

pinecrest

MAGAZINE

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IN THE SKY

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CAMPANIA AND MOYÉ

THE PERFECT EGG

IN THE KITCHEN WITH
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*Deering
Bay* THE BEST
KEPT SECRET

Deering Bay

BY BRUCE RUBIN

There are many natural scenes at Deering Bay from the lush golf course (above) to the wildlife (right) that calls it home



It's no secret that Deering Bay is the best-kept secret near Pinecrest. Even so, the private golf, yacht and country club community on Old Cutler Road at SW 136th Street has become the recent darling of many of the village's residents.

The club's golf membership is limited to 430, and members like it that way. With the rare exception, tee times aren't needed. And with a total club membership capped at only 600, it's "one of the most personal private clubs in the nation," says Deering Bay Club President Neil Leach.

There's seldom a need to reserve a court on the deluxe tennis center. Bartenders start preparing your drink as you

near the bar, and the chefs and servers know exactly how you like your food prepared.

"We're a bit conflicted," Leach admits. "We recognize that when a member moves away, there is an opening for a new family. But, our members like the privacy, exclusivity and most of all, personal service. Most people don't know that we are the only private country club with a championship golf course and a deep water marina between the Keys and Palm Beach County."

The recent surge in interest is the result of Deering Bay transformation from a staid golf club to a true family-friendly country club, with a special emphasis on families

and youngsters, says Leach.

Pinecrest residents Richard and Pomy Lewis are reflective of the families that are joining Deering Bay. Richard, a sporting goods importer and Pomy, a designer and manufacturer of eyewear, actively use the golf and tennis facilities. Both of their sons – Baillieu, now almost 18, and Jordi, 10, also frequently play golf and tennis.

"When Baillieu was younger, he loved hanging around the club," says

Pomy. "Jordi goes to camp at Deering Bay Yacht & Country Club every year and loves it."

Pomy adds that many of his friends in the Pinecrest area seem to be enjoying the benefits of having a lovely club like Deering Bay's in their backyard.

Leach says the transformation has been keenly felt among the young families in Pinecrest, which is where the majority of Deering Bay's new

members with children lived before moving to the community. The average age of new members in the last five years is 47.

"This reflects the popularity of a private club where both adults and children can partake of a variety of activities in a safe, controlled entry environment," he notes.

Drs. Douglas and Lisa Reale, both physicians at Baptist Hospital, say that Deering Bay Yacht & Country



An aerial view of the lush greens of the golf course (above)
The country club has offerings for even the sweetest tooth with a display of desserts (left)

Club affords their family an “escape to a friendly, familiar environment where we can relax and spend time with friends.”

Dr. Lisa Reale says her daughter, 8-year-old Isabella, is a frequent participant in the many children’s programs at DBYCC. She says Isabella particularly enjoys the annual Fall Festival, along with children’s movie nights, Saturday morning activities, and the club’s highly regarded summer camp program. Harrison, their 17-year-old son, enjoys playing golf and basketball with his friends and working out at the Club’s gym.

“It’s reassuring for us to know that they’re in a safe environment and the staff knows them,” says Dr. Lisa Reale, who adds that she and her husband have met some of their closest friends through DBYCC.



Summers at the club offer many activities for the kids including vegetable gardening (left), pool adventures (below) and face painting (bottom right)

For Jonathan and Susan Solesbury, South Africans who arrived in Miami in 2012, the club has become a focus of their family life. They reside in the Estate Homes on the grounds of the club.

“When we arrived at Deering Bay, our son Joshua (15) had just re-awakened his interest in golf. The professionals at the club took Joshua to a new level in his game. He has also played on the Interclub team, which is growing each year, as more and more younger members start to join. This has also branched out into many games of basketball, as well as soccer in the area beside the swimming pool,” says Jonathan, who is the CFO for Latin America of a large multi-national beverage company.

“Our daughter, Talia, who is almost five years old, is an avid member in her own right. The club has put together a full and fun program on Saturdays for children, tweens and teens, which has become the highlight of many small souls. The children assist the chefs with an annual garden planting and harvesting; they are invited to outdoor screenings of age-appropriate movies; they enjoy mornings of activities including art workshops, sports events, life size crazy bird obstacles and mornings with a mobile zoo, and more recently, Otter John visiting and teaching the children about wildlife in Florida,” says Susan.

Susan adds that “annual family highlights include the Easter Egg Hunt, the Santa Brunch, Thanksgiving, and of course, the Halloween party, which is a favorite for members.”

“It is so wonderful having our family under one umbrella in the club,” she says. “We can rest assured they are safe and happy and a stone’s throw away from home.” ■

