



BY REBECCA WALLWORK

- Few resorts can hold a candle to The Greenbrier when it comes to offering...

Historical Elegance

If you like your tennis—and your resort getaways—steeped in history, there isn't much out there that can match The Greenbrier. Since 1778, guests have made a beeline for White Sulphur Spring in West Virginia's Allegheny Mountains; back then it was in an effort to “take the waters” and restore one's sense of well-being. During the Cold War, the hotel's emergency fallout shelter provided peace of mind. Now? People come for a serious dose of luxury. (And they can still check out the now-declassified bunker.)

You can tell as you pull up to the imposing white façade of the building that this is no ordinary hotel. A longtime favorite of U.S. Presidents even before the Civil War, The Greenbrier

A longtime favorite of U.S. Presidents even before the Civil War, The Greenbrier was established in 1778. Outdoor courts were first introduced there in 1915, and in 1975 an indoor facility was added, making play possible throughout the year.



play possible throughout the year. Today, there are five Har-Tru outdoor courts—great for those who like to slide and take advantage of the drop shot, says head tennis pro Terry Deremer—and five Deco Turf indoor courts, “for the players who enjoy a faster game than the clay provides.”

The Greenbrier hosts a range of skill levels, with most guests between a 2.5 and 4.0. Despite a laundry list of celebrity players who've graced the courts—from Pete Sampras and John McEnroe to Condoleezza Rice and Ted Koppel—“beginners should never feel intimidated here,” Deremer says. “Most guests are playing for the joy of the game.”

still attracts a high-end clientele of modern-day dukes and dames, even if the only courts they rule are the Old White Course (a PGA Tournament Players Championship course) or the 10 courts at the resort's Tennis Center. Outdoor courts were first introduced at The Greenbrier in 1915, and in 1975 an indoor facility was added, making



The Greenbrier's complete history is chronicled in great detail, supplemented by photographs, in *The History of The Greenbrier: America's Resort*. The book is available for purchase at store.greenbrier.com.

Clinics (beginner and advanced), lessons and game-matching are all available, and The Greenbrier also hosts recreational groups and USTA league teams. On September 21 and 22, the Tennis Center showcases its second annual Greenbrier Champions Tennis Classic, featuring exhibition matches and appearances by such icons as McEnroe, Sampras and Ivan Lendl.

Post-match, all guests can sample the good life, with digs in plush rooms designed by the late interiors guru

Dorothy Draper, and a range of fine dining restaurants to choose from. (Deremer recommends the Wagyu steak and lobster mash potatoes at Prime 44 West.) Pastoral activities include equestrian sports, fishing and off-road driving, although according to Deremer, "The best way to treat yourself after a day on the court is with a sulphur soak and deep-tissue sports massage at our Forbes Five Star mineral spa."

He's also the first to tell you that it's not just the hotel's old-world luxury and

white-glove service that continues to wow guests, generation after generation.

"The Allegheny Mountains create a cool fog, which quickly burns off to beautiful days in the spring through fall," says Deremer. "That sheer natural beauty, plus the qual-

ity and history of the courts—that's what makes tennis at The Greenbrier unique."

The Greenbrier, 300 W. Main Street, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986; Phone: (855) 453-4858; greenbrier.com

GETTING THERE

The Greenbrier is situated off Interstate 64 just west of the Virginia/West Virginia border and just east of Lewisburg, WV. A 15-minute drive from the hotel, The Greenbrier Valley Airport in Lewisburg has service from Dulles International and Atlanta. There is also regular Amtrak service to The Greenbrier (via the White Sulphur Springs station) from Washington, D.C., New York City and Chicago.

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PAGE 66

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