



# VIEWS & VISIONS

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## Stonewall Resort: Close to Nature, Far from Ordinary

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Stonewall Resort

André D'Amour is the General Manager of North Central West Virginia's Stonewall Resort. A native of Colorado Springs, Colorado, he has spent his entire career in the lodging and conference industry. D'Amour previously served as Director of Operations at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs, where he was integral in positively influencing the resort's recognition within Benchmark Hospitality, the corporate operator of Cheyenne Mountain and Stonewall Resort, as Hotel of the Year in 2016.

Beginning in 2002, with golf legend Arnold Palmer's personal christening of the course that bears his name, Stonewall Resort imbued the area's culture, history and natural setting to create a completely new West Virginia destination. Today, it has evolved into one of the region's premier tourist destinations.

Lake exploration, championship golf, prime fishing, deluxe accommodations, adventure activities and culinary creativity are just a few examples of the recreational options awaiting guests at Stonewall, which is conveniently located only three miles off I-79 near Weston in North Central West Virginia.

Close to nature, far from ordinary, Stonewall offers a 195-guestroom lodge, 13 lakeside salt box-style cottages, a conference center, three restaurants, a fitness center, spa and indoor/outdoor swimming pool, an RV Park, campsites and a 334-slip marina. Our commitment is to provide a top-notch guest experience that exceeds expectations, and we strive to do that every day.

In 2018, the resort completed a multi-million-dollar renovation project that included updated guest rooms and internal lodge spaces, as well as a refresh of our cottages. The resort's dining venues were also updated, with the most dramatic change occurring in the former TJ Muskies Lounge, which now features a gastropub menu, expanded tap selection and sports bar theme. Stillwaters Restaurant, the resort's signature dining outlet, offers both a robust buffet and tableside service. Guests may also dine al fresco on the lakeside patio for a more casual or romantic option. And, situated atop the highest point of the property and offering 270-degree views, Lightburn's Restaurant now features a steakhouse menu with 100% Certified Angus Beef paired with a variety of unique entrees and handcrafted cocktails. The



extensive renovations and updates are helping us fulfill our commitment, and guests appear to love the changes.

The resort is always looking to expand its footprint to accommodate the growing demands of our guests. As a result of a recently completed approval process, the resort is now authorized to increase lodging capacity using private investment to build new cottages, which will be made available for public rental. The new cottage expansion project is underway, with the first two cottages funded by private investment now available. A third cottage is under construction with an anticipated completion date in mid-July of 2019. These spacious and comfortable lakeside cottages feature design characteristics that make them ideal for family outings or small groups of friends or business associates. Each feature private baths with each bedroom, a great room and kitchen area ideal for gatherings and a large deck.

Options for recreation at Stonewall are endless. All visitors – whether staying at the resort or visiting for the day – have access to equipment rentals such as bikes, kayaks, canoes, paddle boats and stand up paddle boards. A variety of watercraft, from the CraigCat sport boat to pontoon boats and houseboats, are available for rental at the marina. The property offers 17 miles of hiking trails for all levels to enjoy the natural surroundings.



Of course, one of the most recognizable features of the resort is the 18-hole Arnold Palmer Signature Golf Course. With a focus on exposing more individuals to the game, the resort has implemented a host of programmatic initiatives to encourage play throughout the year. New for this year, junior golfers (those 18 and younger) can play for free when accompanied by a paying adult. The King's Course, a short golf course set within the existing Arnold Palmer Signature Golf Course, offers a unique set of tees that allows golfers the option of a 2,600-yard course and has been recognized as one of the best short courses in the nation.

The resort has constructed three new tennis courts – with Pickleball courts outlined within – and opened an Escape Room, perfect for gamers or those looking for an exciting group activity. Guests can also enjoy taking Segway tours across the expansive property. After a full day of outdoor activities and exercise, the Mountain Laurel Spa is the perfect venue to soothe weary muscles and refresh the spirit.

More than 166,000 people visited our 2000-acre property in 2018. They came to boat and fish, golf, attend meetings, relax or experience the myriad events held on the property, like the National Hunting & Fishing Days Celebration, outdoor concerts or special themed weekend activities held throughout the year. Stonewall continues to draw guests from further distances and, in fact, has become a destination for international travelers.

We're proud of the contribution Stonewall makes to Lewis County, our region and the state. The resort employs over 300 staff, most of whom are local residents, and receives no state or federal tax money for its operations. Stonewall Resort has entered its seventeenth year in operation, and we are committed to continually improving the property and our level of service. We hope to see you soon. ▽