Headline: Las Vegas Strip golf course raises stakes

Deckhead: Beauty, creativity of Wynn Golf Club put it in upper class

There isn’t much you can’t find on the Las Vegas Strip – including a golf course.

That might shock travelers who aren’t familiar with Sin City. The Strip is four miles of resorts, venues and congestion. Hotels reach the sky. Themes range from Venice to Paris. You can “walk like an Egyptian,” admire the New York City skyline or catch a show in a Roman colosseum.

The Strip is rivaled by few locations in the U.S. It’s a parallel universe where up is down and even is odd. A sense of normalcy might best be found on a golf course – Wynn Golf Club, to be exact.

The course sits behind the Wynn Las Vegas resort on the northern end of the Strip. It’s a stunning championship course. It’s 6,722 yards of lush green paradise. The fairways are soft, the rough is tame and the greens are smooth. The cost is steep.

Golfers can expect to pay at least $550 per round. The green fee includes a caddie, cart and complimentary loaner clubs from Callaway Golf. It’s a bargain for avid golfers eager to play one of the most magnificent casino courses in the U.S.

Wynn Golf Club’s history extends beyond the day resort owner Steve Wynn opened it in 2005. The previous Desert Inn Golf Club played host to a plethora of PGA tournaments during its five decades of existence. Golf greats Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Sam Snead, Greg Norman and Tiger Woods are among the many stars who played it.

Wynn purchased the property in 2000 and had Tom Fazio redesign the course before its opening five years later. Fazio has designed nearly 50 golf courses, including Pinehurst No. 6 and Pinehurst No. 8.

Wynn closed the course in 2017 and considered using the property to build a lagoon and more hotel rooms but reversed his decision after seeing a significant drop in revenue. Fazio updated the layout and it reopened in the fall of 2019.

No. 18 is its marquee hole, a 249-yard par-3 that screams Las Vegas. Players must hit over a pond and a creek to a green situated at the base of an active constructed waterfall. The hole’s seamless fit into the environment is similar to No. 18 at Pebble Beach or No. 12 at Augusta National.

Golfers also have a new partner. The opening of Sphere – a multibillion-dollar entertainment venue – adds to the entertainment. An LED lightshow encompasses the venue’s outside appearance, turning it into a different appearance almost daily. It sits in the foreground of holes. It might even be smiling.

The course, meanwhile, fits like a puzzle on 129 acres. Streams and foliage – 100,000 shrubs and 8,000 trees – cause players to forget they’re in the desert.

Each nine of the par-70 course has a pair of par-5 holes. Water comes into play on 12 holes and 37 bunkers are strategically located throughout the course. Four of the first five holes are reconfigured from the previous design.

Golf – Vegas style. It’s all you ever could image and more.

Cutline: GREEN WITH ENVY – The Wynn Golf Club is one of the finest courses in Nevada. It’s behind Wynn Las Vegas resort on the Strip. Image: dashagorbenko. Adobe Stock.