



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the age of the Club?

A. The Club was founded in 1990.

Q. Is Laurel Oak a private club?

A. It is a private, member-owned, equity club.

Q. What are the benefits of member ownership?

A. Member ownership and control assures that the Club is operated in accordance with the wishes of the membership. The Club experience is enhanced by the heightened interest and increased management participation of member-owners.

Q. What sets Laurel Oak apart from other clubs I might consider?

A. Two things truly differentiate Laurel Oak from other clubs in the area:

1. The quality of the Club's facilities and services and the training and professionalism of its staff make Laurel Oak the best private country club value in the area.

2. The relatively young age of our members and the Club's proven ability to attract new members assures you of a more energetic, highly participatory membership. This is critical to the future success of any club.

Q. What types of membership does Laurel Oak offer?

A. There are memberships in four categories: Golf & Tennis, Golf, Tennis, and Social, as well as Junior Annual memberships. Executive membership is also available for those under 50 in golf & tennis, golf only and tennis only.

Q. What can you tell me about the Golf Courses?

A. The Player Course was designed by Gary Player. The Jones Course was redesigned in 2005 by Rees Jones, who is best known for his work for the USGA on seven different sites for the U.S. Open Championship. The key feature of these two courses is that together they provide the golfing members with a great variety of design features and a range of challenges. With 9 rated tees (5 for men, 4 for ladies, and family tees on each course), there is a distance and difficulty for every level of player.

Q. Is it easy to get tee times?

A. Yes, with 36 holes it is rarely a problem. The average round is played in less than four

hours, an unusual, but valuable benefit in Florida.

Q. What golf groups are available?

A. For men, there are over 15 groups that play weekly so you can play every day.

For ladies, we have both a 9-holers and an 18-holers association that play weekly.

There are many 9 and dines and monthly mixed golf events with lunch or dinner to follow, giving you many social options. Additionally, both ladies and men compete in inter-club competitions.

Q. Does the Club sponsor golf events?

A. For men and ladies there are individual stroke play and match play club championships. There are member-member events, member-guest events and special events such as the Draft for both ladies and men.

Q. Can I walk the courses at Laurel Oak?

A. Yes, you can walk both courses at the discretion of the Professional Staff, based on usage. Push carts are available for a fee. There is no fee to walk and carry.

Q. Are there reciprocal privileges with other clubs?

A. Yes, in the summer season we typically have reciprocal golf privileges with about 30 private clubs in southwest Florida. We also have year-round reciprocity with selected private golf & social clubs in North America & Europe. In addition, we have year-round social reciprocity with Bird Key Yacht Club in Sarasota.

Q. How many tennis courts are there?

A. We have 12 Har-Tru courts, of which 10 are lighted. Reservations are accepted seven days prior to play.

Q. Is there a swimming pool?

A. There is a heated, six-lane Junior Olympic-size pool which is available to all members.

Q. Does the Club have good instructional programs?

A. Our Director of Golf and our Assistant Professionals are all Class A PGA members. Individual and group instruction for all skill levels is available. Tennis instruction is available from our four Teaching Professionals, recognized as some of the finest in Sarasota.

Q. I am a competitive tennis player. Does the Club have what I need?

A. Laurel Oak has an extremely active tennis membership. Ladies and men compete at their respective levels from 3.0 to 4.5. Our ladies compete in a tri-city league in fall and winter and several teams compete in a USTA league from April through June. There are also men's leagues at all levels. There are also monthly exhibitions with our Professional Staff, some with other well-known professionals such as Dave MacPherson and Jimmy Arias.

Q. What merchandise do the golf and tennis shops carry?

A. Laurel Oak Country Club participates in the Mill River Buying Program. Golf members pay an annual fee of \$200 family or \$150 single, and all golf shop merchandise purchased will be at a reduced price.

Both Golf & Tennis Shops offer everything from clothing and accessories to equipment from major vendors, including demos. The Tennis Shop also offers restringing services.

Q. What member facilities are there in the Clubhouse?

A. The Clubhouse includes men's and women's locker rooms, the golf shop, a members' lounge, a large dining room, and event rooms.

Q. Tell me about the Club's dining and bar services.

A. The Club is open year-round offering lunch, cocktail and dinner service.

The Club offers extensive, varied menus to be enjoyed in a variety of settings, all reflecting a casual, yet elegant atmosphere.

Q. What other facilities or amenities are there?

A. Recognizing that the interests of many people seeking a country club lifestyle are broader than just golf or tennis, Laurel Oak Country Club has exclusive, year-round reciprocal privileges with Bird Key Yacht Club in Sarasota. Laurel Oak members can enjoy the facilities and activities throughout the year, including dock and dine, tennis, swimming, fitness center, dining and other selected social events.

Q. Can members reserve the Club for private parties or functions?

A. The Club has several rooms available for parties and offers a wide variety of services. The Club hosts many such functions and is available by reservation.

Planning a wedding? Perhaps you need to organize a business meeting or celebration, cocktail party or private dinner. The Club's experienced Catering & Events Manager is anxious to assist you with room arrangements, flowers, menu, etc. You will be proud of any event you choose to host at the Club.

Q. Is there a food or beverage spending minimum?

A. There is a minimum spending for a family membership of \$800 (per year) and single membership is \$600 (per year). All food and beverage spending, excluding alcoholic beverages, applies towards the minimum.

Q. How do you help new members to get involved?

A. We have an active Ambassador Committee that arranges for new members to become immediately connected with the membership in both sports and social activities.

We have structured our programs for new golfers and tennis players to assure they can easily find a group to play with. There are lots of opportunities to just "sign up and show

up” where you will be partnered with existing members who will make you feel welcome.

Q. What fitness activities are available?

A. We offer Cardio Tennis on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays at the Tennis Center. We also have an agreement with LA Fitness whereby you may enjoy their facilities throughout the country (some restrictions apply in certain areas) for a discounted price. You must sign-up through the Laurel Oak website.

Q. Are there other activities besides golf, tennis and swimming?

A. There are many special events such as tournament dinners, ladies’ luncheons, wine dinners, children’s events, special event parties, e.g. The Annual Food & Wine Festival, The Holly Ball, Seafood Extravaganza, and special menu nights including live entertainment every Friday Night in the Members’ Lounge and other social events. There is also a busy calendar of organized “Adventures” for off-site fun in and around Sarasota, including trips to sporting events, theater, kayaking, biking, archery, skeet shooting, museums and more. There are bridge groups, card groups, book club and Mahjong.

Q. Is it difficult to “connect” if you don’t live in Laurel Oak?

A. Quite the contrary. Laurel Oak is unique among private clubs in Sarasota because half of our membership lives *outside* the community. The appeal of most clubs is largely limited to those who live in their immediate community. However, the popularity of Laurel Oak has attracted many members from the immediate neighboring communities along with Downtown Sarasota, Siesta & Longboat Keys and even as far away as Venice and Casey Key.

Q. We have a young family. Will we fit in here?

A. The average age of our membership is just 60 years old, considerably younger than competing clubs in the area. The Club has 270 children as members, therefore our social calendar includes family-oriented events throughout the year, such as our very popular Halloween and Easter children’s events. In addition, we offer year-round junior golf and tennis programs, and summer sports camps and swim team. Children under the age of 21, if they are unmarried members of the household, can be included in the family’s membership, or until the age of 25 if unmarried and full-time students or members of the military.

Q. What is the procedure to resign from the club?

A. Equity members are required to give the club a 6-month written notice.

Q. Does the club have a website and participate in social media?

A. Yes, you can find us at www.laureloak.com or on the Laurel Oak App. With your member login, you may view the golf, tennis and social calendars, make on-line reservations for tee times, tennis courts and dining, post your golf scores, have access to the member directory to contact other members and staff, check your statements and receipt details,

view current menus, hours of operation and the Acorn newsletter and so much more. You can also find us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Yelp. Please like us and share us with your friends.