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# MESQUITE: WHERE MEGAS GOES ON VACATION

If you find yourself needing to get away from the 24-hour hustle and bustle that is Vegas, point the car northeast up I-15 and make the hour's drive to Mesquite. Made famous by the 2007 season of the *Golf Channel's* popular "Big Break" series, held at Mesquite's Arnold Palmer-designed Palmer at Oasis course, Mesquite has become one of the most popular golf destinations for savvy travelers – and locals looking to trade the endless pulse of The Strip for red rock valleys, expansive mountain vistas and some of the most incredible courses the Southwest has to offer.

Among Mesquite's newest additions is **Conestoga Golf Club**, opened in 2009. Seemingly cut from the dry, rugged slopes that envelop the first nine holes, Conestoga is like one of those fantasy courses that made EA Sports' Tiger Woods PGA Tour series so popular – the scenery and routing are so unbelievable, it seems like it could only exist in the digital world ... but it's real.

Conestoga's front nine winds up, down and around the natural landscape, with long forced carries, greens surrounded on three sides by towering canyon walls, blind shots from elevated tees, dramatic par-3s and undulating fairways that challenge golfers of all abilities. On the plus side, you'll spend more time ogling the scenery than you will hunting for your ball – the sparsely-vegetated hillsides make it easy to track down a mishit, and offer scramblers a chance to turn a bad

drive into par or better.

Indeed, with a rating of 74.9 and a slope of 147 from the 7,232-yard back tees, Conestoga can be one of the most difficult tracks you'll ever play. Or, at just 5,889 from the Copper Tees, or 6,378 from the Silver (two of five total tees to choose from), it can be a more reasonable test of your skills, allowing you to enjoy the challenge, without being overwhelmed by it.

The elevated tee shot at the par-4 4th hole offers golfers a choice – try to use the elevation to your advantage and blast it over a canyon wall to the second fairway, leaving just 100 yards to the pin, or play it safe and lay up to the canyon's edge? Risk/reward opportunities continue throughout the round, which opens up slightly on the back before finishing with an epic downhill, 472-yard par-4 ... take whatever you have left, and let it fly.

As with almost all of Mesquite (including other top tracks like Falcon Ridge, Sand Hollow the aforementioned Palmer and others), the true value is in the price – as little as \$90 in January, the start of the desert's peak playing season. Further savings can be had by packaging rounds at Conestoga and other Mesquite tracks with local hotels through the website [GolfMesquiteNevada.com](http://GolfMesquiteNevada.com), where a golfer can plan an entire Mesquite getaway and benefit from up-to-the-minute specials and stay-and-play bargains.

Designed by Jack Nicklaus, and counting LPGA superstar Natalie Gulbis among its many elite members, the course – called one of the "Top-10 Private Courses in America" by *Golf Digest* – features over 300 feet in elevation changes, climbing from the shores of the scenic lake up into the surrounding mountain foothills to provide jaw-dropping views of the entire Las Vegas valley. Forced carries, dozens of bunkers and water elements and your typical desert wash and arroyo features will force you to bring your A-game, but wide Bermuda fairways give mid-handicappers a chance to taste the life of luxury without completely busting out.

## I Guarantee It!

I guarantee you will find the lowest stay and play package price at [www.golfmesquitenevada.com](http://www.golfmesquitenevada.com)

~ Rob Krieger, Director of Golf, Conestoga Golf Club



"You're going to love playing Conestoga Golf Club and you're going to love the low stay and play prices offered by Golf Mesquite Nevada."

Rob Krieger, Director of Golf, Conestoga Golf Club



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## Golf Mesquite Nevada

The Mesquite, Nv. / St. George, Ut. area is the golf destination of choice for players from all over the country. Golf Mesquite Nevada offers stay and play packages that include championship courses, luxurious resorts featuring action packed casinos, live entertainment, tasty dining options, soothing spa/salon treatments and all the resort amenities to complete a dream Golf Mesquite Nevada escape, all of which can be easily and quickly reserved on line at [www.golfmesquitenevada.com](http://www.golfmesquitenevada.com).

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# VEGAS FARE TO REMEMBER

With all the buffets, hot dog stands and lavish restaurants for a hungry vacationing Vegas golfer to consider after a day of hitting the links, here are a few places we think stand out on a strip of street where world-class cuisine is at every turn.

## CHARLIE PALMER STEAK • charliepalmer.com

Located in the Four Seasons Hotel on Las Vegas Boulevard, Charlie Palmer's is a perfect place for the beefeater to allow mind, body and soul to reunite after a dry, hot day on the Vegas golf circuit. Chef Steve Blandino and his staff will wow you with beef, chop and fish dishes that are a cut above, and an ambiance, wine list (including some familiar bottles from home) and service that will make you feel like you are dining in your own club.

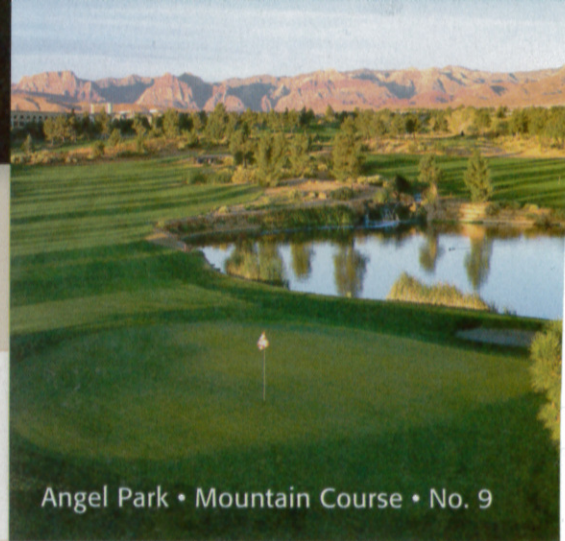
## ANDRE'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE • andrelv.com/montecarlo

Located in the Monte Carlo Hotel, Andre's is an authentic, world-class experience – all French, all the time. With a European sexy/vintage/hip décor and a menu designed by the legendary Vegas chef Andre Rochat, the AAA Four Diamond experience will go down as one of the finest I have ever had – period. With beef, seafood, pasta and wild game on the menu – prepared in ways that most foodies have yet to savor – this place shines on the street where indulgence is the norm. Save time at the end of your meal for a world-class cognac – Andre's upstairs cognac collection is registered as one the world's best and it's worth the time to see it for yourself.

## SILK ROAD RESTAURANT • vdara.com

Get some much-needed fuel after full-tilt night with a breakfast that you'll never forget at the Silk Road Restaurant in the new Vdara Hotel & Spa. Vdara is not a casino – it's a glitzy-hip urban getaway hotel and condo tower that is just flat-out awesome. Its sleek surroundings feel like modern Hollywood, the fresh press coffee was fab and the breakfast menu decadent – especially the fresh pastries and unique spin on eggs and sausage. Then, hit the Vdara spa where you can wash away the bogies and soak in the rejuvenating steam.

– Dick Stephens



Angel Park • Mountain Course • No. 9

That makes it a perfect partner for the resort, which offers all of the above for as little as \$299 a night, less than what most of the major Strip hotels charge just for an equivalent room.

Loews Lake Las Vegas is also a good home base from which to attack **The Legacy**, one of Henderson's best courses that don't come with a three-digit greens fee, or to splurge on **Rio Secco** and **Cascata** – two of the region's most luxurious tracks for golfers willing to spend a few extra bucks for a comparably impressive experience. But if we had just one round left to play in Vegas, and only a few dollars left in our pocket, we'd let it ride at **The Revere**, just south of the city in Henderson.

Featuring two courses – the Lexington and the Concord – The Revere has become a favorite among both locals and savvy golf travelers alike for its unbelievable scenery, forgiving layout and daily-play rates as low as \$80 that seem more like a throwback to its Revolutionary War-inspired theme than the rate you'd expect a modern-day course of its quality to command.

The Lexington is The Revere's first and most famous course, with cascading waterfalls and elevated tees like that at the 591-yard, par-5 second hole ("Old Ironside"), where drives of 350-400 yards are not at all common from a tee box nearly 100 feet above the landing area. Best of all, the course's wide fairways and actual rough – not just rock-strewn desert hardpan – give you the freedom to push all-in and let fly with the driver almost every hole.

Playing the Concord course, the Lexington's equally impressive yet less in-demand sibling, during peak morning hours followed by an afternoon or twilight round on The Lexington will both save you money, and allow you to appreciate a long last look at the mountains, valley and Strip below before packing up the car and heading home.



here's really just one key to navigating a Vegas golf vacation – be grateful. That's right, grateful. Sure, you may take your bad beats at the tables or on the course, but just as when you hit driver off the deck to try to reach that par-5 in two, that was a risk you accepted going in. The fun isn't always in putting your ball on the green – it's in the thrill you get in that moment before you take the club back; that rush of adrenaline that says, "I'm going for it." And no town gives you the chance to go for it like Vegas.