

# SOUTHLAND GOLF

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GOLF AND LIFESTYLE

SOUTHLANDGOLFMAGAZINE.COM  
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OSHIBA CLASSIC PREVIEW

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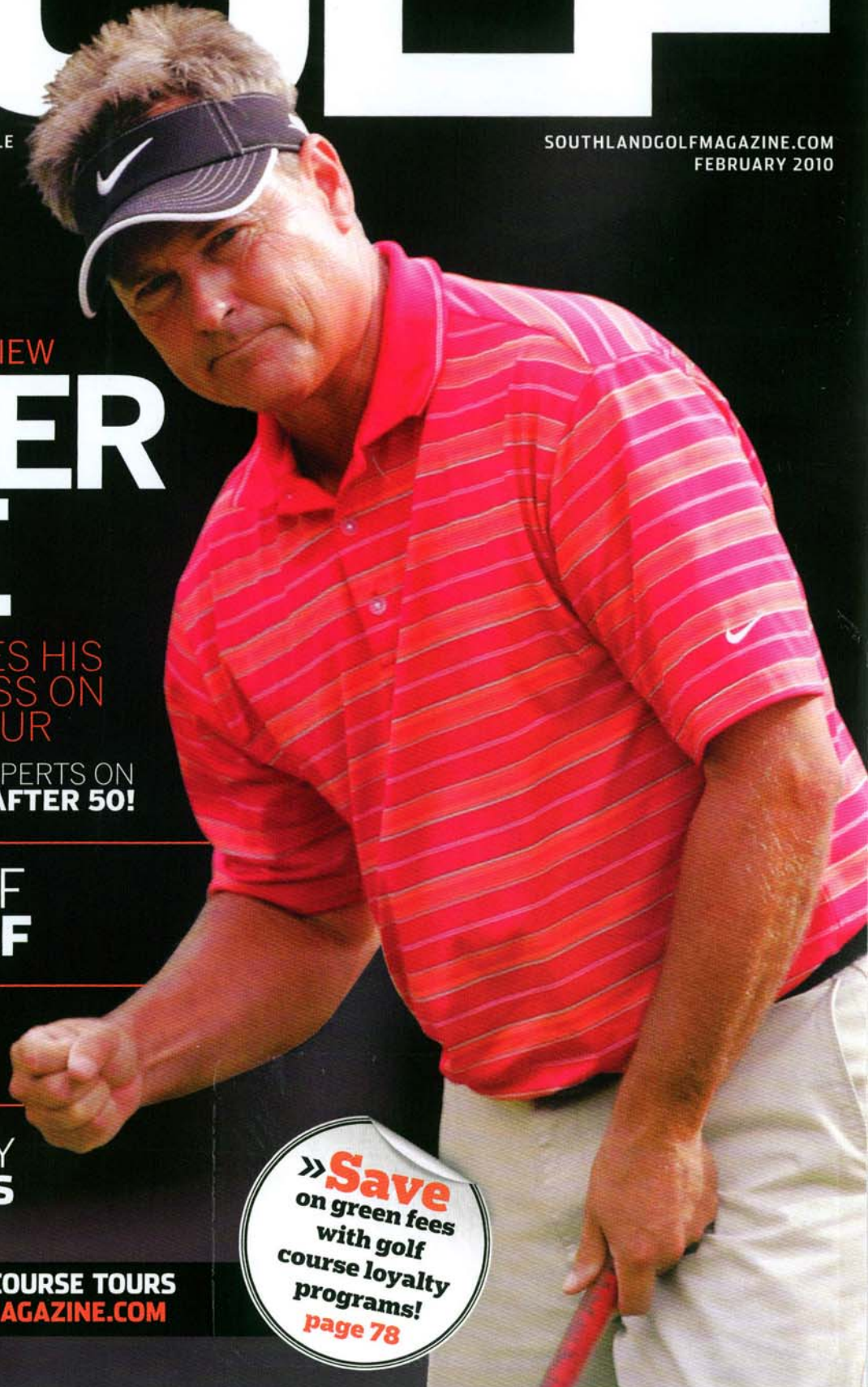
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1 handicap hole. It's a sign of things to come: There are five par 5s and all are rated as the layout's toughest holes. The key to mastering these monsters is to go big off the tee and then play for position the rest of the way in — all require accurately placed second shots and delicate approaches.

### LONG SHOTS

Speaking of monsters, the par 3s at Escena are among the lengthiest I've ever seen from all the way back.

The challenge starts with the 199-yard third hole — where anything pulled left of the green will lead to an almost-certain bogey, as I unfortunately discovered — and continues with the fifth hole at 245 yards, the 12th (223 yards) and the 17th (240 yards.) A brief respite comes on the 163-yard eighth hole, where my wife made a career up-and-down from 30 yards to save par.

Another challenging aspect at Escena is the greens. The large, sloping putting surfaces are shaped with two distinct characteristics. They are either narrow and deep or shallow and wide. This makes accurate iron play essential if you wish to avoid my fate that day: plenty of 30- and 40-foot putts and more three-jabs than I care to recall.

### RATES AND INFORMATION

After our round, we stopped in for a beverage at Escena's 16,000-square-foot, 1950s-style clubhouse that was built to reflect the heritage of old-school Palm Springs. Outside the main building there's a patio for dining and a fire pit surrounded by lounge chairs, where we watched planes take off from and arrive at neighboring Palm Springs International Airport.

Rates this time of the year are \$88 during the week, including cart, and \$98 Friday through Sunday. However, as a member of Escena's loyalty program, our playing partner Steve paid \$55 for his Saturday morning round and was charged a \$25 replay rate to join us in the afternoon. Annual membership for the Escena Club is \$299 and includes many other benefits, including a free round of golf. **SG**

**For more information:**  
**(760) 778-2737 or visit [escenagolf.com](http://escenagolf.com).**