

with Racquet Sports Management (RSM), a consulting business that grew out of its parent company, Tennis Management Group Inc.

"About 95 percent of the teaching pros we recommend to Fit Bodies comes from the United States, and we get them through a contractual relationship with RSPA [formerly USPTA]," says Dave Robinson, a senior partner at RSM and the director of racquet sports at Little Falls Swimming Club in Bethesda, Md. Robinson says he is seeing a growing demand for pickleball pros in particular.

Unlike a hotel's staff pro, who is on the court for eight hours a day, tennis instructors recruited by Fit Bodies work only two hours a day.

"The rest of the time they can spend with their families by the pool, or whatever they choose," says Snowden.

For Henders, the best takeaway has been the people he has met.

"I once taught a class with players from India, Ireland, London, Australia and Kansas. And I am still friends with some of them on Facebook."

What's more, teaching vacations are good for the tennis business, too, in terms of boosting morale for Henders' 15 full-time tennis pros, who he has always encouraged to book these trips.

"To qualify, you must be certified by RSPA or PTR. That's a guarantee we make to our partner hotels," says Snowden. Once you become a member of Fit Bodies, you can access all the

locations willing to host teaching pros and pick the place and date that you want to go.

Yet another way to experience a tennis teaching vacation is through a PTR membership. As a value-added benefit to PTR members, professional instructors can teach tennis at two resorts in Jamaica: Couples Swept Away and Couples Negril.

Consider this cost-effective way to recharge—while spending time with loved ones in a wonderful place. ■

*Lynn Armitage is a freelance writer and avid tennis player in Madison, Wis.—although admittedly, she does not have the requisite skills to qualify for a tennis teaching vacation.*

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