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DESERT GOLF

culture, beauty & luxury in the desert landscape

magazine

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE

The Shriners Hospitals for Children Open

for members and guests



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Cover: Justin Timberlake, Photo by Timothy J. Pade

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Desert Mountain

a Scottsdale Treasure

Desert Mountain celebrates its 25th anniversary hosting
the Charles Schwab Cup Championship



Since opening in 1987 Desert Mountain, in Scottsdale, Ariz., has become one of the most renowned golfing communities in the world. Nestled in the Sonoran Desert, near the base of the Continental Mountains, the private, 8,000-acre golf and recreational community remains the world's only golf club to feature six Jack Nicklaus signature courses.

The community first received public recognition in 1989, when its most celebrated course, Cochise, hosted the The Tradition, a major championship on the Champions Tour. The Tradition was held at Cochise for the next 13 years, and the golfing public quickly took notice. In 1992, *Golf Course News* rated it as the best maintained course in the entire country.



Cochise Course Hole No. 13

One year later, *Golf Digest* added Cochise to its list of America's 100 Greatest Courses. Since then, the course has steadily been acknowledged as one of Arizona's finest.

So there is little surprise that the course will host yet another Champions Tour event this fall, the Charles Schwab Cup Championship, the tour's season-ending tournament. Nov. 1-4, the top 30 leading money winners of 2012, including the likes of Fred Couples and Bernhard Langer, will compete for the \$440,000 first-place prize.

"As the longtime host of The Tradition, Desert Mountain was a natural choice to host the Schwab Championship," says Ian Knight, executive director, Charles Schwab Cup Championship.

With a \$2.5 million purse, this is the only Champions event, aside from the Tour's five major championships, to feature four rounds of action. It is also one of the most popular tournaments of the Champions Tour's entire schedule.

Similar to the PGA Tour's FedEx Cup, the Schwab Cup is a season-long competition that is strictly points-based. To determine the most consistent golfer of the season, points are awarded to players when they secure top-ten finishes. All point totals are doubled during major championships and the Charles Schwab Cup Championship itself. In addition to the pressure of winning the Championship, all 30 contestants are also focused on securing the Cup and its \$1 million grand prize.

But the task is not easy. Cochise, a 6,929-yard, par-70 layout, is expected to have contoured greens with a Stimpmeter at 13-plus feet. Precise shot making will be essential, as a majority of the greens provide small landing areas with very little forgiveness for errant shots. Many of the course's fairways are surrounded by water or rock ledges, forcing players to focus on precision rather than distance.

The course's signature hole, the 215-yard par-3 No. 7 will

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Cochise Course Hole No. 15

certainly test players' nerves. The hole's double island green, which it shares with No. 15, is not only surrounded by water and bunkers, but also features more slopes than perhaps any other green on the entire course. Par will likely be a very welcomed score, especially during final-round action.

As television viewers witness the course's formidable par-5 holes, including the island green 15th, and daunting par-4s, like the 3rd (Cochise's No. 3 handicap hole), they will also notice the layout's natural beauty, from its perfectly manicured greens to its mountainside views.

Nicklaus himself calls Cochise one of the most picturesque golf courses in the world and "one of the highlights of my career as a course designer."

In addition to its exquisite views of the Continental Mountains, Desert Mountain offers members a youth activity center, six-mile private trail system, and a fitness center and tennis complex, complete with hard, clay and grass courts. Restaurants, spas and proshops are also plentiful, as each course features its own clubhouse with a specific architectural theme, ranging from Western to Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired designs.

A \$1.6 million state-of-the-art Golf Performance Center was recently finalized, featuring putting greens, ranges, bunkers, pitching and chipping areas, and



Cochise-Geronimo Clubhouse

instruction from PGA-trained professionals. Members also have access to four-camera video-motion analysis and three-dimensional motion capture, among other technological applications.

Resale properties, including cottages, custom homes, estates, townhouses, and villas are currently available for purchase and are centrally located near each of the six courses. In fact, an onsite, full-service real estate company, Desert Mountain Real Estate, presently serves the community.

"This fall marks our 25th anniversary and we successfully transitioned into a

member-owned club less than two years ago," notes Bob Jones, Desert Mountain's COO and general manager. "We introduced the Golf Performance Center earlier this year, and we're moving forward with an expansion of our fitness center. It's a great time in our history."

For more information about Desert Mountain's golf courses and amenities, please visit desertmountain.com

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Desert Golf Magazine