

The Resort at the Mountain shows off its \$14 million facelift

*By Deston Nokes, Portland Travel Examiner
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The Resort at the Mountain, located in the shadow of Mt. Hood in Welches, Ore., recently gave its business clients a sneak peek at the results of its year-long, \$14 million renovation.

Yogi Hutsen, CEO of Coastal Hotels in Seattle, which manages the resort, explained why they were making such a large investment in the property when others in the hospitality industry seem to be finding ways to cut back.

“We know this is a difficult economic period, but we believe it’s cyclical,” Hutsen said. “We see signs that it’s easing and we’re hoping that in the that in the first and second quarters of 2010, things will improve even more.”

The Resort at the Mountain’s transformation is striking. Gone is the worn, Scottish-themed décor of yesteryear in favor all-new earth-toned surfaces. Its 160 rooms and bathrooms are fully renovated, and the resort put in a full-service spa, refurbished golf courses, and upgraded public spaces. It also has 18,000 square feet of upgraded meetings space, and a new restaurant, Altitude.

While the property feels like a leisure travel resort, 60 percent of its business is group sales, most from Portland-area corporate clients.

“We hold our executive retreats at the Resort at the Mountain because we can get away from office and home distractions, and conduct important business without traveling too far away,” said Laura Killam, executive assistant at NW Natural. “But the facility was getting outdated and tired looking, so this is a terrific improvement.”

Recently, the resort was the recipient of *Smart Meetings* magazine’s 2009 Platinum Choice Award. The award recognizes excellence in service and amenities among meeting facilities in the Western Region (the 14 western states, Western Canada and Mexico).

For those seeking adventure, there’s year-round skiing up the road at Timberline, fly fishing, tennis, croquet, bocce ball, and even a natural grass, 18-hole miniature golf course.



*Teeing off on a misty mountain.
Photo: Deston Nokes*

Then there's the golf: The Resort at the Mountain spent more than \$3 million upgrading its three, nine-hole golf courses.

"We're excited about it," said Frank Casarez, the resort's general manager. "We paved all the cart paths, put in new tee boxes, new signage and irrigation, expanded the yardage and rebuilt all the bunkers."

"We want to be a destination resort, not just a stop," said Hutsen. "We have the perfect location, outstanding amenities and it's all come together very well."

For more info:

Resort at the Mountain

<http://www.theresort.com>

