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***TEE TIME ON A DIME – TEE OFF AT TOP MONTEREY COUNTY GOLF COURSES FOR LESS GREEN***

**MONTEREY COUNTY, CALIF.** — Tight exacting fairways, elevated greens, stoic Monterey Pines and the crashing Pacific – the nation’s top golf destination also sports a bevy of courses primed for public consumption. From the oldest course in continuous operation West of the Mississippi to the two-iron-if-you-can gems that dot Fort Ord, play along Monterey Bay no longer demands a down payment.

**PLAY LIKE A LOCAL**

Connect with six of the county’s hidden courses and learn why locals are out year-round hammering down their handicaps without breaking the bank. At **Rancho Canada Golf Club** players can tap into the East and West courses tucked along Carmel River with stunning views of the Santa Lucia Mountains. The mature 71 par courses are carved out of a prized portion of a 4,366-acre California rancho named Canada de la Segunda. Opened in 1970, both courses feature challenging water shots, tight rolling fairways lined with sycamore and cottonwood trees and some of the best finishing holes on the Monterey Peninsula.

Certain to tap every club in the bag – the 192-yard hole #13 on the East Course is an example of the course’s mettle. The par 3 requires carrying the ball across the Carmel River to an elevated green tucked into the Santa Lucia Mountains. Miss it and it’s messy. At 6,357 yards, the West Course lets loose with three five pars, including the grueling hole #9, an uphill dogleg left requiring a quick lay-up short of the water hazard or confident drill to the green. Golden eagles, bobcats, Canadian geese, deer and 60+ species of birds call this Robert Dean Putnam-designed course home.

[www.ranchoCanada.com](http://www.ranchoCanada.com).

The oldest course in continuous operation West of the Mississippi, **Del Monte Golf Course** has set the standard for a day of elegant play since 1897. Pebble Beach Company’s hidden gem, the 72 par, 6,357-yard course snakes around 200-year old coastal oak, cypress and Monterey pine trees. “Sneaky hard and fun to play” according to Johnny Miller, the course commands full attention as evidenced on hole #1, a 5 par set at 505 yards.

The tight, tree-lined fairways and small well-protected greens tap even the most avid players. Del Monte’s par 3’s set the standard for the course including holes #4, #6, #12 and #14 which play longer than noted with strategically-placed greens that are extremely well bunkered. Designed by Charles Maud at the foot of Jack’s Peak, Del Monte Golf Course was

immediately acknowledged as one of the first golf courses in the world and chosen for the first Pacific Coast Open in 1901. It was also the original host of the California State Amateur, which is still played there today. [www.pebblebeach.com](http://www.pebblebeach.com). Robert Trent Jones Sr., and Jr., put their stamp on **Laguna Seca Golf Ranch**, a 71 par, 6,161-yard dream blending rugged local terrain with a challenging layout. A sure bet for exercising maximum club workout, this course requires both skill and negotiation to maneuver through the bunker-lined fairways, water hazards and Jones' classic large greens with subtle contours and deceptive breaks.

With an impressive 130 slope rating, Laguna Seca steps up with a combination of elevated greens, plenty of doglegs and long tee boxes (four at this course). The course's signature hole, #15, is a muscular 550-yard par 5 with a lateral hazard on the left and out-of-bounds on the right. A significant drive delivers players to shot #2 that requires carrying the lake smack into the wind followed by an approach shot in a crosswind over a pond. Hole #1 can't be matched for its sheer beauty and scenic backdrop of the lush Santa Lucia Mountains – one of the county's top wine appellations. An added plus is the course's 13-acre natural grass practice facility, voted the best in Monterey County. [www.lagunasecagolf.com](http://www.lagunasecagolf.com).

After a multi-year, \$13 million renovation, 36-hole **Bayonet Black Horse** is back and better than ever. One of the largest scope and scale golf course construction projects to hit the Monterey area in years, award winning architect Gene Bates made dramatic alterations to hole routings, corridors and view sheds. New tees, bunkers and green complexes were installed and intrusive copse of non-native trees were removed to provide unobstructed views of Monterey Bay, downtown Monterey and Point Pinos from a number of holes on both courses.

The agronomic changes were equally as impactful, as all kikuyu and poa annua grasses were replaced with Jacklin T1 Bentgrass from tee to green to encourage the best playing conditions in the region. To establish a new, divergent look from Bayonet, Black Horse will sport dense, fescue rough lending an unmistakable links-style feel to the layout.

At 7,104 yards, Bayonet has retained its famous bite and is still considered the most difficult test of golf on the Monterey Peninsula. The par-72, 7,024-yard Black Horse is an ideal complement, featuring sweeping views of the Pacific, eye-catching serrated-edged bunkering and undulating greens. For more information about both courses, please visit [www.bayonetblackhorse.com](http://www.bayonetblackhorse.com) or call 831.899.7271 (PAR 1).

The poor man's Pebble Beach – **Pacific Grove Golf Links** is a must for anyone packing their clubs in California. Smashing views, greens perched Pacific and a mix of ice plant, deep forest, natural sand dunes and resident mule-tail deer, make this a sure bet. Ranked as one of America's top courses in 2005 by Zagat Survey, Pacific Grove Links is a true favorite among locals. The 18-hole, par 70 course reflects much of the charm of an English rural course done in the old style. Designed in 1932 by Chandler Egan, the first nine holes traverse through deep-forested areas of Pacific Grove. The back nine, designed by Jack Neville, original designer of the Pebble Beach Golf Links, puts the dunes and ocean into play.

Signature holes include #12, a scenic 513-yard par 5 that delivers players straight to the Pacific. Playing all of its yardage, hole #12 requires an aggressive tee shot into the mist and prevailing winds followed by a long iron or three wood then approach to a small elevated green. Hole #17, located next to Point Pinos, is a 153-yard par 3. Here, stunning views of the oldest operating lighthouse on the West Coast (Point Pinos Lighthouse) come into play. The tee shot takes clearing Crespi Pond to a sizable green. [www.ci.pg.ca.us](http://www.ci.pg.ca.us).

## **THE GOLF CONNECTION**

For players seeking a one-stop shot for tee times, on-site assistance or additional packages, visit

[www.golfconnectiononline.com](http://www.golfconnectiononline.com).

## **VISITOR INFO.**

Monterey County is located 120 miles/192 km south of San Francisco and 345 miles/552 km north of Los Angeles along the classic California corridor. The region boasts 99 miles of prime Pacific Coastline, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, three historic missions, 40,000 acres of premium vineyards, 24 golf courses and over 250 lodging properties. Monterey County includes the Monterey Peninsula, Big Sur, North County and the Salinas Valley. The Monterey Peninsula Airport (MRY), just three miles from historic downtown Monterey and minutes from the area's major attractions, is served by non-stop flights to and from Denver (DEN), Las Vegas (LAS), Phoenix (PHX), Los Angeles (LAX), San Diego (SAN) and San Francisco (SFO). [www.SeeMonterey.com](http://www.SeeMonterey.com).

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