

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

# GOLF WEEK

DECEMBER 9-16, 2011

GOLFWEEEK.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, open-mouthed smile, celebrating a victory. The background is dark and out of focus.

# OH, YEAH!

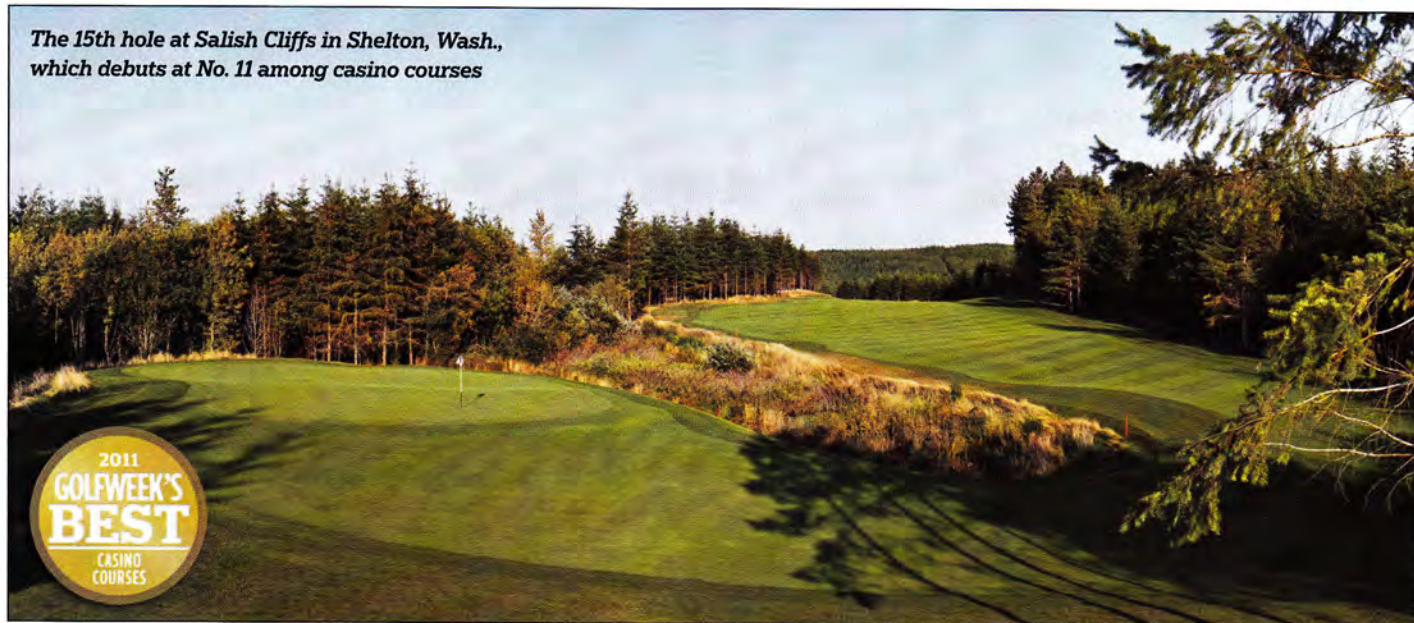
CHEVRON TRIUMPH  
FUELS TIGER'S TANK  
FOR 2012 CAMPAIGN

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

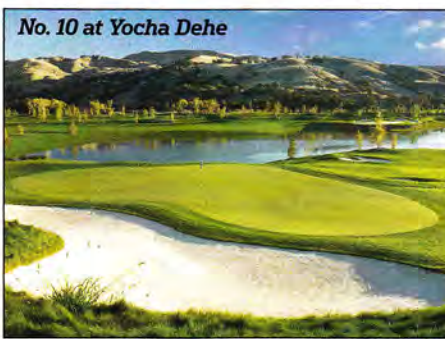
	Location	Opened	Architect(s)	Avg. rating
1. Shadow Creek	North Las Vegas, Nev.	1990	Tom Fazio	8.07
2. Fallen Oak	Saucier, Miss.	2006	Tom Fazio	7.31
3. We-Ko-Pa (Saguaro)	Fountain Hills, Ariz.	2006	Bill Coore, Ben Crenshaw	6.90
4. French Lick Resort (Dye)	French Lick, Ind.	2009	Pete Dye	6.74
5. The Greenbrier (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