

## “WHERE IN THE WORLD IS CORI BRETT?”

February 2011

### “COEUR d’ALENE RESORT”



Hole #14 at Coeur d’Alene Resort.

As we joined fellow golfers boarding *Double Eagle*, a soft mist hovered just above the water. Twenty minutes later, we rounded a densely wooded point, and Coeur d’Alene Golf Course came into full view. Bright green fairways, surrounded by forests of north Idaho pine trees, running along the water’s edge – gorgeous! And right in the middle of the lake was the famous Floating Island Green -hole number 14. It gives new meaning to the term “water hazard.”

Coeur d’Alene is in a class by itself, and the stunning setting isn’t even the best part. You can just tell that the highest priority is insuring an enjoyable golf experience for every player. It might sound trite, but how often can you really say that?

Great service started as soon as *Double Eagle* docked at the golf course. Forecaddies greeted us and led the way to the over-the-water Practice Area, where our preloaded carts awaited. I was reluctant to hit balls into the lake until I discovered they were floating golf balls. Loved the complimentary massage!



Hole #6 at Coeur d'Alene Resort.

The course is contoured in such a way that you don't really see other golfers, and errant shots are more likely to roll onto the fairway than off into the rough. It plays 6,800 yards with five tee boxes. I typically found myself with a good lie, just because the course was so well conditioned. The elevated par 3's reveal panoramic views of Lake Coeur d'Alene, and it's visible from most of the course.

Colorful flower beds and plantings create a beautiful playing environment, and they intend to keep it that way. Don't even think of hitting it out of there. Any ball resting in, on or within one club length of a landscape bed or other feature may be lifted and dropped no nearer hole without penalty.

We finally arrived at the 14<sup>th</sup> hole. Its 15,000 square-foot putting surface seemed so far away. In fact, the actual distance is computer-controlled and varies daily, averaging 147 yards from the tan tee markers. I took the forecaddie's advice and clubbed up one. Still, my tee shot rolled through vibrant red geraniums and landed in the greenside bunker. At least it was dry. An electric powered shuttle called the "Putter" transports golfers to and from the island green. The boat captain gives each player a personalized "Certificate of Achievement."



Hole #14 at Coeur d'Alene Resort.

Red geraniums brighten up all corners of the resort, from hanging baskets along the hotel walkways and marina, to fairways and greens. The luxurious seven-story resort hotel overlooks the lake and features a two-level spa with 21 treatment rooms. I was impressed with the dining selections at Coeur d'Alene. The signature restaurant, Beverly's, featured Northwest seafood and Idaho's famous potatoes. We loved the Huckleberry Ribs at the rustic Beachouse, and the romance of arriving by boat at Cedars Floating Restaurant. And don't miss Hudson's Hamburgers, famous for 103 years – no fries, no frills, cash only.

I still have my Certificate from the Floating Green, and it's inspiring me to make a return visit to the beautiful Coeur d'Alene Resort. Check it out at [www.cdaresort.com](http://www.cdaresort.com).

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