

*A classic layout,  
Pine Needles has  
hosted three U.S.  
Women's Opens.*

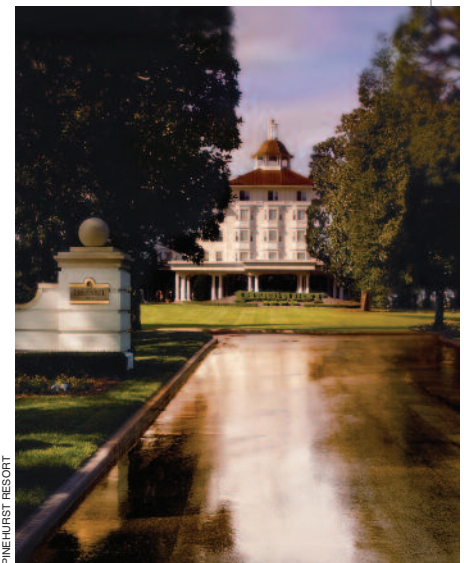
BY JOAN TUPPONCE

# Primed FOR THE Pines

*VENTURE INTO THE LAND OF TRADITION  
AND SWING INTO SOUTHERN LUXURY AT THE  
SANDHILLS OF NORTH CAROLINA*

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hen my brother, an avid golfer, moved to Pinehurst, N.C., he felt as though he had entered the Promised Land. He spent many of his days playing the courses around town. Some of his favorites were at the Pinehurst Resort, Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club and Mid Pines Inn & Golf Club.



*The magnificent Carolina Hotel  
at Pinehurst Resort.*

Pinehurst's legendary golf history began in 1897 when local dairymen wrote to Pinehurst founder James Walker Tufts to say that his guests were hitting little white balls into the cow pasture, affecting milk production. The property, which started as a health resort, became a golf destination in 1898 when John Dunn Tucker completed the No. 1, an 18-hole course in 1899. Donald Ross redesigned the course in 1901.

When Pinehurst No. 2 opened in 1907, it drew golfers to the area, including famed American amateur Francis Ouimet. Today, the 2,000-acre historic property has eight courses. Pinehurst has hosted the world's most prestigious golf events, including the U.S. Open Championship, PGA Championship, Ryder Cup Matches, Champions Tour events as well



**ABOVE:** A variety of courses and golf schools at Pinehurst avail players a host of options to sharpen their game. **RIGHT:** Unwind at the spacious spa at Pinehurst.

as the U.S. Amateur, U.S. Senior Open and U.S. Women's Amateur championships, among others.

The Pinehurst Golf Academy has been recognized as a "Top 25 Golf School in America" by *GOLF Magazine*. Pinehurst PGA Director of Instruction Eric Alpenfels, a "Top-100 Teacher in America," leads a team of 20 instructors that hold traditional weekend schools and corporate academies. The instructors provide private lessons and swing analysis.

**LANDMARK LUXURY**

Part of the resort's charm lies in its main building, the Carolina. The National Historic Landmark was built in 1901. The grand hotel's white colonial design is reminiscent of classic Southern summer resorts – think wide verandas and long expansive porches lined with rocking chairs.

The Carolina recently underwent a \$10 million tri-phased renovation that began in 2005. The project includes the addition of flat-screen televisions, marble-tiled bathrooms and ultra-plush bedding. The resort also unveiled an opulent 1,800-square-foot presidential suite in the Carolina's west wing. The suite has a private entrance to

the hotel's wide veranda and West Lawn and includes a private dining room, living area, wet bar, fireplace and luxurious bath with marble shower and soaking tub.

The Carolina's East Wing rooms and the guest rooms in the Holly Inn will be renovated this year, completing an additional \$5 million renovation.

Along with Pinehurst's famed greens, the hotel also features The Spa at Pinehurst, a 31,000-square-foot facility that offers more than 40 services, ranging from 30-minute therapeutic baths to daylong packages. The Hot Stone Massage is the most popular treatment offered followed by the Magnolia facial.

The spa, which sits on the grounds of the Carolina hotel, also has a three-lane lap pool with cascade whirlpool, a fitness center that includes state-of-the-art Cybex equipment and a salon with services such as hair, makeup and massaging pedicures.

No resort would be complete without a spectacular array of food. Pinehurst features 10 sought-after restaurants. The resort's new executive chef Thierry Debailleul brings more than 20 years of international culinary experience to Pinehurst's tables. This fall, the resort relaxed



its dress code in the Carolina Dining Room so dinner jackets are no longer required, just requested. Tierry also changed the menu in the dining room to an a-la-carte offering with daily chef specials.

Last summer, Pinehurst launched its "Buddy Trip of a Lifetime" experience. The package is loaded with extras including a steak and lobster dinner with a private chef in your own villa to a round on No. 2 with caddies wearing your name. You can even have coffee or Bloody Marys delivered to the first tee when you begin your second day of golf. The three-day, two-night "Buddy Trip of a Lifetime" is available for groups of eight or more and carries an all-inclusive price of \$2,300 per person double occupancy or \$2,800 single occupancy.

**ELEGANT OPULENCE**

The Sandhills of North Carolina are also home to Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club and Mid Pines Inn & Golf Club, two top-notch golf resorts in Southern Pines. Mid Pines Inn & Golf Club opened in 1921 followed by Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club



**The challenging par-4 finishing hole at Mid Pines Inn & Golf Club provides a memorable conclusion to one's round.**

into the World Golf Teacher's Hall of Fame in 2004. In total, Bell belongs to seven different Hall of Fames and was the recipient of the Bob Jones Award in 1990, the USGA's highest honor given in recognition of distinguished sportsmanship in golf.

Fueled by Bell's interest in helping women golfers reach their full potential on the course, Pine Needles is known for its women-only Golfari vacations, established in 1965. Since the inception of the event, approximately 10,000 students have participated. Golfaris provide instruction on the lesson tee and on the golf course from staff that includes many LPGA and PGA teachers of the year as well as many Hall of Fame members. They are also a fun-filled, week-long adventure for the women who participate with evening entertainment and lots of opportunities to relax and socialize.

Mid Pines Inn & Golf Club, a member of Historic Hotels of America, sits directly across Midland Road from Pine Needles. The stately Georgian-style inn is located on over 250 acres of beautiful countryside. You'll find traditional stylings and original antiques in many of the hotel's guest rooms. The hotel also offers seven villas with kitchenettes along the 10th fairway.

In addition to its 18-hole, par-72 Donald Ross-designed golf course, the property features tennis courts as well as a game room. It shares the Pine Needles fitness center with its sister property.

Mid Pines welcomed the 2002 USGA Senior Women's Amateur Championship. This year the resort will host its ninth renewal of the Couples Carousel Easter weekend, from April 8-12. The popular package includes three tournament rounds of golf, special events, meals and more. The friendly, intimate event brings guests back to the resort year after year.

When it comes to dining options, both Pine Needles and Mid Pines offer full-service dining with award-winning chefs preparing everything from seafood to pasta.

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in 1928. The two are similar in tradition and Southern hospitality but very different in design and ambience.

The charmingly rustic Pine Needles is a comfortable haven for golfing enthusiasts. It has been the host site of the 1996, 2001 and 2007 U.S. Women's Open championships as well as the LPGA Tour's 1972 Titleholders Championship.

Nuzzled in a landscape that includes oaks and longleaf pines, the chalet-styled hotel offers a complete resort experience with lodges all within walking distance of the clubhouse and golf course. Each of the lodges at the resort features a patio or balcony with views of the property's championship Donald Ross-designed golf course. The hotel was completely renovated prior to the U.S. Women's Open in 2007. The course was restored in 2004 under the guidance of John Fought, a Ross aficionado.

In addition to the lodges and golf course, Pine Needles has an outdoor pool, indoor game room, lighted Wimbledon-style bentgrass tennis courts and practice facilities that include 80 hitting stations, four practice greens, five bunkers and a four-hole practice loop, which covers more than 20



**Pine Needles' signature par-3 third hole features a postage-stamp style putting surface.**

acres of the property. The resort also boasts the Pine Needles Learning Center where golfers can hone their game.

**A LEGENDARY PRESENCE**

The resort has long been associated with Peggy Kirk Bell and the Bell family. Peggy Bell, a charter member of the LPGA, ran Pine Needles in 1953. Later, she and her husband bought the golf course and the adjoining land and built the resort that stands today. Since beginning her own career, Bell has been interested in golf instruction for women. She was inducted

PINEHURST RESORT (2)

FROM TOP: MID PINES INN & GOLF CLUB; PINE NEEDLES LODGE & GOLF CLUB