



# OJAI VALLEY INN

## PLAYING GOLF ON OJAI'S LEGENDARY GOLF COURSE

**OJAI, CALIF.** – Since 1923, golf has been an experience enjoyed by players of all levels on Ojai Valley Inn's classic George Thomas-designed course, lauded as one of "the finest courses in Southern California." Cutting edge programs and expansive instruction combine for an elevated playing experience on this historic and treasured course.

The Ojai course has hosted seven Senior PGA Tour events, the EMC Golf Skills Challenge televised by NBC Sports, and the Michael Douglas & Friends Celebrity Tournament. It is repeatedly rated a silver medal resort by *GOLF Magazine*, whose editors also named Ojai's hole #2 among the "World's Greatest Holes." *Golf Digest* recognized the course as one of its "75 Best Golf Resorts in North America" and awarded it 4.5 stars.

### **Revitalized Links Layout**

The front and back nines of the historic course, designed by George C. Thomas, Jr. in 1923, were reversed in 1988, a change that brought the course into alignment with Thomas' original intent. The first nine holes now are less demanding on the player compared to what awaits him further into his round, while the back nine holes build in difficulty to a dramatic finish.

At 571 yards, hole #15 is the course's most challenging par 5, and leads the player to the "Lost Holes," #16 and #17, which offer the course's most spectacular views and daunting barrancas. Number 18, with its sharp angle, uphill green and bunkers, is the toughest hole of all to par. True to Thomas' goal, the course requires the player to "use every club in his bag."

### **New Nicknames for Old Holes**

In 2013, each hole of the course was given a nickname in honor of Ojai Valley Inn's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The nicknames, displayed on golf-hole markers, are related to the golf course's unique past. The 3<sup>rd</sup> hole, for example, is now known as "Shortie" because it was the shortest hole George C. Thomas designed, at 115 yards.

### **Pro Shop and Caddie Program**

The two-story, 1,645-sq. ft. pro shop was designed in the resort's signature Spanish Colonial style, with a red tile roof and white plaster walls, arches and terra-cotta floor tiles. Men's and women's locker rooms feature amenities such as chilled or heated aromatherapy towels. The Inn's unique Golf Valet offers club rentals, shoe polishing, bag storage and on-demand club repair.

Golfers may request caddie services on an advanced reservation basis. A tradition that is now absent in many areas of the country, the caddie program offers the services of specially trained caddies, an amenity that will enhance the playing experience for any golfer.

### **Specialized Golf Instruction**

Ojai's Golf Academy offers two courses that may be taken in succession, or separately. Golf instruction focuses on the fundamentals of the golf swing and the short game, followed by nine holes of play on the course. Additionally, resident instructor Dr. Joseph Parent, author of *Zen Golf* and an expert on the mental game of golf, is available for one-on-one or group instruction.

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### **A 1923 Golf Course Rich in History**

In the early 1920s, Edward Drummond Libbey, millionaire glass manufacturer and driving force behind the Ojai Valley Inn, commissioned George C. Thomas, Jr. (also architect of the Riviera, Bel Air and Los Angeles Country Club courses) to design one of the country's premier golf courses. Like a sculptor working in marble, Thomas maximized the natural contours of the Inn's 220 acres of softly rolling hills to create a course praised then and now. In the 90 years since it opened, the golf course has become legendary. Pros Jimmy Demaret and Doug Sanders represented the links on the tour during the 1950s and '60s. A remodeling of the course by Jay Morrish in 1988 considerably toughened the course and still retained the challenges that have made Ojai golfers return year after year.

### **Ojai's "Lost Holes"**

In 1999, the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa delighted golf historians with a renovation that brought back two signature holes that had been "lost" for over a half-century. During World War II, the U.S. military occupied the grounds for a training base and R&R facility. When the government returned the resort to private ownership, they did not rebuild it according to Thomas' original design. Two holes, including one of Thomas' favorites, were left out of the layout.

More than 50 years after these holes were lost, they were rediscovered and restored. The terrain of these two holes is so spectacular that noted golf historian Ben Crenshaw commented, "This is going to be once again one of the best shots in golf."

### **About Ojai Valley Inn**

Tucked within the Topa Topa Mountains in the mystical Ojai Valley, the iconic AAA Five-Diamond Ojai Valley Inn continues to redefine luxury, beckoning travelers since its opening in 1923 to the tranquil setting known as "Shangri La." Located 90 minutes north of Los Angeles in the chic bohemian enclave of Ojai, the resort balances the relaxed glamour of Southern California with reverence for the unspoiled natural beauty of the region for an unrivaled experience that embodies the authentic spirit of Ojai. Sprawled across 220 lush, oak and olive tree-studded acres scented with wild sage and lavender, Ojai Valley Inn offers an abundance of freshly renewed settings, activities and amenities for inspired escapes including: the 31,000 square foot Spa Ojai and its surrounding Spa Village, The Artist Cottage, a working artist studio and apothecary for instruction in aromatherapy oil blending; a historic, George C. Thomas designed golf course; apiary and immersive beekeeping program; multiple pools and more than five dining concepts including signature restaurant Olivella, the sole restaurant between Los Angeles and Northern California to hold both the Forbes Four Star and AAA Four-Diamond designations. New for 2019, the resort introduced The Farmhouse at Ojai Valley Inn, a 20,000 square-foot epicurean event center, connecting world-class food culture, sublime indoor/outdoor settings and bucket list events.

For additional information and guest bookings, please visit [www.ojavalleyinn.com](http://www.ojavalleyinn.com) or call 1-800-422-6524.

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