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## COURSE REVIEWS

Mirabel Golf Club  
We Ko Pa Golf Club  
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Bayonet Black Horse Golf Club

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California Region **29** **41** Mirabel Golf Club

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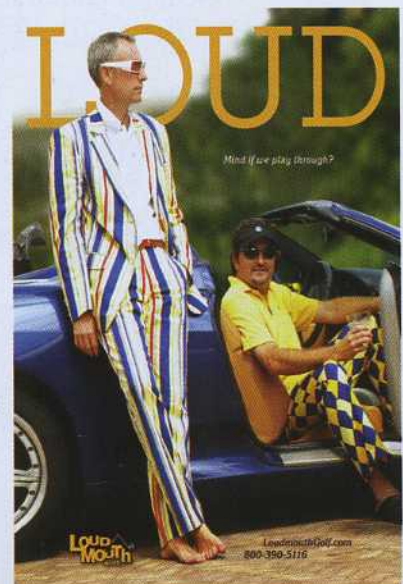
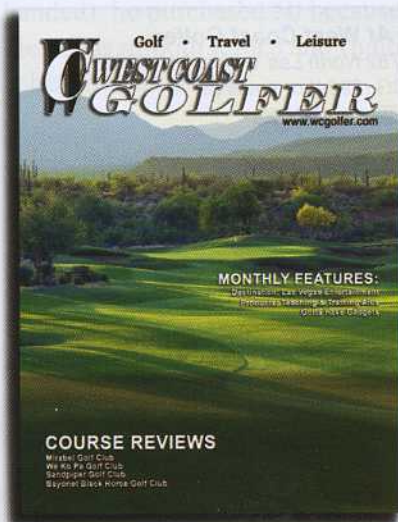
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We Ko Pa number 9 is just one of many  
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## Come and experience the Very Best!

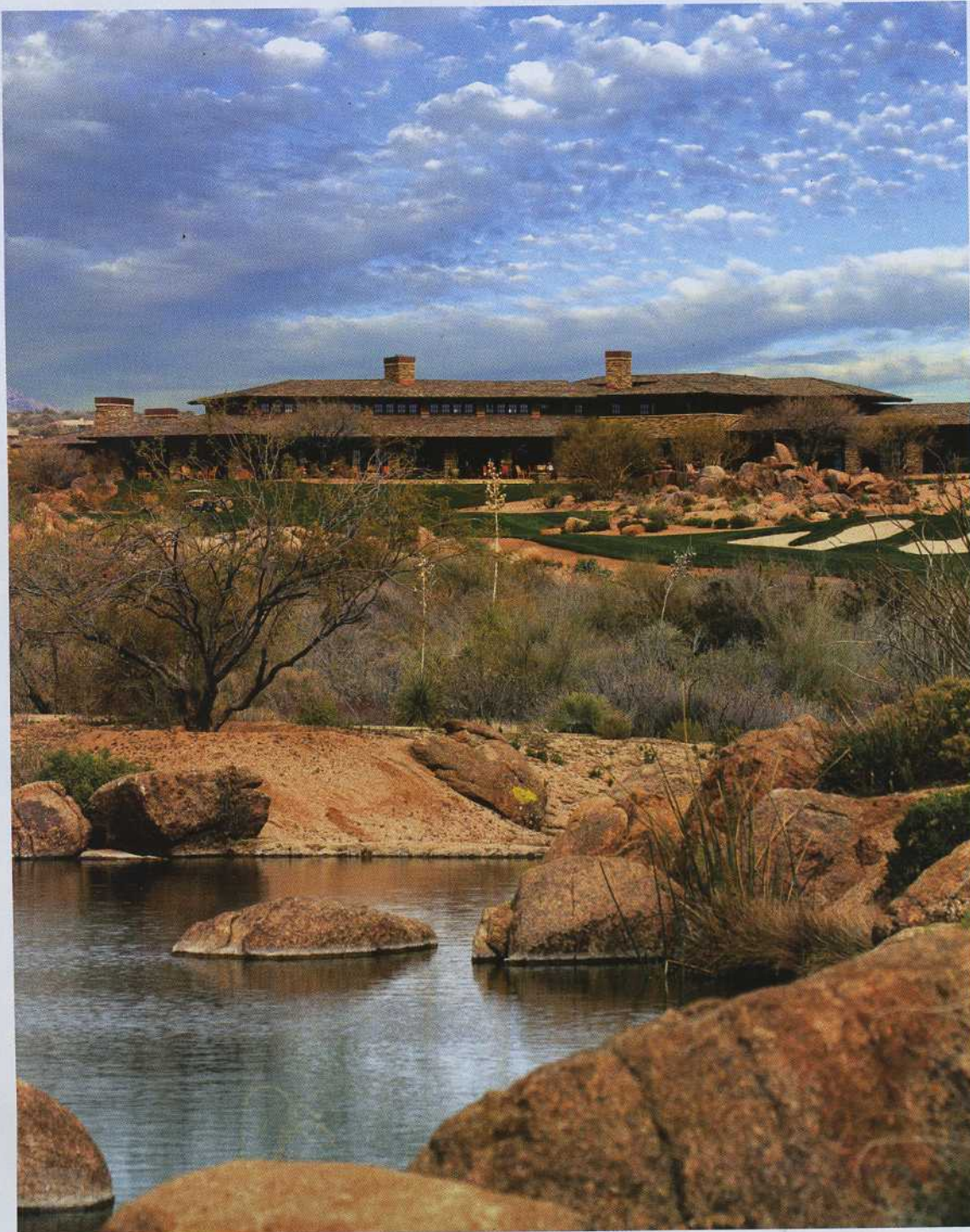
The North Scottsdale/Carefree landscape is dotted with high end, exclusive golf clubs. All of these clubs sport spectacular golf courses with over the top clubhouses. Each one touts itself as being bigger and better than the next. When you are spending upwards of \$100,000 for a membership, what does it take for one of these clubs to separate

itself from the others?

At Mirabel Golf Club in Carefree, an exceptional high level of service and some unique amenities help to differentiate Mirabel from the rest.

So, what are some of the amenities that help to elevate Mirabel above its competitors? One is the gourmet chef that stands on the eight tee box grilling up a different treat each day. Another is the refreshment stations that are in multiple locations on the course. The stations are well equipped with beverages, snacks, pain relief (if needed) and the best beef jerky you will ever taste. These are the small things on the course that make Mirabel unique.

The clubhouse takes it to another level. At 32,000, the clubhouse is the centerpiece of the community and it has every amenity that you would expect from an upscale club, and then some.





GOLF  
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The design is patterned after an “early 1900’s Desert Lodge” and is equipped with a full spa/salon, state of the art fitness center, clay tennis courts, world class dining, a large pool with poolside cabanas, and one of the best men’s grills and men’s locker rooms that I have ever seen. In fact, Golf Digest regularly lists the locker room in the top 50 in the country and the grill in the top 50 nineteenth holes in the country. The locker rooms sport individual whirlpools surrounded by flat screen televisions, allowing you to sit back and have an adult beverage while enjoying a game or golf tournament. Another unique amenity that Mirabel makes available to members is the Mirabella, which is a luxury pontoon boat that is docked at nearby Bartlett Lake.

With everything that is available in the Desert Lodge at Mirabel, the golf course needs to be spectacular in order to get them members out of the clubhouse. The course does not disappoint. Designed by Tom Fazio, the course meanders through the high Sonoran Desert and offers fantastic views of the valley below. An interesting fact about the golf course is that there was a golf course already designed and laid out on the site. Greg Norman had designed a public course called Stonehaven. The layout consisted of only 45 acres and was deemed to difficult for the average player. Before the course opened, the property was purchased by Discovery Land Company.

The new owner decided to hire Tom Fazio to design the new course, and Mirabel was born.



Come and experience the Very Best!

The course now has 90 acres of grass and is much more playable. Don't let that fool you into thinking the course is a pushover. As with many of Fazio's designs, the fairways are forgiving and the real test comes into play on the approach shots into the greens. The greens are undulating and depending on pin positions, can be tricky to putt. Playing at just over 7,100 yards to a par of 71, Mirabel can offer golfers a real test and is a rare track that would be fun to play every day.

The golf course starts out with one of the easier par fours on the course. The 405 yard hole has a fairly wide fairway, which will enable you to swing freely on your opening drive. The green is two tiered, so be sure to note the pin position on your approach. Number two introduces the first of the three par fives on the course. At 571 yards, it is a three shot hole for all but the longest hitters. The layup is the most difficult shot on this hole, as fairway bunkers right and left gobble up any errant second shots.





The tee box on number three offers a spectacular view of the valley below. The hole moves slightly to the right with a generous fairway. The green is narrow with several undulations. If the pin is in the back the smart play is to aim at the center of the green. The number one handicap hole at Mirabel is the 472 yard par four fourth. The hole plays uphill all the way and the fairway is one of the narrowest on the course. There are also some very strategically placed fairway bunkers that need to be avoided. If you happen to hit the fairway your approach shot will have to navigate some additional greenside bunkers in order to hit the green in regulation. Par on this hole feels like a birdie. Fazio presents a fantastic risk/reward par four on number five. Long hitters can go

for the green on this 307 yard par four. Deep bunkers protect the two tiered green. The tee box on the first par three at Mirabel takes you to the highest point on the golf course. The views of the McDowell Mountains and the surrounding desert are fantastic. The hole plays downhill, so you may need one less club than normal. The green is well protected on all sides by bunkers. The seventh hole is a reachable in two par five for longer hitters. A well struck tee shot just hit just over the fairway bunker on the left side will find a downhill slope that can leave a long iron or hybrid for the approach shot. The green has a bailout area to the right, so if you err be sure to err on the right side of the green. As mentioned earlier, Mirabel has a gourmet chef standing on the eighth tee serving up a delicious snack before you strike your tee shot on the 183 yard par three. The green is the largest on the course, so be sure to note the pin position when choosing your club. The closing hole on the front nine, a long par four, offers a fantastic view of the valley below from the tee. There is a strategically placed fairway bunker on the left side that needs to be avoided off of the tee. The green on nine is very undulating. Three putts are the norm more than the exception on this green.

As you make your way to the tenth tee box, you will be greeted by one of the staff members with a tasty ice cream treat. This is just one of the small amenities that lifts Mirabel above the rest. The opening hole on the back nine is one of the most beautiful par fours in the entire valley. The view from the tee is spectacular, and the bunkering on the hole makes the hole visually appealing, as long as you don't hit your tee shot into one of these bunkers. The par four measures 449 yards and the only lake on the course comes into play on the second shot. If the pin is tucked on the back and left side, the approach shot over water can be very intimidating. You would think that it would be hard to top the beauty of the tenth hole, however, the par three eleventh takes it up a notch. Pinnacle Peak frames the backdrop, and the boulders surrounding the green make this another visually fantastic hole. There is plenty of bailout room left and short of the green. If you go to the right, you might as well go to the drop area as your ball will have been donated to the Sonoran Desert.



Although short at 390 yards, the par four twelfth is one of the more difficult holes on the course. A wood or hybrid is ideal off the tee to set up the approach shot, which must carry a desert wash and two bunkers.

There is room over the green, so it may be wise to take a longer club to make sure you make it over the desert wash. Number thirteen is a long and winding par four that measures 466 yards. The safe approach shot is the left side of the green as any miss hit will end up in a grassy bailout area. Fazio did another wonderful framing job on the 217 yard par

three fourteenth, using Black Mountain as the backdrop. This green can be very difficult to hold with a long iron. The fifteenth hole also uses Black Mountain as a backdrop. The mid-length par four is bisected by a desert wash, so the tee shot will most likely be hit with less than a driver. The second shot is hit to a well undulated green that can be tricky to putt. Number sixteen is a nice par four that from the tee looks very narrow and difficult. There is much more room to the right of the fairway bunker than appears, so swing freely. The second shot plays slightly uphill to a green that has no bunkers right next to it. The only par five on the backside is the 561 yard seventeenth, which is a three shot hole for most golfers. The main obstacle on this hole is to avoid the well placed bunkers that protect the driving area and



the layup shot. The green is protected by a large bunker that cuts in front of the green, runs down the right side, and wraps around to the back of the green. Left of the green is the bailout area and a much safer play. The finishing hole at Mirabel is a par four, although it feels and plays like a par five for most golfers. The hole plays slightly uphill and is well protected by bunkers throughout. The gorgeous clubhouse sits in the backdrop inviting you in after playing a terrific golf course.

Another unique aspect of Mirabel is that it is one of the only upscale private clubs in the area that does not require the purchase of real estate to become a member. It is invitation only, so you will need to be connected in order to become a member. Then again, if you can afford \$100,000+ for a membership, chances are you have the connections to get an invitation. If you are interested in living in Mirabel, the community is limited to 350 lots, so the community will always have an intimate feel. For more information on real estate, please contact Bob Lomax at 866(Mirabel). For membership information, contact Gary Ireton at the same number.

You can also visit the club's website at [www.mirabel.com](http://www.mirabel.com).