

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

Holidays 2011

### **“SAN FRANCISCO: HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS”**



**Presidio Hole #12**

Windsurfers and sailboats gracefully speed across the waves. Huge container ships from faraway ports barely clear the Golden Gate Bridge heading for safe harbor. San Francisco’s Marina District was my home for thirty years. Now the Bay Area is a beloved vacation spot where friends and family gather.

Our family vacations always include golf. Golf is the family sport, and we love it in any form it takes. When we were kids, the family vacation home in Palm Springs was the go-to spot, with the added benefit of a membership at Indian Wells Country Club. Over the years, we’ve moved around a bit and new in-laws – golfers all – have added to the fun.

Presidio Golf Course in San Francisco challenges even the best player among us. This wonderful 116-year-old course, lush with Monterey pines and tall Eucalyptus trees, sits right in the middle of one of the world’s great cities. Views of city neighborhoods and landmarks emerge in historic splendor. But fairways can disappear when the fog comes in, leaving greens undiscovered and moisture dripping from tree limbs. Sounds are muffled. Outside boundaries melt into the mist, and Presidio becomes encased in its own little world.

Presidio plays only 6400 yards from the back tees and 5400 from the front – a pushover, right? Hardly. The up-and-down routing and sloping fairways defy straightforward play. Sometimes I find myself chasing my ball across fairways, if it connects with one of those lovely trees. Even a great shot seems to just hang there, as if the damp air were hesitant to release it. I like trying to beat the long par four's that always give my fairway woods a workout.



**Presidio Hole #14**

The par-three's are some of my favorite holes. From the 13<sup>th</sup> tee box, a big tree blocks the green on the right, while the fairway slopes severely left. Eucalyptus trees frame the green. Every time I think I have that shot figured out, I can hear the golf gods laughing. The beautiful downhill 15<sup>th</sup> hole opens up to city views, crowned by the famous Sutro Tower. Both the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> holes play into the clubhouse. Presidio is a memorable round - stunningly beautiful, historically interesting, and just plain fun to play.

Originally the course belonged to the military when the Sixth Army was based at the Presidio. After military bases like Presidio were closed, the government continued to own the land but placed it into the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, part of the U.S. Park Service. Presidio Golf Course opened for public play in 1995 and is managed by Arnold Palmer's golf course management group.

Presidio's enlightened management believes that being more women-friendly is a priority. Golf Course Superintendent Brian Netzt explains that new teeing grounds are part of ongoing course rehabilitation. In 2011 three new teeing grounds were built with distinctly different playing angles from the original tees further back. He says it reduced yardage by nearly 200 yards, to a total of 5400 yards from the forward tees, and "They look like they've been there since Day 1." More of these improvements are anticipated, with eventually a set of tees about 4800-4900 yards. Any changes have to honor the current layout and design philosophies of Presidio's era. [www.presidiogolf.com](http://www.presidiogolf.com)

With its new tee boxes and women-friendly attitude, Presidio Golf Course fits our guidelines for family fun, with the added enticement of San Francisco's excellent foodie scene. For us, that means neighborhood favorites which never disappoint when it comes to Italian food and fresh seafood.



**Presidio Hole #10**

For lunch, hands-down, it's Lucca, on Chestnut Street in the Marina, one of the few authentic Italian delicatessens still around. Dinner might find us at E'Angelo on Chestnut, a tiny restaurant with a blue awning that serves awesome homemade pasta. North Beach, San Francisco's Little Italy, is great for cozy restaurants and coffee houses along Columbus Avenue. We head to Scoma's, family-owned since 1965, for the freshest seafood and sourdough bread ever. Naturally it's located right on Fisherman's Wharf, at Pier 47.

In this family, we always give mulligans, and we never skip dessert--- especially if it's the famous Sacrapantina cake at Stella Pastry. A multilayered vanilla sponge cake with zabaglione cream filling and a little rum, finished off with whipped cream. It's everyone's favorite birthday cake.

"Golf, the Game and the Lifestyle" – never better experienced than in the City by the Bay.

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