



Kiawah Island: the World's Top Tennis Resort

For the first 41 years, Founder and Director of Tennis Roy Barth built the tennis program at Kiawah Island Golf Resort from the ground up. According to *Tennis* magazine, “Barth is a master at analyzing weaknesses and then explaining the cure.” Throughout his tenure, Barth trained all resort instructors to emphasize the foundation points of each stroke regardless of what style the student has been taught. Barth retired as director in January of 2018 to focus on instruction and was named Director of Tennis Emeritus. His son Jonathan, who served as a tennis professional at the resort since 1993, succeeded his father as Director of Tennis.

A highly qualified teaching staff offers extensive tennis instruction through individual lessons or group sessions. Regardless of skill level, guests benefit from exceptional clinics and private lessons under the direction of Jonathan Barth, head professional David Boyd and the resort's teaching staff.

Programs designed for children as young as four introduce budding tennis players to the sport in a fun, low-pressure environment. Daily junior and adult clinics focus on strengthening fundamentals in order to solidify the game at any level. A variety of quality mini-camps, unique exhibitions and special events round out resort tennis offerings. Among the instructional programs offered for both adults and youth include regular and tournament-tough stroke-a-day clinics, round robins, and doubles, while the resort's matchmaking services, utilizing the NTRP self-rating system, are exceptional. The resort offers special fall and winter tennis weekends focused on drills, instruction and match-play, balanced by social events.

In spring of 2019, the resort launched the Barth-Hawtin Tennis Academy, an intensive program designed to refine the games of competitive junior players who aspire to Division 1 competition or the professional tour. The residential academy develops highly individualized lesson plans for each player that focuses on physical development as well as every aspect of the game, honing strengths and building competence in areas of weakness.

Also in 2019, Kiawah Island Golf Resort consolidated all tennis programs into the newly expanded Roy Barth Tennis Center, which features 22 courts, including ten new lighted Har-Tru Hydrocourts. All hard courts are also lined for pickleball, which has experienced a recent explosion in popularity, and the resort hired its first pickleball teaching professional in 2021.

As the leading authority on tennis destinations, Tennis Resorts Online has ranked Kiawah Island Golf Resort as the number-one tennis resort in the world (an award it has won twelve of the last 14 years). The traveling tennis public ranks resorts visited around the world based on first-hand experiences, evaluating these destinations against a number of set criteria, including quality of instruction, teaching staff and facilities, as well as other resort amenities such as lodging, cuisine, service and value.

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