
Places to Play

WINTER 2006 ARIZONA GOLF ASSOCIATION'S MEMBER PUBLICATION WWW.AZGOLF.ORG

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- > *Instruction and Fitness for a New Game*
- > *Renovating your Clubs*



# 25 Places to Play

*Variety is the spice of golf—  
especially when you are  
playing in Arizona.*

Trilogy at Vistancia





trip through the Arizona desert reveals countless varieties of desert plants and vegetation. Everywhere you look is another spectacular sight to take in and investigate. The same goes for Arizona golf courses. Unique and plentiful, Arizona golf is as varied and exciting as its desert home. So we picked out 25 great places to play golf for your perusal presented in no particular order. The Arizona desert is full of adventure—here's how to experience it with a golf bag on your back.

*Compiled by the staff of Arizona The State of Golf*

### **1. The Raven at Verrado**

4242 North Golf Drive  
Buckeye, AZ 85326  
Phone: 623-215-3443

Authentic. Unique. Dramatic. These are the three adjectives often used to describe The Raven Golf Club at Verrado, a spectacular daily-fee golf course tucked in the foothills of the White Tank Mountains west of Phoenix. Crafted by renowned Scottsdale-based designer John Fought and former British Open champion Tom Lehman, The Raven Golf Club is a must-play for those seeking superb golf in the Sonoran Desert.

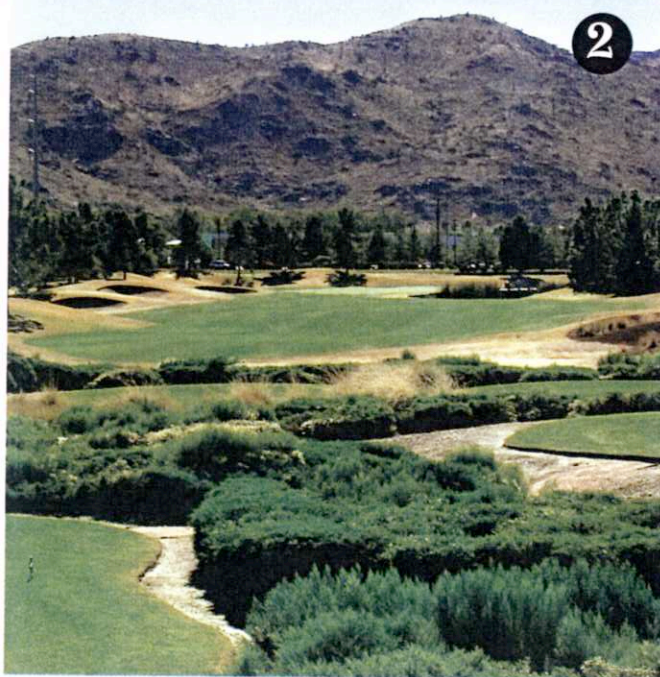
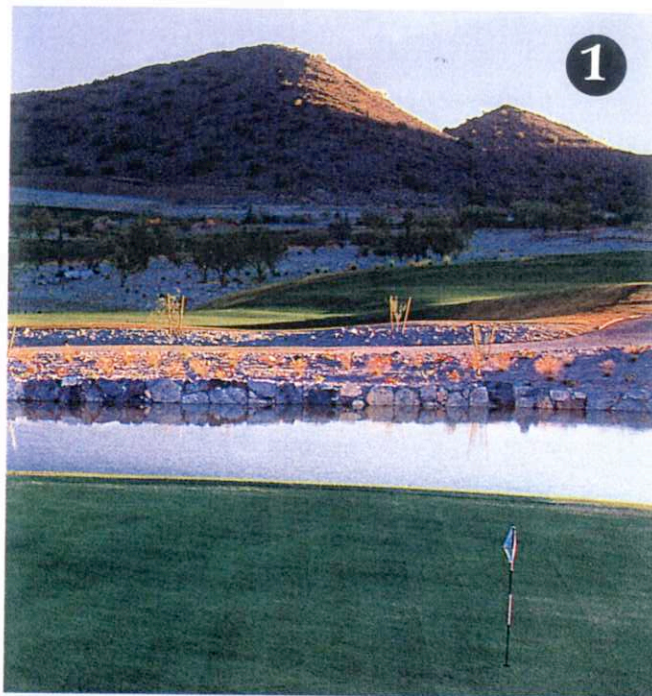
It measures 7,258 yards from the tips and will give the accomplished player a rigorous test of golf. However, Fought and Lehman created the golf course with four sets of tees on each hole, giving players of all abilities a fair chance at par. Another unique characteristic of the Raven Golf Club at Verrado is the manner in which its bunkers are maintained. The collars are cropped very closely. In fairway bunkers this means errant shots are more likely to roll into the sand. Yet, in greenside bunkers, this feature makes it more likely that an escape shot will find the green.

### **2. Raven at South Mountain**

3636 E. Baseline Dr.  
Phoenix, AZ 85040  
Phone: 602-243-3636

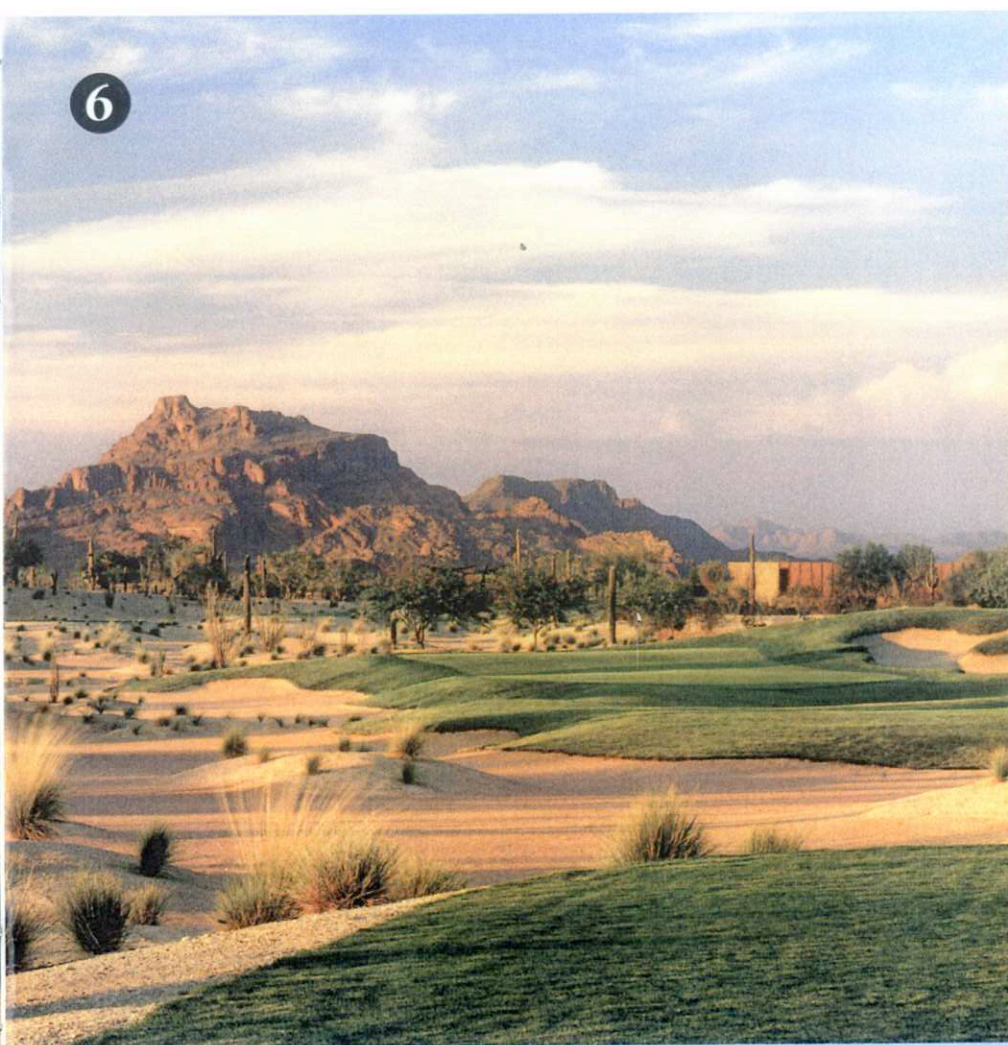
Scottsdale-based golf course architect Gary Panks and 1981 U.S. Open Champion David Graham designed the par 72, 7,078-yard golf course Raven Golf Club at South Mountain in 1995. The course may be played from 5,759 to 7,078 yards and it's easily walkable, with the greens located near teeing grounds.

There's a good mix of short, reachable par 4s and long, demanding holes that require the use of every club in the bag. Standouts include No. 5, a drivable, risk-reward 324-yard, bunker-laden hole that may be easily birdied or bogeyed depending on hole location. The 15th, another risk-reward short par 4 with South Mountain Park as the backdrop, plays 366 yards from the tips. The stiffest test on the course is often No. 3, a 477-yarder with nary a bunker and out of bounds left. The Raven's signature hole, the 428-yard 18th, includes a water feature that begins 50-feet before the green on the right and out-of-bounds all the way up the fairway on the left.



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GOLF COURSES

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ment make Las Sendas a course to remember. For sure, it will rank among America's best. Truly a sparkling gem in Arizona's collection of outstanding courses. Currently a public course, there is no reason for any golfer to miss the experience of playing the Las Sendas Golf Club. "We found the golf course on the land," says Robert Trent Jones, Jr.

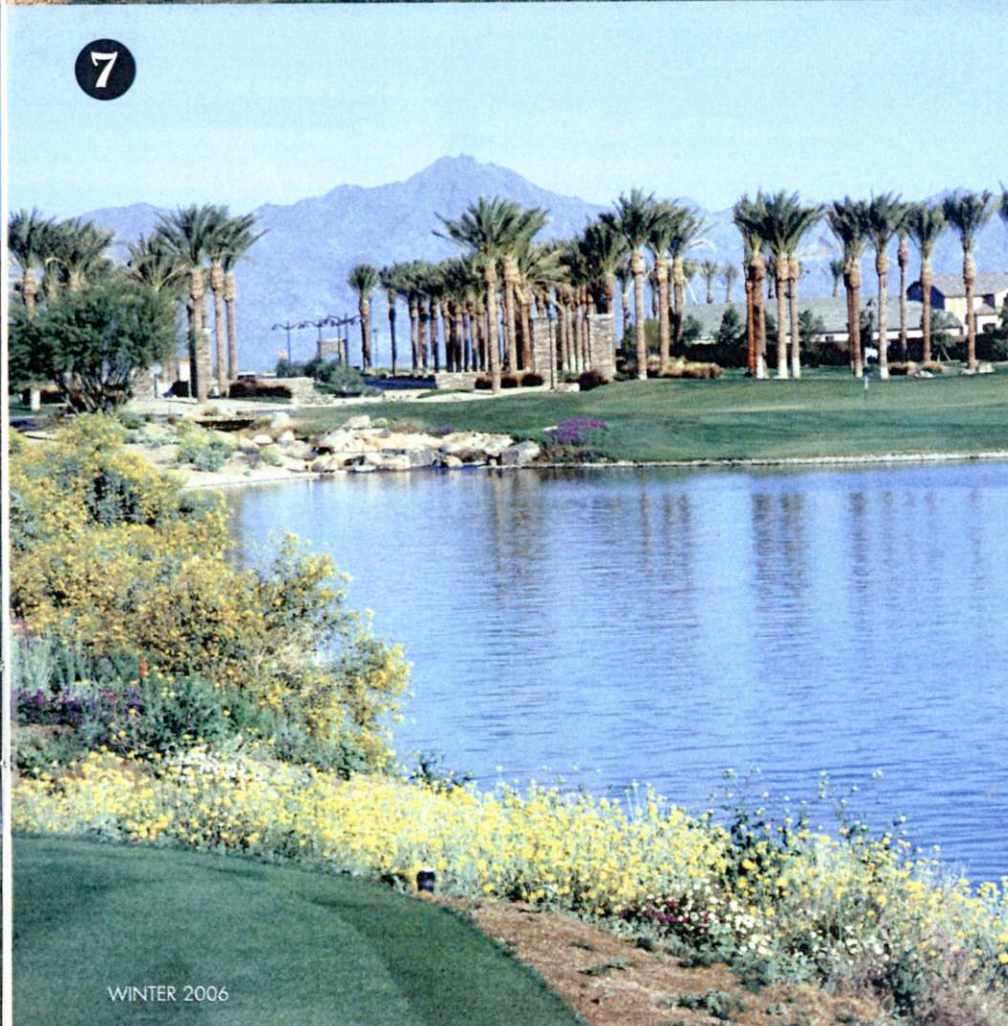
### **6. Longbow Golf Club**

5601 E. Longbow Parkway  
Mesa, AZ 85215  
Phone: 480 807-5400

First opened in 1997, Longbow Golf Club immediately established itself as a modern classic in the East Valley. According to Tucson-based architect Ken Kavanaugh, "We have really been able to take advantage of the spectacular views of the Utery and Superstition ranges that encircle Red Mountain providing spectacular scenery from all points on the course." Purists appreciate the short distances from green to the next tee making walking a most viable option.

The distinctive clubhouse embraces a contemporary architectural style. It is composed of materials such as native stone, raw steel and stucco. The structure offers every state-of-the-art amenity, including a spacious outdoor patio with fans, heaters, misters and outdoor kitchen and bar, an enormous patio fireplace, convenient drive-up snack shop, cozy restaurant and well-appointed golf shop.

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### **7. The Duke at El Dorado**

42660 W. Rancho El Dorado Pkwy  
Maricopa, AZ 85239  
Phone: 480-883-6314

The Duke, designed by David Druzisky, is located 10 minutes west of I-10 on Queen Creek Road near the town of Maricopa. Measuring 7,011 yards from the back tees, the golf course has plenty of length to keep the expert player interested and at the same time will not trounce the novice. Druzisky did a stellar job of transforming the existing flat farmland into an interesting golf course with sweeping contours, eye-catching bunkers and undulating greens. "I designed The Duke with the sporting spirit of the game in mind," said Druzisky. "I wanted to accommodate different styles of play by giving golfers conservative and aggressive options."

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## 24. The Golf Club at Vistoso

955 W. Vistoso Highlands Dr.

Tucson, AZ 85737

Phone: 520-797-9900

Nestled between the Tortolita and Santa Catalina Mountains rests Tucson's premiere public golf course—The Golf Club at Vistoso. Here, pristine Sonoran desert plays host to stately Saguaros, beautiful desert flora and spectacular mountain views. Designed by Tom Weiskopf, this par-72 course ranges in length from 6,932 for the championship player down to a forward set of tees that measure 5,147 yards. With every hole a “postcard,” this true desert golf experience is challenging yet playable. The fairways afford generous landing areas, and the traditional greens are fast and well bunkered.

The Golf Club at Vistoso has acquired a reputation for providing the highest level of quality service by maintaining an immaculate facility that exceeds the players' expectations.

## 25. We-Ko-Pa Golf Club

18200 E. Toh Vee Circle

Fountain Hills, AZ 85264

Phone: 480-836-9000

Located in Fountain Hills, We-Ko-Pa, designed by noted golf course architect Scott Miller, plays to a challenging 7,225 yards from the back tees, but also has multiple tees that are well spaced to cater to players of all abilities. With some of the most dramatic and jaw-dropping views of the surrounding mountain ranges including the Four Peaks, McDowell Mountains, Red Mountains and the Superstitions, We-Ko-Pa exudes natural beauty and unprecedented serenity. The course features an ideal blend of doglegs and straightaway holes, a mix of slender and ample fairways and a good balance between benign and rugged green complexes. Unlike many Arizona courses, no homes, roads or commercial development will ever mar the perfect setting. In short, it's a hidden beauty. The views are amazing, the golf course is playable and it's always in great condition.

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WINTER 2006

