



Stoneleigh Celebrates Two Decades

Private Club Enjoys Fewest Rounds of Loudoun Clubs

Golf has changed for the better over the years – think technology like dry shirts and long drives. We’ve become spoiled with good design and conditions. But too often I encounter private clubs allowing public play, prohibiting walking and overcrowding prime times. Members don’t know the group in front or behind them at their own club. I had hoped these trends would come and go with the recession, but they persist.

My ideal private club is one where tee times are a matter of convenience rather than a necessity. There is always a game to be had with members who can take a joke and give it right back. The golf pro is a consummate professional, placing the interests of his members ahead of his own. I favor a club where everyone knows my name, and where my children are happy, secure and surrounded by good influences. I’d like that club to be near a population center, but not so near that it becomes urbanized or compromised. One final thing: I’d like it all at an affordable price. I work hard, have had success, but college looms and I am not a *Fortune 500* CEO.

When I conjure this ideal private golf club it strongly resembles Stoneleigh Golf & Country Club in Loudoun County, on Route 7 just 15 minutes west of Leesburg. Stoneleigh just celebrated its 20th anniversary of serving members drawn to the club by its beautiful and interesting

layout, excellent conditions and fantastic accessibility. At a time when some private club members complain about not being able to get a tee time at their own course, Stoneleigh members enjoy uncrowded links with less than half the annual rounds as most other area clubs.

Why care about that? Because fewer rounds mean better access to choice tee times and a considerably faster pace of play. And in this area, otherwise unassuming Stoneleigh towers over other clubs with a vibrancy in its tournaments and friendly competitions combined with incredible access for members to play their own course.

“It’s a special place,” says Damon DeVito of Affinity Management, which operates the club. “It’s so close to Leesburg and Ashburn, but so far removed from daily hassles that clutter the mind. Just pulling in to the course seems to lower the blood pressure.”

Ideal. ■

– Buzz Lambeau

