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THE MEN'S ISSUE

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✦ SIX FABULOUS
GUYS WE LOVE

AND MORE ...

GRILLING, WHISKEY,
FASHION & TRENT GREEN

Prairie Golf

Pack the clubs and a relaxed attitude for a jaunt to a delightful five-star golf destination.

STORY BY KIMBERLY STERN

Uncluttered and pristine best describe what is undoubtedly one of the country's most surprising and rewarding premier golf destinations—The Prairie Club, a semi-private, award-winning resort nestled in Nebraska's gently rolling Sandhills and perched on the rim of the Cornhusker State's spectacular Snake River Canyon.

Situated on more than 2,500 acres of north-central Nebraska's undulating topography is a captivating golf paradise marked by old-fashioned Midwest hospitality. Founded by Paul Schock, one of South Dakota's best-known amateur golf champions, The Prairie Club combines his passion for golf, the outdoors and conservation.

In addition to championship golf in a pastoral setting, Schock has meticulously developed comfortable, unpretentious accommodations highlighted by concierge-style service and great food for a seamless experience.



COURTESY OF THE PRAIRIE CLUB



GOLF

The Prairie Club boasts three distinctive courses, a 17-acre practice facility and four putting greens, including the newly opened Old Wagon putting course—right on the edge of the Snake River Canyon, where you can literally putt off a breathtaking 50-foot cliff.

The Dunes 18, designed by acclaimed golfer Tom Lehman and golf course architect Chris Brands, hugs swelling seas of tall prairie grasses punctuated by dramatic elevation changes and ends on lush, bentgrass greens. Echoing Great Britain's link-style courses, The Dunes is an all-American golf encounter that presents challenges for players of all skill levels.

The Pines Course capitalizes on the sprawling property's ancient Ponderosa Pines, where golfers play along the banks of the Snake River Canyon and across Ogallala, the world's largest underwater aquifer. Master golf course architect Graham Marsh engineered The Pines—a championship course that provides protection from occasional prairie winds along with a stunning panorama of wide-open Nebraska sky.

The 10-hole, par-3 Horse Course borrows its name from basketball's popular game. There are no tee boxes—rather, the player with honors calls the spot from which players hit their tee shots to begin play.

DINE

Following an invigorating day on the links, The Prairie Club offers three dining venues to retreat and relax in the 40,000-square-foot Prairie Club Lodge, including the casual Caprock Lounge and Bar and Paver's Patio and fine dining in the Canyon Room. Member's-only Eagle's Nest, on the second level of the lodge, features a full-service dining room, bar and lounge and a well-curated cigar menu. Midwest cuisine is served at the resort—think a modern riff on traditional Heartland cuisine—emphasizing local meat, game and fish for each dining concept and mornings began with a sumptuous breakfast buffet.

STAY

Choose from rooms with a luxurious Western motif in The Lodge or four well-appointed Canyon Rim Cabins located only 100 yards from The Prairie Club Lodge. Thoroughly modern amenities are designed for weekend golfers, corporate meetings and family gatherings. Debuting during the 2015 season is The Bunkhouse, a 12-room cabin sporting a distinctive modern-Western design. Days at The Prairie Club end with the rare opportunity to settle into a chair on the cozy patio warmed by a fire pit and ogle an expansive, crystal-clear sky through a six-foot tall telescope.

GETTING THERE

Is The Prairie Club remote? Absolutely—Valentine is the nearest town, and it's 17 miles away. But that's the innate beauty of the resort—a serene place where you drop your bags, pick up your clubs and golf away the hours.

Traveling to The Prairie Club by car from Kansas City is an eight-hour drive. Or choose to hop a commercial flight through Pierre, South Dakota (Pierre Regional Airport) or North Platte, Nebraska (North Platte Regional Airport). The Prairie Club also offers a shuttle service for guests traveling to the local airports of Valentine, North Platte, Ainsworth and surrounding communities. ●

For more information, visit theprairieclub.com.