



Mountain Magic

RedTail Mountain Resort in nearby Tennessee's Great Smokies delivers inspiring golf, creative dining, and stay-and-play lodging.

By MICHAEL J. SOLENDER

Just a half hour drive past Boone and about three hours from the shores of Lake Norman lies one of the most stunning mountain properties within Tennessee's Great Smoky Mountains. RedTail Mountain Resort, opened in 1982, is one of the finest golf resorts in the High Country, putting the destination on many bucket lists.

Sporting couples and active families can find diversions here no matter the season. In addition to golf, guests can choose from tennis, swimming, hiking, nearby boating, fishing, and area attractions to get their vacation's worth of fun.

Stay and Play

RedTail recently converted luxury condominiums into stay-and-play lodgings, placing guests walking distance to the first tee. One-, two-, and three-bedroom guest accommodations are complete with fully equipped kitchens, en suite bathrooms (the special spa showers are so relaxing they might keep you from making your tee time), flat screen televisions, and Wi-Fi.

Resort guests enjoy classic American fare at Vistas Restaurant from signature Angus burgers to well-aged filets, grilled salmon, and slow-roasted pork. The casual atmosphere and warm, Southern hospitality are RedTail signatures. Don't miss dining al fresco on the wide and expansive "back porch" elevated high over a series of holes and mountain vistas.

Renowned father and son team Dan and Ellis Maples designed RedTail Golf Course as a pure mountain track. It offers plenty to challenge shot makers with considerable elevation changes, yet is fair with an approachable layout and rolling greens.

Sam Adams, RedTail's director of golf, is on hand almost every day to share his course knowledge, playing tips, and stories of his time on the PGA Tour.

"As someone who was here when the first shovelful of dirt was turned I have a longstanding relationship with the course," says Adams.

Adams, a lefty, is too shy to boast of his own golfing accomplishments. Yet some golf trivia fans may recognize him as the first American left-hander to win a PGA event. The Boone native also led the U.S. Open on Saturday, briefly atop the leader board in the third round in 1977 at Southern Hills, Oklahoma, where Hubert Green was the eventual winner.



Overnight lodging at RedTail Mountain Resort used to be condos that sold for \$400,000 each. These units have since been turned into one-, two-, and three-bedroom suites. The rooms are quite spacious, with the three-bedroom suite able to sleep 10 people. The one-bedroom suites start at \$149, the two-bedroom suites start at \$269, and the three-bedroom suites start at \$359 per night.





The resort's 18-hole, semiprivate golf course offers more than 400-feet of elevation changes, giving way to spectacular views and challenges for players at every level.

Appalachian Trail

Those looking for fun off the course won't have to stray far.

For boaters and those who love to fish, RedTail's property at nearby Watauga Lake offers special launch access as well as facilities for boaters.

Check out The Mast General Store in nearby Valle Crucis. It's recognized in the National Historic Register as one of the best examples of an old-time country general store. Tweetsie Railroad, a favorite with the younger set, is a short drive away in Boone. Close by, Bristol Caverns offers spelunkers the chance to explore the banks of underground rivers, carved deep into the earth millions of years ago. Hikers are mere miles from trailheads on the Appalachian Trail, the most scenic hiking trail in North America.

The best local attraction however might be settling in with a sweet tea and a good book in one of the rocking chairs on RedTail's back porch, where the day and all cares can be lazed away.

Details:

RedTail Mountain Resort
300 Clubhouse Lane, Mountain City, TN 37683
423-727-7931
www.redtailmountain.com **LNM**

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