

MOST EXPENSIVE PRIVATE GOLF CLUBS

Shhh! Fees at America's elite private courses



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Raphael Tennenbaum 2008-05-28 10:16:14.0

Shhh! Fees at America's 25 elite private courses

Our sources: Some golf clubs aren't shy about publicizing their initiation fees. Clubs affiliated with upscale real estate, for instance, are willing to talk since membership typically figures into the price of buying a home. But as far as most private golf clubs are concerned, what they charge for membership is nobody else's business. So, we contacted well-placed golf insiders around the country—head golf professionals, regional golf association executives, industry consultants, even club managers—for well-informed estimates of initiation fees, based on their first-hand knowledge of club members and management, with a guarantee of anonymity.

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Clubs tend to have different categories of memberships. For example, the **Mayacama Golf Club** (#18), based around a Jack Nicklaus course in California's Sonoma Valley, offers a \$150,000 "national" membership to residents outside a 250-mile radius of the club, in addition to the \$250,000 it charges for local and Bay Area residents.



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19. Mayacama: \$250,000 (pictured)

Sixty miles north of San Francisco, Mayacama is a luxurious Sonoma wine country getaway. No tee times are necessary for Mayacama's members-only (and walking-only) Nicklaus course, which provides a solid test in a bucolic setting.

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