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"GolfMesquiteNevada.com is the perfect place to customize your next golf vacation and offers the lowest prices available for stay and play packages in Mesquite, Nevada. You're going to love our championship courses, including the new Conestoga Golf Club and our luxurious resorts. I guarantee it!"

■ Rob Krieger, Director of Golf, Conestoga Golf Club at Sun City Mesquite

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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 Castis 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 hillslides make it easy to track down top tracks like Falcon Ridge, Sand Hollow (including other mentioned 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, where a golfer can plan an entire Mesquite getaway and benefit from up-to-the-minute specials and stay-and-play bargains.

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 (including other mentioned 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, where a golfer can plan an entire Mesquite getaway and benefit from up-to-the-minute specials and stay-and-play bargains.

MESQUITE: WHERE MEGAS GOES ON VACATION

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 Casata** — 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 uncommon 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.

es, 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.

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