

dining | guide

restaurant | profile

The Atkinson Resort & Country Club – Atkinson, NH

by Kim Saltmarsh



It's a tranquil summer afternoon. Small, starch-white golf carts glide down gentle green hills traced by winding paths. There's a slight summer haze against the distant mountain foothills. The setting is elegant at Atkinson Resort & Country Club in Atkinson, N.H., a mood that's matched with a friendly vibe all around.

"It's family-owned. Casual, yet you can feel like a member here," says Atkinson's Kristin Perry. "Inviting, relaxing and great customer service."

The country club opened in 1996, and back then it was known primarily for its golf course. Today it's home to three restaurants, wedding function rooms, an 18-hole,

par-72 championship golf course, a pro shop, a nine-hole, par-3 golf course that opened last year and Willowcreek Golf Academy. All of this on 400 acres lined with waterfalls and weeping willows.

"We serve the public seven days a week," Perry says. "Part of our mission is that we want to make our services available to everyone."

Still, membership is an option at Atkinson for those who want it. The country club offers a variety of membership packages, but the public can also partake in all the resort features, whether the visitors are from New Hampshire or Massachusetts or just visiting New England. "We're really trying to rebrand and reach out to a broader community. We're just minutes from Massachusetts and we border Salem," Perry says.

The club is also reaching a broad community through its American cuisine, with choices to satisfy any foodie. The resort's three restaurants each come with a unique feel: Visitors can enjoy a comfortable meal at Merrill's Tavern; Stagecoach Grille offers elegant dining in a casual atmosphere either inside or out on the terrace overlooking the golf course; and the Cartside Café is a terrific choice for a quick bite. "It's great for the whole family," Perry says. "There's something for everyone."

One of the most unique features of the resort, Perry adds, is its ability to transform itself for the changing seasons. After a summer full of golf and weddings, the colder weather means cross-country skiing on the grounds and virtual golf indoors. Guests can use the interactive training software that enables golfers to practice their swings in the middle of winter.

"It's important for us to stay current, add to our service, great food and stay on top of the hospitality world," Perry says, and at Atkinson Resort & Country Club, they're doing just that.



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