

GOLF

YOUR LIFE, WELL PLAYED

OCTOBER 2019 / GOLF.COM

Travel Guide 2019

TOP 100
RESORTS

NORTH AMERICA

Cabot Cliffs, Cabot Links Golf Resort

Why this place (and 99 other destinations) rise above the rest





TIME TO PLAY

Golf getaways are like golf swings—there's no one groove. Some people pursue max comfort, some prefer romping with pals or their kids. Ready for 100 adventures? C'mon, take the leap!

- L**
LUXURY
PAGES 72-83
- B**
BUDDIES
PAGES 84-95
- GE**
GENERAL EXCELLENCE
PAGES 96-105
- F**
FAMILIES
PAGES 106-117



Bill Hornstein

Villa del Palmar Beach Resort / TPC Danzante Bay

HOW WE RANKED THEM



In one of the biggest editorial projects

GOLF has ever attempted, we culled the names of 243 rank-worthy resorts spread across North America. Under the expert guidance

of resort industry veterans and our stable of well-heeled travel writers, we placed each resort into at least one of four experience categories: Luxury, Buddies, General Excellence and Families. Then, with the help of 3,700-plus golfers just like you, we conducted an online poll, asking GOLF.com readers to rate each resort based on five key variables: golf experience, accommodations, service, food and ambience. The results of this poll were then weighed against the opinions of a select group of GOLF's Top 100 Courses panelists and those of internal travel and editorial teams to list destinations in each category (Nos. 1-5, then alphabetically), generating GOLF's first-ever ranking of the Top 100 Resorts. Yep—we're in need of a vacation, too.

—David DeNunzio, Editor-In-Chief



"AS IF BANDON DUNES
NEEDED MORE LURES,
IT'S STRUTTING OUT
SHEEP RANCH, MAKING IT SIX
COURSES TO POPULATE
BANDONITES' DREAMS."

Sheep Ranch, Bandon Dunes Golf Resort

Courtesy Bandon Dunes Golf Resort



More photos, videos and information about your favorite resorts on the best site in the game. Plus, the chance to book GOLF-branded stays with our new travel partner, Skylark.

GOLF MAGAZINE'S Top 100 Resorts In North America

Luxury

- 1. Pebble Beach Resorts**
Pebble Beach, CA
- 2. The American Club**
Kohler, WI
- 3. Sea Island Resort**
Sea Island, GA
- 4. Four Seasons Resort Lana'i**
Lana'i City, Lana'i, HI
- 5. Dorado Beach, A Ritz-Carlton Reserve**
Dorado Beach, Puerto Rico

▼ Albany

- Nassau, The Bahamas
- Amanera**
Rio San Juan, Dominican Republic
- Four Seasons Resort Costa Rica at Peninsula Papagayo**
Guanacaste, Costa Rica
- The Ritz-Carlton Dove Mountain**
Marana, AZ
- Fairmont Grand Del Mar**
San Diego, CA
- Four Seasons Resort Hualalai**
Kailua-Kona, Big Island, HI
- The Inn at Bay Harbor**
Bay Harbor, MI
- Four Seasons Resort Jackson Hole**
Teton Village, WY
- The Ritz-Carlton Kapalua**
Kapalua, Maui, HI
- Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea**
Kihei, Maui, HI
- Rosewood Mayakoba**
Playa del Carmen, Riviera Maya, Mexico
- Montage Palmetto Bluff / May River GC**
Bluffton, SC
- The Ocean Club, A Four Seasons Resort**
Nassau, The Bahamas
- One & Only Palmilla**
Cabo San Lucas, B.C.S., Mexico
- The Resort at Pelican Hill**
Newport Beach, CA
- Primland**
Meadows of Dan, VA
- Pueblo Bonito Beach Resorts / Quivira**
Los Cabos, B.C.S., Mexico
- Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita**
Punta Mita, Nayarit, Mexico
- The Ritz-Carlton Reynolds, Lake Oconee**
Greensboro, GA
- Sandy Lane Resort**
St. James, Barbados

Buddies

- 1. Bandon Dunes Golf Resort**
Bandon, OR
 - 2. Pinehurst Resort**
Pinehurst, NC
 - 3. Cabot Links Golf Resort**
Inverness, Nova Scotia, Canada
 - 4. Sand Valley Golf Resort**
Nekoosa, WI
 - 5. The Resort at Diamante**
Cabo San Lucas, B.C.S., Mexico
- ▼
- Arcadia Bluffs**
Arcadia, MI
- Barefoot Resort and Golf**
North Myrtle Beach, SC
- Omni Barton Creek Resort & Spa**
Austin, TX
- Renaissance**
Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa
Birmingham, AL
- Boyne Golf**
Boyne Falls, MI
- Caledonia / True Blue Plantation**
Pawleys Island, SC
- Erin Hills**
Erin, WI
- Forest Dunes**
Roscommon, MI
- Gamble Sands**
Brewster, WA
- Innisbrook, A Salamander Resort**
Palm Harbor, FL
- Pine Needles Lodge / Mid Pines Inn**
Southern Pines, NC
- The Prairie Club**
Valentine, NE
- Pursell Farms**
Sylacauga, AL
- Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa**
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
- Streamsong Resort**
Bowling Green, FL
- Sunriver Resort**
Sunriver, OR
- Talking Stick**
Scottsdale, AZ
- Trump National Doral Miami**
Miami, FL
- Turning Stone Resort & Casino**
Verona, NY
- Villa del Palmar Beach Resort & Spa / TPC Danzante Bay**
Loreto, B.C.S., Mexico

General Excellence

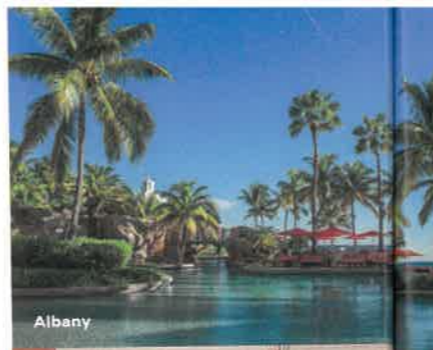
- 1. The Broadmoor**
Colorado Springs, CO
- 2. The Greenbrier**
White Sulphur Springs, WV
- 3. Fairmont Banff Springs**
Banff, Alberta, Canada
- 4. Kiawah Island Golf Resort**
Kiawah Island, SC
- 5. Sea Pines Resort**
Hilton Head Island, SC

- ▼
- The Ritz-Carlton Bachelor Gulch / Red Sky**
Avon, CO
- Baha Mar Resort**
Nassau, The Bahamas
- Omni Bedford Springs Resort**
Bedford, PA
- Cabo del Sol Beach & Golf Resort**
Cabo San Lucas, B.C.S., Mexico
- Cap Cana Resort**
Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
- Casa de Campo**
La Romana, Dominican Republic
- Fairmont Chateau Whistler**
Whistler, British Columbia, Canada
- Rosewood CordeValle**
San Martin, CA
- Gasparilla Inn & Club**
Boca Grande, FL
- Grand Wailea**
Wailea, Maui, HI
- Omni Grove Park Inn**
Asheville, NC
- The Ritz-Carlton Half Moon Bay**
Half Moon Bay, CA
- Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge**
Jasper, Alberta, Canada
- Four Seasons Resort La Quinta Resort & Club**
La Quinta, CA
- Las Colinas**
Irving, TX
- Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu**
Charlevoix, Quebec, Canada
- Nemacolin Woodlands Resort**
Farmington, PA
- Princeville Resort Kauai**
Princeville, Kauai, HI
- Pronghorn Resort**
Bend, OR
- Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North**
Scottsdale, AZ

Families

- 1. Big Cedar Lodge**
Ridgedale, MO
- 2. Colonial Williamsburg Resort**
Williamsburg, VA
- 3. The Retreat, Links & Spa at Silvis Valley Ranch**
Seneca, OR
- 4. French Lick Resort**
French Lick, IN
- 5. Omni Mount Washington Resort**
Bretton Woods, NH

- ▼
- Beaver Creek Resort**
Beaver Creek, CO
- Rosewood Bermuda**
Hamilton, Bermuda
- The Coeur d'Alene Resort**
Coeur d'Alene, ID
- Giants Ridge Golf & Ski Resort**
Biwabik, MN
- Grand Isla Navidad Resort**
Isla Navidad, Mexico
- Grand View Lodge**
Nisswa, MN
- Hammock Beach, A Salamander Resort**
Palm Coast, FL
- Omni Homestead Resort**
Hot Springs, VA
- Horseshoe Bay Resort**
Horseshoe Bay, TX
- The Hotel Hershey / Hershey CC**
Hershey, PA
- Omni La Costa Resort & Spa**
Carlsbad, CA
- Ojai Valley Inn & Spa**
Ojai, CA
- Rodd Crowbush Golf & Beach Resort**
Morell, Prince Edward Island, Canada
- The Sagamore Resort**
Bolton Landing, NY
- JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa / TPC San Antonio**
San Antonio, TX
- Seaview, A Dolce Resort**
Galloway, NJ
- Sun Valley Resort**
Sun Valley, ID
- Taboo Muskoka Resort & Club**
Gravenhurst, Ontario, Canada
- JW Marriott Tucson Starr Pass Resort & Spa**
Tucson, AZ
- Walt Disney World Resort**
Orlando, FL



Albany



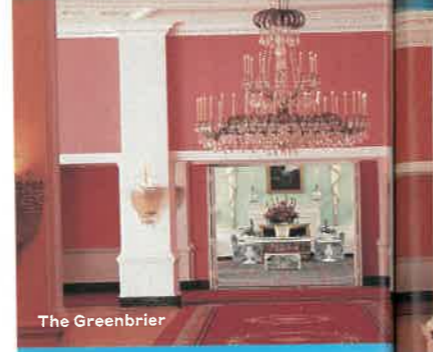
The Inn at Bay Harbor



Bandon Dunes Golf Resort



Fairmont Chateau Whistler



The Greenbrier



Four Seasons Resort Costa Rica at Peninsula Papagayo



Amanera



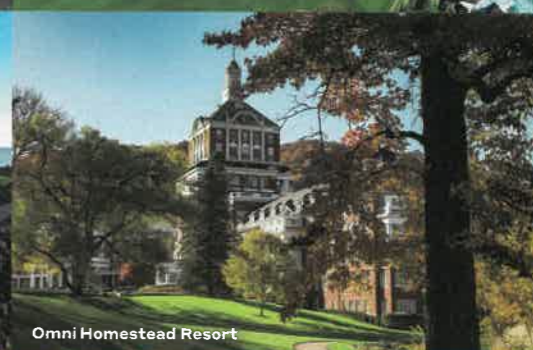
Rosewood CordeValle



Pinehurst Resort



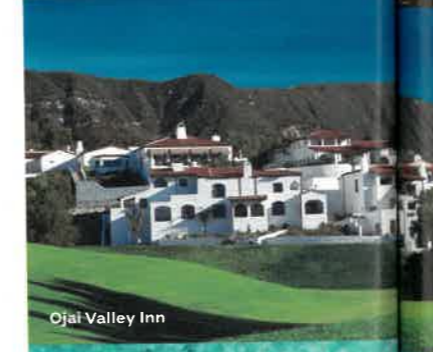
Four Seasons Resort Hualalai



Omni Homestead Resort



Dorado Beach, A Ritz-Carlton Reserve



Ojai Valley Inn



Rosewood Bermuda



Montage Palmetto Bluff



Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge



Villa del Palmar Beach Resort/ Danzante Bay



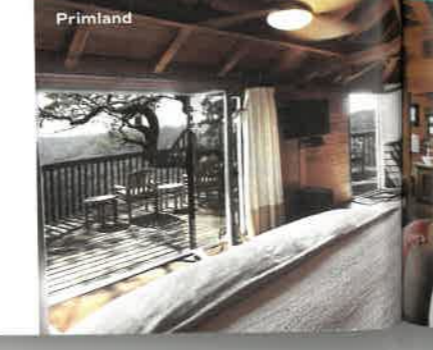
Four Seasons Resort Lana'i



Fairmont Grand Del Mar



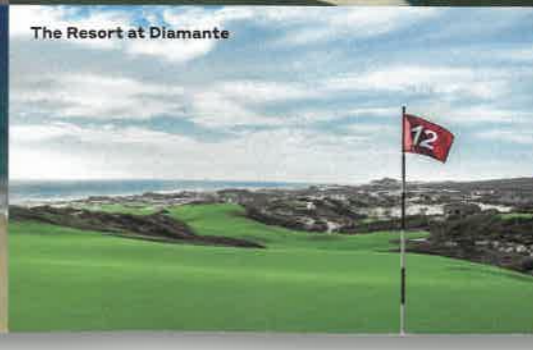
The Ritz-Carlton Kapalua



Primland



Pueblo Bonita Beach Resorts/Quivira



The Resort at Diamante



Sandy Lane Resort

FAMILIES

1

Big Cedar Lodge
RIDGEDALE, MO

2

Colonial Williamsburg Resort
WILLIAMSBURG, VA

3

The Retreat, Links and Spa at Silvie Valley Ranch
SENECA, OR

4

French Lick Resort
FRENCH LICK, IN

5

Omni Mount Washington Resort
BRETTON WOODS, NH



You're trying to stretch your hard-earned dollars. You don't want getting there to be half the fun—you want to be there with your family, pronto. You also want a relaxed vibe where you feel like you run the joint. Can't-miss stay-and-play deals? Yes, please, made all the more alluring by the fact that the golf's really good, as are the pool, the beach and the local attractions. Once again, the name of the game? Fun!

FAM-TASTIC:
BIG CEDAR LODGE

1.

Big Cedar Lodge RIDGEDALE, MO

302 private accommodations / 58 holes of golf / spa / pool / 12 restaurants / loads of outdoor pursuits

Best time to go: Though it's a year-round resort, go in the spring and early summer for the best weather. **Daily stay-and-plays start at:** \$218. **Golf experience:** Two 18-hole layouts (Ozarks National, Buffalo Ridge Springs), one par-3 nine-hole course (Top of the Rock), and a 13-hole, short course (Mountain Top). **Best non-golf amenity:** The Bass Pro Shops Shooting Academy is a dream for shooting enthusiasts. **While you're there:** Sample the horseback riding, boat cruises, fishing—what else would you expect from Johnny Morris, creator of Big Cedar Lodge and founder of Bass Pro Shops. **Insider tip:** The Arnold Palmer Practice Facility is lots of fun—and only accessible to those who play Top of the Rock.

Travelogue: Big Cedar is a wilderness resort

through and through, chockful of outdoor activities primed for any Bass Pro Shop or Cabela's acolyte. Situated about 10 miles from Branson, the young resort has quickly become one of the country's preeminent golf destinations. In addition to the courses and amenities that already carry such name associations as Nicklaus, Palmer, Watson, Player, Fazio, and Coore/Crenshaw, Tiger will join that illustrious group when his Payne's Valley course opens in 2020.

Also good for: Buddies

bigcedar.com
(800) 225-6343

2.

Colonial Williamsburg Resort WILLIAMSBURG, VA

Five hotels / 81 holes of golf / 21 restaurants / spas / pools

Best time to go: Apr. through Oct. is best for great golf and weather. **Daily stay-and-plays start at:** \$359. **Golf experience:** 45 holes at the Golden Horse-



SALT & STONE SUNSCREEN STICK

Feel good about protecting your mug with a product that's green and clean. This sustainably organic sunscreen stick (SPF 50) glides on easily and resists sweat and seawater for up to 80 minutes. It's reef safe, too, so in addition to your face, you're also protecting the environment.

—KSV

\$18;
saltandstone.com

shoe Club and 36 at the Kingsmill property. **Best non-golf amenity:** Tours of historic Williamsburg and its Revolutionary War heritage. **While you're there:** Enjoy a carriage ride through the entirety of Virginia's most one-of-a-kind resort. **Insider tip:** Bring the kids for a history lesson—with period actors—they will actually enjoy.

Travelogue: History is what they're selling at Colonial Williamsburg, but as you're learning about one of America's first colonies, you can create your own. There's a huge variety of lodging choices; many attractions for families, couples and history buffs; and lots of great golf. For years, the LPGA has been coming here to compete on the Pete Dye-designed River Course. The Plantation Course, an Arnold Palmer/Ed Seay track, is also sublime. Nearby, the Golden Horseshoe has 45 holes of challenge courtesy of Robert Trent Jones Sr. and his son Rees. So, post a score and make history that blows the dust off the dry stuff you learned in school.

Also good for: General Excellence

colonialwilliamsburghotels.com
(855) 231-7240

3.

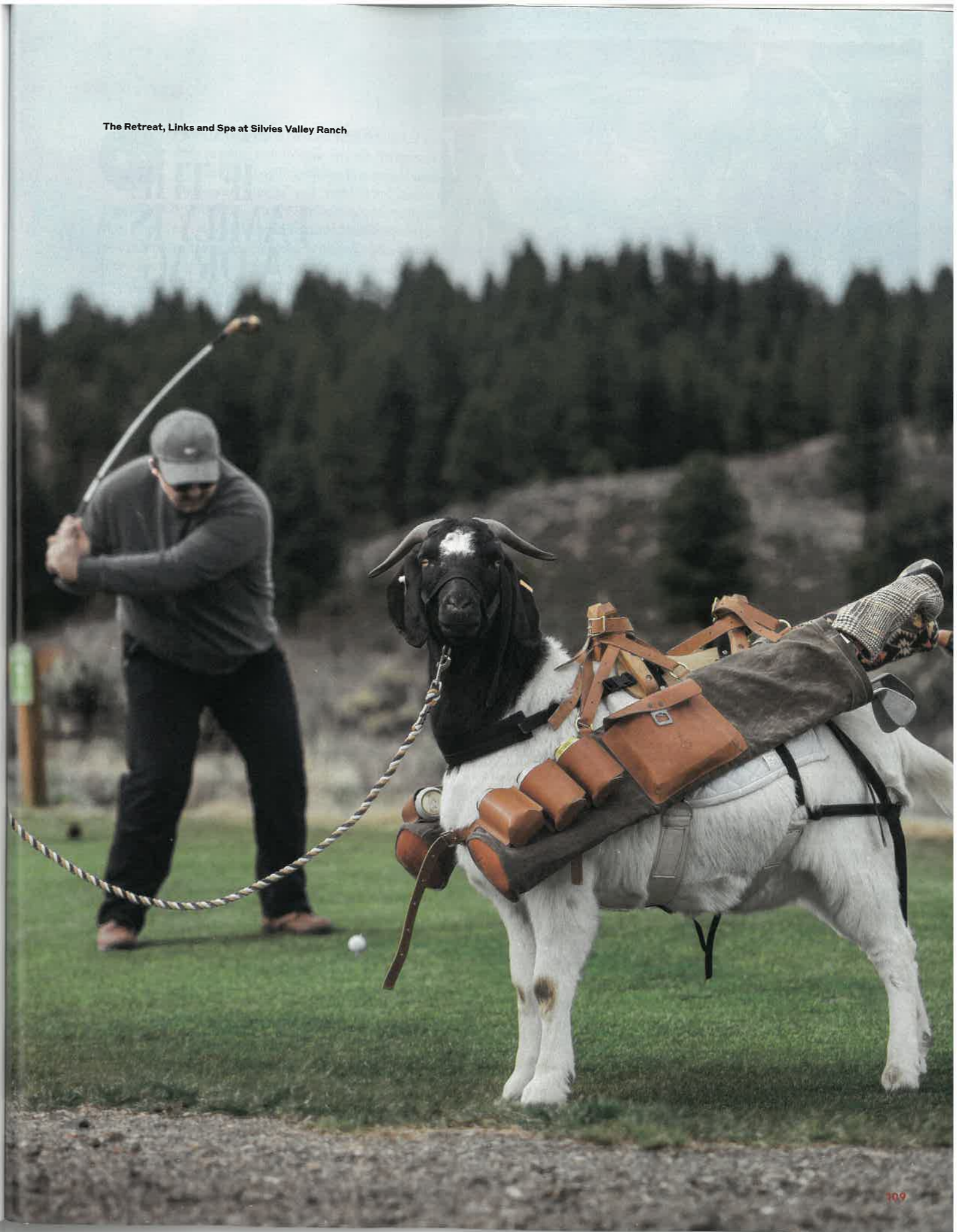
The Retreat, Links and Spa at Silvies Valley Ranch SENECA, OR

34 rooms in cabins and ranch houses / three golf courses / one rustic-chic restaurant and (by reservation) a chuck wagon / spa / horseback riding / shooting range / goat herding

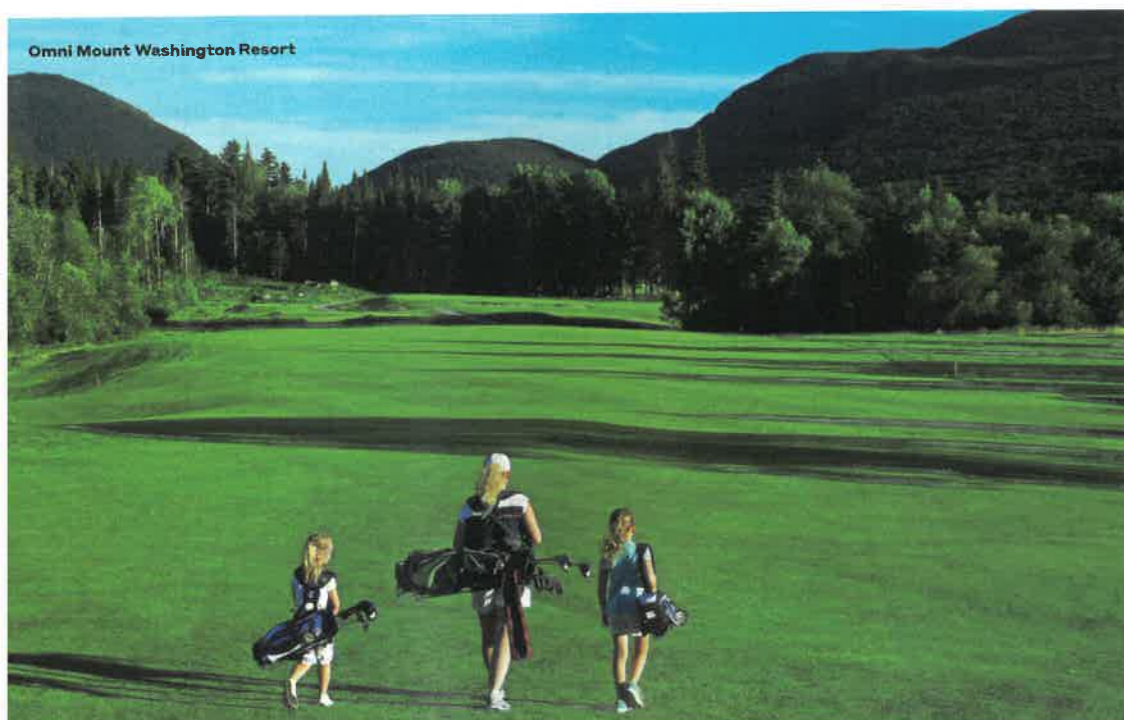
Best time to go: Spring and fall: long days, cool nights. **Daily stay-and-plays start at:** \$600. **Golf experience:** An imaginatively routed and wonderfully scenic 18-hole reversible course designed by Dan Hixson, plus two par-3 courses staffed by goat caddies. **Best non-golf amenity:** The Rocking Heart Spa, with arresting views across 10 miles of alpine meadows. **While you're there:** Saddle up and set out on a cattle drive, one of several ranch activities the property offers. **Insider tip:** The bar in the main lodge is home to the largest whiskey collection in the region.

Travelogue: Don't call it a dude ranch. It's a working ranch, where the goats need herding, the horses need feeding and the cattle require someone to round them up. This being frontier Oregon, in the state's eastern reaches, those duties fall to seasoned ranch hands, who are more than happy to have your help. Expect to get a little dusty if you saddle up for one of the resort's immersive western-style adventures. Hixson's ingenious reversible track is an adventure in itself, as are the pair of sweet par-3 tracks. You don't need caddies on the latter, but you'll want them, since those caddies are American Range Goats, born and raised on the property. With harnesses strapped across their backs to carry clubs

The Retreat, Links and Spa at Silvies Valley Ranch



This page: Courtesy Salt & Stone; Courtesy Omni Mount Washington Resort; Opposite page: Courtesy Silvies Ranch; Previous spread: Edward C. Robison III



Omni Mount Washington Resort



JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa

TRAVEL WRITER CONFESSIONAL

IF THE FAMILY IS A DRAG, DON'T BOTHER. BUT IF IT ISN'T, TRIPS WITH THEM STILL REQUIRE YOUR BEST VERSION OF YOU.

BY MICHAEL CORCORAN



Family trips are rather like a round of golf—you never know how they're going to unfold or end up. To stretch the analogy a bit more, any family trip will feature a few bogies (and others) along the way. The words "family" and "familiarity" do not share an identical Latin origin, but they are close enough, and both occasionally breed contempt on family trips. However, when the nerves begin to frazzle, one must refocus one's efforts in pursuit of the greater goal. That goal, by the way, is the central point here, and it should encompass what you want to get out of the trip, and your role in making sure others on the trip also have a good time. With that in mind, here are a few questions you should ask yourself—and answer—before agreeing to pack up and head yonder with your family.

Do you know the right selfish/selfless ratio?

On a family trip, you cannot do everything you want to do. Actually, you can, but you'll ruin the trip for everyone else, in which case, why bother—go on vacation by yourself. Try a 25/75 selfish/selfless ratio. In other words, for every one pursuit you desire, agree to do three things other people think are good ideas.

That is some bullsh*t.

Not a question, but you may be on to something. And that something is you really should consider staying home.

Am I willing to plan "me" time that maximizes "them" time?

Let's assume that your "me" time is playing golf. That is a lot of "me" time on any given day, so in the context of a family trip, plan your rounds very early or very late in the day, leaving a full morning or afternoon for time with non-golfers on the trip.

Do I really need to play every day?

This is a family trip. If you want to play 36 a day and then drink all night, that's a buddy trip. So, the answer here should be "no," even if you have three other willing participants in the clan.

Have I considered the skill level of those likely to play golf with me?

Everyone has a better time when they play well, including the choppers among us. Good on you if, including yourself, you have four single-digits in your family, but it's unlikely unless your name is Nicklaus. Plan an easy track or two for the swing-challenged. If you want to tackle some beasts, see BUDDIES (p. 84)."

Am I willing to sit one out for the team?

I was in Ireland once with my father and two of my brothers, and one morning my father said, "I don't feel like playing today." So, we dropped my brothers off at Lahinch, and papa bear and his baby boy set out to do some sightseeing. We drove 15 minutes before my father said, "I've seen enough rocks and grass. Let's have a pint." Turned out to be one of the great days of my life.

Am I ready to get everyone in the game?

Here we aren't talking about golf. I was in Normandy a few years ago on a family trip. My "me" time was two intense days of D-Day-related touring, but I realized it wasn't everyone's cup of tea. Knowing that, I planned, according to taste, other excursions for family members who hadn't watched "Band of Brothers" 173 times. When one of my daughters wanted to do something particular to her, my son stepped up and said that sounded really fun, and went along with her despite having no idea what he'd actually agreed to do. And guess what? They both really did have fun.

Can I be the peacemaker?

You've been a part of your family long enough to detect the early warning signals that someone is inching toward blowing their stack. As soon as you sense this in someone, start to deflect it—change the subject, talk about something you know the simmerer enjoys, distract, make fun of yourself. Stories that begin "I did something so stupid the other day..." are excellent de-fusers.

Do I really love these people enough to make this trip?

For me, the answer to that question has always been "yes." I hope it's the same for you.

and beer, these four-legged loopers make sure-footed and useful companions. Many of their siblings serve a different purpose at Silvies: In the lodge restaurant, they turn up on the menu.

Also good for: Buddies

silvies.us
(800) 745-8437

4.

French Lick Resort
FRENCH LICK, IN

100-plus rooms in two hotels / 54 holes of golf / 13 restaurants / spa / pool / casino

Best time to go: Spring or fall for golf. **Daily stay-and-plays start at:** \$284. **Golf experience:** Must-plays are the 36 holes at the Donald Ross and Pete Dye courses. **Best non-golf amenity:** After trying your luck on the golf courses, try the same at the casino. **While you're there:** Hoops junkies need to make time to go see the Spring Valley High School gym where Larry Bird worked his magic before heading to Indiana State and the NBA Hall of Fame. **Insider tip:** If you've lost enough dough on the course or at the slots, seek out the bowling alley for a friendly, non-money game. **Travelogue:** Like lots of

great resorts, this isn't the easiest place to get to, but once you've given your GPS a workout, you will be glad you did. Historic and lavish lodging is offered at two hotels: West Baden Springs and French Lick Springs. Plus gambling and golf. What's not to like about that trifecta? If you've never played the Pete Dye Course, you'll be hugely impressed by the site of the '15 Senior PGA Championship. Truly great work by the Indiana native on this dramatic piece of Southern Indiana territory. The Donald Ross Course has been on the property for more than 100 years, and while it's not as dramatic, it's a stirring test by one of the game's master architectures. Golf, gambling, good times. A journey to French Lick is well worth taking.

Also good for: Families

frenchlick.com
(888) 936-9360

5.

Omni Mount Washington Resort
BRETTON WOODS, NH

200 rooms / 27 holes of golf / four restaurants / spa / pools / skiing

Best time to go: Apr. through Aug. is best for

golf; winter for skiing. **Daily stay-and-plays start at:** \$249. **Golf experience:** 27 holes at the excellent Mount Washington GC and the nine-hole Mount Pleasant course. **Best non-golf amenity:** It's hard to beat a lazy afternoon in a rocker on the wraparound porch. **While you're there:** Take the gondola to the top of Mount Washington for an outrageously scenic lunch or mile-high brew. **Insider tip:** The hallway walls are lined with photographs that capture the history of this New England gem. Soak them up.

Travelogue: Like a favorite old uncle with a haircut and fashionable new duds, the Mount Washington Resort, which has welcomed generations of New England travelers, has benefited greatly from a sprucing up—and the millions new owner Omni has pumped into it. The venue, first opened in 1902, still maintains its old-world charm—particularly in the ornate dining room, where an orchestra plays nightly. Also featured is an upgraded spa and a fine 18-hole Donald Ross original (1915). The resort's spectacular screened-in porch allows the scenery to stream in. And as the namesake mountain would suggest, skiing is the name of the game in the wintertime.

Also good for: General Excellence

omnihotels.com
(603) 278-1000

Nos. 6–25, A–Z

Beaver Creek Resort
AVON, CO

Best time to go: Summer and early fall are great for golf; winter for world-class skiing. **Daily stay-and-plays start at:** \$440. **Golf experience:** 18 holes at the Beaver Creek Golf Club and 36 at Red Sky Golf Club. **Best non-golf amenity:** A tremendous village for shopping, eating and drinking. **While you're there:** Make time for fishing, as some of the streams flow close to or actually through the village. **Insider tip:** Traffic can easily become

snarled in the winter due to the snow and crowds. The resort's true ski-in, ski-out setup is a great luxury. **Also good for:** General Excellence **beavercreek.com**
(970) 754-4636

Rosewood Bermuda
HAMILTON, BERMUDA

Best time to go: If you prefer temps in the low 70s, try Mar. and Apr. **Daily stay-and-plays start at:** \$895. **Golf experience:** Elevated tees and mesmerizing views of the Atlantic Ocean on a layout originally laid out by Charles Banks in 1932 and renovated in 2002. **Best non-golf**

This page: Courtesy JW Marriott; Opposite page, from left: Brian Walters; Matthew Turley



French Lick Resort



Omni La Costa Resort & Spa