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Many Happy Returns

Word is getting around on the rebirth of Salishan

by John Tipping

A change in ownership in 2003 was a watershed moment for Salishan Spa & Golf Resort in Gleneden Beach, Oregon. With the transfer to a local ownership group, plans were quickly put in place to restore what was the first golf resort in the Northwest beyond even its former glory.

The first true golf resort in the Northwest, Salishan's major renovations are completed – though many projects continue to improve the facility each year – and those in charge felt it was time to start telling Northwest golfers and travelers alike that they are ready for you to make a return visit.

Among the major renovations was the golf course itself. Not that the course was totally redesigned, but PGA Tour veteran Peter Jacobsen and Jim Hardy (Jacobsen/Hardy Design) came on site and revitalized Salishan's 6,700 yard, par-71 golf course.

Mark Swift was at Salishan in the mid-1990s as assistant golf professional. He returned as the Director of Golf in 1999 and has seen an amazing rebirth of the facility.

"The people who played here a lot prior to the change really noticed the differences," said Swift. "Those who played once in a while might not have (noticed) because a lot of the work was subtle. Greens were shifted a bit, fairways tipped more in line with the holes, there were some slight elevation issues, but most of contouring and shaping was subtle."

What wasn't subtle was the change on the course's now signature 15th hole. What was once a short, uphill par-3 to a hole you couldn't quite see from the tee, has been reversed into a 165-yard downhill hole with majestic bay and ocean views beyond the green.

"We touched every hole during the renovation. All the bunkers, all the greens, but again it was subtle work that helped bring the course back to life."

The updating of the golf course was really just the first step toward fulfilling Salishan's goal of becoming a first-class resort. Tony Pope, Resort General

Manager, has had the picture in clear view from the beginning.

"We wanted to create a place where people never had to leave the resort," said Pope. "That is why we've added the sports court, the game zone (arcade), the kid's activity center, the spa...these were all things created to add to the total experience that Salishan provides."

It wasn't just the golf course that got a makeover. To date, 56 of the resort's 205 rooms have been renovated, with the rest scheduled to be done. The Shops at Salishan, a collection of 18 independent shops, including everything from a coffee shop

to art galleries, a fine jeweler to a kitchen store – all were totally overhauled, giving them much more curb appeal.

"We moved our Sunroom back to its original location," added Pope, referring to the main dining area. "We renovated the bar, complete with a stage for live entertainment."

As stated, the project is not complete. There is more to come.

"This is ongoing," said Pope. "Our aim is the total resort experience with all the pieces fitting together to create a terrific get-

away – not just a place to sleep."

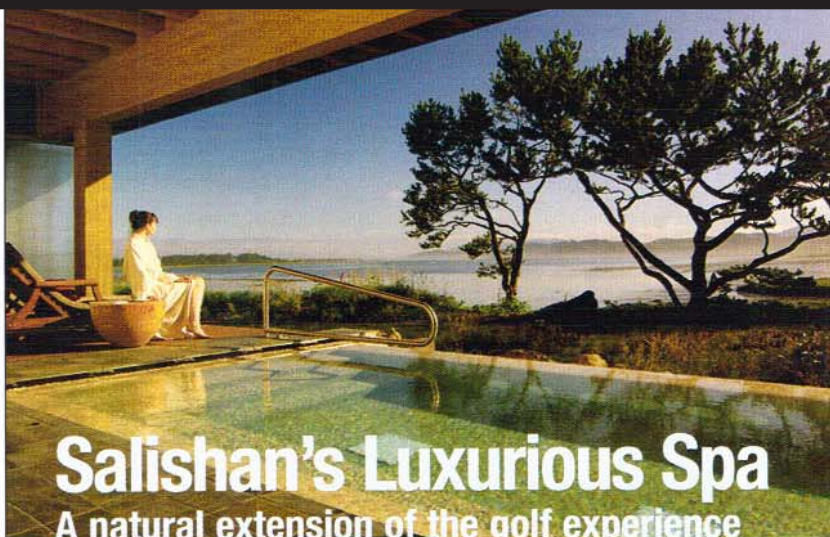
While most of the guests who visit Salishan are from the Northwest, guests are beginning to return from all parts of the country. It's not unusual to drive through the parking areas and see license plates from Texas or Arizona – folks escaping the heat – or even visitors from back east looking to see the sun rise and set from a west coast perspective.

No matter where they are coming from, they are experiencing Salishan in its full glory. If you haven't been here in a while, it may be time for a return visit.

Visit www.salishan.com to learn more about Salishan Spa & Golf Resort.



Photos courtesy Salishan Spa & Golf Resort



Salishan's Luxurious Spa

A natural extension of the golf experience

That is the goal of Don Richardson, spa director at Salishan Spa & Golf Resort at Gleneden Beach along the southern Oregon coast.

Set on the Siletz Bay at Salishan, the spa's full-service offerings include full-body restorative treatments, relaxation therapies, facials and salon services. Each guest can sit in a men's, women's or co-ed whirlpool overlooking the bay prior to their session. Each treatment room was designed to create a warm sanctuary, perfect for letting stress and tension slip away.

"What makes it special (at Salishan)," said Richardson, "is that not only do we offer a wide variety of services, we also make the entire facility available to our guests."

This means you can wander in before or after your appointment and take advantage of some of the other amenities the spa has, like the guest locker rooms complete with steam rooms, dry sauna, two walk-in showers, a large Jacuzzi (one each for men and women), plus the rainfall shower – which Richardson says is perfect after a steam.

"We also have our observation room, our lounge with an open pit fireplace, ceiling to floor glass windows, all overlooking the Siletz Bay – which, by the way, is an Audubon Sanctuary and Wildlife Refuge. The bay itself is great for sightseeing – it completely empties and fills twice a day with the tide. Sometimes you can watch the entire

process while you relax."

"Our guests are busy, so when they travel to get away from their everyday lives, they expect a tranquil retreat," said Tony Pope, general manager at Salishan. "With the spa, Salishan offers our guests not only a retreat but a place to relax, unwind, and renew their spirits."

The renovation of the spa at Salishan was one component of the total renovation of the resort. Cary Collier, a world-renowned spa designer, was a key consultant on the spa and designed the space to allow guests to enjoy the rugged Oregon coastline while delighting in the spa's world-class treatments. The clean Pacific Northwest elegance contrasts with and ushers in the spa's extraordinary surroundings.

Collier is known for his work at the Ritz-Carlton in West Palm Beach, Fla., the Four Seasons Hotels in Florence, Italy, Hong Kong, and Hualalai, Hawaii, and the Amrita Spa at Raffles Hotel in Raffles City, Singapore. For Salishan, Collier worked with noted architectural firm Ankrom/Moison Architects, based in Portland, to create a space that incorporates the natural light and textures of the surrounding resort.

The spa uses all natural Kerstin Florian International skin care products for all treatments. It is more than 8,000 square feet with seven different treatment rooms.

Visit www.salishanspa.com for more information.