



FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES

The Stone Canyon Club continues a bond among three couples.



ORO VALLEY, ARIZONA: Everyone knows exercise and a healthy diet are closely tied to longevity. Numerous medical studies suggest another potential component leading to a long life—having deep and lasting friendships. We are social beings. Pop culture mirrors the importance of connections.

In the late 1990s, *Friends* was the most watched sitcom and is still in reruns. In today's digital age, it's estimated the average Facebook user has 338 "friends."

"We have grown close with two other couples in our home state of Michigan. Both moved to Stone Canyon to escape our tough winters," explained Laura Tagsold. "Although my husband Jeff and I were a couple years away from retirement, the thought of warm sunshine in

The hacienda-style clubhouse was designed by Erik Peterson. The interior design doesn't have your typical Southwestern feel. It's edgy and contemporary with clean lines.

The relationship between Phil Mickelson and his agent (and good friend) Steve Loy is one of the longest and strongest in all of sports. The duo partnered to purchase The Stone Canyon Club.

"**Bentgrass** is a difficult putting surface to maintain in the desert Southwest.

To preserve the speed and playing conditions Stone Canyon is known for, we replaced our greens this summer with TifEagle Bermuda. The significant investment shows the continuing commitment Phil and Coach have made to the Club." – MIKE RUSSELL, GENERAL MANAGER



Interior of Casita



Friends Suzanne and Rod Rupp and Laura and Jeff Tagsold planning a progressive dinner.

February was not lost on us. I hadn't visited Arizona, so when Jeff was invited to play in Stone Canyon's Member-Guest tournament, we used it as an excuse to travel West. Both of us are careful planners and value oriented, but when Jeff placed second in the tournament, we had a sugar high and purchased a Golf Casita."

LIVING IN A SAGUARO CACTI FOREST

The Club's Jay Morrish course, nestled in the Tortolita Mountains, is carved through a boulder-filled canyon and peppered with an impressive collection of large saguaro cacti. It has appeared in *Golf Digest's* rankings of America's 100 Greatest Courses and a Top-100 Best Practice Facility in America. "The course is on the most remarkable desert site I've ever seen. It's an awesome piece of land," applauded Jay Morrish.

Oro Valley, with its mix of shops and services, was ranked as one of America's 10 safest suburbs. Everything is new, clean, and modern. "We loath a claustrophobic feel," critiqued Laura. "At Stone Canyon, it is wide open and even the air smells good.

"The design is an ideal setup for me," said Laura. "I may not hit the ball far, but I do hit it straight, reducing the

number of times I have to go hunting in waste areas. Even when I might be upset at myself for a mishit, a quick look at the desert scenery resets my attitude. Saguaro cacti are almost like people. Each one has a different personality. If my errant shot happens to hit a cactus, I actually feel a tinge of pain.

"I must applaud Stone Canyon's land plan. The 28 Golf Casitas are built around nature versus nature being transplanted. It is clear that careful forethought went into routing. Phil Mickelson is my favorite golfer and his ownership provides instant brand recognition and the advantage of a stable, well-financed, hands-on owner. Stone Canyon couldn't be more perfect," said Laura.

By this time next year, the Tagsolds will have moved into their new turn-key casita at Stone Canyon.

"Our first order of business will be to plan a progressive dinner with our best friends from Michigan," concluded Laura. ■

For more information on The Golf Casitas at Stone Canyon, memberships to The Stone Canyon Club, or to arrange a personal tour, you may contact Kelly Allan at (520) 314-4346 or visit StoneCanyon.com.

Look to the east and the Catalina Mountains soar up to 9,000 feet. On clear nights, the twinkling lights of downtown Tucson are visible.