

Club Profile: Grandover Resort | Get Fit For Golf | Travel: Caribbean Destinations

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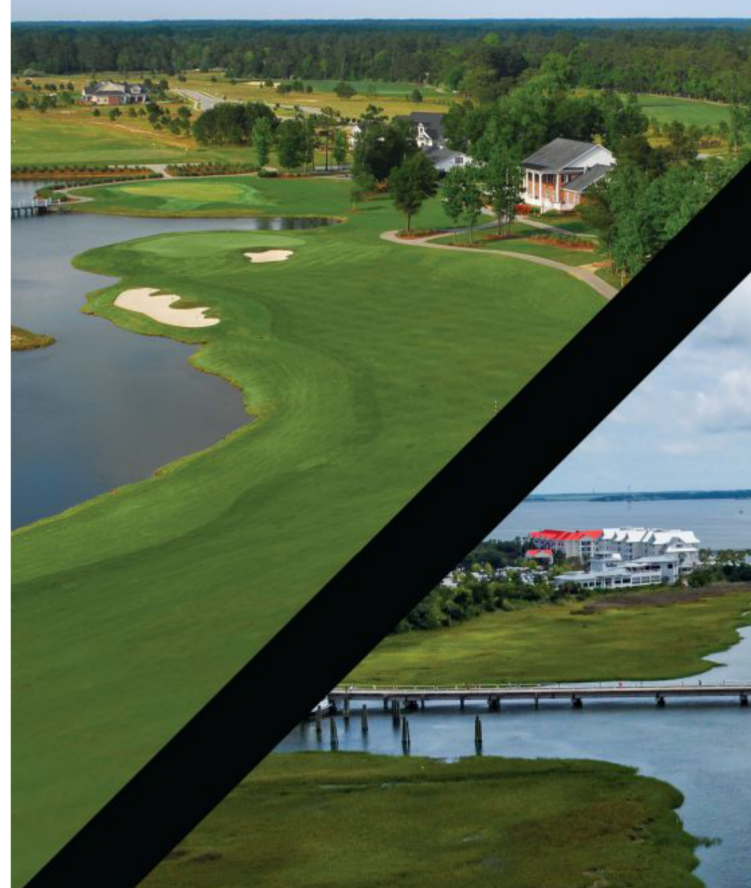
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Hidden Treasures





About Grandover Resort & Spa

Opened: East Course - 1996, West Course - 1997

Course Architect:
Graham & Panks International (David Graham & Gary Panks)

Director of Golf:
Jonathan York, PGA

Head Golf Professional:
James Nemeti, PGA

Superintendent:
Russell Hill

Fast Fact: 40,000 rounds are carded between the two courses annually. Grandover is located adjacent to Sedgefield Country Club, the PGA Tour stop for the Wyndham Championship. Grandover lends support to the tournament annually with staging, hosting tour players, practice facilities, pro-am events and equipment.

Inside Grandover: Grandover is home to the University of North Carolina - Greensboro (UNCG) Men's and Women's golf teams. The club plays host to their UNCG/Grandover D1 Collegiate Tournament.

For the People

Greensboro's Grandover Resort & Spa is Joseph Koury's lasting gift to those who love the game of golf **BY MICHAEL J. SOLENDER**

Joseph Koury had a life-long love affair with golf. In 1967, when the fabled Greensboro, N.C., real-estate development titan began acquiring parcels in southwest Guilford County, it was only a matter of time before his 1,500-acre holding became the largest mixed-use development in the county's history - with two premium golf courses serving as centerpiece at Grandover Resort & Spa.

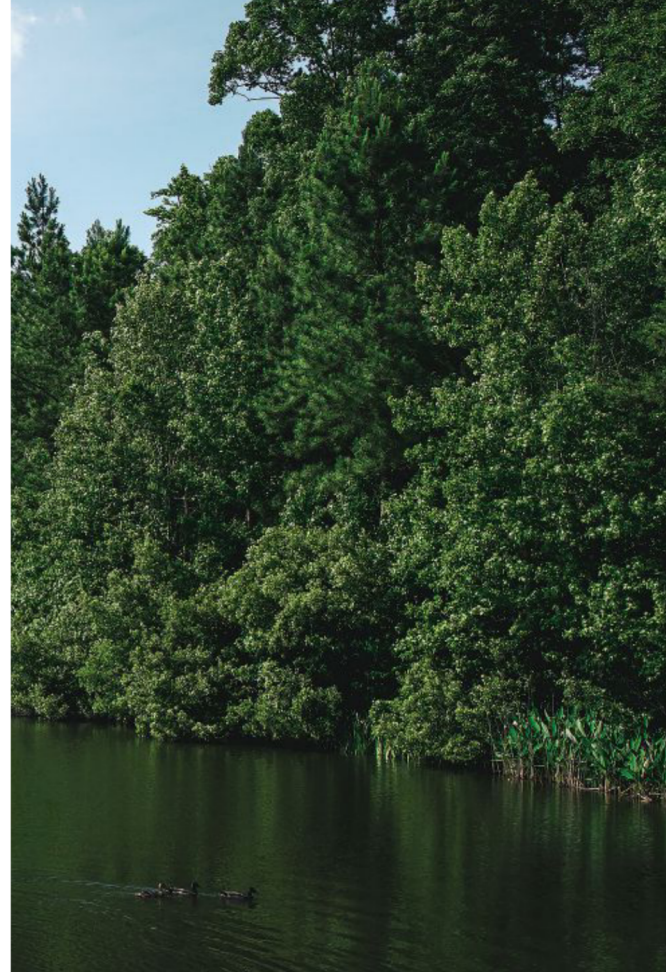
Here, lucky visitors find 36 holes of challenging layout on two of the finest golf courses in the Triad. Koury, who passed away in 1998 at the age of 72, lived long enough to see his vision realized, and was never more engaged than when he was working on his pet project of bringing golf and hospitality to his neighbors and visitors to the region.

"Mr. Koury absolutely loved golf," says Jonathan York, PGA Director of Golf at Grandover Resort & Spa. York has been at the facility since the beginning, arriving in 1996, just as the East Course at Grandover was opening - the West Course opened 1997. "Grandover was his grand finale project for the community. He loved to give back to people and built a place where folks could come, enjoy and spend time together."

Course management

Koury was keen to engage two-time major champion David Graham and Gary Panks to do the design work. "There was a relationship between Mr. Koury and a good friend of his here in Greensboro that was close





Carolinas Collegiate Showcase

In early November, Grandover is set to host the second playing of the Carolinas Golf Association's Carolinas Collegiate Showcase for boys and girls. The two-day, 36-hole event features more than 150 junior golfers yet to finish high-school. College coaches and scouts from around the region and the country will be on hand to spot and recruit the game's future stars.

"Tournament play is special here for the players. The NCAA rules officials and teams that stay here love it and remark on Grandover as quite the wonderful experience."

—Jonathan York, Grandover's PGA Director of Golf

The club enjoys strong collegiate relationships and is home to the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Headquarters. Many collegiate tournaments of note have been hosted here including, the NCAA D3 Men's National Championship (2011, 2014, 2015, 2018), the NCAA D1 Men's Regional Championship (2012) and the ACC Women's Championship (2018).

"Tournament play is special here for the players," says York, "To pull up to the hotel, drop off their clubs, go to their room, change, walk to the golf shop, find their clubs waiting, and have the practice tee and both courses right there is so convenient. That's why the NCAA officials and teams that stay here love it and remark on Grandover as quite the wonderful experience."

Joseph Koury wouldn't have wanted it any other way. ■

Michael J. Solender is a golf and travel writer based in Charlotte, N.C.

The two courses and resort accommodations at Grandover make an ideal host for tournaments, and to help support the nearby Wyndham Championship.

with David Graham," says York. "Graham and Panks were, at that time, doing significant designs, like Grayhawk out in Arizona, and it was a good selection for them to create the courses here."

Golfers at Grandover find resort-style courses with generous fairways, large green complexes, and ample room for shot-making.

"Our East Course plays a little long," says York, remarking on what's regularly thought of as the more challenging of the pair. "It has a lot of forced carries on some areas where you're trying to hit from the tee to a plateau for a prime second shot into a par 4, for example. The front nine requires precise course management and a lot of placement shots. The back nine does open up a little bit more, where drivers are a possibility off the tee for more skilled players."

The East Course's 18th hole is one of the most beautiful closers in the region. The par 5 finishes up behind the hotel with three ponds and two waterfalls along the way.

York notes the West Course is tamer for higher handicappers, though still a test for skilled players.

"Our West Course is a little freer flowing and a bit more player-friendly with the big greens. It's easier to hold the golf ball on the greens, as they are Bentgrass here, and Bermuda on the East Course. It's not quite as long distance-wise (as the East Course at 7,270 yards) from the Championship tees at 6,800 yards. Most of the tees play around 6,000, which is a nice yardage for most average golfers to play from and enjoy themselves."

