

Apples & Oranges The Open

Comparing the US OPEN USTA Wheelchair Championships to other tournaments is very much like the proverbial apples & oranges comparison. Regarding the money required to participate in the Open, a friend of ours exclaimed "that's a lot of money!"

Our response to that friend was: Well yes, you are correct. As a lettered player you are asked to partner with the tournament organizers to subsidize your participation in the world's oldest, most revered, Super Series Wheelchair Tournament at a cost of \$400.00 US. For that monetary commitment, you receive 4 nights in one of the world's finest "houses," The Chase Park Plaza, a Five Star property. You are given a hotel credit card for your use, in your time, at your discretion, that offers up to \$50.00 per day. Our assumption is that you will eat Breakfast & Dinner in the hotel's luxury restaurants. But you could also get a hair cut or massage or see a movie or have a drink. Ramp van transport service from hotel to courts and back as often as your tournament day requires, coupled with no fee airport transport twenty four hours a day, makes the airlines or your personal transportation your only out of pocket transportation costs.

Taken in total, the tournament hospitality provisions coupled with the hotel & its amenities make for one heck of a vacation! For \$100 per day it becomes a total steal. Now add to that mini vacation package participation in the 2009 US OPEN USTA Wheelchair Championships, a Super Series event, and one has an incredible combination that we believe cannot be found anywhere in the world. Apples and oranges!