





Photos: Courtesy of Quail Lodge & Golf Club

DESTINATIONS



QUAIL LODGE & GOLF CLUB

Carmel Valley, California

BY RENEE BRINCKS

Sunshine filters through oak and willow trees at Quail Lodge & Golf Club, casting shadows across stone pathways and sparkling off the resort's outdoor pool. At one end of that pool, three compact, light-filled cabanas house the property's yoga, cardio and strength-training facilities. The Quail Lodge Wellness Center opened in a nearby building late in the summer of 2018, introducing a steam room that is complimentary to all resort guests along with three treatment venues available by appointment.

The new wellness center offers treatments for individuals or couples in 50- or 80-minute sessions. Massages are available in the spa or in a guest's room, and some can be customized with a choice of essential oil blends.

Guests here will find a straightforward menu with just three classic massage options: Swedish, aromatherapy and deep tissue. It's simplicity by design, explains Quail Lodge Director of Sales and Marketing Craig Barkdull.

"Most of our guests are not looking for extensive, traditional spa services. They're more interested in a quick massage after a round of golf or a game of tennis," says Barkdull.

Since completing major renovations and reopening events nearly six years ago, Quail Lodge has continued to update its facilities and programs to address guests' interests. Before opening the wellness center, the resort unveiled the motorsports-themed Waypoint Bar & Deck and refurbished the property's 18-hole Robert Muir Graves golf course that opened in 1964.

"One of the exciting things about this property is that it's constantly evolving," Barkdull says. "Something big is happening every year."

He points to the 2018 addition of the Quail Moto Rally Experience, a set of year-round driving itineraries inspired by The Quail, A Motorsports Event. The two-day Quail Rally that precedes the resort's August automotive gathering leads participants along scenic Monterey County highways



“The venues pay homage to the Quail Motorsports Gathering and Quail Motorcycle Gathering that are held here every year. Those events are a huge part of our identity, and we really want guests to feel the heart and soul of motoring while they’re here,” says Barkdull.

Quail Lodge guests and local visitors order breakfast dishes at Waypoint, and the lounge also presents happy hour specials, trivia competitions, hospitality-industry nights and other



(Top) The Land Rover Experience Driving Center at Quail Lodge & Golf Club takes participants out for off-road driving adventures and lessons. (Bottom) The tranquil resort pool on the 850-acre property in picturesque Carmel Valley.

and back roads.

In similar fashion, the Quail Moto Rally Experience outlines self-guided tours that wind resort guests through Carmel Valley, along the Pacific coast, into the Santa Cruz Mountains and beyond. Participants receive a route book with turn-by-turn directions, a list of suggested stops and a picnic lunch to enjoy along the way. Quail Lodge offers the new tours in partnership with Monterey Touring Vehicles, so that guests can reserve a classic Ford Mustang, Porsche 356 Speedster, Chevrolet Corvette or

other vintage vehicle for the journey. It’s a contrast to the property’s Land Rover Driving Experience, which puts participants in a Land Rover to tackle steep slopes, log piles and other off-road challenges.

Automotive influences carry through to the resort’s Waypoint Bar & Deck, a casual lounge outfitted with motoring memorabilia and motorcycles. Car posters, vintage photographs and paintings by local artist Molly McCall decorate the walls, and an adjacent billiards and dart room features additional motor-themed artwork.

The evening menu features hearty bar snacks, comfort food dishes and a few dessert options, plus wine, cocktails and an extensive whiskey selection. Waypoint’s patio tables, which are especially popular on sunny afternoons, overlook the resort’s main pond and surrounding golf course.

Over in the Quail Lodge course clubhouse, another restaurant with outdoor seating capitalizes on fairway and Santa Lucia Mountain views. Edgar’s, named for the resort’s late founder, Edgar Haber, is a welcoming lunch and dinner





Edgar's serves lunch, dinner, and offers a bar menu in the clubhouse at Quail Lodge. Executive Chef Brian Kearns prepares delicious, sustainably focused, fresh fare against the lovely backdrop of the Santa Lucia Mountains.

spot with lounge and fireplace seating. The culinary team sources local produce and serves sustainably minded mains for lunch and dinner.

Edgar's is a convenient stop for Quail Lodge members and resort guests who participate in tennis lessons, pickleball matches, friendly bocce competitions or rounds on the property's nine-hole putting course. Under the direction of PGA instructor Katherine Marren, the Quail Lodge

Golf Academy offers clinics, private lessons and technique evaluations for players of various ages and skill levels. The Northern California PGA Section named Marren its 2008 teacher of the year, and she has earned recognition from *Golf Digest*, *Golf Magazine* and several national golf

organizations.

In 2015, renovations outlined by the team from Todd Eckenrode—Origins Golf Design updated the resort's 18-hole course. Crews refreshed bunker designs across the 6,500-yard,

par-71 facility, in addition to replacing grasses, switching out sand and incorporating drought-tolerant plants.

"The course still looks beautiful, but from a conservation standpoint, the project really helped us lighten our footprint," says Barkdull, adding that

the course's walkability and accessibility make it a popular place to play. "We're known for conditions that are challenging enough to keep players coming back, but it's not intimidating if you're new to the sport," he says.

Golfers and leisure guests will find comfortable accommodations at Quail Lodge, too, including several room and suite configurations with course views. Options range from two-bedroom villas that feature king and queen rooms, shared living spaces, three fireplaces, two patios and a host of amenities, to standard king and double-queen accommodations with spacious bathrooms and flat-screen televisions.

All rooms are decorated in chic yet relaxed style, with wooden floors, leather furnishings, fine textiles and bold accent walls that play off

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the property's California ranch design. Nature-themed photographs bring the outside world in, but private patios with garden, golf course, pond and mountain views promise additional opportunities to watch wildlife and simply soak in the Carmel Valley sunshine.

"September and October consistently have the best weather. It's green and beautiful and never too hot," says Barkdull. "But, I really do love the winters here. Even if it rains, it's never too cold. You can cozy up by the fire place, smell the rain and just enjoy all the nature."

Quail Lodge Resort & Golf Club is located at 8205 Valley Greens Drive, Carmel. To make reservations at the restaurants, golf club, wellness center or resort, or to learn more about the property, call 866/675-1101 or go to www.quaillodge.com. ■



(Top) The two-bedroom villa suite at Quail Lodge is 2,000 square feet, and offers private en suite bathrooms, gas fireplaces, a powder room and a living room. (Bottom) The 18th hole at Quail Golf Club.