

Lamorinda travel destinations

Iconic Pebble Beach

By Fran Miller



Photos Fran Miller

Located on the Monterey Peninsula where the Del Monte Forest meets the Pacific Ocean and where gracious mansions line the prestigious 17-mile drive, Pebble Beach has long been a landmark destination for golf lovers the world over, since 1919 in fact. Four resorts, 14 bars and restaurants, and five stellar golf courses fall under the Pebble Beach umbrella. But one need not be a golfer to appreciate and enjoy the area's beauty. It helps, of course, to know the significance of the area's golfing past in order to fully respect the allure, and to comprehend the selfie stick-wielding tourists who pose at every scenic vantage point. And, it helps to know golf's future; the 2019 U.S. Open Championship will take place on The Pebble Beach Golf Links course next June 13-16.

Those who wish to educate themselves with a little golf back-

ground need simply step into the Lodge at Pebble Beach-adjacent Golf Links to the Past memorabilia shop for a quick primer, where golf's history and traditions are on display via original artwork, photography, periodicals, clubs, trophies, and other artifacts. Then, step over to the nearby memorial rock wall that pays homage to Pebble Beach's founder Samuel F.B. Morse, where you'll find the names of each of the winners of the famed Bing Crosby-founded 'Clambake' tourney, later known as the AT&T National. Golf fluent or not, visitors will surely recognize the listed names as part of America's social fabric.

Just as one need not be a golf expert to enjoy the area, one need not be an overnight guest to enjoy the shops, restaurants, and sights of Pebble Beach, but a hotel stay elevates the experience. Most popu-

lar of Pebble Beach's four lodging options is The Lodge at Pebble Beach. Golfers especially owe it to themselves to stay here in order to pay proper tribute to the game they love. Known in the golf world as a bucket list item, a stay at the lodge in one of its 161 rooms affords stunning and varied patio and balcony views of gardens, Stillwater Cove, the Pacific Ocean, and the iconic Pebble Beach Golf Links 18th fairway.

Six restaurant options surround The Lodge. Stillwater Bar & Grill is an elegant destination for a relaxing dinner overlooking the fairways. The Tap Room serves a selection of American tavern-style classics, while The Terrace Lounge is an ideal destination to sit back and relax in one of the oversized armchairs while sipping on a specialty cocktail and enjoying the panoramic golf course views. Guests looking for the familiarity of a home-cooked meal should visit Gallery Café, the home-style breakfast and lunch bistro. For cove and ocean views, enjoy lunch at the conservatory-esque The Beach Club. And The Bench is a casual spot with al fresco fire pit tables overlooking the 18th hole, specializing in crafted cocktails and wood-roasted dishes.

All Lodge guests are provided complimentary access to The Beach & Tennis Club at Pebble Beach. And like its Pebble Beach Golf Links neighbor, this swank yet low-key venue is equally rich in

history and features tennis, workout facilities, and a heated pool that juts over Stillwater Cove. Shoppers will enjoy The Shops at Pebble Beach with their nearly overwhelming number of logoed items. (The newest boutique to open exclusively features an array of 2019 U.S. Open merchandise.) Casa Palmero, the area's most exclusive lodging option just steps from The Lodge, features a world-class spa

that's open to any Pebble Beach resorts guest. And kayaking, horseback riding, biking, and hiking are all just outside your hotel door. But for those who merely seek a room with a view in order to hit a good read rather than a golf ball, they'll find no better place to simply relax and unwind.

Find all lodging, restaurant, and golf options at www.pebblebeach.com.



Art on the wild side

By Sophie Braccini



Josie Osolin (second from the right) with friends in front of her paintings.

Photos Sophie Braccini

Some people in Lamorinda do not even know there is an art gallery in Moraga; with its front entrenched deep under a wide dark cave in the Rheem Shopping Center, it does not look like much to passersby. But don't let the outside entrance fool you. The new Moraga Art Gallery exhibition that opened on Aug. 15 will tickle and surprise those who venture inside.

Called "Walk On the Wild Side," the exhibition features work by three dynamic artists with plenty of creativity and gumption: abstract painter Josie Osolin, glass artist Terry Ow-Wing, and gourd-sculptress Jenn Norpchen.

Osolin is the member of the gallery who invited the other two to join this show. She explains that she loves art that's dramatic and uses powerful colors. She met the two guest artists in shows around the Bay Area and invited them to join her.

The painter is self-taught and started a new art career after taking early retirement from Pacific Bell. She said it took her three attempts to dare buying paint after entering an art store. But as soon as she started, she found herself and her style. Painting with large strokes of paint, Osolin starts with an inspiration of colors. It is always early in the morning and she feels that the image on the canvass takes a life of its own with each new color spot.

Osolin says that she is more of an introvert, but there is nothing subdued about her painting. The

images are full of life and movement and are highly decorative.

The two artists exhibiting with Osolin could not be more different from one another.

Norpchen creates whimsical sculptures out of gourds. She lets the form inspire her and with paints, metal, and other additions, she transforms the natural shapes into birds, frogs or dragons. Her creations are full of humor, charming and bursting with warm colors. They intrigue and are sure to bring a smile.

Ow-Wing is an architect who loves glass and has a remarkable

sense of colors and shapes. She creates beautiful glasswork panels, the shape of small windows with modernist portraits made of fused glass. There again, creativity, imagination and vibrant colors create an energizing imagery. The techniques used by the artist are quite developed and require different stages from the composition to the final fusing in a kiln.

The exhibition runs through Oct. 20 at the Moraga Art Gallery, which is managed by a collective of local artists and is open Wednesday through Sunday, from noon to 5 p.m.



2-Jenn Norpchen and her whimsical gourds.

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