

THE TRAIL GUIDE 25 YEARS

2017 EDITION » THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO ALABAMA'S ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL



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OFF THE TRAIL

REPRESENTATIVE MAC MCCUTCHEON, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
ALABAMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Highlands No. 8 at Hampton Cove



As Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives, I would like to welcome you to our state and one of our most valued treasures, the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. You have visited at a very exciting time. Celebrating its 25th year in 2017, America's Original Golf Trail has had more than 11.5 million rounds of golf played and welcomed countless visitors from around the world.

As a life-long resident of Huntsville and a legislator since 2006, I have seen the direct impact the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail has made both on and off the golf course. RTJ Hampton Cove in Huntsville was one of the original trail sites to open in 1992. Not only did Hampton Cove give us access to world-class golf, it made a tremendous economic impact on our community. Similar scenarios have happened at all 11 Trail sites across Alabama. From residential developments to increasing tourism to helping attract new businesses, RTJ is delivering on what Dr. David G. Bronner envisioned nearly 30 years ago. The quality of life in Alabama is better for our citizens and our guests. Alabama has become an international golf destination which complements our Gulf Coast beaches, U.S. Space & Rocket Center and endless cultural attractions.

By visiting Alabama, you become not only our honored guests, but a critical component of our economy. The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail has consistently been one of the top tourism attractions and is a major catalyst for change. As a farmer, I have a great appreciation for the richness of our land. Fields where crops once grew now have spectacular golf courses where professionals compete in front of an international audience. Amateur golfers, like myself, can select from the Trail's 26 courses across the state and enjoy a round of golf all year long. It is no wonder why the New York Times said "The Trail offers the best public golf on earth."

We are delighted you and your party are visiting Alabama and the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. Good luck on your game and we encourage you to explore our state, stay in our hotels and enjoy Alabama's genuine hospitality.

See you on the Trail.

Mac McCutcheon
Speaker of the House



BACK FORTY
BEER COMPANY

THE OFFICIAL BEER OF THE ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL

Located in Gadsden, Alabama, Back Forty Beer Company is Alabama's oldest packaging brewery. Back Forty's award-winning beers are available at all Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail locations, including the RTJ collaboration beer, *Cart Barn Pilsner*.

— VISIT BACKFORTYBEER.COM/RTJGOLF FOR MORE —



25
YEARS
RTJ

ALABAMA'S
ROBERT TRENT JONES
GOLF TRAIL

THE TRAIL GUIDE 2017



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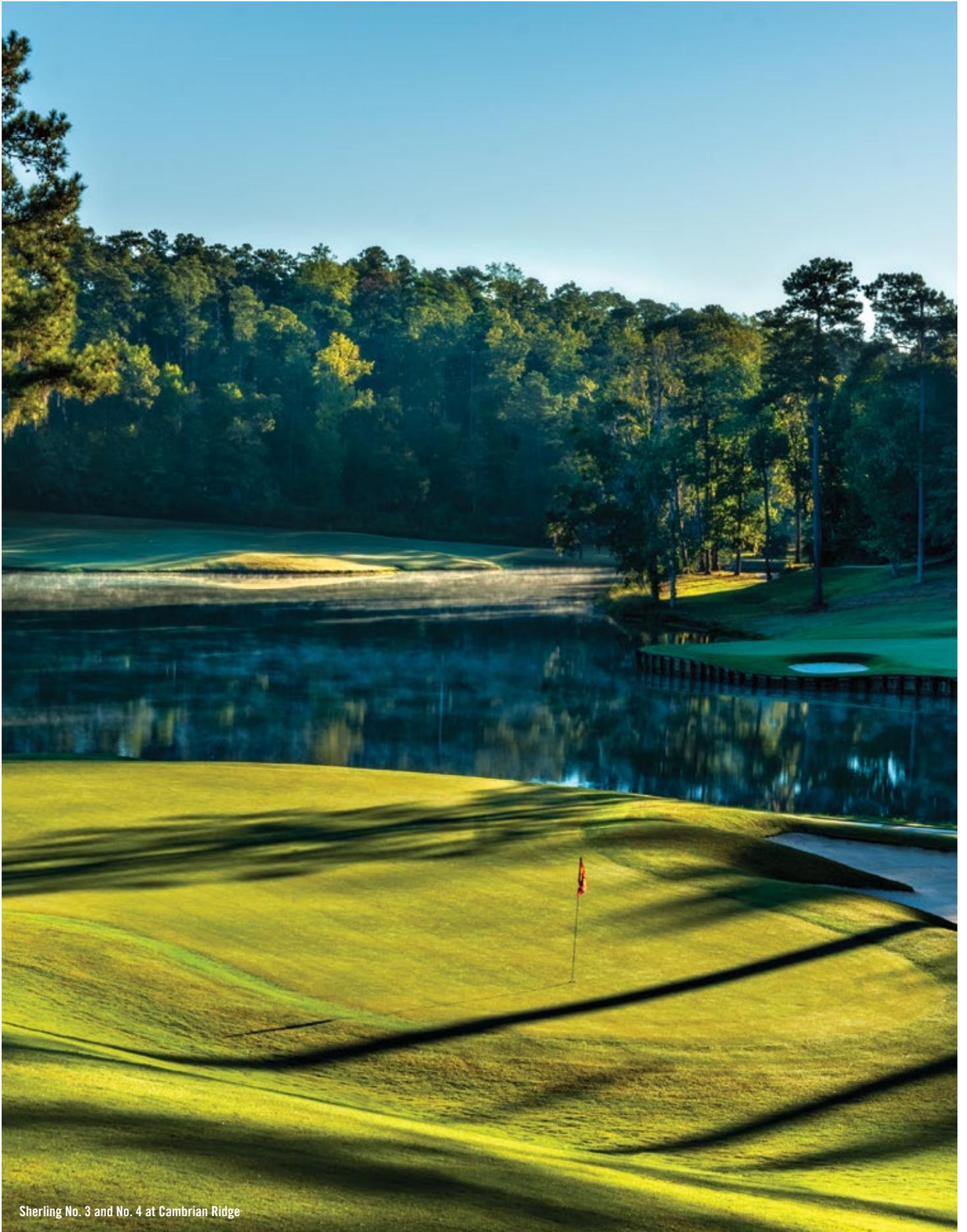
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Loblolly No. 8 at Cambrian Ridge

Golf landscape photography throughout by Michael Clemmer.



Sherling No. 3 and No. 4 at Cambrian Ridge

Alabama did what? Back in 1992, the state christened the RTJ Golf Trail, which today features more than two dozen golf courses strategically located from the top of Alabama to the bottom. This Golf Trail is a rock star. With all the courses linked together in a trail-like format, Alabama established a new trend in golf. This is a very big deal. Extremely popular with the public, these Alabama courses have totaled nearly 12 million rounds of golf in the first 25 years of the Golf Trail. Tale of the tape: The RTJ Golf Trail currently includes 26 courses, 468 holes, and 11 different sites, all open to the public. Visitors come from all over the world, ready to be overwhelmed by great golf and Southern hospitality. They are rarely disappointed. ...»

VISION BECOMES GOLF SENSATION

THE STORY BEHIND AMERICA'S ORIGINAL GOLF TRAIL BY JAMES ACHENBACH

How in the world did Alabama pull this off?

As the story goes, Dr. David G. Bronner, chief executive officer of the Retirement Systems of Alabama, was inspired by the 1989 movie *Field of Dreams* and its famous catchline "Build it and they will come." Yup, Bronner was in fact motivated by *Field of Dreams* and its star, Kevin Costner, although that was baseball and this is golf. What Bronner needed was a vehicle to diversify the investment of state retirement funds. Golf provided the answer.

If Bronner is the father of the RTJ Golf Trail, his offspring are many. Back in 1992, when the Trail first opened, there were 12 courses, 216 holes and 4 sites. Today these numbers have more than doubled.

Let's be honest about all this.

For the Golf Trail, breakneck growth has come with international acclaim. Many golfers are arm-chair major champions, and I admit I am no exception. So, after 25 years of the RTJ Golf Trail, here is my observation: Globally there is no other golf trail or designated collection of public courses that can match the quality, diversity, affordability, accessibility and ease of travel of Alabama's Robert Trent Jones courses.

This includes the storied links courses of Scotland and Ireland, and it includes the other golf trails that have been established in the wake of the successful Alabama experiment. Don't get me wrong. No golfer should bad-mouth any course. It pays to be grateful for all golf facilities. I love golf in Scotland and Ireland, and there is something very special about playing golf on sand-based linksland next to the sea. Being there is a social and cultural experience as well as a golf adventure.

Meanwhile, being at the RTJ Golf Trail is a golf experience, an Alabama experience. Maximizing golf is a simple matter. Driving from site to site is easy. Playing 36 holes a day is absolutely no problem with Daylight Savings Time. And there is that legendary down-home hospitality. From Muscle Shoals on the north end of the state to Mobile on the southern end alongside the Gulf of Mexico, the charm and ambiance of the RTJ Golf Trail never wavers. All golfers should savor this experience at least once in their golf pursuits.



Who was RTJ?

Robert Trent Jones, who died in 2000 just a few days short of his 94th birthday, was a man who almost singlehandedly raised the profile of golf course architects after World War II. He designed or redesigned more than 500 golf courses. Long before his son Rees Jones was nicknamed the "U.S. Open doctor" for updating some of America's best courses, Robert Trent Jones had his fingerprints all over the redesigns of Southern Hills, Tanglewood, Oak Hill, Oakland Hills, Olympic, Hazeltine, Congressional, Bellerive, Baltusrol, even Augusta National — all of them major championship courses.

Ben Hogan uttered the best-known tournament quote relating to the golf course handiwork of Jones. At the awards ceremony for the 1951 U.S. Open at Oakland Hills outside Detroit, Hogan said, "I'm glad I brought this course, this monster, to its knees."

RTJ GOLF TRAIL AND THE FUTURE OF THE GAME

THE RTJ GOLF TRAIL features 26 courses at 11 sites, and each site has its own director of golf. These golf professionals tend to be very thoughtful about their responsibilities and the importance of exposing new golfers to the game.

Mike Beverly is the director of golf at **RTJ CAPITOL HILL**, a 54-hole complex in Prattville.

"We are very serious about helping golfers enjoy the game," Beverly said. "This is the best training in the world. I tell the people on my staff that this job will expose them to everything. It will get them ready for any pro job. I liken it to the Super Bowl team where other teams want to raid your guys every year."

Creating new generations of junior golfers has become very important in Alabama. So, at RTJ

Capitol Hill, a fulltime instructor regularly visits local schools, introducing golf to the students. There are after-school and weekend clinics. There is a program in conjunction with the YMCA. The national Drive, Putt and Chip Championship is thriving here.

At **RTJ MAGNOLIA GROVE** in Mobile, two week-long summer camps are scheduled for juniors. A high school golf program runs from January into May. Furthermore, high school and college teams can be seen all over the place.

"We are not talking about run-of-the-mill golf courses here," said Paul Martino, director of golf at Magnolia Grove. "These courses are unbelievable, and we know how meaningful it is to teach kids to appreciate these courses."

At **RTJ HAMPTON COVE** in Huntsville, five high school teams practice and play. Director of golf Steve Mack likes to point out that all the Golf Trail courses have established close relationships with the areas in which they are built. Promoting junior golf is a pillar of the Golf Trail structure.

And so it is throughout the Trail network — golf facilities working hand in hand with local residents, governments and businesses. When talk turns to giving something back to their communities and to the sport, Alabama's Golf Trail has done more than its share.

"Virtually all the businesses are locally owned," summarized Lee Sentell, Alabama's director of tourism. "It's been organic growth, not people coming in to change the culture."



Senator Course at Capitol Hill



Dogwood No. 11 at Lakewood

“All these people, many of them golfers, were driving like hell through Alabama, mostly going to Florida,” Dr. Bronner observed. “Our mission was to divert them. So far, I think, we’ve done pretty well.”



Another of his sons, Robert Trent Jones Jr., followed his father's footsteps by creating courses around the world. He also was chosen in the fierce competition to design the Chambers Bay course used for the 2015 U.S. Open. The two brothers, who are rivals for some of the same golf course projects, have developed something of a contentious relationship. In the spirit of honesty, I should admit I have long been a fan of the Jones family. Even when the brothers temporarily stopped talking to one another, I continued to count both as my friends.

Now, after nearly 40 years of writing weekly columns for *Golfweek* Magazine, it is ironic to me that my retirement from fulltime journalism will coincide, more or less, with the 25th anniversary of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. Along the way, I have covered 46 consecutive Masters. For this, I earned a Major Achievement Award from Augusta National. The way I figure it is this: If nothing else, retirement

should allow me to play more golf. One of my goals is to play all 26 RTJ Golf Trail courses in a single two-week period.

When the concept of the RTJ Golf Trail was first announced, Dr. Bronner became the Deep South's favorite whipping boy. "People were so sick of me," Bronner said with a laugh. "They said to themselves, 'Here's the chance to get rid of that little creep.' Buzzards were all around my head."

Maybe so, but the buzzards took flight, and Alabama's Golf Trail has made an icon out of Dr. Bronner. For example, his decision to build golf courses resulted in many cars being built in Alabama. Auto manufacturers opening plants in Alabama included Mercedes, Hyundai, Honda and Toyota.

John Cannon, chief executive of Sunbelt Golf Corp. which manages the Golf Trail, told a story about Hyundai. "They (Hyundai executives) were at our course hitting

balls at 5:30 every morning," Cannon related. "If not for golf, I don't think we'd have gotten them. That project in itself is billions of dollars in development."

The genius of Dr. Bronner can be seen in the overall plan for the RTJ Golf Trail. The state did not pay for any of the land. Rather, the individual communities provided the land. "He (Dr. Bronner) flew Mr. Jones around the state in a helicopter," said Lee Sentell, Alabama tourism director. "What he said to Mr. Jones was this: 'You pick out the land, and I'll get it.' Everywhere he built a golf course, economic development flourished around it."

With Jones in failing health, most of the design work was done by longtime Jones associate Roger Rulewich. It wasn't ho-hum repetitive design. Rulewich hurled himself into the project, driving throughout the state and creating route plans that fit the topographical regions of the state. "It was seat-of-your-pants work," Rulewich said. "Most of it was site design. We would drive from site to site, designing holes as we went. It might sound crazy, but it was the greatest way in the world to work. It was very free-form." Rulewich, as it turned out, had the dogged personality and calm demeanor to handle this whirlwind project. Furthermore, he benefitted greatly from having a responsive and flexible golf course construction firm owned by Jones.

Variation remains a key for the golf courses. There is a design diversity that fosters lasting memories of many of the Trail layouts. Greens fees are low, and a

common \$65 fee includes golf cart and unlimited range balls. Most of the courses have five sets of tees, allowing golfers to choose the proper overall length. Several professional events have been held on Golf Trail courses, and 2016 welcomed both PGA (Barbasol Championship) and LPGA (Yokohama Tire LPGA Classic) tournaments. Many package and promotional deals are available for visitors. For Alabama residents, the fees are spectacularly affordable.

The Alabama formula for the RTJ Golf Trail, it seems, cannot be duplicated. According to Bronner, "It's too big, too complicated. We were there at the right time."

Dr. Bronner has a reputation as a perfectionist. Thus the Trail is dotted with Renaissance and Marriott hotels. Thus the Golf Trail's in-house reservations center will take care of all the golf and housing arrangements for Golf Trail players. Golfers can even indicate their preferences for filling out their foursomes. For example, a husband and wife might want to be paired with another husband and wife. Done!

"People laughed when David Bronner said he was going to change Alabama's image through golf," Sentell said. "All these people, many of them golfers, were driving like hell through Alabama, mostly going to Florida," Dr. Bronner observed. "Our mission was to divert them. So far, I think, we've done pretty well."

Attention to all drivers headed south through Alabama: Please slow down, rock star ahead. ■

ULTIMATE ROAD TRIP: GOLFERS FLOCK TO RTJ FROM AROUND THE WORLD

108 HOLES IN FOUR DAYS AND A SERIOUS MIXTURE OF HANDICAPS.

In Vermont, Allan Ramsay has been a family doctor all his professional life. His friend Larry Shirland, before retirement, was a professor in the school of business at the University of Vermont.

Both have handicaps in the 20s. Clearly they are not members of the PGA TOUR. With a little embellishment, however, they could be classified as touring pros for the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. That's because they love to take golf vacations in Alabama.

Every year around Memorial Day, they are joined by Ramsay's long-hitting son, musician Adam Ramsay, for 108 holes of golf on the RTJ Golf Trail. Adam ventures down from New York City, where he teaches music in the New York public school system. At each separate course, the final member of the foursome generally is a single looking for a game.

"We like meeting people," said Allan. "We see golfers from all over the world."

And they like statistics.

"Well, we like to keep score," Allan observed. "Also, Larry keeps a spread sheet. We like to be very accurate. It's not only scores. It's penalty shots, lost balls, how many pars, how many birdies, who's going to pay for the beer."

With five sets of tee markers on most courses, the Golf Trail easily accommodates golfers of different handicap levels. "Allan and I nearly always play from the white tees," Larry explained,

"and Adam normally plays from the orange tees." Adam's perspective: "These are world-class golf courses, but anybody can play them if they choose the right tees. This multitude of tees makes it fair for all golfers."

The three have played each of the 26 Trail courses, and, of course, they like to keep track of the hotels and restaurants they encounter.

Sometimes, feeling lighthearted, they assume alternative voices and pretend there are spectators or announcers along with the group. So superstar commentator Jim Nantz may not know it, but in spirit he has made an appearance or two with the boys from Vermont.

"If you're a big golf fan, which I am," Adam said, "it's all fun."

And then the really big compliment: "When I talk to my friends in Vermont," Allan said, "a lot of them have heard about the Trail. They all seem to have it on their bucket list with places like St. Andrews, Muirfield, Pebble Beach."

Those who visit the RTJ Golf Trail usually know exactly how much golf they want to play. The Vermont threesome goes 18-36-36-18 in four days for a total of 108 holes. This four-day format is popular with many groups.

In Memphis, Bruce Steinkamp is the ringleader of a gang of golfers that has grown as high as

24 players. They, too, play 108 holes in four days of Trail golf, choosing up teams and following a modified Ryder Cup format.

The intensity of the Ryder Cup is invoked by many groups who come to Alabama. Team competition appeals to them. Steinkamp has even had European golfers among his group, although most come from Tennessee, Michigan, Florida and North Carolina.

Some of the players are business associates of Steinkamp, who advises large manufacturers in the areas of distribution and warehousing.

From Mississippi, hospital administrator Doug Higginbotham brings in 16 to 20 golfers each year — again for 108 holes — and they exhibit a huge variety of handicaps.

"Some are near scratch, and some can't break 100," Higginbotham said, "but we make it work. We set up teams and equalize their playing abilities."

He has thought a lot about what keeps him coming back.

"We have never once showed up at a course that they weren't ready for us. Our carts are there, our names are on them. It's pretty much one call (to the Trail's in-house reservations center), and everything is taken care of. The food is always good. Everything is as smooth as silk. Quite honestly, that's why we do it. That, and the high quality of the courses. They're fantastic."



Short Course No. 4 at Silver Lakes



Short Course No. 6 at Silver Lakes



· THE ·
NEW TRAIL
RTJ RENOVATES ORIGINAL
GOLF COURSES

BY DOUG MILNE, JR.

In the Creek Indian language, the word Alabama means “Tribal Town.” Now, this isn’t to suggest that the residents and businesses in the state comprise something small. The fact is, Alabamians are leaders, innovators and forward-thinkers. Individually and collectively, they’ve raised bars to unprecedented heights. And, nowhere has that been more evident than with the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. It’s hard to believe that it has been 25 years since the first ball off the first tee of the first course along The Trail was sent into the Alabama sky.



Ridge No. 3 at Oxmoor Valley

By now, folks the world over know the story of the brain child of Dr. David G. Bronner, Chief Executive Officer, Retirement Systems of Alabama. The story began 25 years ago amid equal parts intrigue, skepticism and optimism. In short, the idea was to use the game of golf to not only increase the allure of Alabama as a vacation destination, but at the same time to dramatically boost the state’s economy.

“Dr. Bronner had a vision that making the entire state of Alabama a world-class golf destination could not only create new tourism opportunities for the state, but could also enhance the reputation of the state of Alabama and its citizens, thus creating other economic development opportunities yet unknown,” said John Cannon, President and CEO of Sunbelt Golf Corporation, which has overseen the development, construction and management of The Trail since its 1992 inception.

Since becoming a part of The Trail in 1998, Cannon still marvels at the world’s largest golf undertaking.

“I can’t even imagine the early development years from 1990-1993, when our founder Bobby Vaughan, along with Mr. Jones, his associate Roger Rulewich and a construction crew of over 700 were building 18 golf courses at seven very different locations all at the same time,” Cannon said. “Anyone who has ever developed and built one golf course knows how ridiculous it would be to even attempt something of this scale.”

“Back 20 to 25 years ago, there was a funny feeling around Alabama,” said Dr. Bronner. “The natives would say ‘Well, Alabama has a great potential, but it never does anything.’ So, we thought about how you change an entire state. Changing a town is one thing. You bring a new factory in and you’ve changed a town. But, if we created something in the state of Alabama that the rest of the United States doesn’t have, that being the Trail, could we get tourism and industry to look at us and come to us that wouldn’t have otherwise? Our vision was to change the whole state, similar to how President Eisenhower changed our entire country after World

25 TIPS FROM THE PROS ON PLAYING RTJ

When one breaks it down, most impressive about the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is that which is understood best by numbers. Consider this; **11 LOCATIONS** throughout the state of Alabama are comprised of **26 GOLF COURSES** and a massive **468 HOLES OF GOLF**.

- » On average more than **500,000 INDIVIDUALS** play the courses each year.
- » Players come **FROM ALL 50 STATES** and **MORE THAN 20 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES** to play the courses annually.
- » To date, nearly **12 MILLION ROUNDS OF GOLF** have been played.
- » Since reaching fruition in 1992, the Trail helped create a tourism industry valued at **\$1.9 BILLION**. In 2015, that number had ballooned to a staggering **\$13 BILLION**.
- » More than **1,100 EVENTS** are held annually on the various Trail layouts.

On an individual level, there have been countless aces, personal bests, first-time players and memories etched in stone across all of Alabama, thanks to The Trail. And, so now, we find ourselves at the threshold of the most significant number of all – 25. **FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS**, each of those numbers above have been accumulating.

With that said, it's only prudent that we pay tribute to that magical number with a list of 25 things which make the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail unique. While an endeavor which effectively changed the complexion, economy and livelihood of an entire state cannot be capsulized in a mere list of 25 highlights, we present 25 things which can certainly be attributed to its success and allure from professionals who've been there, competed there and won there.



1. “The scenery is amazing. All of the courses are really beautiful. It fits any level of player. You can play the courses from over 7,700 yards or from under 6,000 yards. They’re just really cool golf courses on really good pieces of land.”

Patton Kizzire, PGA TOUR member and Montgomery native

2. “The idea of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail was such a great idea. Golf is so good for your health. It gets people out and active and healthier, which helps people live longer. So, it probably helps a lot of people put off retirement for even a little longer.”

Aaron Baddeley, winner of the 2016 Barbasol Championship

3. “Over 1,000 employees of SunBelt Golf Corporation individually and collectively take such great pride in the Trail and what it means to the state of Alabama.”

John Cannon, President and CEO, Sunbelt Golf Corporation

4. “There are just so many of them, so many good courses. It feels like there is one in every county in Alabama. They’re just really good golf courses. They are great not only for pros, but also for amateurs who just want to go out and play golf...no matter of their handicap.”

Trey Mullinax, PGA TOUR Member and Birmingham native

5. “Every one of the courses provides a different challenge. It’s just a really cool experience. I’ve played about 75 percent of them and they are all really pretty. I’ve enjoyed playing all across the state.”

Patton Kizzire

6. “My favorite thing is most of them are really hard if you tip them out. I grew up in Mobile playing the Crossings and Falls Courses at Magnolia Grove, and we had qualifying there in high school. From the backs, it was brutal. But move them up, take my father-in-law and brother-in-law and we play them in Birmingham all the time, and they move up to the orange or ahead of that and it’s not that bad at all. That’s one of the best things about them.”

Zack Sucher, PGA TOUR Member and Birmingham resident

7. “I’d have to go with the elevated tee shot in Prattville, Alabama. It’s the first hole on the Judge Course, hitting down to the fairway up against the lake on the right. That is probably my most memorable and favorite hole on the Trail.”

Patton Kizzire

8. “The first hole at the Judge in Prattville is simply unbelievable, a must-see and play.”

Zach Sucher.

9. “Grand National has some awesome holes, but my favorite is the third hole at the Ridge in Birmingham. There’s one hole in particular there, with this funky and cool rock hill around the green. It’s such a fun hole.”

Zack Sucher

12. “A lot of the holes you can be aggressive with your tee shot to set yourself up for birdies, but there’s always a couple holes where you are happy to walk away with a par. It’s an excellent mix of challenge and scoring opportunities.”

Amy Anderson, LPGA Member

14. “We have Oxmoor Valley and Ross Bridge, where I live. The 18th hole at RTJ Ross Bridge is a really good hole. It’s a par-4 with water down the right and a good bunker layout. It’s just a really good hole and easily one of my favorites.”

Trey Mullinax



10. “I had the pleasure of playing with Dr. Bronner in a Pro-Am, and it was absolutely fascinating to hear about how the idea came about, the architects they talked to and how they procured the land. What an amazing and successful idea for the Retirement Systems of Alabama.”

Kris Tamulis, LPGA Member and winner of the 2015 Yokohama Tire LPGA Classic at Capitol Hill

11. “They are courses that are challenging, but not too difficult. They are great for amateurs, and overall just a really good place to go and enjoy golf.”

Trey Mullinax

13. “Less than 10 percent of Americans play golf on a regular basis. In Alabama, however, golf in the form of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail touches virtually everyone’s life.”

John Cannon

15. “The course suited my eye, and the views of downtown Montgomery are beautiful and take my mind off of golf. The greens the week I won were the fastest greens I’ve ever played on in my 12 years on Tour. Players were taking their time over two footers because on a side slope they were breaking so much. It was intimidating. They were pure though.”

Kris Tamulis

16. “With the work they have done at each of the 11 Trail sites, it is just off the Richter Scale with how awesome these courses are now.”

Dr. David Bronner, CEO, Retirement Systems of Alabama and brainchild of the Trail



Lake No. 2 at Grand National

War II with the interstate system. He didn't impact just one state in the country, but he changed the whole country."

Today, 25 years later, the Trail boasts 26 golf courses at 11 facilities in virtually every corner of Alabama. The Trail hosts more than 1,100 events annually, including the PGA TOUR's Barbasol Championship at Grand National in Auburn/Opelika. As a result, millions of dollars are contributed each year to schools, healthcare and community services.

To put the size and scope of the Trail into perspective, consider this; Annually, over 500,000 golfers play on 468 holes at 26 courses at 11 different locations. In a typical year, folks come to the Trail from all 50 states and an average of 20 foreign countries, totaling nearly 12 million rounds to date.

With that said, as the Trail celebrates its silver anniversary this year, major renovations and upgrades were made to the original seven sites; Oxmoor Valley (Birmingham), Hampton Cove (Huntsville), Grand National (Auburn/Opelika),

Magnolia Grove (Mobile), Highland Oaks (Dothan), Silver Lakes (Calhoun County) and Cambrian Ridge (Greenville).

"Beginning in 2005, contours were softened to accommodate modern green speeds," Cannon said. "Every original green was re-grassed with the newest generation of appropriate grasses for each location (heat-resistant bent grass in the northern part of the state and ultradwarf Bermudas everywhere else). We also removed over 130 of the original bunkers and completely rebuilt those which remained. Additionally, we have completely redesigned 22 holes, including moving and rerouting seven different holes in Mobile, Greenville and Huntsville."

Though the initial seven locations received the most significant upgrading, Dr. Bronner is quick to note that as of October 2016, all 11 sites had received upgrades and renovations, varying in degree.

"We started on these renovations a number of years ago and have gone from site to site," Dr. Bronner said. "No question, they have done a fabulous job. The entire



Crossings No. 8 at Magnolia Grove

staff at every one of the sites has done a remarkable job. I just saw the renovations at Greenville and was totally blown away. It just amazed me how they so greatly enhanced and improved each site.”

In 2017 and '18, work will continue. All 36 greens at Lakewood Club in Point Clear will be re-surfaced with TifEagle Ultradwarf grass. This endeavor will accompany a new practice facility and short-game area created in 2016.

“This project will ensure Lakewood remains the premier resort/club golf experience along the Gulf Coast,” said Cannon.

And so, as it makes the turn and embarks on its next 25 years, the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail will do so not only on the solid ground set by its past, but also with the encouraging prospect of a remarkable future. In its wake, there is everything from personal-best rounds and first hole-in-ones to jobs, schools and improved healthcare. The silver anniversary of the Trail issues also hope and promise for the retiring to embrace in comfort their golden years.

“When we started out, this program was a \$1.8 billion industry a year,” Dr. Bronner said. “Now, it’s an annual \$12.6 billion industry. What this has done is affect the north to the central to the south of the state with tourism. Those dollars flow into those communities. Most impressive is how something like that can fundamentally change a family. You not only allow them to be financially secure, but it trickles down to the next generation of kids who will now be able to go to college. Previously, everything we recruited was out of this country and now you actually have companies within the United States looking at Alabama in a different light than they would have 20-25 years ago.”

“What our millions of guests from the past 25 years can expect from us is that we will continue to improve our properties along with their expectations,” Cannon said. “While we may be 25 years old now, every time you return, there is something new and improved for you to enjoy along Alabama’s Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.” ■

17. “The facilities at all the Trail courses I’ve been to are always awesome. And, the food!!! Oh my goodness, they can make some banana pudding and macaroni and cheese!”

Kris Tamulis

18. “The clubhouse food at all the Trail courses is simply awesome!”

Kelly Shon, LPGA Member

19. “An amazing thing is that I played an AJGA event at Magnolia Grove, then played an LPGA event there about 10 years later. It had only improved and was still a really fun course. All the holes are different and the greens are great.”

Kris Tamulis

20. “I’ve had nothing but good experiences, and my husband played the Barbasol Championship in Auburn. He enjoyed it, as well. Obviously, they are great courses and host big events.”

Gerina Piller, LPGA Member and wife of PGA TOUR Member Martin Piller

21. “The Lake Course at Grand National is such a great spot with an awesome atmosphere there at 18. During the Barbasol Championship, the place is surrounded by chalets and there were great vantage points from everywhere around that fairway and green.”

Aaron Baddeley

22. “The Senator Course is my favorite. It’s a course that seems like I wouldn’t be successful at. There are some dog-leg holes that long hitters can cut the corner on and some reachable par-5 holes. I always played really well there!”

Kris Tamulis

23. “I played two courses at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in Prattville. I like them all, because they are all different from each other. Of the two I played in Prattville, Judge Course is really tree-lined, so you really have to work your ball. The one we played for our tournament, the Senator Course, is more links style. I like it because it definitely suits my game. You can definitely cut corners and definitely have an advantage for the length. I’m definitely a fan of them. I’ve played well there, and when you play well, you tend to like the courses. So I think it’s a neat track.”

Gerina Piller



24. “The 18th hole on the Lake Course at Grand National is an incredible hole. It’s a tough driving hole, with a bunker down the left side. I hit it perfectly down the middle of the fairway in the playoff and had about 65 yards in. I hit a smooth 8-iron in there. To make that putt like that to win was so special, especially having my family there. That’s certainly a Robert Trent Jones Trail memory my family and I will never forget.”

Aaron Baddeley

25. “I think all of the courses are really fun for all abilities. Very playable and how cool that anyone off the road can go play a course where all the best

players in the world on all Tours have played!! As a lover of the game, I can’t imagine anything cooler.”

Kris Tamulis



BADDELEY SURVIVES FOUR-HOLE PLAYOFF TO WIN BARBASOL

BY DOUG MILNE, JR.

By all accounts, the inaugural Barbasol Championship in 2015 provided incredible excitement, drama and memorable stories. Scott Piercy posted back-to-back, 6-under 65s in rounds three and four to collect his third PGA TOUR title, while Alabama native Will Wilcox sank a 60-foot bomb of a birdie putt on the last hole Sunday to claim runner-up honors. It would be interesting to see how year two could measure up.

“I’ll never forget that putt to win the Barbasol Championship,” Baddeley said. “Si Woo and I had grinded back and forth the entire time, so to be able to win in dramatic fashion like that was incredible and to have my wife and four kids there was amazing.”

As any good story should, year two of the Barbasol Championship provided even more drama and excitement. It took the young event to the next level with record-breaking feats, remarkable storylines and an impassioned victory for a very worthy champion.

We start with the records. Following a pair of pars at Nos. 10 and 11 to start his second round, Venezuela’s Jhonattan Vegas went birdie-eagle-birdie-birdie-birdie-eagle-par to post an outgoing, 8-under 28 and get to 14-under. He began round two tied for the lead at 6-under. Vegas’ second eagle of the day, an ace at No. 17, marked his first hole-in-one on the PGA TOUR. He dunked his tee shot using a 7-iron from 190 yards. Vegas’ stretch of four birdies and two eagles tied Kevin Na for the best birdie/eagle streak on the PGA TOUR in the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season and his four birdies, three pars and two eagles on Nos. 10-18 was good for an opening-nine, 8-under 28, tying the lowest nine-hole score last season on TOUR in relation to par.

On his inward nine, Vegas would add birdies at No. 2, 5, 8 and 9 to post a career-low, course- and tournament- record 11-under 60. Before last year’s second round at the Barbasol Championship, his lowest score on TOUR was 63. The previous tournament low was 63, posted by Jason Gore and Vaughn Taylor in round three of 2015. Even though Vegas would lose some steam on the weekend with back-to-back, 1-over 72s, he still managed to finish tied for fourth.

Still riding the wave of momentum a week later at the RBC Canadian Open, perhaps, Vegas made nine birdies in the final round, including his last three holes, to win the event. “Without question, shooting 60, my best round ever, at the Barbasol Championship inspired me in Canada,” Vegas said. “I felt like after the 72s on the weekend, I had something to prove. I knew I could win again. So, yeah, the Barbasol Championship really motivated me to keep going. And, I did. And, it obviously paid off. Of course, I would have really liked to have won in Alabama after a round like that. The staff and volunteers really made me feel at home.”

Graham DeLaet, who represented Canada in last year’s Men’s Olympic Golf competition, fired a final-round, 8-under 63 at Grand National to finish inside the top 10 at T8. “I’ll always remember that final round at the Barbasol Championship, because it was my lowest round in two years,” said DeLaet. “It was my third top-10 finish of the season and really helped me advance to the FedExCup Playoffs for a fifth-straight season.”

Robert Garrigus began Sunday’s final round a whopping 12 strokes back and in 61st place. A 9-under 62 Sunday, however, vaulted him all the way up to an 11th-place finish at 10-under 203. “I had pretty much counted myself out after Saturday,” Garrigus said. “But, I guess sometimes when you have nothing to lose, you really do have everything to gain. I remember that Sunday so well. The course and greens were in phenomenal shape. I was sinking putts from all over the course and my approach shots were right on, too. It was a really special round and just goes to show you don’t ever count yourself out.”

As the best is saved for last in any PGA TOUR event, so too is the best emerging here. When last year’s Barbasol Championship got underway, Australia’s Aaron Baddeley had gone five long years without a victory. Playing out of the Past Champion category on the PGA TOUR, he was nearing the end of his exempt status. After Friday’s second round, the soft-spoken Baddeley found himself a discouraging 11 strokes off the pace. Following round three, however, he had narrowed the gap to three strokes. With a final-round, 5-under 66, Baddeley managed to force sudden death with South Korea’s Si Woo Kim.

With drama building and darkness falling, it wasn’t until the fourth extra hole that Baddeley broke away. A spectacular, 28-foot birdie back at the 18th hole not only gave Baddeley his fourth career win on the PGA TOUR, but it also gave him new life. The win at Grand National came with a two-year exemption to the TOUR, carrying him through the 2017-18 season. “I’ll never forget that putt to win the Barbasol Championship,” Baddeley said. “Si Woo and I had grinded back and forth the entire time, so to be able to win in dramatic fashion like that was incredible and to have my wife and four kids there was amazing.”

So, while 2015 was one heck of an inaugural event for the Barbasol Championship, the 2016 tournament raised the bar several notches, which is exactly how it should be. “My hat is off to the staff and volunteers. Even though it was just the second year of the tournament, everything went incredibly smooth all week,” Baddeley added. “The grounds crew also did an amazing job. The golf course was in great condition all week. From start to finish — especially the finish — it was just a wonderful week at Grand National on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.”

With that sentiment echoed by every player who competed in the event, 2017 is setting up to be even more impressive. ■



PLAYING AS A SPONSOR INVITE in his first-ever PGA TOUR event, local favorite and Auburn grad Michael Johnson closed with a bogey-free, 6-under 65 to claim solo possession of third place at Grand National. The 23-year-old also posted 65 in round two. “It was great walking up 18 Sunday. Auburn is such a great city, the Auburn family,” Johnson said. “It’s just getting out here that’s the hard part. So, it’s a huge confidence boost. I felt like I belonged out here this week, which was great. It was awesome.”

Johnson, who graduated from Auburn University just prior to last year’s Barbasol Championship, was a 2015-16 *GolfWeek* First-Team All-American, who also broke the single season Auburn scoring record last year with a stroke average of 70.37. Had Johnson won last year’s Barbasol Championship, he would have become the first player to win on a sponsor invitation since Billy Hurley III at the 2016 Quicken Loans National. Though he didn’t win, Johnson did finish alone in third place at the Barbasol Championship. By virtue of that top-10 finish at Grand National, Johnson earned a spot into the following week’s field at the RBC Canadian Open.

ON TAP.

BY ANNETTE THOMPSON

BACK FORTY
BEER CO.
AND RTJ
TEAM UP
TO CRAFT
BEER FOR
THE TRAIL.





Founder and CEO of Back Forty Beer Company, Jason Wilson, has always loved golf. He says he's been playing 34 of his 36 years. As a kid in Gadsden, Alabama, his dad brought him along to his job at the local Goodyear plant on summer days. Jason would walk out the back of the parking lot to the company golf course and play as many as 54 holes a day. "Golf was my baby sitter," he says.

So it's no surprise that Jason wanted to be a part of the Silver Lakes construction. "I was 14, and Mom had to sign a waiver to let me work," he said. He proudly claims the position of wilt watcher/syringer on the Heartbreaker #9 bentgrass green. Once Silver Lakes opened, he got to know the folks there as a respectable golfer as well.

Fast forward to the present, and Jason (like most of us) can't find enough time to squeeze in 18 holes. Back Forty Beer Co. takes up most of his daylight hours.

“These are the most iconic brands in the state: RTJ, Talladega, the Flora-Bama, Dreamland Bar-B-Que. We are now a part of that.”

Now a 15 handicapper ("that number depends on the sweet spot of the number of beers I've had," he says), he likes to get out on the Trail "to play with strangers and pull 2 or 3 shots along the round so they think I used to be a good golfer," he laughs.

Whether or not that even-par game ever returns, Jason is a natural at crafting beer. In fact, his Back Forty Beer Co. was one of Alabama's first craft breweries, and Jason was instrumental in changing Alabama's laws to accommodate the craft beer industry. Today Back Forty ships their beer to five states, China, Canada

and Mexico. And, Jason has partnered with the Trail to create a special brew just for the Golf Trail.

"We've been talking and plotting together for three or four years," says John Cannon, president of Sunbelt Golf, the company that runs the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. "This is a fun marriage between two Alabama brands that are only going to get better in the future," Cannon says. "It's an organic relationship that sprung out of a mutual respect of what we want to do for Alabama. It's great for all of us."

Wilson agrees. "These are the most iconic brands in the state: RTJ, Talladega, the Flora-Bama, Dreamland Bar-B-Que. We are now a part of that. Our Southern culture and cuisine epitomizes our diversity," he says.

Back Forty's brewers worked till they came up with Cart Barn Pilsner, a refreshing take on the classic pilsner recipes of Eastern Europe. This light-bodied lager joins the stable of Back Forty's year-round brews: Naked Pig Pale Ale, Truck Stop Honey Brown Ale, and Freckle Belly India Pale Ale. All are available on the RTJ Trail in the beverage carts and grills, as well as in our trail resorts. And now you may also purchase the fashionable beer glasses in the pro shops to sip your Back Forty at home in style.

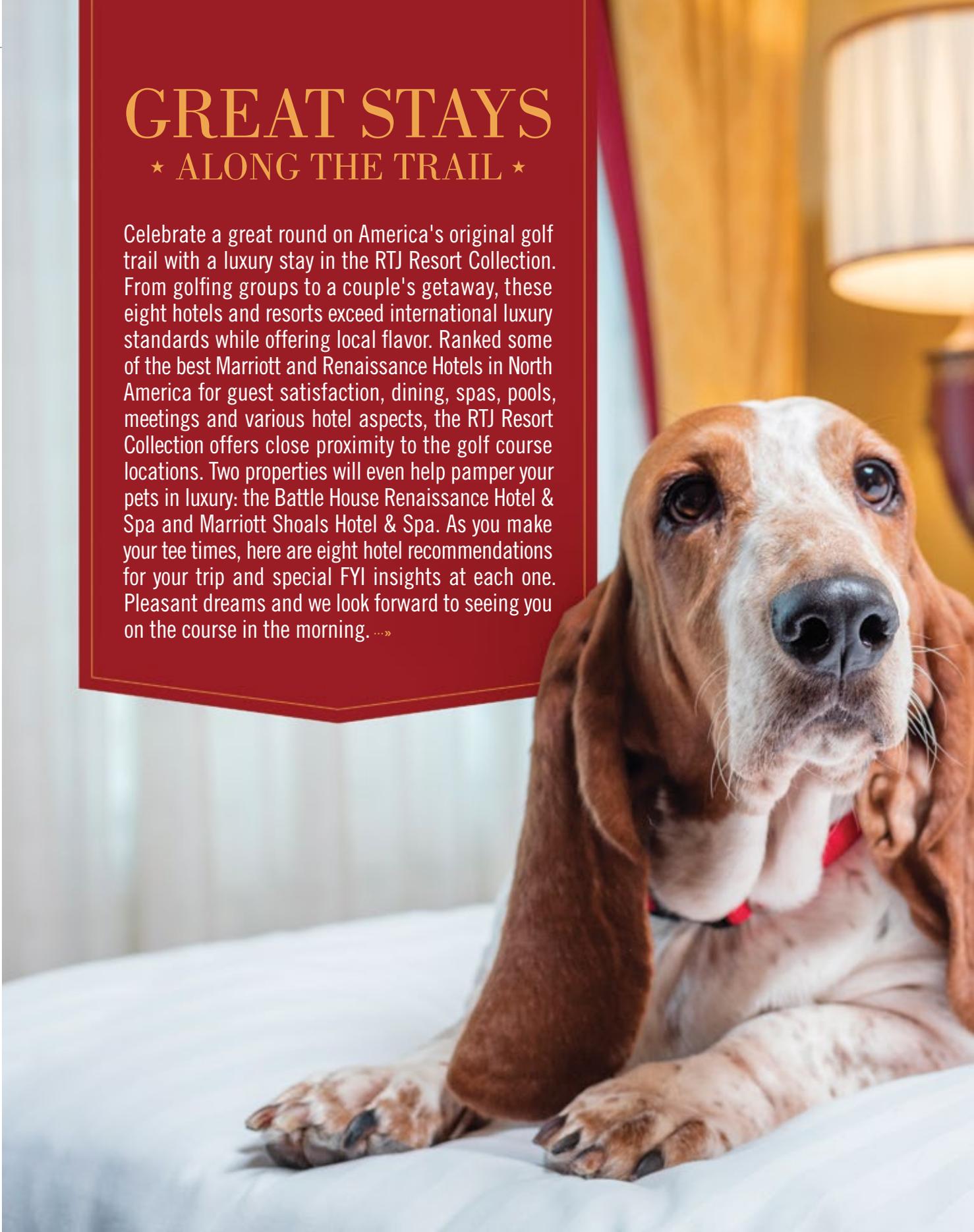
"I believe in every one of the Back Forty products," Cannon says. "Depending on my mood and the weather, I reach for a different one. Cart Barn Pilsner is really a good warm weather beer. Very refreshing and crisp."

We think you'll like the Back Forty beers too. Plus, it gives you a whole new reason to keep an eye out for the beer cart. ■

GREAT STAYS

★ ALONG THE TRAIL ★

Celebrate a great round on America's original golf trail with a luxury stay in the RTJ Resort Collection. From golfing groups to a couple's getaway, these eight hotels and resorts exceed international luxury standards while offering local flavor. Ranked some of the best Marriott and Renaissance Hotels in North America for guest satisfaction, dining, spas, pools, meetings and various hotel aspects, the RTJ Resort Collection offers close proximity to the golf course locations. Two properties will even help pamper your pets in luxury: the Battle House Renaissance Hotel & Spa and Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa. As you make your tee times, here are eight hotel recommendations for your trip and special FYI insights at each one. Pleasant dreams and we look forward to seeing you on the course in the morning.»





MOBILE BAY REGION

Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa

Point Clear, Alabama www.marriottgrand.com

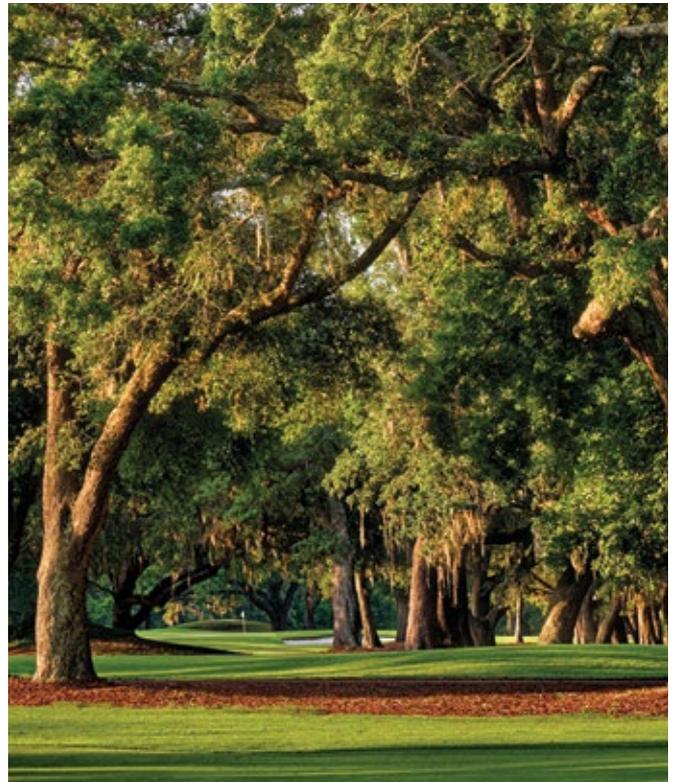
www.facebook.com/thegrandhotel

www.twitter.com/marriottgrand

Since 1847, The Grand has maintained a gracious tradition of Southern hospitality on historic Mobile Bay. The Grand Hotel is a family-friendly historical hotel that is 170 years young. The resort has received national honors from *Travel + Leisure*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Tennis Magazine*, *Successful Meetings*, *Meetings Today* and other national publications. A schedule of activities and special weekends is particularly attractive to families. Groups appreciate the superlative meeting facilities. With 405 luxurious guest rooms and having some of Marriott's best spas, golf courses and pools, the Grand Hotel is now grander than ever. Once private, these golf courses are now open to Grand Hotel guests and the general public.

The resort has 37,000 square feet of meeting space that was completely renovated. The Grand's 550 acres feature giant live oak trees, multiple beaches and lush landscaping. A military salute and cannon firing takes place each day at 4 p.m. and is followed by afternoon tea in the hotel lobby. In addition to world-class golf and the 20,000-square-foot spa, the resort has a variety of activities including eight rubico tennis courts, a croquet lawn, horseshoes, bikes, kayaks, sailboats and other watercrafts for the guests' enjoyment.

For those wanting to own a piece of the Grand Hotel, Colony at the Grand offers upscale condominium options overlooking Mobile Bay and the Azalea golf course. For more on the Colony, visit www.colonyatthegrand.com.



FYI: The **Grand Hotel** opened a new golf practice facility in 2016. The Grand Golf Experience features three acres of tee surface, 22,000 sq. ft. of USGA greens surfaces, covered hitting area, today's most advanced teaching technology, top 100 instruction, club fitting services, a two-acre short game area and a 1,500 square foot range house. The Experience is a destination for the avid golfer as well as families looking to enjoy the great game of golf. Individual and group lessons are available from the Lakewood Club professionals.

The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa

Mobile, Alabama www.renaissancebattlehouse.com

www.facebook.com/battlehouse

www.twitter.com/battlehouse

Originally built in 1852 and closed in the mid-1970s, the Battle House in Mobile has been restored to all its original grandeur. The Battle House reopened in 2007 and was named as one of the "Top 500 Hotels in the World" by *Travel + Leisure* in 2015. Both the Battle House and its Trellis Room restaurant have received Four Diamond ratings from AAA. The hotel has also been named one of *National Geographic Traveler's* "Top Places to Stay" in North America and was named a favorite by *Coastal Living*.

The 238 gracious guest rooms, new spa and historic lobby, restaurant and ballrooms make the Battle House the perfect urban retreat for business and leisure guests with an affinity for the finer things in life. The hotel has 35,000 square feet of meeting space and is connected to RSA Battle House Tower. Located directly on the parade route, the Battle House is a great Mardi Gras choice. On New Year's Eve, come witness MoonPie Over Mobile in a one-of-a-kind celebration. *Lagniappe* readers named the Battle House as the top hotel, spa, martini, bar bathroom and event venue in Mobile.

Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel

Mobile, Alabama www.renaissanceriverview.com

www.facebook.com/riverviewplaza

www.twitter.com/riverviewplaza

A prime downtown location with a covered walkway to the Mobile Convention Center makes the Renaissance Riverview Plaza a favorite for business guests. Renaissance Riverview Plaza, a Four Diamond Hotel, also is a short walk from the city's Carnival Museum, the Museum of Mobile and the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center, which also features blockbuster exhibitions.

Having undergone a \$50 million renovation, the 373 plush guest rooms are as popular as the hotel's spectacular views of Mobile Bay. The Harbor Room restaurant features exceptional cuisine with an emphasis on fresh seafood. Riverview Plaza features 32,000 square feet of versatile meeting, banquet and exhibit space. Mobile is the home of the country's original Mardi Gras, and parades pass in front of the Renaissance Riverview Plaza during Carnival season.

Guests at all three Mobile Bay resorts have easy access to great golf at RTJ's Magnolia Grove. Creeks, marshlands and lakes add to the challenge of Mobile's Magnolia Grove. The Falls, Crossings and Short courses have all received national recognition from various golf publications.



FYI: Pet friendly. If you can't get enough golf, let your pets rest in the room and head to the **Battle House's** rooftop golf-swing cage. The 24-hour access driving cage has great views of Mobile Bay and is next to the hotel's pool, tennis court and spa. Trying to forget the missed putt on 18? The historic Battle House has two bars and is in the middle of Mobile's entertainment district or take your pooch for a walk around historic downtown.



FYI: The Concierge Lounge on the 28th floor of the **Renaissance Riverview Plaza** has great food and spectacular views of Mobile Bay and the Port of Mobile. In addition to enjoying beautiful sunrises over the bay, watch the Navy's newest ships under construction and the Carnival cruise ship Fantasy right outside your window. If you would rather be on the ground floor, enjoy a cigar and cold beverage at Fathom's Streetside outdoor bar. Fathom's Streetside also features fire pits and multiple televisions for watching sports.



FYI: The **Renaissance Montgomery** offers shuttle service from the hotel to RTJ Capitol Hill. Leave the driving to our experts and ride in style to your tee time in Prattville. Reserve the shuttle through our front desk so you can focus on your game. After the sun goes down, enjoy live music and local craft beer each night in our Exchange Bar or walk two blocks to a Biscuits baseball game.



FYI: It is all about the birdies and bass at the **Marriott Prattville**. Historic Prattville has seen tremendous growth since RTJ Capitol Hill opened in 1999. Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World and several other retail centers are near the hotel, along with a variety of restaurants. Get ready for your next round of golf by studying the Senator's 17th hole from your room or consult with others over drinks and dinner in the Marriott's Oak Tavern.



CENTRAL ALABAMA & MONTGOMERY REGION

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center

Montgomery, Alabama www.renaissancemontgomery.com

www.facebook.com/renaissancemontgomeryhotel

www.twitter.com/renaissancemgm

The Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center is a great cultural, culinary and corporate hub for Alabama's capital city. The hotel features 345 luxurious rooms and suites, several restaurants and bars and a European-style spa. Located near the Alabama River, Renaissance Montgomery is a part of the city's downtown revitalization. For concerts, plays and general entertainment, the hotel's 1,800-seat Montgomery Performing Arts Centre is quickly becoming the city's social hot spot.

The Renaissance Montgomery includes a newly renovated and expanded convention center. The hotel complex has more than 140,000 square feet of meeting space and features some of the latest technology available for meetings. The Spa at Renaissance Montgomery remained one of the top ranked Renaissance spas in North America last year. The Renaissance Montgomery is approximately 10 minutes from RTJ Capitol Hill.

Montgomery Marriott Prattville Hotel & Conference Center at Capitol Hill

Prattville, Alabama www.marriottcapitolhill.com

www.facebook.com/marriottcapitolhill

www.twitter.com/marriottcaphill

Minutes from downtown Montgomery, the Marriott hotel and its 96 guest rooms are undergoing a massive renovation scheduled to be complete by the Spring of 2017. Seventy-four spacious guest rooms are located in the main lodge. Two eight-room luxury villas have living areas for informal gatherings and are ideal for golfing groups.

The 10,000-square-foot Presidential Cottage features five executive suites, private balconies, a lush garden and a private heliport. The hotel was the first to be built directly on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail courses and overlooks the 54 holes of championship golf at Capitol Hill. *Golfweek* readers named RTJ Capitol Hill the number 2 site for public golf in the country.

The Marriott's Oak Tavern offers dining with an extraordinary view overlooking the 17th Fairway of the Senator Course. Indoor and outdoor dining options are available for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The hotel features 20,000 square feet of event space, including 13 venues, a new ballroom and pre-function area and a covered terrace. For those who love hunting and fishing, a massive Bass Pro Shop is just a block away from the hotel and offers a great variety of outdoor gear.

FYI: Enjoy a day by the pool, see magnificent eagles from the Southeastern Raptor Center, learn to play pickleball, and end the evening with gourmet S'mores through the **Auburn Marriott's** free Camp Soaring Summer program for hotel guests. Camp Soaring Summer celebrates strong Auburn/Opelika traditions and has something for everyone from toddlers to seniors.

Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel & Conference Center at Grand National

Opelika, Alabama www.marriottgrandnational.com

www.facebook.com/marriottgrandnational

www.twitter.com/GrandNatl_Hotel

Named an Editors' Choice Golf Resort in 2016 by *Golf Digest*, the Marriott is the ideal stay for professionals and amateurs playing RTJ Grand National. The hotel completed a massive renovation in 2016 with a golf theme. A resort pool complex, outdoor bar and a tennis complex opened in 2013. In July 2017, the Barbasol PGA TOUR Championship will be held at Grand National with the Marriott being in the middle of the action.

Named the #1 location for public golf in the country by *GolfWorld* readers, the Auburn Marriott Opelika is situated perfectly for golf. Offering both a great hotel and an upscale residential option, it is easy to see why *U.S. News & World Report* named the Auburn-Opelika area one of the top places to retire for golf lovers. Situated just 10 minutes from Auburn University, in the quaint historic town of Opelika, the Auburn-Opelika Marriott offers the finest accommodations in the area. This nationally renowned retreat is the region's premier golf destination and lakeside resort with 54 holes of Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail golf. The majority of guest rooms in this luxury hotel and resort overlook Grand National's golf course, the pools, tennis complexes, and Lake Saugahatchee. The hotel has 114 guest rooms and 15 luxury suites.

This hotel has 15,000 square feet of technology-equipped event space, a business center and a 96-seat amphitheater. For golfers wanting to move to the area, National Village offers upscale homes and cottages adjacent to Grand National. From a primary residence to second homes, National Village has great options and golf waiting for you. For more, visit www.nationalvillage.com.



NORTH ALABAMA & BIRMINGHAM REGION

Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa

Birmingham, Alabama www.rossbridgeresort.com

www.facebook.com/rossbridgeresort

www.twitter.com/rossbridgehotel

Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa is designed to provide a unique environment of stylish comfort and sophistication. *Golf Digest* editors named Ross Bridge one of their favorite golf resorts in North America in 2016. *Travel + Leisure* has named Ross Bridge “One of the Top 500 Hotels in the World.” This Four Diamond resort has 259 guest rooms, with balconies overlooking the fourth longest golf course in the world at 8,191 yards from the tips. The resort also has 11 spacious suites for an extra level of comfort and indulgence. Between Ross Bridge and nearby Oxmoor Valley, golfers have access to 54 holes of golf at this luxury resort.

Ross Bridge offers luxurious pampering in a 12,000-square-foot European spa. While warm stone massages are most popular, the Spa at Ross Bridge offers a variety of body treatment for pampering and recovery. Renaissance Hotels has named Ross Bridge as one of their top spas.

The resort has multiple restaurants including fine dining with a Mediterranean influence in Brock’s. The Clubhouse was named one of *Golf Digest’s* “Favorite 19th Holes.” For meetings or special events, Ross Bridge has 20,000 square feet of function space ranging from a large ballroom to a smaller, distinctive boardroom. The resort consistently remains among the top Renaissance hotels in the world for guest satisfaction and overall style.

Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa

Florence, Alabama www.marriottshoals.com

www.facebook.com/marriottshoals

www.twitter.com/marriottshoals

Overlooking the Tennessee River and historic Wilson Dam in Florence, Alabama, the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa was named the top hotel in the Eastern United States in 2015. The hotel continues to be the Marriott leader for exceptional golf, spas, dining, hotel rooms and guest satisfaction. The 199 guest rooms, including seven suites, have private balconies and waterfront views. The resort features Alabama’s only revolving restaurant and more than 30,000 square feet of versatile meeting space. For guest satisfaction, the hotel’s spa is consistently one of Marriott’s top 10 internationally for guest satisfaction.

The Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa is a short distance from two Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail courses – Fighting Joe and Schoolmaster. The Fighting Joe was named among the top 10 new courses by *Golf Magazine* and *Travel + Leisure Golf*. The Schoolmaster course opened in 2005 and approaches 8,000 yards. In addition to great golf, the Shoals area is internationally known for its rich musical heritage.

Swampers Bar & Grille, located inside the hotel, celebrates the area’s rich musical heritage. Artists such as Rolling Stones, Cher, Etta James, Aretha Franklin, Wilson Pickett and hundreds more recorded in the Shoals and are featured in the documentary *Muscle Shoals*. The area still has many songwriters and recording studios. For upscale dining, the revolving 360 Grille restaurant offers remarkable cuisine and amazing views of the Tennessee River. The 6,000-square-foot European-style spa and salon helps make the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa the premier resort in the Tennessee River Valley. ■





FYI: In addition to the honors from *Golf Digest* as a top golf resort, *Birmingham Magazine* readers named **Renaissance Ross Bridge** the top hotel, golf experience, spa and staycation location in 2016. With nine miles of cart path, golfers playing RTJ Ross Bridge must use a cart during their round. If you need to stretch your legs afterwards, ask for a walking/running map at the front desk. See if you can discover the original Ross Bridge along the walking paths just over a mile and a half from the resort.



FYI: Love great food and music? Head to 360 Grille, fine dining with breathtaking views of Florence and a sound track recorded in the Shoals. For live music and a more casual feel, Swampers Bar & Grille is a mini-museum decorated with historic photos, gold records and other Muscle Shoals memorabilia. Regional musicians provide the entertainment. What iconic rock song refers to the Swampers and their ability to pick a song or two? The **Marriott Shoals** also is pet friendly.

LOCAL ART, GLOBAL REACH

From Alabama's Renaissance depicted in downtown Montgomery to images of massive oaks at the historic Grand Hotel in Pt. Clear, all of the art in RTJ Resort Collection properties was created by Alabama artists. These works include massive mosaics, whimsical sculptures, inspiring photography and intricate quilting, all worthy of being displayed in fine museums and galleries. The center of this Alabama art focus is a gentleman who simply goes by one name, Nall.



An Alabama artist with an international following, Nall has a unique style that has captivated the attention of the world. The gifted artist grew up in Troy, Alabama, and began drawing arts and crafts at his family's city park at just four years old.

A graduate of the University of Alabama, Nall was awarded top score entrance at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Surrounded by painters, musicians, and writers, he excelled among his contemporaries. At that point, he was mentored by Spanish Surrealist, Salvador Dali, who advised him to "Draw from life, draw, again and again." Nall was also inspired by American psychedelic art, fauvism, impressionism and Japanese wash drawings but then returned to basic black and white drawing and on concentrating on building a solid artistic foundation on drawing skills.

Having exhibited his works all over the United States and Europe since 1971, Nall returned to his roots as artist in residence at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, where students had the opportunity to apprentice in his on-campus studio and saw his retrospective at the Sarah Moody Gallery.

In 2000 Nall was the curator for "Alabama Art," an exhibit of 13 Alabama Artists, with the aid of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Art and the Alabama State Council on the Arts. Nall compiled the works and did the layout for the

book titled "Alabama Art" published by Black Belt Press. This book won the Mary Ellen Lopresti ARLIS/Southeast Publishing Award for "Best Art Book" published that year in the Southeastern U.S.A. After serving two semesters as artist-in-residence at Troy University, Nall was awarded a Doctorate Honoris Causa from Troy University, Alabama. In July 2000 Nall created an illustration for the 51st Monaco Red Cross Ball per the request of H.S.H. Prince Albert of Monaco.

In 2016, Troy University opened the International Art Center with the Fred Nall Hollis Gallery. Nall has worked extensively with the Retirement Systems of Alabama and its resorts to showcase the "Alabama Art" collection. Living in his home state of Alabama, in 2005 he completed building his studio in Fairhope, Alabama, where he invites apprentices to work with him, and spends his summers in France at the N.A.L.L. Art Association. Nall divides his time working between the Alabama and French Riviéras. He has been inducted into the Alabama Artists Hall of Fame in Decatur. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION on Nall and Alabama Art, email artistnall@gmail.com or call 251.455.0132. Many of the pieces on display are available for purchase. Gallery open to the public at 414 Equality Street, Fairhope, Alabama 36532.

ON DISPLAY in the lobby of the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa, "Alabama's Renaissance" is Nall's largest mixed-medium artwork measuring nearly 30 feet tall. This monumental piece pays homage to Alabama's greatest resources.

ARTISTS FEATURED IN THE RTJ RESORT COLLECTION

Judith Amanda, Jennifer Antoline, Margaret Barber, Ann Mottershead Betak, Sloane Bibb, Sue Blackshear, Xander Booker, Julia Bradshaw, Neal Brantley, Kyle Braund, Edward Brummal, Chip Cooper, Nan Cunningham, J J Gaudel, Sybil Gibson, Sarita Gish, Russell Goodloe, Nancy Goodman, Erin Fitzhugh Gregory, Jim Gunter, Anton Haardt, Amber Hall, Mike Handley, Baba Hendricks, Marty Hoerr, Stacey Howell, Carrie Johnson, Robert Harold Johnston III, Robert Johnston, Ryan Clifford Keller, Mary Riser Kennedy, Christy Rhodes Kirk, Bruce Larsen, Charlie Lucas, Michael Mastro, Betty Sue Matthews, Jim Morris, Maya Morland, Christopher Moses, Haardt Moses, Herbert "Mannie" Pair, Heather Pettersen, Donna Pickens, Tigio Price, Barbara Reed, Bradley Robertson, Natalyn Havenick Rose, Conrad & Janice Ross, Jayne Rushin, Stephen Savage, Kate Seawell, Michael Simpson, David M. Spears, Joan White-Spunner, Susan Starr, Steve Strickland, George Taylor, Les Thompson, Langley Tolbert, Annie Tolliver, Lynda Smith Touart, Melissa Tubbs, Mary Catherine Watson Susan Downing White, Dave Willmart, Devlin Wilson and Robert Zimmerman.

Artists Paul Looney, Ann Morland, Kate Seawell, Jimmy Lee Sudduth, and Yvonne Wells also have works on consignment in the Renaissance Montgomery. **Deceased artists** in permanent collection include: Steve Skidmore, Jimmy Lee Sudduth, Mose T and Flemming Tyler Wilson.



RTJ GOLF TRAIL'S RESORT COMMUNITIES
EXPAND WITH NEW OPTIONS
OVERLOOKING THE GOLF COURSES

Life

ON THE
course

Some golfers want to live on the course and now they can. The residential developments associated with the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in Opelika and Fairhope now offer new housing options adjacent to golf courses. Both award-winning communities offer expensive amenity options, but golf remains front and center. And now the courses can be right outside your back door.

Between Colony at the Grand in Fairhope along Mobile Bay and National Village in Auburn/Opelika next to RTJ Grand National, your choices of residential options continue to grow faster than the 419 Bermuda grass planted along the fairways. In addition to the golf course lots overlooking the Azalea (Fairhope) and Lake (Opelika) courses, other residential options include golf cottages, estate homes and condominiums.

Whether you want the spirit of a SEC university town or a more coastal feel with a flair for the arts, both options are covered. Collectively, they offer 90 holes of world-class golf, 18 tennis courts, 4 pickle ball courts, eight pools, endless miles of hiking and biking trails, great restaurants, shopping and much more.

The residential communities associated with the RTJ Golf Trail offer unprecedented access to great golf and resort amenities all year long. National Village in Opelika and Colony at the Grand in Fairhope have very strong sales and are entering new phases of development. Both communities are adding new neighborhoods featuring a variety of single family home options. ...»





Colony at the Grand

COLONY AT THE GRAND

Fairhope/Point Clear, Alabama » www.colonyatthegrand.com

MAJESTIC OAKS. RESORT LIVING. GRAND TRADITIONS.

Perhaps the only thing more spectacular than the new single family homes at Colony at the Grand are the community's majestic oak trees. From families with young children to retirees looking for a coastal climate, Colony at the Grand has both options and homes come with a membership to the historic Lakewood Club.

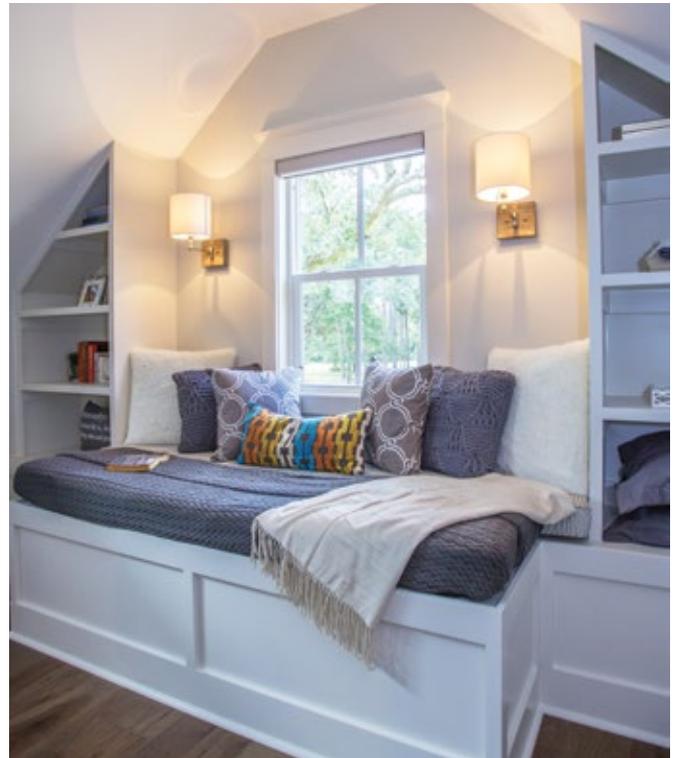
Golfers can work on their game at The Lakewood Club's new practice facility, the Grand Golf Experience, and play two RTJ courses onsite. Families can dive into the club's resort pools, play tennis on grass and clay courts then squeeze in a workout at the fitness center, all within walking distance of your home. Looking for less strenuous options? Set sail into Mobile Bay, watch spectacular sunsets, celebrate happy hour at the historic Grand Hotel or browse in Fairhope's boutiques.

Since opening in 1847, the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa has been the Queen of Southern Resorts and the property is currently undergoing a

transformation to elevate guest experiences while remaining true to Southern Hospitality roots. History lovers will enjoy the daily military salute and cannon firing followed by a traditional afternoon tea in the Grand's Lobby. Culinary lovers can join the monthly culinary weekend classes and enjoy great steaks and seafood all year long.

Exploring the Colony at the Grand doesn't end at the front gate of this private community. The quality of life at Point Clear/Fairhope is legendary. Explore the boutiques, galleries and restaurants of Fairhope or spend your day along the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail. The Fairhope/Point Clear area has gained notice in the *Wall Street Journal* as one of the Top 10 place in the U.S. to retire. Colony at the Grand is an easy drive from these Southern cities: New Orleans (166 miles), Baton Rouge (224 miles), Jackson (209 miles), Birmingham (266 miles), Mobile (23 miles) and Atlanta (336 miles). Perhaps it is time you take a look.

» TO LEARN MORE contact Colony at the Grand at 251.990.9951 or visit www.colonyatthegrand.com.



COLONY AT THE GRAND offers both single family home and condominium options:

BATTLES TRACE Neatly sitting along a 150-year-old grove of oak trees, Battles Trace is the third phase of development at Colony at The Grand. These upscale homes offer a great sense of community and easy access to the Lakewood Club and its amenities. Starting in the mid \$300's. New sections of Battles Trace on the lake opened in 2016 to meet the strong demand.

WATERSHED SOUTH Overlooking the Azalea golf course and similar in design to Watershed North, Watershed South features three bedroom, two bath homes on the main level that define sophisticated, modern living and low country southern living in every way. Priced from the \$500's.

AZALEA Opened in late 2016, the Azalea neighborhood features six lots overlooking the 9th hole on the Azalea Course at the Lakewood Club. These craftsman coastal homes feature great

porches and the latest designs focused on luxury and relaxation. Priced from \$750,000.

BAYVIEW Featuring 56 units, Bayview overlooks Sweetwater Lake on the hotel's historic grounds. The Bayview condominiums offer a breathtaking panorama at every floor, oak-draped parks, a freshwater lake and the magnificent 36 holes of the Azalea and Dogwood courses. Great views and low maintenance make these units popular for people on the go. Priced from the \$400's.

NATIONAL VILLAGE

Auburn/Opelika, Alabama » www.nationalvillage.com

SPECTACULAR HOMES. AUBURN TRADITIONS. PGA TOUR GOLF.

Home of the PGA TOUR's Barbasol Championship in July, RTJ Grand National has quickly become a favorite among both professional and amateur golfers. The three courses at Grand National are easily accessible to nearby National Village. This RTJ golf community skirts the 1500-acre, 54-hole golf facility, including the Lakes course played on the PGA TOUR along Lake Saugahatchee. A planned 700-acre resort community, National Village offers three distinct neighborhoods options, private fishing lakes and 10 miles of walking and biking trails. More than 140 homes have been sold in National Village. From Baby Boomers to retirees, National Village residents typically love golf and have a strong admiration for Auburn University.

The on-site Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel & Conference Center at Grand National has 129 renovated guests rooms and was named one of the top golf resorts in 2016 by the editors of *Golf Digest*. The hotel's outdoor resort pool complex and bar have

been very popular with National Village residents. When not on the golf course or in the pool, look for our residents on the tennis and pickle ball courts. With both cardio and weight training equipment, consider the hotel's fitness center as your personal gym. All of these amenities and many more are available to National Village residents. The hotel and golf courses also overlook a 600-acre lake. Auburn University offers a variety of athletic and cultural programs within a short drive from National Village.

The Auburn/Opelika area was named one of the "Top 10 Places to Retire for Golf" by *US News & World Report*. Readers of *GolfWorld* named Opelika the #1 site for public golf in the country. *Golf Digest* named the RTJ Trail the top value for golf in the country and number eight for quality. National Village is an easy drive from these Southern cities: Atlanta (95 miles), Birmingham (112 miles), Chattanooga (215 miles), Mobile (214 miles) and Montgomery (57 miles). ■

» FOR MORE INFORMATION contact National Village at 334.749.8165 or visit www.nationalvillage.com.



NATIONAL VILLAGE offers three distinct neighborhood options:

EAGLE BEND Wonderfully designed and finished, 3-bedroom craftsman style golf cottages with hardwood floors, Hardi-Plank siding, gas fireplaces, granite counters in kitchens and bathrooms, 9-foot ceilings and so much more. Lots overlooking hole 4 of the RTJ Grand National Lake course are now available. The Cottages at Eagle Bend offer seven different home styles with floor plans ranging

from 1,216 to almost 1,800 square feet. The Eagle Spirit cottage in Eagle Bend won *Professional Builder Magazine's* Gold Award for "Best Single-Family Product – 2,000 sq/ft or below." Prices start in the \$280's.

QUAIL RIDGE The perfect blend of arts and crafts and cottage designs, these 3- and 4-bedroom homes are in the newest neighborhood at National Village. Priced from \$368,900. This neighborhood opened in 2016 and offers a variety of plans. The

National Village trail surrounds the rear perimeter of Quail Ridge and is located near a National Village post office.

STONELAKE Every home in Stonelake is unique, with floor plans ranging from 2,600 to almost 3,700 square feet. High ceilings and custom trim work adds drama while screened porches, decks and outdoor kitchens invite gatherings. The original homes in National Village, this neighborhood is sold out.

A VISITOR'S GUIDE TO THE TRAIL »

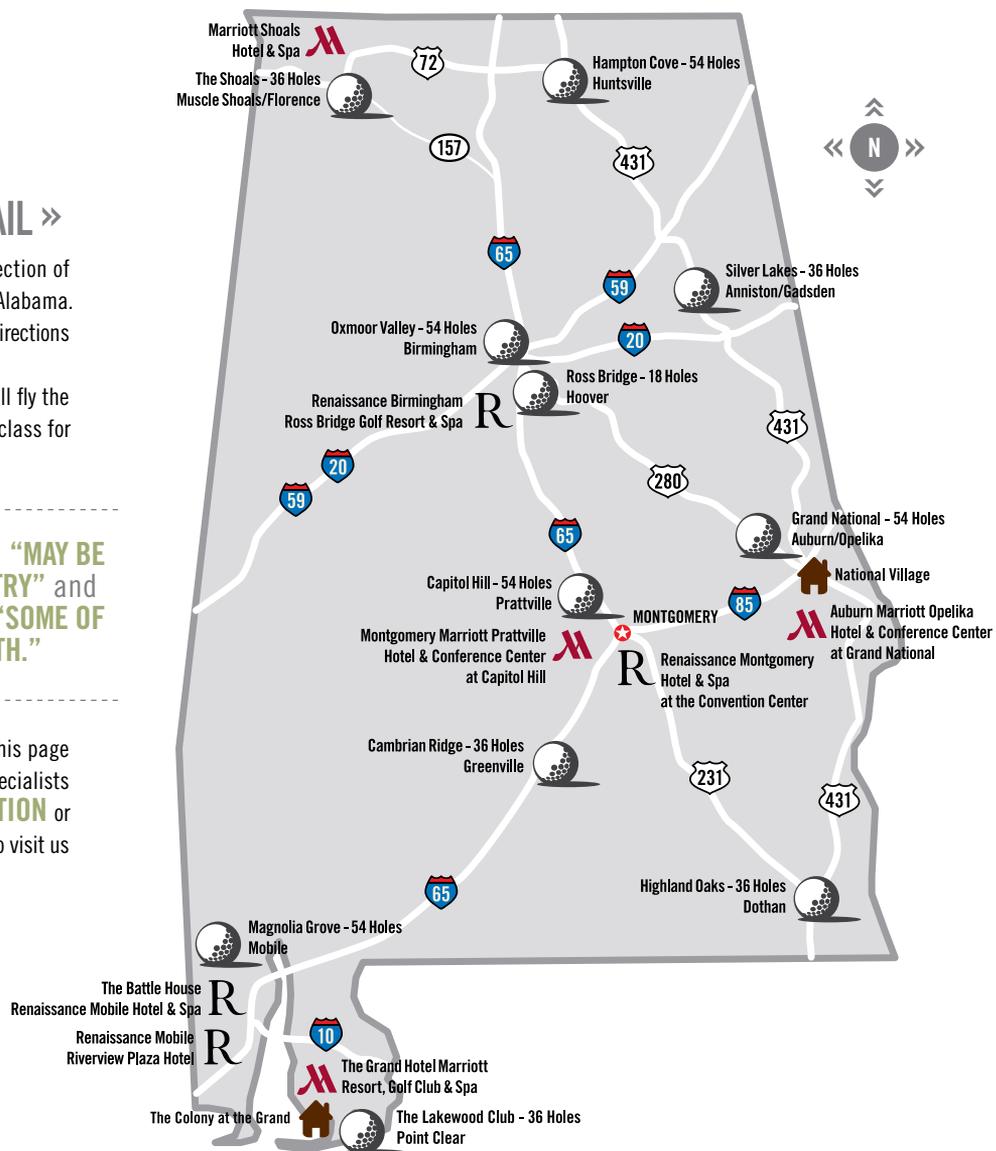
Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is a collection of 468 holes of championship golf on 11 sites across Alabama. Most are near an interstate or federal highway and directions are easily marked by green highway signs.

The eight Resort Collection hotels on the Trail all fly the Marriott or Renaissance flags and are top in their class for luxury, golf and spa experiences.

The Wall Street Journal said the Trail **"MAY BE THE BIGGEST BARGAIN IN THE COUNTRY"** and The New York Times called the Trail **"SOME OF THE BEST PUBLIC GOLF ON EARTH."**

Please use the map and the mileage chart on this page for guidance or contact any of our Reservations Specialists at **800.949.4444 FOR MORE INFORMATION** or for tee times, pricing and reservations. You may also visit us online at www.rtgolf.com.

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MILEAGE BETWEEN TRAIL SITES

	CAPITOL HILL	CAMBRIAN RIDGE	GRAND NATIONAL	HAMPTON COVE	HIGHLAND OAKS	MAGNOLIA GROVE	LAKEWOOD G.C.	OXMOOR VALLEY	ROSS BRIDGE	SILVER LAKES	SHOALS
CAPITOL HILL	—	57	78	193	114	183	185	86	85	155	212
CAMBRIAN RIDGE	57	—	114	245	99	137	139	138	137	207	264
GRAND NATIONAL	78	114	—	189	131	240	242	121	120	112	242
HAMPTON COVE	193	245	189	—	310	372	374	122	123	81	77
HIGHLAND OAKS	114	99	131	310	—	201	217	201	200	233	328
MAGNOLIA GROVE	183	137	240	372	201	—	39	264	263	333	364
LAKEWOOD G.C.	185	139	242	374	217	39	—	284	283	353	384
OXMOOR VALLEY	86	138	121	122	201	264	284	—	2	88	140
ROSS BRIDGE	85	137	120	123	200	263	283	2	—	89	141
SILVER LAKES	155	207	112	81	233	333	353	88	89	—	135
SHOALS	212	264	242	77	328	364	384	140	141	135	—

FIGHTING JOE COURSE

Black 8,092/78.7/138; Purple 7,126/74.0/135; Orange 6,628/71.5/130; White 6,154/69.3/123; Teal 4,978/69.0/122; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	611	466	478	426	236	497	607	477	236
PURPLE	567	413	416	360	193	468	537	406	190
ORANGE	540	388	396	326	175	432	524	375	157
WHITE	512	370	373	313	160	408	467	332	145
TEAL	394	302	320	279	137	325	408	283	101
PAR	5	4	4	4	3	4	5	4	3
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	489	413	716	223	476	466	483	592	200
PURPLE	460	371	622	184	417	397	437	537	151
ORANGE	428	345	581	163	403	352	423	483	137
WHITE	412	332	498	153	369	326	385	473	126
TEAL	256	310	441	136	244	260	304	377	101
PAR	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	5	3

SCHOOLMASTER COURSE

Black 7,971/78.0/143; Purple 7,294/74.7/134; Orange 6,778/72.2/128; White 6,160/69.1/124; Teal 5,249/70.3/121; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	453	238	477	632	472	265	459	509	681
PURPLE	421	196	450	568	452	231	400	445	645
ORANGE	382	178	421	549	409	208	366	406	604
WHITE	337	135	393	504	373	178	339	369	562
TEAL	311	131	337	478	315	158	268	325	488
PAR	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	4	5
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	226	589	618	455	417	447	197	443	393
PURPLE	202	559	568	424	390	414	157	409	363
ORANGE	168	521	527	402	368	395	146	390	338
WHITE	147	489	501	353	333	347	135	347	318
TEAL	122	381	479	307	265	267	101	283	233
PAR	3	5	5	4	4	4	3	4	4



THE SHOALS

FLORENCE/MUSCLE SHOALS » 36 HOLES » OPENED 2004

The Fighting Joe Course at The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at The Shoals opened August 2004 and was the first Trail course to break 8,000 yards, measuring some 8,092 yards from the black tees.

It's long, really long, and this links style course is simply good, straight-forward golf. You can see where you're going. The question is... can you get there?

Some say the spectacular 17th hole is the signature hole on the course, but the 18th green overlooking Wilson Lake on the Tennessee River will distract you with its beauty, if not its treachery.

Travel + Leisure Golf named Fighting Joe one of the top new courses in 2004 for good reason. Long-hitters here will experience a test of champions; but from the correct tee box, all players will enjoy world-class golf.

The second course, The Schoolmaster (named for President Woodrow Wilson who was responsible for getting Wilson Dam built on the river and who was known as The Schoolmaster of Politics) opened in the Summer of 2005.

This tree-lined course is more traditional golf with every hole in keeping with the natural topography along the Tennessee River. It is wooded, rolling and spectacular.

First reports indicate The Schoolmaster may be a tougher course than Fighting Joe, but only time will tell. One thing's for sure, it's a shot maker's golf course with narrower fairways, tree-lined greens, and still a length of nearly 8,000 yards!

It's hard to beat the beauty that the 18th hole holds on the high bluffs over the river, but the waterfall on the 2nd hole sure comes close. Make sure you've done your homework well, for The Schoolmaster will certainly test all of your skills. ■

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT THE SHOALS

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HAMPTON COVE

HUNTSVILLE » 54 HOLES » OPENED 1992

The Northern gateway to the Trail is Hampton Cove in Huntsville, a 54-hole facility with terrain that drastically changes from one side of the property to the other.

Renovated in 2008, the Highlands Course has been restored to its original Scottish Links design. Long waving grasses frame beautiful rolling terrain and create beautiful golf holes. The finishing holes on the Highlands Course are among the most scenic and challenging on the Trail. One of the most recognizable landmarks on the Trail is the old mule barn beside the fifth hole.

Completely opposite in design is the River Course, the only Robert Trent Jones layout without a single bunker. The River Course is laid out on former soybean fields in the flood plain of the Flint River. The River Course is a throwback to the way courses were built long ago, where dirt was merely pushed up to create the greens and tees, leaving all else, including massive oak trees, as is. With water on 16 of the 18 holes, the River Course will challenge your shot making ability.

The Short Course at Hampton Cove is open and links-like, with water in play on 11 holes. It is a great venue for golfers of all skill levels and alternating tees allow golfers to hit every club in their bag. ■

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT HAMPTON COVE

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HIGHLANDS COURSE

Purple 7,428/76.0/132; Orange 6,806/69.9/123; White 6,070/69.9/123;

Ladies' Teal 4,951; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	409	403	550	215	412	435	453	238	526
ORANGE	394	372	518	183	378	406	424	190	511
WHITE	372	330	452	165	334	381	387	158	444
TEAL	309	303	377	94	273	336	318	94	361
PAR	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	461	206	435	415	414	539	259	621	437
ORANGE	434	177	347	391	382	520	211	570	398
WHITE	371	154	308	336	342	470	161	541	364
TEAL	257	108	265	319	298	390	101	475	304
PAR	4	3	4	4	4	5	3	5	4

RIVER COURSE

Purple 7,668/77.8/136; Orange 6,764/72.8/134; White 6,111/69.7/128;

Ladies' Teal 5,278/70.4/119; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	556	207	467	447	476	214	433	627	438
ORANGE	505	186	404	375	388	196	393	566	394
WHITE	463	165	347	342	350	158	360	540	348
TEAL	431	135	267	299	285	135	305	499	318
PAR	5	3	4	4	4	3	4	5	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	572	437	454	421	208	600	187	451	473
ORANGE	535	398	418	382	186	519	176	378	365
WHITE	486	353	379	314	165	494	163	350	334
TEAL	428	293	340	276	112	426	132	314	283
PAR	5	4	4	4	3	5	3	4	4

SHORT COURSE

Purple 3,635; Orange 3,007; White 2,480; Teal 1,861; Par 54

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	192	184	222	149	201	257	190	215	199
ORANGE	161	167	189	110	182	184	175	173	153
WHITE	124	152	154	95	149	145	144	145	128
TEAL	83	109	72	78	83	109	114	126	111
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	177	193	184	222	205	247	159	232	207
ORANGE	161	152	174	185	170	184	143	168	176
WHITE	115	131	144	156	143	137	115	151	152
TEAL	98	83	124	105	115	95	85	128	143
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

MINDBREAKER COURSE

Black 3,642; Purple 3,432/36.8/146; Orange 3,199/35.9/146; White 3,010/35.0/136;
Teal 2,376/32.1/105; Ladies' White 38.3/149; Ladies' Teal 33.9/117; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	546	226	408	207	556	434	420	454	391
PURPLE	546	177	361	189	531	408	406	423	391
ORANGE	505	165	345	180	515	389	362	387	351
WHITE	475	157	345	169	492	370	320	358	324
TEAL	403	96	296	123	376	279	280	317	206
PAR	5	3	4	3	5	4	4	4	4

HEARTBREAKER COURSE

Black 3,814; Purple 3,480/36.7/133; Orange 3,290/35.9/128; White 3,011/34.6/125;
Teal 2,474/32.5/109; Ladies' White 37.5/142; Ladies' Teal 34.5/120; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	568	466	455	431	215	452	550	229	448
PURPLE	532	414	427	404	174	412	521	198	398
ORANGE	481	375	402	404	165	394	506	165	398
WHITE	481	335	381	357	136	343	479	146	353
TEAL	431	290	329	312	109	301	375	67	260
PAR	5	4	4	4	3	4	5	3	4

BACKBREAKER COURSE

Black 3,808; Purple 3,537/37.7/140; Orange 3,198/35.9/128; White 2,992/34.5/127;
Teal 2,369/32.0/113; Ladies' White 38.0/148; Ladies' Teal 34.9/126; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	455	206	455	458	231	401	623	445	534
PURPLE	426	159	425	451	194	371	578	399	534
ORANGE	406	143	399	400	167	346	496	342	499
WHITE	360	132	350	355	129	346	496	342	482
TEAL	293	92	294	292	99	212	369	287	431
PAR	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	5

SHORT COURSE

Purple 1,946; Orange 1,450; White 1,276; Teal 798; Par 27

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	232	192	225	236	199	254	186	211	211
ORANGE	137	155	166	171	160	167	170	169	155
WHITE	123	133	146	156	130	138	147	150	153
TEAL	90	81	100	94	99	94	94	85	61
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3



SILVER LAKES

ANNISTON/GADSDEN » 36 HOLES » OPENED 1993

Relax in the beauty of Northeast Alabama's stunning landscape as you explore 36 holes of forests, wetlands, grasslands and dramatic elevation changes. The Heartbreaker, Backbreaker, Mindbreaker and Short Course provide a challenging and scenic variety of holes to play.

Surrounded by the Appalachian foothills and Lee's Lake, Silver Lakes features the most unique and aptly named courses on the Trail, and all 36 greens boast Champion ultra dwarf putting surfaces.

The Backbreaker features wide fairways, demanding greens and spectacular views of the surrounding foothills, while the Heartbreaker provides a unique mix of great golf holes and unequalled character with the final three holes showcasing elevation changes and dramatic lake vistas. The Mindbreaker is an unforgettable blend of shorter, elusive holes set in a beautiful sanctuary of woods, water and wetlands. The Short Course provides a relaxing trip around Lee's Lake and offers magnificent views of surrounding landscape. ■

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT SILVER LAKES

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OXMOOR VALLEY

BIRMINGHAM » 54 HOLES » OPENED 1992

Centrally located in the state and just minutes from the newly revitalized downtown Birmingham area, this 54-hole facility was built on former mining land owned by U.S. Steel. Sculpted from the peaks and valleys of the Appalachians, the courses offer scenic forests, numerous creeks and challenging elevation changes.

The Ridge Course offers numerous elevation changes, heavy tree cover, and is incredibly photogenic. As a tribute to the area's mining past, the green at the par-5 3rd hole is buttressed by a shelf of exposed shale rock.

The Valley is considered a more traditional layout, dotted with numerous sand bunkers and picturesque lakes and streams. It stretches two miles downrange along a slender valley. The par-5 12th hole offers the most intimidating of tee shots, with a large lake looming in front of the player, letting the best of golfers bite off as much as they can chew.

The Short Course at Oxmoor Valley is a delightful collection of 18 pure one-shotters. It is listed by *Golf Digest's Places to Play* as one of the nation's Great Value courses in the public category. ■

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT OXMOOR VALLEY

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RIDGE COURSE

Purple 7,055/74.3/141; Orange 6,527/72.1/136; White 6,148/70.3/133; Teal 4,974/64.9/120; Ladies' Orange 78.6/141; Ladies' White 76.4/137; Ladies' Teal 69.4/122; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	449	528	539	389	179	447	379	176	421
ORANGE	404	513	520	382	146	405	346	159	384
WHITE	364	500	506	356	123	389	317	129	393
TEAL	297	458	451	286	85	291	232	77	227
PAR	4	5	5	4	3	4	4	3	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	414	446	483	189	389	390	205	440	592
ORANGE	379	393	465	162	348	366	172	411	572
WHITE	361	373	440	137	333	353	165	396	543
TEAL	279	305	410	92	251	321	145	304	463
PAR	4	4	5	3	4	4	3	4	5

VALLEY COURSE

Purple 7,162/74.9/146; Orange 6,592/72.1/139; White 6,052/69.4/129; Teal 4,927/64.0/113; Ladies' Orange 78.8/145; Ladies' White 75.4/144; Ladies' Teal 68.6/119; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	440	204	435	188	415	400	564	433	561
ORANGE	415	174	391	171	375	369	509	396	541
WHITE	393	153	363	145	327	334	475	358	513
TEAL	367	100	285	109	265	290	401	268	428
PAR	4	3	4	3	4	4	5	4	5
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	475	363	506	207	552	407	178	400	441
ORANGE	420	322	504	177	527	381	165	359	393
WHITE	393	279	490	147	502	335	120	337	363
TEAL	284	229	461	107	441	295	81	302	210
PAR	4	4	5	3	5	4	3	4	4

SHORT COURSE

Purple 3,360; Orange 3,037; White 2,556; Teal 1,871; Par 54

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	170	224	203	208	135	155	163	204	161
ORANGE	152	206	183	185	126	147	150	188	130
WHITE	122	195	138	142	113	139	131	170	119
TEAL	79	141	103	108	98	93	103	144	103
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	195	215	182	137	253	211	192	174	178
ORANGE	179	191	154	135	225	192	160	164	170
WHITE	166	158	144	127	141	153	137	129	132
TEAL	69	114	95	124	123	91	124	83	76
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

ROSS BRIDGE COURSE

Black 8,191/78.5/135; Purple 7,446/74.9/127; Orange 6,783/71.3/118; White 6,200/68.7/117;
Teal 5,312/70.2/123; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	620	467	470	226	469	207	619	502	518
PURPLE	573	430	445	202	417	194	561	447	410
ORANGE	543	395	422	155	380	185	519	408	377
WHITE	511	322	392	146	337	174	484	376	341
TEAL	463	278	366	140	303	110	458	311	285
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	3	5	4	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	477	208	454	698	239	458	571	501	487
PURPLE	454	184	429	614	219	415	538	467	447
ORANGE	417	167	408	540	176	366	511	411	403
WHITE	387	133	357	519	163	341	477	382	358
TEAL	273	120	326	403	130	293	410	334	309
PAR	4	3	4	5	3	4	5	4	4



ROSS BRIDGE

HOOVER » 18 HOLES » OPENED 2005

Alabama welcomes the newest addition to the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail: Ross Bridge. Beautifully carved into the rolling terrain of Shannon Valley, these 18 holes will challenge even the best golfers. Named one of *Zagat's* top new courses, Ross Bridge has hosted the Regions Charity Classic, a PGA Champions Tour event.

The course meanders through indigenous landscape and around the 259-room Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa. Ross Bridge is the fifth longest course in the world but offers multiple tees for golfers of all levels. Symbolic of an old parkland style course, ten holes play along the banks of two significant lakes connected by a spectacular waterfall dropping 80 feet between the ninth and eighteenth greens. A gristmill added to the waterfall reflects the history of this old mining site. The beauty and challenge of each hole leads many to believe there is not one signature hole but possibly eighteen.

Like many other Trail courses, the par-three holes are incredible. Considerable elevation changes combine with water or other natural obstructions to get your attention. Large putting surfaces provide many tempting pin locations that will test golfers' approach shots.

Number 17, a long par four, plays to a small, well-guarded green. Water frames the right side of this down-sloping hole. In the background is a picturesque view of the ninth and eighteenth holes with the waterfall tumbling between. The seventh hole offers a par five that traverses a ridge high above the rest of the course. The ninth will leave you speechless as it is time to decide how daring you are off the tee. A split fairway allows for either a short challenging route along the water's edge or opt for safer play leaving a longer, more difficult approach to the green. Regardless if it is a par three, four or five, Ross Bridge stands ready for your game! ■

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GRAND NATIONAL

AUBURN/OPELIKA » 54 HOLES » OPENED 1992

Both the Links Course and the Lake Course were in the top 10 of *Golf Digest's* list of "America's Top 50 Affordable Courses" and all three courses at Grand National are listed among the nation's 40 Super Value courses by *Golf Digest's* "Places to Play". Grand National, by all reports, was the single greatest site for a golf complex Robert Trent Jones, Sr. had ever seen. Host site for the PGA TOUR's Barbasol Championship, Grand National is built on 600-acre Lake Saugahatchee with 32 of the 54 holes draped along its filigreed shores.

The cornerstone of the complex is the Links Course, which is without a single weakness. The par four 18th is without a doubt the strongest finishing hole on the Trail. The drive must carry a corner of the lake, while the approach is played to a shallow pedestal green shored up by boulders. With 12 holes hugging the shore, Grand National's Lake Course is every bit as scenic as the Links. Not only is the quartet of par threes on the Lake Course as good as any in the nation, the 230-yard, island green 15th may be the single prettiest hole on the Trail. The Short Course, while overshadowed by the two main tracts, is a thing of beauty, with more than half the holes touching the lake. This 18-hole course of one-shotters might be the finest anywhere in the country.

The 2017 Couples Classic will be November 3-5 and will be limited to the first 96 teams.

National Village, a golfing community on the Trail, is adjacent to these courses and the Marriott Hotel. ■

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LAKE COURSE

Purple 7,289/74.3/136; Orange 6,488/71.3/126; White 5,948/68.7/117; Teal 4,910/68.7/117;

Ladies' White 74.4/133; Ladies' Teal 68.0/119; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	390	428	197	527	431	455	557	213	430
ORANGE	364	381	178	480	396	381	521	182	379
WHITE	319	361	168	447	385	352	477	148	339
TEAL	285	308	92	399	308	295	418	103	276
PAR	4	4	3	5	4	4	5	3	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	434	445	522	470	545	230	334	205	476
ORANGE	397	387	493	388	510	182	297	174	398
WHITE	353	356	459	361	488	160	285	143	357
TEAL	276	239	391	343	384	93	247	126	327
PAR	4	4	5	4	5	3	4	3	4

LINKS COURSE

Purple 7,311/75.1/135; Orange 6,574/72.3/129; White 6,015/69.6/119; Teal 4,843/69.6/113;

Ladies' White 75.5/139; Ladies' Teal 70.4/120; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	423	556	206	425	456	544	472	345	204
ORANGE	396	509	182	409	375	499	446	319	170
WHITE	366	470	165	384	342	460	409	299	133
TEAL	313	385	110	262	275	412	318	234	119
PAR	4	5	3	4	4	5	4	4	3
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	363	260	575	418	467	516	181	429	471
ORANGE	326	195	500	378	422	467	152	402	427
WHITE	289	151	493	343	372	451	118	368	402
TEAL	242	69	426	272	338	362	93	312	301
PAR	4	3	5	4	4	5	3	4	4

SHORT COURSE

Purple 3,328/56.7; Orange 2,798/55.2; White 2,476/53.7; Teal 1,715/51.9;

Ladies' White 55.4; Ladies' Teal 53.2; Par 54

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	188	201	171	173	187	173	152	216	250
ORANGE	170	166	151	152	147	137	119	193	234
WHITE	148	148	128	131	124	137	119	174	211
TEAL	93	106	83	92	102	97	89	119	71
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	161	187	231	185	138	204	202	155	154
ORANGE	131	172	179	151	108	184	173	110	121
WHITE	108	139	179	98	104	156	156	110	106
TEAL	85	95	119	58	72	143	108	77	106
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

LEGISLATOR COURSE

Black 7,477/76.9/149; Purple 6,836/74.0/143; Orange 6,366/71.4/139; White 5,901/69.4/131;
Teal 5,253/66.1/117; Ladies' White 74.3/133; Ladies' Teal 70.4/121; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	631	434	177	481	603	198	425	488	420
PURPLE	554	404	163	421	577	174	401	429	405
ORANGE	541	366	147	391	509	151	375	405	366
WHITE	490	330	136	355	490	137	361	374	338
TEAL	435	310	115	325	426	115	297	347	311
PAR	5	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	412	207	387	538	478	407	182	585	424
PURPLE	369	170	367	504	434	364	160	552	388
ORANGE	350	148	348	494	407	343	148	512	365
WHITE	337	126	331	467	382	313	124	480	330
TEAL	245	105	302	451	343	270	110	451	295
PAR	4	3	4	5	4	4	3	5	4

SENATOR COURSE

Black 7,654/77.4/132; Purple 6,941/74.1/125; Orange 6,410/70.9/126; White 5,831/68.1/121;
Teal 5,137/64.7/110; Ladies' White 73.6/123; Ladies' Teal 69.6/116; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	427	230	419	426	611	420	231	558	437
PURPLE	395	204	385	390	563	385	195	530	402
ORANGE	365	165	364	363	539	349	167	496	376
WHITE	329	139	322	339	500	326	129	453	343
TEAL	281	121	290	282	442	301	110	393	290
PAR	4	3	4	4	5	4	3	5	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	616	435	496	203	459	448	222	559	457
PURPLE	543	400	434	169	426	416	181	515	408
ORANGE	528	370	400	154	394	389	147	475	369
WHITE	484	358	374	138	358	334	115	456	334
TEAL	460	317	326	116	333	307	84	376	308
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	4	3	5	4

JUDGE COURSE

Black 7,813/78.5/147; Purple 7,082/75.1/142; Orange 6,517/71.7/131; White 5,910/68.7/128;
Teal 4,951/64.7/115; Ladies' White 74.4/137; Ladies' Teal 68.4/123; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	415	459	187	617	423	229	675	466	430
PURPLE	400	416	166	579	386	190	625	452	387
ORANGE	379	379	155	548	342	148	589	425	362
WHITE	347	350	129	486	326	133	575	396	330
TEAL	296	305	112	402	273	120	351	344	271
PAR	4	4	3	5	4	3	5	4	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	711	478	231	427	469	552	256	430	358
PURPLE	563	400	215	405	424	529	223	384	338
ORANGE	543	370	179	358	385	500	170	364	321
WHITE	503	340	110	313	371	457	153	327	264
TEAL	421	268	94	261	352	413	126	288	254
PAR	5	4	3	4	4	5	3	4	4



CAPITOL HILL

PRATTVILLE » 54 HOLES » OPENED 1999

Named the number 2 public golf site in the country by *Golf World* readers, Capitol Hill in Prattville continues to get praises from golfers and golf writers alike. *Golf* magazine called The Judge Course one of the 10 public courses in America worthy of hosting the U.S. Open and the *Zagat* Survey of America's Top Golf Courses ranked it among the top 50 courses in America. The Senator was named among the Top 10 New Courses in the nation by *Golf* magazine and has hosted several LPGA events in the past. Located in Prattville, approximately 8 miles north of Alabama's state capitol, Capitol Hill features three 18-hole championship courses. With more than 1500 acres of golf and nature, the pure magnitude of this facility is amazing and allows each course to be drastically different from the others.

The Senator, a Scottish-Links style course with Champion Bermuda greens, holds more than 160 pot-hole bunkers and mounds 20 to 40 feet in height, hiding the cart path or any other hole from the fairway. The secluded settings of each hole will make it feel as if you are the only foursome on the course.

The Legislator, a more traditional course, plays in and out of pine trees and along the bluff. The view riding down the "Sky Bridge" for six holes laid out in a native cypress swamp will impress as you are led back up the bluff to finish the course at the spectacular clubhouse.

The Judge offers stunning vistas along the 200-acre backwaters of the Alabama River. The first tee lies 200 feet above the fairway overlooking the river and the Montgomery skyline. With 14 holes adjoining the water and a bulkhead island green, the Judge is described as simply magnificent.

Capitol Hill also features an innovative circular driving range 400 yards in diameter. ■

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CAMBRIAN RIDGE

GREENVILLE » 36 HOLES » OPENED 1993

Known by avid golfers as one of the most beautiful and most challenging stops on the Trail, Cambrian Ridge in Greenville lies just 40 miles from Montgomery. It is well worth the ride for any golfer looking for 36 holes of jaw-dropping golf.

Since being named by *Golf Digest* as the third best new public course in America in 1994, Cambrian Ridge has not rested on its laurels. 2016 saw the culmination of a 3-year total renovation of the original 27 championship holes set upon the most spectacular setting for golf in the State of Alabama. The Loblolly and Sherling nines were completed in 2013 and 2014. The Canyon nine redesign and reconstruction were completed in 2016. The greens themselves have been redesigned to accommodate the higher greens speeds associated with our installation of the latest-generation of ultra-dwarf Bermuda grass. However, this major renovation did not stop with the new greens. Many of the holes have been totally redesigned to open up views of Sherling Lake, deliver a challenging test of golf while providing players of all skill levels a variety of ways to play each hole and enjoy the experience.

This year on Memorial Day weekend, May 27-28, Cambrian Ridge will host the annual Father/Son Championship, one of the most popular events on the Trail. ■

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SHERLING COURSE

Purple 3,522/37.4/67; Orange 3,264/36.3/65; White 2,905/34.9/62; Teal 2,339/33.7/60;

Ladies' Teal 34.3/57; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	546	209	420	169	360	390	437	636	355
ORANGE	531	167	388	128	345	367	412	601	325
WHITE	490	146	355	120	330	294	354	514	302
TEAL	417	91	270	65	224	253	322	460	237
PAR	5	3	4	3	4	4	4	5	4

CANYON COURSE

Purple 3,578/38.0/74; Orange 3,339/36.7/72; White 3,030/34.5/70; Teal 2,397/34.4/68;

Ladies' Teal 34.4/59; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	501	175	585	444	383	418	522	190	360
ORANGE	477	155	553	421	353	374	499	175	332
WHITE	432	135	478	366	330	366	464	152	307
TEAL	371	105	409	297	272	259	336	108	240
PAR	4	3	5	4	4	4	5	3	4

LOBLOLLY COURSE

Purple 3,528/36.6/66; Orange 3,316/35.6/63; White 2,928/34.7/61; Teal 2,384/33.4/58;

Ladies' Teal 33.5/54; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	497	421	418	159	418	222	503	447	443
ORANGE	469	397	390	136	413	196	474	423	418
WHITE	457	346	334	121	367	138	434	366	365
TEAL	342	322	249	84	301	112	369	321	284
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4

SHORT COURSE

Purple 1,640; Orange 1,415; White 1,116; Teal 745; Par 27

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	156	187	211	147	173	159	231	185	191
ORANGE	136	155	187	123	142	141	210	162	159
WHITE	118	121	151	79	109	123	123	151	141
TEAL	81	71	94	66	76	75	76	93	113
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

HIGHLANDS COURSE

Black 3,892/38.7/71; Purple 3,580/37.5/69; Orange 3,285/36.0/72; White 2,966/34.5/69;
Teal 2,554/34.8/60; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	493	458	457	256	430	206	561	435	596
PURPLE	442	415	437	225	390	178	523	409	561
ORANGE	410	371	388	181	362	169	507	372	525
WHITE	392	341	354	127	336	145	422	352	497
TEAL	367	253	294	115	327	120	339	305	434
PAR	4	4	4	3	4	3	5	4	5

MARSHWOOD COURSE

Black 3,812/38.7/72; Purple 3,502/37.4/72; Orange 3,204/35.3/71; White 2,849/34.0/68;
Teal 2,531/34.7/60; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	411	564	406	205	456	701	448	199	422
PURPLE	370	521	364	178	441	660	421	167	380
ORANGE	334	483	327	147	418	616	382	149	348
WHITE	304	453	311	126	380	544	302	113	316
TEAL	276	406	266	114	351	435	287	94	302
PAR	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4

MAGNOLIA COURSE

Black 3,701/38.1/66; Purple 3,415/36.7/67; Orange 3,141/34.8/63; White 2,862/33.8/61;
Teal 2,471/34.2/57; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	392	205	577	546	416	481	195	437	452
PURPLE	371	166	545	516	377	441	176	409	414
ORANGE	330	147	520	480	352	396	150	373	393
WHITE	296	110	476	457	317	363	136	341	366
TEAL	252	81	392	413	291	307	111	297	327
PAR	4	3	5	5	4	4	3	4	4

SHORT COURSE

Purple 1,809; Orange 1,539; White 1,229; Teal 874; Par 27

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	199	241	216	172	174	188	232	178	209
ORANGE	164	215	181	149	137	141	197	175	180
WHITE	121	184	133	127	101	113	159	136	155
TEAL	85	108	94	83	73	76	106	113	136
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3



HIGHLAND OAKS

DOTHAN » 36 HOLES » OPENED 1993

Located in the southeast corner of Alabama, Highland Oaks offers three nine-hole championship courses. The Highlands/Magnolia combination was named by *Golf Digest's* "Places to Play" as one of the nation's Great Value courses. This 36-hole complex features some of the longest and most classically designed holes on the Trail. Each nine has a different personality. Highlands, the core nine, is relatively open with several lakes in play. The peninsula green at the par-3 sixth has an elusive, beckoning quality.

Marshwood has been made famous (or notorious) by its behemoth par-5 sixth, which stretches to 701 yards from the tips. The 422-yard par-4 ninth, a left to right dogleg, is arguably the best hole at the site and has a tilted green elevated above a swathe of wetlands. The Magnolia nine is well-named: specimen magnolia trees dot the higher ground, which is reached via a 1,000-foot long wooden bridge spanning a marsh filled with lichen-dappled trees. The feature hole is the 416-yard fifth, where a split-level fairway offers an option off the tee. The Short Course, a nine-hole par 3, has demanding bunker placements, three water holes and possibly the best putting Bermuda greens in the South. ■

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MAGNOLIA GROVE

MOBILE » 54 HOLES » OPENED 1992

The new Magnolia Grove features two renovated golf courses. Each championship course received extensive renovations in the past three years. Golfers will find more “player friendly” qualities without compromising the integrity of Robert Trent Jones’ original design.

Magnolia Grove, the most southern location on Alabama’s Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail was recently named one of the “Top 50 Public Courses” by *Golf World Magazine* readers. The Crossings and Falls courses are also listed in *Golf Digest’s* “Places to Play” as two of the nation’s great value courses and as “America’s Top 50 Affordable Courses.”

The topography at Magnolia Grove features creeks, marshland, and lakes with each of the 54 holes carved through indigenous hardwood and pine. The new Crossings Course, which has hosted the LPGA Tour, provides an open parkland type ambiance. Several water features and crushed oyster shell waste areas were added to provide an exciting new look. All 18 greens have been redesigned and planted with the newly acclaimed Mini Verde ultra dwarf Bermuda grass.

The renovated Falls Course reopened in October 2010 as the only par-71 golf course on the Trail. The main tract at Magnolia Grove is characterized by large, liberally contoured Mini Verde greens and massive cloverleaf bunkers. Several holes were entirely redesigned giving the course a brand new look.

Golf Digest named the Short Course at Magnolia Grove as the best par-3 course in America. The Short Course, also recently renovated, features several newly designed greens and all new putting surfaces with the acclaimed Champion ultra dwarf Bermuda grass. Renovations were complete in August 2011. This course is as good as any collection of one-shotters on a championship course. ■

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT MAGNOLIA GROVE

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CROSSINGS COURSE

Purple 7,212/73.6/125; Orange 6,652/70.8/123; White 6,157/68.6/114;

Ladies’ Teal 5,261/67.8/113; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	422	185	385	540	430	528	412	219	406
ORANGE	387	168	347	511	392	500	385	192	381
WHITE	342	135	317	496	378	484	369	163	349
TEAL	275	101	279	478	331	425	314	122	316
PAR	4	3	4	5	4	5	4	3	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	417	398	421	559	195	423	596	226	450
ORANGE	386	364	392	524	172	400	535	201	415
WHITE	374	334	371	508	157	354	476	168	382
TEAL	348	273	285	430	99	282	425	134	344
PAR	4	4	4	5	3	4	5	3	4

FALLS COURSE

Purple 7,158/74.6/142; Orange 6,674/71.4/135; White 6,119/69.5/126; Teal 5,049/68.1/124;

Ladies’ Teal 70.4/124; Par 71

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	448	195	430	407	582	190	446	417	420
ORANGE	406	179	413	367	522	173	410	393	386
WHITE	370	152	380	345	506	143	390	372	349
TEAL	345	111	308	335	415	91	340	296	279
PAR	4	3	4	4	5	3	4	4	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	570	206	423	169	444	445	426	388	552
ORANGE	552	188	405	157	398	407	414	373	531
WHITE	523	161	370	137	369	364	351	325	512
TEAL	393	106	324	117	264	328	295	282	420
PAR	5	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	5

SHORT COURSE

Purple 3,140; Orange 2,734; White 2,279; Teal 1,829; Par 54

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	174	180	189	215	137	135	190	178	160
ORANGE	160	170	165	189	107	126	152	153	140
WHITE	119	137	124	155	91	100	127	140	126
TEAL	93	102	90	136	71	80	90	110	118
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	173	192	195	205	190	110	192	155	170
ORANGE	151	174	170	175	164	99	161	135	143
WHITE	132	132	142	143	144	85	138	111	133
TEAL	117	108	128	121	103	70	122	80	90
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

AZALEA COURSE

Purple 7,504/75.3/132; Orange 6,759/71.5/126; White 6,112/68.5/117; Teal 5,431/70.3/116;
Red 4,725/67.8/111; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	636	411	420	203	355	572	225	463	470
ORANGE	558	375	400	178	315	520	180	422	385
WHITE	490	345	353	164	288	491	159	379	372
TEAL	455	312	339	145	243	400	148	349	305
RED	410	255	303	77	216	354	120	296	293
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	5	3	4	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	429	514	448	196	545	195	471	475	476
ORANGE	389	500	398	180	531	147	428	423	430
WHITE	347	460	371	158	472	133	342	386	402
TEAL	344	420	354	117	421	107	289	349	334
RED	302	321	338	107	383	66	273	307	304
PAR	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	4	4

DOGWOOD COURSE

Purple 7,063/72.9/128; Orange 6,521/70.4/126; White 5,885/67.5/115; Teal 5,301/70.3/122;
Red 4,578/66.5/112; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	528	425	214	399	499	426	305	191	398
ORANGE	483	410	174	380	469	415	286	177	361
WHITE	425	375	167	362	442	379	262	155	328
TEAL	385	330	143	344	397	347	236	128	294
RED	335	266	105	239	346	324	221	106	256
PAR	5	4	3	4	5	4	4	3	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	380	445	548	233	463	454	572	209	374
ORANGE	347	415	521	191	428	424	531	176	333
WHITE	316	367	454	170	355	381	479	157	311
TEAL	296	322	390	154	335	361	408	139	292
RED	267	295	334	130	315	312	382	119	226
PAR	4	4	5	3	4	4	5	3	4



LAKWOOD GOLF CLUB

POINT CLEAR » 36 HOLES » OPENED 2004

The venerable Dogwood and Azalea courses at the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa, have seen a lot in their days. They've hosted President Gerald Ford, Dr. Billy Graham and Bob Hope, to name a few of the more famous players.

They've been through renovations and hurricanes and still remain a showcase for great golf in the South. First built in 1947, the Lakewood Golf Club at the Grand Hotel showcases fairways lined with 200-year-old oaks and a dramatic signature hole, the 14th on Azalea. An island green is surrounded by a four-acre lake, which makes your approach shot to this par-5 very demanding. Recently renovated, the new designs lend themselves to superb conditioning year round. With the addition or expansion of 10 water features over the span of the 36 holes as well as other interesting architectural features, golfers are faced with decisions at every corner.

Lakewood's two 18-hole courses alternate openings between Grand Hotel guests and Trail Card Holders, and Lakewood Golf Club members. The varying degree of difficulty promises a memorable golf experience for both the novice and the experienced golfer alike. Where the Dogwood course might seem a tad bit easier, and the Azalea, more of a challenge, both courses can play to your liking depending on your selection of tees. With five sets of tees per hole, your decision should be rather easy.

Funded by the Retirement Systems of Alabama, the renovation of both courses brings them on par with many of the great resort golf courses in the country. Lakewood Golf Club has several times been named to *Golf Magazine's* "Best Golf Resorts in America."

Colony at the Grand, a residential development, overlooks the Azalea course at Lakewood. ■

LAKWOOD GOLF CLUB

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