“Summer is the annual permission slip to be lazy. To do nothing and have it count for something. To lie in the grass and count the stars. To sit on a branch and study the clouds.”

- Regina Brett
SEVEN

Because there’s life, and then there’s living.

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News & Happenings at The Cliffs
Spring/Summer 2015
ON ANY GIVEN SUNDAY MORNING, ABOUT 10 OR 12 HARLEY, SUZUKI, AND YAMAHA MOTORCYCLES ROAR UP TO THE GATES OF GLASSY MOUNTAIN, THEIR RIDERS EAGER TO TAKE TO THE HIGHWAY IN SEARCH OF ADVENTURE.
To be sure, this is no rowdy biker gang. “In fact,” member Buzz Buvinghausen says, “to the best of my knowledge there’s only a single tattoo among our 20 or so riders, and that belongs to the retired chief information officer of the state of New York, Jim Dillon.”

The club is no organized group with a President, Treasurer, and Secretary who keeps minutes, but like Buzz, it’s a collection of free spirits who share a passion for motorcycles, a love of adventure, and the joy of the open road.

AN APPETITE FOR ADVENTURE

For Buzz, that means traversing the backroads he calls the “twisties,” the blacktops that wind their way through the Carolina mountains along the 400-mile Blue Ridge Parkway — he’s ridden every one of them on his Harley CVO Ultra.

Of course, every rider has a favorite ride. For Doug Walton, who lives at The Cliffs Valley, it’s the mountain roads that lead to Waynesville and the 318 curves along an 11-mile stretch of highway known as the Tail of the Dragon.

Together, Doug and Buzz have biked up to Niagara Falls and across Ontario before returning to The Cliffs via Michigan and Indiana. Often accompanying Doug is his wife, Sue, who used to ride her own bike but now prefers to travel in comfort on the seat behind him — all the better to enjoy the magnificent sights and scenery of their travels on Doug’s Harley Road Glide.

NOT JUST AN OLD BOY’S CLUB

Sue is not the only spouse to ride along — or ride her own bike. The Cliffs at Mountain Park resident Sandy Vernon’s first motorcycle was a Christmas gift from husband Bill, 20 years ago. Two years later, seeing how much fun his wife was having, Bill got one for himself, a matching Harley 1200.

The couple is still riding twin bikes, 2013 Harley Trikes. Sandy also has a rare Harley 900 FXR2 cycle. If you know bikes, it’s a true collector’s item.

They particularly enjoy riding together up to Saluda in the mountains that are “just out the back door of our home here at The Cliffs,” Sandy says. And they have even cycled abroad in Italy and New Zealand. For the past dozen years, they’ve ridden extensively through the West with three other couples. “Eight riders, no passengers,” Sandy explains. This past summer, their travels took them on a 2,800-mile trip through New Mexico and Arizona.

THE JOY OF THE OPEN ROAD

All of these riders have made the pilgrimage to Sturgis, the South Dakota mecca, where for 75 years tens of thousands of motorcycle enthusiasts from all over the world converge to celebrate and ride the historic Black Hills.

Like Buzz and Doug, Gere Gaige is a retired military pilot who flew with a commercial airline before turning to other professional endeavors. Unlike them, he had never ridden a motorcycle before moving to Glassy. It was a conversation with Buzz that got him started — and hooked. In fact, it was Buzz from whom he bought his first motorcycle. Today, he rides a 2013 Harley Davidson Road Glide.

“Freedom” is the first word Doug uses to describe his feeling when cycling. “I’m an adventurer, and this community of riders is people with like-minded interests. I play at golf, I do a lot of sailing, but the motorcycle is something I love.”

“THERE IS AN EXCITEMENT WHEN YOU HIT THE STARTER AND HEAR THE GROWL OF THE ENGINE, AND YOU KNOW THERE IS AN ADVENTURE JUST WAITING TO HAPPEN…”

“Freedom” is the first word Doug uses to describe his feeling when cycling. “I’m an adventurer, and this community of riders is people with like-minded interests. I play at golf, I do a lot of sailing, but the motorcycle is something I love.”

“THERE IS AN EXCITEMENT WHEN YOU HIT THE STARTER AND HEAR THE GROWL OF THE ENGINE, AND YOU KNOW THERE IS AN ADVENTURE JUST WAITING TO HAPPEN…”
The golf course at Keowee Springs, brilliantly designed by Tom Fazio, incorporates three sets of six holes each. As an 18-hole, 72-par, 7,100-yard course, it offers both high- and low-handicap players intriguing challenges and satisfying rewards. And being able to play just six holes makes it ideal for family fun that turns kids into chip shots off the old block.

But the real genius of the six-hole design is that when you’re finished, you’re only a stone’s throw from Lee’s Smokehouse. What better way to celebrate that 30-foot putt you just dropped to save par or to lick your wounds when that 2-footer lips out? As anyone who’s ever tasted his Barbeque Sundae knows, Chef Lee’s succulent signature dish is the only satisfying response to the vagaries of golf.

What Lee knows is that there are no shortcuts to great barbeque. It takes patience and some old-school methodology. He burns hickory wood or oak that he sprays with apple cider. He likes cherry when it’s available and apple wood if he can get it. The Boston Butt that becomes pulled pork sits for four or five hours in a smoker that never gets above 225 degrees. His rub contains garlic, kosher salt, cayenne pepper, cocoa, cinnamon, sugar, and onion powder in quantities Lee won’t divulge. Spicy but not too hot, he uses it on everything.

After the pork has been properly smoked, Lee sauces it with a thickened tomato base to which he’s added ground and yellow mustards, apple cider, and red wine vinegars, as well as some of his rub. He layers the pork with baked beans he’s made with pinto, red and navy beans that he’s slow-cooked before adding his sauce. He adds his own jalapeno coleslaw and tops it all with a cherry tomato.

It’s everything you need to replenish body and spirit for another six-holes. And another stop at Lee’s, where it’s Sundae seven days a week.
The chisels are calling
It’s time to make sawdust
Steely reminders of things left to do
My fingerplane’s working
Gentle persuasion
I bend to the wood and I coax it to sing

The rain on the window
The snow on the gravel
The seasons go by to the songs in the wood

Too quick or too careless
It all could unravel
It so easily could
It’s back for an encore
Back to the shavings that cover the floor

Monteleone
Words and Music by Mark Knopfler
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Going with the Grain

Furniture maker Brian Boggs is one of Asheville’s most gifted, thoughtful, and articulate artisans. His connection to The Cliffs is important to both him and those of us who possess the treasures of his artistry — handcrafted furniture certain to be heirlooms.

ON HIS CREATIVE PROCESS
“It’s like a meditation. I stay open, and ideas show up. It starts with the shape of the person and what the lines should be for them. It’s these things that help dictate the choice of material. So does the environment in which the piece will be used, and what someone will feel and see when they sit in it.”

ON VALUE
“Value is often thought about only in terms of cost. But the true value in what we’re doing is more about creating an experience that is felt. You can sit in anything, but what I feel when I’m working and my clients feel when they sit in one of our chairs is just a joy of life, a joy of work, and an expression of living well.”

ON ASHEVILLE
“I’d been doing shows in Asheville before I moved here from Kentucky. I loved the culture of the community. There’s a real love for and support of the arts here, which is why it draws people who are seeking a more community-connected environment.”

Going with the Grain
ON THE CLIFFS EXPERIENCE

“I had a neighbor with an amazing walnut tree. Everyone in the neighborhood loved it. And so, when a storm brought it down, I asked him for the tree — which is now here in the workshop. What it will be in its next life will want to be very special.”

ASHEVILLE ARTISAN BRIAN BOGGS

ON SUSTAINABILITY

“Even as a kid, I’ve always loved wood, so sustainability has always been important to me. We get as much wood as we possibly can from trees that have come down right here in and around Asheville. When we do use a material like mahogany that is particularly sensitive and endangered, I go directly to friends in Honduras with whom I’ve worked for 20 years, so we have a direct connection to people we know are taking care of their forests. That’s important to us, and it’s important to our clients.”

ABOUT BRIAN

Words aren’t really the best way to understand the artistry that Brian brings to his work. We suggest pouring a glass of your favorite libation, settling into one of his creations on your porch, and spending some time rocking, contemplating all the mysteries that grow like the trees ringing those magnificent mountains that surround us.

“I had a neighbor with an amazing walnut tree. Everyone in the neighborhood loved it. And so, when a storm brought it down, I asked him for the tree — which is now here in the workshop. What it will be in its next life will want to be very special.”

ASHEVILLE ARTISAN BRIAN BOGGS
LOTS OF OPPORTUNITY

We’re thrilled to announce the release of Dockside, a new and very limited 26 parcel release located in one of the most peaceful settings in Keowee Springs.

The majority of Dockside homesites are right on the water, promising the very best of lakeside living. Many of these beautiful properties are entitled with their own private docks. But what makes this collection of homesites especially attractive is that we’ve already completed, and installed a community dock facility. Also of note and unique to most Cliffs communities is that the Dockside neighborhood will have its own private gated entry experience — adding to the exclusivity of a magical Lake Keowee location.

Lots of Opportunity

Staking Your Claim to An Incredible Lifestyle

These homesites are a spectacular addition to Keowee Springs and its Tom Fazio Signature course, its Beach Club and its hiking trails. This collection of amenities is all part of what makes The Springs our premier family-friendly club. As you know, Keowee Springs is just minutes from Clemson and Greenville is within easy reach.

Our real estate team will be quick to detail the whole story and point out the inherent value of this limited release. Please be in touch with them and keep an eye out as we’ll be keeping you up to date as details and events surrounding the debut unfold.

The properties at Dockside will quickly be spoken for and so we encourage you to contact The Cliffs Real Estate Team at 866.411.5769 or info@cliffsliving.com. For more information, visit CliffsDockside.com.
LIVING AN ACTIVE, SPIRITED LIFESTYLE THAT NOURISHES A ZEST FOR LIFE’S POSSIBILITIES IN ONE OF THE COUNTRY’S FABLED SETTINGS

Everyone has his or her own criterion for wellness. It can be a daily aerobic, strengthening and conditioning workout at one of our six state-of-the-art Wellness Centers with your personal trainer. Or the Zen of doing laps in the pool, the fun of moving to Zumba, or a core-strengthening Pilates class. Or you might prefer the quiet, contemplative stretching and breathing of yoga.

For others, wellness can mean getting outdoors, testing oneself on a hike or bike ride along the magnificent mountain trails that surround us, the challenge of a round of golf on one of our seven courses, the competition that tennis provides, or having an unforgettable Exploration Series adventure whitewater rafting, paddle boarding, fly-fishing, kayaking, or sailing.

As The Cliffs’ Director of Cycling George Hincapie notes, “It’s hard not to feel better here.”

Helping members achieve the degree of wellness that allows them to enjoy all the incredible opportunities The Cliffs’ lifestyle offers is the province of Dr. Matt Ort, Director of Health and Fitness at The Cliffs, and his highly trained and passionately committed wellness team.

Of course, everyone has different wellness needs and goals. Some members are perfectly healthy but want to make extra preparation for a special event like a golf tournament, marathon, or cycling challenge.

Others may have the need to rehab after undergoing a surgery for a hip or knee replacement or to come back from a sudden event such as a heart attack or stroke. Others want “prehab” — to prepare their bodies for surgery with the goal of a faster, more complete recovery.

Accomplishing that takes a comprehensive team approach that includes Dr. Matt, a chiropractor, one of our four Nike golf specialists, two exercise physiologists, and five trainers, four of whom are GIFT (Gray Institute for Functional Transformation) Fellows of Applied Functional Science, trained by Gary Gray.

Gary Gray, the Institute’s founder, has treated sports legends such as Michael Jordan and Mario Lemieux. He’s trained the trainers of the Super Bowl Champion Seattle Seahawks. He has even worked with the Navy Seals.

With the wind at their backs and an open road ahead, our Cliffs fitness and training instructors spin their way toward health and happiness.
WHATEVER AN INDIVIDUAL’S GOALS, OUR MANTRA IS TO MAKE EACH INDIVIDUAL HEALTHIER, HAPPIER, AND MORE HOPEFUL.

Dr. Matt Ort, Director of Health and Fitness at The Cliffs

“There are only about 800 Fellows worldwide,” Dr. Matt says. “The only five with certification in South Carolina are all at The Cliffs.”

“If somebody wants to get back into playing golf and hasn’t been able to for a while because of back pain, we have the capabilities to perform a global functional assessment to identify the body part responsible for their pain, and design an individualized program that lets them achieve their goals and aspirations. That’s unique to The Cliffs.”

Vance Ferrigno, who along with Sam Spear is one of two exercise physiologists at The Cliffs and the co-author of “Speed, Agility and Quickness,” a book that’s been translated into eight languages, explains. “We keep the emphasis on how someone’s body moves, what they want to do, and how we can prepare them for that. If a member wants to go hiking, we can prepare their body to walk better. If they want to play tennis or golf, we can prepare their body for the unique stresses of either game.”

“We’ve had members come in who have never skied, and we design a program for them that strengthens them, gets them on their trip, and then back home safely.”

“One of the most satisfying things we’ve accomplished is getting members to set goals they may not really believe they can accomplish, like biking up and over the six miles of The Watershed at Cliffs Valley.” Vance explains. “We build them up to do it, and the expression on their faces when they get over the top is just phenomenal.”

On the other hand, Dr. Matt recognizes that despite the successes he and his team can claim in making members healthier, happier, and more hopeful, they do have their limitations. For those problems they can’t fix, there is access to state-of-the-art care close by.

“One thing that’s really tremendous and unique to The Cliffs is that if we just don’t have the capabilities of fixing a particular problem that we’ve identified — or if a member needs a level of medical care we don’t offer on-site — we have these tremendous healthcare systems close by that we can send them to, award-winning hospitals that offer the highest quality care available,” says Dr. Matt. There’s the Greenville Health System, the Pelham Medical Center in Spartanburg, and the Mission Health System in Asheville.

“We’ve got personal relationships with these hospitals,” he added. “We can just call them and get you connected. Like the Steadman Hawkins Clinic of the Carolinas, which offers the most advanced options available for orthopedic injuries and disorders. That’s a tremendous advantage for Cliffs’ members.”

Healthier, happier, and more hopeful. It’s the prescription at The Cliffs for living wellness. Little wonder then that so many of our members, people who could choose to live anywhere choose to live here, enjoying a quality of life that’s simply unmatched anywhere in the world.

THE CLIFFS FITNESS & WELLNESS TEAM

EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGISTS

Sam Spear & Vance Ferrigno

NIKE NG 360 CERTIFIED

Matt Ort, Sam Spear, Sean Kennedy, and Vance Ferrigno

GIFT


Joan Craig, Loretta Keeney, Matt Ort, and Vance Ferrigno

TRAINING TEAM MEMBERS

Ryan Kamszik

National Strength and Conditioning Association-Certified Personal Trainer

Andrew Lovice

National Strength and Conditioning Association-Certified Personal Trainer

Annie Green

National Academy of Sports Medicine-Certified Personal Trainer

Marla Painter

American College of Sports Medicine

All the trainers who have not completed the GIFT program will be taking a Certification of Applied Functional Science from the Gray Institute in 2015.

“Whatever an individual’s goals, our mantra is to make each individual healthier, happier, and more hopeful.”

Dr. Matt Ort

Director of Health and Fitness at The Cliffs
The term “farm to table” is ubiquitous these days. But that phrase doesn’t do justice to how deeply involved our chefs and members are in the five-acre Broken Oak Organics at The Cliffs. For them, the terms “dirt to table” or “farm to mouth” might be more appropriate.
From Dirt ...

Craig’s relationship with The Cliffs began in 2006. At the time, he was majoring in horticulture at Clemson University with an emphasis on sustainable agriculture. When he heard about an organic farm taking shape at The Cliffs, he knew immediately he wanted to be a part of it.

“It was my passion and fit exactly with what I wanted to do with my career. I began by supplying just The Cliffs’ clubhouses. Soon word got out that we had some of the highest-quality produce in the area. All of a sudden, we started getting phone calls from the best restaurants in downtown Greenville,” Craig says with understandable pride.

Today, in addition to The Cliffs, the farm’s produce can be found on the tables of the area’s finest eateries, among them George Hincapie’s Restaurant 17 at Hotel Domestique, whose James Beard Award-winning chef is a great fan, and the Table 301 restaurants: the Lazy Goat, Soby’s, and Nose Dive, along with American Grocery.

“So here I find myself knee-deep at the farm, eight years later, and loving every minute of it.”

Growing Together ...

Even before planting for a new season begins, Craig Weiner, owner of Broken Oak Organics at The Cliffs, sits down with the chefs from each of our seven communities.

“We basically start with the seed catalogues and decide exactly what they want us to grow. And the chefs are all here often as the season progresses. They are not afraid to get their hands dirty. They are all very involved.”

So are members at The Cliffs, who happily avail themselves of the farm’s bounty each Wednesday afternoon — Fresh Market Day — open season for vegetables and the day’s harvest for their own kitchens.

“Many members come out every week and have become very good friends of the farm,” according to Craig.

It’s part of what he sees as a trend toward organic food and the commitment of members to achieving the level of wellness that allows them to fully embrace the active, spirited lifestyle that is synonymous with The Cliffs.

“People are realizing that their health is based in part on what they’re eating, and they understand the benefits of what we’re doing here.”

... To Table

Japanese salad turnips, radishes, spinach, broccoli, collards, kohlrabi, Tuscan kale, and shiitake mushrooms: To bring this cornucopia of organic delights to our members is the province of our master chefs. And while each brings his or her own particular brand of creativity to how they use these ingredients, they all have in common a deep appreciation for the farm and the opportunities it offers for bringing the best of each season to the tables of their clubs.

“I tell people all the time that The Cliffs is the only place I’ve ever worked in my long career where everyone treats everyone as family,” Senior Executive Chef Victor Carducci of The Cliffs Valley said on a visit to the farm to pick some just-harvested vegetables. “And, of course, you always want the best for your family.”

“Having our very own organic garden on property is a tremendous advantage because it makes it possible to have the finest seasonal ingredients you can find right here, close at hand.”

Serving the season’s best is key to Chef Victor’s approach to creating his menu. He changes it on the winter and summer solstices, and always uses what’s freshest at any given point within a season to delight his guests, whether he’s serving long-standing favorites or introducing something new.

Kevin Furmanek is Executive Chef at the new Mountain Park Cabin, an appropriately rustic venue very much in keeping with an organically inspired menu.

“Having our very own organic garden on property is a tremendous advantage because it makes it possible to have the finest seasonal ingredients you can find right here, close at hand.”

“Our offerings at the Cabin are a little more down to earth and absolutely built around what’s going on at the farm, which is all of about five minutes from my kitchen. You can’t get much fresher than that.

“As a chef, I appreciate that most of what is grown at the farm is heirloom. I believe you find a richer, deeper, more consistent flavor in heirloom products. That’s what the farm produces — and one of the reasons it’s so important to us.”

Chef Victor finds other critical benefits, relating the farm’s organic vegetables to The Cliffs’ approach to wellness. “Our members are very particular. They come here because of our wellness programming, and that programming extends beyond the Wellness Centers to our kitchens. Wellness can be delicious.”

True, and why we like to say our own organic farm means seven times the yum.
A Shared Vision.  
A Common Bond.  
A Glorious Result.

The Dells and Glennwood Custom Builders bring a mountainside jewel to The Cliffs at Walnut Cove

Corky and Rich Dell didn’t have a specific community in mind when they first explored western North Carolina. But after they discovered Walnut Cove, they immediately knew this was the place they wanted to be.

For Corky, the obvious draw was immersing herself in a diverse and welcoming arts community that stimulates and celebrates creativity. For Rich, there was the immediate appeal of a stunning Nicklaus Signature Golf Course, but also the endless miles of country roads to explore on his high-performance BMW motorcycle. That both are avid hikers pretty much sealed the deal on The Cliffs. After touring a few homes and seeing all that was possible, they knew as well they wanted to start with a clean sheet of paper. All they needed was the perfect property and a builder to give life to their vision.
“All you need to do is look out our windows to see why we decided to build here,” Rich says, pointing out the 28-mile view to Mount Mitchell, the highest peak in the Appalachians and the highest east of the Mississippi. It’s a glorious view that provides all the evidence needed to attest to the wisdom of the Dells’ decision. They also found the right builder: Dan Collins of Glennwood Custom Builders. A rapport was quickly established.

“We’re very hands-on. I’m design-oriented, and the visual is huge for me,” Corky, who has served as Chairman of the Rockford Museum Board in Rockford, Illinois, explained. “Rich is more technical. Dan and his people were aware of that and were very comfortable with how each of us wanted to be in the project.”

“We felt he was well-organized. We liked his approach to documenting what was going on and his relationships with his subcontractors. It wasn’t just us making sure everything was done right. We had a team of people looking at things. So we felt like everybody was working toward the same goal.”

Collaborating Creatively
And so building became a collaborative effort. The Dells rented an apartment nearby and were onsite frequently. “Corky was instrumental in the design of the entire house — the floor plans, the elevations — and so it was really a team project,” Dan says, acknowledging the importance of his collaborators’ contribution. “A perfectionist like Corky knows quality when she sees it.”

The creative partnership was certainly a success from the Dells’ point of view as well. “Rich and I felt Dan brought a great deal of creativity to the project, a real mix of fresh ideas and engineering expertise.”

Of course, not all of Dan’s clients are on-site as often or as involved as the Dells were. Some are far away and simply don’t have the time. “We do try to get our clients to commit to at least three or four on-site visits. And while they’ll put their trust in the architect and us, and we’ll make many decisions for them, we always keep lines of communication open. We embrace a team approach,” Dan says. “That’s what works best.”

Making Educated Decisions
Whether on-site or not, Dan welcomes the benefits that educated clients like Corky and Rich bring to a project.

“I think a knowledgeable client helps the process go more smoothly. They feel they’re providing input, they see that input, and it makes them prouder of their home. We like to have them here on-site to be able to explore options, enhancements, and opportunities as we’re building.”

“Custom homes are ever-changing, and there are a lot of new systems, from underlayment behind the walls to water management and HVAC systems. It’s a very dynamic business and my staff of engineers very much enjoys being up-to-date with leading edge processes and products. It helps when a client is as well.”

Membership Has Its Advantages
Whether near or far, The Cliffs Preferred Builder Program has helped new buyers with the difficult choice of finding the right builder for them.

“They have done a very good job of due diligence in selecting the builders in the region that have a great product to offer clients,” Dan says. “You can not assure that whoever you choose is a quality builder and that they are financially stable. The program certainly helps streamline the process.”

Building a Larger Community
For the Dells, life outside the home is as rewarding as their experience building it. Corky is active socially, and Rich, who served as CEO of Ames True Temper before retiring, is involved with the charity work the Walnut Cove Members Association is doing, raising funds for an elementary school, a humane society, and for Manna, an organization that helps feed the hungry.

“As Corky so eloquently puts it, “we try to connect with needs we see throughout the community because we want to be a part of building not just at The Cliffs but building our part of a larger community.”
A. SEAL THE DEAL
Keeping food fresh is a cinch with a DENI SUPREME VACUUM SEALER! This commercial-quality vacuum packaging system seals in freshness, reduces spoilage, and eliminates freezer burn. Imagine … fewer trips to the grocery store.

B. SAVOR THE SIMPLICITY
THE FOOD PROCESSOR 750 PROFESSIONAL SERIES BY VITAMIX offers durability, versatility, and power unmatched by any conventional blender. Presets for smoothies, frozen desserts, soups, and purées make it the most multifunctional Vitamix yet.

C. STAND BY ME
EUROPE-2-YOU RECIPEBOOK HOLDER captures the spirit of a classic décor by transforming utilitarian objects into treasured accents. Cooking up a storm is easy and beautiful with our recycled wood cookbook and iPad stand.

D. SIGNATURE STYLE
PERSONALIZED CUTTING BOARD BY MAPLE LEAF AT HOME is functional, beautiful, and will last a lifetime. All boards are made with premium-quality hard maple and make a great portable cutting work surface or an elegant serving tray.

E. COFFEE, TEA OR ... ?
CERAMIC MUGS BY STERLING CUT GLASS are durable ceramic, accented with a natural bisque rim. For 25 years, Sterling Cut Glass has proudly supplied the finest golf courses and most prestigious golfing events in the United States.

F. SHATTER EXPECTATIONS
SHATTER-RESISTANT WINE GLASSES BY LUCARIS have been meticulously designed and crafted to the smallest detail — to ensure they satisfy the highest demand in functionality and aesthetic quality for wine lovers and culinary aficionados.
Julia Fosson’s journey to The Cliffs and her home studio, where she creates unique encaustic paintings, began on a golfing trip to Kiawah Island. And make no mistake, Julia is a golfer. So Kiawah seemed like a natural, until she talked to an architect friend, Christopher Rose, about possibly building a home there. Rose told Julia that before she did anything, she needed to check out The Cliffs and the quaint, artistic town of Asheville. When she made the visit, it was love at first sight. And now, Julia has seven spectacular courses to enjoy. But that’s just the start of an amazing story, for Julia is also a passionate artist.
Finding Inspiration at The Cliffs

Julia discovered encaustic painting by accident. She had painted in oils for years when someone remarked that her work reminded them of encaustic. Julia had never heard the word before but was intrigued. She discovered a process of painting that uses beeswax to which colors are added. The wax is heated and applied by brush or metal tools, usually to wood, before it dries. And as it dries, it takes on depth and a glazed, almost three-dimensional feel. Pursuing her interest, Julia did a workshop and fell in love with the process.

“At the time, I didn’t think I was going to be finding much inspiration in the mountains. But when I started to paint again, all this work started to come out and inspired me. I was like, ‘Wow, I guess there is something here after all!’”

Julia’s first series as an owner at The Cliffs was inspired by the long views of the mountains just outside her home studio.

Asheville’s River Arts District

“I wanted people to see my work. I needed them to see it, and I needed to be in a place where it would be accessible,” Julia explains. So she got studio space in Asheville’s River Arts District along the banks of the French Broad River. It’s a regular haunt for locals and a must-see destination for visitors from all over the world. This one-time industrial area has become studio space for more than 185 working artists and craftsmen in 25 buildings. As befits an environment that encourages creativity, the District is also a mosaic of restaurants, breweries, music, and performing arts venues. Julia felt right at home.

She jumped in with both feet — and right into a position with the organization that guides the Asheville River Arts District. “I wanted to be part of an art-minded organization in an art-minded community. Our mission is to promote members, hold events, and educate the community. We support one another. We care for one another. We want to see one another succeed.”

It’s part of what makes The Cliffs at Walnut Cove inspirational — and Asheville magical.

“Asheville is a jewel of a place that just invites people in. I came for a vacation and I didn’t want to leave — it’s something you hear visitors say all the time, and is absolutely true.”

– Julia Fosson
When people move to The Cliffs, they immediately want to share their experience. They want their homes to become the family home for holidays, a place where parents, children, and grandchildren create lasting memories. The Legacy Access Membership may later be inherited by a spouse or child along with the property. Indeed, this is truly the gift that keeps on giving.

One birthday too many?

Presents, ice cream and cake, blowing out the candles...what’s not to love about a birthday? Yep, birthdays are fantastic — right up until No. 23. That’s because if your family belongs to the typical private club, this is the witching hour, the day your kids are no longer members of your club. In one day, out the next. Long faces all around.

All in the Family

We thought better of this arrangement and created a special Legacy Access Program, a feature that allows children and parents of Legacy Members to enjoy the benefits of access. As one member aptly put it, “I think our kids are going to want to spend more time, not less, at The Cliffs as they grow older and have kids of their own.” This is exactly what the Legacy concept is all about — keeping families close and making The Cliffs lifestyle available for those we love most.

The Gift that That Keeps on Giving

We also know that members are not always available to golf, water ski, or play tennis with their adult children or their parents. Legacy Access allows your parents or children to sign up for amenity access. They receive their own membership numbers and are able to use all the amenities without the primary member having to call ahead. Access to golf is at the escorted guest rate.

Members Kent and Dotti Smith, whose children grew up at Walnut Cove, said this as their sons passed the age threshold: “They didn’t feel comfortable every time they had to call us if they wanted to go to the health club, or if they wanted to play tennis or golf. Now, with Legacy privileges, our kids can effortlessly enjoy the clubs with family, friends, and even clients with family Legacy Access. We also get the sense our sons are happier not to have us always hovering around.”
Paddle through the heart-pounding whitewater rapids of the Chattooga River on a raft. Cast a line into the Davidson River, and feel that unmistakable tug that marks the beginning of an epic battle with a trout. Discover the beauty of the changing seasons on hiking and biking trails that wind their way through the glories of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Embrace the serene quiet of kayaking to a hidden waterfall on the glassy waters of Lake Jocassee. Take the first vertical steps up a rock face to mountain peaks that offer breathtaking vistas as their reward.

Whether you’re an avid outdoorsman or a beginner with a bucket list of dreams, those with a spirit for adventure will find ample rewards by participating in the outdoor adventure program at The Cliffs. There’s no special equipment required — just bring a backpack and enthusiasm. Nature and our outdoor Exploration Series specialists Bekah and Derrick Quirin will furnish everything else you need. They even offer nature and birding classes to help deepen your appreciation of the natural world that surrounds us.

Graduates of North Greenville University with degrees in Outdoor Leadership, Bekah and Derrick are eminently qualified to guide you on your quest for adventure. They developed their passion for the outdoors working summers as camp counselors while in high school. In college, while others went to the beaches of Florida during semester breaks, they headed deep into the mountains, gaining experience for what would be their life’s work.

Valley resident Lori Wallach eloquently describes the effect the Exploration Series program has had on her.

“Coming from the flatlands of Chicago, the mountains were irresistible — I couldn’t imagine living anywhere but The Cliffs. Not being a golfer, tennis or bridge player, it was the outdoors that I connected with. But my experience and skills were limited, and my first steps were tentative. Now, thanks to the program, I do 12-mile mountain hikes, spend hours in a kayak, and even zip line, all life-changing experiences that were unimaginable before I came here.”
It is one of The Cliffs most rewarding if challenging choices to move right in, or, to create your own vision from the ground up. One might frame the conversation as instant versus deferred gratification. Whichever the path, you’ll immediately feel right at home in the Carolinas, in homes that offer exceptional quality and value. Many will find refreshing tax rates, and for everyone coming to the upstate, a most attractive cost of living. Whether you’re inclined to call the decorator or the architect, the only question is, what are you waiting for?

Let’s talk about the WIN/WIN

For the family who just can’t wait, there are exceptional homes available in every community. Our real estate team knows them inside and out — which have morning sun and which enjoy dazzling sunsets, which are closer to the clubhouse or the wellness center — they'll help you confidently navigate the territory. One of the upsides is that there are very nice residences available right now. Why? The Cliffs has always been one of the country’s premier private clubs, and the combination of thoughtful and consistent design review guidelines along with affluent owners with good taste leads to great homes.

I want it NOW
I’ve got my OWN ideas

Senior Vice President of Real Estate Sales, Kent Smith, sums up the path many owners have taken. “When people come here, they don’t know whether they want to buy or build. But when they get here and see all that’s possible, they get inspired to create their own thing. They might like a den in one home, the porch on another, a wine cellar, even a movie theater — and they want to bring all the best together in one place. Their own place.”

It can be difficult not to get carried away when designing a home here, especially for owners accustomed to the high cost of living in major metro areas. The fact is, the dollar goes a long, long way at The Cliffs. You’ll find architects and builders steeped in the latest technologies and building products, but with an old fashioned eye for meticulous detail.

Kent continues, “Some people stray away from building homes, because they’re uncertain, or they’ve had a bad experience. We’ve gone to great lengths to over-deliver on every front. We’ve done the due diligence and quality assurance to offer a highly qualified short list of lawyers, bankers, architects and preferred builders — so our buyers can confidently and quickly move ahead.”

Dan Collins of Glennwood Custom Builders makes an important observation, “Cliffs has done a very good job in selecting the builders in the region that have a great product, so you can rest assured that whoever you choose is a quality builder and that they are financially stable. The program certainly helps streamline the process.”

As noted, creating your place here promises to be one of life’s great joys, and a certain win / win.
Seven times the OPPORTUNITY

Whether your preference is 50-mile views of the mountains or a serene home on the water, we can help you move again in a beautifully finished residence or help you select a property and builder to make a vision uniquely yours. Either way, this is where happily ever after starts.

WALNUT COVE
| 608 Walnut Valley Parkway | 3,665 sq/ft | .35 Acres | 3 Bed | 3 Bath | $1,750,000

KEOWEE VINEYARDS
| 111 Trout Lily Lane | 4,910 sq/ft | 1.08 Acres | 5 Bed | 4.5 Bath | $1,350,000

GLASSY VALLEY
| 8028 Glassy Ridge Road | 5,000-5,199 sq/ft | 5.72 Acres | 3 Bed | 4.5 Bath | $2,500,000

WALNUT COVE
| 113 Upper Ridge Way | 5,800-5,999 sq/ft | 1.83 Acres | 3 Bed | 5 Bath | $1,799,000

WALNUT COVE
| 14 Timbers Edge Way | 4,400-4,599 sq/ft | 2.33 Acres | 4 Bed | 4 Bath | $1,685,000

WALNUT COVE
| 1832 Bella Vista Ct. | 5,267 sq/ft | 1.28 Acres | 4 Bed | 4 Bath | $3,500,000

WALNUT COVE
| 15 Deer Grass Court | 7,627 sq/ft | 1.38 Acres | 5 Bed | 5 Bath | $4,250,000

MOUNTAIN PARK
| Phase 1, Homesite 91 | 1.08 Acres | $595,000

KEOWEE FALLS
| 213 Sunrise Point Way | 4,433 sq/ft | 1.14 Acres | 4 Bed | 4.5 Bath | $1,660,000

KEOWEE SPRINGS
| 126 Water Crest Trail | 4,122 sq/ft | 1.11 Acres | 4 Bed | 4.5 Bath | $1,750,000

KEOWEE VINEYARDS
| South, Homesite 75 | 1.84 Acres | $250,000

KEOWEE VINEYARDS
| West, Homesite 34 | 1.8 Acres | $459,000

KEOWEE FALLS
| Laurel Pointe, Homesite 25 | 1.01 Acres | $775,000

MOUNTAIN PARK
| 611 Highridge Parkway | 4,400-4,599 sq/ft | 1.03 Acres | 4 Bed | 4.5 Bath | $1,390,000

VALLEY
| Section K, Homesite 3 | 2.99 Acres | $299,000

KEOWEE SPRINGS
| Residences, Homesite 38 | 1.31 Acres | $395,000

MOUNTAIN PARK
| 55 Purple Finch Way | 4,400-4,599 sq/ft | 1.56 Acres | 4 Bed | 4.5 Bath | $999,000

KEOWEE FALLS
| 405 Crossbill Court | 4,648 sq/ft | .83 Acres | 5 Bed | 5.5 Bath | $1,550,000

WALNUT COVE
| 16 Hidden Hills Way | 3,958 sq/ft | .81 Acres | 4 Bed | 4 Bath | $1,199,000

VALLEY
| 911 Hidden Hollow Trail | 4,000-4,199 sq/ft | 1.38 Acres | 4 Bed | 5 Bath | $849,900
“Fun! Fun! Fun! That’s what it’s all about,” is how grandmother and Kids’ Camp Keowee Director Cher Burgner describes the philosophy behind the five-day grandparent-run camps at The Cliffs Valley, Glassy, and all three Keowee communities.

As hundreds of youngsters who attend every summer can attest, they’re succeeding admirably. For the 5- to 10-year-olds, the week is built around a different theme every year — Pirates, Olympics, Aeronautics, Native-Americans, Safaris — and the kids get involved in a myriad of activities based on that theme. They also get golf and tennis lessons, spend fun times at the beach, and take venturesome day trips.

Of course, whether the kids know it or not, they’re learning. The younger kids do everything from making finger sandwiches for high tea and learning how to bow and curtsey should they bump into royalty, to discovering how different Native-American tribes lived — part of an exploration to the ancient Indian rock paintings at Hagood Mill.

For the 10- to 12-year-olds, and the newly formed alumni camp for teenagers like Adventure Circle Director John Ball’s 14-year-old grandson, James, who’s been coming since he was 5, the days and nights are filled with adventurous activities like whitewater rafting, rock sliding, repelling, kayaking, paddle boarding, tubing, and hiking.

There are visits to places of interest such as Stump Tunnel and the U.S. Whitewater Training Center. There are overnight trips and campfires, where the challenge is a ghost story to scare your newfound friends. It’s an atmosphere in which the kids bond with other youngsters from all over the country, and lasting friendships are renewed when the kids return year after year.

The camps are run entirely by volunteering grandparents, though Cliffs staff is always there to help whenever and however possible with everything from setups to food. That suits the grandparents just fine.

As Joyce Huber, the Valley’s Camp Director explains, “It’s a week that two generations share — making memories both can cherish for a lifetime.”
“The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable... in the history of America. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations... from this time forward for evermore.”

John Adams, Second President of the United States

Although John Adams missed it by a couple of days, the Massachusetts signer of the Declaration of Independence accurately predicted the new nation’s early birthday celebrations. Our second president could not have foreseen, however, the politics, prayers, and intoxication that later marked the Republic’s anniversary, the great Civil War that split the nation and changed Independence Day in the South for almost 50 years, nor the gradual restoration of the national holiday to a place of honor in the old Confederacy.

In the 1820s and 30s, when the tiny (population 300) village of Greenville Courthouse was becoming a summer resort for wealthy low-country planters, Independence Day ceremonies were filled with high patriotism and resounding noise. Fourth of July celebrations were not confined to the village. In 1839, for example, English visitor James Buckingham attended the festivities at the home of Guilford Eaves in the upper part of the county. More than 700 citizens heard “Singing” Billy Walker preside and pray, a reading of the Declaration, and an oration or two before gathering around long tables “laden with the good and choice productions of our mountainous region, high over which waved in majestic style the Star-Spangled Banner.”

From December 1860 to April 1865, however, the American flag did not wave over the village; “patriotism” meant allegiance to the Confederacy. After the War, in March 1867, radical Republicans in Congress suspended state governments and divided southern states into military districts. Former Union General Daniel Sickles was appointed commander of the “Second Military District,” including North and South Carolina. Sickles ordered the compulsory observance of Independence Day, with a 13-gun salute at sunrise, a salvo for every state at noon, and a national salute and parade of troops at sundown. All public buildings would fly the American flag, and all public offices would close. White Greenvillians were powerless to object. For black citizens, however, it was a new day. More than 1,000 freedmen marched down Broad Street to Main, and then up the Buncombe Road to Mountain Creek Church for a all-day gathering with speeches by both black and white political leaders — all Republicans — and concluded by giving three cheers for General Sickles and his officers.

In the years that followed, Independence Day throughout the South became a holiday celebrated entirely by African-Americans.

In 1898, in the midst of the Spanish-American War, however, July 4th became a holiday for everyone. Rumors circulated early that morning that Americans had sunk the Spanish fleet under Admiral Santiago, and soon the Greenville Daily News posted a telegraphed dispatch in its window confirming the victory. Mill whistles began to scream; the city hall bell rang; rebel yells echoed through the city as crowds gathered on Main Street. Strains of “Yankee Doodle” were even heard, although they soon changed to “Dixie.”

The Spanish-American War was the immediate cause of the restoration of Independence Day celebrations in the South, for southern boys enthusiastically volunteered for active duty and communities throughout the region followed the progress of the conflict with patriotic fervor that spread to observance of the nation’s birthday.

The Glorious Fourth returned to Greenville.
**WHITE**

**Quivira “Fig Tree Vineyard” Sauvignon Blanc**
*Dry Creek, Sonoma, California, 2013*

Quivira is a small family owned winery located in the heart of Dry Creek Valley. Their estate vineyards are biodynamic, which is to say, their standards are more stringent than typical organic products. Just like biting into a juicy organic heirloom tomato, Quivira’s grapes come off the vine with vibrant flavor and invigorating freshness. This Fig Tree Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc exhibits youthful brightness in the aroma, fine minerality and tantalizing acidity on the palate with summer ripe melon and citrus zest tones. Delicious while enjoying your favorite spring-fresh salad, fresh shucked oysters, seared diver scallops or roasted chicken. Only 1,600 cases produced.

**Darcie Kent “Demayo Block” Chardonnay**
*Livermore, California, 2012*

Fourth Generation vintner Darcie Kent and Hungarian-born winemaker Julian Halasz work in unison to handcraft small lot, single vineyard wines from sustainably farmed, family-owned vineyards in the Livermore Valley (40 miles south of Napa Valley). This wine undergoes full malolactic fermentation in new American and French oak barrels and is then aged 18 months on the lees. The Demayo Block Chardonnay is powerful and rich with sweet buttery notes which are layered over delicious tree ripe stone fruit, juicy pear and enhanced with the essence of seasoned toasted oak. Only 900 cases produced. Best paired with grilled pork loin, Chilean sea bass, crab cakes and lobster thermidor.

**RED**

**Schug, Pinot Noir**
*Carneros, California, 2013*

Walter Schug was head winemaker at Joseph Phelps back in the 70’s and 80’s. In 1974 Walter created the first vintage of the famed “Insignia” which would go down as the very first Bordeaux-style blend produced in California. Ironically, Walter had a huge affinity for Pinot Noir. In 1980, the Phelps family dropped their Carneros Pinot from the line-up and Walter seized the opportunity to purchase the bountiful vines. So began Schug Carneros Estate Winery. Thirty-five years later Walter, along with his son Axel Schug, produce outstanding Pinot Noir and Chardonnay in the picturesque rolling hillsides of the Petaluma Gap in Carneros.

Through an exclusive arrangement we are able to offer Schug’s mid-tier Carneros Pinot Noir by the glass. Typically the normal Sonoma Coast bottling is found on wine menus and in retail across the country. This is a Pinot lover’s dream come true. Vivaciously perfumed notes of cranberry chutney, ripe white cherry and smoked sage billop from the glass while gracious Burgundian character and lively acidity add complexity and elegance to the sheer perfection of this wine. Enjoy with poultry dishes, especially duck and quail.

**Les Cadrans de Lassegue, Saint-Emilion Grand Cru**
*Bordeaux, France, 2011*

The lush hillside vineyards of Chateau Lassegue (pronounced “lah-sec”) are located just outside of the renowned city of Saint-Emilion on the right bank of the Dordogne river in Bordeaux. The world class wines produced in this region reflect a tradition of tremendous quality dating back over three hundred years. Here, Merlot’s ultimate expression triumphs as king in the rich clay and limestone soils of Saint-Emilion. Only twenty percent of wine produced in the region is awarded Grand Cru status delimited by strict production standards and regulations. Les Cadrans is a superbly refined blend of sixty percent Merlot, thirty percent Cabernet Franc and ten percent Cabernet Sauvignon. Textbook aromas of turned earth, herbs de Provence and sweet cedar nuance gracefully lift from the glass backed by deeply extracted flavors of blackberry bramble, anise and Asian spice toasted almonds. Pairs to perfection with roasted leg of lamb, herb crusted prime rib or braised beef ribs.

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**SUMMER IS THE MOST VERSATILE SEASON FOR WINE PAIRING — THE BOUNTY OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ALONG WITH WIDE OPEN MENUS PRESENTS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR LIGHT SUMMER WHITES IN THE AFTERNOON ALL THE WAY TO HEARTY REDS TO ACCOMPANY A BBQ BY THE LAKE. CHEERS AND BON APPÉTIT.**
“One of the great advantages of yoga,” she explains, “is that you can take it with you through life, modifying poses to your level, while always enjoying its benefits.”

Those benefits are considerable, according to Joan and just about everyone with a practice. More than flexibility, participants build strength and balance with every pose. It helps with posture and breathing, which are both critical to good health because breathing is the link between body and mind. In addition, as with learning anything new, mastering new poses helps strengthen the brain and keep us mentally alert.

Yoga is easily integrated into any workout program, from swimming to weight training. And because you’re not doing the same routine all the time, but constantly working different muscles, it keeps you in better shape. One participant tells Joan that it’s helped with his balance when he’s hiking, while others boast of the effect it’s had on their golf or tennis game. It’s even helped relationships. Relaxation has its merits.

Joan sees it as the perfect support for the active lifestyle that is The Cliffs. “What we do is look at the whole person and their goals, and try to help each member achieve them, whether they’re taking part in a class or availing themselves of the opportunity to get individual instruction for a specific need.

“It will benefit you in ways that constantly surprise and delight you,” Joan says. “Much like meditation, it helps to quiet the mind and create a sense of inner peace — which just may be the greatest of its many gifts.”

And with our beautiful mountains as a backdrop, inner peace surely awaits.
“The seven communities that are The Cliffs offer an amazing lifestyle, and it’s all about choice. There’s horseback riding in one community; there’s boating in another community; there’s a thousand miles of trails for hiking and biking; there’s our organic farm; thriving small towns; and, of course, seven incredible golf courses. I’ve spent my life in real estate development and can honestly say, there is simply no place like this in America.”

KENT SMITH
Senior Vice President of Real Estate Sales

One of the more interesting trends that Kent, The Cliffs’ Senior Vice President of Real Estate Sales, has observed over the past few years is that people are no longer waiting to conclude their careers before finding a community in which to live — especially if they can find one that offers them an array of amenities and a vigorous, engaging lifestyle.

“I had a golf date with a friend and waited while he finished a business call in his study. When he came out, he was dressed in a shirt and tie, and golf shorts. He’d been on a video call with a client just as if he’d been in his office. I said, ‘you’re either underdressed for work or overdressed for golf.’ But this is just the lifestyle that’s possible here today.”

Dotti, the Broker in Charge of The Cliffs at Walnut Cove, offers other reasons that make The Cliffs such a satisfying mix of work and play: proximity to airports for national and international flights, low taxes in both South and North Carolina, and a temperate climate that allows residents to enjoy both their careers and The Cliffs’ lifestyle year-round.

Beyond seven great golf courses are seven fabulous clubs at which to dine, with 21 dining and event venues in all, as well as spectacular wellness centers to take off all those calories. Dotti notes that there’s a true quality of life. “There’s tennis, horseback riding, hiking, biking trails across the tops of mountains, and every aspect of the aquatic life on Lake Keowee. Whatever, whenever, and whomever, there are seven communities that welcome you each and every day. It’s truly all right here.”

There is also what life holds beyond the gates in Asheville, Greenville, and Clemson, where members wholeheartedly embrace their cultural, philanthropic, and educational interests.

It’s that diversity of lifestyle choices that Kent finds most unique — and most attractive — about life at The Cliffs. But Kent is quick to add that whichever community you choose to live in, it will have a distinct personality all its own. And, equally importantly, you’ll be right at home at all seven communities when you visit. Because, at each of the seven communities, you’re welcomed as what you are, an owner. That means you enjoy the benefits of membership at every community.

It is the Smiths’ abiding belief in and enthusiasm for all that life offers here that makes them such wonderful ambassadors for The Cliffs.

The Ambassadors

Few people possess as deep and intimate an understanding of The Cliffs and The Cliffs’ lifestyle as Kent and Dotti Smith. Not just because of their roles in real estate here, but also because they are residents who are actively involved in the life of all seven Cliffs communities.
A visitor to the Biltmore estate might well be tempted to wax poetic, inspired by the sheer grandeur of George and Edith Vanderbilt’s summer home. Our response is perhaps a bit more prosaic, summed up as it is by a single, simple phrase: jaw-dropping!
ow else to describe the 250 rooms of America’s largest home and the stories whispered by its priceless art collection, spanning 16th century tapestries, 10,000-volume library, and displays of furniture, vintage clothing, and accessories. There isn’t one tour that can take it all in — return visits are a must.

Wonder through the estate’s grounds and gardens, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, the genius who gave us Central Park. In spring and summer, they are a riot of color commensurate with one’s capacity for wonder. Meander along a 2.5-mile path that winds through acres of formal and informal gardens, including an Italian Garden and a Rose Garden with 250 varieties. Amble along the French Broad River, through open meadows or through America’s first managed forest, one that continues to be a benchmark for sustainability.

Join the Vanderbilts and daughter Cornelia on their travels throughout Europe and the Far East at The Home and Abroad exhibition celebrating the family’s extraordinary legacy. Their extensive collection of Samurai armor and weapons, their Cartier vanity, and vintage Harley-Davidson motorcycle put the art of collecting in perspective. And for your next cocktail party tidbit, you’ll learn the fateful decision that saved them from a watery end aboard the Titanic.

Connect with the estate’s remarkable past and vibrant present with a visit to Antler Hill Village & Winery. In what was once the Biltmore Dairy Barn, you’ll be treated to a complimentary tasting of award-winning Biltmore wines from the French vines introduced to the estate in 1971 by William Cecil, one of Cornelia’s two sons. Here, too, you’ll discover, along with great shopping, a wine and dining experience that will make you feel as though the gracious Vanderbilts are entertaining you at their very own table.

Alive with blacksmiths, woodworkers, and other craftsmen, the Farm in Antler Hill Village is a rare opportunity to experience life in the 1890s. There’s an old-fashioned mercantile shop that offers crafts, and a smokehouse with barbecue and other Southern favorites to feast on, while turn-of-the-century games and farm-friendly animals keep the children entertained. For sportmen, the Outdoor Adventure Center offers a host of experiences from carriage and trail rides to challenges that include sporting clays and fly-fishing. Don’t worry about crowds — the estate covers some 8,000 acres.

If it all seems too much for a single day’s visit, stay overnight at the Inn on Biltmore Estate, where guests can revel in an authentic bit of Vanderbilt hospitality.

A living vestige of the grandeur of the Gilded Age, Biltmore is a living testament to the vision and imagination of George Vanderbilt, scion of one of America’s wealthiest families, who, on a visit to Asheville, looked out at the Blue Ridge Mountains and decided they would make the ideal setting for this astonishing jewel. Jaw-dropping, indeed!

How to find us:

Biltmore House

By the Numbers

6
Years to complete construction on Biltmore House

94
Acres in Biltmore’s vineyards

170,000
Cases of wine produced during an average year by Biltmore Winery

43
Bathrooms in Biltmore House

75
Acres of landscaped gardens on the estate

70,000
gallons of water in the indoor swimming pool

250
Rooms in Biltmore House

1 million +
Guests who visit Biltmore annually
No matter what his or her age, making golf fun is the most important thing you can do for a beginner, or for that matter, a golfer of any age or skill level. Fun for your kindergartener may be as simple as playing with a rake in the sand trap or riding in a cart. Fun for your spouse may be playing six holes and then enjoying lunch at Lee’s Smokehouse with fellow club members. Fun for the avid player may be actually being able to make the same shot — twice in a row!

One thing is certain: Cliffs pros, aka Golf Ambassadors, make sure that a day at the course is both fun and fresh for everyone. They find new ways to create learning moments where you don’t know that you’re learning. They make important routines anything but routine. And, they can build a pretty smooth golf swing out of some pretty ugly raw materials. The point is, everything is individualized. Young. Strong. Tall. Short. Junior. One size, one approach surely does not fit all. But the one common denominator is that golf at The Cliffs is fun. Even when it’s serious fun.

There’s No Such Thing as Practice Makes Perfect

No matter what his or her age, making golf fun is the most important thing you can do for a beginner, or for that matter, a golfer of any age or skill level. Fun for your kindergartener may be as simple as playing with a rake in the sand trap or riding in a cart. Fun for your spouse may be playing six holes and then enjoying lunch at Lee’s Smokehouse with fellow club members. Fun for the avid player may be actually being able to make the same shot — twice in a row!

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Measure Success in Smiles and High Fives

At the Mountain Park golf course, old whiskey barrels become targets that echo the western theme of the range. On the range at Keowee Springs there’s a three-foot target circle 25 yards out. And another set of targets on the lake. Once again, the pros are teaching muscle memory with every smile.

As David Sawyer, Managing Partner - Cliffs Clubs, points out, “Golf at The Cliffs is iconic and part of our bloodstream. But we’re also imaginig the game in new ways, like at Keowee Springs, where an 18-hole golf course has three six-hole layouts — perfect for time-strapped parents and family members who just want to introduce their grandchildren or kids to the game of golf with a six-hole round.”

Fun. Fresh. Original. Isn’t that what we love about the game!
“We certainly want to make golf fun. That’s our goal here — not just for the single-digit handicap, but also for the people who are just starting to play the game. Play golf, have fun, socialize with new (and what will surely become good) friends. Even on the range, we try to create games and a fun atmosphere while you practice.”

Mike Williams
PGA Head Golf Professional, The Cliffs at Mountain Park

“We also would like to be known as good neighbors to the area. Throughout our golf season, we do host charity events that benefit area non-profits.”

Neil Jones
PGA Head Golf Professional, The Cliffs at Glassy

“Imagine being a pro when you have one range, one course. Now, imagine what it’s like to help our members, whether beginner to expert, on seven championship courses and on seven different practice facilities all considered to be among the best in the country. It’s a golfer’s dream come true.”

Sean P. Kennedy
Director of Instruction, Cliffs Clubs

“We really get a taste of a lot of different styles of golf. You may relate it to ‘mountain-style golf’ or ‘lakeside’ or ‘valley-style,’ but it’s really more than that. We have different strands of grass on all the greens, different types of fairways, different styles of golf. You may relate it to ‘mountain-style golf’ or ‘lakeside’ or ‘valley-style’; but it’s really just different terrain.”

Julian Bland
PGA Head Golf Professional, The Cliffs at Mountain Park

“Our feedback we’re receiving is that it’s probably one of the greatest Gary Player golf course designs in the entire world.”

The Cliffs at Keowee Springs

“We certainly want to make golf fun. That’s our goal here — not just for the single-digit handicap, but also for the people who are just starting to play the game. Play golf, have fun, socialize with new (and what will surely become good) friends. Even on the range, we try to create games and a fun atmosphere while you practice.”

Brad Fowler
PGA Head Golf Professional, The Cliffs at Keowee Vineyards

“One of the things I enjoy as a golf professional is seeing members entertain friends, family and guests — particularly when they’re coming for a couple of days. You can really do some fun things, whether it’s on the golf course itself, or taking them off the golf property, where you can really let the kids go and have a great time.”

One visit to the Upstate and you understand why so many members from all over the country have come to live at The Cliffs.”

John Mitchell
PGA Head Golf Professional, The Cliffs at Keowee Vineyards

“Immediately following both the men’s and ladies’ play, we have a set lunch for everyone. It’s a perfect place to organize the rest of your games, meet your neighbors and plan your week out, ’cause you’re going to be playing a lot of golf here.”

“I was sure she was going to start fussing at me just as she did that scowl. ‘What’s the matter, aren’t you talking to me?’ she yelled at me through the window. Even half asleep, I recognized that scowl. ‘What’s the matter, aren’t you talking to me?’ she yelled at me through the window. Even half asleep, I recognized that scowl. Her husband came out and started laughing, like I was her long-lost best friend. Just goes to show, you never can tell about people. Which reminds me of a fellow…”

Brian Peeples
Director of Golf Operations, Cliffs Clubs

The Cliffs at Mountain Park, our newest golf course and club, just opened in 2012 and was ranked one of the best new golf courses in America. It’s a Gary Player design. And from those who have come to experience the course, most of the feedback we’re receiving is that it’s probably one of the greatest Gary Player golf course designs in the entire world.”

David Sawyer
Managing Partner — Cliffs Clubs

For 11 years, Garvin Stewart greeted arriving golfers at Keowee Vineyards with unfailing good humor and a friendly greeting “… ‘Welcome to The Cliffs!’ He made sure members never had to lift a finger — putting bags in carts, cleaning cleats after a round, and stowing everything back in carts, cars, or storage. Whatever, as he says, was needed to make the game more enjoyable.

About a year ago, Garvin moved from greeting golfers to the shoe shop and locker room. With the parade of people who stop by to kid around and share a laugh with this beloved icon, it’s a wonder he ever gets anything done. But he does; every shoe and locker is meticulously cared for, shining as brightly as his smile. And he’s always got a friendly greeting … "Welcome to The Cliffs." He made sure members never had to lift a finger — putting bags in carts, cleaning cleats after a round, and stowing everything back in carts, cars, or storage. Whatever, as he says, was needed to make the game more enjoyable.

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John Mitchell
PGA Head Golf Professional, The Cliffs at Keowee Vineyards

“Imagine being a pro when you have one range, one course. Now, imagine what it’s like to help our members, whether beginner to expert, on seven championship courses and on seven different practice facilities all considered to be among the best in the country. It’s a golfer’s dream come true.”

Paul Henriksen
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“We certainly want to make golf fun. That’s our goal here — not just for the single-digit handicap, but also for the people who are just starting to play the game. Play golf, have fun, socialize with new (and what will surely become good) friends. Even on the range, we try to create games and a fun atmosphere while you practice.”

Mike Williams
PGA Head Golf Professional, The Cliffs at Mountain Park

“We also would like to be known as good neighbors to the area. Throughout our golf season, we do host charity events that benefit area non-profits.”

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Absentee owners Ruth and Ron Billings would wait at their home in Houston every Friday night for photos to arrive from the project manager overseeing the building of their new home at The Cliffs. It was a much-anticipated way of keeping up with what had been done that week.

“It was a fun process,” Ron recounts.

When it had come time to think about retirement, Ron, who had spent time as a youth with relatives in the mountains of western North Carolina, thought that was where he’d like to be. A colleague at work had a property at The Cliffs and suggested the Billings take a look at the website.

“Next thing we knew, we were buying a homesite,” he says. His colleague had started building one home and then another, both using Morgan-Keefe Builders.

“We drew on the confidence of having two colleagues ahead of us in the process who each had great confidence in Morgan-Keefe. We just lived for those Friday nights when the photos arrived. It made the process easy. But it was a little depressing when we stopped having the pictures to look at.” Any tinge of depression ended as soon as the Billings arrived at their new home.

“It’s such a welcoming community,” Ruth adds. “Even though people are from all over and have different backgrounds, we all have this thing in common called The Cliffs.”

When Massachusetts residents Michele and Kent Stahl first started to think about a getaway home that would later become the place they retired, they planned to look around at a number of communities all across the country. But one visit to The Cliffs changed that.

“We arranged a Stay & Play Golf package at The Cliffs, fell in love both with the amazingly beautiful property and Asheville, and after only two days we decided to buy a lot. Kent loves golf, so the option to play seven different golf courses was a key factor in our choice to buy in The Cliffs,” Michele says, explaining why they looked no further.

“We were building from afar, so we needed a builder that we didn’t need to babysit and could count on to do quality work without us being here to oversee every little thing. The process went very smoothly because we chose Morgan-Keefe Builders up front rather than bid out the design. We wanted our builder involved from the very beginning of the architectural process to give input on the design as it was being drafted. We flew down every five weeks to meet with the architect and builders team.”

“Morgan-Keefe had many great insights from their years of building experience. They knew what worked here, what didn’t, and what other clients had done that was unique. That collaboration took all the stress out of building.”

Michele expressed her feelings about her new home at The Cliffs in a few words, “Everyone who lives here has embraced us, it’s absolutely gorgeous, and the weather’s great. I can’t imagine a better place on earth.”
There can be no argument — bikers burn calories, especially when climbing through the leafy country roads that wind through the Carolinas. It’s little wonder then why the growing peloton that is The Cliffs Bicycle Club always has a particular destination in mind. The bakery.

While Cliffs cyclists are all quite particular about the bikes they’re riding, they’re not nearly as fussy about which bakery will be the destination of choice. One day it might be the Wildflour Bakery in Saluda. The next day might be a loop to the Leopard Forest Coffee Company in Travelers Rest or the Flat Rock Bakery in its namesake town. Every quaint Norman Rockwell hamlet around here seems to have a favorite haunt.
For Pam Lestage, who bikes with husband John, cycling is only one of the activities in which she’s involved. The former marathoner — her knees eventually gave out — is something of a poster child for The Cliffs’ lifestyle. On what she calls “Super Monday,” she and a group of girlfriends gather at seven to walk the golf course at Valley, where she and John have lived for 14 years. At eight, the ladies take a spin class. At nine, they play tennis. And at noon, it’s golf, one of five rounds she plays every week. Though she enjoys playing all seven Cliffs courses, her favorites are her home course at Valley and the new Gary Player design at Mountain Park.

Her favorite ride is a 40-mile round trip to Travelers Rest through pastureland, fields of sunflowers, and farmland. “There’s not much traffic, and the ride gives me the sense of being at one with nature,” she says. “There’s nothing like the sense of fellowship I get being with truly positive people.”

Of course, this being The Cliffs, outreach and contributing to the local community are constant themes. The club has been well represented at charity events this year for Meals on Wheels, Greenville Hospital Oncology, the Ride for Animal Care, the Rotary Childrens Fund, and The Cliffs’ Director of Cycling George Hincapie’s Gran Fondo, a charitable event that this year drew more than 1,300 people from six countries and 39 states. The opportunity to ride with George is a treat as sweet as any pastry along the ride.

It was the Gran Fondo that got Tony Caruso involved. A couple of friends, Peter Larder from Mountain Park and Peter Bonham from Valley, challenged Tony to take part. He accepted. And though he is a veteran of rail-to-trail riding all around the world, he had never cycled in the mountains. But he bought a bike and began six months of physical and mental prep for the Gran Fondo. He finished in a respectable four hours and two minutes, cheered on by crowds all along the route. The race, his training, and the bike club have given rise to a new passion that grows with every turn of the wheel as he and his cohorts pedal to the peak.

Wherever the destination, members always have an appetite for the easy banter of like-minded enthusiasts, along with sticky buns, brownies, scones, and bagels. Croissants will become part of the daily ritual this fall when the club takes its second biking trip abroad, this time to Provence. Once they’ve filled themselves, they turn for home, which, as unofficial leader of the pack Kris Bierbaum says, is all downhill.

Rides and riders at The Cliffs come in all shapes and sizes — with shorter mid-week rides that draw beginners — a favorite is the nearly 20-mile Swamp Rabbit Trail from Travelers Rest to Greenville and beyond. It’s one of Kris’ treasured rides, giving him a break from the office. Like many Cliffs members, he still works full time for a Boston-based technology company.

“‘There’s nothing like the sense of fellowship I get being with truly positive people.’

Pam Lestage
The Cliffs Valley Member

64 PEAK PEDALING
Shining Light on the Dark Corner

Spend any time in the Blue Ridge Mountains and you’re sure to hear stories about the ominous Dark Corner. The three stories that have gained the most currency over the years involve a politician who had a wagon pulled out from under him during a speech. Filled with anger at having been made a fool, he cursed the people of Glassy Township, telling them, “You people live in the Dark Corner.”

Another of the explanations to which the name is attributed involves the giant chestnut trees that keep that part of the mountain in a constant deep shade through which little light can make its way. Hence, the Dark Corner.

But, according to local resident Jim Stehlik, a man who has spent nearly 15 years researching the Dark Corner, the real reason folks had a fear of entering the area was because of the independence of its residents and their illegal moonshine stills. The violence, murder, and family feuds that lasted for generations between competing moonshiners, and the battles between the makers of the corn mash and the law, as represented by local sheriffs and federal agents, have all contributed to making this place a fabled bit of history.

What’s Fact and What’s Fiction?

As more and more people came to the area, the stories of the Dark Corner proliferated, and, in time, they became legend. Jim, an engineer by profession and someone who solved problems for a living for more than 40 years, found himself fascinated by these stories. Jim decided that he would lend his considerable skills to answering the puzzling questions behind the Dark Corner.

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A picture (in this case a map) is worth a thousand words. But in the colorful mountains of North and South Carolina, this picture is worth somewhere between seven and a million.

When you belong to The Cliffs, you’re immediately a member at all seven communities, for golf, boating, dining, tennis, hiking, biking, shopping and just horsing around. It takes the concept of “never a dull moment” to a whole new level. There’s no club that’s best, but we guarantee that there is one for you.

And then there is everything outside the entrances...towns are scenic, historic, vibrant and just flat-out fun. Asheville is America’s new darling and Greenville is the new #1 on too many lists to mention. In between are cozy hamlets where music, the arts and crafts are thriving.

Life here is also easy because everything is close. Cliffs Valley and Mountain Park are but five minutes apart, Glassy is 10 minutes more. Greenville from these clubs is less than 30 minutes away, and Asheville is comfortably under an hour along smooth scenic highways. From Atlanta you can be on Lake Keowee in under two hours, on the tee or feet dangling off a dock.

And all around you are millions of acres of the most beautiful land this country knows. This is why we say, “There’s life, and then there’s living.”