

Oct/Nov 2014
Vol. VII Issue VIII

New England

Golf Monthly

Download Our Free App at myNEGM.com



Simulators
aboutGolf



2014 INDOOR GOLF GUIDE

featuring **The Tour at South Shore CC** pages 40-51



CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA and Pebble Beach

Pebble Beach is an overarching draw for golfers but it cannot overshadow Carmel-by-the-Sea. Joined at the hip, Carmel's one square mile of whimsical cottages, floral kaleidoscope, 100s of eclectic shops, galleries, restaurants and wine rooms all lead down to the ocean crashing into the beach that is Pebble. A historical walking tour by Gail from Boston reveals the fairy tales of Carmel, how Comstock built Hansel and Gretel cottages for his wife's felt dolls studio. The aesthetically minded aspiring and inspired gathered through the decades holding true to the heritage of an artisan community. Homes have names not numbers. Retrieving mail at the post office is a social event. High heels are still banned without a permit from City Hall due to uneven roads but Clint Eastwood lifted the ban of walking with ice cream cones in 88. He might have had a Gran Torino but apparently not a grand exit as people still think he's mayor. He never made our day with a sighting but the wine walk did. 14 tasting rooms tucked in to adorably decorated alleys, on the main streets or in Carmel Plaza delight with stories in every certified sip. Carmel could be Charming with all the boutiques and happy, healthy

people savoring local flavors infused with magic, like Grasings' white linen upscale introduction of abalone, La Playa's tenderloin and tuna in a hillside garden, Cantinetta Luca's home-style Italian and the chef's *savoir faire* at Pâtisserie Boissière. Imagine, founder Devvy traded Carmel for the now flat broke Stockton!

The Inns and outs are easy with accommodations from garden cottages to full service hotels like Pine Inn, the oldest, where pining and wining take



a positive twist with canopied headboards and a window view through pine branches of, yes Pebble Beach. The sea beckons a morning stroll on white fluffy sand as we head to the point where hallowed fairways kiss the coast. We clamber up the rocks to sneak a peek at the First Tee Open, watching Tommy Armour III hit the 10th green and chat with a local about life in Carmel before a marshal advises our descent. That's ok; we feast at the Pine Inn's Il Fornaio buffet and head to Pebble's front gate to walk all 18 of the iconic US equivalent to St. Andrews. We imagined our ball flight, checked out the shops and Tap Room, satisfied, as Danny's look alike, John Cook sealed the Champions' deal and we saved \$495 each not playing.

Most tournaments at Pebble alternate with play on Spyglass and Poppy Hills, formerly the Hilltop Course, renamed by a winning survey. "Buckhorn Ranch" would have worked. If you don't capture a Pebble pet photo, it is not the posing deer's fault. This we played and you can too for just \$80/round, freshly redone by RTJ II who says, "It's a renaissance more than a renovation." It's superb.

Quail Lodge in Carmel Valley is also redesigning its dried fake lakes, crusty graveyards of by gone



balls. Already a great track, it has Big Valley views and fine dining on the terrace. Doris Day's A framed cottage perches high above the tee box of 18, a focal point from all directions. Blow her a kiss for a sweet finish. One returning Italian guest saw Doris (now 90) for the first time on her balcony. He shouted, "I love you Doris! I've looked for you for 34 years and if I were 20 years younger I'd climb up to hug you." She replied, "I love you too and if I were 20 years younger, I'd let you." She then sent an autographed picture by way of staff. Doris still owns Car-



mel's Cypress Inn, where dogs are allowed but children are not, perhaps the reason current Carmel is a well-coifed canine community featuring the Doggie Gazette in newsstands. Poodle weekend was a high stepping promenade of prissy poodles by well-heeled yet unpretentious people.

A wine taster quipped that Carmel is for newly-weds or nearly dead, but all in between make the scene. On the Sunset Center stage, Joan Rivers performed while staying at Pine Inn's sister hotel – Tally Ho, Joan. We watched Ira Glass (Garrison Keeler meets Woody Allen) and Two Dancers perform anecdotal interpretations of life's quirks – hysterical!

If you're a sucker for the sea and tranquility, consider moving here. Land taxes are only 1% but the price tags are in the millions. Maybe vacation first; save water, drink wine and check it out. www.carmelcalifornia.com

