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A Way Of Life In

A scenic landscape photograph of a valley in Western Montana. In the foreground, there are large, dark, moss-covered rocks and patches of green grass. The middle ground shows a wide, green valley with scattered trees and small settlements. In the background, a range of mountains with snow-capped peaks is visible under a sky with soft, colorful clouds. The text "The FARM CLUB" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font, with "The" on the first line and "FARM CLUB" on the second line.

The FARM CLUB

Western Montana

*“What attracts people here is wide-open
golf and trout-rich rivers.”*

- BILLY MANZENE, Director of Membership at the Stock Farm Club.





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WORLD-CLASS

Just south of center along the western edge of Montana lies one of the most scenic and beautiful valleys in the country. Ranches are scattered throughout the landscape amidst acres of lush hayfields nursed by the Bitterroot River as its trout-rich waters meanders the length of the valley. Surrounded by the theatrical backdrops of the Bitterroot Mountains and Sapphire Range are quaint communities unique and rich in history. In this stunning Bitterroot Valley, 3,638 feet above sea level, lies the 120-year-old Stock Farm. But it's more than just a farm. So much more.

With 660 acres of lavish mountain and ranch residences, 300 acres of championship golf course, and over 1500 acres of common ranch and mountain elk-habitat, the Stock Farm is a veritable temple built to the joys and wonders of alpine recreational lifestyle. For those that are fortunate enough to be members, the Stock Farm is an oasis of sorts, amongst the arid, western Montana landscape.

"What attracts people here is wide-open, ranch living with world-class golf and trout-rich rivers," says Billy Manzene, Director of Membership at the Stock Farm Club. "What keeps them coming back is the golf and fly-fishing as well as the diverse, family-friendly amenities like horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking, sporting clays, and kids' camps all with the touch of a top-notch club."

Fast forward to 1996, when Charles Schwab (yes, that Charles Schwab!) and some partners bought the ranch, hired the best landscape planners in the world and golf course architect Tom Fazio to design a world-class golf course to complement the big sky views and fly-fishing.





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he farm itself dates back to 1888, when Marcus Daly, an Irish immigrant and the founder of the town of Hamilton, established the Bitterroot Stock Farm as not only a retreat for himself and his family but also as a facility to raise thoroughbred horses (his horses would go on to dominate East Coast and European races, five of them winning The Kentucky Derby). Daly was one of the original Copper Kings of Montana and also one of the most influential businessmen in American history.

Fast forward to 1996, when Charles Schwab (yes, that Charles Schwab!) and some partners bought the ranch, hired the best landscape planners in the world and golf course architect Tom Fazio to design a world-class golf course to complement the big sky views and fly-fishing that they already loved about Western Montana.

Since opening its doors over 16 years ago, the Stock Farm Club, which sits one hour south of the college town of Missoula, Montana, has been associated with world-class golf. And for good reason. Their Fazio par 72 championship golf course has been ranked #1 in Montana by Golf Digest and has even been referred to as the “Augusta of the West” by Fazio himself. The mild Bitterroot climate means golf seasons typically extend from early March through late November, giving those interested in honing their game the chance for extended play. “The golf course is spread out over 300 acres,” explains John Reyhons, General Manager at the Stock Farm. “And even though set in the mountains of Western Montana is really more of a high-desert course, with the mountains as an awe-inspiring backdrop.”



Fazio's par 72 championship golf course has been ranked #1 in Montana by *Golf Digest* and has even been referred to as the **"Augusta of the West"** by Fazio himself.

The course truly is the centerpiece of the Stock Farm experience and is a source of seemingly unending pride for the staff and members alike. The fairways swell and roll before the dramatic backdrop of the Bitterroot Mountain range and the stunning landscape is accentuated by ponderosa pines and a blanket of sagebrush. Due to the limited membership, the 7,000-yard course only experiences 5,000 - 6,000 rounds a year which, combined with an excellent superintendent and crew, maintains the course in immaculate shape. "Given the layout of the course and the exclusivity of the club, tee times are not needed and it's common to not see another golfer when on the course," Reyhons adds. "It's an extremely peaceful setting and golf experience."



Photo © Roger Wade



Photo © Audrey Hall



Photo © Roger Wade



Prospertere Profile

LOCATI Architects

LOCATI ARCHITECTS

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erry Locati formed Locati Architects in 1989 in Bozeman, Montana. From inception, the firm has experienced rapid growth in staff and clientele. Additional partners Steve Locati, Kyle Tage and Greg Dennee, along with a staff of more than 30 architects, design and technology professionals, construction administrators, support staff, and interior designers allows the firm to deliver tremendous collaborative effort to each project. Our work is recognized throughout the Rocky Mountain West and spreads across the United States and into several Canadian provinces.

For the Locati team, architectural and interior design work have always been based on relationships and making connections. A relationship with the client helps them understand lifestyle, dreams, and hopes for a property in order to encompass everything they

love about a space into a home. A relationship with the land helps them understand how to position a project, allowing the house to balance perfectly with the landscape. And a relationship with other teams – builders, vendors, and landscapers – helps them incorporate every aspect of the overall project to completion. The Stock Farm is home to a handful of Locati projects, each reflecting the unique characteristic of the specific site and personal vision and dreams of the owner.

These relationships have allowed Locati Architects to design spaces that create an overall lasting experience. For the architects, it's about creating a feeling. Throughout every phase of a project, from the initial architectural rendering to the final touches of the interior design, the Locati team gives thought to every detail, to the overall process, and to how people are going to experience that space throughout time.

BOZEMAN ■ MONTANA

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Specializing in Montana Bistro style cuisine,



The dining at the Stock Farm is also particularly noteworthy. Specializing in Montana Bistro style cuisine, Chef Toby McCracken has created a culinary experience that is second-to-none. Chef McCracken conjures up menus with creativity and variety that change with the season and include ingredients such as Montana elk, bison and wild boar as well as fresh trout, herbs from the Stock Farm's own herb garden and produce sourced from local organic farms. "We've been fortunate to have Chef McCracken on board for the last 17 years and he is truly one of the finest chefs in the country," Reyhons boasts. "He has a fabulous palette which is really highlighted by his scratch kitchen, where everything is made in house." And with over 250 bottles to choose from, the Stock Farm's wine list is diverse enough to pair with just about anything Chef McCracken whips up on whim.

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At the end of this summer, the Stock Farm is raising the bar even further by launching an ambitious, multifaceted renovation. Improvement work on the recreational facilities, including a pool expansion and a new lap pool, will be carried out through the winter months in time for a spring 2017 opening. "We're also going to build a jacuzzi which will be recessed into large boulders and will be looking out over the gorgeous Bitterroot mountains. We're building a new poolside grill that will feature fresh fish tacos and a wood-fired pizza oven. And then, we're rebuilding a new fitness center with lockers, steam rooms, massage rooms and state of the art equipment and personal trainers."

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hough real estate purchases are not required to become a member, it's hard to say no to some of the Stock Farm's magnificent home sites and elegant estates. "We have several different styles of homes and homesites here," describes Manzene. "We have a total of 125 homesites including Ranch and Prairie Homes, log-style Mountain Homes, and Cabins which are privately owned by members and also part of our rental program so members who don't have a residence here, and their guests, can still stay at the Club." Current availability includes homesites from \$500,000 and homes from \$1.3 million.

The Stock Farm Club really is more than just a farm. It is a community that understands the sense of renewal that being in Big Sky Country can bring. It's a legendary golf course that is played out amongst an epic diorama of ponderosas and sagebrush. It's a private club with world-class dining. It's a sporting facility with pheasant hunting, clay shooting, fly-fishing and equestrian rides. It's also a community, featuring stunning mountain homes and expansive prairie estates. But most of all, the Stock Farm is a way of life.

