



The Land of *Anti-Selfies*

It has appeared in Golf Digest's rankings of "America's 100 Greatest Courses" and "Top-100 Best Practice Facilities."



While Stone Canyon has thousands of saguaro cacti in plain view, it's also home to several very rare crested saguaros that develop a fan-shaped pattern at the growing tip. The odds of a saguaro developing into a crested saguaro are 1:200,000.

ORO VALLEY, ARIZONA: With a newly minted degree from Penn State University, Joanie Zimmerman, membership director at Stone Canyon Club, quickly relocated to Arizona. "I wanted to go somewhere that I would never have to scrape ice from my windshield again," recalled Zimmerman.

For the next three decades—a full career for most adults—Joanie worked at the prestigious Canyon Ranch, the preeminent spa and wellness retreat known around the world. "You name it, and I did it. There probably wasn't a position I didn't have over the years," commented Zimmerman. "To say I was well prepared when I transitioned over to Stone Canyon Club is the ultimate understatement. Although I'm not a golfer, I think that plays nicely into my wheelhouse as the membership director. If there's one thing Canyon Ranch teaches you, it's a commitment to personalized service. For example, if a guest were attempting to take a selfie, staff would rush over to assist with the picture-taking. This type of anticipatory standard has been integrated into everything we do at Stone Canyon."



VISITING WITH OPEN EYES

During Joanie's initial job interview, she approached the meeting with open eyes. "I remember walking up the stairwell to the second floor of the clubhouse to look at the view from the breezeway," said Zimmerman. "While there are a lot of great views in the Sonoran Desert, I recall saying to myself, 'This must be the prettiest view in Tucson.'"

In the latest rankings for America's safest and wealthiest retirement towns, Oro Valley topped the list with a livability score of 81. This compares to a score of 73 for Pinehurst, North Carolina, and 57 for La Quinta, California.

"The news, while appreciated, wasn't surprising," continued Zimmerman. "Our crisp air, clean sidewalks, and uncrowded streets are huge selling points. It's hard to have a 'bad day' at our club."

Nestled in the Tortolita Mountains, Stone Canyon is carved through a boulder-filled canyon and peppered with an impressive collection of large saguaro cacti. "Some of the boulders are the size of a semitruck, and I



"It is by far the best desert golf course I have ever seen. It has everything but an ocean—changes of elevation, beautiful rock formations, and desert flora. It's an awesome piece of land."
— JAY MORRISH, GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT

would challenge anyone to count the number of saguaros on the golf course," described Zimmerman. "It would be similar to counting the number of licks to reach the center of a Tootsie Pop!"

The Jay Morrish designed golf course covers a wide footprint. "This is somewhat of a two-edged sword," concluded Zimmerman. "If you hit a bad shot, other than your fellow playing partners, no one will know. However, if you hit an epic good shot, the same rings true. Likely no one will see your accomplishment." ■

For more information, please visit StoneCanyon.com.

"At an elevation of about 3,000 feet, we are surrounded by mountains and certainly don't live in a concrete jungle. Our slightly higher elevation creates a cooler climate than Scottsdale to our north." — LANCE SCHEELE, GENERAL MANAGER AT STONE CANYON CLUB

