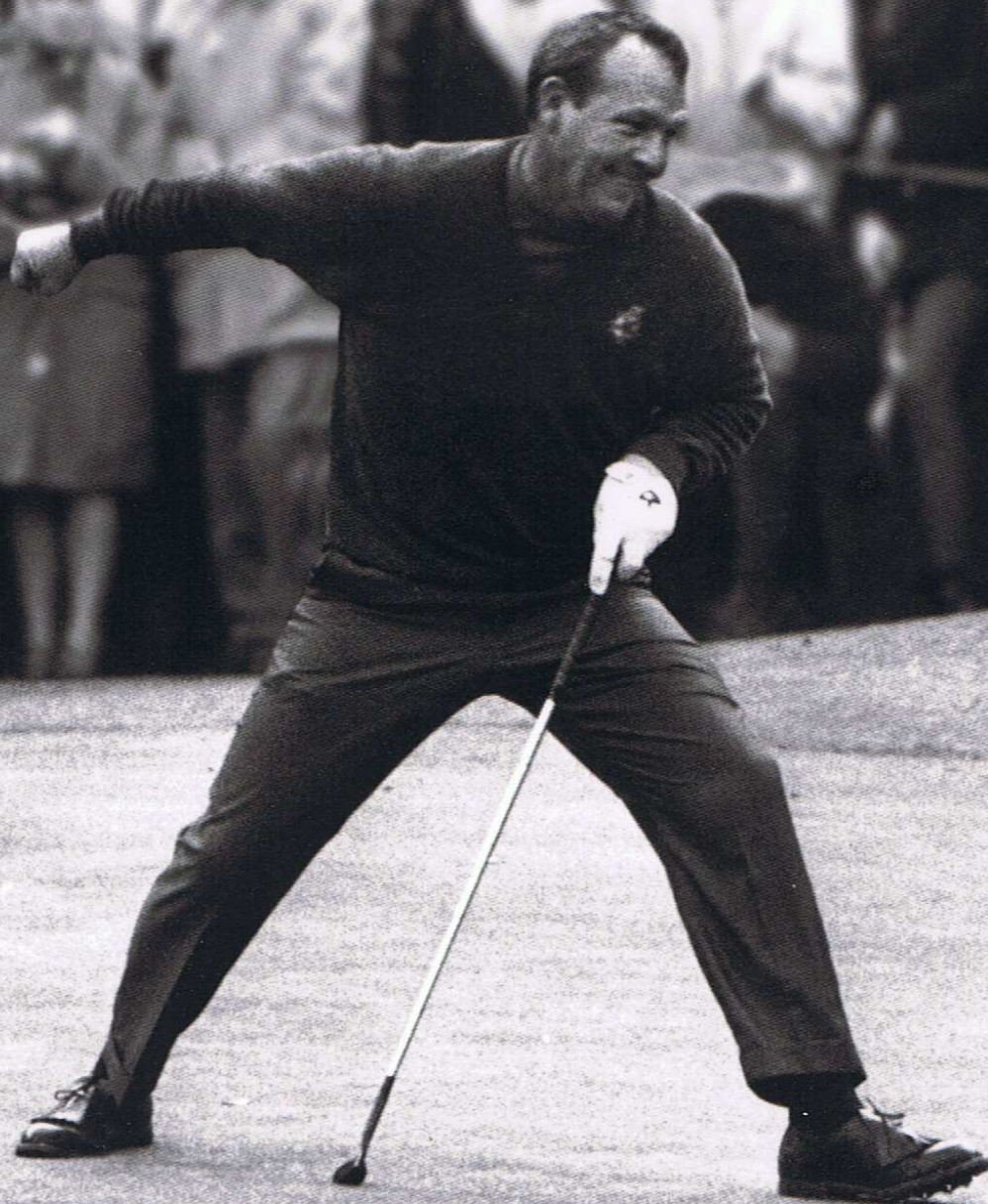


The Exclusive magazine for Members & Guests of *Arnold Palmer* courses

KINGDOM

ED SEAY TRIBUTE EDITION



**ARNOLD
PALMER**
THE KING SPEAKS
FROM LATROBE

**LORENA
OCHOA**
THE QUEEN
IS CROWNED

**HAIL TO
THE CHIEFS**
PALMER AND THE
PRESIDENTS

H o m e



Arnold Palmer continues to bestow his gratitude, gifts and genius on North Carolina a half century after he wandered into the state as an accidental student. Patrick Jones takes a look at the King's Carolina

In 1947 (as true foot soldiers of Arnie's Army will know), Palmer's close friend Buddy Worsham lured Arnie from his native Pennsylvania to play on the Wake Forest (N.C.) College golf team. In the ensuing 50 years, Palmer has retained tight ties to one of his favored states, serving on Wake Forest University's board of trustees and endowing a scholarship on the Demon Deacons golf team. This year, he was inducted into the Carolinas Golf Hall of Fame.

His greatest statewide legacy, however, may be the imprint of world-class golf courses that he continues to design.

North Carolina proffers a diverse canvas of altitudes and topographies on which cunning course architects — Palmer, Ross, Fazio and Nicklaus, among many others — have regularly dabbled. A spine of geological uplift runs the full length of the western part of the state. It is dominated by 6,684-foot Mount Mitchell, which is the highest point east of the Mississippi River. The cities of Charlotte, Greensboro and Raleigh are situated in the rolling terrain of the Piedmont region. World-championship golf tournaments are frequent visitors to Pinehurst in the Sandhills region. And the lighthouse-dotted Outer Banks feature adventurous golf opportunities atop the slim remains of ancient coastal sand dunes.

Golfers searching for top-notch golf courses and upscale golf communities in North Carolina face the daunting — but enviable — task of choosing from the mountains, the sea and the hundreds of miles of additional prime real estate connecting the two.

It speaks volumes for the state that golf course

architect newcomers Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson chose North Carolina's extensive palette for the first U.S. designs of their respective companies.

"We are incredibly spoiled in North Carolina," says Kevin Brafford, director of communications for the North Carolina Association of Realtors and the president of the North Carolina Golf Panel, which annually ranks the state's top courses. "People around the world know how special Pinehurst is, and that leads some folks to believe that we just have Pinehurst. But those who have visited or moved to the state know better. Our mountain golf course communities are filled largely with either full-time residents who have moved from other states or Florida residents who escape to here in the summer. I'd put our coastal golf course communities up against any state. And in between those two areas — my gosh, North Carolina is a golfer's paradise.

"There's so much to be gained from living in a golf course community," adds Brafford. "These residential areas almost always are in a desirable location and typically come with numerous amenities. Further, if and when the time comes to sell your house, the return on your investment oftentimes is greater than in communities without a golf course."

As mentioned, Palmer has applied his golf design expertise across the state, and continues to add to his North Carolina portfolio, now leaping past a dozen courses. Among his contributions are the Cullasaja Club, TPC at Piper Glen, River's Edge Golf Club and White Oak Plantation.

Sweet
Carolina



TPC at Piper Glen's No. 14 is a fine testament to the course's beauty

CULLASAJA CLUB

The Cullasaja Club is tucked amidst mountain laurel, rhododendron and meandering creeks near the mountain town of Highlands in the southwestern corner of North Carolina. The community features a 6,828-yard, par 72 Palmer course opened in 1987. The community accommodates approximately 280 single-family homes ranging in price from \$650,000 to more than \$4 million. There are fewer than 10 vacant lots still remaining for new construction. Fees at the Cullasaja Club, as of 2007, were \$65,000 for membership with annual dues of \$8,000. At an elevation of 4,100 feet, the town of Highlands is blessed with high temperatures in July that average a comfortable 78 degrees. Note: It is a champion shopping spot with numerous antique stores, curio shops, inns and restaurants.

TPC AT PIPER GLEN

The TPC at Piper Glen celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2008. The Charlotte development features a par 72, 6,853-yard Palmer course. Additional amenities include a 35,000-square-foot clubhouse, a 10-acre golf practice facility, eight lighted clay tennis courts and a Junior Olympic-sized pool. There are approximately 800 homes in the community. Home prices range from \$500,000 to more than \$2 million. The TPC at Piper Glen previously hosted the Champion Tour's Home Depot Classic. There are numerous membership choices at the club, ranging from social memberships (\$1,500 initiation fee, \$33 monthly fees) to platinum

lifetime memberships with an initiation fee of \$75,000. There are sport, corporate and charter memberships at varying rates sandwiched in the middle.

RIVER'S EDGE GOLF CLUB

This coastal gem by Palmer in Shallotte, is located near North Carolina's southern border. The semi-private golf course officially opened for play in 1998. The layout takes full advantage of some of the Lowcountry's finest terrain as it winds through marshlands and along the Shallotte River. The residential community is still in its early stages, with more than 400 single-family homes in the master plan. Prices range from \$450,000 to \$1.5 million. The development will also feature 100 town homes from the \$300s to the \$600s. Additional amenities include three hard-surface tennis courts, a fitness center, an indoor/outdoor pool and even a private library. The golf course allows public play but memberships are available for \$3,000.

SEVEN FALLS GOLF & RIVER CLUB

This amazing location in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western N.C. broke ground this summer just 27 miles south of Asheville. Roughly 900 residences will sit on 2,000 gated acres along the French Broad River; half of them full homes, the rest town houses, condos and smaller, villa-style houses. Homesites will start near \$300,000, with town houses from near \$900,000. The development will feature an amphitheater; shops; restaurants; a chapel; general store; and fully featured fitness facility (swimming, tennis, indoor climbing wall, etc.). The real lifestyle pursuits, though, will be boating and fishing on the French Broad — there's an outfitter right on the river, in addition to at least three stocked lakes — and golf. For the latter, residents will benefit from an Arnold Palmer Premier course, the finest course operation available.

(See more of Seven Falls on p80.)



River's Edge in Shallotte takes full advantage of the area's terrain

BALSAM MOUNTAIN PRESERVE

Deep in the dense forests of the Blue Ridge Mountains near Sylva, the 4,400 acres of Balsam Mountain Preserve offer a tremendous setting for an incredible lifestyle. Lovers of the great outdoors will delight in the 38 miles of streams, 50 miles of trails and an on-site Nature Center complete with its own nature expert. Horse lovers will enjoy the Equestrian facilities; fitness lovers will like the tennis, swimming and fitness center; and, of course, golfers will enjoy the Arnold Palmer Signature Golf Course. With only 354 homes, Balsam Mountain is a low-density development. So much the better to enjoy fishing in the streams (scientifically documented as the purest you'll find), eating in the on-site restaurants and golfing on an un-crowded course. In fact, the development averages out at approximately 12 acres per resident. Well worth the price of admission, we say, with home sites ranging from the upper end of \$300,000 to \$1 million.

WHITE OAK GOLF & EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY

White Oak Golf & Equestrian Community is not just another Palmer mountain design. Scheduled to open in late 2008/2009, the

course, located just outside of Tryon, N.C., sits on land that was first deeded to the Ambrose Mills family by King George II in 1743. Long and winding horse and walking trails stretch throughout the property, passing waterfalls, old ruins and lush meadows. A full-featured Equestrian Center will cater to horse lovers, while fishing areas aim to satisfy anglers on lazy afternoons. There will be a Tennis Facility for the racquet and ball crowd which will be a part of a more extensive Family Activity Center, with pools, spa & wellness. There is even plans for a Celestial Observatory for sky gazers. Those with their eyes closer to the ground will appreciate the view from the hills, which wrap around the incredible Arnold Palmer golf course. From high above the course, there's a great view of the stream that winds through the community (which likely won't be as appealing to golfers as it is to day hikers). The same hills hold a vineyard, which will benefit from White Oak's mild four-season climate. If all of that wasn't enough, you might see this year's British Open champion walking around; Padraig Harrington has chosen White Oak Golf & Equestrian Community for his residence when playing on this side of the Atlantic. He will soon be joined

by fellow Irishman and 2007 Wentworth Senior Masters champion, Des Smyth. There are approximately 600 homes slated for White Oak Golf & Equestrian Community. They start near \$500,000, with home sites beginning at \$200,000. The 7,300 yard course will have five tee boxes per hole. The initiation fee for the private club is \$60,000 with annual fees of \$4,200.

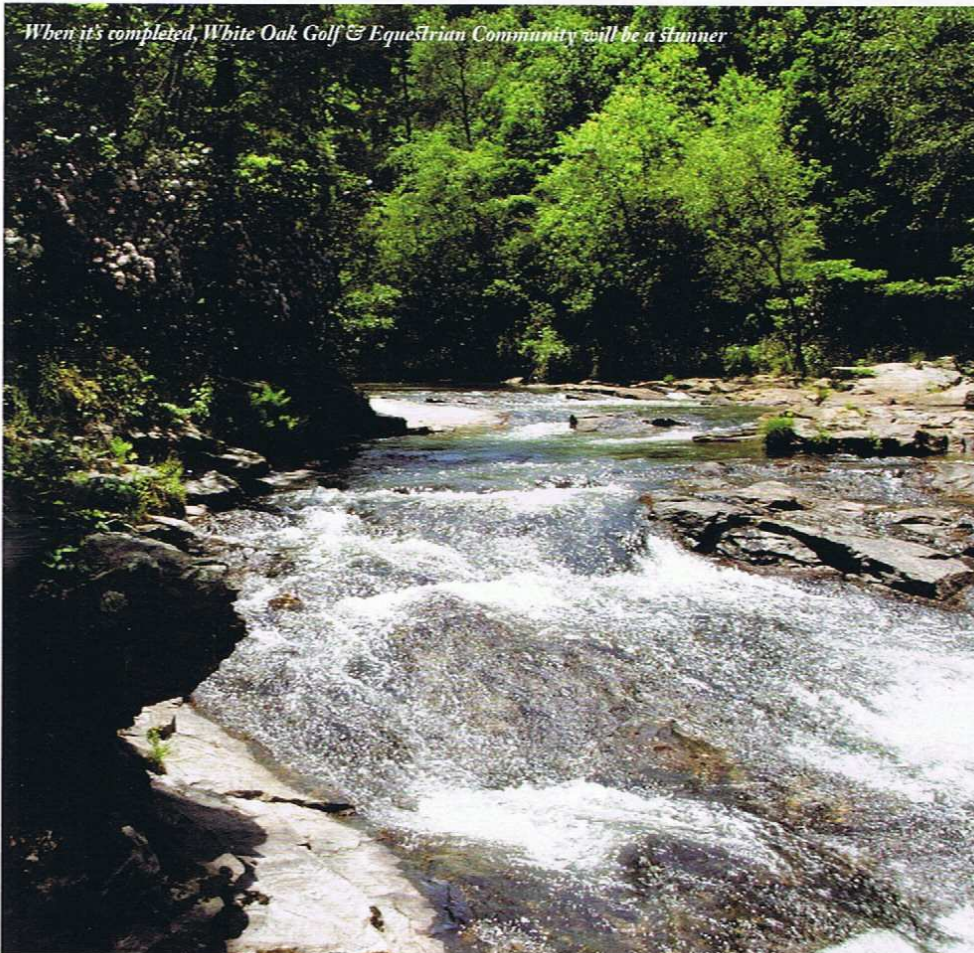
OTHER NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITIES

RIVER ROCK GOLF COURSE

The first project of Phil Mickelson Design is scheduled for the town of Cashiers, located on "the twenty sweetest square miles in the Blue Ridge Mountains," as the Web site has it. Five distinct neighborhood parcels each offer a unique personality and access to the incredible boating, riding, tennis, fishing and, of course, golf. The neighborhoods are not only distinguished by their distinct personalities, but by unique topographies as well, all clustered between the Tuckasegee River and Lake Glenville. The lake is one of the Top 10 cleanest in America, and will be accessible via a fleet of antique wooden Chris Craft boats (reserved for the sole use of residents) and by kayaks, canoes and small sailboats, all available at the River Rock boathouse. The course and world-class practice facility are in the preliminary stages, with a scheduled opening in 2010. Over 7,100 yards, the course is quite diverse. Proper club selection is expected to be at a premium on the rollercoaster site, which ranges from elevations of 2,250 to 4,250 feet above sea level. Initial course routing plans set up a dramatic contrast that moves from a 115-foot freefall on the fourth hole to an uphill climb of 75 feet on No. 11. Luckily, your front yard will feature all the drama of the views without the steep hike. Home sites from \$300,000 to \$1.5 million.

THE CLIFFS AT HIGH CAROLINA

Swannanoa, just east of Asheville, is the location for Tiger's first U.S. course. The date of its opening is still to be determined. Woods said he would own a home in the private community that sits at an elevation of more than 4,000 feet. The course will be the second for Woods, coming on the heels of his inaugural venture in Dubai. High Carolina is the latest of several other The Cliffs golf communities in this region of western North Carolina and upstate South Carolina ■



When it's completed, White Oak Golf & Equestrian Community will be a stunner