

Longfield Stables *at Montage Palmetto Bluff*

• BLUFFTON, S.C. CAROLINA •

Ok, here it is, as was promised in the last issue...the Horse & Style “Barn Envy” that will showcase Montage Palmetto Bluff’s incredible equestrian facility: Longfield Stables. As was detailed in the Sept/Oct issue, the amenities of Palmetto Bluff’s 20,000 acre South Carolina resort community are extensive. The property is home to an expansive nature preserve, miles of walking trails, a vibrant village, the luxurious Montage Palmetto Bluff resort, a marina, numerous restaurants, a full spa and a golf course. But, with all that Longfield Stables has to offer its clients – whether they be human or horse – the equestrian facility easily earns its place in that impressive list.

BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS

Longfield Stables was built in 2008, to provide Palmetto Bluff’s members and guests with a country club style equestrian experience. The facility was designed to reflect the influence of a Thoroughbred breeding farm by using black, four-rail fencing, patterning the paddock layout in a grid, and by including a receiving barn. Uniquely southern touches on the barn (seen in the style of the gables, cupolas and lights, to give a few examples), add architectural interest and allow the barn to be as historically representative of the locale as it is stunning. In fact, the barn is so well attuned to its time and place that the Savannah College of Art and Design comes each year to tour and study the stable’s design elements.

This spring, Michelle Grimes was hired as the Equestrian Center Manager at Longfield Stables, and she expertly manages the facilities’ day-in and day-out activities. She was more than happy to share the elements of Longfield that make it exceptional for its members, as well as the exciting plans that will benefit Montage Palmetto Bluff guests and the surrounding community.

IT’S GOOD TO BE A MEMBER

In order to be a boarder at Longfield Stables, horse owners must be a property owner in Palmetto Bluff. Despite the exclusivity, the 24 stall main barn usually operates with a waiting list. However, after hearing a little bit about the amenities and services, it is easy to see why.

Each horse has a dedicated 14’x13’ box stall that is thoroughly cleaned three times a day, amply bedded with locally sourced shavings, and complete with still water buckets that are hand scrubbed daily. The stalls have floor mats for safety, and a ceiling fan and a corner fan to help during the warm weather seasons. The horses are fed beautiful, green Colorado Timothy hay four times per day, given grain or pellets three times per day, and have access to daily or nightly turnout on grass pasture. The day in the life of a Longfield Stable horse is a sweet – and well fed! – day indeed.

AN ARENA FOR EVERYONE (ALMOST)

Clearly, Longfield horse owners can rest assured that their horses are well accommodated, freeing them to focus on the fun part: the riding! Longfield is a multi-

discipline facility, and they have H/J, dressage, western and gaited horses. Because there are so many different disciplines, there is no resident trainer at Longfield. Instead, members are welcome to bring in their own trainers whenever they need a lesson or training ride.

Luckily, Longfield Stables can easily accommodate the multitude of disciplines (and thus different footing requests), because there are many riding location options. The main indoor arena is 250'x130', with excellent footing consisting of carpet fiber, rubber and sand. It has a complete PA and CB audio system for riding with tunes, and ten Big Ass fans that help keep horses and riders cool during summer. In addition to the indoor arena, Longfield has an outdoor arena with a dedicated FEI-regulation-size dressage court, and a two-acre, fenced turf field with jumps. If owners need an arena-free day, they can use the cross-country course or explore the 12+ miles of trails in the surrounding area. Riders and horses are never bored at Longfield Stables!

**HAPPY HORSE =
WORRY-FREE OWNER**

Boarding a horse at Longfield is the closest to worry-free horse ownership that an owner can get. The staff to horse ratio is an incredible 1:3, meaning there is always a knowledgeable employee around, looking after the horses and ensuring they are safe, fed and happy. Longfield offers an extensive list of services, so that even if an owner is out of town, their horse can be groomed, ridden, and receive medical care. The Longfield team is dedicated to the horses, whether the owner is in town or not.

**BE OUR GUEST,
BE OUR GUEST!**

Grimes is very pleased with the level of care her team is able to offer its members. But she is also excited about the chance to share Longfield Stables with the guests

of Montage Palmetto Bluff. Resort guests can enjoy Longfield in several ways: by bringing a horse in for short term boarding (vacation with your horse, anyone?), by taking a trail ride on one of the Club's horses, or by participating in fun pony activities with Winter the Wonder Pony. All of these activities take place separate from the member's barn, in Longfield's lower, 12 stall barn, which maintains the privacy of the members' horses up above.

COMMUNITY LOVE

Grimes is also excited to expand Longfield's public events program, which she says will bring all the important elements together: the members, the resort guests, and the public. Planning for 2018 is well underway, and a variety of hunts, events and exhibitions are all in the works. A few of the event ideas include a drag hunt, where people are invited to watch the horses and hounds jump and chase. To attract kids and families, the stable is working with a local 4-H club to potentially host a spring schooling show or clinic. In September, the grounds will host the Lowcountry Hunt, which is a hunter pace. For members and guests, Longfield hosts a Horsin' Around Day the day after Thanksgiving, complete with hayrides, petting zoo and an equestrian demonstration. There is something fun for everyone at Longfield, and that is just how Grimes wants it to operate.

A LITTLE GEM

Grimes explains why it is so important to her that Longfield Stables hosts these events: "Longfield Stables is such a little gem; I want people to come use it, and bring even more good energy to it. I want others to love Longfield as much as I do." With all the stable has to offer – regardless if you are a boarder, resort guest, or a part of the local community – there is no doubt Grimes will get her wish. **HS**

Photos courtesy of Montage Palmetto Bluff

