

Club+Resort

BUSINESS

How Ansley GC

Doubles Down for Success

A Big Return to The Big Easy
(2019 Chef to Chef Conference Report)

Paths to Patio Perfection

DESIGN + RENOVATION

RED ROCKS COUNTRY CLUB

Morrison, Colo.

"Our existing patio sat dormant in the winter; we felt that the space could be put to better use if we could find a way to enclose and heat it. And we've received many thank-yous from members for giving them a space to sit away from the loudness of the bar area."

—Ron Rottman, General Manager



guests to avoid spilling out onto the golf course," Welles adds.

Such a carefully prepared layout has helped to boost Willow Oaks' overall revenue, including a 15 percent uptick in member dining. Welles believes that the facility is on track to have an even stronger season in 2019. "Last year, the mid-Atlantic saw historic records of rain," he says. "With an improved weather year, the club can anticipate even higher returns. We will keep our fingers crossed."

FOUR-SEASON FUNCTIONAL

At Red Rocks Country Club in Morrison, Colo., an existing covered patio proved its usefulness...but not year-round. "It sat dormant

in the winter, due to the snow and freezing temperatures we tend to experience during Colorado winters," explains General Manager Ron Rottmann. "We felt this space could be put to better use if we could find a way to enclose and heat it."

After adding infrared heaters and tile flooring, the patio reopened in November 2018 and already proved its worth, by taking on overflow from the club's bar and grille business, and affirming Red Rocks' reputation as a destination for local clientele.

While the patio's original 1,500-sq. ft. layout remained intact, a myriad of new additions enhanced the space dramatically. Concern over laying flooring during the fall's fluctuating temperatures prompted the installation of infrared heaters first. "In Colorado, it could be warm and sunny one day, but snowing and freezing the next," observes Rottmann. With the heaters in place, the porcelain ceramic tile flooring could remain warm and be properly cured.

Also improving the patio's style is the addition of folding doors, which allows the area's size to be adjusted as needed. "We could open up the doors so that on warmer days, we can return the patio to normal," Rottman says. "However, if the wind kicks up, if it starts to rain or if it gets cold outside, we can close off all of the patio, or individual sections, easily and within minutes."

Since the patio's update, Red Rocks has seen a 25 percent increase in winter dining, and the club can now accommodate 60 additional patrons. "The enclosure has helped us handle the overflow we were previously experiencing in our bar and grille on a nightly basis," notes Rottmann. "We are one of the only bar and grilles in the neighborhood, so we tend to get quite busy.

"We have received many thank-yous from members for giving them a space to sit away from the loudness of the bar area," Rottman adds. "They have also expressed gratitude that they no longer have to worry as much if they will be able to get a seat when they arrive on a busy Friday night." **C+RB**

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SUMMING IT UP

- > Expanding patio space provides greater opportunities for hosting larger events and catered affairs.
- > Additional seating can handle the overflow from indoor dining facilities.
- > Taking local weather patterns into consideration determines which phases of the project should be implemented first.