

ROBERT TRENT JONES
GOLF TRAIL



THE TRAIL GUIDE

2014 EDITION » THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO ALABAMA'S ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL





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In Birmingham, there's one common ingredient in every dish we serve: authenticity. From BBQ joints to award-winning chef-owned dining rooms, our commitment to culinary excellence has made our city a delicious destination for deliberate foodies. It's how we've brought home multiple James Beard Awards, an Iron Chef victory, and a healthy portion of other national accolades. No matter what's on the menu for your trip to Birmingham, you're in for a real treat.

OFF THE TRAIL

DEL MARSH, SENATE PRO TEMPORE
ALABAMA SENATE



As an avid outdoorsman, I appreciate the beauty that our great State has to offer. What a perfect place to live and raise families! The State offers rolling hills with the morning sun creating beautiful hues against the mountains in the early morning light, the white sand beaches along the Gulf creating a serenity that is breathtaking, and the vast farmlands where you can top a hill and look miles below at the winding rivers, forests and cropland. Nothing can match the exquisite beauty God has created. Visitors have been impressed with the magnificent Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail featuring 26 golf courses at 11 sites throughout the State that capture every panoramic facet we have to offer. The Trail has just experienced its 10 millionth round of golf and according to the New York Times "The Trail offers the best public golf on earth."

Industrial development and recruitment have created an economic impact distinct in much of the State and new jobs and opportunities which have arisen because of the automotive industry, steel industry, and aerospace creating an environment conducive to a better life for all of our citizens.

We welcome you to Alabama and trust that you will love our State and its assets as much as we do. You will find that Alabamians are among the most hospitable of any place you will visit. So find a rocking chair on a porch, grab a lemonade and relax with us, hear the stories of yesteryear, enjoy a golf game and explore the 52,419 square miles of our beautiful State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Del Marsh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Del Marsh
Senate President Pro Tempore
Alabama Senate



“ HI, I’M JOE TAYLOR. Overton, Texas. What keeps me coming back to the Trail? It’s just absolutely sensational. I have people tell me what they’ve spent playing one round at Pebble Beach and a night at the hotel, or going to Pinehurst for a couple rounds. We do the entire week, travel, hotel, green fees, good meals and everything for the price of one day at these places. And it’s absolutely a sensational place to come. ”

TO PLAN YOUR VISIT to Alabama’s Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, visit rtjresorts.com or call 1.800.949.4444 today.

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Most everyone has a favorite number, one that has a personal meaning or represents something special in their life. It may be a favorite athletes' jersey number or the date of a special occasion, perhaps just a number that feels lucky.

The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail has a number, and it's a big one.

10,000,000.

10,000,000 BY THE NUMBERS

BY TOMMY HICKS

It's not likely to be placed on a jersey or T-shirt, though it certainly denotes a special occasion or achievement. That's the number of rounds of golf that have been played on the various Trail courses since its inception. And the number is growing every day.

Consider that for a moment – 10 million rounds of golf. Now imagine all the shots – all the birdies, bogeys, pars and “other” scores – that have been recorded, all the friendships that have been celebrated and all the business deals made on the Robert Trent Jones-designed layout. Then consider all the other numbers that have been created – economic impact, businesses attracted to the state, businesses enhanced by the Trail, lives affected through business or leisure ventures associated with the Trail – and consider the number those aspects represent.

The RTJ Golf Trail is big, and it continues to get bigger every year. As such, so does the number of rounds of golf played on the string of golf sites. The dollars coming into the state in the form of economic impact in general and certainly in terms of tourism revenue also continue to increase. ...»



Capitol Hill, Judge No. 1



“You’ve got to be kidding. That’s such a big number that you have to say, ‘Well, let’s compare it to an Alabama football game.’ And even so, it’s still a big number.”

“You’ve got to be kidding.” That was the reaction of Dr. David Bronner, CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama and the man who came up with the idea for the RTJ Golf Trail, when asked his initial response to the announcement the Trail has produced 10 million rounds of golf. “That’s such a big number that you have to say, ‘Well, let’s compare it to an Alabama football game.’ And even so, it’s still a big number.”

“I don’t think anybody would have believed, nor would I have believed, what they said if they told us (there would be that many rounds played in this timeframe). Not numbers like that. I was more focused on trying to get tourists to stop here. When you think about it, 20 years ago, there were a lot of folks going to Florida in the winter time and it just made a lot of sense to me that in order to get there from the Midwest or even the East, you had two choices – you either drove through Georgia or Alabama.”

“How do you get their attention? How to do get something to make them want to stay instead of just filling up the gas tank and trying to get through (the state) as fast as they can? That was one aspect of it. The other aspect of it was really industrial recruiting.”

The combination of golf and business, a closer bond than some recognize, Dr. Bronner said, seemed a great match. His vision has proven to be 20/20. At the same time he oversaw the development of quality golf courses across the state, his main goal in establishing the Trail took hold as well – it enhanced the economic impact across the state, and especially in the areas where Trail courses were established, and it had an immediate and dynamic impact on tourism revenue for the state. It’s all in the numbers.

“The golf really generated the necessity of the RSA to get into the media companies. We’re actually in four different kinds of media – the movie theater business, we’re in the billboard business, we’re in the newspaper business and we’re in the television business. All of which give people, not just hundreds of miles away, but thousands of miles away, a perspective of Alabama that they would not have otherwise,” Dr. Bronner said.

The value of the Trail isn’t just in the beauty of the courses. It’s also what has been created around those courses – strong local economy. Just ask Prattville Mayor Bill Gillespie Jr. who said of the creation of Capitol Hill Golf Course, “If you look at the number of hotels and eateries that we had prior to



Ross Bridge No. 8

the (the Trail) coming to Prattville, you can see a big financial increase after the golf course opened. Tourism dollars are very important for Prattville,” he told the Montgomery Advertiser, “and the golf course is the driving factor in our tourism industry.”

Or ask Colbert County Commissioner Rex Burlison how he feels about the The Shoals course in Florence and what it represents. “It brought us together,” he told the Times-Daily. “It’s the best thing that ever happened to northwest Alabama and the Quad Cities. I talk to someone most every day who never would have visited the area – people from Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, all over. It’s a piece of gold for North Alabama.”

John Cannon, president and CEO of SunBelt Golf Corporation, said the numbers still make him shake his head.

“I just think it’s one of those things, where you saw that number coming up – 10 million rounds of golf – and it’s kind of daunting,” Cannon said. “You think, wait a minute, we see them one at a time, you see busy days, but it really adds up to millions of people from all over the world coming to Alabama to play golf.”

“If Dr. Bronner and Bobby Vaughn and all those crazy guys back in 1990 hadn’t had this idea, where would Alabama be today? I don’t have the answer to that, but it’s kind of remarkable and at times humbling, to realize that today we’re still having an impact and millions of people are coming to Alabama to play golf. I don’t think even in the beginning they could have thought or imagined numbers like that. Ten million? That’s something.”

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of it all, Cannon said, is the consistency the number represents, not to mention the various areas the Trail impacts.

“From the start, in good times and in bad, we have kind of been able to find a sweet spot there,” Cannon said. “We have been maintaining affordable golf. That gets us through the hard times better than some destinations and it is there through the good times too. All in all, of all the things that were done, we’ve gotten a lot of attention for the state of Alabama and we believe mostly positive attention. Internally, it has made us realize we’ve done some good things and it should inspire us to get better so somebody here will be celebrating the 20 millionth golfer.”

Cannon said he could talk all day about the courses themselves, the amenities and the quality of play. “But the better story is the total economic impact and the credibility that the Trail and the rest of our really good tourism partners around the state have had in driving total economic impact and making Alabama a viable option for manufacturing and the location of your business because of not only lifestyles but locations,” he said. “The leadership of Alabama has helped maintain a positive business environment, so every day I think everyone in the golf and tourism industry are really helping make Alabama a great place to live and work.” ■

» Tommy Hicks is a sportswriter for al.com.



Shoals, Fighting Joe No. 12

glorious Grind

BY ERIC N. HART » *Reprinted with permission from GolfGetaways Magazine*

THE ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL IS ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE AND DOABLE IN ONE BIG, BEAUTIFUL TRIP.

We would be the first. According to Bill Lang, Public Relation's Director for Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, no journalist had ever played each of its 11 mini-destinations in one trip.

That's because it's no small feat.

Full circle, the Trail is 1,078 miles by car (presumably the same by horse), with each stop in or near Alabama's largest metropolitan areas, offering 18 to 54 holes of golf, 468 holes altogether. And my son and I played at least one course on every segment of the Trail, under perfect summer skies with high temperatures of 81 to 98 degrees.

That's 252 holes. In 10 days.

Of course, it took a guy from way up north, not far from my home in Minnesota, to bring this Trail to life. Dr. David Bronner wanted to move somewhere people could comfortably play golf year-round, and Bear Bryant's old Alabama stomping grounds fit the bill. But apparently one course wasn't enough for Dr. Bronner.

He wanted to go big.

What began as a plan for 324 holes at seven sites became reality (and has since increased by 50 percent), and Bronner's

THE SHOALS (Florence & Muscle Shoals)

PLAY»Fighting Joe and The Schoolmaster (36 holes) **STAY»**Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa
EAT»Swamper's Bar & Grill **OTHER COOL STUFF TO SEE»**Wilson Dam

Fighting Joe (pictured) was the first course on the Trail to break 8,000 yards and did so by a full sand-wedge. Links style and water-lapped, with the magnetic substance in play on 13 holes, it is a visual stunner and stern test of ballflight management. The Schoolmaster only has water in play on five holes, but is a much steeper, tighter, tree-lined opponent. The Marriott Shoals Hotel rests on the banks of the Tennessee River, adjacent the magnificent Wilson Dam — perfect for a starry night stroll. The Marriott features Alabama's only revolving diner and the tastiest local dining fare at Swamper's, next to the incredible waterfall pool — try the loaded Swamper's Burger, with a fried green tomato.

HAMPTON COVE (Huntsville)

PLAY»River, Highlands and Short (54 holes) **EAT»**Blue Plate Cafe

The River distinguishes itself as the only Trail course without a bunker. Mostly flat, and natural, with water in play on 16 holes, it would be the ideal course for Bubba Watson's hovercraft cart. The Highlands course is a more scenic rollercoaster ride, with far more variety and a beautiful mule barn between holes 4 and 5. No. 9, a 526-yard uphiller, feels more like 1,526 yards. The Short course has water in play on 11 more holes. If you weren't aquaphobic before, play the Short and River and you will be. Post golf, pick your Southern Fried passion at the Blue Plate Cafe.

ROSS BRIDGE (Birmingham)

PLAY»Ross Bridge (18 holes) **STAY**»Renaissance Ross Bridge Resort & Spa

EAT»The Clubhouse Restaurant **OTHER COOL STUFF**»Follow the Bagpiper around the Ross Bridge grounds each evening at sunset

Another Top 3 Trail lodging option boasting an incredible patio and pool, the Four-Diamond “Top 500 in the World” Renaissance Ross Bridge chateau-tel (Hotel Castle) is as impressive indoors as it is from the parking lot, and next door is arguably the most visually stunning course on the Trail (and third longest in world). With anywhere from 10-12 picturesque “signature” holes, it also features a transfixing waterfall that cascades down the steep hillside, dropping more than 80 feet in elevation to the lake, splitting the greens of holes 9 and 18. The grilled buffalo wings at The Clubhouse Restaurant are great, but the Cowpoke Burger with Coca-Cola BBQ sauce and onion rings is even better. Don’t miss the late-night live music in the lobby at JT’s Lounge. And a special shoutout to Course Ranger Charlie Snell, one of the best conversationalists on the Trail.

OXMOOR VALLEY (Birmingham)

PLAY»Valley, Ridge and Short (54 holes)

STAY»Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa **EAT**»Saw’s BBQ

Just two short miles from the Renaissance, these three routings at Oxmoor Valley are tighter and tougher golf challenges than most on the Trail. The first course to open on the Trail (in 1992), the Valley is a maze of narrow, tree-lined fairways with some great tee shots and scattered hazardous ponds. The Ridge course makes phenomenal use of the trenches left behind by U.S. Steel’s former mining operations. The beautiful 5-par No. 3 hole leads you sharply down from the tee over a river and up to a raised green surrounded by shale mounds and walls. The Short course is a mini merged version of the other two, pleasantly playing downhill on most holes. A tasty local dining option, try Saw’s signature white BBQ sauce...on pretty much anything.

SILVER LAKES (Anniston/Gadsden)

PLAY»Mindbreaker, Heartbreaker, Backbreaker and Short (4 nines, 36 holes)

EAT»Top O’ The River (“Catfish Exceptional”) **OTHER COOL STUFF**»Talladega Superspeedway

Northeast Alabama was hit hard by an EF-4 Tornado in April of 2011. Silver Lakes, adjacent Talladega National Forest and the Appalachian foothills, lost 40,000 trees and two-dozen golf holes, but Trail officials refused to shut it down or write it off. Resurrected, it is better than it ever was, some believe. I consider their greens (and service) to be the best on the Trail. The Short course is a collection of Signatures, by far the best short set on the Trail. Well-deserved praise goes out to all involved in restoring this beautiful facility.

GRAND NATIONAL (Auburn/Opelika)

PLAY»Links, Lakes and Short (54 holes) **STAY**»Marriott Grand National

EAT»Byron’s BBQ for pulled pork; Mike & Eds for cornbread

OTHER COOL STUFF»Cheaha State Park, Alabama’s highest point

Trail CEO John Cannon says Grand National has “everything you could ever want in one golf site.” RTJ lauded it as “the single greatest site for a golf complex ever.” Big words. Even bigger delivery. Both championship courses list among the Top 50 national golf values by multiple publications. Thirty-two of the 54 holes touch 600-acre Lake Saugahatchee, and several more wave at it. The Lakes’ natural island No. 15 is one of the five most unforgettable tee shots on the Trail. The Links is loaded with beauties, especially holes 2-4 and the powerhouse lakeside closer No. 18. And the Short course is, without question, the “Best 18-hole Short Course on the Trail.” (And No. 6 was the site of my first-ever hole-in-one.)

HIGHLAND OAKS (Dothan)

PLAY»Marshwood, Magnolia, Highlands and Short (36 holes)

EAT»The Blue Plate **OTHER COOL STUFF**»Adventureland Theme Park

The “Peanut Capital of the World” (in southeast Alabama) hosts the secluded, country club-like Highland Oaks, a rewarding detour from major state highways but a top draw for neighboring

vision for the Trail became the primary subsidy for the Retirement Systems of Alabama. It’s unique, and it might be the single greatest golf venture in American history, especially considering it bears Mr. Jones’ name. Interestingly, Jones was the only architect who responded to Dr. Bronner’s initial pitch.

Great call both ways.

Other than Lakewood Golf Club in Point Clear, each course was conceived and built as a permanent cornerstone of the Trail. It’s no marketing gimmick, no “title only” association, and definitely no “flash in the pan” success story. In its 20-plus years of existence, SunBelt Golf and its 1,000-plus employees have kept the Trail running strong before, during and after some of this nation’s hardest economic times. It’s a fair argument as to who has benefitted more, the retired community of Alabama or the thousands of golfers who annually can, and do, play at least 363 1/2 days a year on its two dozen plus courses.

Enhancing the “destination” value of the Trail is its close association with Marriott, which has eight outstanding hotels, collectively known as the Resort Collection, serving as ideal hubs at seven of the 11 Trail stops. Three recently made *Travel + Leisure’s* “Top 500 Hotels in the World” list, and several were our home away from home for nine nights, loaded with the amenities any business or casual traveler (single, couple, family or golf group) would have on their check lists, including spas, fitness centers, scenic tropical-themed pools, fast elevators and flavorful restaurants with dynamic evening entertainment options. The award-winning “Stay” selections greatly complement the “Play” opportunities of the Trail, most of them just a quick complimentary shuttle ride from their respective golf facilities.

Just about every golf publication has profiled the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, lauded its magnitude and applauded the originality. And it markets itself with what I like to think of as a Lee Greenwood mentality ... “from the lakes of Minnesota to the hills of Tennessee.” (There are six promotional billboards within 50 miles of my house). And in many ways, the Trail appeals more to the average everyday golfer than any top-ranked course or destination can, largely because its cost-to-value is relatively unmatched and the wealth of golf options dwarfs those in often more well-known coastal regions. Alabama can compete head-to-head for golf business and attention with the Carolinas, Florida, Arizona and California, but that’s not their true competition — the Trail’s evangelists praise and appreciate those other destinations as much as any traveler, but they don’t worry in the least about where the grass may be seasonally greener.

Not everyone can afford to play there, for one thing, while anyone can afford to play here. Not everyone is skilled enough to play some of those courses, but anyone can get it around on a Trail track if they choose the right tees.

Plus, most facilities offer instruction centers, full-scale practice ranges and plenty of professionals willing and able to help you with any facet of your game. In short, you don’t



Grand National



Silver Lakes



Ross Bridge



Oxmoor Valley



Capitol Hill



Magnolia Grove



Cambrian Ridge



Lakewood

have to be good to love it here. On the other hand, you can equally be great and love it here — the Trail hosts multiple LPGA and Champions Tour events, even officially sponsoring an event at Capitol Hill for the first time next year. The heart of America's golf scene truly pounds strong year-round in the Yellowhammer State.

From the Gulf Shore coast near Mobile, to the Florida, Georgia and Mississippi state lines, it's seldom too hot or too cold, never hard to find outstanding golf, and the conditions... well, lest you think (as I did) that surely some of these places have to be cow pastures, not one of them is. On the 15 courses we played, conditions were consistently impressive, with regularly rolled, smooth greens always running speeds between 9 and 11; clean fairways and tee boxes without exception; and service inside and out living up to the very high Trail-wide expectations.

And these courses weren't just thrown together. Their locations were intentionally spread across the four distinct topographical regions of Alabama — mountains, wetlands, coastal and metropolitan centers — to provide the golfer with every imaginable element, environment and entertainment opportunity. Their designs were deliberately and diligently planned to the very last detail, and are clearly (even today) managed in the same vein: Southern hospitality at its very best.

Courses come in all shapes and sizes, from "short" 3-par designs routed in nines (three of them) or eighteen (four of them), to mammoth 8,200-yard beasts that seem much longer than the five miles they are mathematically.

Giants bear names like Fighting Joe, Mindbreaker, Heartbreaker, The Judge and Backbreaker — each living up to its daunting moniker.

The Trail comprises 172,398 yards of golf from the tips. That's 98 miles. My journey, from the Orange tees (averaging just under 6,800 yards per championship 18) covered 90,779 of those yards, or 52 miles of Robert Trent Jones golf. I negotiated 252 holes at 216 over par with a dozen birdies, two eagles (one of them my first-ever hole-in-one), more than 2,000 photos, and just as many smiles. From the first tee box in northwest Alabama, at Fighting Joe, to the last cup at Lakewood Golf Club, just off Mobile Bay in Point Clear, it was the greatest of adventures, the most epic of stateside golf trips, and the realization of a fantasy initiated by those billboards along a Minnesota highway a decade ago.

Though coined elsewhere, the phrase "if you build it, they will come" was made popular by the movie *Field of Dreams* in 1989. Shortly after the flick's debut, ground was broken on several of the Trail sites. Coincidence? Perhaps. But there's no doubt that each is a home run, on the big screen and in the biggest of Deep South scenes. For us, 10 golf-packed days on the Robert Trent Jones Trail is as heavenly as it gets in Alabama. Or pretty much anywhere. ■

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panhandle Floridians. Marshwood, as titled, plays around many a marsh, with stunning significant carry tee shots. Magnolia is heavily peppered with the namesake variety of trees. Highlands is easily the most popular, and scenic, with three daunting lakeside tee shots. And the Short course is extremely family-friendly. Excellent service abounds. Having loved our initiation at the Blue Plate Café in Huntsville we hit the Blue Plate here, only to find they were amazingly unrelated, though equally great.

CAPITOL HILL (Montgomery)

PLAY» Judge, Senator, Legislator (54 holes) **STAY**» Montgomery Marriott Prattville at Capitol Hill **EAT**» Jim & Nick's BBQ **OTHER COOL STUFF**» Cheaha State Park, Alabama's highest point

This Marriott was the first to be built directly on a Trail course (the Senator) and is cozy, quiet and secluded. The Senator is a Scottish-links-style replica with huge mounds and one too many pot bunkers. Annual host to the LPGA, it hosts next year's inaugural Robert Trent Jones-sponsored event. The Legislator is a thrill ride diving into and ripping through the native cypress swamps. Accolades aside, the Judge earns new accolades every day. The first tee is 200 feet above the fairway (imagine hitting balls off the Golden Gate Bridge). With a dozen-plus signature holes, and 14 touching the water, it is the sternest test on the Trail, and marginally my favorite over Ross Bridge. The deck overlooking No. 1 is a mandatory post-round reflection point, with or without a beverage or cigar.

MAGNOLIA GROVE (Mobile)

PLAY» Falls, Crossings, Short (54 holes) **STAY**» Homewood Suites, Mobile **EAT**» The Brick Pit (if they have ribs) **OTHER COOL STUFF**» Dauphin Island

Magnolia Grove is the southernmost "official" member of the Trail and home to 54 holes of hardwood-lined golf. The more scenic Crossings hosts the LPGA Tour each spring. Recently renovated, it features unique oyster shell waste areas, a picturesque covered wooden bridge and one of the prettiest finishing holes in Alabama. The Falls (renovated in 2010) is the only par 71 on the Trail. The approach over the waterfall trench on No. 10 leads perfectly into the course's best tee shot on No. 11. The newly renovated Short course is second best 18-hole short set on the Trail. The Battle House was booked for Tokarev, a Nicolas Cage film shoot while we visited, but Mobile Homewood Suites filled in perfectly. Call ahead to make sure the Brick Pit has its signature ribs. If not, The Shed is just up the street.

LAKWOOD (Point Clear)

PLAY» Dogwood, Azalea (36 holes) **STAY**» Grand Hotel Marriott **EAT**» Lambert's in Foley for dinner; Two Sisters Bakery for snacks

Our final stop on the Trail, this oasis on Mobile Bay has views from the famed Grand Hotel as picturesque as they come in Alabama. Across the street from the private Lakewood Golf Club, which alternates its courses daily to host Trail Card members, the Grand Hotel has beaches, jetties and piers to complement its bayside rooms, dining and activities galore. Lakewood Golf Club has two courses. This close to Foley, you have to eat at Lambert's, where a buffet is the appetizer.

CAMBRIAN RIDGE (Greenville)

PLAY» Sherling, Canyon, Loblolly, Short (4 nines, 36 holes) **EAT**» Waffle House. Think "Starbucks of the South." Every trip needs one Waffle House stop. **OTHER COOL STUFF**» The Grand Canyon Driving Range at Cambrian Ridge

Just 40 miles south of Montgomery, the secluded park-like Cambrian Ridge property is one you must see to believe. Many claim the Sherling to be the best nine on the entire Trail. It's a compelling argument: A stunning Augusta-like setting around barely rippling beautiful lakes. When the pin is at the summit of the four-tier, uphill green on No. 9 (shared with Canyon), golf writers have been known to five-putt it. I can neither confirm nor deny that. The Canyon cannot be overlooked with its spectacular elevated tee shots and insanely long (over water) 3-pars. Loblolly is the polar opposite to those two, a pleasant rolling ride. And the Short is the second best short nine on the Trail. Don't miss your opportunity to dine (and observe "poor putting clinics") on their 30-mile view veranda.

A POOL HALL OWNER'S LESSONS ARE THE BUILDING BLOCKS FOR THE RTJ GOLF TRAIL

BY R.J. SMILEY » *Reprinted with permission from Tee Times Magazine*

Dr. David G. Bronner was born in Cresco, IA, a border town on the Minnesota/Iowa border. His father owned and operated a pool hall, just across the border, in Harmony, Minnesota. When Dr. Bronner was very young his father moved his family to Austin, MN where he opened a modern day, pool hall; a pool hall with no spittoons and no alcohol. Little did young David Bronner know that the lessons he learned from his father, while cleaning the toilets or scrubbing the pool hall floors every Saturday night, would give him the basic business foundation to develop and oversee one of the worlds biggest and best golf operations.



David G. Bronner, CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama

Dr. Bronner was taught two timeless business principles that have directed him like a beacon for the past 40 years as he has directed the Retirement Systems of Alabama to one of the highest rated retirement systems in the world.

Those two business principles are: 1. Failure is not a crime, aiming low is a crime. 2. Without money, ideas are only ideas.

After high school Dr. Bronner earned his Bachelors and Masters Degree in Finance at Mankato State University. He later taught Finance at his alma mater for a few years before earning his PhD and law degree at the University of Alabama where he taught in the Graduate Schools of Business and Education and served as Assistant Dean and Lecturer in the School of Law. In 1973 Dr. Bronner moved to the Retirement Systems of Alabama where he became the Chief Executive Officer. The RSA is ranked 117 of all private/public pension funds in the world, and 45th in the top 1,000 U.S. funds.

Guided by those two basic Business Principles, Dr. Bronner has guided RSA into a number of high profile investments including office buildings, luxurious hotels and conference centers, TV stations, and community newspapers. (Over 160 newspapers provide free advertising for the state of Alabama.) Dr. Bronner, who served as Chairman of the US Airways Board of Directors, has been featured in *Time*, *Governing Magazine*, *The Institutional Investor*, *The Money Manager*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Business Week*, *Forbes Magazine*, and *Pension & Investment Age* for his investment strategies and financial market decisions. In 2003, PlanSponsor magazine named the RSA "Plan Sponsor of the Year."

As Dr. Bronner reflects on RSA's numerous successful investments, his Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail – an idea backed by money – brings the biggest smile of satisfaction to his face. Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is a unique covey of 26 sibling championship golf courses, located throughout the state at 11 beautiful sites that were hand selected by Dr. Bronner. These wonderfully designed and meticulously manicured courses have put Alabama at the top of golf destinations worldwide. But more importantly, by setting expectations very high these golf courses are a major reason that Alabama tourism has grown from a \$1.8 billion industry to a \$10.6 billion industry.

HOW DID IT ALL HAPPEN?

In the late 1980's the "trained brain" of Dr. Bronner was searching for ways to effectively diversify the assets of the state's pension fund and how to grow Alabama's economy. He believed that the stronger the Retirement Systems of Alabama can make Alabama, the stronger the Retirement Systems of Alabama will become. Bronner brainstormed for ways to increase tourism to the state of Alabama and finding the missing ingredients necessary to bring much needed industry to his beloved state. The Alabama Golf Trail idea was formed when US Steel Corporation, a major landowner in Birmingham, approached Dr. Bronner with the idea of giving the RSA land to build an 18-hole golf course.

When Dr. Bronner wrapped his arms around the vision, he remembered what his father had taught him, "Thinking low is a crime." Dr. Bronner wasn't looking to build just an 18 hole public golf course; his vision was to build 378 holes of wonderful championship golf at 8 locations throughout the state. All at one time!

Dr. Bronner contacted his friend, Bobby Vaughan, director of golf at Tanglewood in Clemmons, NC and explained his vision. Vaughan drank the Kool-Aid and immediately formed SunBelt Golf Corporation and began putting together a team that would develop, construct, operate and manage all 18 golf courses.

"When you're looking for someone to design 378 golf holes, you start at the top," stated Bronner. So Dr. Bronner sent RFPs to 6 well-known golf course

designers. Robert Trent Jones, Sr., arguably the premier golf course architect in the world, like Vaughn, caught the vision, and also drank the Kool-Aid. Jones, Sr., designer of over 500 courses worldwide many among "America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses", came out of semi-retirement to digest the huge project and agreed to add his renown name to the project.

With the ink still wet on the final approvals, Vaughan and SunBelt Golf pushed the starter button on 700 pieces of equipment to begin construction of the largest golf course project in the world. The red clay of Alabama shook statewide as the

“When you're looking for someone to design 378 golf holes, you start at the top.”

invasion of earth moving equipment was compared to a D-Day of bulldozers. If the holes on the original Jones Trail were laid end to end they would form a golf course stretching to over 100 miles. Imagine that!

Robert Trent Jones understood from the beginning that, with unlimited funds and grandiose ideas, he had the opportunity to create his own version of Michelangelo's masterful artwork in the Sistine Chapel. Today the 26 courses that make up Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail total 468 holes at 11 locations across the state. Jones designed the courses to provide a golf course for golfers of all ability and ages. Many of the holes have up to 12 sets of tees. The Trail's long list of accolades includes recognition as the best value in the country as a golf destination, according to a recent *Golf Digest* survey. *GolfWorld* readers named the sites in Opelika (Grand National) and Prattville (Capitol Hill) as the top two public golf sites in the country. The course at Mobile (Magnolia Grove) ranked number 32.

In May of 2012, Dr. Bronner and Roger Rulewich, lead designer for Robert Trent Jones, Sr., attended the 20th anniversary of the Trail at Oxmoor Valley. Rulewich, who worked with Jones for 34 years, has been selected to work on a series of renovations on the original courses.

In the view of this golf writer, the most unique assets among the Trail's 468 holes are the great par-3 courses. Having played two of the original par-3 courses, I will state that playing a golf course with 9 or 18 par-3 holes that could be placed on any golf course in America is truly a challenge. The attention to detail and maintenance of these par-3s is exactly the equal to all Jones Trail courses. Visit the Jones Trail and play the par-3 courses. They are no joke or afterthought!

Dr. Bronner learned to play golf playing with his mother and two older sisters at Austin Ramsey Club. His older sister, age 80, living in Illinois regularly plays three times a week. Who would believe that the son of a pool hall owner in Austin, MN would become the innovative businessman who oversees one of the most successful golf course operations in history? Thanks to the Senior Bronner's wisdom, the idea has been copied but never duplicated! ■

» R.J. Smiley is a freelance golf writer who spent 40 years in all phases of the golf business. R.J. has been writing for Tee Times magazine for the last 6 years. To read more of R.J.'s insightful and humorous stories, go to your favorite eBook distributor and search for R.J. Smiley or Golf Tales.





CELEBRATIONS AFTER Sunset

FROM LOCAL CRAFT BEER TO EXCEPTIONAL CUISINE TO LIVE MUSIC, RTJ RESORTS OFFER GREAT EVENING OPTIONS.

After a challenging round on America's Original Golf Trail, prepare to wet your whistle in style at one of the eight luxury hotels in RTJ's Resort Collection. These hotels and resorts offer exceptional dining utilizing a farm to table mentality for freshness and taste. Alabama's growing craft beer selections offer great options for others who want to drink local, as well. Paired with local musicians performing nightly, you have the recipe for a great day and night in Alabama.



The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail has inspired other trails to blaze across the state. RTJ's Spa Trail with five luxury spas in the Trail's Resort Collection offers the recovery and pampering to end a day of great golf. The new Alabama Craft Beer Trail will help quench your thirst and raise your spirits at the same time. Our team of chefs incorporates fresh local seafood and produce in their menus to bring our guests the best of the best. Award-winning wines and decadent desserts also help complete the culinary experience.

The evening music options are as varied at the RTJ golf courses. Enjoy piano music in the Grand Hotel or the Battle House along Mobile Bay. Try some jazz

in Montgomery, bagpipers in Birmingham or a bit of the blues in Florence. Poolside or in the sky. Inside or out. The venues and musicians are diverse but they all celebrate Alabama's deep musical roots and are live each night.

After a great meal, a cold beverage and some hot music, the resort collection has more than 2,500 luxury beds and 10,000 plush pillows awaiting guests in search of a good night's sleep. From Mobile Bay to the Tennessee River, here is a preview of the upscale lodging options waiting for you on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. 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 consistently receives the AAA Four Diamond Award and is a family-friendly historical hotel that is 166 years young. In 2011, the Grand Hotel was named one of the "Top 500 Hotels in the World" by *Travel + Leisure*. The resort has received national honors from *Travel + Leisure*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Tennis Magazine*, *Successful Meetings* and *Meetings South*. 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. The Dogwood and Azalea golf courses were renovated in 2005. Once restricted, 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 in 2006. All guest rooms were updated in 2010. 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.

The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa

Mobile, Alabama www.rsabattlehouse.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 has been named as one of the "Top 500 Hotels in the World" by *Travel + Leisure*. 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 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. On New Year's Eve, come witness MoonPie Over Mobile in a one-of-a-kind celebration.

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

ALABAMA'S CRAFT BEER TRAIL »

Trunks up. Alabama has great craft beer. In fact, it has an entire beer trail. By the end of 2013, the state had 25 local breweries selling to local businesses, including the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail and its resorts.

Enjoy a draft from Straight to Ale in Huntsville, Back Forty Brewing from Gadsden, Good People and Avondale in Birmingham and a cold one from Fairhope Brewery along Mobile Bay. From small operations to breweries shipping regionally and nationally, the beer in Alabama is now as fine as its golf.

With the new beer trail, you can enjoy a day of golf, a tour and tasting in a brewery and fine dining and lodging in the RTJ resorts. Visit www.rtgolf.com for special craft beer golf packages on RTJ.

Museum, the Museum of Mobile and the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center, which also features blockbuster exhibitions.

Having undergone a \$50 million renovation, the 374 plush guest rooms are as popular as the hotel's spectacular views of Mobile Bay. The Harbor Room restaurant features exceptional seafood and steaks. 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 and host an LPGA tournament in spring.

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 opened in 2008 and brings Alabama's capital city a great cultural, culinary and corporate hub. The hotel features 346 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 performing arts centre is quickly becoming the city's social hot spot.

Renaissance Montgomery includes a newly renovated and expanded convention center. The hotel complex has more than 142,000 square feet of meeting space and features some of the latest technology available for meetings. The Renaissance Montgomery is approximately 10 minutes from the Capitol Hill site on the RTJ Trail.

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 and near the Bass Pro Shop and other shopping, the Marriott hotel's 95 guest rooms were completely renovated in 2009. 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. ...»



Renaissance Montgomery



Battle House



Grand Hotel



Ross Bridge



Trellis Room at the Battle House

ALABAMA CRAFT BEER ON TAP »

Here are some of the top craft beer breweries in Alabama. Several offer tour and tasting options for a fee and are located near RTJ Golf Trail courses.

AVONDALE BREWING/Birmingham/Tours & tastings
BACK FORTY BREWING/Gadsden/Tastings
BEER ENGINEERS/Birmingham
BELOW THE RADAR BREWING/Huntsville/Tastings
BLUE PANTS BREWERY/Madison/Tours & tastings
CAHABA BREWING/Birmingham/Tastings
CHATTAHOOCHEE BREWING/Phoenix City/Tastings
CHEAHA BREWING/Anniston/Tastings
FAIRHOPE BREWING/Fairhope/Tours & tastings
FOLKLORE BREWING & MEADERY/Dothan
GOOD PEOPLE BREWING/Birmingham/Tours & tastings
PATRIOT JOE'S ALES/Anniston/Tastings
OLD BLACK BEAR BREWING/Huntsville
RAILYARD BREWING/Montgomery/Tastings
STRAIGHT TO ALE/Huntsville/Tours & tastings
THE BREW STOOGES/Huntsville
YELLOWHAMMER BREWING/Huntsville/Tastings

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. Named the number 2 site for public golf in the country by *Golf World* readers, this RTJ site will host another LPGA tournament in the fall.

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 15,000 square feet of event space, including 13 venues, a new ballroom and pre-function area and a covered terrace.

Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel & Conference Center at Grand National

Opelika, Alabama www.marriottgrandnational.com

www.facebook.com/marriottgrandnational

www.twitter.com/GrandNatl_Hotel

The Marriott made a big splash in 2012 with the opening of a resort pool complex and a new tennis complex opened in 2013. Named the number 1 location for public golf in the country by *GolfWorld* readers, it is easy to see why *U.S. News & World Report* named Auburn/Opelika one of the top places to retire for golf lovers. This location offers both a great hotel and an upscale residential option.

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 pool and tennis complexes and Lake Saugahatchee. The hotel has 114 guest rooms and 15 luxury suites.

Renovated in 2006, 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 on this upscale Trail residential option, 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 and Spa is designed to provide a unique environment of stylish comfort and sophistication. Ross Bridge was named one of the "Top 75 Golf Resorts in North America" by *Golf Digest*. In 2012 and 2008, *Travel + Leisure* 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 is the host hotel for the Porsche Sport Driving School and offers luxurious pampering in a 12,000-square-foot European spa. Caviar facials, a couple's treatment room and hot stone massages are signature treatments in the spa. 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 continues to be the Marriott leader for exceptional golf, spas, dining, hotel rooms and guest satisfaction. The 200 guest rooms, including seven suites, have private balconies and riverfront 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 one of Marriott's top 10 internationally for guest satisfaction.

The Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa is a short distance from two new 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 two things: bass fishing and a rich musical heritage.

Swamper's Bar and Grill celebrates the area's rich musical heritage. Little Richard, Rolling Stones, Cher and others recorded in the Shoals and the area still has many songwriters and recording studios. For upscale dining, the revolving 360 tower 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. ■





Nall!

SHARING ALABAMA ART WITH THE WORLD

A Southern 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.

Nall has worked extensively with the Retirement Systems of Alabama and its resorts to showcase the "Alabama Art" collection. All eight RSA hotels along the Trail feature works exclusively by Alabama artists, including Nall. The artworks range from primitive, outsider art pieces to intricate mosaics and oils to photography.

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 Rivieras. ■

ARTISTS WITH WORKS HANGING IN RSA'S ALABAMA HOTELS AND RESORTS INCLUDE:

Judith Amanda, Jennifer Antoline, Margaret Barber, Ann Mottershead Betak, Sloane Bibb, Sue Blackshear, Julia Bradshaw, Neal Brantley, Kyle Braund, Edward Brummal, Nan Cunningham, Mike Handley, Marty Hoerr, J J Gaudel, Sybil Gibson, Sarita Gish, Jim Gunter, Anton Haardt, Amber Hall, Baba Hendricks, Carrie Johnson, Robert Harold Johnston III, Christy Rhodes Kirk, Charlie Lucas, Betty Sue Matthews, Jim Morris, Maya Morland, Christopher Moses, Haardt Moses, Donna Pickens, Tigjo Price, Barbara Reed, Natalyn Havenick Rose, Conrad & Janice Ross, Jayne Rushin, Michael Simpson, David M. Spears, George Taylor, Les Thompson, Langley Tolbert, Melissa Tubbs, Mary Catherine Watson and Dave Willmart.

Xander Booker, Chip Cooper, Russell Goodloe, Nancy Goodman, Erin Fitzhugh Gregory, Stacey Howell, Robert Johnston, Ryan Clifford Keller, Mary Riser Kennedy, Bruce Larsen, Linda Ledet, Charlie Lucas, Michael Mastro, Betty Sue Matthews, Herbert "Mannie" Pair, Heather Pettersen, Joan White-Spinner, Lynda Smith Touart, Bradley Robertson, Stephen Savage, Kate Seawell, Susan Starr, Steve Strickland, Les Thompson, Annie Tolliver, Susan Downing White, 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.

For more information on Nall and Alabama Art, visit www.nallart.com. Many of the pieces on display are available for purchase by contacting nall@nallart.com or by writing PO Box 1343, Fairhope, Alabama 36533.



GRAND PLANS:

Golfers from around the country come to play the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail and don't want to leave. That desire just got much easier to achieve. Both golf residential communities associated with the RTJ Golf Trail are expanding and offer unprecedented access to great golf 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.

Above: The Bayview building at Colony at the Grand offers scenic views of Pt. Clear.

Right: National Village offers elegance, amenities and style.



RTJ GOLF TRAIL'S RESORT COMMUNITIES EXPANDING





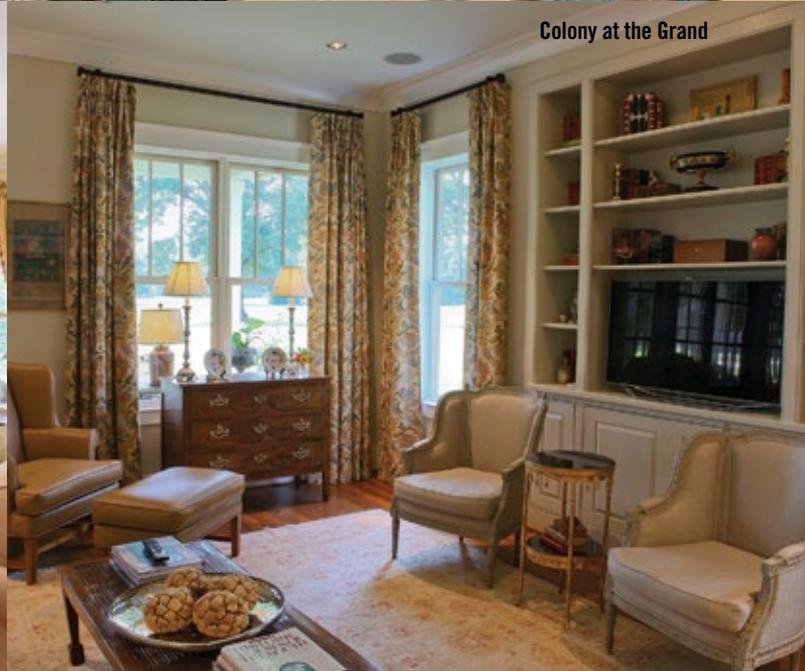
Colony at the Grand



National Village



National Village



Colony at the Grand



Colony at the Grand



National Village

"Few golf cottages are remaining in Eagle Bend so another phase is underway and will open in late spring of 2014," said Margi Ingram of Ingram & Associates. "More than 80 homes in National Village have been sold and we are now pre-selling homes in Quail Ridge, the newest section of the community. Colony at the Grand was a very hot real estate property in 2013 with the Watershed section selling out completely. To meet the demand of single family homes at Colony of the Grand, the new Battles Trace section is under development with homes priced from \$300,000 to more than \$600,000. Interest in existing condominiums continues to increase for those wanting exceptional views and minimal maintenance. Both residences offer different lifestyles, and we are pleased to now offer each option."

National Village and Colony at the Grand are the Trail's first introduction into building golf communities. "While each customer is different, they are all looking for quality, value, location and amenities," said Ingram. "Both National Village and Colony at the Grand overlook RTJ golf courses which are known for quality and value. Colony at the Grand added a magnificent pool and tennis complex in 2009 which has been very popular with our residents. New pool and tennis/pickle ball complexes adjacent to National Village and the Marriott Auburn/Opelika create a resort setting and complements our great golf," said Ingram. "From developing new homes to adding amenities, we listen to our current owners and potential customers," she said. "Perhaps this is the secret to our success during this soft real estate market."

NATIONAL VILLAGE OVERVIEW

Auburn/Opelika, Alabama » www.nationalvillage.com

SPECTACULAR HOMES. UNLIMITED AMENITIES. AUBURN TRADITIONS.

National Village skirts the 1500-acre, 54-hole golf facility plus a 600-acre lake and miles of walking trails. A planned 700-acre resort community, National Village adjoins the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Grand National near Auburn and Opelika, Alabama. With all of its original golf cottages sold, National Village is pre-selling three and four bedroom homes in its new Quail Ridge section. Quail Ridge offers both Arts and Crafts plus cottage style homes that are priced from \$321,900. Future plans call for a series of villages surrounded by open, green spaces overlooking Grand National golf facility and Lake Saugahatchee.

New golf cottages start in the low \$200s and offer a great value for golfers and others wanting to live in an upscale golf community. A few of the larger Craftsman style cottages in Stone Lake remain with prices beginning in the \$450,000 range. A variety of floor plans ranging from just over 1,500 to nearly 4,000 square feet in size are currently available. From primary residences to second homes, National Village offers great options of luxury living on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

The on-site Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National offers award-winning dining and 129 guest rooms. The hotel's new 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 residents at 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 No. 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.

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

The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail offers two residential options for those looking to play the Trail all year long in their primary home or looking to invest in an upscale second residence. Each offers very different experiences. Both Auburn/Opelika and Fairhope/Point Clear have been praised as some of the top retirement locations in the country. Each area offers great cultural options, unique charm and access to multiple RTJ Golf Trail courses.

COLONY AT THE GRAND

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

NOT ALL OF OUR NEIGHBORS ARE 150 YEARS OLD. ONLY THE MAJESTIC LIVE OAK TREES.

Come splash into family fun, sunset soirees and wonderful traditions at Colony at the Grand. Since opening in 1847, The Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club and Spa has been the Queen of Southern Resorts and now sun lovers can call it home all year long in the resort's newest residential community. Colony at the Grand offers both single family home and condominium options to spoil you.

Neatly sitting along a 150-year-old grove of oak trees, Battles Trace is the third phase of development at Colony at the Grand. Now under construction, these upscale homes offer a great sense of community and easy access to the Lakewood Club at the Grand and its amenities. Watershed, the Colony's second phase of homes, sold out in 2013 and Battles Trace sales are already building strong momentum for those wanting beauty in their homes and in natural surroundings. Modern and efficient, these three bedroom, two bath homes will define sophisticated, low country southern living in every way. Battles Trace is the fashion in which Point Clear will live in the 21st Century – refined and refreshed.

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

Amenity-rich living at the Lakewood Club at the Grand is centered on an aquatics center, fitness and wellness studio, tennis academy, dining and social areas and a business center. These amenities, together with the Lakewood Golf Club and the Grand Hotel's Spa, offer the residents of the Colony at the Grand a true resort-living experience. The Spa at the Grand was ranked number 28 in the Top 100 Spas in the U.S. by *Conde Nast Traveler* and was tied with the spa at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. The overall resort was named one of the top 20 in the South by *Conde Nast Traveler* and one of the Top 500 Hotels in the World by *Travel + Leisure*.

Exploring the Colony at the Grand doesn't end at the front gate of this private community. The quality of life at Point Clear 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 places in the U.S. to retire. Perhaps it is time you take a look. Luxury condominium residences are priced from the \$399s, while Battles Trace homes start in the 300s.

» FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Colony at the Grand at 251.990.9951 or visit www.colonyatthegrand.com.



Jennifer Johnson



Stacy Lewis



Lexi Thompson



Lorena Ochoa

The top LPGA players in the world will be heading to the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail twice in 2014. The Mobile Bay LPGA Classic will land at Magnolia Grove May 22 to 25, 2014. Capitol Hill in Prattville will host the Alabama LPGA Classic September 18 to 21, 2014.

SWEET HOME ALABAMA

LPGA RETURNING TO PRATTVILLE AND MOBILE IN 2014

“It is time to celebrate, Alabama,” said Dr. David G. Bronner. “We are delighted to bring two LPGA events back to Alabama in 2014. Not only will we get to see some of the world’s best athletes compete, but the international exposure and economic impact are tremendous. Having the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail as the presenting partner for both events in 2014 will keep the eyes of the international golf community on America’s original golf trail.”

The RTJ Golf Trail opened in 1992 and was established to bring increased tourism and expanded economic investments in the state of Alabama while adding to the quality of life for its residents. In 2012, the economic impact of both the LPGA events in Mobile and Prattville exceeded \$30 million.

“We’re thrilled to return to Prattville for the newly named Alabama LPGA Classic,” said LPGA Tour Commissioner Michael Whan. “Adding this event back on the schedule is the result of a great partnership between the LPGA, Retirement Systems of Alabama and the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. It’s no secret that Alabama has some of the best golf in America. In 2014, the best female players in the world will ‘play the Trail’ and we couldn’t be more excited!”

Alabama officials also announced their excitement about the LPGA playing twice on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in 2014.

“Many Partners of Prattville have inquired about the LPGA coming back to our great city,” said Prattville Mayor Bill Gillespie. “It is a true blessing that the world’s best women golfers will be with us, again, in 2014 for the Alabama LPGA Classic. On behalf of the City of Prattville, I want to thank RTJ Golf Trail officials and the LPGA for all of their hard work in securing a sponsor to continue the tournament tradition in the cities of Prattville and Mobile in the coming year.”

“It is great to hear that Alabama will again host some of the most talented golfers in the world twice in 2014,” said Director of Alabama Tourism Lee Sentell. “In a short time, Alabama went from not being a golf state to becoming a destination that attracts some of the best tournaments and lots of fans. The substantial economic impact is important to our tourism industry.”

“The return of the LPGA in 2014 is exciting news for River Region golf fans,” said Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange. “The warm hospitality the golfers have received here in the past and our top-notch facilities likely made coming back to Central Alabama an easy decision. Seeing the world’s best female golfers up close is thrilling. We are also excited about showcasing our community’s natural beauty through national media coverage. This type of exposure is priceless. Dr. David Bronner is to be applauded for his vision and continuing leadership in making world-class golf a tourism magnet and economic development tool for our state.”

LPGA player Stacy Lewis took the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail by storm in 2012, completing the “Alabama Slam” with victories in Prattville and Mobile. Her wins in Alabama, supplemented by victories at the ShopRite LPGA Classic and the Mizuno Classic, helped vault her to Rolex Player of the Year honors. She was the first American since Beth Daniel in 1994 to win the award. “I personally have a lot of great memories in the state of Alabama and am excited that we will get to play there twice again next year,” said Stacy Lewis. “The courses on the Trail provide a true test of golf and do a great job of showcasing the talent on Tour.”

LPGA WINNERS IN ALABAMA

MAGNOLIA GROVE IN MOBILE: Jennifer Johnson (2013), Stacy Lewis (2012), Maria Hjorth (2011), Se Ri Pak (2010), Angela Stanford (2008), Paula Creamer (2007), Lorena Ochoa (2006), Christina Kim (2005), Heather Daly-Donofrio (2004), Dorothy Delasin (2003), Se Ri Pak (2002, 2001), Karrie Webb (2000), Akiko Fukushima (1999) and Kelly Robbins (1998).

CAPITOL HILL IN PRATTVILLE: Stacy Lewis (2012), Lexi Thompson (2011), Katherine Hull-Kirk (2010), Lorena Ochoa (2008, 2009) and Maria Hjorth (2007).

JENNIFER JOHNSON BREAKS TOURNAMENT RECORD IN MOBILE

Jennifer Johnson won her first LPGA victory during the Mobile Bay LPGA Classic breaking the tournament record. The Carlsbad, Calif. native carded rounds of 67-70-65-65 to break the tournament record with a 21-under par 267 total and finished one stroke ahead of Pornanong Phatlum and Jessica Korda. A group of five players finished in a tie for fourth at 19-under par including Karrie Webb, Jiyai Shin, Ariya Juatnugarn, Chella Choi and Anna Nordqvist.

Johnson started the day three strokes off the lead heading into the final round and knew another solid day would be needed to even stay in contention. She carded four of her eight birdies on the front nine along with her lone bogey of the round on the par 4 5th hole. She made the turn at 17-under and one stroke behind Jessica Korda who played in the group following her. But it wasn’t until the final nine holes that Johnson really set her eye on the prize.

“I’m a little shocked, I didn’t even realize I shot 65,” said Johnson. “The whole back nine, I don’t know what was happening. The birdie putt on 17 was when I started to think a little bit more about winning the tournament.”

Johnson had to wait out the final two groups to see if she would earn her first-career win. She looked to be lucky due to an untimely bogey by Jessica Korda on the 17th to drop her to 19-under and failure to convert on the final two holes by Karrie Webb, Chella Choi and Anna Nordqvist. Once Choi and Nordqvist failed to eagle the final hole, Johnson knew the title was hers.

A VISITOR'S GUIDE TO THE TRAIL »

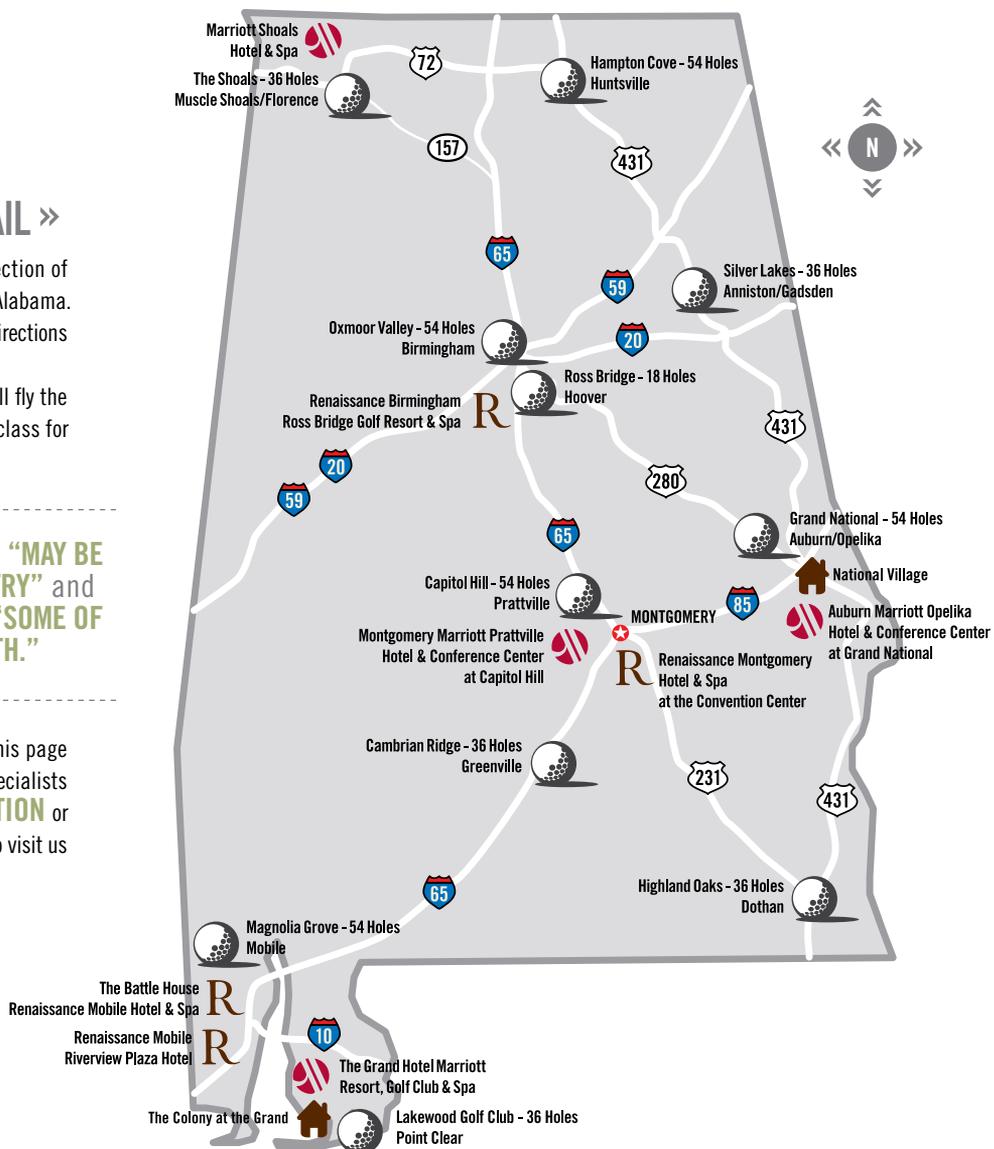
Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is a collection of 468 holes of championship golf on 11 sites across Alabama. Most are near an interstate or federal highway and directions are easily marked by green highway signs.

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."**

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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

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, 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 has 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. ■

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HAMPTON COVE

HUNTSVILLE » 54 HOLES

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! ■

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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

Located in Northeast Alabama, between Anniston and Gadsden, Silver Lakes is set on rolling terrain with stunning views of the surrounding Appalachian foothills. Following the April 2011 devastating EF-4 Tornado, which ravaged the golf course and the surrounding communities, Silver Lakes received extensive renovations and has taken on a new look. Silver Lakes re-opened in September 2011 with spectacular views of the Appalachian Foothills, Lee's Lake and the original Trail clubhouse. It also boasts 36 holes of newly renovated Champion ultra dwarf putting surfaces, arguably the best on the Trail.

Silver Lakes features the most unique and aptly named nines on the Trail. The Heartbreaker provides three of the best finishing holes. Number 7, 8 and 9 take you from the highest elevation on the property to the lowest, while the Backbreaker features wide fairways, demanding greens and spectacular views. The Mindbreaker is aptly named as a variety of uphill and downhill approaches will have you second guessing your shot decisions throughout the round. The Short Course provides a relaxing trip around Lee's Lake and offers an array of yardages to suit your game. The views are magnificent with a waterfall nestled next to the sixth green. ■

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT SILVER LAKES

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OXMOOR VALLEY

BIRMINGHAM » 54 HOLES

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 7,055/73.5/140; Orange 6,527/71.6/136; White 6,148/70.1/133; Teal 4,974/69.1/122; Ladies' Teal 70.2/130; 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 7,149/74.6/130; Orange 6,590/71.3/127; White 6,027/68.7/118; Teal 4,924/69.4/122; Ladies' Teal 68.3/120; 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

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 fourth 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! ■

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT ROSS BRIDGE

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GRAND NATIONAL

AUBURN/OPELIKA » 54 HOLES

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. Built on 600-acre Lake Saugahatchee, 32 of the 54 holes drape 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.

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

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT GRAND NATIONAL

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LAKE COURSE

Purple 7,149/74.3/136; 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	380	428	197	527	423	442	557	213	411
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	427	545	230	334	205	429
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

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 is showcased in September by the LPGA. Located in Prattville, approximately 13 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 beautifully manicured Champion Bermuda greens, holds more than 160 pot-hole bunkers and mounds 20 to 40 feet in height, cleverly 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 alongside the 200-acre glistening backwaters of the Alabama River. The first tee lies 200 feet above the fairway overlooking the Alabama River and the Montgomery skyline. With 14 holes adjoining the water and a stunning 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

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.

This year on Memorial Day weekend, May 24-25, Cambrian Ridge will host the Annual Father/Son Championship, one of the most popular events on the Trail.

The Sherling/Canyon combination was named by *Golf Digest* as the 3rd best new public course in America in 1994 and 13th in their list of America's Top 50 Affordable Courses. This combination was also named by *Golf Digest's* "Places to Play" as one of the nation's 40 Super Value courses. The Loblolly nine, with its gently rolling fairways, cathedral-like pines, and water-fronted greens, exudes a stately, Augusta-like quality. The Canyon nine, carved from former hunting grounds where deer blinds remain nailed to the hardwood, is a thrilling stretch of target-style golf with hole No. 1 being a 501-yard par four that drops 200 feet from tee to fairway.

The Sherling nine may be the best nine on the entire Trail. Drama takes center stage at Sherling's ninth hole which marches straight uphill past a deep ravine strewn with ochre boulders to a lolling tongue of a double green shared with the ninth on the Canyon nine. Above this green is a clubhouse set atop the highest point in the county, its verandah serving up expansive 30-mile views of Southern forest land. The nine-hole Short Course is a marvelous collection of par-three holes laid out beautifully between the ridge and Sherling lake. ■

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SHERLING COURSE

Purple 3,681/37.4/67; Orange 3,423/36.3/65; White 3,028/34.9/62; Teal 2,435/33.7/60;

Ladies' Teal 34.3/57; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	568	209	428	184	428	420	437	636	371
ORANGE	531	167	398	169	399	397	412	601	349
WHITE	490	146	365	141	367	324	354	514	327
TEAL	417	91	280	79	224	283	322	460	279
PAR	5	3	4	3	4	4	4	5	4

CANYON COURSE

Purple 3,746/38.0/74; Orange 3,490/36.9/72; White 3,058/35.8/70; Teal 2,422/34.4/68;

Ladies' Teal 33.9/59; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	501	275	585	444	383	418	522	258	360
ORANGE	477	244	553	421	353	374	499	237	332
WHITE	432	163	478	366	330	366	464	152	307
TEAL	371	130	409	297	272	259	336	108	240
PAR	4	3	5	4	4	4	5	3	4

LOBLOLLY COURSE

Purple 3,551/36.6/66; Orange 3,295/35.6/63; White 3,078/34.7/61; Teal 2,350/33.4/58;

Ladies' Teal 33.5/54; Par 35

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	497	421	418	182	418	222	503	447	443
ORANGE	469	397	390	155	413	196	434	423	418
WHITE	457	346	334	136	367	138	369	366	365
TEAL	342	322	249	75	301	112	344	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

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

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 hosts the LPGA Tour each spring, 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. ■

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CROSSINGS COURSE

Purple 7,212/74.7/134; Orange 6,652/71.6/131; White 6,157/69.2/126;

Ladies’ Teal 5,261/69.4/115; 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

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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