

## **Desert Forest Golf Club Ranked No. 78 U.S. Course By *GOLF Magazine***

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Carefree, Ariz. (August 15, 2007) –Desert Forest Golf Club, scheduled to host the **2007 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Championship** from September 29 through October 3, has achieved an elite ranking once again, this time from *GOLF Magazine*.

In the just released 2007 list of *GOLF Magazine's* Top 100 Courses in the U.S., Desert Forest was ranked No. 78, moving up from No. 79 in 2005. Desert Forest has been named in *GOLF Magazine's* Top 100 since 1997.

Desert Forest, designed and built by Red Lawrence, opened in 1962, and is the only Arizona golf course to earn a top-100 ranking by the publication.

**Joe Passov**, architecture and course rankings editor for *GOLF Magazine*, said Desert Forest probably scores high in several categories for several reasons. "I can only speculate as to why our course panelists feel so strongly about Desert Forest year after year," Passov said, "but if I had to guess, it would be that there is immense admiration for the classic, lay-of-the-land design, one that demands old-fashioned ball-striking and thoughtful course management. There's nothing forced or out of place, nor even a hint of artificiality. It's just a great test of golf, with holes that are seamlessly slotted into the natural terrain."

**Barry Poupore**, the general manager at Desert Forest, said the ranking is an honor. "We are very pleased to be listed among *GOLF Magazine's* Top 100 Courses in the U.S.," Poupore said. "It's a tribute to the heritage of Desert Forest and the commitment our members and staff continue to make to achieve exceptional course conditions and the overall golf experience. There is a sincere dedication to and passion for the game of golf at Desert Forest. It's a truly special place and we are honored to be recognized."

Former USGA championship director **Tom Meeks** said Desert Forest has few peers. "There's no question in my mind that Desert Forest is the No. 1 desert course in the country," Meeks has said. "It has tremendous contours; its greens are always firm and fast. But there's no reprieve for a ball hit into the desert."

The 2007 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur will be the 14th national golf championship that the USGA conducts in the Grand Canyon State, which makes it a special honor. In fact, Desert Forest is one of only three Arizona clubs to host two USGA championships. That's rare company.

**Other honors** for Desert Forest:

--Named one of *Golf Digest's* "Best 100 Courses in America" every year except one since the magazine's rankings began 41 years ago.

--Appeared regularly on the "Top 100 Courses in the U.S." lists by *GOLF Magazine* (presently ranked No. 78). Two holes were also named in *GOLF Magazine's* "The World's 500 Greatest Golf Holes."

--Consistently ranked in *Golfweek's* "America's Best Top 100 Modern Courses" (courses built from 1960-present). Desert Forest is presently ranked #20.

--Selected in 2006 as one of "The 100 Most Prestigious Private Clubs in America" by *Golf Connoisseur Magazine*. Desert Forest is ranked No. 70. It's the highest ranking of any Arizona course.

--Voted in 2003, 2005 and 2006 as the best private course in Arizona by *Desert Golf Magazine* as determined by the Southwest Section PGA Professionals.

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