



A GOLF  
COMMUNITY

# Par Excellence

CREIGHTON FARMS DOES LUXURY LIVING TO THE NINES

By Dirk van der Broek

When you drive down scenic Route 15 in Aldie, Virginia, you'll be forgiven if you zoom right past Creighton Farms without even knowing it's there. There's nothing to indicate that you're in the vicinity of one of greater Washington's most exclusive private club communities except a simple wooden sign bearing the Creighton Farms logo and the simple word, "Welcome." This is by design. Because behind the stately stone gatehouse that limits access to this idyllic horse-country sanctuary lies a club community whose residents and club members value their privacy.

If you show up at that gatehouse looking to create a custom home, you'd better have a Wikipedia page. And if you're looking to play golf, you'd better have an invitation. Gawkers and wannabes need not apply.

Should you be fortunate enough to be granted entry into this idyllic enclave of the rich and famous, though, prepare to fall in love. A more seductive place is hard to find. Set on 700 rolling acres of the prettiest Virginia countryside you'll ever lay eyes on are 174 custom homesites, many of which already boast the kinds of homes that grace

magazine covers. We're talking \$1.8 million on the low end, upwards of \$10 million on the high. If you're in a hurry, the community usually does have a few randomly spectacular move-in-ready homes available. But for the most part, the homes at Creighton Farms are custom-built masterpieces designed to perfectly suit their lucky (and very discriminating) owners.

The real story at Creighton Farms isn't the homes, though – as amazing as they are. It's the lifestyle that residents and members get to avail themselves of. Imagine the best resort you've ever

been to. Then imagine living there year-round. That's pretty much the deal at Creighton Farms.

The community started its life as a Ritz-Carlton project. But as the Great Recession began to rear its troublesome head, plans changed and the property was acquired by Boston-based Southworth Development. At that point, what was always envisioned to be an amazing club community became even more amazing.

At the heart of the community lies its Jack Nicklaus Signature golf course. Annually the site of the Creighton Farms Invitational hosted by the



Golden Bear himself, it's widely considered one of the Mid-Atlantic's premier courses. And from the back tees, one of its toughest. Nicklaus visited the site 13 times during the course's construction – about 10 times more than he normally would. And the results show it. It's no wonder Creighton Farms was twice chosen to host one of the PGA of America's most prestigious championships – the PGA Senior Professional National Championship – and why it has hosted numerous state and regional championships, too. Impeccably maintained, a thrill to play, it's the kind of course that wows members every day – and visitors whenever they're lucky enough to snag an invite. Off the course, the golf is just as good. The club's practice facilities are second to none, and an indoor/outdoor training studio will be added later this year. Erika Larkin, the No. 1-ranked teaching pro in Virginia, provides instruction. There's even an expansive short-game practice area.

classes, holiday events for kids, and the area's most jaw-dropping private Fourth of July fireworks presentation and summer bash.

Money may not buy happiness, but if you spend enough time around Creighton Farms, you'll certainly see a lot of happy people. And that's by design, too. Southworth's corporate mission statement is summed up in two simple words: "Celebrate Life." The residents and members at Creighton Farms do exactly that, 24/7/365.

If you're in the market for any of the things Creighton Farms has to offer, you owe it to yourself to make that trip down Route 15. Just remember to drive slowly. The aforementioned entrance is an understated one, and you won't want to miss it. ■



By Suzhella Reyes-Burnag  
THE CREIGHTON FARMS COMMUNITY. WHEN JACK NICKLAUS IS ON SITE, EVEN MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ALL-STAR PITCHER ROGER CLEMENS WANTS AN AUTOGRAPH.

But it's not all about golf at Creighton Farms. The community offers a wide range of other amenities for residents, club members and their families. There are two Har-Tru and two hard-surface tennis courts and an active tennis program. A pool complex right out of *Travel+Leisure* magazine. A fitness and wellness center that offers personal training, spin, yoga and barre classes. And a grand clubhouse that offers not just world-class cuisine from executive chef Reid Badger, but nine overnight club rooms, where guests can stay in splendor and enjoy stunning views of the Creighton Farms property from the comfort of their own, private hideaways.



A CUSTOM-BUILT HOME IN CREIGHTON FARMS



If I've given you the impression that Creighton Farms is a stuffy place peopled by elites with their noses in the air, permit me to correct that misperception. In truth, it's a warm community where residents gather together frequently to enjoy life and have a good time. The club has a full calendar of events for members of all ages, including wine and whiskey dinners, cooking

