

# THE INSIDE EDGE

*from the Fanatic Frog*  
GILLES PARADIS



It isn't very often that my wife, Susan, and I golf together, but our round at FireRock Country Club was one of those days.

For those of you who have never played FireRock, let me tell you that this golf course absolutely has it all. Mountain views to die for, and challenges at every hole – elevated tees, raised greens and tough approach shots.

The first hole is a long par 5. My wife, whose drive has little distance, detests starting her game with a par 5. She claims it ruins her attitude.

I managed to par the hole and true-to-form, she managed to have a mood alteration.

That soon changed as we emerged from the tunnel between hole #2 and hole #3 and saw the spectacular vista before us. It was as though the world opened up. A jaw-dropper for sure!

Hole #3 was a real stunner – both in natural beauty and playability. As you look around you realize how special it is to be playing golf in the midst of such natural wonder.

Hole #6 was a killer for me. I play with a long putter for a reason, and the greens on this hole recognized my weakness. There were just too many subtle breaks for me to negotiate.

Needless to say, my pride took a beating.

Armed with Pro Chris Morrison's advice, I tackled #15 with reasonable success. On this hole, you take your par and humbly thank the golf gods.

I don't consider myself a good golfer, just a good course manager.

Hole #16 took me to task. It's a short par 4 that requires an accurate tee shot left of the fairway. The green is severely sloped from back to front with water and a deep bunker threatening your play.

I walked away feeling pretty good about myself. Susan, however, witnessed the drowning death of her favorite Pinnacle Ribbon ball.

We finished our round feeling good about our day and headed to the 19th hole,

the hole you never miss when you are playing with Susan.

We each ordered bartender Fred's famous Bloody Mary and sat out on The Terrace which is an incredible patio that spans the length of the clubhouse and overlooks the 18th hole.



The views are awesome, especially of Red Mountain, which lives up to its name in the late afternoon sun, burning a magnificent red orange!

### **What would it be like to live here?**

FireRock community lies on the southern outskirts of Fountain Hills and consists of 808 acres of rolling canyons with vistas of Red Mountain, Four Peaks, the East Valley skyline and the famous Fountain Hills fountain.

If you like the feeling of seclusion and tranquil luxury yet close proximity to Scottsdale, this community may be just for you!

The centerpiece of the community is the 29,000 square foot clubhouse, complete with well-appointed locker rooms, fitness center, pool, formal dining room, full-service lounge and comfortable sitting areas inside and out with fireplaces.

Stunning single-family homes range in price from just under \$1million to about \$7million.

If you prefer patio living, Villas at FireRock may be more your style, ranging in price from \$1 - \$1.5 million.

For the townhome buyer, Balera offers

units from \$410,000 to \$750,000.

Without a doubt, FireRock is one of the best addresses in the Valley!

### **STAY TUNED...NEXT MONTH!**

For those of you who have emailed me requesting I write about a public course, next month I will take you to a favorite of mine, Silverado Golf Club, one of Scottsdale's most popular, centrally-located, public courses. Until then, happy golfing!

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## **Meet the Pro**

*Chris Morrison, FireRock's director of golf and head pro, brings a depth of life experience to his position.*

*Chris spent 23 years in the US military, serving as an Army paratrooper and 5 years in Special Ops Unit Delta Force. At age 30, he took up golf and worked on his game in Hawaii where he was stationed. In 1999, Chris won the All Army Senior Championship.*

*He retired in 2001, moved to Arizona, and transferred his passion for the game to his career. Before accepting his current position at FireRock Country Club, Chris was head golf professional at Arizona Country Club.*

*Chris' favorite hole at FireRock is #15. "It is a tough hole, very demanding tee shot and your approach to the green has to be precise." Chris' advice for playing the course: "You are in the desert – hit in the fairway! The greens are tricky here. The grain usually grows west to the setting sun."*

*Besides his love of golf, Chris admits to being a huge sports fan...the Suns and ASU football and basketball top his list. If you get a chance to meet him, do it – he's an all-around great guy!*