

An Entrée to a World of Exceptional Golf

CREIGHTON FARMS



When you enter the Creighton Farms clubhouse and walk upstairs to the top floor where its overnight club rooms are located, you'll notice something different about a few of them. On several of the doors that lead into these nine, elegant dormie rooms, there are simple plaques with names on them. Names like Jack Nicklaus, Roger Clemens, Rick Barry, and George Gervin. Inside the rooms, you'll see framed photos of these legends, along with an inscription noting the date they first stayed in that room. It's one of the many ways that Creighton Farms honors its VIP guests. But those VIPs are far from the only important people who have slept there.

For the past five years, the club community of Creighton Farms in Aldie, Virginia, has been the site of one of the D.C. area's most significant charity golf events, the Creighton Farms Invitational Hosted by Jack Nicklaus. The Golden Bear designed the club's spectacular private course, and the CFI events he hosts at the club and in his family home at Creighton Farms have raised over \$3 million – money earmarked for the Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation and D.C.-area children's health care initiatives.

The event, which was the brainchild of Nicklaus and Creighton Farms' two owners, David Southworth and Joe Deitch, has attracted a veritable who's-who of the Northern Virginia elite – folks who plunk down \$5,000 per player to tee it up alongside some of America's favorite athletes and entertainers. This year, the event has moved to June 24-26 and the amateur players will be paired with PGA Tour pros en route to the Quicken Loans National. If you haven't reserved your spot yet, you'd better call Matt Hess in the Creighton Farms pro shop soon. You don't have to be a Creighton Farms member to play in the CFI.

Along with the golf tournament, the CFI program includes a lavish dinner and charity auction at the posh Salamander Resort & Spa in Middleburg. After dinner, Nicklaus shares his thoughts and fields questions during a fireside chat session, which was emceed last year by NBC Sports' Jimmy Roberts.

The CFI is a perennial favorite of Creighton Farms members. But it attracts players from far beyond the D.C. area. Some are members of other clubs owned by Creighton Farms' parent company, Southworth Development. Members of Willowbend on Cape Cod, Renaissance on Boston's North Shore, The Abaco Club in The Bahamas, and even Machrihanish Dunes in Scotland routinely visit each others' properties. And they're encouraged to do so. The Southworth reciprocity program provides members with privileges at every Southworth club. So Creighton Farms members often go to Willowbend or The Abaco Club or Machrihanish Dunes,

while their members in turn come to Virginia for events like the CFI and stay in those luxe club rooms. Join one club, you have access to them all.

"Our reciprocity program gives Southworth club members a whole world of benefits," says Greg Sherwood, President of Southworth Golf. "Members love visiting each other's clubs when they're traveling on business or for leisure. A lot of new friendships have been created by this program. And when the various clubs come together to compete for the Southworth Cup each year, many of the players already know each other. Everyone has a great time."

The Southworth Cup is an annual event that features teams from each Southworth club. The 2017 event took place in February on the Scottish-style "tropical links" course at The Abaco Club, with the team from Willowbend taking home the coveted trophy.

"There's a lot of pride at stake," Sherwood says. "These ladies and men love their golf and nobody wants to finish second – much less last. But the real point of the event is to give our members the chance to get to know the different clubs, meet new people, and just have fun."

Later this summer, members of Creighton Farms and the other Southworth clubs will have the chance to tee it up in a special pro-am at Renaissance with players from the U.S. Senior Open, which is being contested at nearby Salem Country Club. Next year, they'll have the opportunity to play in the pro-am at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic, a Web.com Tour event held at The Abaco Club.

"We like to say that the sun never sets on your Southworth club membership," adds Sherwood. "Being able to offer members of Creighton Farms or our other clubs several very different kinds of club experiences is something that sets us apart."

There's a lot more that sets Creighton Farms apart – from its Virginia horse country mansions to its slew of other resort-style amenities. It's that one-of-a-kind community that just seems to get everything right. Which is one reason why its non-resident memberships are all but sold out. To learn more about the other reasons why Creighton Farms has earned such a prestigious reputation, sign up for the Creighton Farms Invitational. Or pay the place a visit. You may not get your name on a club room door, but if you do join, you'll become part of a unique international community that truly loves its golf – and keeps its passports at the ready.

– Allen Askov

