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The Club at JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa Continues Its Growth as the Premier Country Club in Phoenix

Membership has its advantages, and JW Marriott's Desert Ridge Resort & Spa offers its country club members perks few can match.

PHOENIX, AZ -- Launched with 10 members just 18 months ago, The Club at JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa has grown rapidly, recently reaching 76 memberships representing over 200 individuals. Despite a challenging economy, strong interest persists due largely to the extensive list of value-added resort amenities members enjoy.

Chief among these amenities is the access by country club members to <u>Wildfire Golf Club</u>. Listed as one of the <u>Top 80 Golf Resorts</u> in the world by Condé Nast Traveler, Wildfire features two breathtaking 18-hole courses, the <u>Faldo Championship Course</u>, and the <u>Palmer Signature Course</u>.

Members also receive complete access to the resort's four unique pools, including the renowned Lazy River, a 1,600 foot long meandering channel perfect for inner-tube rides; the 28,000-square-foot Revive Spa, recognized among the Top 25 hotel spas in the United States by *Travel & Leisure* magazine; and the resort's eight tennis courts.

All members of The Club at JW Marriott Desert Ridge receive discounts at the resort's nine diverse dining options, including Tuscany and Meritage Steakhouse; earn Marriott Reward Points on all monthly dues and monthly spending; discounts on guest rooms; reciprocal golf privileges at 40 national Marriott golf clubs; and up to 18 free nights per year at Marriott hotels.

In addition, The Club's calendar is filled with members-only events, creating a sense of community through fun, social activities that have included concerts with private receptions, personal chef cooking classes and exclusive antique auto showings. With such a diverse and dynamic assortment of amenities and activities appealing to families, couples and singles, the 300-acre destination resort becomes a personal playground for club members of JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa.

"We had 38 member events last year including concerts, sporting events and gourmet cooking classes providing unique social experiences not offered by a typical country or golf club membership," said Richard Hart, director of membership for JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa.

"While our membership provides an opportunity to indulge, it's also a chance to meet and connect with people having common interests, providing great social and professional networking opportunities with an all-inclusive lifestyle experience," he said.

"Over the years, we have received numerous requests from locals for a membership that allows them to use the resort's wonderful facilities. Our variety of club memberships affords the resort to connect with the community and offer locals exclusive access to Four Diamond amenities." Hart said.

The Club currently has members from nine states including California, Colorado, Idaho and Illinois in addition to British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario, Canada. Approximately 30 percent of the resort club members are members of more than one club.

Hockey Hall of Fame member, Canadian Grant Fuhr -- dubbed the greatest goaltender in NHL history and currently involved with NHL youth hockey camps – is the newest member of the resort's Club. As a regular competitor at the American Century Championship determining the best golfers among American sports and entertainment celebrities, Fuhr – a plus one handicap and active player on the pro-am circuit – is thrilled with the resort's two master-designed championship golf courses available for endless play with a club membership.

The Club at JW Marriott Desert Ridge offers three membership levels -- Platinum, Gold and Silver. Unlike many other private clubs, the resort's Club has no assessments to cover capital improvements or operating costs, and no food and beverage minimums. The Club's Platinum membership includes unlimited golf with no cart or trail fees, golf privileges for additional guests, eight spa treatments or salon services per month, and four daily passes to the resort's upscale Cloud Club, a private lounge that serves complimentary food and cocktails. The resort's Gold Golf package – the most popular membership -- features unlimited golf, and the Gold Spa membership features eight 50-minute spa treatments or salon services per month. The Silver membership is a social association that gives members half-off greens fees and a 25 percent discount on spa services.

With its extraordinary luxury resort and majestic setting in the pristine Sonoran desert surrounded by the McDowell Mountains, JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa provides a compelling setting for The Club at JW Marriott Desert Ridge.

For more information on The Club at JW Marriott Desert Ridge, contact Richard Hart at 480-293-3935 or visit www.theclubjwdesertridge.com.