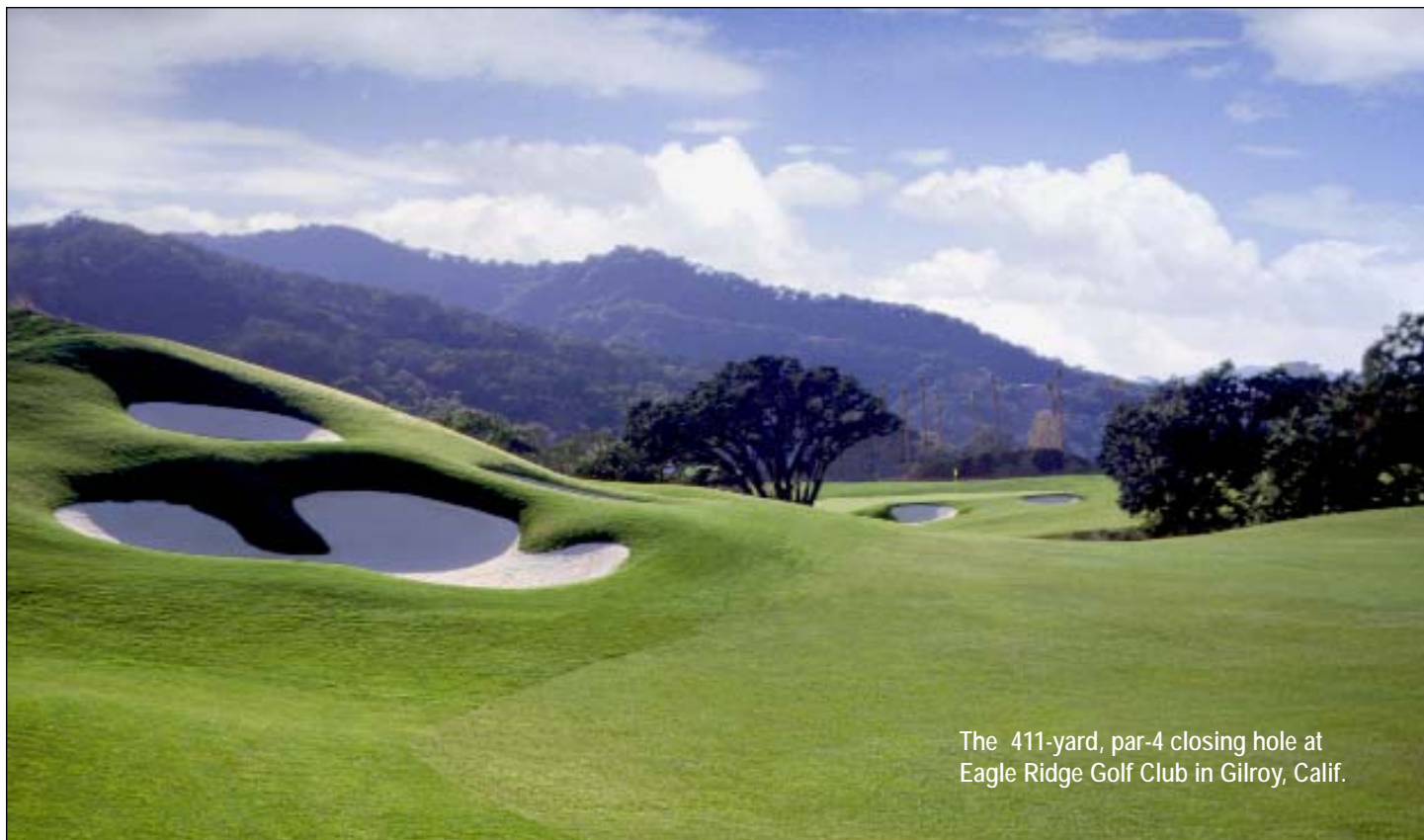


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## Now playing...



The 411-yard, par-4 closing hole at Eagle Ridge Golf Club in Gilroy, Calif.

Photo by: Ronald W. Fream

### **Eagle Ridge Golf Club**

**Getting there:** 2951 Club Dr., Gilroy, Calif. 95020

(From San Jose, south on Hwy. 101 to Masten Avenue exit, then west to Santa Teresa Blvd., then south 3.5 miles to Club Drive on right.)

Tee times: Call 877-81-EAGLE

**Green fees:** Monday-Thursday - \$55; Friday-Sunday - \$80. Nonmetal spikes only. Walking allowed anytime.

**Ron Whitten**

July 2000 GOLF DIGEST

## This Eagle has landed

**A**n hour northeast of Pebble Beach is Gilroy, Calif., an unlikely locale for golf, given the miles of flat garlic fields surrounding much of the town. But on its western edge are graceful foothills, dotted with oak trees and criss-crossed by fairways of the seven-month-old Eagle Ridge Golf Club.

Eight years in the planning, Eagle Ridge was designed by veteran Ronald Fream and his former chief associate and now partner, David Dale. (Once construction started, Johnny Miller was brought in to consult on playing strategies.) Eagle Ridge is a muscular course, with bulging mounds and sinewy swales framing the targets at every turn. Heavy contours are also evident on its multi-

level greens, and even in the sculptured shapes of glittery white bunkers that are recessed across its landscape.

The majority of the holes at Eagle Ridge are first-rate. The isolated par-4 eighth hugs a creek ravine line by overhanging oaks, and the 452-yard, par-4 ninth leapfrogs over a gorge to a green supported by mammoth boulders. Another barranca must be cleared to reach the green on the 411-yard, par 4 18th.

Eagle Ridge is part of an explosion of new golf along the Highway 101 corridor south of San Jose. Closeby is the new Jack Nicklaus-designed Coyote Creek, also open to the public, as well as the private Corde Valle and ultra-private Institute Golf Club.