

## Pebble Beach Top 10

Pebble Beach, while widely recognized for its golf and resorts, has other subtle elements in its makeup, perhaps unknown except to those who spend time there apart from the world-class visitor-serving facilities. A residential community of nearly 3,000 properties and a great deal of forested open space can sometimes go almost unnoticed. It's not an incorporated city or town – there is no city council or mayor – it's more properly known as Del Monte Forest, a fragment of Monterey County bounded by Pacific Grove, Monterey, Carmel-by-the-Sea, and the Pacific Ocean. Technically, the name "Pebble Beach" is a trademark of Pebble Beach Company and reserved, commercially, for its holdings. Despite the lack of a city name however, one would be very wrong to say there is no "there," there.

The County's District 5 Supervisor, Dave Potter, is the general government representative for those who live in Del Monte Forest. But more locally, the Del Monte Forest Property Owners (DMFPO), a voluntary association since 1951 of most of the property owners in the Forest, represents their civic interests with both public and private agencies that affect life in the Forest. The current President of DMFPO is Rick Verbanec, a property owner in the Forest for 12 years and a member of the Del Monte Forest Architectural Review Board and the Pebble Beach Community Services District Board. He and other past Presidents of DMFPO with residency going back over 30 years have gathered a list of impressions of life in Pebble Beach reflecting the variety and richness of their experience. The 10 things Rick loves best about Pebble Beach are:



10. Pebble Beach Company's care and preservation of the 5000+ acres of Del Monte Forest during its near century of ownership – including recent things like maintaining roads & trails, Forest health and conservation, invasive plant control, a push for water recycling – things that would take a back seat if left to government funding priorities.

9. A sense of community pride felt during televised events that show the Monterey Peninsula as a beautiful and desirable place to visit or live – particularly in the winter months when others throughout the country regard their view of our area as a window into another world. Many Pebble Beach residents once shared that outside view.



8. The almost tangible feeling of relaxation that comes over one when approaching from the Bay Area or central valley. Maybe it's the coastal climate ... maybe it's crossing the San Andreas Fault ... or maybe it's just the knowledge we are, once again, where we want to be.

7. The local vision of balance among residential areas, natural areas, and resort facilities – a vision not always mirrored in the well meaning but frustrating bureaucratic attempts to control the Forest from outside.



6. Excitement at the sound of an Italian V-12 purring through the Forest during Concours week. There's nothing quite as satisfying to auto buffs as the elegant displays of auto finery in and around Pebble Beach or the sheer exhilaration of nearby Laguna Seca's "historic" races for that brief period.



5. The serenity of a simple horseback ride or walk along the coastal dunes between ocean and forest – the view gives a panorama of magnificent proportions. Few places on earth can match the natural beauty of this rocky coastline with Monterey Pines providing the signature look of the Monterey Peninsula in the background. How satisfying it is to have this as our neighborhood.



4. Time for reflection while listening to the haunting sounds of a bagpiper at sunset at Spanish Bay or the comforting regularity and discipline of the bugle calls rolling through the Forest from the Presidio in the quiet mornings and evenings.



3. The enjoyment of exploring miles of ever-changing forest trails with a loyal canine companion. Never sure which one is giving the other a walk, both get a good workout on the hills. Thankfully, the shorter one takes time to "read the mail" along the way.



2. Deepening friendships with acquaintances and neighbors at ample social gatherings – like casual conversations at the post office, the annual open house at the fire department, picnics at Indian Village, neighborhood dinners at local restaurants, private parties, or even large event gatherings – which provide a sense of constant involvement and belonging.

1. Satisfaction with summer chill when valley temperatures soar over 100 degrees. Fog blankets the Forest so heavy sometimes it drips from the towering trees like rain. Summer comfort without air-conditioning ... ahhhh.

