



Romantic Golf in South Carolina

Wild Dunes

By Stephen D. Hale

South Carolina is the very image of the romantic Old South, and it is also among the world's top golf destinations. So let's combine the two. Bring your sweetheart and that twinkle in your eye, and come to South Carolina for a long weekend of romance and golf.

Taking it from the Top—The Mills House and Island Golf

It would be difficult to find a place on earth more romantic than Charleston's Mills House Hotel. Originally opened in 1853, it has a reserved space on *Condé Nast Traveler's* "Gold List of the World's Best Hotels," and *Frommer's* named it Charleston's "Best Historic Hotel." Its rich history, superior service and elegance of architecture and furnishings combine for a perfectly romantic long weekend getaway.

And, through Charleston Golf Inc., you can combine your stay with three rounds of golf—for two—at six of the state's, and the world's, finest golf courses.

Pick three of these six great golf treats:

At fabulous Kiawah Island Golf Resort you can choose the Jack Nicklaus-designed Turtle Point, Gary Player-designed Cougar Point and Oak Point on Hope Plantation just outside the Kiawah gates.

On the other side of Charleston, on the romantic Isle of Palms, the offer includes the world-renowned Wild Dunes Harbor and Dunes courses. Also available



Kiawah Island Golf Resort

in beautiful Mt. Pleasant is RiverTowne Country Club, voted 2004 SC Course of the Year by the South Carolina Golf Course Owners Association.

Fantastic both day and night, this package is \$302 per person, per night. Years later, you won't miss the money, and you'll never forget the experience.

Call Charleston Golf Inc. at 800-774-4444, or log on to www.charlestongolfguide.com/specials.shtml.

Fripp Island for (Golf) Lovers

Fripp Island's Couples Getaway and Golf Package is just what we were looking for— "The perfect spot for couples in love with golf," as they say in their brochure.

Fripp is still a largely undiscovered barrier island, populated by family getaway cottages instead of the cookie-cutter corporate resort properties. Here you can discover—or rediscover—your relationship while quietly exploring the beauty of this natural barrier island. Take that long walk on the beach that every woman finds romantic or glide along on two complimentary bicycles. Your first drink is on the house and so is the sunset.

The package includes a round of golf for two each day on one of the resort's two exceptional courses:

Ocean Point, designed by George Cobb, a consultant for the Augusta National, has views of the Atlantic Ocean from 10 of its 18 holes, and Nos. 9 and 18 finish almost in the surf.

Ocean Creek is designed by Davis Love III, a Sea Island, GA, native whose love of the barrier islands is evident in his work. He has carefully crafted this course along four ancient dunes, weaving it between the delicate salt marshes and natural freshwater lakes. All around Ocean Creek is an abundance of wildlife—osprey, deer, Snowy White Egrets, Great Blue Herons and the occasional basking alligator. Both courses are highly rated by *Golf Digest*—Ocean Point a 4.0 on its 5-point scale and Ocean Creek a 4.5!

A one-bedroom, ocean view villa starts at \$302 per couple, per night, depending upon the time of year. For more information, call 800-334-3022.

Inland Treasures in Aiken

Upcountry in the inland forest, The Carriage House Inn invites you to enjoy comfortably elegant

accommodations amidst the charm and abundance of fine dining, plus cultural and shopping opportunities in historic downtown Aiken, SC.

Nights of romance and days of golf on idyllic fairways await you in this charming town.

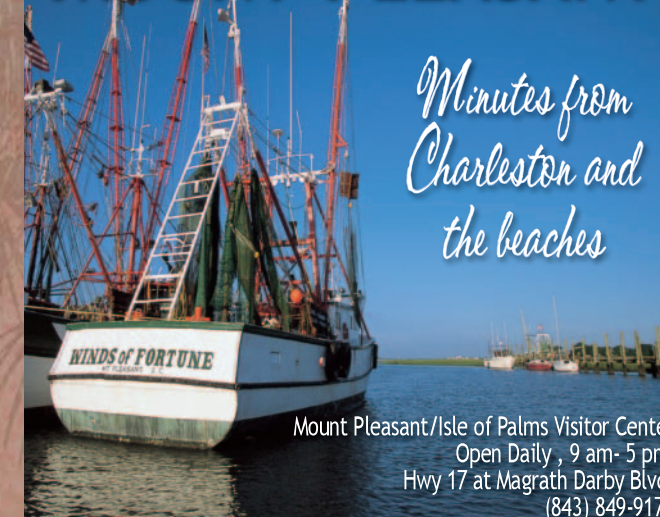
The romance begins upon arrival at your guest room where a fresh flower bouquet, decadent chocolates and a chilled bottle of champagne await you. Then slip into a warm bath with your luxury bath salts and relax.

You will awake the next morning to the Inn's full breakfast in bed—and a detailed map to the course. A round for two will be reserved at Houndslake, a big, broad-shouldered, challenging course designed by Joe Lee, or at the 95-year-old lush and narrow Aiken Golf Club, first routed by Donald Ross and completed by his firm.

A combination of the Inn's romance and golf packages starts at just \$400 for the one-day plan and \$500 for two days.

Call 803-644-5888 for seasonal rates because Aiken is busiest in the winter and spring when the horses are in town and take center stage.

MOUNT PLEASANT



Minutes from Charleston and the beaches

Mount Pleasant/Isle of Palms Visitor Center
Open Daily, 9 am - 5 pm
Hwy 17 at Magrath Darby Blvd.
(843) 849-9172

Exceptional dining, shopping, lodging and attractions. Outdoor recreation, golf, and family-friendly events can be enjoyed all year long.

A Pleasant Alternative

www.townofmountpleasant.com



The Mills House

Photos courtesy of Martin Fox Photography.