

The Wilderness golf course wraps up season with a bang

Golf Digest names Minnesota course among 'Best Places to Play,' awarding it 4.5 stars

TOWER, MINN. – As the staff of The Wilderness prepares to close the golf course for the winter, they can take pride in knowing they're the best of the best.

Golf Digest recently named The Wilderness among the 'Best Places to Play,' awarding it 4.5 out of 5 stars, a distinction that went to only 13 percent of the best 6,000 courses across North America and the Islands. Evaluations were based on total experience, which includes the actual course, the service, the value for the money, the pace of play and the conditioning of the course.

Reviewers posted glowing comments online. "Outstanding!" "Playable from all tee boxes." "The elevation changes are used to the best of their ability." The "greens are tough but fair." "Many of the holes have breathtaking views!" "Worth every penny."

Golf Digest's award means a lot to Wilderness Manager Tom Beaudry of KemperSports. "This golf course is all about going the extra mile. Our identity is wrapped up in customer service, providing a first-rate experience for every golfer – novice or veteran, newcomer or regular," he said. "To be given such an elite status confirms that all our hard work is paying off."

It's not too late to enjoy The Wilderness, which closes Oct. 12. After the 18th hole, golfers can enjoy a wide array of services conveniently provided just yards away at Fortune Bay Resort Casino, including a luxury hotel, an action-packed casino, a full-

service marina, a rustic RV park, an award-winning heritage center and a first-rate conference center.

“And there’s lots of delicious food!” Beaudry adds.

Indeed, the hungry golfer can feast at the Tamarack Dining Room, the Tamarack Lobby Lounge, the North Star Bar, the Baystreet Deli or the Wilderness Bar and Grill, which serves up savory gourmet food.

The many branches of Fortune Bay make it a first-rate destination, said General Manager Gary Gotchnik. “One branch inspires another to achieve excellence,” he said. “We keep raising the bar.”

For example, he said, while Golf Digest was singling out The Wilderness, Aristocrat was selecting Fortune Bay to be one of just two casinos nationwide to pilot its cutting-edge social network called the Sentinel III, which provides an opportunity for group winning and shared prizes.

The casino’s sophisticated IT department and first-rate customer service set it apart, said Aristocrat Sales Director Jim Lethert. “Most people think of Vegas when they think of state-of-the-art gaming, but some of these smaller, native-owned casinos have the most highly-trained staff,” he said.

“We’re working quietly up here,” Gotchnik said. “We may be tucked away in the woods, but in many ways, we’re on the forefront, just a few miles north of ordinary!”