

KIAWAH TRADITIONS

catch the sun

SPRING | SUMMER 2023





The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island Golf Resort has always strived to offer each guest the best service possible. Executing that in a warm, cheerful way is how every hotel staff member defines genuine hospitality. This pursuit is perennially recognized by some of the world's most respected authorities in the hospitality and travel industry.

We are excited to report that The Ocean Room - our premier steakhouse - has joined the hotel and spa in attaining the highest rating from the only independent global rating system for luxury hotels, restaurants, and spas. While on the topic of food, one of our chefs recently returned from France, where he helped lead Team USA to a top-10 finish in one of the international community's most elite culinary competitions.

In non-culinary news, golf has witnessed tremendous growth over the past several years. In order for players of any level to get the most enjoyment out of their game, instruction is essential. In this issue, we will introduce you to the three lead instructors at our Tommy Cuthbert Golf Learning Center, with links to videos that share a glimpse into their fun, friendly approaches to teaching.

Moving from the courses to the courts, our Barth-Hawtin Tennis Academy has experienced notable success. Learn what day-to-day life is like from two of our full-time residential academy students - one a middle school student from Columbia and the other a high-schooler from Maryland.

While all of Kiawah Island's amenities are second to none, its natural abundance never ceases to amaze. The persistence of so many native species is a testimony to the stewardship that the resort has practiced from its beginning. While dolphins tend to steal much of the limelight, other more elusive species are no less fascinating. Learn about how the resort has assisted in the effort to bring one such species back from the brink of extinction and how you can observe them in the wild on your next visit.

Roger M. Warren, PGA
President, Kiawah Island Golf Resort

LINKS LEARNING

Golf has witnessed tremendous nationwide growth as a recreational sport over the last several years. A blend of newcomers, lapsed golfers, and existing golfers playing increased rounds created the uptick. Kiawah Island Golf Resort has welcomed more guests to each of its five championship courses over this period of time.

Maintaining the fun is absolutely imperative in order to keep golfers of all stripes on the greens. Even avid players who start experiencing issues in a specific area run the risk of feeling disillusioned and contemplate abandoning the game they previously adored.

Ronnie Miller, Director of our Tommy Cuthbert Golf Learning Center, often repeats an important mantra: "Golf is a game. It's supposed to be fun. It stops being fun if a player is playing badly."

The good news is that there is a preventive measure new and rusty players alike can take to ensure they get off on the right foot – golf lessons. The same serves as a curative measure for avid golfers who suddenly start running into trouble with their game. The Golf Learning Center is staffed with approachable, friendly PGA-certified instructors whose sole mission is to keep the fun in golf.

Click [here](#) to meet the center's three lead instructors – Abby Welch, Ryan Rushton, and Avery Veitel – and hear in their own words how they approach instruction, their teaching philosophy, and the methods they use to get golfers of all skill levels and ages on the right track.





ACING THE COURTS

When the resort tennis academy for juniors relaunched in spring 2019 as Barth-Hawtin Tennis Academy, it did so with high aspirations. Four years later, it is attracting highly competitive athletes not only from around the country but from abroad as well.

Full-time residential academy students form a tight-knit community with the shared goal of pushing their tennis skills as far as they can take them. Balancing a heavy athletic load with the same academic responsibilities any middle or high school student would have lends them a level of maturity and organization that is remarkable for these young people.

It involves sacrifice, not only in regard to schedule - with many weekends slated for travel to tournaments - but also separation from family. But these junior players stand apart in their highly motivated, single-minded pursuit of honing their game.

Imagining the day-to-day experiences of an academy student can seem rather abstract. So, why not hear students describe it - along with their aspirations - in their own words? Click [here](#) for a glimpse into a day in the life of two Barth-Hawtin Tennis Academy residential students - one middle schooler from the nation of Columbia and a high schooler from Maryland.



RISING STAR

The Ocean Room, The Sanctuary's premier fine dining restaurant, has added even more luster to its already sterling reputation. In mid-February, when Forbes Travel Guide released its annual star rankings, it announced that The Ocean Room received the elite and enviable Five-Star rating, joining The Sanctuary hotel and spa which have each earned the coveted Five Star Award for fifteen consecutive years.

Forbes Travel Guide remains the only global rating system for luxury hotels, restaurants, spas, and ocean cruises, making it one of the world's most respected authorities in the hospitality industry, with independent raters visiting properties incognito to evaluate them using up to 900 objective criteria. The Guide explains that it reserves its Five-Star rating for restaurants not only for serving excellent cuisine, but also for providing "virtually flawless service and amazing facilities."

"We could not be more honored than to have The Ocean Room join The Sanctuary hotel and spa among the proud ranks of Five-Star honorees," says The Sanctuary General Manager Bill Lacey. "I want to recognize the chefs and the entire front-of-house for their pursuit of culinary excellence that has resulted in this recognition. Being awarded Five Stars is a testimony to their tireless pursuit of excellence. We are proud to be one of only five properties in the country, and one of only 14 worldwide, to earn a 'triple' Five-Star rating for hotel, spa, and restaurant."

Helmed by Chef de Cuisine Steven Brooks, Restaurant General Manager Chelsea Speight, and Sommelier Bret Reynolds, The Ocean Room is Kiawah Island's premier steakhouse that serves masterful dishes crafted from locally-sourced beef, poultry, and produce in a seasonally changing menu – all complemented by a wine list showcasing more than 1,000 superior selections. Click [here](#) to learn more about The Ocean Room and reserve a table for your next visit.

PARTY WITH A PURPOSE

Hosted last month, the 15th annual [Gourmet & Grapes](#) was heralded as a rousing success. The money raised by this signature culinary experience goes towards funding life-saving research conducted at the Medical University of South Carolina's Hollings Cancer Center. This year's event added \$2.7 million to the more than \$5 million raised since Gourmet & Grapes' inception in 2009.

The unparalleled weekend - featuring top national and regional chefs, leading wineries and distilleries, and live and silent auctions - was headlined by James Beard Award-winning guest chef Chintan Pandya of Dhamaka, described by eater.com as "the hottest Indian restaurant in New York." For the black-tie Epicurean Affair, Pandya created a multicourse wine-paired dinner.

Saturday marked the event's grand finale with the Wine Odyssey Gala in the Grand Oaks Ballroom at The Sanctuary. Guests savored multiple wine-paired courses prepared by leading chefs. The evening concluded in a spirited live auction with generous bidders vying for rare wines, luxury wine trips, and getaways to coveted destinations.



SWEET SUCCESS

The Sanctuary Executive Pastry Chef Jordan Snider recently led Team USA to a [top-10 finish](#) in the Coup du Monde de la Pâtisserie in Lyon, France. Considered the Olympics of pastry baking, the competition pitted teams from around the globe in 10-hour timed entries judged by internationally acclaimed pastry chefs.



SHELL GAINS

When it comes to turtles, the hands-down star of the show on Kiawah Island is the loggerhead. For quite some time, the island has proven to be one of this sea turtle's most productive nesting areas on the entire East Coast. But did you know that there is another species in the turtle family that makes Kiawah Island home and whose preservation is also of great interest in the scientific community?

That would be the diamondback terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*). This small native of the East Coast can be found from as far north as Massachusetts all the way south to the Florida Keys. The reason it doesn't draw as much popular attention is that it makes its home in brackish water and marshes, which is one explanation for why Kiawah Island's carefully preserved network of tidal creeks and marsh habitat is ideal for these creatures.

Hunted almost to the point of extinction in the early 1900s because of the popularity of turtle soup, the species has since recovered but is still classified as Vulnerable due to reducing population numbers. Happily, Kiawah Island Golf Resort supports the work of the nonprofit [Kiawah Island Diamondback Terrapin Project](#), which for 37 years has been conducting scientific research on the animals, led by Dr. Whit Gibbons.

To learn more about these fascinating creatures and to get a chance to observe them in the wild, be sure to reserve your spot in a naturalist-led paddling tour [online](#) or by contacting the Heron Park Nature Center at (843) 768-6001.

SEASONAL REVELRY

The calendar pages are turning quickly towards some of the resort's most popular spring and summer holiday celebrations. Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and the Fourth of July come in rapid succession, so now is the time to make a plan to join in all of the special festivities the resort is hosting for each of these occasions.

A bevy of Easter activities, including egg hunts and multiple dining options, is a great way to swing into spring. Treat the most important woman of your life to an elegant, effortless afternoon with a festive Mother's Day brunch full of love and appreciation. The Fourth of July is always a big day on the resort calendar as it lights up the summer season like a fireworks display with seemingly endless activities to help you celebrate our nation's birthday.

If Dad can't make it to the island, deliver it to him. [Shop Kiawah Island](#) has a wide range of gifts perfect for Father's Day - or any day. There are plenty of thoughtful options for the golfers and tennis players in your family, but we also offer elegant home décor and entertaining items and some of your favorite apparel brands. Gift cards make a winning option if you're fresh out of ideas for the people who have everything or prefer to shop for themselves.

Click [here](#) to learn more about celebrating holidays at Kiawah Island Golf Resort.



WE MISS YOU TOO

but while you're away, please do stay in touch


[VISIT OUR BLOG](#)


[JOIN OUR E-CLUB](#)

- ★ Receive special offers and notices about upcoming events

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 [@KiawahResort](#)

 [@KiawahResort](#)

 [@KiawahResort](#)

 [Kiawah Island Golf Resort](#)

[Kiawah Island Recreation](#)

[Kiawah Island Nature Program](#)

[Kiawah Island Marathon](#)

