

CHAMPION HILLS

Providing a Balanced Way of Life

“Welcome to my summer home.” — Tom Fazio



WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA: Tom Fazio has designed many of America’s greatest golf courses over his stellar career. However, only one community can lay claim to be his summertime home course. The distinction belongs to Champion Hills, just 30 minutes from the dining, shopping, arts and culture of Asheville and 10 minutes from the quaint town of Hendersonville—voted in the Top 10 “Best Small Towns in America” in the 2008 *Southern Living* Readers’ Choice Awards.

“My wife and I,” firmly asserted Fazio, “chose to move to Hendersonville in the 1980s to raise our family. The area has an ideal four-season climate, clean environment, and is a safe place to live. Our children learned to play golf at Champion Hills. It’s a special place for us because many of our fondest memories have occurred at the club. The community has great people and an active club lifestyle.”

THE “SEVEN YEAR ITCH”

Champion Hills is a debt-free, member-owned community. Its fiscal prudence and stable club membership of 250 families has allowed it to embark on several important upgrades in 2011.

This year, the fitness facility has been expanded and the Clubhouse Grille Room has been renovated to provide al fresco dining and a more informal and lively atmosphere at the bar.

“Our membership base is stable,” reported General Manager Saeed Assadzandi. “Our dues pay for operating costs and we have ample reserves. Where most clubs have had to cut back services, we’re expanding ours.”

Mike Tower, current Champion Hills resident, had a successful three-decade career at Eli Lilly which required frequent relocations. “I moved all

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SATISFYING PEOPLE

“I am a social being,” explained Linda Bolonda, member at Champion Hills. “When my husband and I started to research for a golf community to relocate to, I wanted to make sure we connected with the membership. Our children are out of the house, and the club and our church would be our social network. During our first visit to Champion Hills, a lady approached

“The morning fog rising in the valleys, the dew-covered grass, and the sunlight peaking through the trees create a mystical golf experience.” — Barry Arch, Member & Full-Time Resident

over the country,” said Tower. “I didn’t stay long in one spot. When we first retired, we moved to Clearwater, Florida, to ‘live the dream.’ It was not what we wished for. The traffic, weather, bugs, and culture didn’t meet our expectations.

“In the fall of 2004, Florida experienced a hurricane blitz. On our third mandatory evacuation, my wife and I decided to use it as an excuse to spend a couple of days in the Western North Carolina mountains. “We fell in love with the area and decided to tour its golf communities. We were no more than 200 yards into Champion Hills



and decided this was the place for us.

“This year,” extolled Tower, “we celebrate our seventh anniversary as members at Champion Hills. I have no interest in moving. After having the experience of living all over the country, this is the finest place you could ask for!”

me and commented on my outfit. I felt welcome and knew this was the club for me. It is such an inclusive group of people. Whatever interests you might have, you will find others who want to participate. During the winter, we will drive down to Florida for fun in the sun. I don’t think there is a day that goes by that we aren’t e-mailing back and forth with our friends at Champion Hills.

“Hendersonville is a small town, but, everything we need is within a short drive. I just had a knee replacement and I had a huge number of doctors to choose from. I guess they love this lifestyle too.”

A MYSTICAL EXPERIENCE

This year, Champion Hills was ranked by *Golf Digest* as the eighth best golf course in North Carolina (out of 680 courses in the state).

Champion Hills

“Although our lodge-style clubhouse, pool, and tennis facilities are wonderful, golf is the primary reason members join our club,” beamed Barry Arch, current resident. “The morning fog rising in the valleys, the dew-covered grass, and the sunlight peaking through the trees creates an almost mystical golf experience. You feel as if you are playing in a cathedral. No matter what your religion, when you take in the beauty of our area, you have to believe there is a higher being that had a hand in creating our environment.”

Arch simply said, “There is always someone in my foursome that will say ‘isn’t that beautiful.’ Our endless mountain views; rock-strewn streams; lush dogwood, rhododendron, and mountain laurel frame Mr. Fazio’s very playable design. Any day that ends in ‘Y’ is a good day to play at Champion Hills.”



A COMMITMENT TO WELLNESS

Three years ago, fitness and general well-being became a focal point at Champion Hills. Miles of hiking trails were established and a million dollar investment was committed to improved fitness facilities.

“You can’t drive around in the morning without seeing residents walking the trails with their dogs. Our hiking club meets once a week for a different, off-site hiking experience. One trek, called The Trillium Hike, traverses seven miles along the Green River,” said Arch.

AN UNUSUAL RÉSUMÉ

General Manager Saeed Assadzandi’s background is impressive. His experience includes the grow-in at

Whistling Straits in Wisconsin. “Working with Mr. Kohler and Pete Dye at Whistling Straits taught me that mediocrity is not acceptable,” declared Assadzandi. “I became detail oriented and look at our 727 acres with a keen eye. Not even little things skate by.

“Our club became member owned 10 years ago and we have a strong governance structure in place,” said Assadzandi. “At Champion Hills, all committees are advisory to the Board of Directors, ensuring a smooth decision making process.”

NOW IS THE TIME

“We are in an enviable position,” pronounced Derek Hawkins, broker. “We are established and your risk factor is significantly reduced by not being tied-to-the-hip of a developer.

“Our infrastructure has been paid for and our homesites have community sewer, natural gas, and city water. Many golf communities can’t boast that.

“Hendersonville, only three miles away, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. The town is just the right size,” continued Hawkins.

“It has an active activities schedule [a big draw is the annual Apple Festival on Labor Day weekend] and many dining options. I particularly enjoy attending a play at the Flat Rock Playhouse and then relaxing with a dessert and glass of wine at Blue Note Grille. And, on those warm summer days, it is refreshing to drop by Kilwin’s for hand-dipped ice cream.”

THE COMMUNITY

“For the past 14 years, Champion Hills has hosted a golf tournament for the Boys and Girls Club of Hendersonville. When you look at what the members do for this community, the events they are involved in to make Henderson County a better place, that to me is the mark of a great club,” concluded a delighted Fazio.

About Champion Hills: Located 30 minutes from Asheville, North Carolina; two hours from Charlotte; and three hours from Atlanta. Average high temperature in the summer is 81 degrees and 50 degrees in the winter. The club and golf course are open 12 months of the year and 45 percent of members are year-round residents. ■

For more information, please call (800) 633-5122 or visit ChampionHills.com.