

THE LEGEND OF

Pinecrest Golf Club



THE EARLY YEARS.

It's a story that golfers will love. It's about a hidden gem in Avon Park, Florida.

In 1926, Donald Ross, the nation's most respected and prolific golf course architect, visited Avon Park to oversee construction of his design for Pinecrest Lakes Golf Course. Ross took full advantage of the natural flow of the site's topography. With the lovely lake, wooded areas and a minimal amount of earthmoving, done with horses, Ross created a wonderfully natural course.

The Pinecrest Lakes Golf Course complemented the adjacent, majestic Pinecrest Hotel and Resort, built on Lake Lotela.

The course and hotel catered to wealthy residents of the midwest, especially Chicago. The guest list included Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Burns & Allen, Grover Cleveland and FDR. It is even rumored that Al Capone frequented the resort to work on his tan and his golf game. He probably appreciated the fact it was a "hidden gem."

THE PROS DISCOVER PINECREST.

In the late 50s, Pinecrest hosted the first nationally televised PGA event, the World Championship of Golf. It featured big names like Sam Snead, Gardner Dickinson, Don January and the winner, Dr. Carey Middlecoff.

Pinecrest and nearby Harder Hall hosted the Haig & Haig Mixed Scotch Tournament from 1959 to 1963. Virtually all the major professionals, both male and female, played Pinecrest. The list included Arnold Palmer, Tommy Bolt, Julius Boros, Kathy Whitworth, Mickey Wright, Joanne Carner and many others.

Some of them even retired to Pinecrest. Al Balding and Fred Hawkins played their daily rounds and reminisced about the old days of the tour, providing a special connection to the past.



THE LATER YEARS.

With the proliferation of modern hotels in Florida, the Pinecrest Hotel was unable to survive. It had a succession of owners and occupants, including a private school and a transcendental meditation center. Finally time and termites got the best of the grand old hotel and it was razed in 2007.

Fortunately the course itself survived. In the early 70s it was taken over by the city of Avon Park, and was later bought by the members. As a semi-private club, it is open to guest play all year round.

You'll experience a warm welcome from the staff and the members as they are proud of their club and enjoy sharing it. You might even fall in love with the course and the area. You won't be the first one to do so.



BY THE NUMBERS.

Whether you're a scratch golfer or a 36-handicapper, you'll enjoy Pinecrest Golf Club. The four tees allow you to select a course length that can either challenge you or just be friendly and fun.

Unlike many Florida courses, Pinecrest doesn't wind its way through condominiums, winter homes and hotels. It's a traditional layout that borders beautiful orange groves and natural wooded areas. There's even a peaceful lake without a single building in sight.

Pinecrest is not a "cookie cutter" Florida resort. There are no waterfalls. No tricked up island greens. Just golf, pure and simple, the way it used to be.

Enjoy your visit!



TEES	LENGTH	PAR	RATING	SLOPE
MEN:				
Black	6719	72	71.4	120
Green	6336	72	69.4	116
White	5786	72	66.1	111
WOMEN:				
White	5786	72	71.9	119
Red	4972	72	67.2	112