

# 1859

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# WILD & ROMANTIC

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## ROOMS

The thirty-four-room resort includes spacious king and double-king Ranch House rooms, as well as private two-bedroom luxury log cabins overlooking tranquil Otter Lake and the Silvies Valley, so you can bring the whole family ... or not. Rooms and cabins are kitted out with Pendleton bedding and towels, 65-inch flat-screen televisions, golf cart charging stations, and well-stocked kitchenettes. There isn't cell service on the ranch, but rooms, cabins and common areas have wifi, and you'll receive a pre-programmed walkie-talkie upon check-in, should you require an extra pillow, tee time, the bartender or salvation from a conniving cougar.

## FEATURES

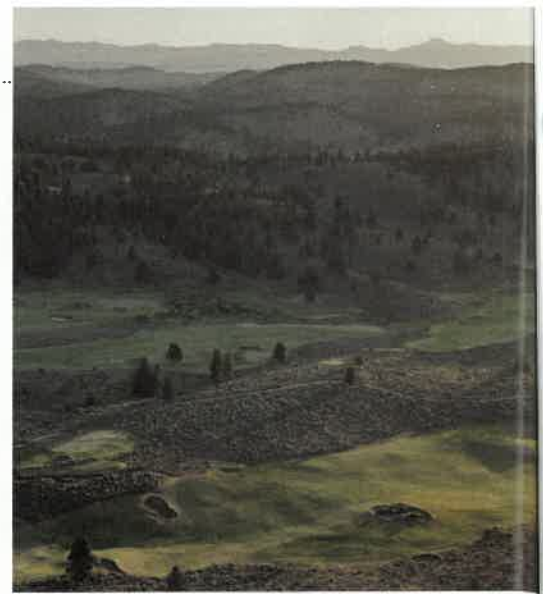
The ranch's crown jewel of relaxation is the 17,000-square-foot Rocking Heart Spa, where you can work out in the fitness room, practice all the new moves you learned watching *Free Solo* on the rock climbing wall, hone your backstroke in the half-size Olympic lap pool, or indulge in a leisurely facial and Medicine Spring Hot Rocks massage. Afterwards, melt any remaining cares away in the cedar sauna or soaking pool.

## DINING

Executive chef Damon Jones' frontier fare features the ranch's organic pasture-raised beef and goat, house-cured sausage, garden-grown herbs and microgreens, and homemade bread, butter, pickles and preserves. Book the seven-course chef's tasting menu, served at the long communal table; start with warm slabs of the ranch's signature sourdough bread, made with a proudly pedigreed 100-year-old starter, savor slow-braised short ribs and sweet potato spaetzle, and finish with warm apple pie topped with white cheddar whipped cream. Afterward, sample the bar's 100+ varieties of Scotch, then sit by the campfire overlooking the valley—if it's your lucky night, bar manager Jeff Campbell might just mosey over with a tray of s'mores fixings. For breakfast, tuck into hefty plates of pastrami hash and stacks of sourdough pancakes with beef brisket bacon, washed down with cowboy coffee or a big ol' Bloody Mary.

## AMENITIES

Ranger-led experiences abound—book an eco-tour of the ranch via speedy Polaris RZR, practice your vintage pistol skills on one of three shooting ranges, try your hand at goat herding, take a Clydesdale-powered surrey ride, or golf the day away, then reward yourself with the ranch's signature cocktail—the Horseshoe Nail, made with rye whiskey and garnished with a pickled crabapple skewered on its namesake.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Silvies is a working ranch. Four golf courses dot the ranch. Finish your day with a cocktail.

# Lodging The Retreat, Links & Spa at Silvies Valley Ranch

written by Jen Stevenson

EVERYTHING'S A LITTLE BIGGER at Silvies Valley Ranch, from the double-wide sourdough cinnamon rolls to the spectacular Eastern Oregon views stretching in every direction. Founded in 1883, the working ranch—located midway between John Day and Burns, in the center of the Malheur National Forest—sprawls across more than 140,000 acres of private and National Forest land teeming with fragrant sagebrush, Ponderosa pines, wildlife and wildflowers. But while the scenery is as pristine as the Oregon Trail days, the eco-resort's amenities are considerably more luxurious—with four golf courses, an award-winning restaurant and the largest full-service spa in Oregon, there's really no reason to ever return to so-called "civilization."

After buying the ranch as a family retreat in 2006, Burns-born veterinarian Scott Campbell and his wife, Sandy, founders of Banfield Pet Hospital, set about restoring the vast property to its former natural glory—bringing back flood irrigation, re-establishing beaver and otter habitats, and crafting nearly 4,000 Audubon Society-designed bird and bat houses from salvaged pine to help foster natural pest control. In that same vein, The Retreat, Links & Spa at Silvies Valley Ranch is a golfers' mecca with a mission: to have the lowest carbon footprint per hole of any modern golf course in the country (hence the solar-panel-topped, completely off-the-grid clubhouse).

Tee off on one of the four Dan Hixson-designed golf courses that wind through the hauntingly scenic high desert landscape—the reversible eighteen-hole Hankins and Craddock championship courses, seven-hole McVeigh's Gauntlet ridge course, and Chief Egan, a nine-hole, par-3 course set in lush mountain meadows. Keep an eye out and you just might see a pronghorn antelope, sandhill crane or golden eagle, but perhaps the most exciting critter you'll encounter is your caddy. The ranch has 3,000 resident goats, several of whom will carry your clubs, then bleat into your backswing. ■

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[www.silvies.us](http://www.silvies.us)