

THE NEW LONG BEACH The historic harbor city gets a modern, event-ready makeover

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Approaching PARADISE

Tee off at the state's top event-friendly golf destinations

+ **GROUP
GETAWAYS**
4 perfect
properties for
restorative
retreats



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SUMMER 2014

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Carmel Valley Ranch is a dream destination for groups looking to golf. PHOTO COURTESY OF CARMEL VALLEY RANCH.

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From San Diego to Sonoma, California's golf resorts can help you score a hole-in-one when you're planning destination meetings. Here's a look at 15 properties that are ready to tee off for a C-suite retreat.

BY JANET FULLWOOD AND KATHY A. MCDONALD

PHOTO COURTESY OF: CORDEVALLE ROSEWOOD RESORT.

Ace it!

Score a hole-in-one with a high-powered retreat at one of California's many spectacular golf resorts.



BY JANET FULLWOOD AND KATHY A. McDONALD

PHOTO COURTESY OF: PEBBLE BEACH RESORTS, JOANN DOST.



PEBBLE BEACH GOLF LINKS NO. 7

As the old adage goes, you can get to know a colleague better in four hours on a golf course than you can in four years working together. Devotees of the game say that's because there's something inherent in golf that brings out the player's personality, character and values.

Many a deal has been done on the links, and a day spent outside on finely manicured turf is often much more effective than boardroom gatherings for fostering relationships, building team spirit and inspiring creative thinking. Small wonder, then, that many planners charged with organizing retreats for C-suite clients often choose a golf resort as their location.

What's more, courses offer stunning settings for receptions

and other gatherings. At the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa in Palm Desert, the lush green lawn next to the driving range was tented and set with rounds for a dinner for 1,000 at a recent Ernst & Young event.

There's arguably more to life than golf, of course. And not all attendees—or their spouses—may want to hit the links. That's where a multifaceted resort in a scenic vacation destination with a choice of activities—wine tasting, hiking, biking, spa days and sightseeing—can prove the best choice.

California golf resorts consistently make the best-of lists in the country and the world. Here, from south to north, is a curated offering of golf resorts ready to tee off for meetings and events.



Ojai Valley Inn & Spa, Ojai

GOLF: The resort's 18-hole, 6,292-yard, par-70 course was designed and built in 1923 by George C. Thomas, Jr., one of the United States' most acclaimed golf architects (LA's Riviera Country Club is another of his famed courses).

RESORT: Located in the Ojai Valley, the 308-room Spanish colonial revival resort retains a romantic, old California feel. There are two crystal-clear pools on property, a 31,000-square-foot spa in its own dedicated building, tennis courts and both fine and casual dining options.

MEETING SPACE: A private home, vintage barn, plus two ballrooms, terraces and an event lawn are among the venue options at the 221-acre wooded property.

HOLE-IN-ONE: Ojai resident and golf guru Joseph Parent, author of *Zen Golf*, conducts mindful golf seminars for groups at the resort. Up to 12 can participate in a mind-body swing clinic; exhibition clinics are recommended for larger groups.

CONNECT: ojaioresort.com; 855.697.8780



Pebble Beach Resorts, Pebble Beach

GOLF: Pebble Beach's four 18-hole, par-72 courses and one nine-hole, par-3 course are among the most famous in the world. Each is outstanding in its own way.

Pebble Beach Golf Links: Some of golf's most prestigious tournaments have been held at this seaside course dating to 1919. It's been ranked by *Golf Digest* as the No. 1 public course in the nation.

Spyglass Hill Golf Course: Rated one of the toughest courses in the world from the championship tees. The first five holes are links-style, passing through sandy dunes, while the remainder cut through heavy forest.

The Links at Spanish Bay: A true, Scottish-style links course hugging a coastline similar to the coast of Scotland. Rugged dunes, bristly grasses and almost constant winds offer plenty of challenges. Every evening at dusk, a bagpiper closes the course with a plaintive serenade outside the Lobby Lounge of the Inn at Spanish Bay.

Del Monte Golf Course: The oldest golf course in continuous operation west of the Mississippi opened in 1897 and has been challenging golfers ever since. Located inland in neighboring Monterey, it features

a meandering layout with wide fairways rolling through stands of oak, pine and cypress.

Peter Hay Golf Course: The only nine-hole, par-3 course open to the public on the Monterey Peninsula lends itself to instruction and fun corporate events like glow-ball night golf.

RESORT: The 161-room *Lodge at Pebble Beach*, dating to 1919 and wrapping around the 18th green of Pebble Beach Golf Links, is the most traditional and historic of three resort hotels. The *Inn at Spanish Bay* offers 269 contemporary guest rooms, while *Casa Palmero* is a 24-room boutique venue.

Eight restaurants, numerous outdoor settings and a variety of banquet and private-dining spaces can be used for groups. The *Spa at Pebble Beach* specializes in the healing properties of indigenous herbs, plants and minerals, while The Beach & Tennis Club offers tennis, swimming, sailing, kayaking and group dining possibilities.

MEETING SPACE: The Lodge at Pebble Beach includes a conference center and 10 principal meeting rooms with occupancy for up to 500 guests, while the Inn at Spanish Bay offers 14,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, much of it with ocean views, and a ballroom that can accommodate 800. Casa Palmero has private dining and boardroom facilities for a maximum 85 guests.

HOLE-IN-ONE: Pebble Beach resident Alan Shepard (1923-1998), the first American to travel into space and the fifth man to walk on the moon, is the only astronaut to have hit a golf ball on the lunar surface. "He hit two golf balls on the moon; the first, not so well, the second much better. You can watch it on YouTube. He never revealed the brand of golf ball because he didn't want to commercialize it," relates Tim Ryan, vice president, global business development at the resorts who twice played golf with the space pioneer.

CONNECT: pebblebeachresorts.com; 800.654.9300



Carmel Valley Ranch, Carmel Valley

GOLF: The 18-hole, par-70 layout is the only Pete Dye-designed golf course in Northern California. The front nine is known for its water hazards, while the back nine is characterized by significant elevation changes. The course rolls through trees, vineyards and

fields of lavender, with signature holes 11 and 13 featuring dramatic drops into the valley.

RESORT: The luxury 139-suite resort sits on 500 hilly acres, billing itself as "a place dedicated to the idea of play." Team-building and outdoor activities are a specialty.

There's a demonstration kitchen, vineyard, beekeeping, lavender fields, gardens, the 10,500-square-foot Spa Aiyana, miles of hiking trails, three restaurants and two salt-water pool and hot-tub complexes.

MEETING SPACE: More than 10,000 square feet of naturally lit indoor space merge with 35,000 square feet of outdoor function space including three spacious lawns. The largest indoor space is the 3,279-square-foot Redwood Room.

HOLE-IN-ONE: Bring the kids. The extremely family-friendly property features a River Ranch family activity zone, as well as themed day camps for kids 6 to 12 led by certified teachers.

CONNECT: carmelvalleyranch.com; 866.405.5037



Rosewood CordeValle, San Martin

GOLF: This 7,360-yard, par-72 Robert Trent Jones Jr. jewel is defined by broad views, meandering creeks, sycamore groves, canyons and verdant meadows. The eighth hole, a drivable par-4, is a spectator favorite. The club hosted the PGA Tour Frys.com Open from 2010 to 2013 and will welcome the U.S. Women's Open in 2016.

RESORT: Privacy, serenity and a high pro-to-player ratio define this golf and tennis club that's set on 1,700 acres in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. CordeValle features 45 guest accommodations in bungalow, fairway homes and villa suites. Three restaurants, a tournament tennis complex, a spa, on-site winery and priceless art collection add to the exclusive atmosphere.

MEETING SPACE: CordeValle's 4,485 square feet of indoor meeting space and 3,695 square feet of outdoor event space can accommodate groups of up to 200. Special events range from nighttime putting contests to Tips 'n' Sips receptions, combining advice from pros with cocktails.

HOLE-IN-ONE: Ball not going where it's supposed to? Take a break for a tour and tasting at Clos LaChance Winery, adjacent to the golf course next to the sixth green.

CONNECT: cordevallgolf.com; 408.695.4500