

# Crosby's Arizona Credits

THE ORIGIN OF THE TOWN'S NAME MIGHT BE A MYSTERY,  
BUT THE GOLF RESORT'S REPUTATION IS A FACT.

*Story by Jason Kerkmans*



**T**HE NAME TUBAC CERTAINLY CAME FROM SOMEWHERE, but from the time Jesuit missionaries laid roots in the Santa Cruz Valley in 1691 until now, the town's name has never been fully attributed, or completely understood. Some translations include “where the water comes out” and “gray adobe house,” but the most accepted version is a phonetic translation from the Pima language meaning “black water.” Like its hometown, the Tubac Golf Resort and Spa's golf course comes with a bit of mystery—and a history as unique as any in the state.

The Tubac Golf Resort sits on what was the first Spanish land grant in the Southwest. Don Toribio de Otero was originally given 600 acres by the King of Spain; and through the years, the Otero family's land holdings in the area increased. In 1959, they sold their ranch to Bing Crosby and a group of Tucson businessmen.

With Crosby involved, it didn't take long for a golf course to take shape; and noted architect, Robert “Red” Lawrence—who designed the first desert-style course at Desert Forrest Golf Club in Carefree, Ariz.—was brought in to design the original 18 holes in Tubac. Crosby is also credited for some elements of the original design, though much like the varying translations of the town's name, just what those aspects comprised remains elusive.

The resort's cinematic connection didn't roll final credits when Crosby eventually sold his stake in the resort. As many know, the movie “Tin Cup,” released in 1996 and starring Kevin Costner, was filmed at the Tubac Golf Resort.

Yet, with all the Hollywood hype and historical precedents, Tubac Golf Resort has realized the need to update its classic setting alongside the Santa Cruz River: A 4,600-sq.-ft. clubhouse and pro shop opened its doors in 2004, and a third nine-hole layout was unveiled in 2006. With ample green grass and enough challenge to make it worth the trip, you won't care what the name means—unless of course you end up in that “black water.” ■

## On the Course

**Location:** Tubac Golf Resort & Spa.

**Courses:** Three Nine-Hole Routings (Anza, Rancho and Otero).

**Architects:** Robert “Red” Lawrence (original), Ken Kavanaugh (2006 addition).

**Contact:** 520.398.2211,  
[www.tubacgolfresort.com](http://www.tubacgolfresort.com).

PHOTO PROVIDED BY TUBAC GOLF RESORT AND SPA

## PICK, LICK AND PLACE NO CLOSER TO THE HOLE!

A local rule at Tubac Golf Resort allows for the cleaning (at least for the brave) of any ball that comes to rest on a cow pie. There's even a sign on the first hole of the Rancho course reminding golfers of their options.