



SILVERADO RESORT GOLF COURSES

NAPA, Calif. -- It has been 52 years since the first foursome teed off on the Silverado Resort golf course. Since then golfers of varying abilities ranging from novice to professional have played one of *Golf Digest* magazine's top 75 golf resorts in America. The courses received a four-star rating in the *Golf Digest Best Places to Play* guidebook.

Construction of the Silverado golf course began in 1953 under the supervision of designer Ben Harmon. In May 1955 the original 18-hole course opened and was the centerpiece for the resort's development for many years. In 1966, Robert Trent Jones Jr., son of famed golf course architect Robert Trent Jones, debuted his talents by re-designing and reconfiguring the facility to feature two distinct 18-hole championship courses. The courses cover 360 acres and feature lush vegetation, ponds, lakes, three creeks, trees arching over the fairways and artfully placed traps and greens. Both courses are traditional in their design and allow for the natural flow of the Napa Valley to help develop their character.

The 6,685-yard South Course challenges golfers with side-hill lies and more than a dozen water crossings. The North Course, on the other hand, stretches more than 6,900 yards but is occasionally more forgiving.

Silverado has been the site of both PGA Men's Tour and Champion's Tour tournaments. The North Course was host to the Kaiser International Open Invitational from 1968 through 1976 and the Anheuser-Busch Golf Classic from 1977 through 1980. Winners of the tournaments were some of golf's most famous names including Jack Nicklaus, Johnny Miller, Tom Watson and Ben Crenshaw.

The South Course was home to the Senior PGA Tour event "The Transamerica" from 1989 through 2002. Among the winners were Tom Kite and two-time champion Lee Trevino. Billy Casper and Kermit Zarley, previous Kaiser winners on the North Course, won the Transamerica as well.

In 2003, the resort conducted a \$3.5 million golf course renovation on both courses. The most significant project was the installation of a new irrigation system on both courses. The new system allows the resort to use approximately 21 percent less water annually.

The system features new piping, sprinkler heads, pumps, controls and a weather station. The computer-controlled system also allows greenskeepers on the course to selectively water dry spots by sending commands from a personal digital assistant. As conditions vary, the system takes into account factors that affect ET – evapotranspiration rate – such as rainfall, temperature and wind and then

automatically tells the sprinkler head how much water to release. The system was also fitted with equipment to automatically distribute fertilizer.

The bottom line is that less water – a precious commodity in the Napa Valley with all of its thirsty vineyards – is used while a system that is significantly less expensive to operate will eventually pay for itself.

The crews renovated the greenside bunkers by removing old sand, reestablishing the original perimeters, installing new drains, installing one-inch thick fiber mesh that holds new sand in place and placing new sod on the bunker faces.

Tee boxes were renovated with crews stripping the grass, leveling the box and then installing new sod. Fairways were being reseeded with a hybrid Bermuda grass that stands up better to the summer heat.

A new pro shop was completed in 2005.

Tee times can be made by calling 1-800-362-4727.

Silverado also offers 17 tennis courts complemented by a sport shop and professional staff. Rounding out the mix are 10 swimming pools, volleyball courts, basketball courts, jogging trails, 10-speed mountain bikes for rent and a 16,000-square-foot European health spa with 16 treatment rooms, an exercise facility and full-service salon.

Reservations at the Silverado Resort can be made by calling (1) 707-257-0200 or (1) 800-532-0500. The Silverado web site is www.silveradoresort.com. Silverado Resort is operated by Xanterra Parks & Resorts.

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*Long committed to the preservation and protection of the environment, **Ecologix**, Xanterra Parks & Resorts' environmental program, includes a variety of proactive environmental stewardship programs in each location. Xanterra has been repeatedly recognized for its environmental leadership in the hospitality industry and is the recipient of many honors, including major awards from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, Travel Industry Association, Colorado Department of Public Health, State of Arizona and Utah Department of Environmental Quality.*

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