



TRAVEL

Wild Dunes Resort

South Carolina destination has the best of both worlds




by Jan Ross, *Staff Writer*

It's no wonder I had never heard of Isle of Palms before our

visit. A tiny barrier island of only about 6 square miles, it is tucked neatly against the South Carolina coast, separated from the mainland by the Intracoastal Waterway. Technically considered part of the Charleston metropolitan area and only a short 30-minute drive away from it, this lovely little gem hosts about 4,000 inhabitants, shops, restaurants and an array of gorgeous homes for both full-time residents and vacationers who have kept this beautiful place a secret for years. But what makes this island destination the perfect place for a getaway is the expansive and wonderful Wild Dunes Resort.

Long considered Charleston's island resort, much as Tybee Island is considered Savannah's beach, Wild Dunes Resort is a great place to stay if you want to visit Charleston but also have access to a beautiful beach area – the best of both worlds! The perfect resort is one that offers an assortment of accommodations because there are so many different types of travelers and getaways, and this resort offers rooms and suites, condos and beach house rentals. You can stay poolside, beachside, courtside or courseside; just take your pick.

You can easily have a luxury hotel experience at The Village at Wild Dunes and the Boardwalk Inn, which also offer plenty of restaurants, shops, the spa and pools. And the beach is just a short stroll away. Hudson's Market is a small

grocery store where you can buy snacks, sandwiches, drinks, baked goods and fresh fruits and veggies, along with handy items such as laundry detergent. Delicious meals are available at The Sea Island Grill and Lounge in the Inn, a casual yet upscale restaurant. The Sand Bar restaurant, located in the Links Clubhouse, offers traditional Southern favorites such as shrimp and grits, and the Grand Pavilion Café and Bar is a great place to get a quick sandwich or snack to eat by the beachside pool. It's very easy to get to the beach and take a stroll because there is a wooden boardwalk out to the sand.

The beach at Isle of Palms is absolutely gorgeous – smooth and flat for bike riding but with plenty of tidal pools at low tide for kids and space for adults to lounge in beach

chairs. The fitness center offers a variety of classes including yoga, fitness training, sports training and golf and tennis instruction. Another way to stay active is to rent bikes at the tennis center for an hour, a day or even a week. The resort is perfect for bike riding with plenty of shaded lanes. Golf is also very popular at the resort. The golf courses, designed by Tom Fazio, appeal to golfers of all skill levels.

A beautiful beach, great accommodations, wonderful food, relaxing spa experiences and proximity to Charleston for some historic tours or shopping adventures – the Wild Dunes Resort at Isle of Palms is the perfect getaway location.