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The Traveling Golfer

COURSE SPY WE GO UNDERCOVER TO SEE IF YOU'RE OVERPAYING



The Cholla course at We-Ko-Pa is considered by many to be the best course in Scottsdale.

We-Ko-Pa Golf Club (Cholla) *Ft. McDowell, Arizona*

7,225 yards, par 72; Green fees: \$75-\$195; wekopa.com; 480-836-9000

SERVICE	PACE OF PLAY	QUALITY	VALUE	VERDICT
A small army of service personnel descended at the bag drop, making for an experience that was as smooth as it was friendly. The beverage-cart girl—a member of the Yavapai Nation that owns We-Ko-Pa—dished out the perfect blend of sass and service.	We've played slower rounds in the desert, but we did endure our share of waiting. Part of that can be attributed to the cart path-only policy, but the trade off for that is that you get to play on pristine fairways. Seems fair.	Deep canyons, superb variety, split fairways and no homes add up to a memorable round. The signature hole—the downhill/sidehill par-5 8th—is too funky for our tastes, but everything else is so entertaining that it's hard to ask for much more.	We paid \$130 in mid-November (up from \$85 two weeks earlier) and weren't disappointed. Outstanding conditions and sterling service soften the financial sting here. It's still a lot of money, but on one of those flawless, shirtsleeve Arizona days, it's hard to complain.	It's easy to see why many people rank Scott Miller's Cholla layout as the best in Scottsdale. More interesting off the tees than its Saguaro sibling and easier on the eyes than other home-lined desert courses, this is one we'd go back to.