

The 2008 U.S. Senior Open at The Broadmoor

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GETTING HOME

Here to Stay

A pair of stunning new lodges confirms the world-class status of Holyoke's Ballyneal Golf and Hunt Club. | By Amy Freeland



PHOTOGRAPH BY DENISE GORRANCE GRADNICK

LOCAL FLAIR: Ballyneal's cottages take the names of area denizens—Ringneck, Meadowlark and Terrapin.

STEPPING INSIDE THE THREE GUEST COTTAGES at Ballyneal Golf and Hunt Club in Holyoke, you wouldn't realize the spot is a private-destination club that crashed the Top 100 lists of both *Golf* and *Golfweek* the first year it opened. Sure, the accommodations are luxe, but an overwhelming sense of friendliness belies the club's exclusivity. It's exactly as owner Rupert O'Neal wants it—a sort of club of the people, even if membership is by invitation only. No pomp, no pretension.

When the club opened in 2006, one nine-room guest cottage, the Ringneck Lodge—so named for the property's prize ring-necked rooster pheasant—joined the restaurant and clubhouse to round out accommodations. This year, two additional lodges have joined the lineup, bringing the total number of bedrooms to 24. Different in personality, the two new structures fill the needs of the growing Ballyneal membership, more than half of whom live out of state. Somewhat

removed from the other buildings, the Meadowlark Lodge sits off to itself on the road leading up to the club, overlooking a small practice area and the broad expanses of duneland that stir both golf purists and upland bird hunters. Private second-floor balconies let visitors soak up the stillness of the land.

Contrastingly, the action-packed Terrapin Lodge takes center stage. The Turtle Bar dominates the building's second floor. Floor-to-ceiling alder-wood panels and custom barstools and tables, all by Midwell Construction in Fort Collins, give the room an earthy feel and provide a casual spot to share stories at day's end. Just outside, a welcoming wraparound deck overlooks the first fairway, providing a bird's-eye view to the undulating terrain and front-row seats to colorful summer sunsets. On the lower level, a new spa with a Jacuzzi, steam room and space for massage therapy offers respite for those weary from a day spent battling the Tom Doak design.