

# Temecula Creek Inn

By Dale Good

## Championship Golf that Rewards Golfers of All Skill Levels

**W**hen you play Temecula Creek Inn's 27 holes of championship golf, tucked into Southern California's beautiful wine country, it's all about options, and that's a good thing.

There are three 9's at Temecula Creek and each nine is as different as they can be in the challenges that you will encounter.

***"the most challenging nine holes of golf I have ever played"***

Several things all three layouts share is that each has three tee options: blue, the championships, white, for handicappers 12 and over, and the red tees for the ladies.

Also, JC Golf, the management company that manages the course, has marked each hole location with a maroon flag for holes cut into the front of the green, white flags for those cut into the middle, and gold for back hole locations.

All of this is very helpful in determining club selection for your approach shots. Also, each hole is well-marked with location flags along the cart paths to assist you with club selection.

The three 9's from tee box to green are all well-manicured and the Oaks and Stonehouse nines are both well-bunkered. The similarity between the three stops there.

If you begin your day with the Creek Course—a more traditional course with tree lined and adjoining fairways, mostly straight, with the exception of the par 5, 8th hole a severe dog-leg left—you can bring out the "big clubs" and swing away on a course that measures 3,348 yards from the blue tees,

3,183 from the whites.

The Creek has generous landing areas off the tee, but also has well-placed fairway bunkers—so make sure you check your course map before hitting away.

The two par 5's are long and most golfers will need both a good drive and a fairway wood to set up a wedge or short iron into the green.

I am sure that given the chal-

lenges of the Oaks and Stonehouse nines, that the Creek nine doesn't have the reputation that its brethren do. But this is a fun and forgiving nine to play and you will use clubs on Creek that you won't use on either Oaks or Stonehouse.

My advice is to start here and then play either Oaks or Stonehouse after you have worked out the kinks in your game. By the way, the starters will honor your requests about which 18 holes to play. And, of course, you can play all 27 holes, but that would be a real challenge of golf in a day that might send you off to the nearby wine country for rest and relaxation.

The Oaks is a good transition from the Creek nine to Stonehouse. There are holes that you can still use your driver on, but fewer of them. This course is much more about shot making than power off of the tee.

It's a beautiful nine holes of golf with its undulating fairways lined with California oaks and much more slope than the Creek course.

The signature hole on the Oaks is number 4, which is also the number 1 handicap hole. It's a 387-yard par 4. The real fun on this hole starts not with your tee shot (stay

left in the fairway for a better approach option) but with your second shot.

You must decide if you want to gamble and drive over a ravine attempting to miss both the bunker and trees front right. If the hole is cut into the right side of this green forget it, lay up and take your chances on a good wedge and a putt to make par.

This is really a hole that you can take a big score on if you don't make the correct club selection and execute on your second shot.

The par 3's on the Oaks are challenging especially number 3. Only 153 yards from the whites, the only safe place to put your tee shot is on

the green, there is water left, and water right, and plenty of it.

~ See **GOLF** continued on page 30



## Local Golf Courses

- Castle Creek Country Club ~ Public ~ 18-hole, Par 72**  
760-749-2422 ~ www.castlecreekcc.com ~ 8797 Circle R Drive, Escondido
- Eagle Crest Golf Club ~ Public ~ 18-hole, Par 72**  
760-737-9762 ~ www.eaglecrestgc.com ~ 2492 Old Ranch Road, Escondido
- Fallbrook Golf Club ~ Public ~ 18-hole, Par 72**  
760-728-8334 ~ www.fallbrookgolf.com ~ 2757 Gird Road, Fallbrook
- Golf Club of California ~ Private ~ 18-hole, Par 72**  
760-451-3737 ~ www.thegolfclubofcalifornia.com ~ 3742 Flowerwood Lane, Fallbrook
- Links at Summerly ~ Public ~ 18-hole, Par 72**  
951-674-3900 ~ www.linksatsummerly.com ~ 29381 Village Parkway, Lake Elsinore
- Meadow Lake Golf Club ~ Public/Semi-private ~ 18-hole, Par 71**  
760-749-1620 ~ www.meadowlakegolfclub.com ~ 10333 Meadow Glen Way East, Escondido
- Pala Mesa Golf Resort ~ Public/Semi-private ~ 18-hole, Par 72**  
760-731-6803 ~ www.palamesa.com ~ 2001 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook
- Pauma Valley Country Club ~ Private ~ 18-hole, Par 71**  
760-742-1810 ~ www.paumavalleycc.com ~ 15835 Pauma Valley Drive, Pauma Valley
- San Luis Rey Downs Golf Course ~ Public ~ 18-hole, Par 72**  
760-758-3762 ~ www.sIRD.com ~ 31474 Golf Club Drive, Bonsall
- Temecula Creek Golf Resort ~ Public ~ (3) 9-hole Courses, Par 36**  
951-676-2405 ~ www.temeculacreekinn.com ~ 44501 Rainbow Canyon Road, Temecula
- Twin Oaks Golf Course ~ Public ~ 18-hole, Par 72**  
760-591-4653 ~ www.jcgolf.com/courses-twinoaks.php ~ 1425 N. Twin Oaks Valley Road, San Marcos
- Vista Valley Country Club ~ Private ~ 18-hole, Par 71**  
Club Office 760-758-2800 ~ www.vistavalley.com ~ 29354 Vista Valley Drive, Vista
- Welk Golf Resort ~ Public ~ 18-hole, Executive & 18-hole, Par 3 Course**  
760-749-3225 ~ www.welkgolf.com ~ 8860 Lawrence Welk Drive, Escondido
- Woods Valley Golf Club ~ Public ~ 18-hole, Par 71**  
760-751-3007 ~ www.woodsvalleygolfclub.com ~ 14616 Woods Valley Road, Valley Center



