



COOL
IDEA
#16

WEAR A KILT AND
PACK A FLASK OF
SCOTCH TO PLAY
BALLYOWEN

JERSEY GETS THE 'LEAD' IN

LEADBETTER ACADEMY ADDS TO CRYSTAL SPRINGS' ARSENAL

by Team Fairways + Greens

AS IF CRYSTAL SPRINGS RESORT in northern New Jersey wasn't already formidable in every way that matters to golf resort regulars — a wealth of course and lodging options, ease of access (it's only 50 miles from Manhattan), great food, you name it — now they've gone and hooked up with one of the golf world's top teaching minds.

In May, Crystal Springs becomes David Leadbetter's primary base of operation in the Northeast. Delivering a philosophy that is flexible to golfers of all levels — from beginner to Tour professional — the Florida-based Leadbetter Golf Academy has evolved into a global brand in 28 full-time locations in 13 countries and five American states.

The straw-hatted Aussie Leadbetter is known for his innovative and creative teaching techniques. Over the past 30 years, his players have racked up more than a dozen major championship titles and more than 100 individual worldwide tournament victories. Notable students include Ian Poulter, Camilo Villegas and Michelle Wie.

"I am really excited about the opening of my newest academy at Crystal Springs Resort this spring," Leadbetter says. "This premier golf and spa resort offers something for everyone, and we are looking forward to helping golfers of all ages and abilities reach their potential while enjoying themselves and everything the resort has to offer."

At Crystal Springs, the Leadbetter Academy offers a variety of mini schools, players' schools, retreats, private sessions and improved performance programs. "The pairing of our golf facilities and

expertise with David Leadbetter and his excellent instructors is a milestone in Crystal Springs' golf history," says Art Walton, vice president of golf operations for Crystal Springs Resort. "A partnership of this magnitude is rare and will greatly enrich our stellar portfolio of golf offerings — the most golf courses of any Northeast resort."

That's seven courses in all, including Ballyowen, which is, on most scorecards, the state's No. 1 public track. Its links-like design, coupled with nice touches like a sunset bagpiper serenade and actual sheep grazing along its edges, lead golfers to feel like they've been "transported across the pond," says Marketing Director Michelle Abate. Black Bear, Cascades, Crystal Springs, Great Gorge, Wild Turkey and Minerals round out the rotation.

With the acquisition of adjacent Mountain Creek ski resort in 2010, Crystal Springs' amenity package is hard to beat — 500 rooms in all, four-star restaurant Latour, one of the nation's best wine cellars, two of the top spas in New Jersey, a unique Biosphere Pool Complex and now Leadbetter. The resort's two newest attractions, The Zipline Adventure and Mountain Coaster, open in June. And all within an hour of Newark airport.

It's crystal clear where to go next. **FG**

SIDESPIN

Watersport Wonderland

Yeah, it rained a lot in New Jersey this winter. More than a lot. But that's ancient history and all that water is safely back within its banks — which leads to a litany of summertime watersports fun at Crystal Springs and the surrounding mountains. Canoe or tube on the Delaware River, kayak or fish at local parks and go "wild refuging" on the Wallkill River. Just don't get that golf ball wet off the tee.

OPEN PROPOSITION While Ballyowen rightly gets the highest praise at Crystal Springs, the other six courses rate, too.