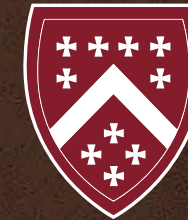


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***This page:** After much speculation on how Bethpage State Park's famed Black Course would fare hosting a major in May, the venue shined as host of the 101st PGA Championship. For more on the PGA Championship, see page 7.*



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Jimmy Roberts presents Jim Furyk with the Gold Tee Award.

Veteran Chris Nowak and PGA of America Vice President Jim Richerson accept the Distinguished Service Award on behalf of PGA HOPE from the MGWA's Brian Crowell and Dave Donelson.

GUESTS OF HONOR

Gold Tee Award winner Jim Furyk headlined the Metropolitan Golf Writers Association's 68th National Awards Dinner on May 13—an evening that was filled with memorable moments. PGA HOPE accepted the MGWA's Distinguished Service Award for their outstanding work in using golf to help veterans, leading to a resounding applause from the more than 600 in attendance. Emotions also ran high when New Jersey State Golf Association Executive Director Kevin Purcell accepted the Mary Bea Porter Award and introduced Carlos Tapia—the man who collapsed at Forest Hill Field Club from a heart attack and Purcell helped save by administering chest compressions. Furyk's acceptance of the prestigious Gold Tee Award closed the evening, as he reflected on his career, thanked those close to him, and shared his fondness of Met Area golf—even recalling Monday qualifying at Knollwood Country Club for the Westchester Classic early in his career.

Additional honorees from the evening included Larry Dorman (Lincoln Werden Golf Journalism Award), ShopRite (Bing Crosby Tournament Sponsor Award), Tuxedo Club (Club of the Year), and a trio of Dave Anderson Spotlight Award winners Kelli Clayton, Jeanne McCooley, and Bob Thomas.

The Met Golfer EXTRA

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

Volume 7, Number 5 • May 2019

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Published for the Metropolitan Golf Association by:

Great Golf Resorts of the World, Inc.
2600 Philmont Avenue, Suite 325
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
Phone: (215) 914-2071

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CuisinArt – A Legacy Resort in Anguilla



Legendary Anguilla resort undergoes design transformation with enhanced golf and spa amenities and new culinary experiences

One of the most iconic resorts in the Caribbean, **CuisinArt Golf Resort & Spa**, a member of the Leading Hotels of the World, returned November 1. The beloved resort, part of the Resorts & Residences by CuisinArt, closed in September 2017 following Hurricane Irma and reopened fully restored with fresh design updates, transformed interiors including all accommodations, expanded golf and spa programming, 5000 sq. ft. of meeting/ballroom space, and new dining venues and concepts.

Alan Larch joined the CuisinArt family as Executive Chef and in his new role, Chef Alan oversees a range of diverse dining venues at both CuisinArt Golf Resort & Spa and sister property, The Reef by CuisinArt, with global-influenced menus and experiences designed around island-sourced ingredients.

The Spa by CuisinArt relaunched with a renewed focus on whole body wellness and biodynamic treatments. The new Fitness Center has the latest in Technogym equipment including Spin bikes with Technogym Cycle Connect for virtual spinning.

CuisinArt's Greg Norman Signature Design 18-Hole Championship Course, the ultimate golf experience on Anguilla, completed major post storm projects including

an extensive bunker renovation. Enhanced maintenance programs brought the course back to its original glory while improving conservation efforts for a sustainable future. Guests enjoy several new enhancements including a fleet of new Yamaha golf carts and newly incentivized golf play rates. Guests of both CuisinArt and The Reef by CuisinArt enjoy full 18-hole games for just \$100 (\$299 for non-guests), as well as 9-hole and Twilight games for just \$75 (\$225 non-guests), with complimentary rental clubs.

The Resorts & Residences by CuisinArt are located on the southern Caribbean coast of Anguilla, in the desirable West End. Upon entering the exclusive gated community, discover an oasis with two world renowned resorts – CuisinArt Golf Resort & Spa and The Reef by CuisinArt – and a selection of magnificent Estate Homes & Residences. The Reef by CuisinArt, which debuted in November 2016, is the perfect beachfront companion to CuisinArt Golf Resort & Spa and is replete with enticing ensuite amenities and distinctive features that truly epitomize a chic beachside resort with a contemporary flair. The Reef by CuisinArt features 80 suites directly on the Caribbean Sea, overlooking Merrywing Bay.

For additional information and to reserve your stay at CuisinArt Golf Resort & Spa or The Reef by CuisinArt, call 800.943.3210 or visit the website www.resortsandresidencesbycuisinart.com.



“CuisinArt is redesigned and reimagined to further elevate the guest experience.”



PREP PAYS OFF



Even having won three New York State Open titles at Bethpage Black, competitive rounds Nos. 70-73 at the venue may now stand most memorable for Rob Labritz, who claimed Low Club Professional honors at the 101st PGA Championship in front of “Rob’s Mob” of family and friends, as well as a supportive New York crowd.

Labritz, Director of Golf at GlenArbor in Bedford, N.Y., left nothing to chance in his preparation just to qualify for the event, dedicating more time to his own game over the last year. “We made it our point, even during the winter, every other week I would travel down to Florida and work out at the PGA Village, hitting golf balls, playing in tournaments, playing the winter series,” said Labritz thinking back on his preparations to compete in his sixth PGA Championship. “You know, I didn’t see my family much this winter, it was a big sacrifice because we wanted to make sure my game was sharp enough to compete.”

After an opening round 75, Labritz turned in a stellar 1-under 69 on Friday to make the cut and extend the dream week. Over the weekend, Labritz posted rounds of 74-72 to finish at 10-over—five and nine shots better than his two fellow club professionals that made the cut—and earn Low Club Professional honors for the second time in his career.

While the tens of thousands of fans may not be there in July when Labritz tees it up once again in the New York State Open, there’s no doubt that Labritz will recall the sights and sounds from PGA Championship week.



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—Ken and Debra Kawaller (New York)



The Epicurea event is such a wonderful combination of great food, wine, golf and a beautiful beach...how can you go wrong! This event surpassed our expectations. The food was truly superb. We were able to meet and mingle with all of the chefs. Niccolo from Antinori Wines did an excellent job of presenting their wines. The friendliness of the staff at The Reef, combined with the terrific staff from *PGA Magazine*, made this a most memorable vacation.

—Jim and Marsha Watson (New Jersey)

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Take Your Bunker Game to New Heights

BY SCOTT KRAMER

If getting out of steep bunkers has been an issue for you, there's relief in the form of two new 64-degree wedges. **Callaway's Sure Out 2 (\$120 each)**—which is also offered in lofts of 56, 58 and 60 degrees—is designed to help ease the process of hitting those daunting short up-and-downs from the sand, fairway or rough. An enhanced sole design offers plenty of heel relief for versatility, while 17 full-face aggressive grooves help achieve plenty of shot bite upon landing. Callaway co-developed a new grip with Lamkin for easy shot selection and total distance control—three markings help minimize guesswork. While the Sure Out 2 showcases a brilliant chrome finish, Titleist's new **Vokey Wedgeworks' 64T Slate Blue Limited Edition (\$250)** comes in a non-glare, sultry deep blue. It's only available in a loft of 64 degrees with six degrees of bounce—ideal for steep bunker escapes. Its "T" grind has enhanced heel, toe and trailing edge relief for versatility, as well as Spin Milled grooves that get you maximum backspin. You can customize it with personalized stamping of up to 10 characters and one of 12 paint-fill colors, and choose from a selection of shafts, grips, shaft bands and ferrules.



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Bob & Kathy Peele on the 9th Hole of The South Course

WHY FOREST CREEK?

Tom Fazio was presented in the mid-1990s with 1,265 acres of Pinehurst’s rolling Sandhills with an array of elevation changes more dramatic than the softer rolls closer to the Village of Pinehurst. *“The owners said to us, tell us where to put the golf courses and we’ll work the housing around that,” Fazio says. “Golf was the highest priority. That’s not always the case, but it’s ideal from the architect’s standpoint. The great terrain, the tree cover, the elevation changes, the sandy soils, the golf history of the area — you’re talking about an ideal situation from day one.”*

The South Course was christened in 1996 and the North Course followed in 2005. Many believe the smooth lines and rich green surfaces of the South favor Augusta National, while the jagged edges and brownish sand on the North harken to Pine Valley. Both are ranked in *GolfWeek’s* Top 100 Residential Golf Courses listing.

Bob Peele first visited the Pinehurst area in 1999 with a board retreat from his home club in Chicago and the group stayed at Forest Creek, which is located three miles northwest of the Pinehurst Village on land previously owned for generations by the Meyer family from Chicago. Louis Meyer was an avid equestrian and hunter and found the area ideal for extended visits.



“We had a wonderful time and it was the first time I had ever been to Pinehurst,” Peele says. “The weather, the history, the golf and the friendly people were all outstanding.”

Then in 2008, Peele and his wife Kathy began scouting the country for a second home in a warm-weather golf community, and Pinehurst was on that list along with communities in California, Arizona, Nevada and Florida. The Peele’s liked that the club was only 75 minutes from Raleigh-Durham International Airport and that its moderate climate allowed golf 12 months a year.

“Forest Creek has two very distinctive styles of golf courses and within them, 36 holes with variety, different looks and different shot values,” —Tom Fazio

“We found the people at Forest Creek to be very welcoming, very authentic, intelligent and all enjoying the finer things of life in Forest Creek,” Peele says. “There are golf groups, social groups, wine groups, all kinds of groups that were very warm and welcoming, and made it easy to become assimilated into the club.”

Among members are Michael Jordan and UNC basketball coach Roy Williams. Williams escapes from Chapel Hill when his schedule allows, and each August hosts a golf trip for friends in the coaching profession at Forest Creek and other Pinehurst area courses.



Bob & Kathy Peele on the Clubhouse Veranda with server, Shannon Ellis

The club is owned by two long-time Forest Creek Members, Earl Ellis and Bob McCann, with Fazio joining as the third partner. Together the owners have retired all the debt and the club has no loans outstanding. Both courses will be renovated through the fall of 2020.



“When our basketball season is over, I hit the golf course as often as I can. Forest Creek is one of my favorite places to play and I love Fazio-designed courses. The Club has a first-class practice area, locker room, dining facility and staff. I played Forest Creek for several years before becoming a member 13 years ago, and now that my wife and I are building a vacation/retirement home there, I am looking forward to spending more time with all the great Members I have met on the course.”

—Roy Williams

On the cusp of completing its first quarter century, Forest Creek remains as it was conceived—36 holes of outstanding golf, impeccable amenities, attentive and friendly service and outstanding food. And it features a locker room styled in the manner of the stables that stood on the property decades ago.

“When I think of the thank-you notes we’ve received from guests over the years, the common phrase that keeps coming up is how peaceful it is at Forest Creek,” Peele says. “It’s a dream come true.”

—Lee Pace — Author of golf articles about Pinehurst, NC over the past three decades

PHOTOGRAPHY by John Gessner

ROCK SPRING REDEEMED

By Mark McCormick



(L-R) Nick Galante, West Orange Mayor Robert Parisi, and Pat Galante celebrate Rock Spring's new life as a public facility.



Community members look on as the ceremonial first tee shot is struck.

Earlier this year, Rock Spring Golf Club's fate was not certain whether or not it would be open this year. But the tradition will continue as the township of West Orange acquired the 138-acre facility designed by Seth Raynor to be open to the public. "The town's reaction has been phenomenal," Val D'Souza, Kemper Sports Vice President said.

An opening ceremony was held on May 9 as residents of West Orange, N.J., were invited to tour the clubhouse and hear from officials regarding the course's new era. "This was something none of us could have imagined six months ago," West Orange mayor Robert Parisi said.

Rock Spring, which was established in 1925, will be managed by Kemper Sports Management. Earlier this year, Montclair Golf Club announced it intended to sell Rock Spring Club. Both clubs merged in 2016.

"We're very excited," D'Souza said. "There's not many Seth Raynor courses open to the public. It's important to us to maintain the connection that this property has to golf history."



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After carding one of just two sub-par scores in the opening round of the 92nd MGA Senior Amateur Championship at Montclair Golf Club, Winged Foot's Jim Graham shared some intriguing thoughts, saying, "I've always considered myself kind of a good field filler in the Met."

The following day, Graham proved he's capable of much more than what he gives himself credit for. Graham and Ken Bakst of Friar's Head finished the championship locked at even-par 140, but a pair of pars in the playoff earned Graham the victory. With the title on the line, Graham seemed to step up his game, making birdie on the par-four 17th and hitting a stellar approach from the right rough on 18 to secure par and force extra holes. His game was unwavering in the playoff, as a couple of routine pars sealed the deal.

"I'm in shock that I've ended up with the trophy after two days," said Graham after getting his hands on the historic Horace L. Hotchkiss trophy. "I really never thought I'd be an MGA champion. There are a lot of guys that play better than me day-to-day, but it just happened to be my two days. So, I'm grateful."



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Putting Fun in Fundamentals



Mayo encouraged attendees to continue to add to their experience with the game.

On May 8, the MGA, in collaboration with official partner Lexus, offered the season's first Introduction to Women's Golf clinic. More than 30 women, including representatives from the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association, attended the evening event at Golf & Body NYC, gaining instruction in golf's fundamentals and enjoying the opportunity to network in a casual atmosphere. "It's all about empowering women to develop a love for the game," says Elpi Paradiso, Management Supervisor, Experiential Marketing at Team One, the marketing agency for Lexus. "Golf remains a significant piece of business and social culture, so it's important for women to feel confident on the course. Knowing the basics of the game could encourage participation in key business decisions taking place on the course every day."

Attendees also heard from Ashley Mayo—Head of Brand for 8AM Golf—who shared about golf's role in her life and applauded women for stepping out to learn more about the game. The MGA and Lexus will continue to partner on the clinic series throughout the Met Area this summer, with registration already open for the June 20 clinic at Bethpage State Park in Farmingdale, N.Y.

Attendees rotated between simulators and the putting green at Golf & Body NYC.



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Kansas City



The green of the picturesque par-four 3rd hole at Stone Canyon sits between rough-edged bunkers and an amphitheater of rocks.

With a metro population of more than two million, Kansas City provides a cozy city feel, yet still appeals to a variety of interests from sports and the arts to history and food. Ease of transportation also allows for quick travel to surrounding areas and access to spectacular golf experiences.

Stone Canyon Golf Club: This Greg Norman layout celebrates its 10th anniversary this year and has consistently ranked among the best courses to play in Missouri since its opening. The course—located near Independence, Missouri, and built on an abandoned rock quarry and former landfill—features rolling fairways complemented by rugged bunkers and stone outcroppings.

Ironhorse Golf Club: Located in Leawood, Kansas, this Michael Hurdzan design maintains a scenic feel even while winding through a housing development. Small creeks meander across or along several holes, placing a premium on accuracy. Just want to work on your game? The property has a 2,500-square-foot practice tee and a unique three-hole practice course.

Shoal Creek Golf Course: Shoal Creek opened in 2001 and quickly became one of the most popular plays in the region. It's easy to see why too, as it offers great variety with a mix of tree-lined fairways and open, more forgiving holes. It stretches to just under 7,000 from the back tees and also stands among the greatest values in the area.



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LAUNCHING Youth on Course



After laying the foundation for a partnership with Youth on Course in 2018, the MGA and MGA Foundation are pleased to launch the affordable golf access initiative in the Met Area for 2019! Juniors ages 6-18 will be able to join the Youth on Course network and play golf for \$5 per round at 24 participating facilities throughout the region.

To date, more than 530 juniors in the Met Area have enrolled in Youth on Course. Juniors can sign up online, and either join the MGA Youth on Course Club or register through their local First Tee chapter to begin enjoying the benefits.

Support for Youth on Course has driven the organization's growth across the country. The program has subsidized over 750,000 rounds of golf since its inception in 2006 and has more than 48,000 members that can play at more than 1,100 participating courses nationwide.

Visit mgagolf.org for complete details on enrollment, participating Met Area courses, and more.

