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PGA National Resort & Spa

[THE PROPERTY]

Fresh off a multimillion-dollar makeover, the PGA National Resort & Spa (400 Avenue of the Champions, Palm Beach Gardens, 800/633-9150, pgaresort.com) is a lush 'n' luxe getaway in our own backyard. Recent renovations have not only earned the 27-year-old property Florida's Green Lodging designation, they have infused the resort's public spaces with a hip, modern, clubby aesthetic. The 339 spacious guestrooms feature warm, country-style decor, in addition to private terraces and balconies, flat-screen TVs, spa bath amenities and Wi-Fi (included in the \$18/day resort fee). Those looking to elevate their experience should look no further than the plush 1,443-square-foot presidential suite. Plus, from the front-desk clerk to the housekeeping staff, resort employees are exceedingly friendly and polite.

[THE REST]

The resort's athletic offerings don't begin and end with golf. Guests may enjoy the Health and Racquet Club (featuring extensive fitness classes, racquetball and a gym), 19 Har-Tru tennis courts and a tournament-caliber croquet facility. Although the resort offers nine pools, it's hard to resist the main one—which beckons to guests through the lobby's floor-to-ceiling windows. Palms and cushy red chaises ring the free-form pool, which overlooks a lake and several greens; the new Wave Bar and Grill provides poolside nourishment (liquid and otherwise). The resort's true culinary gem is the hand-some Ironwood Grille: This modern steak house offers stellar contemporary twists on all your favorite classics. But no visit to PGA National is complete without a stop at the world-class spa, a Mediterranean-style escape comprising 56 treatment rooms and the popular Waters of the World mineral pools.



[THE GOLF]

The resort is headquarters for the Professional Golfers Association of America, but that doesn't mean you need your tour card to enjoy its benefits. Choose from five 18-hole master-designed courses: The Champion, The Palmer, The Haig, The Square and The Estate. Each provides its own unique set of challenges, but all five are verdant and impeccably maintained. The Champ—re-designed by Jack Nicklaus in 1990—is home to the PGA's Honda Classic through 2013. No surprise there. Since 1981, the property has hosted several of golf's signature events, including the 1983 Ryder Cup, the 1987 PGA Championship and 18 Senior PGA Championships. Players can gear up at the well-stocked pro shop, take comprehensive lessons from the on-site golf academy and unwind at the cozy 19th Hole restaurant.

- [1] 18th hole of the Palmer course
- [2] main pool
- [3] cuisine from Ironwood Grille

