

Imaginative Golf, a Multi Generational Membership, Professional Service, and Family Fun Come Together At Blackstone



*“After a hard
fought, seven game
World Series,
I looked forward to
returning to my
home club.”*

— Mark Lowe,
Relief Pitcher, Texas Rangers

PEORIA, ARIZONA: (Northwest corner of Phoenix): “Joining Blackstone at Vistancia was one of the best decisions we have ever made,” exclaimed Mark Lowe, relief pitcher for the Texas Rangers. “As an MLB player, it is a fact of life you move from team to team during your career. When I was traded from the Seattle Mariners to the Texas Rangers in 2010, I knew I would be spending a lot of time in Surprise, Arizona, for spring training. Traveling from state to state can be stressful, and I wanted to find a personal ‘home base’—a place to call our own.”

BLACKSTONE—A PLACE TO BE YOURSELF

Blackstone at Vistancia incorporates a Jim Engh designed course and The Hacienda, a two-story, 30,000 square-foot Spanish Colonial style clubhouse designed

by internationally famed architect Bing Hu. The 17-acre Hacienda complex offers a variety of family amenities including a 3,000 square-foot fitness center; an aquatic center with three resort style pools, featuring private cabanas; and lighted tennis courts.

Lowe, newly married to Stephanie, joined Blackstone last year. “Since most private clubs in the greater Phoenix/Scottsdale area have had to adjust their membership initiation fees to reflect today’s market conditions, it became an easy decision to become members,” justified Lowe. “The West Valley really didn’t have a family oriented, quality, private club option until Blackstone.

“We held our wedding at the club and could not have asked for a more beautiful location. The day was indescribable. It was perfect!” said Lowe.

“As our family [the Lowes welcomed their first daughter, Kennedy, last November] has spent more time at Blackstone and developed relationships with the members, we couldn’t be happier. It is a comfortable environment. If I were to build my own country club, it would be just like Blackstone. It has a laid back, family friendly atmosphere.”

FITNESS AND GOLF—TIED TOGETHER

“The fitness facilities at Blackstone are some of the best in the country. It is spacious, new, and well-equipped,” said Lowe.

“I can accomplish the same strength and stretching exercises at Blackstone as I do at a professional facility. It is that good.”

Blackstone’s Jim Engh designed golf course (Engh was *Golf Digest’s* Architect of the year in 2003) is set in the rich Sonoran desert. It plays through a series of dry washes, black volcanic stone, and is peppered with ironwood, Palo Verde, and barrel cacti. The contrast of the rugged Bradshaw Mountains in the distance against the bright green, gently rolling fairways offers a dramatic contrast.

“Our course is tough if you don’t hit a straight tee ball,” explained Lowe. “I added a 21 degree Nike hybrid to my bag to better navigate my drives. Around the greens, there is more room for error. Unlike most courses in the Valley, Blackstone has ‘backdrops’ behind the greens and the humps and bumps are designed to funnel the ball toward the pin.



“To me, golf is more frustrating and more difficult than baseball. Both sports have a strong mental component. As a pitcher, I am faced with blocks of minutes when I must be focused. On the course, I must be fully engaged for four and a half hours. With both sports, I first visualize what I need to do, then picture how to do it, and finally, why I need to do it. In some ways,” said Lowe, “golf helps prepare me for the baseball season.” ■

MARK AND STEPHANIE LOWE made Blackstone Country Club their wedding venue last year. Mark, 28, was born in Missouri City, Texas. In high school, he enjoyed playing baseball and basketball, but the seasons overlapped. His dad fortuitously steered him into baseball and, in 2004, while sitting at home in the kitchen with his parents, he learned he was drafted by the Seattle Mariners. Lowe was traded to the Texas Rangers in 2010 and, last year, he was a relief pitcher during game six of the World Series. When Lowe isn’t playing baseball, he is on the golf course (he now carries a 5.7 index). Lowe was introduced to the game at a young age. He fell in love with golf as a child while working on the practice facility at Quail Valley in Texas. He admits if he wasn’t out picking up range balls, he was hitting them.

Getting to Blackstone: Located 45 minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport and set within a secluded valley in the rolling hills of Peoria, Arizona, Blackstone is the centerpiece of the award-winning Vistancia master-planned community.

About Blackstone’s developer: Sunbelt Holdings, founded in 1979, is a diversified real estate investment and development company with no corporate debt. Its completed/ongoing developments in Arizona, California, and Texas consistently rank as some of the best in the country.

For more information: Visit BlackstoneCountryClub.com, or phone (623) 707-8700.

