

# Solid as a Rock

Stone Canyon's experienced ownership, new clubhouse, and splendid seclusion provides an alternative to the Scottsdale golf scene.



The 9th hole

**A REAL ESTATE PURCHASE** isn't required to join Stone Canyon. Golf membership entitles you to complete access of all club facilities including the "Top-100" ranked golf course, fitness facility, and clubhouse. Golf members also have reciprocal privileges at The Rim Golf Club and Chaparral Pines in Payson, Arizona.

ORO VALLEY, ARIZONA: Stewart and Ashley Wilson had done their homework. "We created a checklist to determine our priorities and compromises we felt comfortable with during our move from Dallas to the Southwest," explained Stewart. "Everything from cost, the surrounding area, and a layout we would love with the right amount of space were carefully scrutinized.

"With all our careful planning and foresight, at times we still felt overwhelmed. There are a lot of *good* private desert golf communities, but to take a page from American Airlines slogan, we were 'Going for Great.'

"The two of us were wide-eyed and open-minded on where to live. Tucson kept migrating toward the top of our

lists," continued Stewart. "The mountains, climate, and culture are all big attractions."

Once the Wilsons determined Tucson was the city, attention turned to which private club fit them best.

"Location inside *and* outside the gates made Stone Canyon our clear choice," said Stewart. "We like Oro Valley and its mix of shops and services. In 2014, it was ranked as one of America's 10 safest suburbs. Everything is new, clean, and modern. Since we are 12 miles north of downtown Tucson, it reduces the drive time for infrequent trips up north to Phoenix and Scottsdale. Our home is within the Enclave at Stone Canyon, allowing us to walk to the clubhouse and fitness center.

**DID YOU KNOW?** A large rock that cannot be moved by yourself is like a tree. It is a natural part of the course and you're not entitled to free relief. If you can push it out of the way, without assistance, it is a loose impediment.

"I also admit, we are an impatient type. We dreaded heading down the path of building a custom home. The Enclave provided us with a choice of three floor plans that allowed us to pick our facade, colors, and finishes."

## OH, THOSE BOULDERS

The Jay Morrish design, nestled in the Tortolita Mountains, is carved through a boulder-filled canyon and peppered with an impressive collection of large saguaro cacti. "The course sits on the most remarkable desert site I've ever seen," quoted Jay Morrish during construction. "It is an awesome piece of land."

"Golf was a big deal for me in the purchase decision," recalled Stewart. "Many members here longer than I, say they have yet to grow tired of playing the course. I know it is a cliché, but it is true. We don't have any 'sleeper holes' where you can hit it anywhere and get away with it. The flow of holes is interesting and you will have a challenging time if are not hitting it well.

"We also have a comprehensive practice facility with 12 acres of turf dedicated to game improvement and four short game complexes."

## LEGACY MATTERS

One relationship that has stood the test of time is Steve Loy and Phil Mickelson. In 1987, Loy accepted the head coaching position for the Arizona State University (ASU) golf team. Mickelson arrived two years later and, in 1992, turned professional. Their friendship and business partnerships have deepened ever since.

The duo have partnered together in a 50/50 ownership of The Stone Canyon Club

"Stone Canyon is one of the top private golf courses in the Western United States. Legacy matters to us," said Loy. "Jay Morrish did a superb job. The surrounding hillsides are dotted with huge rock formations unlike anywhere I have seen. I call them boulders on steroids."

"The community provides the best of both worlds for residents," concluded Stewart. "Our clubhouse is brand new and we have an ownership team that has the business acumen to ensure our community remains one of the most respected in the country." ■

*For more information on The Stone Canyon Club, e-mail Kelly Mainvielle at [kmainvielle@stonecanyonogolf.com](mailto:kmainvielle@stonecanyonogolf.com).*



The hacienda-style, rectangular Stone Canyon clubhouse, designed by Erik Peterson, utilizes natural light. It's hard to tell whether you are indoors or out. The dining room and bar open to the patio. The clubhouse has a couple of showstoppers. The fireplace mantle and dining room tables are made from reclaimed wood of a 1920s cotton mill from Truman, Arkansas, and the bar has a zinc countertop with punches of color throughout.