

CARD GAMES: COMPLETE Q-SCHOOL COVERAGE, P20-38

# GOLF WEEK

DECEMBER 9-16, 2011

GOLFWEED.COM

FOR  
SERIOUS  
GOLFERS  
ONLY

A photograph of Tiger Woods in profile, wearing a black cap with '2011' on the side and a black and red polo shirt. He has a wide, joyful expression with his mouth open as if shouting or celebrating. The background is dark and out of focus.

# OH, YEAH!

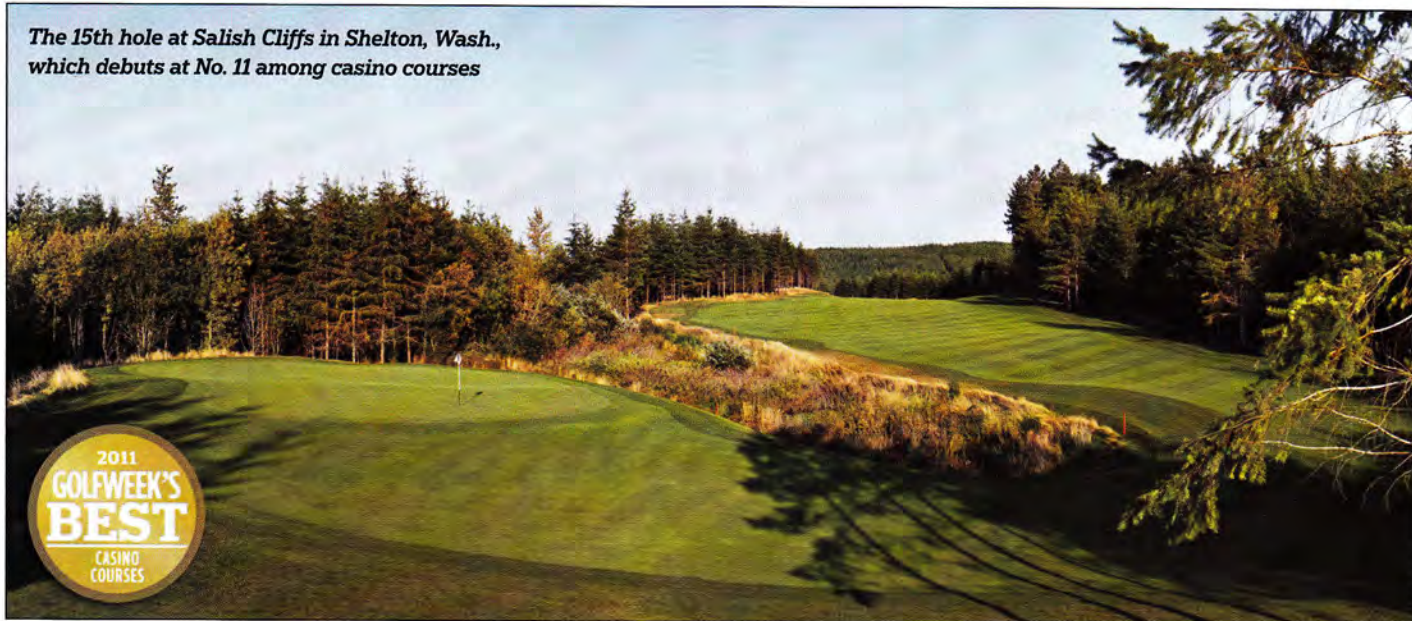
CHEVRON TRIUMPH  
FUELS TIGER'S TANK  
FOR 2012 CAMPAIGN

P40

HOT HANDS  
DEALING YOU OUR  
TOP CASINO COURSES

Golf Life, P76

The 15th hole at Salish Cliffs in Shelton, Wash., which debuts at No. 11 among casino courses



# TEST OF TIME

## SHADOW CREEK STILL STANDS ATOP CASINO COURSES LIST

**For a guy who got his start** running mundane bingo parlors in Maryland, Steve Wynn always has had a grand vision for the gaming industry.

When Wynn ran Mirage Resorts, he transformed the Las Vegas Strip with huge, lavish resorts such as The Mirage and Bellagio, forcing competitors to invest in larger and more exotic resorts if they hoped to keep pace. Even after he sold Mirage, he kept raising the bar in Sin City with five-diamond properties such as Wynn Las Vegas and the adjacent Encore.

Wynn brought that same vision to golf, with similar effect. In 1990, a year after he opened The Mirage, he debuted his golf mirage, Shadow Creek. The course reflected Wynn's commitment to delivering a truly memorable experience, regardless of price. The running joke is that architect Tom Fazio was given an unlimited budget and exceeded it. Cost estimates ranged from \$40 million to \$60 million.

More than two decades later, Shadow Creek is as fabulous as ever. Europe might be on the brink and college football's Bowl Championship Series remains

No. 17 at Shadow Creek



a muddled mess, but you can count on Shadow Creek to show up at No. 1 each year on Golfweek's Best Casino Courses list. It also sits at No. 11 on Golfweek's Best Modern (1960-present) list.

More broadly, Shadow Creek made an impact similar to Wynn's gaudy resorts: It forced competing casino operators to create better golf courses. Over the past two decades, casinos have eased their high-rollers' losses with openings such as Fallen

Oak in Mississippi, two top-10 tracks at We-Ko-Pa in Arizona and the vertiginous Pete Dye Course at French Lick (Ind.) Resort.

New openings have all but ground to a halt, but casinos still are responsible for three 2011 openings that cracked the top 50: No. 11 Salish Cliffs in Washington, No. 18 Firekeeper in Kansas and No. 43 Seneca Hickory Stick in New York.

Though new openings have become increasingly rare, the impact of Wynn and Fazio's vision more than 20 years ago is still being felt.

— Martin Kaufmann

# Golfweek's Best: Casino Courses 2011

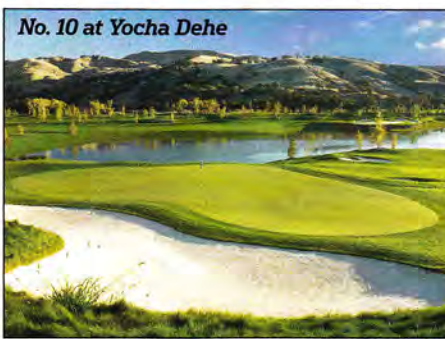
|   | Location                     | Opened | Architect(s)                               | Avg. rating |
|---|------------------------------|--------|--|-------------|
| 1. Shadow Creek                             | North Las Vegas, Nev.        | 1990   | Tom Fazio                                  | 8.07        |
| 2. Fallen Oak                               | Saucier, Miss.               | 2006   | Tom Fazio                                  | 7.31        |
| 3. We-Ko-Pa (Saguaro)                       | Fountain Hills, Ariz.        | 2006   | Bill Coore, Ben Crenshaw                   | 6.90        |
| 4. French Lick Resort (Dye)                 | French Lick, Ind.            | 2009   | Pete Dye                                   | 6.74        |
| 5. The Greenbrier (Old White TPC)           | White Sulphur Springs, W.Va. | 1915   | C.B. Macdonald, Seth Raynor, Lester George | 6.70        |
| 6. Barona Creek                             | Lakeside, Calif.             | 2000   | Gary Roger Baird, Todd Eckenrode           | 6.65        |
| 7. Cascata                                  | Henderson, Nev.              | 1999   | Rees Jones                                 | 6.62        |
| 8. Atlantic City Country Club               | Northfield, N.J.             | 1923   | William S. Flynn, Tom Doak                 | 6.54        |
| 9. Wilderness at Fortune Bay                | Tower, Minn.                 | 2004   | Jeff Brauer                                | 6.43        |
| 10. We-Ko-Pa (Cholla)                       | Fountain Hills, Ariz.        | 2001   | Scott Miller                               | 6.32        |
| 11. Salish Cliffs                           | Shelton, Wash.               | 2011   | Gene Bates                                 | 6.26        |
| 12. French Lick Resort (Ross)               | French Lick, Ind.            | 1917   | Donald Ross                                | 6.18        |
| 13. Southern Dunes                          | Maricopa, Ariz.              | 2002   | Brian Curley, Lee Schmidt                  | 6.17        |
| 14. Circling Raven                          | Worley, Idaho                | 2003   | Gene Bates                                 | 6.15        |
| 15. Edgewood Tahoe                          | Tahoe, Nev.                  | 1968   | George Fazio                               | 6.12        |
| 16. Wynn Golf Club                          | Las Vegas                    | 2005   | Tom Fazio                                  | 6.10        |
| 17. Talking Stick (North)                   | Scottsdale, Ariz.            | 1998   | Bill Coore, Ben Crenshaw                   | 6.06        |
| 18. Firekeeper                              | Mayetta, Kan.                | 2011   | Jeff Brauer, Notah Begay III               | 6.02        |
| 19. Sandia                                  | Albuquerque, N.M.            | 2005   | Scott Miller                               | 6.00        |
| 20. Chariot Run                             | Laconia, Ind.                | 2003   | Bill Bergin                                | 6.00        |
| 21. Meadows at Mystic Lake                  | Prior Lake, Minn.            | 2005   | Garrett Gil, Paul Miller                   | 5.99        |
| 22. Turning Stone Resort (Atunyote)         | Verona, N.Y.                 | 2004   | Tom Fazio                                  | 5.95        |
| 23. Turning Stone Resort (Kaluhyat)         | Verona, N.Y.                 | 2003   | Robert Trent Jones Jr.                     | 5.91        |
| 24. Lake of Isles (North)                   | North Stonington, Conn.      | 2005   | Rees Jones                                 | 5.86        |
| 25. Yocha Dehe                              | Brooks, Calif.               | 2008   | Brad Bell                                  | 5.84        |
| 26. Grand Bear                              | Saucier, Miss.               | 2000   | Jack Nicklaus                              | 5.83        |
| 27. Sweetgrass                              | Harris, Mich.                | 2008   | Paul Albanese                              | 5.81        |
| 28. Dancing Rabbit (Azaleas)                | Philadelphia, Miss.          | 1997   | Tom Fazio, Jerry Pate                      | 5.80        |
| 29. Journey at Pechanga                     | Temecula, Calif.             | 2008   | Steve Forrest, Arthur Hills                | 5.73        |
| 30. Talking Stick (South)                   | Scottsdale, Ariz.            | 1998   | Bill Coore, Ben Crenshaw                   | 5.72        |
| 31. Spirit Hollow                           | Burlington, Iowa             | 2000   | Rick Jacobson                              | 5.66        |
| 32. The Preserve                            | Vanceleave, Miss.            | 2007   | Jerry Pate                                 | 5.63        |
| 33. Contraband Bayou Golf Club at L'Auberge | Lake Charles, La.            | 2005   | Tom Fazio                                  | 5.62        |
| 34. Belterra                                | Florence, Ind.               | 2001   | Tom Fazio                                  | 5.61        |
| 35. Apache Stronghold                       | San Carlos, Ariz.            | 1999   | Tom Doak                                   | 5.57        |
| 36. Blue Top Ridge                          | Riverside, Iowa              | 2007   | Rees Jones                                 | 5.57        |
| 37. Rio Secco                               | Henderson, Nev.              | 1997   | Rees Jones                                 | 5.54        |
| 38. Oasis (Palmer)                          | Mesquite, Nev.               | 1995   | Arnold Palmer, Ed Seay                     | 5.50        |
| 39. Turning Stone Resort (Shenendoah)       | Verona, N.Y.                 | 1998   | Rick Smith                                 | 5.47        |
| 40. Sevillano Links                         | Corning, Calif.              | 2007   | Mike Stark                                 | 5.47        |
| 41. Cherokee Hills                          | Tulsa, Okla.                 | 1924   | Perry Maxwell, Tripp Davis                 | 5.45        |
| 42. Whirlwind (Devil's Claw)                | Chandler, Ariz.              | 2000   | Gary Panks                                 | 5.44        |
| 43. Seneca Hickory Stick                    | Lewiston, N.Y.               | 2011   | Robert Trent Jones Jr.                     | 5.40        |
| 44. Shell Landing                           | Gautier, Miss.               | 2002   | Davis Love III                             | 5.39        |
| 45. The Greenbrier (Greenbrier)             | White Sulphur Springs, W.Va. | 1925   | George O'Neil, Jack Nicklaus               | 5.25        |
| 46. Sequoyah National                       | Whittier, N.C.               | 2010   | Robert Trent Jones Jr.                     | 5.25        |
| 47. Whirlwind (Cattail)                     | Chandler, Ariz.              | 2002   | Gary Panks                                 | 5.23        |
| 48. Dancing Rabbit (Oaks)                   | Philadelphia, Miss.          | 1999   | Tom Fazio, Jerry Pate                      | 5.16        |
| 49. Inn of the Mountain Gods                | Mescalero, N.M.              | 1976   | Ted Robinson                               | 5.16        |
| 50. Badlands (Desperado & Diablo)           | Las Vegas                    | 1995   | Johnny Miller                              | 5.15        |

No. 9 at French Lick Resort (Dye)



COURTESY OF FRENCH LICK/BRIAN WALTERS PHOTOGRAPHY

No. 10 at Yocha Dehe



COURTESY OF YOCHA DEHE/AIDAN BRADLEY

No. 14 at Seneca Hickory Stick



COURTESY OF HICKORY STICK/KEN E. MAY