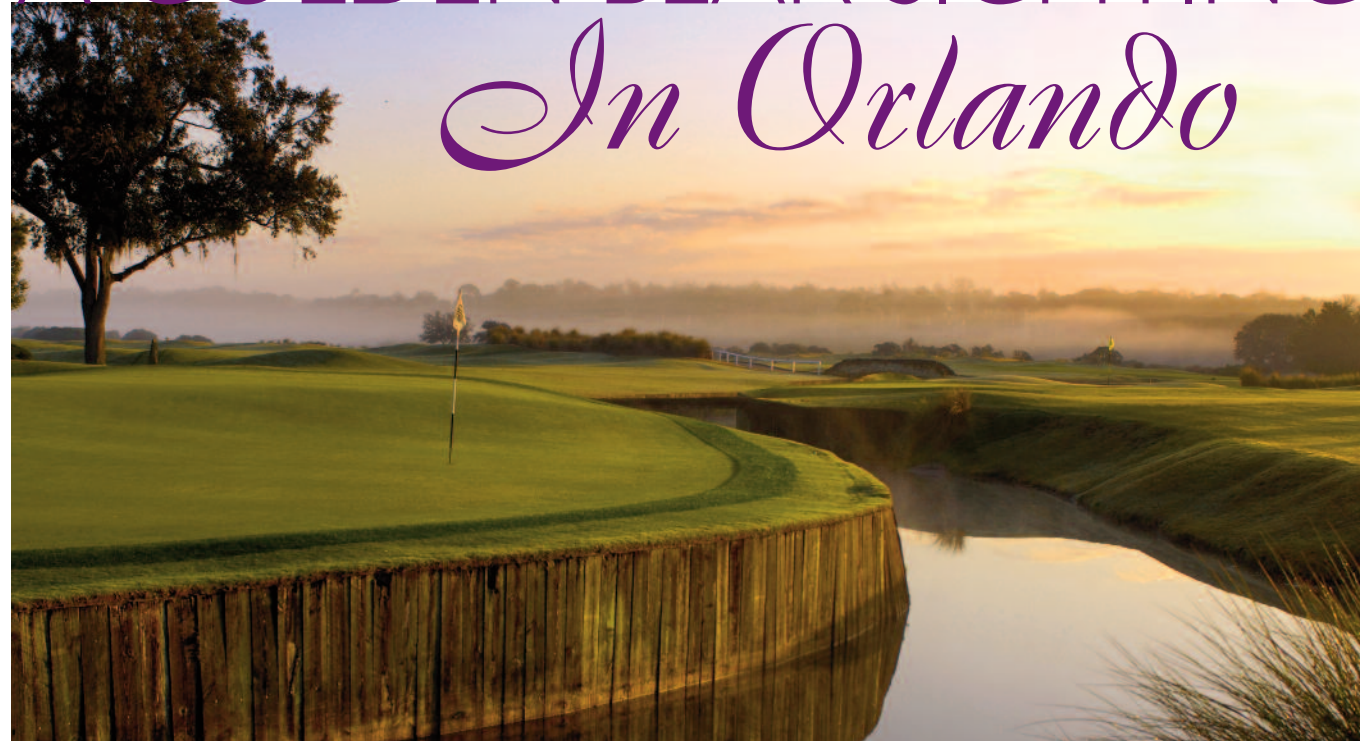


# A GOLDEN BEAR SIGHTING *In Orlando*



*The Villas of Grand Cypress, long the standard of luxury golf in Central Florida, offers 45 holes of Jack Nicklaus Signature challenge.*

**By Mark Pazdur, Publisher**

ORLANDO, FLORIDA: Since joining our family run media company in 1991, I've traveled on a cross-country flight to Central Florida over 125 times. Its growth as a vacation destination and convention city can only be described as jaw-dropping.

The Villas of Grand Cypress, located off the main exit in Lake Buena Vista, is centrally located to all of the area's best attractions. The resort actually shares a common property line with Walt Disney World and is less than 30 minutes from the Orange County Convention Center and Orlando Airport.

On any given night, you have a choice of 128,000 hotel rooms to choose from in greater Orlando. Those in the know select one of the prized 146 luxurious Club Suites at the Villas of Grand Cypress. Sized with twice the

space as a traditional hotel room and décor that includes calming natural elements of rich Zebrano wood and stacked stone, the Club Suites provide an ideal alternative to a run-of-the-mill hotel chain guest room or gambling with an Airbnb unknown residence.

TripAdvisor, with over 535 million reviews on its website, has rated the Villas of Grand Cypress the No. 1 hotel in Orlando for three consecutive years.

"It's easy to understand why," beamed Mark Cox, general manager at the Villas of Grand Cypress. "Our accommodations are best in class and you are steps away from our 45 holes of Jack Nicklaus Signature golf. During your stay, consider a visit to our Academy of Golf to hone your game on a 21-acre practice facility [with three Nicklaus designed regulation length practice holes]. Our staple of

**THE NEW COURSE AT GRAND CYPRESS** is Jack Nicklaus's tribute to the Old Course at St. Andrews in Scotland. His design includes double greens, stone bridges and walls, gorse mounds, burns and 150 pot bunkers — some as deep as 12 feet.

**"MY LOVE AFFAIR WITH ST. ANDREWS** and the Old Course began in 1964, and to this day, it remains one of my favorite places in the world to play golf." — JACK NICKLAUS

**"I GUESS YOU COULD SAY** golf is in my blood. I started mowing greens fresh out of high school. Now, I have the privilege to oversee a golf staff of 80 managing 96,000 rounds per year. We are located in the 'center of the bullseye' wherein you can see Epcot from several points on the course by day and watch Disney's fireworks at night. Orlando offers Four Seasons, Waldorf Astoria, and Ritz-Carlton resorts...and yet we are rated the No. 1 hotel in Orlando by TripAdvisor for three years. It's a testament to our experienced delivered day in and day out." — JEREMY CRAFT, DIRECTOR OF GOLF

instructors are consistently ranked as 'Top-100' teachers by major golf publications and together have almost 100 years of instruction."

### SCIENCE BASED TEACHING

"I appreciate how technology makes for a better, more efficient athlete, no matter the sport," stated Fred Griffin, director of instruction at Grand Cypress Academy of Golf and "Top-100 Teacher in America" by *Golf Magazine*.

"My son is a left-handed pitcher for the Kansas City Royals Minor League affiliate," said Griffin. "The slightest of edges can mean the difference between an MLB contract and being cut from the team."

When Griffin opened the Grand Cypress Academy of Golf in the mid-1980s, Universal Orlando was still only on an architect's sketch board.

"I've had the good fortune to teach many of the world's best golfers," recalled Griffin. "Then, instruction relied on gut instinct, an eagle eye, and nuance. Use of quantitative tools is relatively new. As a fresh PGA teaching professional, I would watch Don Johnson in *Miami Vice* and would marvel at his built-in car phone in his Ferrari Daytona. Little did I know the technological revolution was around the corner."

The Grand Cypress Academy of Golf offers the most sophisticated teaching tools, including 3-D mapping of your swing. "You feel like you are a character in an episode of *Lord of the Rings*," teased Griffin. "Our staff's primary goal is to take your game to the next level. We typically cater to mid-handicappers and are careful not to overload you with stats and too much material." ■

*For information on winter golf packages, please visit their website, GrandCypress.com.*



Begin your morning with a freshly brewed cup of coffee on your private patio, refresh in a glass-surrounded rainshower, and prep for the day watching the news through an illuminated mirror integrated with a 19-inch television.