

PINEHURST NEWS

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ROMANCE AMONG THE PINES: LOVERS CAN DISCOVER MUCH MORE THAN GOLF IN PINEHURST

VILLAGE OF PINEHURST, N.C. (November 8, 2006) — You're greeted with a wide smile and words tinged with a Southern accent: "Welcome to Pinehurst."

While golfers through the decades have relished hearing that very phrase in this golf mecca, those in the market for romance this Valentine's will delight in an unexplored corner of this landmark property tucked in the Carolina Sandhills: the intimate, 82-room Holly Inn, the crown jewel of Pinehurst Resort.

Cozy accommodations dating to 1895 await as you're escorted to the parlor with its crackling fire reflecting on rich wood paneling. Check-in's a breeze - more warm smiles - and you're quickly whisked to your little piece of heaven for the next few days. The Inn features two bi-level honeymoon suites in period décor, with spacious rooms, seating areas and tiled bathrooms.

Rose petals strewn on a big, cushy bed set the mood, along with the chilling champagne and chocolate-covered strawberries that await those indulging in the Romance Package, perfect for a mid-winter break or Valentine's Day celebrations. Pinehurst signature spa products line a shelf in the bath where a Jacuzzi tub suggests it's time for post-travel de-stressing.

But don't get too comfy. Reception has arranged for your own horse-drawn carriage ride through the Village of Pinehurst, a town so picture-perfect that it could be a movie set.

The clip-clop of hooves accompanies your driver's narration as you pass small storefronts and adorable cottages dating to the early 1900s, all neatly tucked beneath pines that scent the afternoon air and carpet streets and lawns with their needles. For some, Pinehurst's Carolina-blue skies, stillness and greenness stand in sharp contrast to noise, traffic and asphalt left behind.

The village streets' curves are intentional, designed by preeminent landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted (of Central Park design fame) to encourage a slower pace. There are no stoplights.

You may become so enthralled that you stroll across the street from the Holly to the town library, home of the Tufts Archives (you'll know it's open if the outdoor fountain is on - that's just how quaint the Village is). Here, you'll quickly become immersed in the history of this special place from early private pullmans delivering world travelers, to Annie Oakley's shooting exhibitions.

But you and your special someone have come for romance. This undiscovered side of the resort is truly a step back in time: a place of mint juleps in front-porch rockers and homemade scones with afternoon tea; where an old-fashioned Southern breakfast, complete with sausage-and-gravy biscuits, can be enjoyed under Italian-crystal chandeliers against the backdrop of live piano music. It is superseded only by breakfast in bed, with a delectable sampling to while away the morning via room service.

This side of Pinehurst offers a strolling hand-in-hand pace, where you could while away an afternoon on the croquet green or tennis courts or in the only Mobil/Exxon Four-Star rated Spa in the Mid-Atlantic. Why not indulge in the couples massage and his and hers facials along with a leisurely spa lunch in your robes beside the indoor pool? Allow plenty of time to relax here where the hushed changing rooms and lap pool have forest-inspired plush carpeting and tile. There's even six couple's suites for certain treatments - from a luxurious bath escape to full body treatments like the Carolina Peach Nourisher.

There's still gourmet dinner for two waiting to be savored in the Holly Inn's Four-Diamond 1895 Grille, its menu inspired by its Southern setting. A recent Carolina Pot Pie appetizer drew rave guest reviews. After-dinner drinks in the Inn's Tavern offer a look at the impressive, hand-carved Scottish bar

Finally, back in your room, turndown service has revealed a fluffy duvet and fine linens atop a pillowtop mattress ready to cocoon you and yours. Sweet dreams.

Pinehurst's Ultimate Romance Package includes the room extras described, best available free upgrade at check-in, plus breakfast for two for \$299 per couple per night plus tax and service charge available now until March 3, 2007. The Heart 'n Soul of Jazz weekend celebrates Valentine's Day Feb. 9-11, offering jazz concert tickets at \$65 per person per night (\$110 both nights). The weekend features the classic jazz sounds of Freddy Cole on Friday and Tierney Sutton on Saturday. For reservations, call 800-487-4653 or pinehurst.info@pinehurst.com. For additional information on Pinehurst resort, please visit pinehurst.com.

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Top 10 Spots to Steal a Kiss in Pinehurst

Looking for that special spot to smooch during your romantic Pinehurst getaway? Here are a few suggestions:

1. In side-by-side front porch rockers at the Holly Inn;
2. Cuddling by the fire in the Holly Inn's library amid historic prints, old volumes and Tiffany lamps;
3. In the spa's bubbly oasis of relaxation - its centerpiece hot tub;
4. Strolling hand-in-hand up the long Carolina Vista driveway that offers a breathtaking approach to the historic Pinehurst resort's main Carolina Hotel;
5. On the greens at the Pinehurst clubhouse feeling inspired by the golf history that's been made here;
6. Park your complimentary bikes anywhere in the Village of Pinehurst for a little window shopping, then duck down an alleyway, or inside the historic theater building;
7. In the Holly Inn's Jasmine or Laurel suites' oversized Jacuzzi tubs for two. Don't forget the bubble bath and champagne.
8. In the back seat of your horse-drawn carriage ride, sharing a lap blanket.
9. Inside the stairwells of the Carolina Hotel or the Holly Inn. As entrants on the list of National Historic Places, there are plenty of inside nooks and crannies;
10. Across the table over the triple chocolate souffle served in the Holly Inn's 1895 Grille.

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