



PHOTO BY EVAN SCHILLER

Possibly The Most Anticipated Course Opening Of The Decade

"It's mind-boggling to see how special my course is at Big Cedar. I'm excited to create a world-class golf experience in the center of America." – TIGER WOODS

IN THE HEART OF THE MISSOURI OZARKS (just south of Branson): What started as a regular day for Todd Bohn, director of agronomy at Big Cedar Lodge, turned a lifelong memory. "I was on our resort's Buffalo Ridge Golf Course designed by Tom Fazio when my cell phone rang," recalled Bohn. "Our owner, Johnny Morris, was on the line, saying he was on the way to pick me up. The conversation was nebulous and left me excited and a bit nervous. We had broken ground on our Ozarks National Golf Course designed by Coore/Crenshaw and I assumed we were going to be discussing its progress.

Just then, a private jet was spotted on final approach to the nearby airport. "I hopped in a car with Mr. Morris and he exclaimed, 'We're going to have a little fun today.' The next thing I knew, we were greeting Tiger Woods and his entourage. I was in pure shock and awe. Tiger is the barom-

eter of my generation. It was a dream come true. I had to keep pinching myself that I was a part of this process considering I'm 'just a grass guy.'"

The new Tiger Woods design at Big Cedar Lodge, named Payne's Valley, is dedicated to the memory of Payne Stewart, an Ozark native and good friend of Woods.

"You need to see the final product firsthand," recommended Bohn. "The course looks intimidating, but it's friendlier than you think. It features big flashy bunkers, large greens, and wide fairway corridors. There's some rough in strategic locations, but it's mostly in-place to provide contrast and prevent your ball from rolling into the native areas." ■

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

BIG CEDAR LODGE was named the No. 1 resort in the Midwest by *Travel+Leisure*. The 4,600-acre lakeside retreat connects guests with a variety of nature-based activities. Existing golf amenities include a Jack Nicklaus Signature par-3 course, a Gary Player short course, and Tom Fazio, Coore/Crenshaw, and Tiger Woods championship courses. The resort's complete golf offering has established it as "America's next great golf destination."