



Pala Mesa Resort is one of the most tranquil layouts in Southern California.



# SWEET RETREAT

**PALA MESA RESORT** IN NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY IS A GREAT PLACE FOR LOCALS TO GET AWAY, RELAX AND PLAY GOLF. BY ELI MILLER

**Pala Mesa Resort** prides itself as one of the top golf destinations in Southern California — and rightfully so. The 205-acre property includes a par-72 course — initially designed by William H. Johnson and redesigned by Ted Robinson — and relaxing lodging, all located about an hour or so from most major airports in Southern California.

The course at the north San Diego County venue is in the same league as other area stalwarts — and a great value, too. Towering oak, sycamore and elm trees line most of the fairways, and lush turf and colorful flowers enhance the experience.

Pala Mesa isn't a bear, but one hole capable of grabbing the attention of even the most skilled players is the par-4 third on the North side (commonly the back nine). It's 396 yards and features a narrow fairway that feels like a bowling lane from the tee.

One fun test is the 304-yard par-4 second on the South side, featuring a reachable green guarded by out-of-bounds markers on the left and a rugged mountain landscape on the right.

After your round, check out Aquaterra Restaurant, which overlooks the first

tee. Your first draft beer is the cost of your score (so an 80 means an 80-cent beer) and a diverse selection of California cuisine — including oysters and baked avocados — is definitely not your run-of-the-mill golf course fare.

Pala Mesa typically runs discounted specials for locals, tourists and diners, so call the resort or visit the website for more information.

## PALA MESA RESORT

**Location:** Fallbrook, at the intersection of I-15 and Highway 76.

**Course:** The par-72 layout has four sets of tees — from the tips, it plays 6,502 yards and has a 71.9 rating.

**Amenities:** All-grass driving range, practice putting green and chipping area, pro shop, PGA instruction and clubfitting. The full-service resort destination offers wedding facilities and Aquaterra Restaurant.

**Did you know:** From now until Labor Day, there is no initiation fee to become a member at Pala Mesa. Memberships are flexible and include short- and long-term options. Call for more details. Pala Mesa also offers great group golf packages and tournament specials.

**Green fees:** Monday-Thursday, \$49; Friday, \$54; weekends and holidays, \$59 (cart included).

**Phone:** (800) 722-4700. **Website:** palamesa.com.



WATCH A VIDEO TOUR OF  
PALA MESA AT [SOUTHLANDGOLFMAGAZINE.COM](http://SOUTHLANDGOLFMAGAZINE.COM).