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GOLF: TRADITION AND TEMPTATION

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. -- Sawgrass Golf Resort & Spa, A Marriott Resort -- a name synonymous with golf -- has earned a reputation for unsurpassed golf and brought fame to Ponte Vedra Beach with its world-renowned 99 holes. From the manicured bent grass and Bermuda greens of **THE PLAYERS STADIUM COURSE AT TPC SAWGRASS** to the towering pines and extraordinary wildlife of Marsh Landing Country Club, Sawgrass Golf Resort & Spa, "THE PLAYERS Choice," offers the ultimate resort for a golfer's getaway -- a mix of play that is pleasurable for both the proficient golfer and weekend duffer.

Set along Florida's Atlantic coast between Jacksonville and historic St. Augustine, the 65-acre Sawgrass Golf Resort & Spa is the **second largest golf resort** in the United States and the Exclusive Hotel of the Tournament Players Club (TPC) Sawgrass. As one of *T+L Golf's* Top 10 World's Best Golf Resorts, Sawgrass is also home to the PGA TOUR and Senior PGA TOUR offering a myriad of player sightings including golf greats Jim Furyk, Vijay Singh and Fred Funk.

Sawgrass Golf Resort & Spa recently completed a \$16 million enhancement of guest rooms in the main tower of the resort. Each room has been transformed into a Marriott "Revive" room, bringing guests a new level of service, luxury and indulgence. Guest rooms include new contemporary wood furnishings, light fixtures, wall and floor coverings, window treatments and coordinated art work, high speed internet and plasma TVs; larger bathrooms with marble vanities, dual sinks, framed mirrors and chrome fixtures; and new mattresses, plush sheets and an abundance of down pillows.

Awarded the heralded Silver Medal by *Golf Magazine* -- reserved for a handful of the "Best Golf Resorts in America" -- Sawgrass extends its guests privileges to five golf courses, lobby golf operations and pro shop, four driving ranges and six putting greens. David Kraus, the resort director of golf, expertly schedules tee-times and coordinates special group golfing tournaments and events.

Among the best courses at Sawgrass Golf Resort & Spa is the famous 6,857-yard **THE PLAYERS STADIUM COURSE AT TPC SAWGRASS** designed by architect Pete Dye and ranked in the top 50 of "America's Greatest Golf Destinations," the top 35 of "America's Golf Resorts," fourth in difficulty by *Golf Digest*, the No. 5 course of the "Top 100 You Can Play" by *Golf Magazine* and the Best Resort Course in the Southeast by *T+L Golf*.

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Sawgrass Golf Resort & Spa guests have exclusive privileges and access to the legendary THE PLAYERS Stadium Course or Dye's Valley Course without a TPC Sawgrass membership or as a member guest.

THE PLAYERS Stadium Course, re-opened November 2006 after a \$10 million renovation project initiated by the PGA TOUR under the direction of the original world-renowned course architect, Pete Dye. While remaining similar in character, the "new" course features a variety of aesthetic and competitive enhancements along with new state-of-the-art drainage and irrigation systems designed to help the course maintain its pristine playing conditions year-round.

THE PLAYERS Stadium Course, birthplace of staggered grass mounding or "natural bleachers" for spectators, is the site of THE PLAYERS Championship and hosts an elite international field of champions including Adam Scott, Davis Love III, Fred Couples and Tiger Woods. Treacherous sand waste areas, watery oppositions on every hole and Scottish link-like bunkers are collaborative signatures of the par-72 course.

No. 17 of THE PLAYERS Stadium Course -- the famous par-3 island hole -- is one of the "Most Photographed Holes in the World" and plays a pivotal role in every THE PLAYERS Championship. A 132-yard maximum, swirling winds and imposing water create navigational concerns and strong psychological distractions.

Boasting a split fairway, No. 11 has been voted one of the "Best Par-5s in the South" by *Southern Links*. The challenge begins from the tee box with a carry over an expansive waste bunker 200 yards long -- then the decision divides into equally ominous hazards awaiting play both left and right.

A tough complement to THE PLAYERS Stadium Course is the par-72 **DYE'S VALLEY COURSE AT TPC SAWGRASS**, crafted by Pete Dye and Jerry Pate. Water comes into play on 6,838 yards along 18 holes, while fairways filled with hills and valleys create additional challenges. Uncharacteristic of a Dye abstract, few roughs exist so there are less interruptions to executable shots. Dye's Valley Course is in excellent condition following more than \$1 million in enhancements completed in the spring of 2006, including extensive landscaping improvements and bunker reconstruction.

A course highlight is the lengthy 15th hole, a 462-yard, par-4 mirroring THE PLAYERS Stadium Course finishing hole. With a slight dogleg right and waste bunkers and mounds separating an elongated lake paralleling the right side, the hole tends to ruin many promising rounds. The approach is played with a long iron to a narrow but deep green protected by drastic mounds and sand traps on the left and numerous railroad ties confining the perilous water on the right.

The new \$40 million, 77,000 square-foot Mediterranean Revival-style TPC clubhouse, scheduled to open in May 2007, includes an event lawn, Main Dining Grille, terrace, banquet and meeting space, lounge, Member/Player locker rooms, resort locker rooms, golf shop, gallery, exhibits and displays depicting the history and legend of the PGA TOUR and THE PLAYERS, practice facilities, TOUR Academy, and Caddie Program.

Marriott golfers encounter water on 24 of 27 holes in the medley of challenging nines stretched over 10,340 yards of the **SAWGRASS COUNTRY CLUB COURSE**. The 7,072-yard, par-72 East/West rotation, designed by Ed Seay, has earned the time-honored distinction of “the original Sawgrass.”

The Seay trademarks of tight, well-bunkered greens demanding shot accuracy and placement accent the East course along with oceanside fairways and prevailing Atlantic winds. Golf Digest ranks it in the “Top 25 Best U.S. Resort Courses.”

The fifth hole of the East rotation, a 416-yard, par-4 set against an ocean view with a stark 90-foot drop from tee to green, is a Sawgrass spectacular. The ninth hole is a formidable 451-yard, par-4 offering a generous, triple-tiered green full of challenges, including tropical winds native to the Sawgrass course.

Known as the “Most Striking Hole in Ponte Vedra Beach,” the West sixth leaves a lasting impression of beauty with the tee and green both close to water and edged with a natural palmed topography.

MARSH LANDING COUNTRY CLUB COURSE, another Ed Seay design, is often likened to a 6,841-yard nature preserve. Imaginative routing of the nines has created two visually contrasting personalities -- the front nine weaves through pockets of sequestered Intracoastal marshes and is dotted with tall timbers, while the back nine is carved from even thicker lagoons threaded with tidal marshes.

The third hole, a breathtaking 173-yard, par-3 is the centerpiece of the course. The elevated tee box peers over the totally submerged fairway onto a complicated bunker-guarded green that is sharply pitched from back to front, promising brutal crosswinds.

The 437-yard, par-4, 12th hole is perhaps the most difficult, characterized by a lengthy dogleg right along a tree-lined fairway. Overhanging trees at the corner of the dogleg demand a tee shot favoring the left.

Rounding out the five options offered to Sawgrass Golf Resort & Spa guests is the 6,345-yard, par-70 **OAK BRIDGE CLUB COURSE**, a short, tight Seay creation featuring water on every hole and requiring straight tee shots by great iron players. The 13th hole -- a 378-yard, par-4 straightaway -- necessitates the fiercest water negotiation. Roughs punctuate the right fairway and a lake ribbons along the left from the tee to skirt the front of a shallow, two-tiered green with a bunkered elevation.

At America's "THE PLAYERS Choice," Sawgrass Golf Resort & Spa, the 99 holes of golf are just a hint of the extraordinary amenities offered to guests. Heralded as one of the "Top 50 Favorite Family Resorts" by *Better Homes and Gardens*, it beckons indulgence through a blend of subtle sophistication and a twist of untamed excitement. Tempting tennis on 11 courts with four different surfaces including grass, European red clay, Har-Tru and cushioned hard courts satisfy even the most discerning tennis fanatic.

The resort also boasts **THE SPA AT SAWGRASS**, a 25,000 square-foot spa featuring treatments specifically designed with the golfer in mind, easing tension after the stress of playing No. 17 of THE PLAYERS Stadium Course. For the golfers' spouse, stranded for hours during a game, the **Stadium Revenge Package** pampers "golf widows" guilty pleasures at the same rate as 18 holes (\$322 for four hours).

Other diversions include horseback riding, the Sawgrass Safari children's program, four freshwater swimming pools, an Arnold Palmer-designed 18 hole putting course and 26 miles of pristine beach. In addition, the property is one of the largest meeting resorts between Atlanta and Orlando.

For reservations at Sawgrass Golf Resort & Spa, A Marriott Resort, call **800.457.GOLF (4653)** or 904.285.7777; visit <http://www.sawgrassmarriott.com>.

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