Hole with a View

It's not the best hole on the course, but you can't beat the view from No. 10 at Prescott Lakes GC in Prescott, Ariz.

The hole is located at one of the highest elevations on the Hale Irwin signature course, which opened in July. Prescott Lakes is set in the high desert and rolling hills about 90 miles north of Phoenix. "The views are spectacular," says Virgil Robinson, certified golf course superintendent.

The San Francisco Peaks, the highest mountains in Arizona, and the Granite Dells, picturesque rock formations, are landmarks that are clearly in view. More than 13 acres of lakes and streams wander through the 7,200-yard course.

The hole is a short par-4 (372 yards from the back tees), but achieving par is a challenge because of the tiered green and the seven bunkers that surround the green, Robinson says.

"The only entrance to the green is at four to six o'clock," he adds. "Otherwise, you must carry your shot over the bunkers."

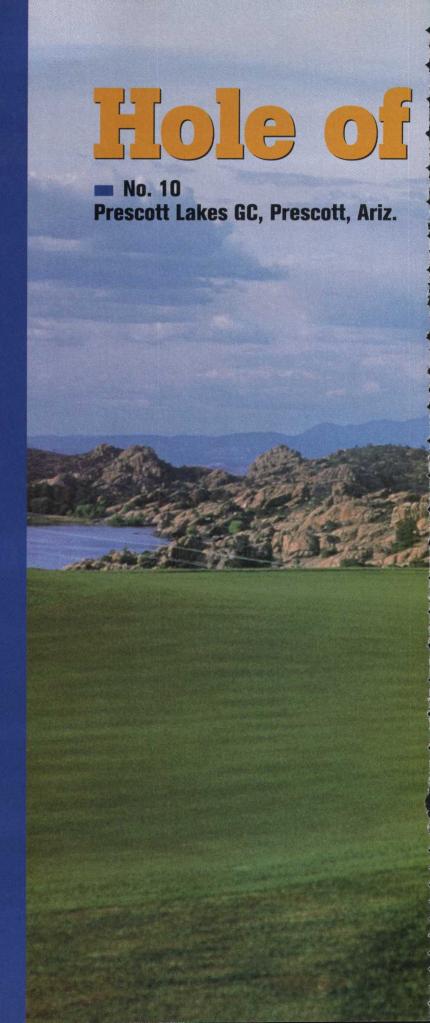
Robinson and his crew face several maintenance challenges on the hole. Because it's located at a high elevation, the wind blows vigorously. "So getting good irrigation down is difficult at times," Robinson says.

Of course, there's going to be a lot of hand mowing when there's 11 bunkers on a hole, so you could say No. 10 is labor intensive.

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