

RESORT HISTORY

The land where Nemacolin Woodlands Resort now sits has a long history dating back to **1740**, when a rugged trail was carved through the Laurel Highlands between what is now Cumberland, Maryland, and Brownsville, Pennsylvania. Expanded by Colonel George Washington and General Edward Braddock during the French and Indian War, the trail eventually became known as the National Highway by Congress in the **mid-1800s**. Today that road is called Route 40, the major mountain artery where Nemacolin Woodlands Resort now sits.

In the early **1900s**, the Laurel Highlands became a popular and fashionable retreat for wealthy Pittsburgh industrialists and merchants. In the **1930s**, vacation retreats such as the Kaufman family's Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Fallingwater® were built, and lots were established and offered for sale as summer homes and hunting retreats. In the late **1940s**, Pittsburgh industrialist Willard F. Rockwell (of Rockwell International) purchased 60 acres in the Laurel Highlands. Over the next several years, he added more land, established a summer home, and created a hunting and fishing area for his family.

By **1968**, the estate had grown into Nemacolin Trail Hunting Game Reserves, a private game land where the Rockwells invited friends, acquaintances and business associates to hunt and fish the land populated by silver fox, quail, white-tailed deer and other wild game. Meanwhile, the development of a new hunting lodge was in the works, designed by W.K. Rockwell, Jr. and his friend and former college roommate, C.W. Balling of nearby Fairchance, Pennsylvania.

In September **1970**, Nemacolin Inn officially opened to the public. The four-story, Tudor-style inn had 12 large suites and could accommodate up to 30 guests, complete with a comfortable lobby and large dining room. In **1972**, construction began on an 18-hole golf course and plans for a swimming pool and tennis courts developed. By **1987**, the land had transformed from a private summer home to a posh resort with the updated 26-room Nemacolin Inn, two restaurants (named The Golden Trout and Partridges), an 18-hole course and pro shop, two tennis courts, two swimming pools, and a private airstrip. The Inn, all its amenities and surrounding property would be sold at auction that June.

Joseph A. Hardy, III, founder of 84 Lumber Company, purchased 550 acres of the Nemacolin property at that auction, which he attended in the hopes of purchasing a few acres of woodlands near a lake or stream for his daughter, Maggie, who loved to fish. As Hardy recounts, "I left the auction without that piece of property for fishing because I bought the main parcel and was out of money." Hardy and his daughter promptly set about transforming the property into its present state, a 2,000-acre world-class resort and recipient of several prestigious awards including the Forbes Five-Star, AAA Five-Diamond dining at Lautrec restaurant and lodging at Falling Rock hotel.

Nemacolin Woodlands Resort Timeline:

- **1987 (first year of Hardy ownership)** – The Nemacolin Inn was expanded into the original Lodge and work on an elegant 68-room annex began.
- **1988** – The Woodlands Golf Academy was established, featuring 22,000 square feet of practice greens and a driving range. The Woodlands Spa opened as well. Soon afterward, Lake P.J. and the Panorama Pavilion were constructed.
- **1989** – The Lodge Annex development was followed by construction of the Links Townhomes. The Golden Trout restaurant was relocated and reopened where Rockwell's is today. Scenic hikes, jogging trails, guided horseback riding, boating and croquet were added.
- **1990** – Nemacolin Woodlands Resort and the Hardy family celebrated the first Royal Reception charity fundraiser. The CaddyShack restaurant opened in June.
- **1992** – The Tavern, Equestrian Center and Fallingbrook Miniature Golf Course were added.
- **1995** – Mystic Rock golf course was added. Mystic Mountain ski area also opened. Paradise Pool was established and the Kidz Club area, P.J.'s Ice Cream and Pizza Parlor and Heritage Court Shoppes were added as an addition to the original Lodge.
- **1996** – Fatbird was adopted as the resort's official logo and mascot.
- **1997** – Nemacolin Woodlands Resort celebrated its 10th anniversary of Hardy ownership. The elegant Chateau Lafayette hotel, including 124 rooms, the Cigar Bar, Hardy & Hayes Jewelers, and a fine dining restaurant, Lautrec, opened. The Marquis Ballroom was added.
- **1999** – The Nemacolin Field Club opened, featuring a Shooting Academy with 140 acres housing 30 clay stations, and a 7,000-square-foot club lodge housing Orville's restaurant.
- **2000** – The Auto Toy Store opened, featuring several rare and collectible automobiles, part of the Hardy Family Art Collection.
- **2001** – The Pride and Joy Airplane Hangar opened, featuring vintage airworthy aircraft, part of the Hardy Family Art Collection.
- **2002** – Mr. Hardy's daughter, Maggie Hardy-Magerko, became the president and owner of Nemacolin Woodlands Resort. The Off-Road Driving Academy opened at the Adventure Center featuring "The Rock," a manmade off-road course meant to test the limits of the vehicle's driving capabilities.
- **2003** – In May, the Woodlands Golf Academy was renamed The Learning Center and reopened on The Links golf course. In September, the PGA Tour 84 Lumber Classic came to Mystic Rock golf course for the first time.
- **2004** – Falling Rock, the Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired boutique hotel, opened, housing Aqueous restaurant, Amber Bar and the Mystic Rock pro shop.

- **2005** – The Woodlands Spa expanded and added 12 treatment rooms, a squash court and relocated Fitness Center. Horizon Point conference center opened, adding to Falling Rock’s amenities.
- **2006** – Wildlife habitats were built, bringing a variety of exotic animals to the resort. Nemacolin’s Conference Center was improved with the addition of the Business Center. The Hardy Girls’ Gym, an 8,400-square-foot Olympic-caliber facility, was constructed.
- **2007** – The Equestrian Center became the new Wildlife Academy.
- **2009** – Nemacolin Woodlands Resort partnered with Nemacolin Wooflands, the area’s premier pet resort, which opened to provide lodging and spa services for pets.
- **2012** - In July, construction began on the new Sundial Lodge, featuring a restaurant and bar, outdoor terraces, retail shop, rental shop, bowling lanes, and arcade games. Construction began on the Lady Luck Casino Nemacolin, operated and managed by Isle of Capri Casinos Inc.
- **2013** – The Nemacolin Experience department was established in June, affording Nemacolin the ability to offer each guest a one-of-a-kind vacation experience, as well as the opportunity to purchase a Nemacolin Experience Membership. Lady Luck Casino Nemacolin opened its doors July 1.
- **2014** – Nemacolin embarked on a \$30 million-dollar, resort-wide renovation, one of the largest projects in the history of the resort. The project included full renovations for accommodations in the Chateau Lafayette, Lodge Annex and original Lodge along with renovations for meeting spaces that included the lecture hall and ballrooms.
- **2015** – Nemacolin’s \$30 million, resort-wide renovation project was completed. Earthwork began on a new nine-hole, Pete Dye-designed addition to golf. Nemacolin’s Wild Kingdom opened in April, featuring a renovated space and new animal programs.
- **2016** – The nine-hole addition to the resort’s golf offerings expanded construction to 18 new holes on a second Pete Dye-designed course. The redesign of a grand front entrance to the Chateau Lafayette and front driveway were unveiled in March.
- **2017** – Membership Headquarters opened, and the resort unveiled new membership opportunities. The resort renovated 52 two-bedroom townhomes, which included a bold interior redesign. The Midway opened, featuring carnival games, a food truck and spectacular views. Shepherd’s Rock golf course opened in July, becoming one of a handful of elite courses opening in 2017, the only Mid-Atlantic layout and sole Pete Dye design.
- **2018** – Nemacolin unveils a new culinary program that focuses on indigenous foods of the Allegheny Mountains and introduces new dining venues, including Rockwell’s and The Pantry. Four Topgolf Swing Suite bays added around property in July, the first in Pennsylvania.