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News Release

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In its July edition, Golf Digest magazine named The Golf Course at Wildhorse Resort & Casino as one of the top 40 casino courses in the nation, the only Oregon or Washington course to make the list. The course is marking its 10th anniversary in 2007.

The magazine, which bills itself as the top publication in the world for golfers, with 1.6 million circulation, notes the courses were selected by its "Golf Digest Course Ranking Panel", a group of more than 800 low-handicap players. To be eligible a course must have been owned by or share ownership with a casino. The Golf Course at Wildhorse Resort & Casino was ranked against courses owned by such well-known casinos as the MGM Mirage, Harrah's, Foxwoods, Wynn Las Vegas, and Lake Las Vegas Resort.

In all however, 26 of the 40 courses, like Wildhorse, are connected to casinos owned by Native American tribes, a sign of the increasing presence of tribes and their members in the game of golf. This is the first time the magazine has ranked casino golf courses.

Wildhorse stood out in the group because of its singularly low green fees—the cost of playing a round of 18 holes—which ranged from \$41-47 at the resort course near Pendleton. Others in the list ranged mostly in the low \$100s, with several topping out at \$350-\$500.

"We're very happy with our listing among many prestigious golf courses," said Wildhorse Chief Operating Officer Gary George, "since we have worked hard to provide our golfer guests with a quality experience at a very affordable price. We think it's the reason that we are seeing increasing numbers of golf groups from the region's urban areas who stay at our hotel and play at our course. In fact, some of the groups have returned every year for the past seven or eight years."

According to Topsy Siderowf, Golf Digest's Rankings Editor, the selection of golf courses on all of its annual rankings lists is strictly hands off for the magazine.

"The panel is completely independent of the magazine. None of the staff for Golf Digest can vote and we can't accept any gifts from courses—no free trips. The panelists agree to play a certain number of courses each year," she said, explaining that every state has a minimum of 10 panelists, with more populous states having more. "There's no compensation to the panelists. We send them a survey and they select the best courses based on their play."

She also mentioned that there “is absolutely no connection to whether a course advertises in Golf Digest.”

Wildhorse Resort & Casino is the Pacific Northwest's highest paying casino, with a record \$9.3 million slot jackpot. The Resort includes a 24-hour casino, five restaurants including the new buffet restaurant, Traditions, and new fine-dining restaurant, Plateau, the Players lounge, weekly live entertainment in the Wildfire Cabaret, hotel, RV Park, 18-hole golf course and Tribal museum. It is located just minutes off I-84 at Exit 216, four miles east of Pendleton. For more information: 1-800-654-9453 or www.wildhorseresort.com . And for golf course tee times, call 541-276-5588. Wildhorse is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

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