

MY TOWN: PETER JACOBSEN

Peaceful easy feeling

The tranquility of Central Oregon makes it a great place to visit for golfers and non-golfers alike *By Bill Fields*



PETER JACOBSEN WAS BORN and raised in Portland, Ore., but he has a long history with central Oregon too, having first visited the area on a family ski trip to Mount Bachelor when he was 14.

Recently Jacobsen has been in the area during the summers for the Jeld-Wen Tradition, held at Sunriver Resort near Bend. Not only does the 56-year-old play in the Champions Tour major, but his sports and entertainment marketing firm, Peter Jacobsen Sports, has managed the tournament since 2003.

Oregon's high-desert region, with its warm days and cool nights, is an ideal summer vacation spot, offering plenty of golf and other outdoor sports.

COURSES

→ The Jeld-Wen Tradition moved from the Portland area to the *Crosswater Club at Sunriver Resort* (3) in 2007. One of three 18s at the resort, it's a scenic layout by Bob Cupp with the Little Deschutes River coming into play on seven holes. It's rated 76.9 with a 150 slope from the tips, but five sets of tees make it enjoyable for any golfer. The huge green at the par-4 ninth hole has a Scottish feel. The par-3 17th is a brute, but there is room to run your ball onto the green.

I'm also partial to *Brasada Canyons GC* in Powell Butte, which I designed with my partner Jim Hardy. A private club that opened in 2007, there is limited access to

JACOBSEN'S FAVORITES

Dining

900 WALL is a great casual fine-dining spot in Bend. It utilizes a lot of local food and produce. The menu features a nice variety of dishes, from risotto to lamb to stone-oven pizzas. The place has a high ceiling and a lively feel. ... Another place worth checking out is **STACCATO AT THE FIREHALL**. This restaurant, which opened in 2005, is located in the former Bend fire station, which was built in 1920. It's an Italian place with great atmosphere—the vintage fireman's pole is still there. Among the strengths of Staccato is a huge wine list.

Local Flavor
The **DESCHUTES BREWERY** offers tours showing how its various craft beers—the star of its brew pub in Bend—are produced.

PETER JACOBSEN



Golf résumé: Turned pro in 1976; won seven PGA Tour events in a 24-year span (1980-2003).

Second act: Despite injuries on Champions Tour, won the 2004 U.S. Senior Open and 2005 Ford Senior Players Championship.

Keeping a tune: Was founding member and lead singer of *Jake Trout & The Flounders*, which included Mark Lye and the late Payne Stewart.

guests staying at Brasada Ranch. The high-desert terrain provides a great setting for golf, and that's certainly the case here.

LODGING

→ *Sunriver Resort* (2) is a terrific place to stay, particularly if you're on a family vacation. It offers so many fun activities, including rafting, fly-fishing, horseback riding and cycling. You can even go up in a sailplane and see some fantastic vistas as you glide over the area. ... The *Oxford Hotel* is a sophisticated boutique hotel with an urban, organic decor in downtown Bend.

DON'T MISS

→ A number of pros take the time to drive down to *Crater Lake National Park* (1) when they're at the Tradition. It's about a 2½-hour drive, but it's worth the trip—you've never seen water so blue and driving through the winding roads in the park to get to the crater itself is a pretty amazing experience.

Taking the chairlift up to the summit of *Mount Bachelor* is another cool excursion. Bend is a wonderful place to pass some time; it's just great to walk around. It has art galleries and antique stores. And there are shops of all kinds in the *Old Mill District*.



WHERE WE PLAY

Chambers Bay

If you've always wanted to play a U.S. Open course but never have, here's your chance. Five years from now, the USGA brings the Open to Chambers Bay, a municipal course in the Tacoma suburb of University Place. But in just nine weeks, Chambers Bay hosts the U.S. Amateur, only the second time the championship will be played in the state of Washington, so the course has already assumed some of its U.S. Open persona.

It's still a wild, rugged links—there's just one tree on the entire course—hard by breezy Puget Sound, but it has been tamed a bit. All the wind-blown bunkers have defined edges now compared to when the course opened in 2007. There are new flat tee boxes, supplementing the lumpy ribbon tees intended to provide additional hook or slice on desired tee shots.

Several fairways have been

narrowed. For instance, the once mammoth landing area on the 447-yard par-4 sixth hole has been given a massive tummy tuck, with the old right edge now a good 30 yards off the beaten path. Likewise, an old alternate route down the left side of a dune in the middle of the fairway on the difficult

500-yard par-4 11th is now rough, forcing everyone to either carry the dune off the tee or aim for a skinny fairway to the right.

Not every change has removed options. The approach into the par-5 fourth green has been totally reshaped to allow balls to bound onto the putting surface. Previously, every shot short of the green funneled into a long, deep pit bunker.

The fescue greens, like the fairways, are firm and fast, with noticeable grain, so they putt faster downhill, slower uphill. But the condition of fescue greens can be iffy in June, and my guess is the putting surfaces will be converted to Poa annua or bent grass well before the 2015 U.S. Open. —Ron Whitten

NOW YOU KNOW



Busy July for Jay Blasi, who co-designed Chambers Bay with Robert Trent Jones Jr. and Bruce Charlton. **On the 26th he will try to qualify for the Amateur; on the 31st he will marry Amy Spittle on Chambers Bay's 15th tee.**

6320 Grandview Dr. W.
University Place, WA
98467; 877-295-4657
chambersbaygolf.com

Drive time
from Seattle/
Tacoma
Airport: 45 minutes

COURSE INFO: Chambers Bay
(Jay Blasi, Bruce Charlton,
Robert Trent Jones, Jr.), par 72,
7,585 yds, 76.9/135

PEAK GREEN
FEES: \$155,
weekdays; \$175,
weekends

Readers'
Choice Awards
ranking:
No. 29 (Public)

Deals of THE WEEK

SEAVIEW—A DOLCE RESORT

Galloway, N.J.

The Dolce Seaview Summer Escape offers a discount of up to 50 percent off the best available rate per night, including breakfast for two adults and their children up to age 12. Offer available through Sept. 30.

PRICE Starting at \$126; use rate code DSE

dolce-seaview-hotel.com
800-98-DOLCE

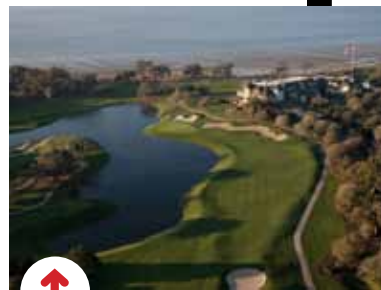
LA QUINTA RESORT & SPA

Palm Springs

Package offered through golfzoo.com and available until Sept. 16 includes three-night stay at the resort and unlimited golf with cart on five different courses, including PGA West's Nicklaus, Norman and TPC layouts.

PRICE \$140 per person per night (weekdays); \$160 (weekends)

golfzoo.com
800-929-7300



SEA ISLAND RESORT

St. Simons Island, Ga.

Unlimited Golf package, offered between now and Sept. 20, includes hotel accommodations at either The Cloister or The Lodge and unlimited golf on the Seaside or Plantation courses.

PRICE Starting at \$425 per night (single); \$525 (double); two-night minimum required
seaisland.com
866-879-6238

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