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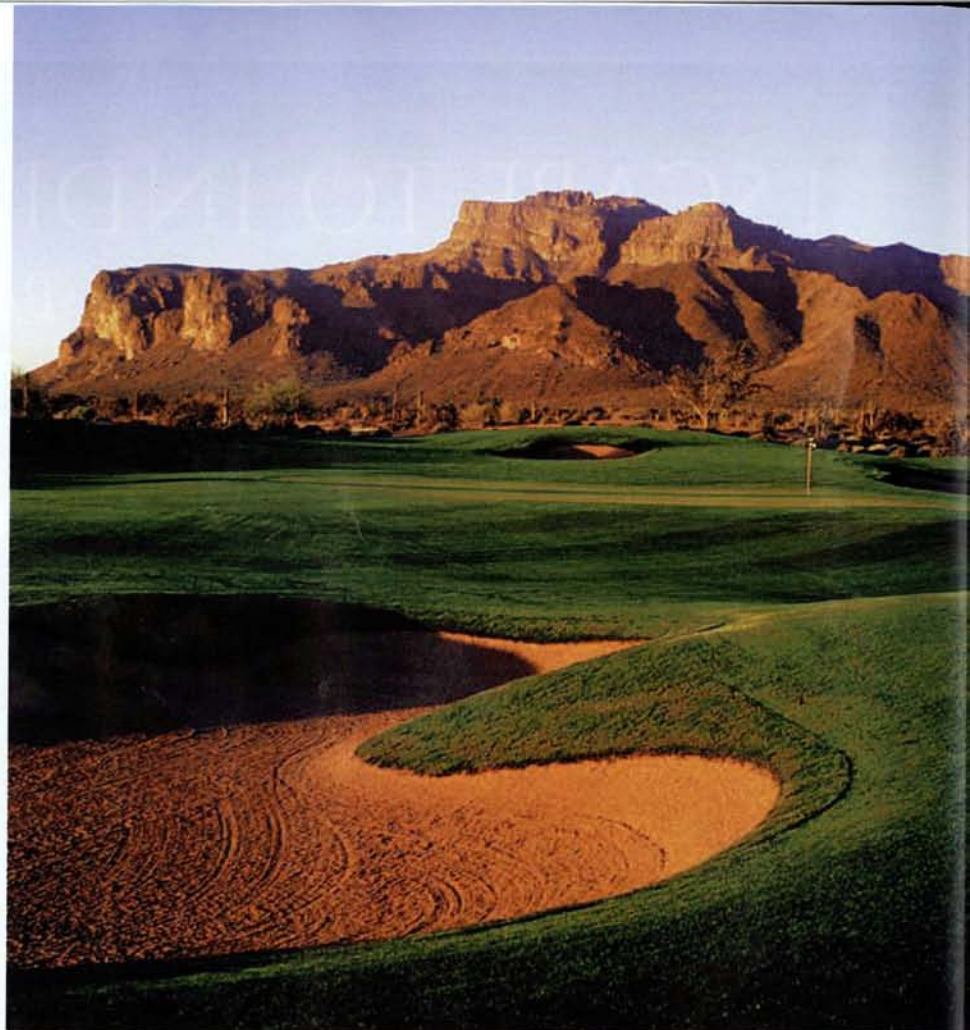
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Big-Time Golf, Small-Town Feel

by Russ Christ

SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB has earned laurels aplenty—national renown for its two Nicklaus courses, site of an annual LPGA event as well as several other professional tournaments—but to residents of the 870-acre master-planned community 30 minutes east of downtown Phoenix, Superstition is simply a friendly place with small-town feel.

A Lyle Anderson development—Desert Mountain in North Scottsdale, Las Campanas in Santa Fe, and Hokulia on Hawaii's Big Island are among his other projects—Superstition Mountain is fast becoming an alternative to nearby Scottsdale. At Superstition, Anderson hired his friend Jack Nicklaus to oversee the construction of two 18-hole golf courses, both of which enjoy panoramic views of the nearby Superstition Mountains. Prospector, designed by Jack with son Gary, opened in February 1998 and Lost Gold, designed with Jack II, opened in February 1999. Both are dramatic desert layouts that command an initiation fee of \$85,000.

Though it's relatively new as golf communities go, Superstition Mountain feels Old World. The 49,000-square-foot clubhouse resembles a traditional Tuscan villa. Distinctive design elements include a 400-year-old Spanish door and an ancient stone fountain found in Puebla, Mexico.

Bob Zamora and his wife, Christine, joined the club in October 2003, and now split their time between a residence in Lodi, California, and Arizona. "We selected Superstition Mountain for a second home because it's more down to earth compared to North Scottsdale," Zamora, a

**SUPERSTITION
MOUNTAIN:** ARIZONA
BEAUTY AND TWO
NICKLAUS COURSES.





55-year-old auto dealer, said. "It's laid-back and warm."

Christine feels comfortable living there by herself when her husband is working back in Lodi. "There is always something to do," she said. "There are a lot of events that build unity in the community. It's just a wonderful community—unlike anything I've seen."

Mark Kizziar, president of Superstition Mountain Properties, said residents of Superstition tend to develop immediate friendships and a social network that distinguishes the community from others of its kind. "Many of the first families that built homes here wanted that close, small-town feel," Kizziar said. They connected with each other, socialized with each other, and that concept has grown."

Even though many residents might not need the space, Kizziar said they often choose to build large homes to accommodate visiting friends and family. The community offers a selection of semi-custom homes with upscale amenities, rich design elements, and tasteful architectural details. Prices range

from \$500,000 to more than \$1 million for 2,340 to 4,000 square feet.

In addition to the two Nicklaus-designed courses, residents have access to the community's 3,500-square-foot sports club, which incorporates four tennis courts, a spa, fitness center, massage rooms, and aerobics and stretching areas. The club also includes a 25-meter lap pool as well as a whirlpool and a children's play pool. Some members hike, bike, or ride motorcycles in the nearby mountains.

The Prospector course, which has hosted the PGA Champions Tour's Countrywide Tradition tournament, is also home to the LPGA Safeway International. Two-time tournament champion Annika Sorenstam said recently that the course is one of the best she's ever seen. "This is a great venue for many reasons," Sorenstam says. "First of all, it's probably the best golf course shape-wise I've ever played. And then with the clubhouse and practice facilities, it feels like a major because of the setup and hospitality."

Zamora says he plays the two courses every

chance he gets. "They are always in pristine condition," he said, "and it's never difficult to get a tee time, especially in the summer." But for all its beauty and top-notch facilities, Superstition Mountain is above all else a community. ■

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