

GOLF ODYSSEY

September 2010 – Our 19th Year

THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO THE BEST IN GOLF TRAVEL

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For travel-related questions and trip-planning advice:

✉ travel@golfodyssey.com

☎ 800.550.2286 x85

For assistance with individual and gift subscriptions:

✉ help@golfodyssey.com

☎ 800.550.2286 x1

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Enchanting New Mexico

Spellbinding Golf on the Santa Fe Trail



BLACK MESA GOLF CLUB

Baxter Spann's Black Mesa Golf Course provides nonstop desert thrills and challenges

If you enjoy the desert tracks of Arizona and Nevada but have never played in New Mexico, maybe it's time. The Land of Enchantment delivers an unbeatable combination of world-class layouts, bargain green fees, jaw-dropping scenery, beguiling attractions, seductive accommodations, and some of the finest inland weather in the US. We recently played a passel of courses along the Santa Fe Trail and renewed our love affair with New Mexico. The array of eighteens and plethora of on- and off-course diversions kept us busy for more than a week.

Two courses, Black Mesa and Paa-Ko Ridge, stand out above the rest. Both are big and expansive layouts that are remarkably

different (although both take about five hours to get around when play *doesn't* get bogged down). Black Mesa winds through arid canyons and around stark sandstone bluffs. Paa-Ko Ridge's tree-lined fairways ramble up and down along the high desert slopes of the Sandia Mountains. Other notable courses around Santa Fe include the city's muni, Marty Sanchez Links de Santa Fe and Robert Trent Jones, Jr.'s Pueblo de Cochiti, as well as Towa and the Club at Las Campanas. The latter is home to two private Jack Nicklaus tracks. Members of private clubs can likely gain access by having their home pro contact Las Campanas directly. We also made the 90-minute drive to sample Taos Country Club.

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Expert advice and candid reviews since 1992

Now is the Time to Book The Old Course and Muirfield for 2011

THE OLD COURSE

The Old Course in St. Andrews is always a tough tee time. As host venue of this year's Open Championship, odds are it will be even more popular in 2011. If you want to reserve a tee time for next year and save literally hundreds of dollars over contract rates, now is the time to act.

September 1st marks the date that The Links Trust begins accepting applications for advanced tee time reservations via e-mail (or post) for 2011. It's been our experience that the system works very well, especially if you have some flexibility in dates that you can play. To ensure that your reservation request is considered, you must fill out the application posted at standrews.org.uk. The Links Trust website includes a detailed set of guidelines to assist you through the booking and application process. Here are some of the more crucial things to keep in mind:

- Be sure to review the dates when the Old Course is either closed or does not accept advance reservations. (In particular, the Old Course is closed on Sundays and no advance applications are accepted for the month of September.)
- All requests must be for a minimum of two players. Singles may not make a tee time.
- The lead golfer files the application for the entire group, and only one request per group will be permitted. During high season, the lead golfer may apply for a group of up to eight players. During shoulder season (April 1 to 17, and October 17 to 31) and low season, no limit is placed on the size of the group. (Be advised that fairways mats may be in use on the Old Course from November through March.) Strict guidelines are also in place regarding the participating golfers and for any changes to the list of golfers on the application.
- All prepaid green fees are non-refundable.

THE *GOLF ODYSSEY* RATING SYSTEM

- A+ Perfect, as good as it gets
- A Extraordinary, nearly flawless
- A- Excellent, at times memorable
- B+ Very good
- B Above average
- C Average, uninspired
- D Varying degrees of dissatisfaction
- F Unacceptable, a disaster

If you wish to play the Old Course between April and October, you must also apply to play another of the St. Andrews Links courses. Those layouts include the Castle Course as well as the New, Jubilee, Eden, and Strathtyrum eighteens and the nine-hole Balgove Course. St. Andrews will make every attempt to book your second course of choice, but if it is not available, it will assign you a tee time at one of the other courses. When applying to play the Old Course in shoulder season and winter, the "second course" rule is waived.

The processing of applications takes several weeks. You'll know if you've gotten your tee time within eight weeks. If you are shut out on this go-round, there's still hope. Applications for cancellations will be handled via e-mail with similar guidelines on January 5, 2011. And yes, there are other ways of accessing the Old Course. You can take your chances in the Daily Ballot that is drawn each day for play the following day (two-player minimum). You can try to walk-on as a single. Finally, you can pay a premium to secure contract time through a travel provider, although you will likely pay more than double the price of the listed high-season green fee (currently £130). For more information on the Old Course, see *GOLF ODYSSEY*, November 2006).

MUIRFIELD

Of all the tee times in Scotland, Muirfield must be the most dear for traveling golfers (see *GOLF ODYSSEY*, July 2009). Visitors may play this Open-rota venue only on Tuesdays and Thursdays and visiting groups are limited to 12 players on those days. Handicap limits of 18 for men and 20 for women are in place.

Unlike St. Andrews, golfers can secure tee times directly through the Muirfield website (muirfield.org.uk). When looking at the tee time calendar, any date listed in "red" is available for booking. Historically, spots are snatched up very quickly. The 2011 peak season green fee is £190 for one round and £240 for two rounds. This year's winter green fee is £105 per round. The club's website advises golfers who are unable to book a peak season tee time to consider the off-season, as "Muirfield has ideal playing conditions all year round." Neither temporary greens or nor temporary tees are utilized. Be sure to read the club's visitor booking guidelines before making a tee time.

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE

If all this sounds a little confusing and you need assistance in planning a trip to Scotland (or any other destination), simply contact us by phone (973-564-6223) or email (travel@golfodyssey.com). Whether you are looking to self-book or are seeking a recommendation of an expert travel provider who can take care of all the details, we would be delighted to assist you.

Tasmania's "Lost Farm" Won't be Hidden For Long

Golf course openings are few and far between these days, but 2010 will be remembered for two blockbusters. Early in the season, Old Macdonald, a Tom Doak/Jim Urbina creation, became the fourth course at Bandon Dunes Resort in Oregon. As the year draws to a close, anticipation is surging at the far ends of the globe for the December opening of Lost Farm, a Coore-Crenshaw Design at Barnbougle Dunes in Tasmania. Lost Farm is the second course at a resort that is fast becoming the Bandon Dunes of Australia. When we first visited eastern Tasmania, we instantly fell in love with the original Tom Doak-designed golf course and the eco-tourism of Tasmania (see *GOLF ODYSSEY*, January 2007). Now, we eagerly await an opportunity to return to see Lost Farm and other additions to the resort.

The current buzz among golf insiders Down Under is that Lost Farm will surpass the original Barnbougle Course and immediately vault to the very top of the list of Australia's best courses (a heady task as Australia already claims six courses on the world top-100). The two layouts at Barnbougle Dunes lie

on opposite sides of a river (at the closest point, just a fairway metal shot from each other) and offer entirely different playing fields. Bill Coore recently told us he still gets giddy every time he thinks about how incredible this site was for golf. Lost Farm offered the most variety in contour and landscape of any site the Coore-Crenshaw team has ever been given to work with. Not only does the golfing ground ramble through primary dunes (the soaring type that one finds in Ireland) that are steeper and more dramatic than those of the original eighteen at Barnbougle Dunes, it also features contrasting secondary dunes on stretches of ruffled terrain like one finds at St. Andrews. These natural features dictated the character and routing of the golf course. Whereas the holes on the original Barnbougle Dunes Course run parallel to the shoreline, Lost Farm showcases a much more diverse range of tests running in a variety of directions along the coast and by the river.

Many holes at Lost Farm will doubtless fascinate golfers. The round finishes with a long par four whose green nestles in the dunes near the ocean. Interestingly, Lost Farm is not an eighteen. Rather, it boasts 20 holes (like The European Club that we wrote about several months ago). Bill Coore told us two extra par threes were just too good not to build. Hole "13.5" is a little one-shotter that runs through the dunes and sports ocean views. The final hole, a bye hole, is set between the 18th green and the clubhouse.

By the time the golf course opens, Barnbougle Dunes will also unveil the Lost Farm clubhouse as well as a brand new 50-room lodge and a spa. These structures command a ridge offering glorious vistas of the ocean and the Barnbougle Dunes property. We can't wait to visit.

Note: We expect to offer an extremely limited trip that includes visits to Lost Farm and all of the top-100 courses in Australia and New Zealand in early 2011. As all internal transportation will be via private jet, one will be able to play all nine courses in only seven days. If you may be interested, please contact us at 973-564-6223 x85 or via email at travel@golfodyssey.com.

Barnbougledunes.com.au
011-61-3-6356-0094

COURTESY OF BARNBOGLE DUNES



Lost Farm, a Coore-Crenshaw design, enjoys a magnificent site along the sea

New Mexico's best eighteens are every bit as good as the top tracks of Arizona at a fraction of what you'd expect to pay in Scottsdale. Black Mesa's rate is \$89 with cart on weekends; twilight rounds never exceed \$55. And since you will be striking the ball at 5,400 to 7,000 feet above sea level, you'll also gain at least 10 percent extra distance on your shots while enjoying comfortable playing conditions. Santa Fe boasts 300 days of sunshine every year with average summer highs in the mid-80s. Conditions generally stay good from May until early November. Normally, about the only weather irritants other than the spring winds are the afternoon thunderstorms in "monsoon season," from July through early September.

New Mexico's capital, the second oldest city in the US, is full of history, distinctive adobe architecture, museums, galleries, churches, boutiques, neat inns and hotels, and great restaurants. Santa Fe is small with an easily walkable central core. Though a tourist magnet, one instantly connects to its rich cultural tapestry that blends Native American, Spanish, and Mexican elements. To fully take advantage of what the city offers, we made two of Santa Fe's premier hotels our principal bases: the Rosewood Inn of the Anasazi and the secluded, intimate, and romantic Inn of the Five Graces. To be closer to Black Mesa and the many outdoor attractions of Northern New Mexico, we also stayed at the Hotel Santa Claran in Espanola.

While American Eagle does offer limited commercial service directly to Santa Fe from DFW and LAX, the vast majority of visitors fly to Albuquerque and make the 70-minute drive.



THE GOLF

Black Mesa Golf Course (Rating: A) The sign outside the clubhouse issues fair warning: "Big course, big medicine—it will kick your butt." Slotted through natural sandstone bluffs, ravines, arroyos, and canyons with no houses to cause distractions, this Baxter Spann design is big golf at its best. In fact, the back nine ranks among the most dramatic and memorable desert golf we have played.

Anticipation builds from the moment one begins driving up the winding, steadily climbing unpaved road to the clubhouse. The 1st hole, a short uphill par four whose wide landing area is blocked from view by a tall ridge, sets the tone. You must pick a line over the ridge and trust your swing. Throughout the round, bold contouring, blind or partially blind shots, and constantly shifting angles present constant visual intimidation and relentless strategic challenge. To further ensure that skillful golfers think their way through the round, Spann added an element of randomness to the placement of his often massive bunkers and the shape, contour, and positioning of the greens.

The par threes and par fives are strengths of the course. Spann routed them in various directions so that wind on this treeless layout is a constant consideration. On the 4th, Black Mesa's first one-shotter, the walls of a canyon ring the back of the green. Many of the two- and three-shotters dogleg around bluffs. Bad misses seldom gain reprieve as tall native grass areas loom beyond the irrigable turf.

Black Mesa's back nine incorporates precipitous elevation changes and showcases sublime desert panoramas. One of the great holes is the short uphill par-four 14th. Drivable for long hitters who catch a favorable wind, mere mortals will be left with a blind approach thanks to the native ridge that Spann left in the middle of the landing area. Around the green, golfers must contend with a closely mowed hollow, the thick rough of a sloped bank, an array of bunkers (some quite deep), and a wildly undulating green. The par-five 16th, Black Mesa's signature hole, climbs through a steep canyon that looks tighter than it really is. Take a glance back and you'll be rewarded with the most stunning vistas on the course.

► Both Paa-Ko Ridge and Black Mesa have become mainstays on lists of the top-100 courses in the US.

Black Mesa is especially tough on first-time visitors. At 5,162 to 7,307 yards, length is less of a concern (when playing from the proper tees) than keeping shots on line, as the angles and visual cues are deceiving. On approach shots, the contouring often dictates you play the ridges and backstops rather than going for the pin.

It looks like a small herd of buffalo could be buried beneath Black Mesa's large but often narrow putting surfaces. Out of necessity, the heaving greens roll rather slowly; faster speeds would be near unplayable.

Note: We experienced one common frustration at Black Mesa. All carts come equipped with GPS, but the system isn't reliable. The course guide (\$8) is an invaluable aid in picking the proper line and gauging distances.

Paa-Ko Ridge Golf Club (Rating: A) Another must-play, this 27-hole Ken Dye-design is the only layout on our itinerary routed through a housing development, although the development is not intrusive. Instead, our most vivid memories are of the strong holes and spectacular scenery. The club, located an hour from Santa Fe, sits at 6,500 feet and incorporates dramatic elevation changes on all three nines. Many holes begin from promontory tees, play downhill, and finally climb on the approach to an elevated green. The surrounding mountains of this high desert region are covered by blankets of trees, giving Paa-Ko Ridge a vastly different look than Black Mesa.

Paa-Ko Ridge keeps two nines open for play each day on a rotating basis. Holes 1 through 18 are the most lush and mountainous. The



Comprising three nines by Ken Dye, Paa-Ko Ridge offers rousing elevation changes and gorgeous high desert vistas

day we visited, holes 1 through 9, the easiest side on the course, were closed. We started on the tough, tree-lined second nine. On the 10th, the wide landing area tapers the closer one gets to the arroyo that crosses in front of the green tilted scarily from back to front. As is the case throughout the round, a slight miss around the green will put you in deep bunkers or possibly lost amidst trees and scrub. Seventeen, which starts at a spectacular promontory, demands a carry over an arroyo off the tee. While there's more room to the right, the best position for a favorable angle into the green is up the left side. Holes 19 through 27 play more open so wind becomes a crucial factor. This third nine is the longest and most arid on the course. On the downhill par-three 26th, the flag from the blue tees is so far away (238 yards) we didn't even realize one of our playing partners made a hole-in-one!

Towa Golf Club (Rating: B) Conveniently located on Highway 84/285 and about 15 miles from downtown Santa Fe, this 27-hole facility is the focal point of the Buffalo Thunder Resort & Casino and its Hilton Santa Fe Hotel. With rousing vistas, rock outcroppings, and pinon and juniper trees, Towa is one of New Mexico's bargain-priced desert courses.

The Valley and Pinon nines present a target-style game on rugged sloping terrain. Towa's most memorable side is the tougher and more dramatic Boulders nine. Like the Valley and Pinon, it begins with a long par five, but the hole everyone remembers is the 4th, an island par three with five sets of tees between 96 and 186 yards. Unfortunately, this portion of the course plays in closer proximity to the highway, parking lots, and unsightly buildings. We're fonder of the par-four 7th and par-five 8th, which sweep from left to right atop a ridge; any

push and slice inevitably means a lost ball. Golfers who elect to go for the green in two on the 8th must steer clear of the traps guarding the front and right side of the green. The Boulder nine concludes with a big-drop par three.

While Towa is a nice layout with advantageous green fees, course conditioning has been its stumbling block, especially during arid stretches. This year's summer rains have helped the turf, but course grooming remains something to watch at Towa.

Taos Country Club (Rating: C+) Whereas Black Mesa and Paa-Ko Ridge can overmatch the less accomplished and physically challenge the unfit, Taos Country Club provides a user-friendly interlude that anyone can handle. On the other hand, though it sits at 6,900 feet and is surrounded by distant mountains, this high desert links is rather bland. It plays remarkably flat on an exposed valley floor. Most holes are lined by sagebrush and juniper, but the fairways are featureless and the green complexes largely devoid of interest. Putting is a rather uncomplicated affair. The "X" factor is the wind, which seems to pick up as the day wears on. When we played, the club was very busy. Unless you're headed to Taos for other reasons, Taos Country Club may not be worth the drive when so many other more interesting courses are closer to Santa Fe.

Club at Las Campanas Santa Fe's most prominent private club boasts two Jack Nicklaus "signature" courses in a sprawling gated residential development less than 20 minutes from old town Santa Fe. If your club's head pro contacts Las Campanas on your behalf, you can likely gain access. Both the Sunset and Sunrise courses are among New Mexico's best. *Shell's Wonderful*



The longer, tougher, and more traditional Sunset Course at Las Campanas was featured on *Shell's Wonderful World of Golf*

World of Golf featured a match between Jack Nicklaus and Ben Crenshaw when the Sunset debuted in 2001 (Nicklaus drubbed Gentle Ben). Not only are they seldom crowded, they can also be played at a much quicker pace than Black Mesa or Paa-Ko Ridge.

We opted to take on the **Sunset Course (Rating: B+)** rather than the more target-oriented Sunrise Course. Sunset is a classic Nicklaus design with inviting prospects from the tees and fairways that are as wide as can be. You can air out your driver with abandon. The challenge ramps up on the approaches, as the putting surfaces are often elevated, angled, and defended by large and deep bunkers.

The opening holes begin at elevated tees and then play on flat ground. Two, a long dogleg-right par four and the number-one handicap hole, calls for a forced carry over scrub en route to a slightly elevated green defended by a large, deep bunker at the front right. Throughout the round, the bunkering and mounding of the green complexes artfully mimics the mountains and clouds in the distance.

We especially liked a couple of the par fives. On five, the drive is more for positioning, as the fairway runs out at a lake that borders the fairway on the right the rest of the way to the green. While big boppers may contemplate the ultimate risk of an all carry shot to the green, all other players look toward the second landing area off to the left. From there, the narrow green is open in front, though a trap and the lake lurk to the right and a pair of bunkers stand sentry to the left. The 10th, the longest test at Las Campanas, tops 600 yards from the penultimate markers and plays as a double dogleg with a crossing arroyo.

A number of plunging tee shots add excitement to the game on the more rousing back nine. The round concludes nicely with a final big drop tee shot and an approach over a portion

of a lake to a green ringed by stonework. Five sets of markers stretch the Sunset Course from 5,335 yards to 7,517 yards. From the 6,958 "gold" tees, it plays to a 71.7 par rating/129 slope. (lascampanas.com; tel: 800-241-9400)

Black Mesa Golf Club

115 State Road 399, La Mesilla, NM 87532

Tel: 505-747-8946

Web: blackmesagolfclub.com

Green fee: \$62 to \$67. Carts cost \$20.

Aerification: early April; early September.

Paa-Ko Ridge Golf Club

1 Clubhouse Drive, Sandia Park, NM 87047

Tel: 866-898-5987 or 505-281-6000

Web: paakoridge.com

Green fee: November and March to mid-April \$59; mid-April through October \$89 to \$114. Includes mandatory cart.

Aerification: April; early October.

Towa Golf Club

40 Buffalo Thunder Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87506

Tel: 877-465-3489 or 505-455-9000

Web: buffalothunderresort.com

Green fee: \$75 to \$84. Includes cart.

Aerification: October.

Taos Country Club

54 Golf Course Drive, Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557

Tel: 575-758-7300

Web: taoscountryclub.com

Green fee: \$62 to \$72. Carts cost \$15 per person. Walking permitted.

Aerification: Late September or early October.

LODGING

Rosewood Inn of the Anasazi (Rating: B+) One of Santa Fe's premier boutique hotels, the 58-room Inn of the Anasazi enjoys a great location just off the Plaza on Washington Street. The hotel, which has a real sense of place, was created by Robert Zimmer, developer of the Mansion on Turtle Creek in Dallas. Local artisans performed most of the work, adding handmade furniture and murals to the antique furniture pieces, hand-woven Navajo rugs, baskets, carvings, and valuable art collections that adorn the property.

A fireplace in the cozy foyer/registration area and a nice library filled with Southwest books set a warm, inviting tone. The hotel bar and the Inn of the Anasazi Restaurant are just off the foyer. Guestrooms vary in size from 300 to 370 square feet. Each features a vaulted log-beam ceiling, gas-lit kiva fireplace, raised four-poster bed with a bed step, hand-crafted furniture, and a large bathroom with separate tub and glassed-in shower. A few rooms have balconies or patios. In the absence of a workout room, elliptical machines can be rolled into the rooms for private cardio workouts.

For the last five years, the Inn has been a Rosewood Hotel. Like other Rosewood properties, the Inn delivers consistently excellent service. We found the front desk, the concierge, and the valets especially helpful and knowledgeable.

The Inn of the Five Graces (Rating: A+) For a truly romantic hideaway in Santa Fe, we splurged at this 24-suite boutique property located just across from the San Miguel Mission, the oldest church in the US. The Inn, whose ambiance blends authentic Santa Fe with the mysteries of Asia and the Silk

Road, is owned by the Seret family. Family patriarch Ira Seret propagated the Afghan coat fad in the 1960s and hung out with the Andy Warhol crowd. The exquisite Seret design sense infuses this captivating but expensive property where room rates start at \$450 per night.

The Inn's guest chambers are spread out in a number of buildings, all but one of which is abode. Some of the walls date back to the early 1600s. Each room is a pastiche of Asiatic design elements and takes individual decor and fine craftsmanship to celestial levels. Reclaimed salvage wood from India and Morocco was used in the doors and shutters. Tibetan cabinets appear throughout the property. Many pieces are museum quality. Meanwhile, colorful and rich fabrics, Afghan carpets, and rich tapestries add layers of mystery. Each room has artistic furnishings valued between \$15,000 and \$50,000. The intricate detail is astonishing, no more so than in the hand-laid mosaic tiled bathrooms.

► Exotic decor, an aura of mystery and romance, and great service are hallmarks of the Inn of the Five Graces.

Despite the rarified décor, the Inn is an eminently comfortable place. Each room comes with a wood-burning fireplace and features a satellite television with a wide range of channels. Several rooms have balconies overlooking the Inn's intimate, partially shaded courtyard. The larger suites are all equipped with a kitchen with a stove and dining area. Room refrigerators come stocked with a variety of juices and soft drinks, and each day the staff supplies you with a snack plate as well as freshly baked cookies at turndown. Nightly rates include a homemade

INN OF THE FIVE GRACES



Exotic Asiatic interiors and detailed craftsmanship lend *1001 Nights* mystery and romance to the Inn of the Five Graces

breakfast (huevos rancheros is a house specialty), which is served either in the courtyard or the dining room, or delivered to your room.

The Inn's level of individual service is extraordinary. A concierge is on duty around the clock. If you need anything at any hour, the staff will see that you get it. Massages and other spa treatments can be scheduled in your room or in a small treatment room.

Santa Claran Hotel (Rating: B) Located a half hour north of Santa Fe and just five miles from the Black Mesa Golf Course, this brand new hotel, which like the course is owned by the Santa Clara Pueblo, should appeal to golfers looking to play multiple rounds at Black Mesa. Golf packages are available and à la carte rounds can be billed back to the room. The hotel, which offers considerable savings over Santa Fe hotels, has become an affordable base for outdoor lovers looking for a convenient gateway to Northern New Mexico's premier attractions such as Puye Cliffs and Bandelier National Monument. Hiking, flyfishing, and horseback riding are nearby, and the hotel is in the process of partnering up with family outfitters for each. Summer rates for a standard room start at \$99, compared to an average of about \$300 per room in the historic section of Santa Fe.

The hotel, which connects to the Santa Claran Casino, has a nice lobby area with smooth plaster walls, natural wood and stone accents, and a kiva fireplace. Guest rooms are comfortable, if not especially memorable. Each features a flat-screen television, refrigerator, and complimentary Internet (wired) access. Additional amenities include a small workout room, a little business center with a computer and printer, a 24-lane bowling alley, and the casino. Dining options include the Black Mesa Steakhouse, a tapas bar, and a café for sandwiches, salads, and other casual fare. One caveat: Although this is a non-smoking hotel, smoke from the casino wafts into the lobby areas.



BLACK MESA GOLF CLUB

Bold contouring, blind shots, and tricky angles bring relentless challenge to Black Mesa

Rosewood Inn of the Anasazi
113 Washington Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501

Tel: 505-988-3030

Web: innoftheanasazi.com

58 rooms and suites from \$350 to \$1,420

Inn of the Five Graces

150 East DeVargas Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501

Tel: 866-992-0957 or 505-992-0957

Web: fivegraces.com

24 rooms and suites from \$450 to \$2,500

Santa Claran Hotel

460 N. Riverside Dr., Espanola, NM 87532

Tel: 877-505-4949 or 505-367-4900

Web: santaclaran.com

124 rooms from \$89 to \$189

RESTAURANTS

Santa Fe is a food lover's delight with restaurants for everyone's taste. At the highest end, **Geronimo (Rating: A; tel: 505-982-1500)**, in a territorial building on Canyon Road, remains one of the required stops for food connoisseurs. The dining room epitomizes understated elegance, and the service is flawless. Our green miso sea bass could not have been any better.

Coyote Café (Rating: A; tel: 505-983-1615) is enjoying a renaissance under Eric DiStefano, formerly executive chef at Geronimo. We loved the Asian black garlic pasta and the slow braised prime rib beef short ribs with a red pepper risotto and brandy shallot sauce. Upstairs, the lively rooftop cantina's casual Cuban-influenced food doesn't compare.

Santacafé (Rating: A; tel: 505-984-1788), just down the road from the Inn of the Anasazi, proved every bit as good as Coyote Café. You won't go wrong with the shitake and cactus spring rolls and the ribeye with pommes frites and red chile béarnaise. Dine inside or in the lovely courtyard.

Anasazi Restaurant (Rating: B; tel: 505-988-3236) at the Inn of the Anasazi sports a warm ambiance with its hearth and petroglyph-style murals. While the seafood salad was very satisfying, the Porterhouse Lamb was a bit tough. The timing of our meal was also a little off, due in part to a forgetful server. The bar serves great margaritas.

The Shed (Rating: B; tel: 505-



Errant shots at Paa-Ko Ridge run rapidly into trees

982-9030), a popular Santa Fe restaurant for over 50 years, is a labyrinth of small dining rooms adorned with brightly colored paintings. The red chile enchilada plate topped with a fried egg is still a favorite.

Café Pasqual's (Rating: B+; tel: 505-983-9340) is a small place that always attracts a long line of patrons for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The eclectic menu features organic and natural products.

La Boca (Rating: B; tel: 505-982-3433) is the local choice for tapas. Tables are packed practically on top of each other, creating the potential for discomfort but also for instant socializing and comparison of dishes. The menu offers a wide variety of Spanish and Mediterranean dishes.

NON-GOLF ACTIVITIES

The center of Santa Fe is the Plaza (circa 1610), the town square-like park in front of the Palace of the Governors. Native American artisans sell their wares all along the length of the Palace. Other must-see attractions are St. Francis Cathedral, the Loretto Chapel with its gravity-defying spiral staircase, and the San Miguel Mission, the oldest church in the US. This small city is also home to a number of outstanding museums. Our favorites are the Georgia O'Keefe, the New Mexico Museum of Art, and the History Museum—and on Friday evening, several of them offer free admission. Canyon Road, which begins just a few blocks from the Inn of the Five Graces, is a mile-long

road with over 100 galleries. All throughout July and August, the Santa Fe Opera lures outstanding performers from other opera companies to its unique open-air opera house where the sunsets, clouds, and storms become part of the show.

The most spectacular of the Native American Pueblo sites is Bandelier National Monument, which features archaeological ruins and hiking trails. By ascending ladders, you can climb into cave dwellings and see ancient petroglyphs. Taos is an artist colony with more galleries and shops about 90 minutes north of Santa Fe. Take the Upper Route for the most rousing scenery along the way.

ALSO ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL

Two other facilities that we did not schedule on this visit deserve consideration on any Santa Fe golf excursion. **Marty Sanchez Links de Santa Fe (linksdesantafe.com; tel: 505-955-4400)**, a very nice municipal golf complex, faces the Sangre de Cristo, Jemez, Sandia, and Ortiz mountain ranges not far from Santa Fe's small airport. Built in 1998, this was Black Mesa designer Baxter Spann's first solo creation in the Santa Fe orbit. It comprises the Championship Course, a well-tended eighteen that can play as long as 7,415 yards, and the "Great 28," a nine-hole executive course with eight par threes and a par four. Weather permitting, the links stay open year-round.

Pueblo de Cochiti (golfcochitoday.com; tel: 505-465-2239), a 30-year-old Robert Trent Jones, Jr. design some 40 minutes from Santa Fe, enjoys yet another wonderful setting amidst red-rock mountains on unfettered tribal lands. The routing mixes mountain and desert golf and brings water into play on five holes. Although Jones came back 10 years ago to strengthen the course, many golfers traveling to Santa Fe like Cochiti because it is more user-friendly than most of the area's tracks. It is also usually in fine condition. Monday, Thursday, and twilight specials make this stunning layout a steal.

New Mexico's Sandia and Tamaya Resorts

The Bold and the Beautiful

On our recent extensive New Mexico tour, we also sampled two golf resorts in the Albuquerque-Santa Fe realm. The Sandia Resort & Casino and the Hyatt Grand Tamaya Resort & Spa both offer golf ranked among the best in New Mexico, but that's where the similarity between the two resorts ends. Sandia is home to the largest casino in New Mexico and most guests come here for a party. Tamaya is a more secluded and tranquil retreat.

SANDIA GOLF CLUB, RESORT & CASINO

Scott Miller, whose designs include We-Ko-Pa's original eighteen and the Coeur d'Alene Resort Course in Idaho, built the **Sandia Golf Course (Rating: B)** in the shadows of the Sandia Mountains just 20 minutes from the Albuquerque airport and an hour from Santa Fe. Most holes feature gently contoured serpentine fairways outlined by bunkers, roll-killing rough, and desert scrub vegetation. Several tests call for a forced carry off the tee or on the approach, but compared to most other clubs on our itinerary, Sandia offers a player-friendly game. The entire routing is wide open, and, when looking away from the mountains, the vistas across the New Mexico landscape seem almost endless. Alas, Sandia lies in a wind channel. We spent the entire day trying to hold on to our hats. Our playing partner, a member, said steady winds of 20 to 30 miles per hour are commonplace.

If the wind doesn't spoil your day, Miller's varied design is fun to play. One of our favorite tests, the par-four 6th, features a split fairway created by an angled patch of desert and a desert wash. Even medium-long hitters can try to carry the desert on the drive by aiming for the left-side fairway. Balls that come up short are usually findable and playable in the desert wash. The reward for taking the risk is a short pitch to an inviting green, the largest at Sandia.

The round concludes with a long par four that comes back to the casino and hotel. A large bunker looms in the middle of the landing area. Tee shots that can find the fairway to the left of the bunker will be propelled forward by a "power slot." Cascading water to the left and sand traps right make for a final knee-knocking approach. The green sits near the resort's pool (blaring music and an exuberant crowd can be a distraction) and Pueblo-style clubhouse.

Sandia was in good shape when we played, although the sand in the bunkers was somewhat inconsistent, doubtless due to the wind. Four sets of tees stretch play to 7,772 yards. While the fairways provide good run on the ball, the course desperately needs a fifth set of tees to bridge the enormous gap between the 5,112-yard forward markers and the 6,502-yard "resort" tees.

It's hard to concentrate on golf alone at **Sandia Resort & Casino (Rating: B)**. This imposing property exudes a zesty party

atmosphere and lures a steady stream of locals as well as tourists. The resort, which features the largest casino in New Mexico and a large outdoor concert amphitheatre, is young, lively, and upbeat when busy.

After some minor frustrations at the front desk upon checking in, our stay proceeded smoothly. Standard rooms in the seven-story hotel come with a flat-screen television, a refrigerator, and a private safe. The spacious bathrooms feature an oversized glassed-in shower and separate soaking tub. For Internet in the room, the charge is \$10 per night.

In addition to the casino, there's a spa and fitness center (albeit with disappointingly short hours), and several dining venues including a rooftop restaurant, a buffet, a sports bar, and poolside dining. Sandia does a lot of group business but advantageous rates and golf packages also make it a popular weekend getaway. It's not a bad choice for a buddy trip.

TWIN WARRIORS GOLF CLUB AND THE HYATT REGENCY TAMAYA RESORT & SPA

The **Twin Warriors Golf Club (Rating: B+)**, a 2001 Gary Panks creation, is the star amenity of the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort & Spa. This broad-shouldered course weaves through 400 acres on the sacred homeland of the Santa Ana Pueblo people. Notwithstanding some friendly fairway and greenside contouring, its long forced carries, deep bunkers, frequent uphill tests, and often formidable winds make it a much sterner test than most resort golf courses. The club hosted the National Club Pro Championship in 2003 and 2009.

Although the front nine harbors the signature hole—an uphill par three featuring a series of artificial waterfalls that feed into a large lake short of the putting surface—the back loop is where Twin Warriors shines. Ten, the most difficult test on the back nine, is a dogleg left. The landing area is blind. It's easy to lose a ball by going too far left or running through the fairway straightaway. The second shot proceeds uphill over a wide canyon to an elevated green. Fifteen, the last of Twin Warriors' excellent par threes, begins next to an 800-year-old tribal cultural site alongside Snakehead Butte. The seclusion and mountain views lend a spiritual aura to this portion of the course.

Next up is Twin Warriors' most exhilarating test, a downhill par five that drops 100 feet from the tee to green. Tag one here at 5,600-feet above sea level onto the running fairway and you might wind up with your longest drive of the season (the GPS in the cart will verify the distance). Give a shout and you'll hear your echo. Just be sure to heed the sign and beware of falling rocks, coyotes, and rattlesnakes.



Sandia Golf Club, a Scott Miller design, offers inviting playing corridors, although brutal wind can wreak havoc on your scorecard

Note: Twin Warriors's sister club, Santa Ana Golf Club, is just a mile back toward the highway. This 27-hole facility, though rather flat and pedestrian compared to Twin Warriors, attracts high traffic with its lower green fees. The club formerly hosted a Nationwide Tour event.

Much like the setup at Sandia Resort, the Hyatt hotel component of the Tamaya Resort is right next door to the golf course. "Tamaya" means "quiet special place." That's an apt description of this appealing resort set on tranquil Santa Ana tribal land situated a half hour from Albuquerque's airport. This upscale property is patterned after the village of the old Santa Ana Pueblo with its courtyards and plazas and four-story hotel building that conjures the tribe's ancient dwellings. An extensive collection of Native American art and artifacts adorns the resort's ample and quite comfortable public areas.

All rooms have a flat-screen television, refrigerator, and safe. We stayed in an updated Executive Suite that featured new furniture, a separate living area, and a patio looking out at the mountains. A majority of rooms come with a patio or balcony.

The resort's main restaurant is the Santa Ana Café, but the dining room not to miss is the **Corn Maiden Restaurant (Rating: B+)**. Tamaya's fine dining venue marries Southwestern influences with modern American cuisine. House specialties include rotisserie meats, poultry, and fish. Our soy orange duck breast was fantastic. (For a worthy dining option off property, try the **Prairie Star Restaurant (Rating: B; tel: 505-867-3327)**, located in an adobe mansion at the Santa Ana Golf Club).

The Hyatt resort is both a golf and spa destination retreat. Tamaya Mist Spa and Salon envelops patrons in a relaxing, spiritual environment. Treatments incorporate indigenous ingredients. We found the therapists to be very good.

Tamaya offers three heated pools (there's both an adult and a children's pool), two tennis courts, and a fitness center. Walking and biking paths wind through cottonwood forests beside the Rio Grande.

Guided horseback riding originates from the resort's extensive stables. Families will appreciate the range of kid's programs at Camp Tamaya. Guests can also participate in a multitude of Native American cultural activities ranging from beading classes to

traditional pueblo bread making (bread is actually baked in a domed "hura" oven on the plaza), adobe brick making, and Navajo dancing. For a fuller picture of the Santa Ana people, visit the Cultural Center and museum at the hotel entrance drive. Finally, while there's no casino on site, the Santa Ana Star Casino, located just a mile away, provides complimentary shuttle transportation on demand to Tamaya guests.

► Putts don't break as much as one would expect at Twin Warriors. The course ambassadors (two of whom sing in a barbershop quartet) told us to figure on only half as much break as it seems.



Twin Warriors, two-time host of the PGA National Club Championship, rambles alongside sacred Native American sites

Sandia Resort & Casino

30 Rainbow Road NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113

Tel: 800-526-9366 or 505-798-3930

Web: sandiacasino.com

228 rooms and suites from \$200 to \$250 a night

Sandia Golf Club

30 Rainbow Road NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113

Tel: 505-798-3990

Web: sandiagolf.com

Green fee: April through October, \$70 to \$85. November through March, \$50 to \$60. Includes cart with GPS.

Aerification: late August.

Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort & Spa

1300 Tuyuna Trail, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM 87004

Tel: 505-867-1234

Web: tamaya.hyatt.com

350 rooms and suites from \$330 to \$589 per night

Twin Warriors Golf Club

Tel: 505-771-6155

Web: mynewmexicogolf.com

Green fee: Hyatt guests \$109; public \$149.
Twilight: \$69 after 2 p.m.

Aerification: early June; early November.

University of New Mexico Championship Golf Course

3601 University Boulevard SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106

Tel: 505-277-4546

Web: unmgolf.com

Green fee: \$60 to \$70 (Monday and Tuesday \$38), including cart. Walking permitted.

Aerification: June; early October.

For a Getaway Game...

The University of New Mexico's Championship Golf Course (Rating: B) is the ultimate course for golfers looking for a gateway or getaway game. It's just a long par five from the Albuquerque airport's rental car center. (You can literally be in the rental car return lot two minutes after loading up your clubs.) Home to the University of New Mexico's golf team, this 7,248-yard, par-72 Red Lawrence layout from 1967 is still one of the best courses in New Mexico. It has hosted both the Men's and Women's Division I NCAA Championships. Phil Mickelson won his 1992 crown here.

Situated on slanted turf between the airport and the Rio Grande River Valley, the university-owned and managed Championship Course rambles up and down over hilly terrain. Most holes begin at elevated tee boxes, play down to the fairway, and then climb to large, elevated greens. Wide but canted fairways abet the tendency of balls to fall away into rough or desert-like areas.

Lawrence's routing consists of two loops that, with the exception of the very long dogleg right par-four 10th, begin and end with a par five. Fifteen, the prettiest hole on the course, sweeps around trees and a lake the final 100 yards into the putting surface. The tee shot is a layup that must be steered clear of a majestic cottonwood whose limbs overhang the fairway. The round concludes with two uphill tests. On 18, a short and reachable uphill dogleg-left par five, the final approach is semi-blind to a 50-yard-deep green that's virtually surrounded by sand.

The Championship Course, which is open year-round, is a very popular facility. Amenities include a driving range, putting greens, a chipping area, and a three-hole practice course. On Mondays and Tuesdays, the green fee with cart is only \$38.

Bull's Bridge and the Weekend Charms of Litchfield County

One of the great getaways known to many a New Yorker is idyllic Litchfield County, Connecticut. Less than two hours from Midtown Manhattan (and only three hours from Boston), this weekend retreat is perfect for couples interested in antiquing, hiking and biking, or exploring New England towns that date back to the 1700s. While golf is hardly synonymous with the region, *GOLF ODYSSEY* subscribers have a very good reason to bring their clubs the next time they visit. By special arrangement, Bull's Bridge, a private six-year-old Tom Fazio design in South Kent, Connecticut, has extended an invitation for you to experience the club. Rambling over very hilly terrain in the bucolic southern Berkshires, Bull's Bridge provides the best golf in the region.

Litchfield County is a classic New England old money place of rolling hills and charming little towns with iconic churches, public libraries, and colonial-style homes. Sharing the largely rural and agricultural countryside are some of the country's elite prep schools including Kent, Hotchkiss, and The Gunnery. Full time residents tend to their farms, bake their pies, and read their books. Weekends bring New Yorkers and others looking to trade the hustle and bustle of the city for more peaceful environs. Most of the weekenders and other inflowing guests tour the area quietly and follow time-honored reserved rhythms. (An exception might be the large numbers

of upscale bikers who ride here, doubtlessly taking advantage of Connecticut's lack of a helmet law.)

Golf, with its hushed and intricate etiquette, fits right in. And as summer prepares to give way to fall, Litchfield will show off its foliage to full effect. Bull's Bridge is never so much fun to play as when the leaves have turned. Of course, if you're making a place such as the exquisite Mayflower Inn & Spa your base, you'll be just as content off the course. The Inn offers everything you can ask for in a luxury retreat.



Bull's Bridge sits on a spiny ridge amidst the dramatically rolling Litchfield Hills. The front nine heads off to the north and east side of the ridge, while the more scenic back nine occupies the south and west sides. Fazio did a nice job here in creating a coherent routing over a beautiful, but challenging, piece of property. Enveloped by hills and surrounded by farms, the routing provides a feeling of seclusion from the rest of the world. Mature specimen trees normally form a corridor on one side of the fairways. Low stone walls, which have acted as property boundaries throughout New England history, also frame holes and green complexes. The course comprises a mix

COURTESY OF BULL'S BRIDGE GOLF CLUB



When the leaves turn in autumn, Tom Fazio's Bull's Bridge provides an especially delightful game

of moderately difficult par threes and par fours, along with par fives that present scoring opportunities.

Bull's Bridge breaks gently from the gate. The 1st, a par five, and the 2nd, a par four, ease golfers into the round while also revealing the hilly nature of the terrain. Both holes call for downhill tee shots. The game stiffens by the time golfers reach the 5th hole. This two-shotter, which starts off uphill with woods on the right and then proceeds downhill to a small undulating green, and the par-five 6th, are two of the better holes on the front nine. We also like eight, a short par four with an orchard and a low stone wall to the side.

The back nine is a few strokes harder than the front. It plays longer, and although several holes would be almost non-descript but for the scenery, the round finishes with a flourish. Eleven, the number one handicap hole, is full of intriguing offset angles. Drives should be directed to the right side of a fairway that slopes hard from right to left. Then the approach comes back to another fairly small green well defended by bunkers. Twelve, which the members call the signature hole, is a par three clearing a ball-swallowing gorge.

The long and difficult 15th, a sturdy par four, is as good a hole as you'll find on the course. Next up is a drop-shot par three. The view is beautiful, but beware of the big, undulating green. Eighteen, a reachable par five, showcases Fazio's distinct bunkering all the way from tee to green. It's a nifty risk/reward par five if you're in a match. With a good score at the last hole, you will walk off the course with an upbeat feeling.

Players of all levels can make their way around Bull's Bridge. The rough is not especially penal and the stone walls present difficulty only when a ball comes to rest right up against them. A couple of drainage ponds represent the only water, and they won't come into play unless a shot is quite wayward. Walking is permitted,

but given the hills, we would not recommend it. Forecaddies go off with groups.

Course conditioning is a strong suit of the club. Many of the greens have been carved into the spine of a ridge, so they're not easy to maintain. We saw plenty of grain on the putting surfaces, but grain must be expected on bentgrass greens that receive a fair bit of shade.

Without being overwhelming or over the top, the club offers a high level of service. The pros are excellent and the practice facilities, which include a driving range and practice bunkers, are more than adequate. Appropriately, the clubhouse is simple and quite comfortable. The high quality yet effortless approach extends to the food, as the club's professional chef sources many of his ingredients locally.

Tee times are not required, although play is noticeably heavier on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays when the primarily non-resident membership settles in for the weekend. Even so, a 100-round day would mark a historic occasion at Bull's Bridge. On your average weekday, 15 rounds might be more typical. We were impressed by the numerous women and junior players we encountered during our visit.

If you would like to play Bull's Bridge, please contact us for details at travel@golfodyssey.com or 973-564-6223 x85.

LODGING

Litchfield County is home to two of the most extraordinary—and highly priced—small hotels in the East: Winvian (winvian.com; tel: 860-567-9600) and the Mayflower Inn and Spa. On this visit, we elected to stay at the **Mayflower Inn & Spa (Rating: A+)**, a 30-room Relais & Château property located about 25 minutes from Bull's Bridge. The adjectives that best describe the Inn are “serene,” “bucolic,” “tranquil,” and ... “expensive.” If you can afford it, this old, comfortable New England house on a hill, which in a former incarnation was a writer's retreat, is the perfect spot for a weekend getaway. Gorgeous gardens surround all the buildings, and there's a great spa. Service is spot on, but never over the top or in your face. During our visit, staff members called us by name from the first time they saw us.

We stayed in the main Mayflower House, which is where the bulk of the rooms are located. All the rooms are spacious and individually decorated. The decor blends 18th and 19th century styles with contemporary features like flat-screen televisions, an in-room video/stereo system, and complimentary Wi-Fi, plus new washbowls and glassed-in showers.

Our very comfortable room was about 600 square feet with a nice little patio. Decorative highlights included a four-poster bed, an antique nightstand, attractive floral print fabrics, and unpretentious chairs and tables. Immediately outside our chamber, a little anteroom showcased handwritten letters from

MAYFLOWER INN & SPA



The Mayflower Inn, a Relais & Château property, hits all the right notes

great authors to the old owners of the property. Board games were next to them. Such rooms, and indeed the entire Inn, embody the area's sensibility.

The nicest—and most expensive—rooms on property are the Allerton rooms and suites. They occupy a building up the hill from the Mayflower House and right next to the tranquil 20,000-square foot Spa House. They are set amidst a pond, woods, and gardens. Each Allerton room is magnificent and comes with a four-poster canopy bed, private balcony, gas fireplace, and sitting area.

The Mayflower Inn offers its guests a number of dining options. In the Mayflower House you'll find a very casual pub/tavern/

► A casual atmosphere prevails at the Mayflower Inn, even during dinner. Women need not get dressed up. You won't be out of place wearing shorts and Birkenstocks.

bar area and the main dining room. Seating is also available on the intimate patio overlooking the garden. Up by the spa and Allerton cottage, there's a charming lunch spot with healthy spa-style fare. Although we didn't partake, we were awed by the Spa facilities. Everything a spa fan could ever desire was

housed in the pristine, calming, and serene building matched only by the tasteful friendliness of its staff.

With room rates ranging from \$745 to \$1,575 a night, the Mayflower Inn is not for the budget-minded. Less expensive, yet still upscale alternatives include the **Boulders Inn** in New Preston, the **Rooster Tail Inn** in Warren, and the **Inn at Kent Falls**. Weekend rates may still raise an eyebrow. For more economical rooms, try **The Hopkins Inn** in Warren and the **Fife n'Drum** in Kent.

Mayflower Inn & Spa

118 Woodbury Road, Route 47, Washington, CT 06793

Tel: 860-868-9466

Web: mayflowerinn.com

30 rooms and suites from \$745 to \$1,575.

RESTAURANTS

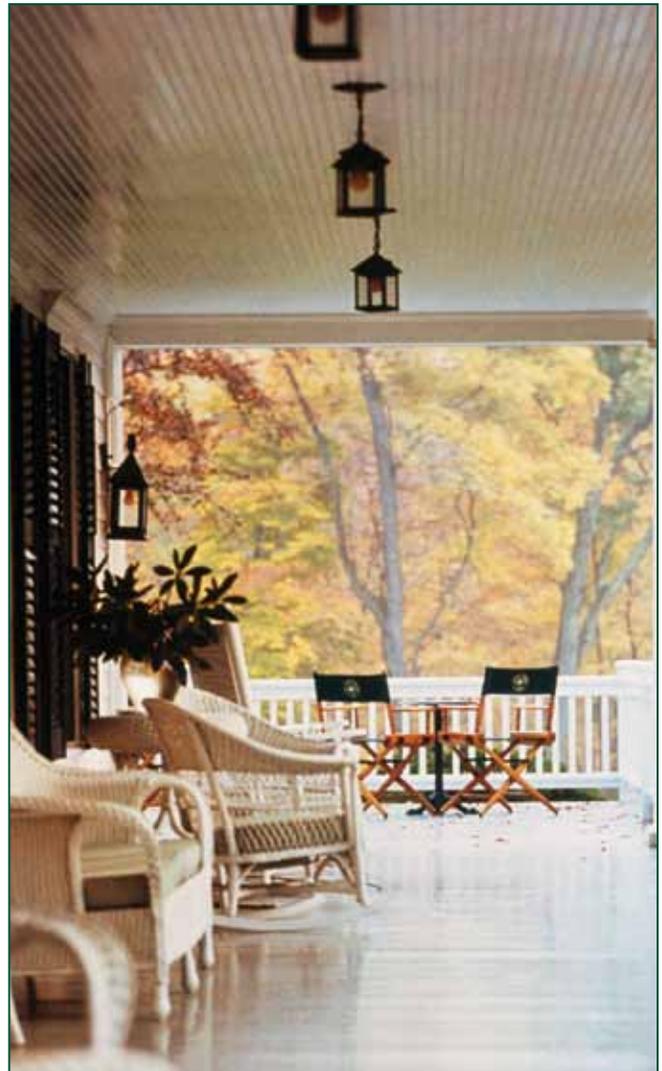
We had dinner out on the patio at the Mayflower Inn's main dining room amid the deer munching on the beautiful gardens. The cooking is continental with a diverse, if not extensive, selection of dishes. The menu includes salads, chicken, fish, steak, and other meats. Our crab cake appetizer and salmon entrée were both terrific. For dessert, the chocolate cake was so delicious we're still raving about it. At breakfast, the omelets were exceptional.

The best restaurant between Bull's Bridge and the Mayflower Inn is **Oliva** (tel: 860-868-1787) in New Preston. The chef/owners are Armenian and create pleasingly provocative flavors even if the menu items don't seem especially novel. Also in New Preston, we like **The White Horse** (tel: 860-868-1496). This warm, recently renovated English-style country pub features a nice bar and makes for a good choice if you're in the mood for burgers, mutton, or the like.

Closer to Bull's Bridge, **Doc's Trattoria** (tel: 860-927-3810) on Maple Street in Kent is a high-end pizzeria and Italian Restaurant. A nice wine list complements the brick oven-baked pizzas and classic Italian dishes.

In Woodbury, about 20 minutes from the Mayflower Inn and 50 minutes from Bull's Bridge, the star restaurant is the lively **Good News Café** (tel: 203-266-4663). Chef/owner Carole Peck prepares innovative American dishes using ingredients she selects from local growers and foragers. We also ate a very enjoyable lunch across the street at the bistro-style **John's Café** (tel: 203-263-0188).

MAYFLOWER INN & SPA



The Mayflower Inn & Spa is 25 minutes from Bull's Bridge

COMING IN THE MONTHS AHEAD...

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, Old Macdonald at Bandon Dunes Resort; Bermuda; Royal St. Georges, the site of next year's Open Championship; and Punta Mita in Mexico

COURTESY OF BULL'S BRIDGE GOLF CLUB



Rock outcroppings and Fazio's distinctive bunkering lend high aesthetic appeal to the well-groomed Bull's Bridge layout

The **GW Tavern (tel: 860-868-6633)**, just a mile from the Mayflower Inn and 30 minutes from Bull's Bridge, occupies an 1850-era colonial-style home in Washington Depot. It's a neat place that offers good American fare.

NON-GOLF ACTIVITIES

Litchfield County and the Berkshires are beautiful. Normally the area is tranquil, and it's a lovely spot for a relaxing getaway, whether your idea of fun is reading a book, antiquing, visiting art galleries, attending a festival (the Litchfield Jazz Festival is a July highlight), picking berries, hiking and biking, or going for a drive. Woodbury is Connecticut's antiques capital. Outdoor lovers gravitate to the Appalachian Trail and Kent Falls. There's a state park on Lake Waramaug where you can rent canoes and enjoy all sorts of other activities. The most idyllic time to visit Litchfield County is during fall foliage season. Bear in mind that the area's population swells by at least 50 percent on the weekends.

HOT DEALS AT PRESS TIME

Ojai, CA Book a Shangri-La room or better on the **Ojai Valley Inn's** package and enjoy unlimited golf and one complimentary 50-minute classic spa treatment per night. Valid Sunday through Thursday until September 23.

Lake Placid **Lake Placid Crowne Plaza** Nightly rates for the *Stay & Play* package start at \$99 per person and include lodging, a round on either the Lake or Mountain courses, and a hot American breakfast. Based on double occupancy. Valid Sunday through Thursday through mid-October. Higher rates with two-night minimum available on weekends.

Petoskey, MI **Inn at Bay Harbor's** *Gold Golf Package* includes lodging at the Inn and 18 holes at the Bay Harbor Golf Club. Rates start at \$162 per person (double occupancy) midweek and \$177 per person on weekends.

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