MOORPARK COUNTRY CLUB
Moorpark, California

DURING OCTOBER'S WILDFIRES, BOBCATS, mountain lions, deer and coyotes fled the hills to race across the fairways of **MOORPARK COUNTRY CLUB**. Hundreds of thousands of neighboring acres were destroyed, but Moorpark was spared.

The course was designed by Peter Jacobsen and Jim Hardy; a third nine-hole loop will open this summer. Only two of the 27 holes are built at natural grade. There is "a mix of offensive and defensive holes," Hardy says. At 676 yards, the 5th seems almost as long as the San Andreas Fault. The yardage is deceptive, though: Play down the left side and your second shot will roll forever, leaving only a short iron to the green.

The back nine offers a memorable roller-coaster stretch. The 314-yard 14th is driveable and has already surrendered half a dozen holes-in-one. Playing uphill with two forced carries, the 423-yard 13th is called "La Bruja Verde," which means "The Green Witch" (frustrated golfers have slightly modified the moniker). The 16th and 17th are rugged par 4s of 470 and 466 yards, respectively.

7,078 yards, par 72 • Greens fees $75-$95
805-532-2834 • moorparkcountryclub.com

By Scott Gummer and Eamon Lynch

Top 10 You Can Play

The new beauts and brutes that outclassed all others in 2003

THERE IS A REASON SO MANY OF AMERICA'S finest courses are described as heavenly—only a privileged few ever get past the gates. But not every worthy course has a velvet rope at the bag drop. Last year, 270 new tracks opened nationwide, and the vast majority welcome anyone who can pony up the greens fee.

Since 1990, GOLF MAGAZINE has separated the populist contenders from the pretenders. This month we present our latest Top 10 You Can Play. From coast to coast and from tee to shining tee, these are the finest public-access courses that opened their gates in 2003.