

# The Green, Green Links of Home

CAN'T PUT DOWN THE 9 IRON? HERE ARE FIVE PLACES IN THE WEST WHERE YOU CAN LIVE ON THE COURSE.

By George Fuller

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GOLFERS are a privileged lot. We have quick access to many of the best and most scenic courses in the world, many a quick flight or drive away. And if you want a home on a prime golf course, you can choose between mountains, coast, and desert—all spectacular settings.

## TOSCANA COUNTRY CLUB, Indian Wells

The golf carts are like overstuffed living room chairs with wheels. The "comfort stations" after every six holes are like luxury hotel suites, complete with chandeliers and stocked refrigerators. The homes are Tuscan-style mini-mansions. "I investigated, liked what I heard, and invested," says music industry executive Chuck Gullo. The Marina del Rey resident had heard that Sunrise Company would be developing its first ultra-luxury project on a 640-acre plot of prime Indian Wells land, and that Jack Nicklaus was signed to create two signature golf courses. Also, that buyers would have to buy golf memberships, creating a very "clubby," community feel.

Nicklaus delivered the first gem, the South Course, last December. Extending more than 7,300 yards, this par-72 layout challenges the club's more skilled members but still offers a very pleasurable round to the occasional golfer. As it winds through the community, the course features a surprising amount of natural elevation change, several lakes, and great mountain views. Nine holes of Nicklaus' second design at Toscana will open this November.

From views of palm trees in Indian Wells to saguaro cactuses in Scottsdale, there's a wealth of choice for golfers in the West.



Toscana Country Club



Glacier Club



The Rocks



Gullo says he's "absolutely thrilled" with his recently completed home. The early California and Italianate/Tuscan-style homes feature both golf course and mountain views (priced at \$1.2 million to \$2.1 million). Contact: 760-861-6181; [www.toscanacc.com](http://www.toscanacc.com)

#### THE ROCKS, Scottsdale

Golfers are treated like kings at The Rocks, a trendy North Scottsdale shared-ownership project, where luxurious 3,000-square-foot, two-, three- and four-master-suite homes sit in the shadow of Pinnacle Peak. Scottsdale architect Bing Hu designed these elegant homes with wood and stone exteriors to blend with the surrounding Sonoran desert landscape. The outdoor living areas have built-in barbecues, wood-burning fireplaces, and private plunge pools. Inside, a gourmet kitchen is loaded with your favorite foods before you arrive.

Because the property is managed by Troon Golf, owners at The Rocks are allowed preferred access to many of the Troon-managed courses in Arizona and a concierge to book tee times. You will never get bored with just one course: Nearby are

Troon North (36 holes), Legend Trail (18 holes), and Talking Stick (36 holes). And if you buy at The Rocks, you can play at the chic Golf Club Scottsdale.

The last 26 villas at The Rocks were just completed. One-seventh-share memberships sell for \$335,000 and include five weeks of guaranteed time annually. Contact: 877-668-6068; [www.therocksclub.com](http://www.therocksclub.com)

#### HUALALAI, Hawaii

On Hawaii's Big Island, the 30-mile stretch of the Kona-Kohala Coast has a mystical lava-field-meets-shoreline setting, not to mention several top-drawer golf courses. In particular, the exclusive Hualalai Resort



attracts such savvy investors as Charles Schwab, who owns large parcels here. New real estate phases at Hualalai sell out fast.

Between two championship courses—one designed by Jack Nicklaus, the other by Tom Weiskopf—the Na Hale at Kahikole consists of eight *lanai bales* (Hawaiian for "patio homes") and three premium home sites. Designed to take advantage of the warm Hawaiian trade winds, the homes have glass walls that open to create indoor/outdoor rooms with huge ocean views, of course. Two of the models include guest cottages. The home sites start at \$2.5 million.

Property owners can play the Nicklaus golf course, where the PGA Champions Tour holds its season-opening MasterCard Championship tournament, and enjoy the clubhouse facilities, restaurants, and other amenities of the Four Seasons Resort Hualalai. The private, members-only

Weiskopf course opened last summer for property owners at Hualalai. Contact: 808-325-8500; [www.hualalairesort.com](http://www.hualalairesort.com)

#### GLACIER CLUB, Colorado

The Glacier Club in Durango may have taken four years of detailed planning and construction to complete, but developer Malcolm Dunlevie and partner Rick Carlton have transformed this once-popular golf, ski, and convention destination (formerly called Tamarron Resort)—at a cost of \$50 million—into a sublime and luxurious high-altitude retreat. New to the 730-acre surroundings are a 20,000-square-foot clubhouse with regal views of the San Juan National Forest, a huge golf learning center, and three nine-hole courses designed by Arthur Hills and managed by Troon Golf. Equity golf club memberships cost \$50,000.

Choose from 200 deluxe townhomes, priced up to \$1.8 million, or 273 half- to two-acre home sites ranging from \$250,000 to more than \$1 million. A selection of custom estate homes are also available, priced up to \$4 million. Contact: 866-375-8300; [www.theglacierclub.com](http://www.theglacierclub.com)

#### FOUR SEASONS AVIARA, Carlsbad

The Four Seasons Resort Aviara's ocean-view Arnold Palmer layout is both scenic and a pleasure to play. If you find that you play the course often, opt for membership at the Four Seasons Residence Club, which offers the same pampering and amenities hotel guests receive.

For the deed you buy (which you hold in perpetuity), you get a hassle-free furnished villa with two bedrooms and three bathrooms; the second bedroom can easily become a self-sufficient guest studio for two, with a convenient separate entrance, bathroom, and kitchenette. All deeds come with exchange privileges for other Four Seasons Residence Clubs, extending your playing options to the Jack Nicklaus course at Punta Mita, Mexico, or the Arnold Palmer course at the Club Costa Rica at Peninsula Papagayo. One- and two-bedroom villa stays range from 14 to 28 days per year and cost \$50,000 to \$98,000. Contact: 800-343-0799; [www.fourseasons.com/residenceclubs](http://www.fourseasons.com/residenceclubs) **D**