

*Best of OC*

# PELICAN HILL

*by Jim Cefalia*

Southern California's Orange County area is blessed with some of the best restaurants, beaches, shopping and real estate in the world and the 36-hole Pelican Hill golf club fits in perfectly. Located between the swanky communities of Newport Beach and Laguna Beach, the golf course juggles the scenic combination of panoramic ocean views and rolling green vegetation flawlessly. As the game of golf can be extremely challenging and frustrating, the course's serene landscape and topnotch service allows the golfer to appreciate the sport in a whole new way.

Situated on 400 acres of beautiful coastal land, Pelican Hill is owned and operated by the Irvine Co. In November 2007 the 36-hole layout was recently redesigned by acclaimed golf course architect Tom Fazio. The two courses, Ocean South and Ocean North, coexist in perfect harmony with the natural landscape and are among the nation's most highly rated public courses. Located directly adjacent to the courses

is thousands of acres of permanently preserved land that makes up the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve. Also located on the property is a brand new ultra-luxurious 44,000-square-foot clubhouse and golf academy, a top-rated 23,000-square-foot spa facility, highly acclaimed dining and 328 resort accommodations. As you parade the grounds waiting for your round to start and admire the dramatic architecture and jaw dropping views, you suddenly realize Pelican Hill is an elite golf course.

With open canyons and elevated plateaus, the par 71 (7,000 yards) Ocean North Course has breathtaking ocean views from every tee. The North course is located on higher ground and can be a little more challenging especially from the tips. The South course is a par 70 (6,580 yards) and stays closer to sea level but still boasts magnificent ocean views. Holes 11-13 meander the coast line and are so close to the ocean, the golfer can almost feel the mist from the crashing waves. Fazio

brilliantly created 36-holes that offer two distinctly different playing experiences. The two courses have deep ravines and thick rough which can create havoc for experienced and novice golfers alike. The only saving grace is that all green fees include a forecaddie who helps navigate through the nuances of the golf courses. After getting over the nervousness of hitting the ball with a constant spectator, the Forecaddie enhances the golf experience and truly helps better your score. The beauty of the two courses and the uniqueness of the Forecaddie creates an unforgettable golf adventure.

If you are an avid golfer or a weekend warrior, Pelican Hill will help you enjoy the game of golf in a new fresh way. The prestige that surrounds the property is undeniable and the ocean views are second to none. Pelican Hill is the best Orange County has to offer and transforms an ordinary round of golf into an unforgettable experience.