

SUPERBOWL & WM PHOENIX OPEN

DOMINIK'S RESTAURANT

GRAND WINTER ESCAPE



Silverado Resort and Spa Exterior at night.

SILVERADO RESORT

In the heart of American wine country

STORY BY ART STRICKLIN



Pool.

NAPA, California- Golf has long been known to drive a player to drink. In fact, if Scottish lore can be believed, the reason we have 18 holes on the golf course is there were 18 good shots of Scotch whiskey in a bottle for the first rounds played at the Home of Golf in St. Andrews, Scotland.

But what if you played at a resort at which drink, the nectar of the gods, was encouraged, if not nearly required? What if you were in the home of wine country for the USA, not to mention fine dining, indoors and out, plus two outstanding PGA Tour quality golf courses.

Golf, dining or drink heaven? All titles apply to the famed Silverado Resort and Spa in the heart of American Wine Country in Napa.

Perhaps no resort in America does such a great job of matching golf, food, drink, historic structures and near perfect weather as Silverado.

The longtime home of World Golf Hall of Fame member Johnny Miller who first came here in the 1970s and has been involved in one way or the other ever since. His family still has a large, shaded home on the property and in 2010 renovated the North Course.

After a decade-plus absence, the PGA Tour returned here in 2014 after first playing an event here in the 1960s and continuing to the early 2000s.

Now, Silverado kicks off the new 2022-23 PGA Tour season primarily on the North Course with the fall tour event known as the Fortinet Championship won in September by Northern California native Max Homa.

But the same thing which draws the pros here on an annual basis, the chance to stay on-site in four different lodging choices, the great weather, two fun golf courses, along with wine tours and top-notch dining draws resort guests here the other 51 weeks of the year.

Among the dining options here is the Mansion Terrace, a perfectly scenic spot overlooking the closing hole of the South Course for drinks and snacks in the historic signature Mansion Building which is believed to be nearly 150 years old and the first building on this rolling property.

There is, of course, 5-star dining in the main clubhouse with pictures of Miller and past champions on the wall, but the most fun dining at Silverado comes outside.

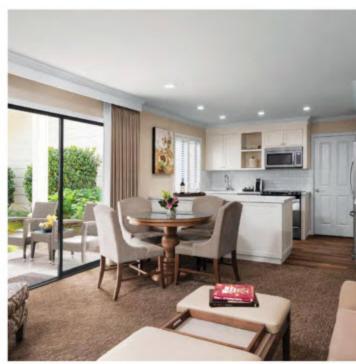
New for 2022 is the outdoor pizza kitchen, Forno, where you can order up you own





North Course #17.





The Spa Exterior . Guestroom Living Room

style of pizza and then watch it made by local experts. It's located directly outside the Silverado Market and Bakery and is open for lunch or dinner most days.

On course, the best food belongs to the famed Burger Dog with stands on both the North and South Courses. Most golf connoisseurs, especially on the West Coast, know the Burger Dog became famous as the exclusive on-course snack at the private US Open site, the Olympic Club in San Francisco.

But original Burger Dog inventors (a slice of high quality beef placed inside a hot dog bun with various condiments), wanted to take their product to a more public setting as well and with ties to the area brought their tasty golfing snack to Silverado.

It doesn't open until around lunchtime each day, but golfers have been known to line up at the small shacks to be the first in line before they complete their rounds.

"We really do feel we have the best combina-

tion of golf, scenery, weather, food and wine and all kinds of drinks," said Cody Sherrill, Silverado Director of Club Operations. "Everything Silverado and Napa is famous for is here and available to resort guests, members and the best PGA Tour golfers in the world each fall."

When you've had enough food and drinks, if there is such a thing, the golf is not bad either.

The North Course, redone by Miller, is a fine PGA Tour championship course with plenty of challenge for the pros and enough for amateurs to stack on plenty of balls before they head to the first tee. The course weaves between huge trees, bunkers, creeks, houses on one side, roads on the others, but with plenty of charm and history, just the way Miller would want it after leaving his golf bag, clubs and photos in the clubhouse window case.

It plays 6,793 yards par 72 from the ball tees, but don't let the relative lack of length fool you. You've got to hit a variety of different shots to play well here which has produced a varied groups of winners here from Stewart Cink to Cameron Champ. Homa, and many others.

In the final four holes of the North courses, there is a dangerous par 3 and two par 5s which means anything can and usually does happen to pros and amateurs alike.

The South is more wide open and accessible, but no less challenging. It plays 6,612 yards from the back tees (both courses are par 72), but like the North course finishes with a par 3 and par 5 which lead to wide ups and downs to your scorecard. Both course offer carts to ride or are fairly flat enough to walk with weather which stays in the 60-70-80s in the summer time.

Of course, after the green grass battles, a trip to the multi-story Silverado Spa is in order with a variety of treatment options, a café and, of course, more wine. There are 10 outdoor tennis courts and a large resort pool as well.

Since you're in the heart of California Wine Country, it would be a shame not to visit at least one local winery. The closest to the resort is the Prime Solum & Expressions Napa Valley Tasting Barn.

Even if you don't know enough about wine to ask if there is a screw top bottle or pop top, touring a winery and seeing how it's produced, stored and served is a fascinating experience.

There is all manner of wines here to sample along with a wine club to join to have different selections delivered to you with new releases in February, May, September and November. Of course, the town of Napa is only of few miles away which offers a wide variety of dining and drink options in its scenic downtown.

So come for drinks, stay for the food, and certainly experience PGA Tour quality golf and luxury resort offerings, all in one location at Silverado Resort. The perfect combination of what makes golf so great and inviting.

Thankfully, at Silverado the golf can drive you to drink, but you should be all the happier for it!

For more information, visit www.silveradoresort.com or www.napavalleytastingbarn.com 0

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