

Spring 2004

# Resort Living

The Artful Discovery of Living Well

From Reunion to  
Glenwild to The  
Cliffs at Keowee  
Vineyard: Six  
challenging holes  
to behold

## Tee to Green

**Plus**

The spa next door  
Back to the city

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# Sublime

By Larry Olmsted

# Six

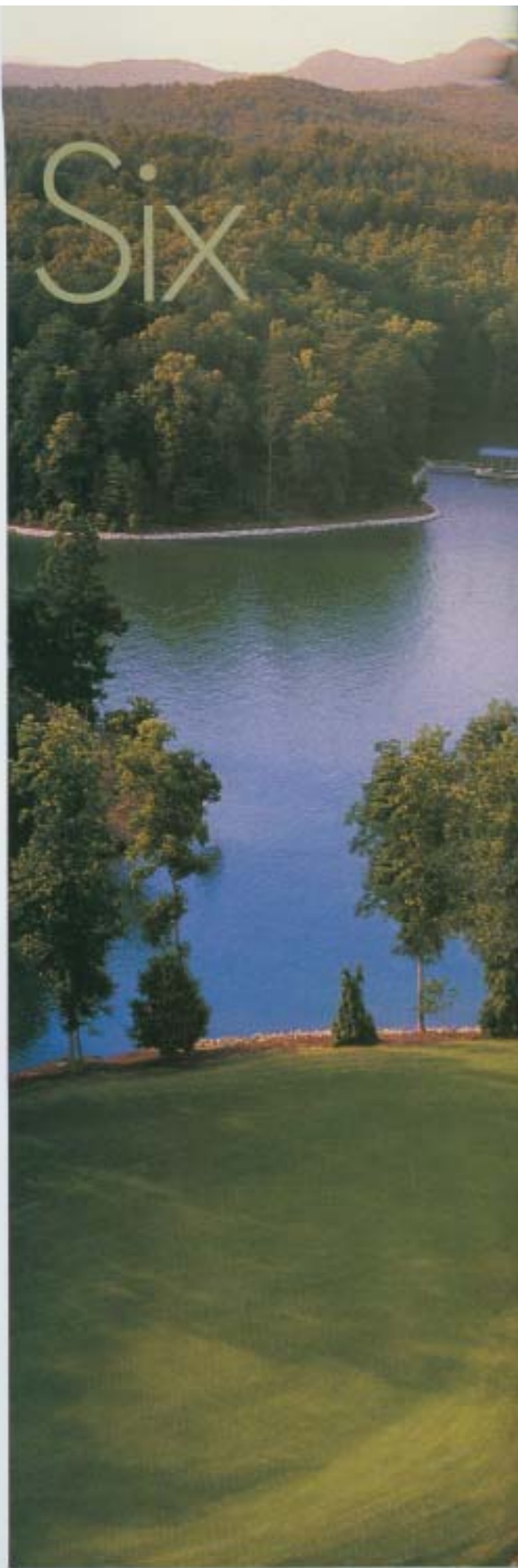
Rock ledges, mountain backdrops, water and sand on both sides—presenting six holes by golf's masters. Each will test your skills and tantalize your senses. We promise.

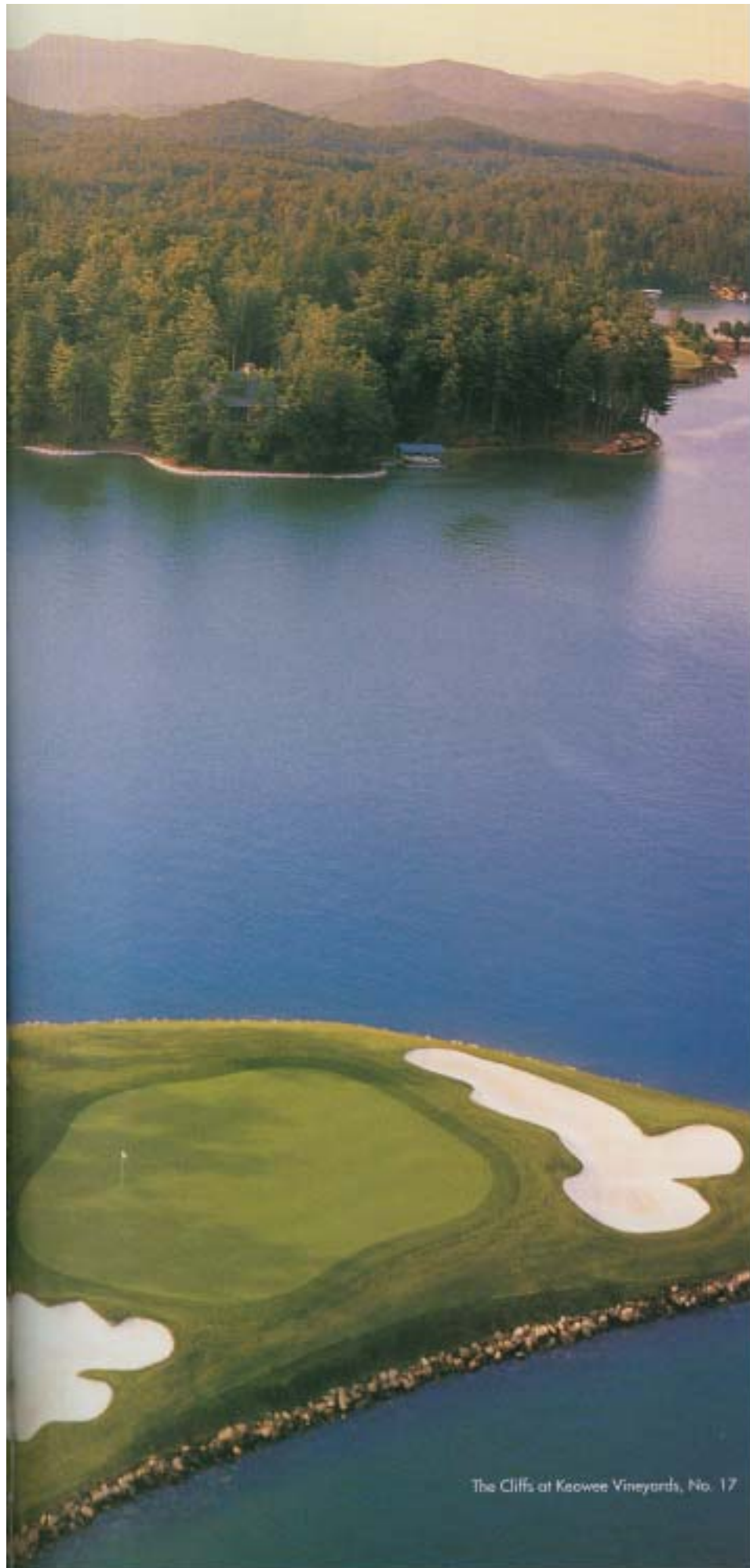
Not all golf holes are great. Anyone can cut down some trees or mow some grass and put in a tee and green. But not just anyone can build a world-class hole or a world-class course. What makes the best designers—Jack Nicklaus, Tom Fazio, Arnold Palmer and company—so good is their uncanny ability to blend aesthetics with the need for strategy in a setting that golfers of all abilities can appreciate from different tees.

The great golf holes force the player to ask questions: Should I go for it? Should I take the shorter line more fraught with danger? Should I play it safe? Can I attack the pin or should I play for the center of the green? From these tees, is the water in play? Can I carry that bunker? Can I get home in two?

Of course, great golf holes also showcase natural beauty, from mountains to lakes to rugged desert. Cleverly incorporating the best topographical features such as rock outcroppings, boulder-strewn streams, elevation changes and sandy waste areas can turn the mundane into the exceptional. Even the choice of grasses used for the rough and the careful location of trees on and around a hole can mean the difference between the ordinary and the extraordinary.

Here are a half-dozen examples of how holes can stand out from the pack. Each of these was designed by one of the game's top architects and is located in one of IMI's most prestigious communities.





The Cliffs at Keowee Vineyards, No. 17

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Lake Keowee, S.C.

Designed by Tom Fazio

Par 3

Back Tee: 250 yards

Middle Tee: 194 yards

Forward Tee: 151 yards

Tom Fazio, who has more courses ranked in the Top 100 than any living architect, is acclaimed for many things, but one of his standout characteristics is crafting awe-inspiring par-3s, often the most challenging holes for designers. Here he delivers a dramatic example, where players are hitting to a green on the tip of a peninsula connected to the teeing ground by a small patch of dry land and surrounded by water on three sides.

To add to the visual drama, the tee boxes are elevated and tiered like steps, arranged in a row down the start of the peninsula, overlooking the green below, with sweeping views over the blue water to mountains across the horizon. A five-story drop in elevation to the putting surface makes the long hole play one to two clubs short. The back tees are offset to the right, so the best players face not only one of the longest one-shot holes they will ever encounter, but a 225-yard forced carry over water to reach dry land. The average players from the shorter tees carry no water, a perfect example of equitable design.

But all tee shots face the challenge of water should they miss right, left or long. A pure swing rather than strategy is called for on this hole, which gives the player just one shot at success.