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The Temecula Creek Inn Review - A Hidden Treasure in the Heart of Temecula Valley Wine Country

By Jeff Rector



The Temecula Creek Inn sits on 350 acres of land in the heart of Temecula Valley Wine Country

The Temecula Creek Inn is a charming, romantic getaway resort tucked away in a beautiful forest setting against the backdrop of the Majestic San Jacinto Mountains in **Temecula Valley**. Founded in 1969, The Temecula Creek Inn (TCI) is a full-service destination resort, which recently received a multi-million dollar guest-room renovation. The resort boasts the comfort of a California lifestyle with **130 guest-rooms**, (each with its own private balcony or patio), **ten junior suites** and Creekside, a **private 3-bedroom guest house** situated right on the golf course. The Temecula Creek Inn has a rustic, relaxed and casual feel, providing genuine hospitality from a well-trained, friendly and attentive staff.



One of The Temecula Inn's beautiful Guest Suites

Once you check in, you are welcomed into a handsome **ranch-style guest room** richly decorated with Native American influence and custom furniture including a leather easy chair. The floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors lead you out to your own **private patio**, which overlooks the scenic golf course and surrounding mountains. The spacious guest rooms are well appointed with **42 inch Plasma Screens** with cable access, i-pod-ready stereo systems, two dual telephone lines with in-room voice capabilities, **wireless high speed internet** data access, refrigerators and even wall safes. In the evening, you will be lured to sleep on a pillow top mattress dressed with **plush bedding** and topped with a sumptuous Jacquard duvet and sham and colorful accent throw pillows.



A gourmet breakfast at The Temet Grill

Now that you're well rested, it's time for breakfast in either the 40 seat Temet Lounge, or the **120 seat Temet Grill**. I had the Eggs Benedict topped with Rock Shrimp and served with Red Bliss potatoes. After breakfast you'll want to get started with one of the many activities The Temecula Creek Inn has to offer. In addition to award-winning fine dining, the Resort has **27 holes of championship golf**, two private **tennis courts** and an outdoor **heated swimming pool** and **hydro-spa**. Most recently, TCI has added a new fitness Center with cardio and resistance equipment, including free weights. And if you really want to pamper yourself,

in-room massages and facials are also available. For the more adventurous, there are walking and hiking trails that wrap around the sprawling **350 acres of rolling hills**, providing the perfect inspiration for early morning jogging and late afternoon strolls.



A view of the golf course from one of the 130 Guest Rooms

Ready for "Tee Time"? **The 27-hole golf course** has received a coveted **Four-Star Rating** from Golf Digest Magazine for "Places To Play". There are three beautifully groomed championship nine hole courses, **The Stonehouse course, The Creek course and The Oaks course**, each with its own distinctive look and feel. Need a lesson? The Temecula Creek Inn offers a wide range of golf instruction from their selection of seasoned professionals. And the golf doesn't stop when the sun goes down. **Friday Night Lights** is a new addition to the resort roster, where teams or individuals can play **Glowball** with fluorescent golf balls in the dark. The fairways and greens are lit with glow sticks to guide you from the tee to the hole. Be sure and check out all the golf specials and resort packages that TCI has to offer. The Temecula Creek Inn golf course is part of the **JC Golf Collection**.



An elegant private Dinner Party at The Temet Grill

Hungry? **The Temet Grill** showcases the culinary talent of Executive Chef, Salvatore Giuliano, who first discovered the culinary arts at the early age of 14. Salvatore worked in the family owned restaurant business where he trained and learned authentic recipes handed down from generation to generation. Executive Chef Giuliano has created a wonderful menu consisting of **California wine country cuisine** prepared to perfection and served in a relaxed atmosphere. The Temet Grill, (the main restaurant), is designed with an Indian motif complete with natural wood architecture and accents throughout. **The large dining room** showcases huge floor to ceiling picture windows that overlook the golf course and picturesque beauty of the **San Jacinto Mountains**. The Temet Grill serves breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Executive Chef Salvatore Giuliani

Executive Chef, Salvatore Giuliano visits many of the local wineries and strives to compliment local Temecula wines in his recipes. From his tastings, he creates **original dishes** to pair with the signature wines for the winter menus. Not only is Chef Giuliano's food exquisite, he is extremely **cordial, down-to-earth and modest**. When he came to our table to share with us some personal history, he compared the operation of his kitchen to a symphony saying, "I'm only the conductor, my chefs are the violinists!" Bravo. For tonight's amazing culinary concert, Executive Chef Salvatore Giuliano deserved a standing ovation.



The Temet Grill overlooks Temecula Creek Inns 27-hole golf course

Prior to our exceptional dining experience, we had a meet and greet with TCI's director of golf, **Curtis J. Rowe**, who joined us on the course-side patio for some champagne and appetizers. We started out by being treated to a flute of sweet and refreshing almond champagne courtesy of **Wilson Creek Winery**. Then came some zesty coconut shrimp and delicious grilled chicken skewers with a mild but flavorful peanut dipping sauce. We then moved on to a fabulous gourmet dinner prepared by Chef Giuliano which included a wine pairing for each course with a Syrah from **Leonesse Winery** and a **Primotivo from the Wiens Family Cellars** to name a few. Following a five-star dining experience, Curtis took us back to the golf course for a taste of nighttime Glowball golf. Everyone had a ball, and after the wine tasting, some of us actually even managed to hit a few.



The 180-year-old Stonehouse is surrounded by lush manicured grounds and floral gardens

For the final evening at the resort, we dined at "**Stonehouse**", an 870 square foot cabin dating back to the late 1800's. This **Historic building** was originally the bunkhouse and rest area for the men who worked in the nearby slate quarry. The **130-year-old structure** has lost none of its charm, adorned with decorative lighting and surrounded by manicured grounds and floral gardens. Presently, the "Stonehouse" **hosts special events** both indoors and out on its spacial Lawn, which borders a very private portion of the golf course and neighboring forest. The "Stonehouse" property also includes a separate **wedding garden** and is available for company picnics, birthday and anniversary parties or in our case, a private, intimate dinner party for twelve.



The Stonehouse lawn is set for a romantic evening Wedding

The special wine host for the evening was **Robert Renzoni**, who served us a delicious assortment from his Winery (of the same name) founded by his grandfather. Robert is carrying on the family tradition and bringing **authentic Italian wine-making** to Southern California. For dinner, we were treated to another culinary delight by **Executive Chef Salvatore Giuliano** paired with a different glass of Robert Renzoni wine with each course. We began with a set menu of seared diver scallops with 40 day black garlic (served with Pinot Grigio), a muscat

glazed confit of pheasant cannelloni (served with "Barile" Chardonnay), a mouth-watering entree of Filet Mignon Medallions (served with Cabernet Sauvignon) and for dessert, we had a chocolate fondant with caramel vanilla ice cream (served with a Port from the Leonesse Winery).



Robert Renzoni, me and The Temecula Inn general manager Jason Curl

Jason Curl TCI's **general manager** was also on hand to give us a tour and see that we had a great time. Jason and Roberto (long time friends) kept everyone in "great spirits" as they shared stories of the rich history of not only **The Temecula Inn**, but Roberts family history as well. This was the perfect end to an incredible weekend of fine dining, golf and wine tasting in **Temecula Valley**. I must say, after being spoiled like this for three days, I didn't want to go back to the hustle and bustle of LA. Oh well, every vacation unfortunately has to come to an end.



The Family Room inside the private 3 Bedroom Creekhous which sits right on the golf course

In addition to Stonehouse, there is the **Creekside Guest House**, a private **3-bedroom** Guest House that can sleep up to six people. Amenities include a full kitchen with stainless steel appliances, a **Game Room** with

billiards, air hockey, darts and plasma-screen television; a back patio and grounds for catered barbecues and receptions and even boasts its very own **private putting green**. The Creekside Guest House is ideal for an entire family to stay together under one roof and even prepare homecooked meals together.



One of the Temecula Inns Meeting Rooms

The Temecula Valley Inn also has **separate Banquet facilities** including an incredible **4,000 square foot Yula Ballroom**, with an adjacent outdoor pre-function space. The town of **Temecula** derives its name from the "Temeeekuyam" Indian tribe. The word Temecula means "**The Sun that shines through the mist**". Both the Yuta and Uva ballrooms are derived from Indian names as well. When TCI created these banquet spaces they wanted to keep with the natural feeling and spirit of the land and its **rich heritage**. The natural feel of the entire resort is based upon these principles.



The Creekside patio is set for an elegant outdoor Luncheon

With all the activities available at **The Temecula Creek Inn**, you might not want to leave. However, if you want to venture beyond the resort, there are **Wine Tasting Tours**, Historical **Old Town Temecula**, **Hot Air Ballooning**, Lake Skinner and its surrounding Parks and **Ecological Reserve** and even **Pechanga Casino** which in addition to gaming, hosts live concerts and boxing events. **The Temecula Valley** offers a variety of activities year round, so you might want to plan several trips just to make sure that you've experienced it all. I know I will.



The gateway to Historic Old Town Temecula

For more information on **The Temecula Creek Inn** go to the website at <http://www.temeculacreekinn.com/>

Fore more information on **Temecula Valley** go to the Temecula Valley Visitors Bureau at <http://www.temeculacvb.com/>

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