

**MASTERS
PREVIEW**
P. 66

JIM NANTZ ON TIGER
"HE'S NOT BIGGER THAN THE GAME"

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Spring Training Special

BASEBALL & GOLF

Big Leaguers' Secrets For
Hitting the Long Ball

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**WEDGES &
PUTTERS**

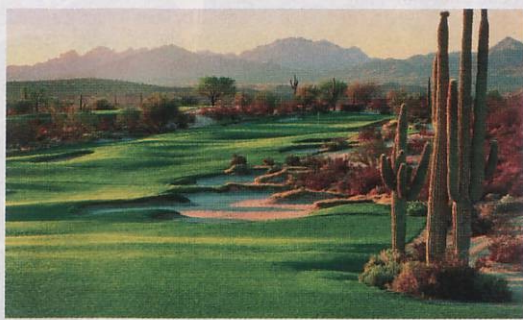
37 of the Best Evaluated





SWING STATES

One of the very fine confluences of life is the fact that baseball's spring training sites are all located in beautiful, warm places that are stacked with good golf. You can watch the boys of summer—savvy vets, rookies and bushers alike—and then get in a little training of your own. Here's your golfer's guide to spring training. —*Michael Corcoran*



LORENA TUCKER/WE-KO-PA GOLF CLUB

Left: The home hole on We-Ko-Pa's Saguaro Course. Below: The Mountain Course at Ventana Canyon.

Arizona

Tucson



Best Public Course: **Ventana Canyon's Mountain Course** (520-577-1400, ventanacanyonclub.com; \$100-\$175) is famous for its par-3 third "Hole in the Wall," which calls for a drop shot to a tiny green in a cactus-studded canyon. The other 17 holes aren't bad, but the 107-yard third will linger.

Best Bang For Your Buck: **Randolph North** (520-791-4161, tucsoncitygolf.com; \$41-\$72) is a classic muni that has hosted the PGA, LPGA and Champions Tours over the years. It's not exactly classic desert terrain, but plenty of water hazards, a walk-on rate of \$44 and next-door access to Hi Corbett Field, where the Rockies prep for those crazy late-season surges, make Randolph a good buy.

Best You Can Play That You've Never Heard Of: On the northwest side of town at the base of the towering Santa Catalina and Tortolita Mountains, **Vistoso Golf Club** (520-797-9900, vistosogolf.com; \$89-\$145) is a Tom Weiskopf design full of natural washes, deep bunkers and risk/reward options. If you wait until 1 p.m. to play, it's \$89.

Phoenix



Best Public Course: **We-Ko-Pa Golf Club** (480-836-9000, wekopa.com; \$175-\$195) runs neck and neck with **Troon North** for top dog in the valley, but with no homes or roads obstructing the views and a greens fee that can be \$100 cheaper, We-Ko-Pa's 36 holes get the nod.

Best Bang For Your Buck: **Longbow Golf Club** (480-887-5400, longbowgolf.com; \$135-\$155) features Red Mountain as a backdrop and is just east of HoHoKam Stadium, where the Cubbies play. Book online and you can score a prime tee time for \$99.

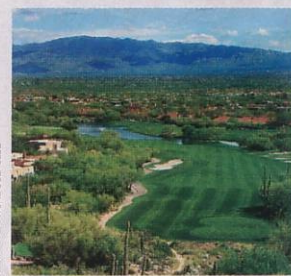
Best You Can Play That You've Never Heard Of: **Southern Dunes Golf Club** (480-367-8949, golfsoutherndunes.com; \$129) Built in 2002 as a private men's club, this Schmidt-Curley/Fred Couples design is now public and affordable, and it sports rescue-framed fairways.



Gotta love them D-backs!

When the season starts for real, Phoenix is golf/baseball central

If you're considering a golf trip during baseball's regular season, the team with the most quality golf within 25 miles of its stadium is the Arizona Diamondbacks. **Troon North** (Pinnacle and Monument courses), **We-Ko-Pa** (Cholla and Saguaro), **Grayhawk** (Talon) and **The Boulders** (South) all crack our Top 100 Courses You Can Play list.



VENTANA CANYON GOLF CLUB