



WINTERGREEN RESORT: A PLACE TO SPREAD YOUR WINGS

Every golfer comes to the 17th hole of Devils Knob Golf Course sensing “birdie.” It’s hard not to, given the bird activity nearby at the monitored habitat nestled among the oaks along the right side of the green. Designed by the naturalists at Wintergreen Nature Center, which looks out at the par 3 from within the tree line, the indoor-outdoor observatory exemplifies Wintergreen Resort’s dedication to the environment on Virginia’s Blue Ridge Mountains.

While two celebrated golf courses, an award-winning tennis center, winter snow sports and the Spa at Wintergreen lure visitors to the resort year round, there is a natural serenity throughout Wintergreen that is unmistakable. The Shamokin Springs Nature Preserve is part of 6,000 acres set aside by Wintergreen Resort to remain open space. The Wintergreen Nature Foundation oversees the Preserve as well as the Nature Center near the 17th hole of Devils Knob. There, the many juncos and Carolina chickadees at the bird habitat serenade golfers as they pass through – occasionally sending an errant tee shot into the trees, not far from the viewing windows of the Birders Gallery inside the Nature Center.

As well as Wintergreen treats its feathered friends, resort guests are made even more welcome. Only a three-hour drive from Washington, D.C., Wintergreen Resort offers plenty of room to spread out and relax. Accommodation options include 300 villa-style condominiums and rental homes, ranging from studio suites to seven-bedroom homes.

Spread up and down 11,000 lush acres overlooking the historic Rockfish Valley, Wintergreen is a paradise for the active life, literally from top to bottom. It is particularly a haven for golfers, whose choices include Stoney Creek Golf Course, 27 holes designed by Rees Jones that is playable year-round along the fertile valley floor, and the mountaintop Devils Knob, the legendary Ellis Maples layout that at 3,800 feet elevation is the highest course in Virginia.

For those who think golf is, well, for the birds, there is the luxurious and invigorating spa, oozing with soothing treatments, therapies and services. And for nearly 20 years Wintergreen has been regarded as one of the leading tennis resorts in the country, featuring 19 courts (indoor and outdoor) in the cooler altitude of the mountain.

Dining experiences include The Copper Mine Bistro, which is golf and business-casual, and The Devils Grill Restaurant and Lounge, featuring mountaintop views in an elegant, club-like atmosphere at Devils Knob. The Edge is a family restaurant looking the mountains and slopes; complete with large screen television; live entertainment seasonally.

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