

Changing Lives In Many Ways

French Lick Resort, set in the hills of the Hoosier National Forest, is a classic American destination.

FRENCH LICK, INDIANA: “It was clear to me the Cook family [founders of Cook Medical] were committed to an ambitious renovation and expansion of French Lick Resort,” recalled Jan Tellstrom, golf professional emeritus at French Lick Resort. “What I couldn’t fully grasp was just how far that commitment would go. Their multi-year, almost \$600 million investment transformed French Lick Resort with two sister hotels—the West Baden Springs Hotel and the French Lick Springs Hotel—into a world-class destination. The town of French Lick is a blip on the map with a population of 1,800,” said Tellstrom. “The resort is an economic engine in Southern Indiana, changing lives in many ways. It has an employee base of 1,700 of which 80 percent live in our county.”

A RESORT WITH TWO TALES

French Lick Resort first welcomed guests in 1845, the same year Texas became America’s 28th state. Its buildings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the resort is recognized as one of the Historic Hotels of America by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

“Its first course was designed by Donald Ross in 1917,” explained Tellstrom. “History reports he scouted the resort’s 3,500 acres on horseback to find the ‘just right’ location with a natural flow of topography that required limited tree removal.

“The Pete Dye design is a different story. An army of bulldozers and dump trucks, running 12 hours per day for 18 months, were needed to

grade the land,” described Tellstrom. “Incredibly, 60,000 pounds of seed, seven miles of cart paths, and 250,000 man-hours were required during construction. The result is outstanding, with a sculpted course, narrow fairway corridors, changing bunker formations, and 40-mile panoramic views of the countryside. It makes you confront your fears front and center.” ■

The resort is located a short distance from many Midwest cities: a 90-minute drive from Louisville, 2.5 hours from Indianapolis, 3 hours from Cincinnati, 3.5 hours from Nashville, and 4 hours from St. Louis and Chicago. For more information on seasonal golf packages, please visit FrenchLick.com, or call (888) 936-9360.



“Pete Dye’s design is a fantasy. Its backdrops are audacious.”

— NANCY LOPEZ

FRENCH LICK RESORT has a history of hosting major tournaments, including the 1925 PGA Championship, the 1959 and 1960 LPGA Championships, and the 2010 PGA Professional National Championship. It now hosts the Senior Women’s LPGA Championship.



West Baden Springs Hotel



French Lick Springs Hotel