JAN. 31-FEB. 4

# AT&T PEBBLE BEACH PRO-AM

PEBBLE BEACH SPYGLASS

Schedules, tickets, TV viewing guide and the easiest ways to get there

How this year's big changes came to be

Justin Rose on the key to winning at Pebble Beach

Charities that reap the rewards of the Pro-Am's fundraising

After 20 years, First Tee of Monterey County is still all about the kids

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Cover photo by Michael Troutman

A special section of The Carmel Pine Cone — January 26, 2024

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# SCHEDULES, TICKETS AND PARKING

#### January 29 - February 4

Pebble Beach Golf Links (6.972 yards, par 72)

Spyglass Hill Golf Course (7,041 yards, par 72)

■ Purse: \$20,000,000 ■ Winning share: \$3,600,000 **2nd Place: \$2,160,000 3rd place: \$1,360,000** 

■ 2023 Champion: Justin Rose (269)

Monday, January 29 7:10 a.m. • Practice rounds — Pebble Beach and Spy-

glass (closed to public)

**Tuesday**, January 30

7:10 a.m. + Practice rounds — Pebble Beach and Spyglass (closed to public)

#### Wednesday, January 31

7:10 a.m. • Practice rounds — Pebble Beach Golf Links

#### Thursday, February 1

8:30 a.m. • First round — Pebble Beach and Spyglass TV coverage: The Golf Channel, noon to 4 p.m.

#### Friday, February 2

8:30 a.m. • Second round — Pebble Beach and Spyglass

TV coverage: The Golf Channel, noon to 4 p.m.

#### Saturday, February 3

8:30 a.m. • Third round — Pebble Beach and Spyglass TV coverage: The Golf Channel, 10 a.m. to noon, CBS, noon to 4 p.m.

2023 AT&T **Pebble Beach** Pro-Am champion Justin Rose plays the 8th Hole during Sunday's final round — a round that wasn't completed until Monday morning because of rain and wind.

PHOTO/MICHAEL TROUTMAN DMT IMAGINO



#### Sunday, February 4

7:30 a.m. • Final round — Pebble Beach Golf Links TV coverage: The Golf Channel, 10 a.m. to noon, CBS, noon to 3:30 p.m.

Ticket prices: General admission, Wednesday \$75, Thursday-Friday \$100, Saturday-Sunday \$125. Clint's Saloon, Wednesday \$350, Thursday-Friday \$375, Saturday-Sunday \$400.

Free spectator and volunteer parking is located at California State University Monterey Bay in Marina. Free tournament parking shuttles transport spectators and volunteers from the parking lot to the Pebble Beach Main Gate.

Shuttles organized by local chambers of commerce are available from downtown Carmel and Pacific Grove Jan. 31-Feb. 4, with Carmel's leaving every 15 to 20 minutes from Carmel Plaza on Ocean at Junipero from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday and from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. the rest of the week. The Carmel shuttle costs \$30 per day or \$100 for a five-day pass, and tickets can be purchased in advance at carmelchamber.org or in person at the shuttle stop.

In Pacific Grove, wristbands can be bought online at pacificgrove.org or at the office at 584 Central Ave., and the shuttles run Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Thursday through Saturday from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sunday from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Passes cost \$25 per day or \$100 for five days. The shuttle picks up in front of the museum at 165 Forest Ave.

More details about parking, tickets, facilities and spectator rules can be found at **attpbgolf.com**.

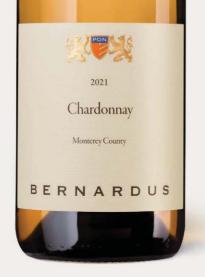


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# **THE TOURNAMENT**

# Pebble Beach welcomes fans to a new era of AT&T Pro-Am

#### By MARY SCHLEY

2024

HE AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am as everyone has known it, along with the Crosby Pro-Am before it, is history. With pro golfers seeking higher winnings, shorter rounds and less time playing with amateur part-

#### How sudden change came to a cherished local tradition

ners, professional golf has become more even of a highstakes sport, according to CBS sports commentator Iim

Nantz.

and

the pro-am has changed with the times. The Pebble Beach Pro-Am, a newly designated PGA Tour Signature Event - one of eight such limited-field, elite tournaments on the tour's 37-event schedule - now features 80 top pros, half of whom are in the Official World Golf Ranking's top 50, and 80 amateurs.

During the Jan. 31-Feb. 4 event, the athletes are competing for an astounding \$20 million purse, up from \$9 million last year, and play is taking place on two courses, the Pebble Beach Golf Links and Spyglass Hill Golf Course, instead of three. The pro-am winners will be crowned Friday night, with all the pros competing on their own Saturday and Sunday at Pebble Beach.

#### Fewer pros, more money

"Most everything changed, other than the location and the time," Steve John, CEO of the Monterey Peninsula Foundation that organizes the tournament, said

last month. "It is a big change for us to move away from 156 pros paired with 156 amateurs for almost 80 years."

The new PGA Tour Signature Events, last year referred to as "distinguished events," boast higher purses and more FedEx Cup points than the other events on the calendar and were created in part to compete with Saudi Arabia's LIV Golf, which has attracted many former PGA Tour pros with high winnings and fewer rounds. (LIV is the Roman numeral for 54, representing the number of holes competitors play in the tournaments.)

"The tournament deserves to be a

Signature Event, and as the most charitable organization on the PGA Tour, we feel we deserve to be Signature Event," said John, adding that the PGA Tour instigated the change. As the title sponsor, AT&T agreed and is also bearing the cost of the huge jump in prize money — including \$3.6 million for the winner.

The Signature Event label "is a status that every PGA Event to achieve," strives Nantz commented. "We're fortunate to have it.'

As a result, the AT&T this year has attracted an impressive lineup of pros, including No. 1-ranked Scottie Scheffler and No. 2 Rory McIlroy, and Nantz said he's eager to see the best in the game compete on the best course in the world. Some have never played in a tournament at the Pebble Beach Golf Links.

#### 'Different personality'

"There's a lot to say for the fact we'll have the greatest players in the world on arguably the best course in the world," he said. "I'm very excited about it."

Having covered the tournament for CBS for nearly four decades — this year's will be his 39th - Nantz has seen the pro field in the AT&T dwindle due to increased competition from the LIV Tour, concerns about the weather, the slow pace of play that frequently had rounds running six hours, and three days of pro-am competition.

"We didn't have the strongest professional field. It had become problematic, and we weren't getting the best pros, for whatever reason," Nantz said. "And now it becomes a tournament about the best players in the world."

He acknowledged the pro-am will have "a different personality" than the tour-

#### See **REVAMPED** page 21A



PHOTO/MICHAEL TROUTMAN, DMT IMAGING

Bill Murray works the crowd during the 2023 Pro-Am — a scene that won't be repeated now that the event has shifted focus from celebrities and fun to top-notch professional golf.

#### Tournament changes are small part of big-money golf saga

By MICHAEL JAMES

USTIN JOHNSON won the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am two years in a row, beginning in 2009. He played on three courses among 180-player fields that included celebrities from Hollywood, the music industry and the media, and with a limited field advancing to the final round after a 54-hole cut. None of it will likely occur



#### again.

Johnson was in the early group of players leaving the PGA Tour to compete for Saudi-backed LIV Golf, announcing the move in June 2022, just a few months after saying he would remain loyal to the PGA Tour, where he won 24 events after turning professional in 2007.

"At that time, I was committed to playing the PGA Tour," said Johnson, a two-major winner who has earned more



than \$75 million on the PGA Tour. "I'm very thankful for the PGA Tour and everything it's done for me. I've done pretty well out there for the last 15 years. But this is something that was best for me and my family. It's something exciting and something new."

#### **Big money**

According to USA Today, the 39-yearold Johnson, whose last of 13 appearances at the AT&T Pro-Am was in 2020, will receive \$125 million for his commitment to the Saudi-backed tour, but it landed him a lifetime ban from PGA Tour events.

fans. Just as importantly, it will provide balance, allowing me to focus on a healthier approach to life on and off the course."

"There's a lot more to my decision than just a financial opportunity and less golf. But I was very aware of the ramifications of making this choice," said Casey, who has three PGA Tour titles and won

15 events on the European Tour (now World DP Tour). "I

#### the A tale of two circuits and some very big

was

The top golfers in the world, including Scottie Scheffler (left) and Rory McIlroy, will be among the players competing for a \$20 million purse in the revamped 2024 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

The ban was among the decisions the PGA made when players began defecting to the money-rich alternate circuit.

Phil Mickelson, the five-time AT&T winner, and Paul Casey, who finished second to Mickelson in the 2019 event, as well as veteran entrants Sergio Garcia, Padraig Harrington, Charles Howell III, Brooks Koepka and Graeme McDowell, all left the PGA Tour for LIV Golf.

Mickelson's LIV Golf contract is worth a reported \$200 million — a colossal sum he alluded to but didn't mention directly when he announced on social media that he was making the move.

"After 32 years, this new path is a fresh start, one that is exciting for me at this stage of my career and is clearly transformative, not just for myself, but ideally for the game and my peers," Mickelson said in June 2022. "I also love the progressive format and think it will be exciting for

aware of the contr ramifications

of my deci-

sion," Casey

continued. "You know, the rules and decisions that are going to be put in place are out of my hands. I would still love to be a part of the PGA Tour. But if I'm not, then I guess there's nothing I can do."

#### **Global demand**

The current PGA Tour/LIV Golf debacle dates back 30 years. Greg Norman, now the CEO of LIV, proposed a World Golf Tour in 1994. It was shunned by then-PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem and never advanced past preliminary discussions.

Norman's idea was to establish a series of deep prize-money events, played with

See MONEY page 20A

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# **THE TOURNAMENT**

# Justin Rose heads stellar field in revamped, upgraded tournament

#### By MICHAEL JAMES

2024

USTIN ROSE was a professional golfer for nearly two decades before he competed in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. The native South African, who was raised in England and has owned homes in Florida and in the Bahamas, preferred competing on international tours.

But in 2016, after becoming disgrun-



**NFL** greats Aaron Rodgers (above) and Tom Brady will be playing in the 2024 tournament, helping it retain some of its aura of yesteryear.

tled with global golf, Rose entered the AT&T Pro-Am and finished tied for sixth - an impressive debut. The golfer credited his vast experience playing in often fickle weather in Europe, Asia and other far-flung locales in which he'd established a long career.

Further AT&T success didn't return until last year, after Rose switched equipment. He finished tied for 39th in 2017 and 62nd in 2022. But in 2023, the for-



mer U.S. Open winner was the only player in the field to shoot in the 60s all four rounds. Rose's consistency resulted in a final-round 66 at Pebble Beach Golf Links and a three-shot victory.

#### Monday finish

He birdied three of his first four holes in the Monday finale. While posting an 18-under 269 total, Rose topped Brendon Todd, who finished with a 65, and Brandon Wu, who had a 66, and claimed his 11th PGA Tour victory.

A weekday finish occurred for the second time since Phil Mickelson's win over Paul Casey in 2019. Overcast skies, gusting winds, hail and rain reigned on Sunday, resulting in only a partial round. Rose began the Monday reboot with a two-shot lead.

Rose now has nearly 30 worldwide titles in 25 seasons. The tally also includes 11 on the European Tour (now the DP World Tour), two on the Sunshine Tour (Africa), two on the Asian Tour and one on the Japan Tour. He also won the gold medal in Brazil when golf debuted in the 2016 Summer Olympics. He has career earnings of more than \$92 million.

With the PGA's decision to make the AT&T Pebble Beach event one of the Tour's eight Signature Events, Rose will defend his title as the tournament breaks from its long Pro-Am traditions. He'll compete among a field of 80 pros vying for a \$20 million purse — an incentive for the PGA Tour's top players to partic-

ipate. The entrants are selected based on current rankings in several categories and will play not only for prize money, but for FedEx-

Cup points, which can bring end-of-season bonus of \$25 million.

#### an **They promised** top PGA pros, and they really "I think delivered

this is obviously what we're all trying to figure out," said Rose of the PGA

Tour's new season and the AT&T's participation. "How do you give everybody that perfectly fair sort of ebb and flow in terms of stronger fields equals more points?

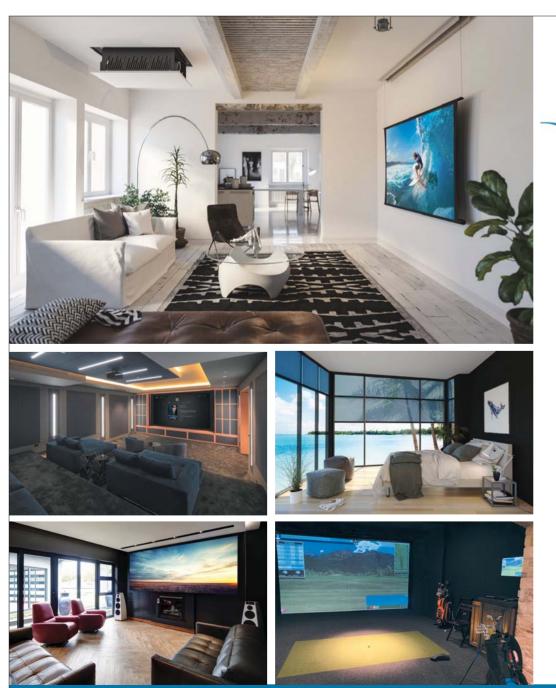
"I think they (the PGA Tour) absolutely made the decision they had to, because 10th in a strong field is better than a 10th in a weak field. How you distribute those points has obviously been a topic of discussion."

Rose earned \$1.62 million of the \$9 million purse last year. This year, the winner will get \$3.6 million, or 18 percent of the \$20 million in prize money. The winner will also get 700 points in the FedEx-Cup season-long tally.

#### **Big changes**

Rose's title defense and his fifth time playing in the AT&T will be his most un-

See STARS page 20A



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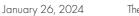
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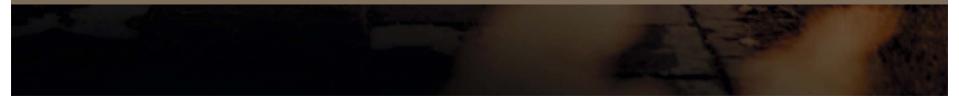


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# **THE COMMUNITY**

# **Pro-Am \$\$\$** helps kids stay on track and feeds county residents

By KELLY NIX

2024

TTH AN impressive \$20 million purse and half as many pros slated to compete, this year's AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am could be one of the most thrilling and competitive tournaments in a long time.

Numerous changes mark this year's pro-am, including a scaled-down field, only two days of amateur play and the

absence of Hollywood celebrities. But the tournament will gain many elite pros, some of whom have never played at the annual event, which organizers contend will introduce a new level of excitement to the 77-year-old tournament. Ticket sales, tournament officials say, have so far exceeded last year's.

While visitors are here watching golf, many are probably unaware that the proam also helps raise funds for dozens of local charitable organizations. The Monterey Peninsula Foundation, a nonprofit, is tasked with selecting the organizations that benefit from the event and disbursing the money.

Every year, The Pine Cone profiles some of the groups that reap the rewards. This year, an organization that helps local children and another that provides food free of charge to county residents are front and center.

#### Positive options

The Seaside-based Community Partnership for Youth is a prevention program that offers "positive alternatives to gangs, drugs and violence while reinforcing individual strengths." The group serves about 500 disadvantaged students at local schools.

"Our vision is to provide our youth with a safe, structured environment that encourages healthy boundaries, promotes positive self-esteem and develops their ability to make good choices for full and successful lives," the nonprofit on Kimball Avenue explains.

Among the programs it offers are after-school mentoring, homework assistance, English as a second language support, life-skills training, visual and performing arts and recreational and cultural activities. The programs are aimed at engaging children's families to provide "consistencv and accountability" and keep the kids away from negative influences. Commu-

nity Partnership for Youth also offers college and tours career mentorship for middle and high school students in collaboration

**Ticket sales and** sponsorships provide vital funding for local groups

with California State University Monterev Bav.

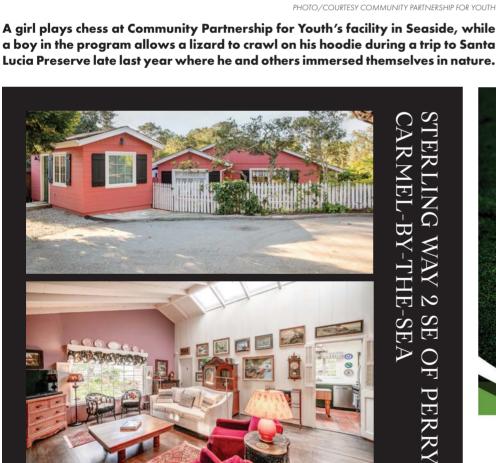
"We are so grateful for our partnership with Monterey Peninsula Foundation and the pro-am," executive director Shari Hastey told The Pine Cone. "Our partnership started in 2001, and the funding has truly helped us provide programs in the schools.'

#### Learning, reading

In the tutoring program, students receive help with their homework, with an emphasis on learning and reading individually or in small groups to improve literacy. The group's leadership program was started initially for kids up to fifth grade, but the nonprofit found that older kids were interested, so they began a program for middle school, too.

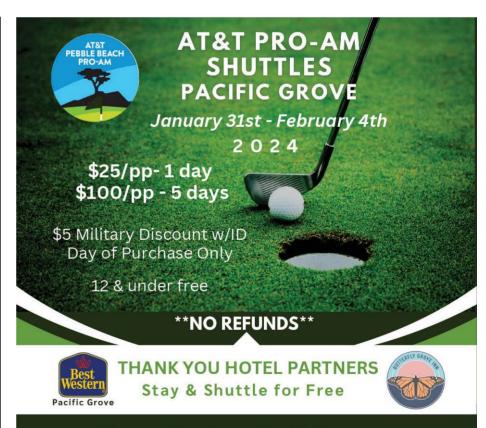
"As many of our students become ju-

See CHARITIES page 22A



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# **THE COMMUNITY**

# 'It's been very rewarding to see the impact of First Tee in this county'

By LISA LAPIN

2024

ACH WEEKDAY during the school year, busloads of schoolchildren arrive at the Twin Creeks Golf Course in Salinas for 90-minute lessons that are incorporated into their school day. While the setting is a public golf course, the curriculum is far reaching,

providing not only free access to golf, but programming in confidence-building skills to last a lifetime.

"The curriculum is not just about the focus, hard work and determination that comes with the sport of golf," said Sam Frick, senior program director for First Tee of Monterey County, part of the nationwide First Tee program. "It's about golf as a conduit to key commitments: pursuing goals, building a positive self-identity, collaborating with others -- concepts that will help them manage their way through school and life."

#### Salinas and King City

From its start at the Twin Creeks Golf Course 20 years ago, First Tee of Monte-

rey County has served more than 150,000 youth through its numerous coaching programs and partnerships with local school districts. As it marks its two-decade anniversary, the program has begun an expansion to the southern reaches of the county, with a new golf facility in King City serving thousands more children as far south as Bradlev.

First Tee has existed long enough that the first generation of participants is now coaching the newest one. And long enough to show significant improvements among First Tee participants in school attendance and longterm academic results at the university level.

"It's been very rewarding to see the outcome for the kids of Monterey County and to see the overall impact of First Tee in this county," said

Nick Nelson, who has overseen the local First Tee as its CEO since its inception.

It all began as an idea hatched out of the 2002 AT&T tournament, when John

Zoller and Ollie Nutt had the idea to ter to Monterey County. Zoller Nutt served as the founding chairman and

co-founder.

#### bring a chap- Introducing youngsters to and golf and the challenges of life

They hired Nelson from his position as the head of instruction at the Bayonet and Black Horse golf courses.

"I'm still here, 22 years later, and it's been the greatest joy," Nelson said. "It's all about the kids and the opportunity for a better future for them and for Monterey County."

#### Partnership with schools

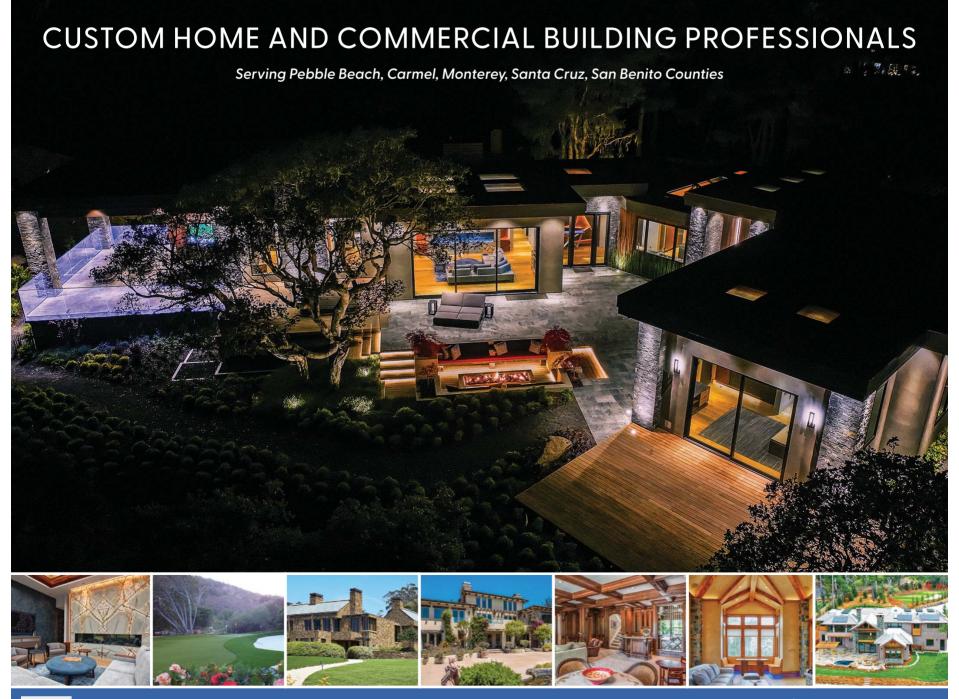
The Monterey Peninsula Foundation, organizer of the annual AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am tournament, held its first fundraising effort to create the First Tee chapter with a capital campaign that was originally intended to build a facility in Seaside. Then the city of Salinas approached the First Tee organizers with an opportunity to take over the operations of its Twin Creeks Municipal Golf Course.

See FIRST TEE page 24A



PHOTO/COURTESY FIRST TEE MONTEREY COUNTY

Kids who participate in First Tee of Monterey County learn discipline and focus as they pick up golf skills. The nonprofit also offers an after-school program with opportunities to learn more about school subjects, such as science (right).





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The Carmel Pine Cone







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# **THE COURSES**

# Reimagined AT&T Pro-Am offers more time to get in your own rounds

#### By MARY SCHLEY

2024

HE PGA Tour has dubbed the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am a Signature Event, and with that narrowed the field, upped the purse to \$20 million, and reduced the number of courses in play from three to two. The early part of the week no longer includes publically accessible practice rounds and celebrity events, which means there's even more opportunity for fans to get out

and is highlighted by fescue-framed fairways, bunkers with distinctive, serrated edges and slickly contoured greens." Its coast-facing par-3 15th is among the more scenic holes on the Peninsula. "The best 36 holes on Monterey Bay" have hosted the PGA's Qualifying School and the PURE Insurance Championship, then known as The First Tee Open. They are located at 1 McClure Way in Seaside and include a full-service clubhouse, a restaurant that's open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.



PINE CONE FIL

If it's sunshine ye seek, the inland location of Carmel Valley Ranch is sure to please. And so is the vineyard, oak and mountainous scenery that surrounds it.

and play a round or two of their own before heading to Pebble Beach and Spyglass Hill to watch the best of the best compete Jan. 31-Feb. 4.

Below, fans daydreaming about their own potential feats on the grass will find plenty of options for turning those dreams into reality.

#### Bayonet and **Black Horse, Seaside**

Constructed when Fort Ord was an active military base, these two courses initially aimed to provide some well-deserved recreation for the thousands of service members who lived and worked here, and their story is colorful. Maj. Gen. Robert McClure, original designer of Bayonet in 1954, was known as "a left-handed golfer with an all-too-common fade," and drew the holes accordingly, with severe doglegs running to the left through what's affectionately known as "Combat Corner," holes 11 to 15. The 7,104-yard par-72 course was named for the 7th Infantry "Light Fighter" Division, nicknamed the Bayonet Division. With its "narrow playing corridors and steep, penal bunkering," the course "has long been considered the most difficult test of golf on the Monterey Peninsula." The first course was so popular that the Army decided to add another. Maj. Gen. Edwin Carns designed Black Horse, which is 7,024 yards and also has a par of 72, and bears the nickname of the 11th Cavalry Regiment that had been stationed at the Presidio of Monterey from 1919 to 1940. It opened in 1964. After the base closed, the Army sold the courses to the city of Seaside, and they are now managed by Seaside Resort Development LLC. In 2008, they underwent a \$13 million renovation and comprehensive redesign by Gene Bates. Black Horse "features sweeping vistas of the Pacific

daily, a pro shop, custom club fitting and a driving range. Club rentals and professional instruction are also available. In late 2021, Troon, based in Scottsdale, Ariz., was hired to manage the property, which now uses "dynamically priced" rates that are adjusted higher or lower in real time "based on demand, availability and other changing factors." Regardless, playing all 36 holes costs \$230 and includes a cart, warm-up balls, bottled water and a 20 percent discount at the pro shop. The rounds can even be split over two days. Stay-and-play packages are available, too. Call (831) 899-PAR1 (7271) or visit bayonetblackhorse.com.

#### Carmel Valley Ranch, **Carmel Valley**

Closed in 2007 while undergoing a multimillion-dollar makeover to be "restored to Pete Dye's original design, T1 bent grass, enlarged greens and improved plenty of space to sit with friends and relive the best (and worst, and most amusing) shots of your round. Rates are \$195 for 18 holes and \$100 for nine — each including a cart and access to the driving range ---for resort guests. Non-resort guests may only book after 1 p.m. for \$150. Discounts are offered for NCGA members, twilight play, and kids under 16, who pay \$30 for 18 holes. Club and shoe rentals, spike changes and shoeshines are available, too. While there, don't miss the opportunity to have a meal in the hotel's restaurant, roast marshmallows at the fire pits next to the pool or indulge in a spa treatment. Carmel Valley Ranch is located at One Old Ranch Road off of Carmel Valley Road about 7 miles from Highway 1. For more information, call (831) 620-6406 or visit carmelvalleyranch.com.

#### ■ The Club at Pasadera

First opened in 2000 as Pasadera Country Club, and then purchased by a Chinese company that renamed it Nicklaus Club – Monterey in 2014, the course designed by Jack Nicklaus and its surrounding facilities were sold again in November 2018 to a group of prominent local investors, including Inns by the Sea LLC principal Ted Balestreri, Dr. Craig Geiler, attorney Bob Rosenthal, and several others. The group reinvigorated the club, significantly boosting membership, particularly among younger people and families, and has invested in making the golf course top shelf. "The original landscape ... provided a unique opportunity to create a dramatic layout that incorporates selected design features reminiscent of the world's most revered lavouts. The course evokes similarities to The Old Course at Saint Andrews, Augusta National, Pine Valley and Pebble Beach, which are arguably four of my favorite courses in the world," Nicklaus said of the 6,807-yard course, which is open only to members and their guests — and is the only signature Nicklaus course on the Peninsula. Capitalizing on the existing hills, canyons and old oak groves, he incorporated natural-style bunkering and took advantage of splendid hazards, such as the awe-inspiring 14th Hole, a par 3 over a deep chasm. "Native grasses and free-flowing bunkers accent the par-71 course, which subtly adapts to distinctive elevation changes for a thoroughly entertaining golfing experience time and again," the owners say. During a

visit to the course for the 2019 U.S. Open, Nicklaus told a group of members and the new owners he remains invested. "I love Pasadera — it's one of my children, and

you always take care of your children and you want to be part of what they're do-"We really want people to enjoy the

#### **Opportunities** abound to get in a round in the ing," he said. golf capital of the world

golf course — that's the whole point." And they do. "We're a tight-knit group of friends and fellow golfers who celebrate a truly special experience based on excellent play and a stunning natural environment," the club's management and members say, and they're always interested in bringing more likeminded folks into the fold. "Pasadera's easy-going culture welcomes men and women of all levels to the region's most inclusive private golf club." Executive chef Colin Moody and his culinary team ensure every lunch and dinner is a treat, and the property includes two pools, tennis courts and other amenities. Located at 100 Pasadera Drive off Highway 68, Pasadera lies just east of Laguna Seca Golf Ranch and west of the world-famous racetrack by the same name. The pro shop can be reached by calling (831) 647-2421. See theclubatpasadera.com for more information.

#### Corral de Tierra **Country Club, Salinas**

This private, member-owned equity club features a 6,683-yard par-72 course that's "a signature tribute to renowned golf course designer, Bob E. Baldock," who created it in 1960. J. Michael Poellot increased the difficulty of some of the holes in 1999 and 2000 by adding a multitude of bunkers. The course is situated off the Monterey-Salinas Highway and graced with some of the best weather on the Peninsula. Its gentle elevation changes and tree-lined fairways also make it a great walking course. Corral de Tierra has served as a site for U.S. Open qualifying rounds and hosted the 2010 sectional qualifier for

See FAIRWAYS page 23ATT

tee boxes," the 6,117-yard, par-70 golf course that was built in 1981 subsequently reopened to great fanfare and much anticipation by its members and guests. The stunning 500-acre Carmel Valley Ranch sits just east of mid-valley, with the course running along the Carmel River and up into nearby hills. C.V. Ranch offers the quintessential country club experience to players, and the course is the only one in Northern California designed by Dye. Describing playing it as "a rollicking good time," the folks at C.V. Ranch say Dye "tamed Mother Nature with two signature holes (11 and 13) that boast breathtaking drops into the valleys. Other holes wind through vineyards, lavender fields, ponds and old-growth oak groves, where deer, wild turkey, birdies, eagles and the rarely spotted albatross roam free." The clubhouse underwent a major renovation in 2013 and features a full bar, fire pits and



Cypress Point Club may be ultra-exclusive, but that hasn't stopped the oceanfront drama of some of its holes from making it one of the most famous courses in the world.



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# **THE TOURNAMENT**

#### STARS From page 8ATT

2024

usual. The event's new format includes the exit of Monterey Peninsula Country Club, leaving Pebble Beach and Spyglass Hill Golf Course in the rotation. The 54-hole cut is no more. Celebrities,

part of tournament lore since its debut in 1937, are few and will not participate in weekend play.

Gone also are several of Rose's most formidable former competitors, including Jon Rahm. The World's No. 3-ranked player and Rose's teammate on the winning 2023 European Ryder Cup team last summer, Rahm was the most recent departure from the PGA Tour to LIV Golf. Also gone is the chance for an unheralded player to win.



Jordan Spieth

"The powers that be don't make these decisions lightly," said Rose. "It is done with the best of intentions to try to make it beneficial for the whole tour membership. But it's hard to keep 200 guys happy, for sure."

#### Maui to Pebble Beach

The AT&T will be this season's second Signature Event, following The Sentry, which ended Jan. 7 in Maui. Not only will Rose defend his title in a tournament that in several ways has never occurred, but he'll do so after an odd season start.

In Hawaii, the former No. 1-ranked golfer shot a final-round 61 and made 12 birdies. But Rose also had a third-round 75 and finished only tied for 40th.

In the opening round, he outdrove Taylor Moore by

nearly 40 yards on the 7th Hole. But he mistakenly hit his playing partner's ball from the fairway and was assessed a two-stroke penalty.

Like he did at Pebble Beach in last year's inclement weather, Rose quickly rebounded from his rare miscue. He didn't win, but his low-scoring final round provided another example of his signature persona — a calm approach to golf while trying maintain consistency.

#### **MONEY** From page 6ATT

limited fields, to complement the PGA Tour and other world golf events. Norman, a two-time major winner, was then among the top five players in the world with Nick Faldo, Bernhard Langer, Nick Price and Jose Maria Olazabal. All five were born outside the United States.

Similar to the current situation, Finchem threatened players who sought to compete on the proposed new tour with suspension from the PGA Tour.

Norman, who won 88 pro tournaments and was golf's No. 1 player for more than six years, assumed his current responsibilities in 2021. The LIV format — three rounds per tournament, no cut, paid expenses and guaranteed prize money — was an immediate attraction to some top golfers — and high-level players were enticed with substantial financial guarantees.

Accusations, threats, lawsuits and vitriol followed quickly. The PGA Tour and its loyalists questioned the human-rights practices of the Saudi-backed tour, while LIV Golf said the PGA Tour had a monopoly.

Last June, the two sides reached an agreement to create a merger. The deal was negotiated without PGA Tour players' knowledge, and tempers again escalated. Several PGA Tour players said publicly they felt betrayed and some suggested PGA commissioner Jay Monahan resign. Regardless, lawsuits were dropped and discussions began on how the entities would work together.

The governor of Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund

Rose's title at Pebble Beach also ended a four-year victory drought.

"Just that walk up 18, to be able to build a bit of a lead, to kind of enjoy it, was a very special moment," he said after last year's tournament. "I think when you're a bit starved for a win, the fact that it came on a weather day like we had and at the venue that we had was worth waiting for."

joined the PGA Tour board of directors and leads the new venture as chairman. The PGA Tour will have a majority stake.

One unsettled question is whether players who left the PGA Tour would be allowed to return. And would players who were offered substantial amounts from LIV but remained with the PGA Tour receive compensation?

A deadline to announce golf's future was set for Dec. 31, 2023. The date passed, and a new March 2024 deadline was established.

In the meantime, the PGA Tour season has begun. The new LIV tour season is scheduled to start during the same week as the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, at the El Camaleón Golf Course in Mayakoba, Mexico. It's planned for a field of 48 players who will compete individually and in a four-player, 12team format.



Jason Day

Talor Gooch was LIV's money leader last season, claiming \$36,120,012 in individual, team and bonus earnings. Scottie Scheffler, the world's No.1-ranked PGA player, earned \$21,014,342 and led the tour last season in earnings.



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#### **REVAMPED** From page 6ATT

nament Bing Crosby created when he launched his charitable Clambake with industry friends to raise money for nonoprofits in Rancho Santa Fe in 1937 and was convinced to reinvent it in Pebble Beach in 1947 following its hiatus during World War II.

"The revelry of what Bing started with his Clambake and bringing together the mix of the entertainment world, sports figures and pro golfers all getting together, laughing and celebrating and partying and playing golf — it's not going to be that anymore," he observed.

"Professional golf has changed — it's a high-stakes sport," he added.

The 80 amateurs invited to compete all agreed to pay far higher entry fees to help the foundation, which last year raised \$18 million for youth-oriented charities, meet

or exceed its fundraising goals, according to John.

The Carmel Pine Cone

#### Hollywood no more

The former celebrity contingent is now a handful of professional athletes, including Tom Brady, Aaron Rodgers and Buster Posey, and while the movie stars and others who have enjoyed competing in the AT&T were disappointed to learn they weren't going be included anymore, they understood.

Also in response to the new format and field, the tournament is even more oriented toward the true golf fan, with fewer luxury boxes, twice the number of grandstands, and plenty of food and drink, including alcoholic beverages, available.

John said the changes go a long way toward the shared goal of making the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am the best event on the PGA Tour.

"The quality of golf will be at an alltime high for us," he said.



Steve John, shown here with 2022 AT&T **Pro-Am winner** Tom Hoge, says the quality of golf at the 2024 pro-am "will be at an all-time high for us."

PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE











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# THE COMMUNITY

#### CHARITIES From page 12ATT

2024

nior leaders, they are reflecting for the first time on what it means to be a role model, and, more importantly, what it means to be a positive one," the partnership said.

A summer "intersession" offers children a five-week program that expands on the nonprofit's goals of providing a structured and creative learning environment.

"The summer program, however, allows for a greater depth and variety in which the staff are able to work with our students," Community Partnership for Youth explains on its website. "Days are filled with numerous academic and enrichment activities, including reading and writing, arts and crafts, photo club, learning technology and other various outdoor and indoor activities."

The summer session also offers a "family-style lunch," which the group said helps children learn the importance of eating together, along with "valuable table manners."

Its Visual & Performing Art Academy focuses on creative self-expression by exposing kids to theater, dance, music, painting, speech communications and other artistic outlets, to help them acquire "skills through verbal and right-brain activities."

"The discipline and group dynamics teach the children self-control and appreciation for one another," the group says.

#### Non-violent message

Community Partnership for Youth opened in spring 1991 in response to the shooting death of Ramon Avila, a Seaside High student and athlete killed during a reported drug deal. Local leaders vowed to find a solution to a spike in crime in their neighborhood and its effects on some children.

The founders of the organization concluded that prevention programs starting in elementary school were the key to successfully conveying a non-violent message. Young people most likely to go astray are often the ones left unsupervised and without guidance at an early age. The group also learned that 2 to 6 p.m. is prime time for violent invenile crime, and the part of the day when

for violent juvenile crime, and the part of the day when kids are most likely to be victims. It was with these ideas in mind that Community Partnership for Youth was created. Go to cpy.org for more information.

#### Feeding the county

The Food Bank for Monterey County has the monumental task of providing food for thousands of residents. To do that, it distributes more than 15 million pounds of food annually.

The Food Bank's 50,000-square-foot building on Rossi Street in Salinas features 30,000 square feet of cold storage, an additional 5,000 square feet of freezer space, and six loading docks.

"With 480 solar panels, energy-saving fixtures and a custom warehouse setup, our facility provides the foundation we need to uphold the utmost standards of sustainability, efficiency and food safety in our acquisition and distribution practices," the nonprofit says.

Serving as a central hub for food and fresh produce, it partners with more than 160 other groups in the county to get free food to those who need it.

"We have 240 direct distribution sites throughout the county, covering a 3,200-square-mile territory from San Ardo to Pajaro, with sites in each city and many school locations," the Salinas-based nonprofit says.

According to the food bank, Monterey County ranks highest among California's 58 counties in Type 2 diabetes, child poverty and "food insecurity," which the federal government defines as a "household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food."

The bottom line is that the Food Bank for Monterey County does all it can to ensure that county residents — who live in one of the most expensive counties in the United States — are adequately and properly fed.

"Insufficient access to healthy food contributes to in-



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

There's nothing like a bright, shiny apple to fill a young girl's tummy and put a smile on her face.

creased risk of diet-sensitive chronic conditions, like diabetes and high blood pressure, and creates barriers to those trying to effectively manage their conditions once diagnosed," it explains.

#### **Reducing waste**

Partnering with local agricultural businesses, the food bank every year helps "rescue" millions of pounds of food that would otherwise be discarded and gives it to the financially less fortunate. The food bank works with grocers and retailers through one of its "food-safety trained partners," which collects edible food that can't be sold, as well as nonfood items. The partners have freezer and storage facilities that enable them to accept and store the donations.

"Our joint reclamation efforts with local ag to divert good produce from landfills and put it into the hands of residents in need across Monterey County saves huge quantities of nutrient-packed fruits and vegetables from going to waste," according to the organization. Go to foodbankformontereycounty.org for information.



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January 26, 2024 The Carmel Pine Cone

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the Women's U.S. Open Championship. "The course attracts the attention of the best players; however, multiple tee boxes on every hole ensure an enjoyable experience for all golfers," and it boasts a strong youth golf program, according to management. Corral de Tierra is located a few miles east of Los Laureles Grade on Highway 68 and is open only to members and guests. "If you are the guest of a member, we are delighted to welcome you to Corral de Tierra Country Club and hope you enjoy your visit," management says.

"The club works hard to preserve its rich traditions." Members and their guests enjoy dining on the enclosed deck overlooking the golf course or in the main dining room of their farmhouse-style clubhouse, or having drinks with friends in the full bar "with a neighborhood atmosphere." Various levels of membership are described on the website, including social and non-resident memberships. Inquire about reciprocal agreements with other private clubs. Instruction and practice facilities are available, and the course can be reserved for golf events for groups. For information, call (831) 484-1112 or visit corraldetierracc.com.

#### Cypress Point Club, Pebble Beach

"I do not expect anyone will ever have the opportunity of constructing another

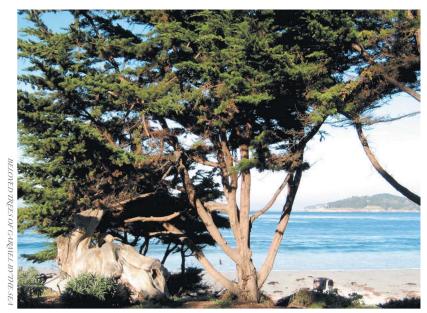
pose anywhere in the world is there such a glorious combination of rocky coast, sand dunes, pine woods and cypress trees," renowned course architect Alister MacKenzie said of the course he designed in 1928. MacKenzie relished using optical illusions to toy with players, and he was adept at taking advantage of the land's natural contours. The 6,509-yard, par-72 Cypress Point course is known the world over, in part for the breathtaking par-3 16th Hole that entices the brave (and sometimes foolhardy) to fire their tee-shots over the roiling sea. Golfer Marion Hollins first conceived of the idea in 1924 and pursued the development of a first-class golf course, along with a clubhouse designed by George Washington Smith containing a handful of sleeping rooms. Membership would be very exclusive, limited to 200 people who would pay about \$2,500 (in 1924 dollars) to subscribe. Cypress nearly folded during the Great Depression, when membership dropped to just 14, but Pebble Beach Co. founder Sam Morse forgave Hollins' debt for the land and took over maintenance of the course. Hollins, incidentally, was posthumously admitted to the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2021. The club, which in the past hosted the Walker Cup — and is set to do so again Sept. 6-7, 2025, for the first time since 1981 — is open only to its 250 members and their guests. Many dream of playing here, but comparatively few get the privilege. Cypress Point Club is located at

THE COMMUNITY

course like Cypress Point, as I do not sup-

See GREENS page 25A

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# **THE COURSES**

# FIRST TEE

2024

The location now serves as the First Tee campus and includes a nine-hole public golf course, the Taylor Farms Center for Learning — housing the First Tee after-school program — and a teen center.

A subsequent partnership was formed with the Alisal Union School District, serving all of East Salinas. Today,

#### Chapters throughout the country and lots of impact here

First Tee is part of the required school curriculum for every fourth, fifth and sixth grader in the school district. Each student has at least ten 90-minute visits per school year to the First Tee campus for lessons in golf, but also in self-confidence, leadership, and to build trusting relationships with coaches who

serve as role models.

Each student also receives a free membership to First Tee, so they can golf on weekends and enroll in the free after-school program or take free weekend golf classes.

For its many programs serving children ages 4 through 17, the nonprofit employs 54 people, most of them former program participants who are now First Tee coaches.

"The coaches build relationships, sending a message that golf can be for them, but also that they have bright futures," Frick said, crediting the two program directors who implement the First Tee curriculum, Cristian Reyes and Juan Rodriguez, and their staffs. "The coaches are the core of our program. Every child can benefit from having a positive role model in their life."

#### Thousands more

A similar program is getting underway in King City, where the municipal golf course became a First Tee campus in November 2022. The new operation, run by Jeremy Serena, expects to serve 6,000 schoolchildren this year, from Greenfield to the county's southern border.

First Tee high school graduates who are first in their family to go to college and receive Pay it Forward scholarships from the group in partnership with California State University Monterey Bay have an 81 percent overall graduation rate, according to First Tee. Some 61 percent earn their college degrees within four years, more than double the graduation rate for similar first-time college-going students at CSUMB.

First Tee has chapters throughout the country, many attached to golf organizations. The structure of First Tee of Monterey County, with formalized school partnerships, is less common, but fills a tremendous demand for

youth programming in low-income communities.

"We are exactly where we need to be," said Nelson. "In November 2004, when we saw our first 100 kids come through, Salinas was challenged with crime and gang violence and high homicide rates. We still are competing with cell phones and TV and gangs for kids' attention, but our studies show repeatedly that First Tee children are more likely to attend school and go on to graduate from high school and college."

First Tee relies entirely upon grants and donations to sustain its operations. It is one of the beneficiaries, through the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, of the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. First Tee also receives strong support from the local agricultural industry, including Bruce Taylor of Taylor Farms and David Gill of Rio Farms.

Thousands of individuals also contribute and take part in four major fundraisers each year.

A ladies golf invitational provides additional support for girls in First Tee, there will be a BBQ held in King



PHOTO/COURTESY FIRST TE

Normally it takes a hole-in-one to get a golfer this excited, but the First Tee kids just love the game — and making new friends.

City this spring, and a "Boots, Bottles and BBQ" event at the Salinas campus each fall brings in hundreds of people. This year, the BBQ will be a special 20th anniversary celebration.

#### **'Beyond golf'**

First Tee is overseen by a 21-member board of directors from throughout the community, chaired by Dan Lynch of Carmel Realty.

"We are so fortunate to have such engaged people in this community, and we couldn't do what we do without our involved donors," said program director Frick, a PGA member and golf instructor who joined First Tee last fall. "I was seeking an organization that makes a positive impact on the community. I've been trained to run golf courses, but this is so far beyond golf. Our theme is 'Building Game Changers', and while we are providing affordable access to the game of golf, we are also investing in the future of our community."



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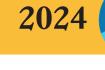


The Carmel Pine Cone

THE COURSES

January 26, 2024

25ATT



GREENS

From page 23ATT

3150 17 Mile Drive in Pebble Beach. For information, contact the pro shop at (831) 624-2223.

#### **Del Monte Golf Course**

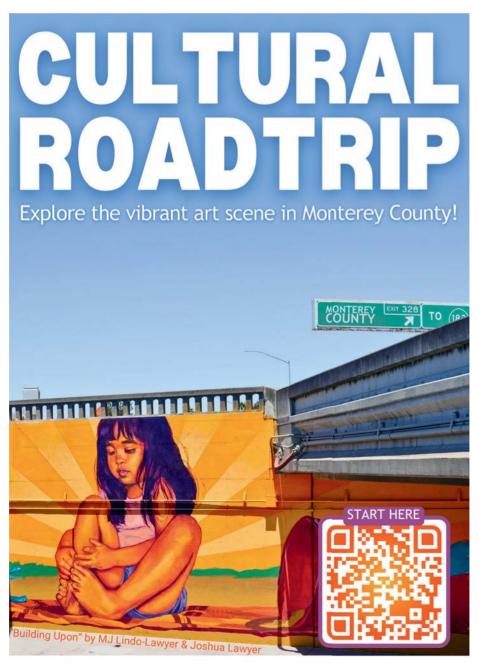
Nicknamed "Old Del Monte," and affectionately referred to as "Old D," Del Monte Golf Course was designed by golf and polo enthusiast Charles Maud as a nine-hole layout and built in 1897, making it the oldest continuously operated course west of the Mississippi River. (The Presidio in San Francisco includes a course that was built a year earlier but was temporarily converted to a drill field during the Spanish-American War.) Del Monte was expanded to 18 holes in 1902 and is considered "a landmark course that has played an instrumental role in popularizing golf out West." Owned and operated by the Pebble Beach Company, Del Monte — 6,365 yards from the blue tees, par 72 — is open to the public and home to the Monterey Bay Golf Club, founded in 1932. Del Monte was the original site of the California State Amateur and hosts the amateur Monterey City Championship every year. "Del Monte Golf Course features wide fairways lined with oak, pine and cypress trees, and the back nine includes a treacherous par-5, 512yard 13th Hole," according to the resort. Green fees have increased to \$125 (\$63 for twilight play). Carts, pull carts, caddies, forecaddies and rental clubs are available.

The Del Monte Bar & Grill has reopened, serving "traditional American cuisine" daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the Hyatt Regency Monterey adjacent to the course has a full restaurant, bar and outdoor dining area. The course is located at 1300 Sylvan Road. For more information, call (800) 877-0597 or visit pebblebeach.com and follow the links.

#### ■ Laguna Seca Golf Ranch, Monterey

Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Robert Trent Jones Jr. designed this public course together in 1970 in their first joint venture, which yielded "18 beautiful holes that follow the natural terrain of the oak-studded coastal hills along the Monterey-Salinas corridor." The 6,157-yard, par-71 course is located off of Highway 68 east of the Monterey Airport and can be reached by turning onto York Road and following it to the end. Green fees are \$55 Monday through Thursday and \$75 Friday through Sunday, with discounts for twilight, super twilight, seniors and juniors. Playing nine holes costs \$37 Monday through Thursday and \$47 Friday through Sunday. "You get a lot of great golf for your green fee at Laguna Seca Golf Ranch!" according to the owners. "With typical Jones artistry, this spectacular venue features many elevated tees and a bevy of strategically placed bunkers that guard almost every green. Yes, you will have to play every club in your bag in order to conquer this chal-

See **TEES** next page







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# **THE COURSES**

#### **TEES** From previous page

2024

lenging course that earns its championship slope rating of 129!" A 13-acre natural grass practice facility is available, and golfers can walk or rent a cart. The restaurant and bar — with 10 beers on tap — are open daily, with the kitchen serving until 4 p.m. and the bar open until "close." The 10th Tee snack bar is open on weekends from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., weather dependent. For information, call (831) 373-3701 or visit lagunasecagolf.com. The course and clubhouse are located at 10520 York Road in Monterey.

# The Links at Spanish Bay, Pebble Beach

"Spanish Bay recalls the original Scottish concept of the game of golf established over 500 years ago ... Here, the golf course provides you with the choice of using your regular shot or a low, running shot to play the firm turf while keeping the ball under the steady ocean breezes," P.B. Resorts says of Spanish Bay, which is listed among America's Greatest 100 Public Courses. The 6,821-yard par-72 Spanish Bay links were jointly designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr., former USGA president Sandy Tatum and Tom Watson, who once remarked, "Spanish Bay is so much like Scotland, you can almost hear the bagpipes." Links-style courses reflect the old Scottish style of sandy seaside wasteland with bristly grasses and stiff prevailing winds, and the Monterey coastline is reminiscent of the rugged beauty of that country, golf's spiritual home. Spanish Bay overlays land once occupied by a sand mine and required extensive rehabilitation of the dunes and native plants in the area. "The Links at Spanish Bay is very much a sensory overload, with the smell of the beach carried in by a cooling ocean breeze, the sight of the spectacular jagged coastline, and the sound of the famed bagpiper leading you home at the end of a twilight round," the resort says. "The Links at Spanish Bay requires precision and patience while negotiating sand dunes, pot bunkers, challenging greens and an ocean breeze." After the day comes to an end, head inside for some food and libation at Roy's, Pèppoli or Sticks, grab a cocktail at Traps, or taste wine at the impressive Stave Wine Cellar. The rate is \$335 (which includes a cart for resort guests) until April 1, when it increases to \$350. Carts, pull carts, caddies, forecaddies and club rentals are available. The course is located at 2700 17 Mile Drive in Pebble Beach. For reservations, call (800) 877-0597 or visit pebblebeach.com.

#### Monterey Peninsula Country Club, Pebble Beach

MPCC, which hosted the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am for several years until the tournament was reconfigured as a PGA Tour Signature Event this year, covers more than 400 acres of gorgeous forest, dunes and coastal landscape, "a perfect setting for not one but two top-rated golf courses, The Dunes Course and Shore Course, with a combined 15 oceanfront holes along nearly 2 miles of coastline," according to those in charge of the private club, which also has extensive hospitality and entertaining facilities, including two restaurants, a bar and an expansive, historic clubhouse. Monterey Peninsula Country Club was founded in January 1925 when Sam Morse - creator of the Pebble Beach Company more than a century ago - James Habbord and Thorwell Mullally decided to combine a golf club with housing, and Morse served as the first president of its board of directors. He sold the lots surrounding the course to military retirees for \$1,500 apiece, and the buyers became club members. Two courses make up MPCC — The Dunes Course designed in 1924 and The Shore Course designed in 1960. The Dunes Course was created by Seth Raynor but finished by Robert Hunter and Alister MacKenzie following Raynor's untimely death, then redone by Rees Jones, and most recently overhauled by the Fazio Design Group, reopening in April 2016. The Shore Course, which was created by Bob Baldock and Pebble Beach Golf Links architect Jack Neville, was remodeled in 2003 by architect Michael Strantz. Open only to members and their guests, the Dunes Course runs a 7,090-yard par 72, while the Shore Course boasts a par-72 yardage of 6,873. The Dunes Course first hosted what was then called the Crosby Pro-Am after the star brought his clambake to Pebble Beach in 1947 and did so for 18 years before being replaced by Spyglass Hill. The Shore Course hosted the tournament, now the AT&T, more recently. MPCC is located at 3000 Club Road in Pebble Beach. Call (831) 373-1556 or visit mpccpb.org, which offers little more than contact information.

#### ■ Monterey Pines Golf Course, Monterey

The official U.S. Navy course, operated by the Naval Postgraduate School, offers one of the best deals in town. The course "puts a premium on accuracy without overwhelming the golfer with length," according to the Navy. "Undulating greens and lakes that come into play on several holes challenge the best of golfers and offers a great recreational experience for the rest of us. Area golfers recognize The Pines as the best value for golf on the Monterey Peninsula." It provides an outstanding venue at affordable rates for active-duty and retired servicemen and women, as well as Department of Defense staff. All carts are equipped with GPS units to provide exact yardages from any location. Golfers who get a rush from being directly under the flight path of a regional airport should definitely put in a round at the Navy course, which is also open to the public for very low rates. Monterey Pines is not without its more exciting stories, including the crash-landing of a Cessna on the 6th Fairway in September 2003 (no golfers were involved), and the crash of a Carmel Valley attorney's small plane in the driveway years ago. Robert Muir Graves designed the original nine-hole course in 1963, and the back nine were added in 1972. It was rede-





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See **TRAPS** next page

January 26, 2024 The Carmel Pine Cone 27ATT

2024

THE COURSES

#### TRAPS From previous page

signed by Marc Messier, and the remodel work that had the course closed in 2009 also included renovating the Monterey Pines Grill & Bar, which offers a private banquet room for meetings and special events, a bar and multiple televisions perfect for watching sports. The 5,409-yard, par-70 course is located at 1250 Garden Road in Monterey. Hours are 7 a.m. to sundown. A pro shop, demo clubs and professional instruction are available, as well, and golfers and non-golfers alike enjoy the grill for breakfast, lunch or an early dinner. For more information, call (831) 656-2167 or visit monterey.navylifesw. com/programs/93132d75-8532-43e0-9127-839b85297cd3.

#### ■ Pacific Grove Golf Links, **Pacific Grove**

Affectionately known as the "Poor Man's Pebble Beach," this municipal course once ranked among Golf Magazine's Top 50 Golf Courses Under \$50. While play can no longer be had for less than \$50, the course is still a great deal. The first nine holes were designed by U.S. Amateur Champion H. Chandler Egan in 1932, partly on land the city bought from Pebble Beach Company founder Sam Morse for a \$10 gold coin and a handshake promise to maintain it as a golf course for at least five years. In 1960, Jack

Neville, who designed the Pebble Beach Golf Links with Douglas Grant, created the second nine holes. This 5,732-yard par-70 public course is situated on prime real estate near Asilomar State Beach and surrounds the historic Point Pinos Lighthouse, which the U.S. Coast Guard deeded to the City of Pacific Grove, along with the back nine, in 2006. "Northern California, and the Monterey Peninsula in particular, is a golf mecca, and Pacific Grove Golf Links offers the most affordable golf experience on or near the Pacific Ocean," according to the city. With a full-service golf shop, driving range and well-appointed clubhouse with an impressive restaurant that was recently overhauled, renamed the Grill at Point Pinos, the Pacific Grove Golf Links "offers much more than just a round of golf." Green fees are \$83 Monday through Thursday and \$99 Friday through Sunday and on holidays, with discounts for twilight play and juniors, with nine-hole options, as well. Club rentals and carts are available, and spectators pay \$21 apiece. Call the golf shop at (831) 648-5775 or visit playpacificgrove.com for more information. The clubhouse is located at 77 Asilomar Blvd.

#### Pebble Beach Golf Links, **Pebble Beach**

Celebrating its centennial in 2019 by hosting the U.S. Open for the sixth time, the Pebble Beach Golf Links is situated on scenic coastal land originally slat-

See **BUNKERS** next page



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28ATT The Carmel Pine Cone January 26, 2024

2024 **THE COURSES** 



ed for houses. Designed by Jack Neville and Douglas Grant, the course is considered one of the greatest ever created. "If I had only one more round to play, I would choose to play it at Pebble Beach," professional golf icon Jack Nicklaus once said. "I've loved this course from the first time I saw it. It's possibly the best in the world." Its oceanfront holes, including the dramatic par-3 7th and the spectacular 18th, are particularly captivating. Nicklaus designed the par-3 5th Hole dedicated in November 1998 after the company negotiated a deal with nearby property owners in order to have the coastal hole installed as founder Sam Morse originally envisioned. Pebble Beach has been named the No. 1 public course in the country since Golf Digest began ranking courses in 2003. "It's not just the greatest meeting of land and sea in American golf, but the most extensive one, too, with nine holes perched immediately above the crashing Pacific surf — the 4th through the 10th plus the 17th and 18th," the publication observed in 2021. "Pebble's 6th through 8th are golf's real Amen Corner, with a few Hail Marys thrown in over an ocean cove on 8 from atop a 75-foot-high bluff." Pebble Beach hosted U.S. Open Championships in 1972, 1982, 1992, 2000, 2010 and 2019 — more than any other course over the past half-century — and in 2022, the USGA announced plans for several more. The course will host four U.S. Open Championships from 2027 to 2044, and

after hosting its first U.S. Women's Open last summer, it will be the site of three more between now and 2048. When not closed for tournaments, the course is open to the public, with priority given to resort guests. Green fees are \$625 and include a cart for resort guests, with the rate rising to \$675 after April 1. Carts for non-resort guests are \$55, and caddies are also available for a fee. For more information, call (800) 877-0597 or visit pebblebeach.com.

#### ■ The Hay, Pebble Beach

Opened in October 1957, Peter Hay was the only nine-hole par-3 public course on the Monterey Peninsula and was designed by P.B. golf pro Peter Hay, Pebble Beach Golf Links designer Jack Neville, and Maj. Gen. Robert McClure, who designed Bayonet Golf Course in Seaside in 1954. The course was scraped to make way for the main entrance for the 2019 U.S. Open and was then transformed into a new par-3 course designed by Tiger Woods' group. Among its notable features are a replica of Pebble Beach's famous 7th Hole and a 20,000-square-foot putting area. Renamed The Hay, the course reopened in 2021 and now boasts a lively restaurant and bar, Hay's Place, situated at the top of the hill to take in the expansive and stunning coastal views. The cuisine is Mexican-inspired, adding a new flavor to Pebble Beach Resorts' restaurant repertoire. The cost to play is \$65 Monday through Thursday and \$75 Friday

See **ROUGH** next page

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January 26, 2024 The Carmel Pine Cone

THE COURSES

29ATT



#### **ROUGH** From previous page

through Sunday for resort guests and the general public, and then half-price for those who want to play another round. Juniors 12 and under can play for free. The putting course is also free. For information or reservations, call (800) 877-0597 or visit pebblebeach.com.

#### Poppy Hills Golf Course, **Pebble Beach**

The Northern California Golf Association built Poppy Hills to serve as its headquarters and tournament home on land that was earmarked for a golf course by Pebble Beach founder Sam Morse, purchasing the 164-acre site in 1977 for just \$7,000 per acre. When it opened June 1, 1986, Poppy Hills was the first course in the United States to be owned and operated by a golf association. Robert Trent Jones Jr. designed the course, which was originally going to be called the Hilltop Course but ended up earning its moniker through a naming contest among NCGA members. It hosted the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am from 1991 through 2009 and was the site of the Spalding Pebble Beach Invitational for several years, as well as the NCAA Men's Championships in 1991. An extensive renovation by Jones beginning in March 2013, focused on water conservation and creating "a firm, fast and fun course that unfolds seamlessly through the stunning Del Monte Forest,"

while reducing irrigated turf by almost 25 percent. The new Poppy Hills reopened April 4, 2014, to many accolades. Green fees are \$325 for the general public, with discounted twilight play, and big savings for NCGA members, accompanied guests and juniors. Carts are \$25 per rider. The clubhouse has a restaurant and full bar, Porter's in the Forest, which serves breakfast and lunch, and is a popular spot with locals. The restaurant is open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday, with the bar serving until 6. For more information, visit poppyhillsgolf.com or call (831) 622-8239.

#### ■ The Preserve Golf Club, **Carmel Valley**

Tom Fazio designed this private, 7,004-yard par-72 course located among the "stands of massive ancient oaks, beautiful rolling meadows, ponds and streams" deep within the beautiful, tree-studded hills of the Santa Lucia Preserve, and it has consistently made Golf Digest's America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses and other similar lists. Fazio commented, "It's as if you are going on a grand hike and happen to have a golf club in your hand," and said the course has no signature hole, as the entire place is a signature property. "The course wanders by towering oaks, through rolling savannahs, around wetlands and across seasonal streams with a backdrop of the Santa Lucia Range. It never trum-

See **SCENERY** next page

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# **THE COURSES**

#### **SCENERY** From previous page

2024

pets its presence; it whispers through the landscape." No tee times are required, and caddies are available. Golfers can't see from one hole to the next and often don't encounter other players at all during an experience designed to incorporate "all three schools of golf design - penal, heroic and strategic." The clubhouse serves lunch daily, hosts numerous golfing events throughout the year, and contains a pro shop and men's and women's locker rooms. When the course opened in 1999, membership was limited to owners of property within the preserve's gates, but the club now accepts membership applications from non-property owners, making Fazio's gorgeous work and the stunning natural setting accessible to more enthusiasts who will truly appreciate the opportunity to play a course that "lets you experience how the game was meant to be played." The course is said to be the only one in the world located in the middle of a 20,000-acre nature preserve and is eco- and dog-friendly. A recreation-based Ranch Membership is also available, as is the National Golf Membership, open to 40 fortunate golfers who live beyond Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito and Santa Clara counties. Candidates tour the grounds, meet with members and, if they're deemed a good fit, are invited to apply and undergo an interview with the membership committee. Contact (831) 620-6700 or register at santaluciapreserve.com for information.

#### Quail Lodge, Carmel Valley

"Whether you are a local Carmel Valley resident or visiting the Monterey Bay Peninsula area, Quail Lodge & Golf Club provides an enjoyable golfing experience perfect for all ages and skill sets," proclaim the folks at Quail. The Quail Lodge course was abundant with 10 lakes and lush, colorful landscaping when it was designed in 1964 by Robert Muir Graves, but subsequently underwent ma-

jor renovation by principal designer Todd Eckenrode of Origins Golf Design, with increased water conservation in mind. The resulting 6,500-yard par-71 course, described as being "perfect for the walking golfer of all ages and skill, offering just enough bite to make it interesting," reopened in May 2015 and includes "some of the Monterey Peninsula's most unique bunker designs trimmed with fescue lips, short grass areas that surround the greens to provide more shot options, and challenging grass swales that come into play on seven holes." Green fees vary greatly based on date and time, but generally run as low as \$87 and as high as \$295. Practice facilities

While the Monterey Peninsula Country Club is no longer part of the rotation during the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, is still offers some of the Peninsula's most iconic and memorable scenery.

■ Spyglass Hill Golf Course, feature a 7-acre driving range, a bunker, chipping areas and a 6,500-square-foot bent grass putting green. Instruc-**Pebble Beach** tion, custom club fittings, shoe and club rentals, pull carts,

> Designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. in 1966 as part of the master plan for the Pebble Beach oceanfront, this resort/semiprivate course measures 6,960 yards at par 72 and was described by Sports Illustrated as "Pine Valleyby-the-Sea meets Augusta National." Other major golf publications, "propose it is one of the toughest courses in the country, and the best course to never host a major." Spyglass takes its name from Robert Louis Stevenson's

> > See CLUBS next page



golf carts and other services are available, too. Located at

8205 Valley Greens Drive, the course is complemented

by a nicely appointed clubhouse and Edgar's restaurant,

named for founder and longtime owner Ed Haber. Ed-

gar's offers lunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Happy Hour

from 3 to 5 p.m. daily. The lodge's Covey Grill serves

breakfast daily from 7 to 10:30 a.m., and dinner Wednes-

day through Saturday from 5 to 9 p.m. The bar opens at

4 p.m. daily. To-go service is also available during regular

operating hours. For more information, contact the golf

shop at (831) 620-8808 or visit quaillodge.com/golf.

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31 ATT

2024

#### **CLUBS** From previous page

"Treasure Island." Local legend has it he spent time walking in the area while brainstorming, and many of its holes bear notable names, like Black Dog and Billy Bones. A year after the course was completed, Spyglass replaced the Monterey Peninsula Country Club in the Bing Crosby Pro-Am Golf Tournament in 1967 and has been part of that contest - now called the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am — ever since. "The defining characteristic of Spyglass Hill is how starkly the first five holes juxtapose the rest of the round," the course description states. "Incredible ocean views give way to the understated natural beauty of the Del Monte Forest, as the final 13 holes relentlessly examine your game with a litany of bunkers, ponds and uphill tests." The PGA Tour consistently ranks Holes 6, 8 and 16 among the most difficult on the tour. But don't be intimidated. When Spyglass opened, Bing Crosby bet that even Jack Nicklaus wouldn't be able to break par, with Nicklaus promptly shooting a 2-under 70 in his inaugural round. The rate to play is \$465, with an increase to \$495 April 1. The course is on Stevenson Drive and in Pebble Beach. For reservations, call (800) 877-0597 or visit pebblebeach.com.

#### ■ Tehama Golf Club, Carmel Valley

"Welcome to Tehama Golf Club ...

where the golf is legendary, the service is impeccable, and the memories last a lifetime." This private course is named for a Native American word meaning, "abundance of nature."

The Carmel Pine Cone

THE COURSES

Jay Morrish, who also designed Shadow Glen in Kansas City, Troon and Troon North in Scottsdale, and Loch Lomond in Scotland, created this 6,506-yard par-71 course high in the hills above Carmel Valley. According to Tehama, "the tranquility and natural beauty of the land, combined with this time-honored game, provide the golfer a surreal hideaway." Owned by former Carmel Mayor Clint Eastwood, the course opened for private play in 1999 and climbs 200 feet in elevation during its 18 holes, six of which are uphill. "Golfers of all levels will appreciate the vistas of the Monterey Bay and the mountains surrounding the adjacent Carmel Valley," according to Tehama. "Amongst trees of grandeur and some of the best manicured greens in golf, you will experience a challenging layout like no other." Membership is private and by invitation only, and those lucky enough to join have access not just to the course, but to the clubhouse, with its full-service pro-shop, world-class cuisine, and banquet facilities that boast stunning views of Carmel Valley and the Monterey Bay.

The surrounding 2,000-acre development is home to just 90 families. For more information about membership and other aspects of Tehama, which is located at 25000 Via Malpaso off Carmel Valley Road a, contact Tom Zoller at (831) 622-2208 or tom@tgcmail.net, or visit tehamagolfclub.com.

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