

The Road

By Margaret Swaine (2014-07-12)

Mercer County in western Pennsylvania draws scores of Canadian golfers in search of good links at cheap fees. Ranked one of America's top golf destinations by Golf Digest Magazine, it has multiple courses within a halfhour's drive of each other. Unbelievably low weekday rates (including cart) abound, such as \$29 at Pine Grove or \$35 at the challenging and verdant Tam O'Shanter. Spring Valley Golf Club's \$99 stay-and-play packages include barbecue steak dinners cooked by the owners, the Mills family, on the patio of their 1870s farmhouse, which has been restored into guest lodging. For more upscale accommodation, stay at the 1890s Buhl Mansion in Sharon and wake up to a Steel Baron's Bloody Mary and full breakfast delivered to the room. The mansion, which resembles a small castle, has 10 large lavishly appointed rooms — mine was called Steel Magnate in honour of the area's former role as a steel manufacturing centre. The Buhl's sister mansion, Tara in Clark, was built in 1854 and takes its inspiration from *Gone with the Wind* — my room there was Fiddle Dee Dee. At Tara you can eat seven-course fancy in Ashley's Gourmet Dining Room or go casual with southern-style dishes such as Cajun shrimp and pecan-crusted salmon in Stonewall's Tavern. Golfers who want to reload for the next round at bargain prices head to Quaker Steak & Lube for the "Best Wings USA." This motor-sport-themed restaurant was started as a cook-your-own-steak place 40 years ago by two locals, George Warren and Gary Meszaros. A couple of years later, after visiting Anchor Bar in Buffalo and loving their wings, they began featuring Buffalostyle chicken wings. Today The Lube features over 20 award winning sauces and has won hundreds of best wings awards since their first in 1988 at the National Chicken Out in Cleveland. QS & L has since spread its wings with full service restaurants across America. quakersteakandlube.com VisitMercerCountyPA.com

For more information about events in Mercer County, log onto www.VisitMercerCountyPa.com or call 1-800-637-2370.