

THE LOCAL BEER SCENE: WHO, WHAT, WHERE

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GREAT ESCAPES

FOR GOLF AND MORE

THE MOUNTAINS,
THE FOOTHILLS
AND THE COAST

**MISSING
THE BEAT**

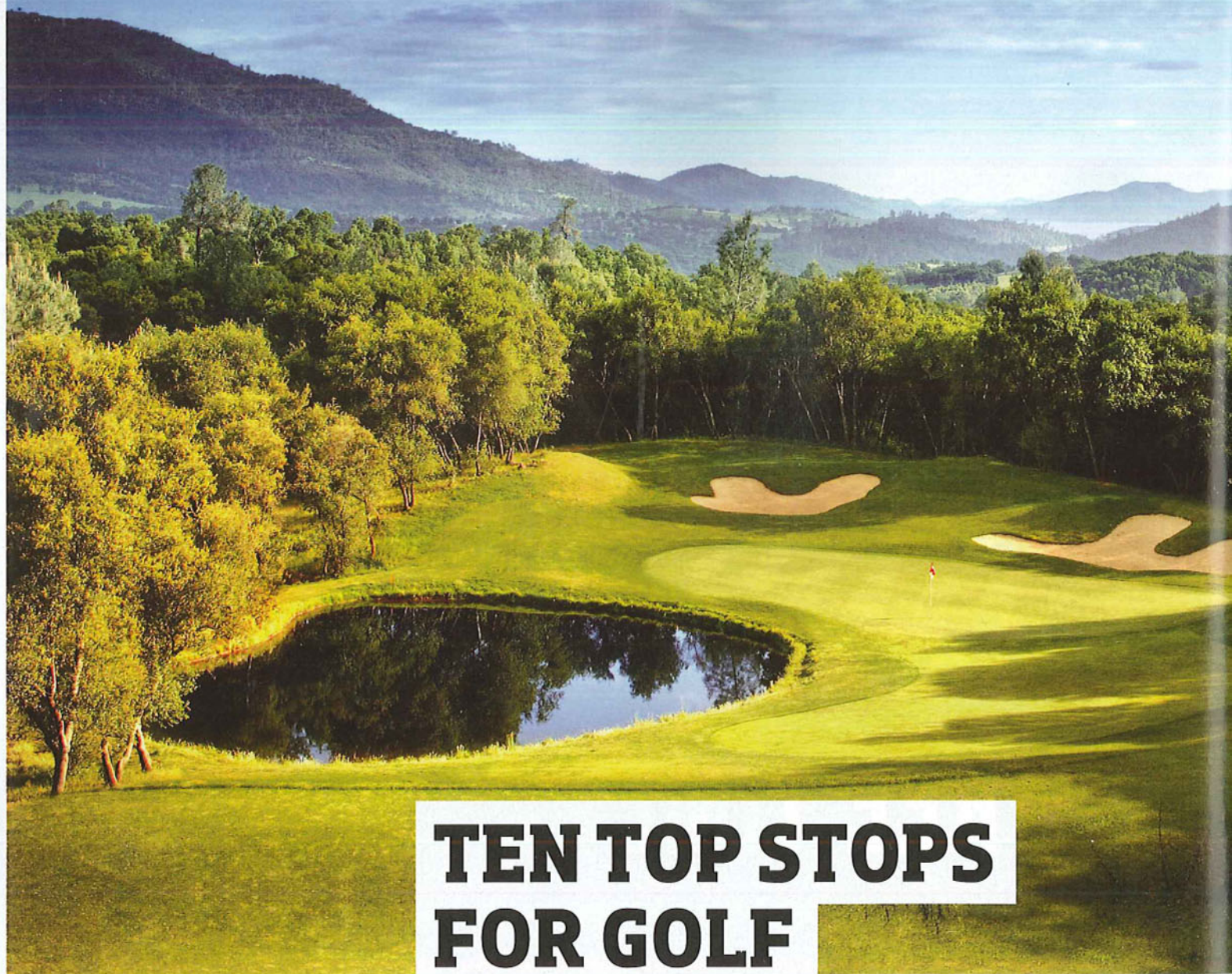
LOCAL LP
COLLECTORS
TALK MUSIC

**RESTAURANT
REVIEW**

CAFE PLAN B

HEALTH

CAN YOU
CAREGIVE
TOO MUCH?



TEN TOP STOPS FOR GOLF

*THROW THE CLUBS IN THE TRUNK AND HIT
THE ROAD FOR A STAY-AND-PLAY GETAWAY.*

BY FRANK LAROSA



Top: The 13th hole at
Greenhorn Creek Resort
Bottom: The porch at
Greenhorn's Caddy Shack

While I can't actually see Pebble Beach or Lake Tahoe from my backyard, I recognize that we Northern Californians live in a region that is visited daily by wide-eyed people from all around the world. Our selection of golf courses is second to none in historical perspective, playability and sheer beauty. Our accommodations continue to top lists of such year after year. Northern California is a wonderful place to play golf and stay for the weekend. So let's play 10—nine is never enough for me!



Carmel Valley Ranch



The pool at Carmel Valley Ranch



Carmel Valley Ranch

● **CARMEL VALLEY: CARMEL VALLEY RANCH**

With an 18-hole Pete Dye championship golf course, along with seven hard and two clay tennis courts, a basketball court, saltwater swimming pool, hiking, biking and running trails, fitness centers, “Ranch Hands” kids camps and nightly s’mores around a fireplace, the dog-friendly Carmel Valley Ranch is a place where families go to play.

The pleasing yet challenging golf course plays out along the valley floor for the front nine and rises dramatically into the hills on the back. Holes 10, 11, 12 and 13 are as good a stretch as you’ll find, and the view of the golf course, vineyards and valley from the elevated 11th tee is breathtaking. The manicured course was updated three years back and features bentgrass tees and greens.



The Golf Club at Gray's Crossing

All 139 suites have been renovated to include well-appointed bedrooms, private decks, travertine fireplaces and limestone bathrooms. At the fine-dining Lodge Restaurant, executive chef Tim Wood uses lots of local ingredients. His recipe for Carmel Valley Ranch Honey-Chili Wings was featured in Food and Wine magazine. *For more information:* carmelvalleyranch.com or (831) 625-9500

● **TRUCKEE: THE RITZ-CARLTON, LAKE TAHOE**

The Ritz-Carlton, Lake Tahoe is the only AAA Five Diamond mountain resort in California. In the summer, it offers a good deal of diversion for the entire family, including exceptional mountain golf.

Mountain golf is quiet golf. Golf played next to the ocean is energizing; golf at higher elevations is more serene. The trees seem to muffle the sounds of tee shots and players' exhortations. Most players love the fact that shots travel about 10 percent farther because of the thinner air.

Hotel guests enjoy preferred tee times at both the Jack Nicklaus Signature course, Old Greenwood, and at Gray's Crossing, an Audubon International Gold Signature Sanctuary. Each offers a distinctive experience and an opportunity to see the forest instead of the trees.

The five diamonds give a pretty good clue about the accommodations, dining, spa and amenities offered. They are second to none. Hiking, biking, fishing, watersports and roller-skating are just some of the family-friendly activities that await visitors this summer. *For more information:* ritzcarlton.com/laketahoe or (530) 562-3000; golfintahoe.com or (530) 550-7010/(530) 550-5800

● **SONOMA COUNTY: UNION HOTEL/ THE LINKS AT BODEGA HARBOUR**

Frank and Barbara Gonnella have owned, managed and worked side-by-side with employees at Union Hotel since the '70s. Service, smiles and sincerity abound with a historic hospitality that harkens to the days when their ancestors established the hotel in 1879. In