



America's PREMIER WILDERNESS RESORT



Payne's Valley



Ozark's National



Top of the Rock

A Tiger's roar in the Ozarks grows louder.

SOUTH OF BRANSON, MISSOURI: Incredibly, 55 percent of American workers left unused vacation days on the table last year. It's estimated more than 2,000 years of holiday time were idle.

Big Cedar Lodge has established itself as America's next great golf destination. Its course architects—Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Ben Crenshaw, Bill Coore, Tom Fazio, Gary Player, Tom Watson, and Tiger Woods—have more than three centuries of combined experience in the golf industry.

"Johnny Morris has built an incredible golf facility in the Ozarks and has ultimately made Missouri a golf-lovers' dream destination," said Matt McQueary, assistant director of golf sales and marketing. "Big Cedar Lodge has an ever-expanding roster of golf choices, now with five different golf experiences. Our highly-acclaimed Coore/Crenshaw course opened last year and our Tiger Woods course officially opens for play later this year. Johnny and Tiger chose to name the course in honor of one of their close friends and golf legend, Payne Stewart [a Missouri native, who died in a tragic plane crash at the age of 42]."

THE WALT DISNEY OF CONSERVATION

In conservation circles, Johnny Morris, founder of Big Cedar Lodge, is often referred to as a modern day Teddy Roosevelt for his commitment to protecting natural habitats for future generations. "From humble beginnings to founding Bass Pro Shops and acquiring Cabela's, there's no doubt he's a visionary conservationist and an extraordinary business man," said McQueary. "He's been referred to as the Walt Disney of nature—a nickname that definitely rings true.

"Our resort's collection of lodges, cottages, and cabins are authentic with an ageless feel [many with wood-burning fireplaces]. The scope of non-golf activities range from relaxing in the 18,000 square-foot Cedar Creek Spa, taking advantage of beautiful Table Rock Lake and its full-service marina, horseback riding, and hiking at Dogwood Canyon [a nearby 10,000-acre nature park]," detailed McQueary. "We also offer one of the most robust list of family activities you will find anywhere.

"If you have a couple of unused vacation days in the bank, a long weekend trip to Big Cedar Lodge might just be in order." ■

For more information on seasonal packages, please visit BigCedar.com.

A Writer's Notebook

"I couldn't be more proud to debut my first public access course. It's a world-class golf experience in the center of America." – TIGER WOODS
"Every time I come here I am amazed." – TOM FAZIO • "We need to embrace innovation. Big Cedar accomplishes that." – JACK NICKLAUS
"I've built hundreds of courses over the years, but never one as drastically stunning as my course at Big Cedar Lodge." – GARY PLAYER
"There is a certain atmosphere about this place that I've never seen before." – BEN CRENSHAW