

TRAVEL + LEISURE

# GOLF

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2008

+ NEW ORLEANS  
OJAI VALLEY  
JAMAICA

TOP 100 GOLF  
COMMUNITIES  
Where to Live Really,  
Really Well

ISLAND  
ESCAPES  
The Best Deals in  
the Tropics



## TWO NEW SCOTTISH BEAUTIES

*Machrihanish Dunes and the Castle Course  
at St. Andrews Make Their Historic Debuts*

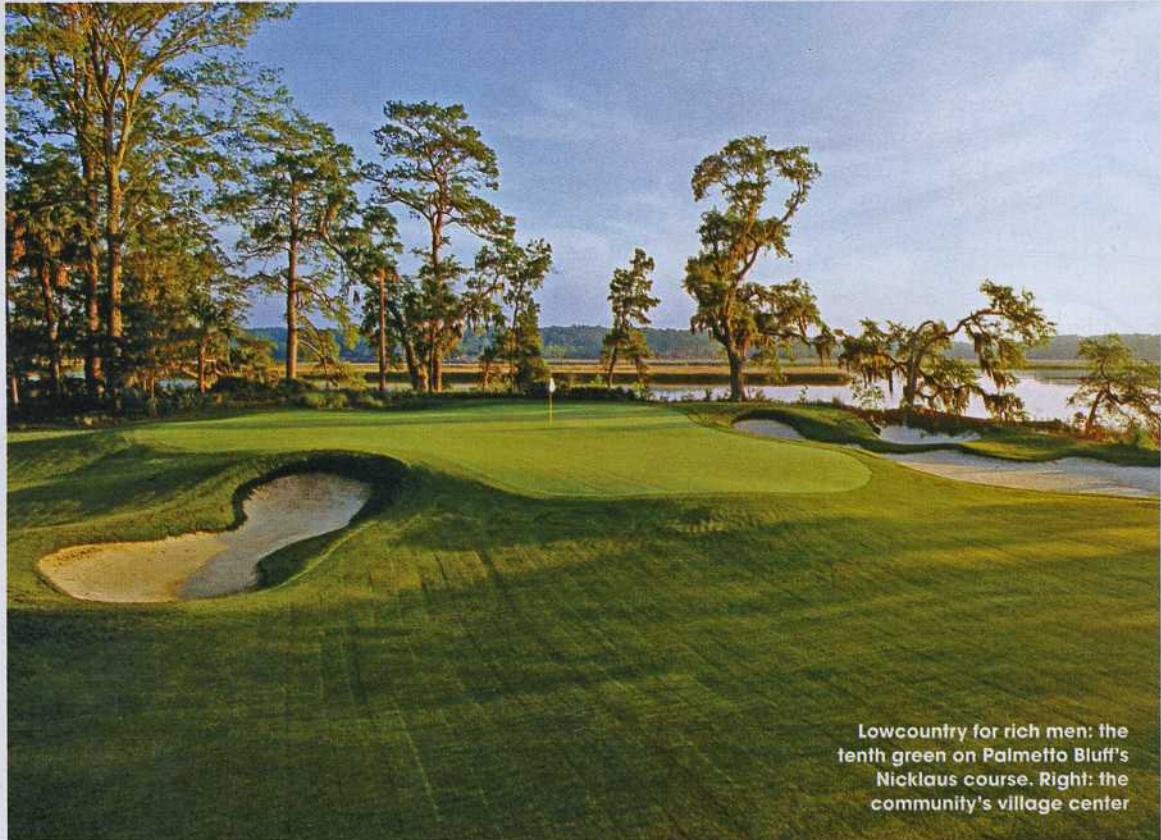
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# AMERICA'S TOP 100 GOLF COMMUNITIES

Our Annual List of the Best  
Places to Live—and Live Well

BY DAVID GOULD AND LAUREN KAY



Lowcountry for rich men: the tenth green on Palmetto Bluff's Nicklaus course. Right: the community's village center





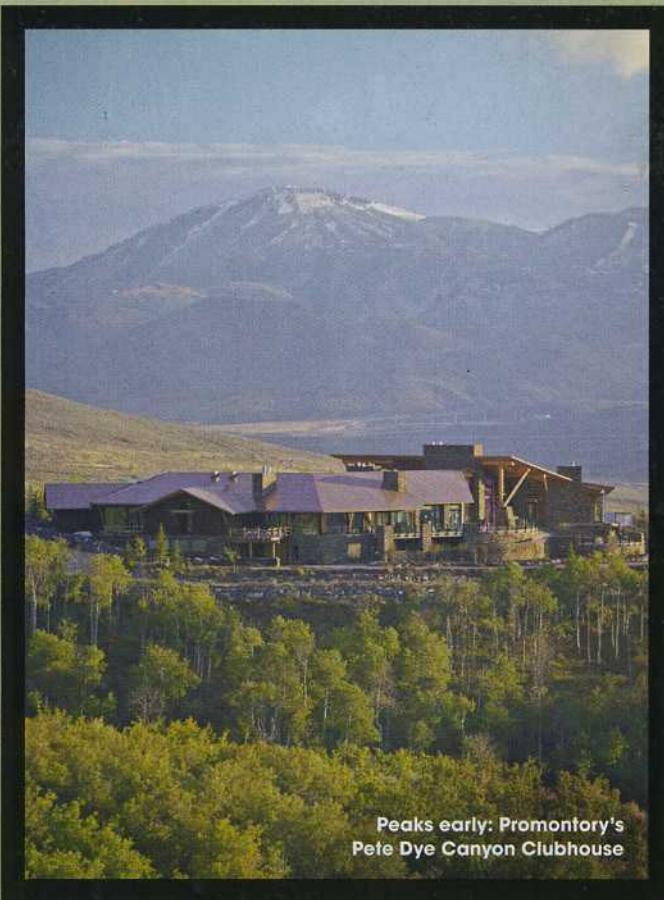
YOU HAVE TO HAND IT TO THE DEVELOPERS OF America's premier golf communities. No matter what happens to the U.S. real estate market at large, there's no slowing these guys down. For them, the sky is always within reach.

Consider: At the Cliffs Communities, building a global headquarters for Gary Player Golf wasn't nearly enough, so this year they up and hired Tiger Woods to design his first U.S. course, the Cliffs at High Carolina. Likewise, at Reynolds Plantation, adding one of the best new courses of the year, the Creek Club, just wasn't going to cut it, so they had

TaylorMade create the Kingdom at Reynolds Plantation, a hyper-realized instruction/fitting/lifestyle facility complete with famous tour pros as guides. For horse lovers, Palmetto Bluff is adding an equestrian center of, oh, 170 acres or so.

Even their shows of restraint are compelling: Balsam Mountain Preserve's commitment to protect thousands of acres on its property, for example, or Santa Lucia Preserve leaving twenty thousand acres of Carmel backcountry to the sharp-shinned hawk, the California condor and other worthy denizens. Hey, maybe you should be one of them. ▶

# The Top 25



Peaks early: Promontory's  
Pete Dye Canyon Clubhouse

## 1 SEA ISLAND Sea Island, Georgia

This year marks the eightieth anniversary of the opening of the Cloister, that citadel of Southern hospitality around which the Sea Island community is built. The anniversary is a reminder that Sea Island has flourished as a resort even while building Frederica, the new jewel of its real estate operation. All of Sea Island's nine residential communities come highly recommended, but Frederica marks a leap forward. Its homes and club amenities luxuriate in a three-thousand-acre site on Saint Simons Island, five minutes from the hub of the resort and destined to comprise fewer than four hundred homesites. Resident members have their own golf course plus a boathouse adjoining a private, bass-stocked lake. They also have the run of Sea Island's exceptional resort amenities, including three additional courses, a spa, stables and a new beach club.

## 2 PALMETTO BLUFF Bluffton, South Carolina

Traditional pedestrian neighborhoods fitted with retro touches like brick and gaslight are an important trend in upscale golf communities, as is generous conservation of land. No golf community melds these two elements like Palmetto Bluff, where the village design (see previous pages) is spot-on and the conservation acreage is downright primeval. Recently Palmetto Bluff opened its River Road neighborhood, all brick, granite and wrought iron, bordered by a Lowcountry wilderness

laced with trails. A riding facility with stables is set to open this spring. Boating, fishing, an award-winning spa and Jack Nicklaus golf are other standout amenities.

## 3 SANTA LUCIA PRESERVE Carmel, California

One of the more interesting residences in this globe-cooling community won an award for its "green" roof, built of sand and lava rock out of which grow sedge and wild strawberries. There is space in the Preserve's master plan for 130 golf courses, but they've built just one: a Tom Fazio layout amid redwoods and stately oaks. Eighteen thousand acres of protected land ensure "nothing will change here" for some time.

## 4 MAYACAMA Santa Rosa, California

When in doubt, developers of golf communities turn to "Tuscan" or "Mediterranean" design themes. This community comes by its European sensibility honestly, through its vintner members and wine-country pedigree. The golf is walking-only on a highly praised Nicklaus design, vintage 2001. Homes are villas with courtyards or cottages on generous lots.

## 5 KIAWAH ISLAND Kiawah Island, South Carolina

This entire island was purchased for \$125,000 in 1951 by a lumberman, whose heirs flipped it twenty-three years later for \$18.2 million. Affluent golf lovers have made profits of their own on Kiawah real estate, although continual improvements to the golf and other amenities make this a hard place to leave. With the arrival of the private Kiawah Island Club several years ago, the lifestyle got even finer.

## 6 PROMONTORY Park City, Utah

The developers of this 7,500-acre mountain masterpiece saddled up and built a cutting-edge equestrian center and have recently doubled their golf amenity to thirty-six holes. For residents, that makes it a bit easier to master basic horsemanship, a skill they can add to their already wide repertoire of golf, fly-fishing, skiing and tennis. And the young folk have it made at Promontory: A five-thousand-square-foot clubhouse is equipped with waterslides, lookout towers, a trapper's cabin and a climbing wall, nurturing their spirit of adventure.

## 7 THE CLIFFS COMMUNITIES Travelers Rest, South Carolina

It was a busy year for the Cliffs and its tireless managers, highlighted by news that the next golf jewel in the Cliffs' crown would be designed by Tiger Woods. Then came word that Clemson University's horticulture department would accept a \$250,000 grant from the community to fund new research efforts and create public botanical gardens at the Cliffs at Mountain Park, the newest community in the group.

## 8 PRONGHORN Bend, Oregon

Views of Mount Bachelor—just a twenty-minute drive away—fill the horizon of this thirty-six-hole landmark in the hospitable high desert. A bit ahead of schedule, Pronghorn's

# *America's TOP 100 Golf Communities*

imposing clubhouse opened its doors in 2007, with gourmet dining and personal wine storage among its niceties. Fractional ownership remains a popular form of investment here—a throw of \$200,000 or less secures partial claim on a lodge-style residence with a golf view.

## **9 SPANISH PEAKS** Big Sky, Montana

This is perhaps the only golf community whose residents are excused for suddenly acquiring twangy accents and buckskin breeches. Fairway-side residences are available (the course, by Tom Weiskopf, opened in 2007), along with your choice of ski-in, ski-out neighborhoods, surrounded by views that qualify as religious experiences. Stone-and-timber buildings clustered together to form the Settlement contain expected facilities like dining, golf shop and locker rooms, but there's also a general store and an outfitter's cabin.

## **10 3 CREEK RANCH** Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Outdoorsy though they may be, 3 Creek Ranchers delighted in last summer's opening of the main clubhouse. Along with giving them a place to store calories (chef Marcel Beauclair arranges that), it offers more ways to burn them, including an ultramodern workout facility, reportedly open twenty-four hours. Various contingents engage in bird banding, astronomy activities and the road-cycling club, and fishing takes place on the property's world-class sporting streams. Rees Jones designed the course, fitting it snugly along the Teton landscape.



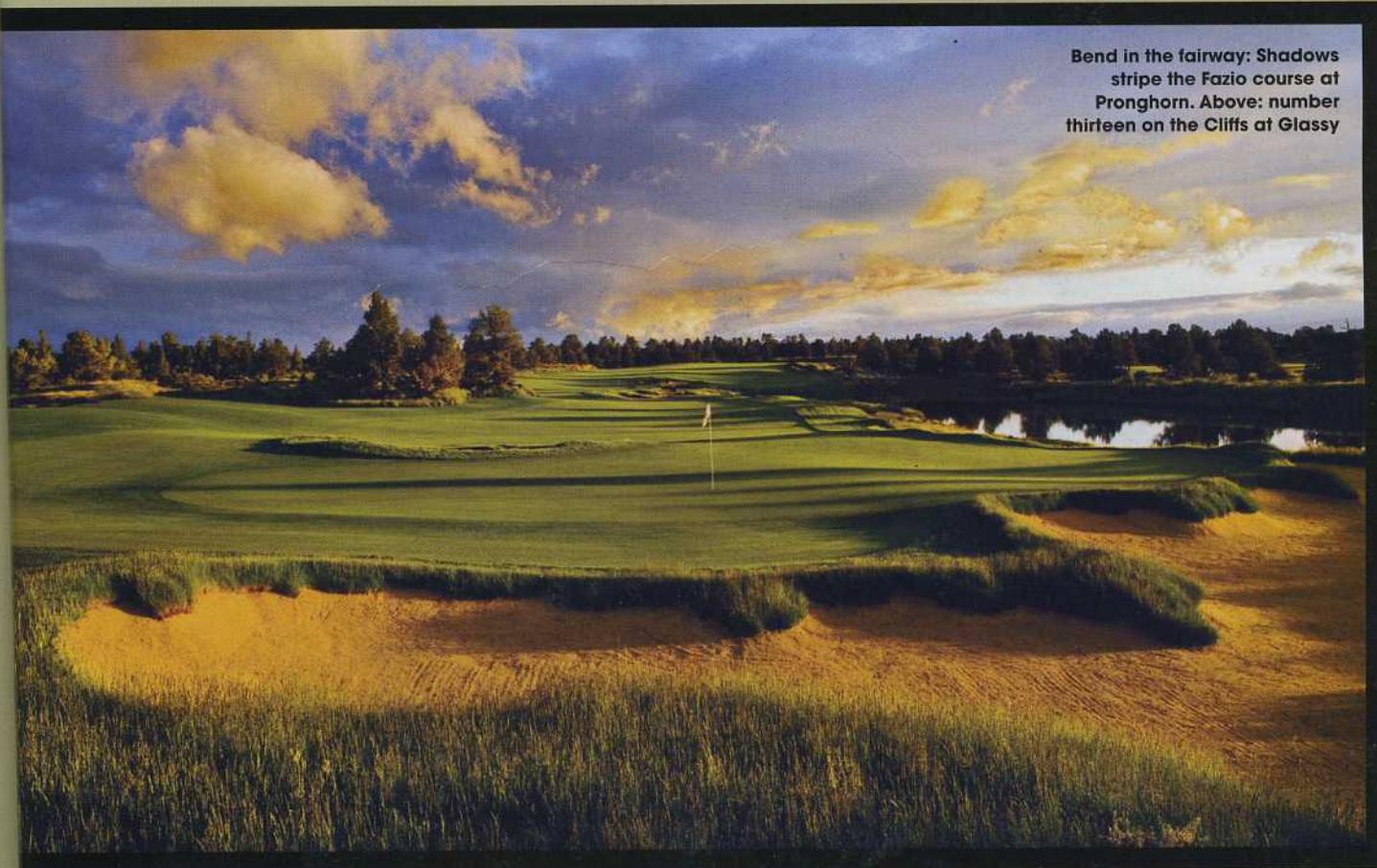
## **11 ESTANCIA** Scottsdale, Arizona

There are shots on Estancia's perfectly groomed Tom Fazio course that encourage big swings, and others where the landing zones are carefully veiled by a dramatic desert landscape. The community is spacious but intimate, with no weak links among the golf, fitness, clubhouse and tennis amenities.

## **12 THE BEAR'S CLUB** Jupiter, Florida

The unmatched professionalism that marked Jack Nicklaus's playing career is replicated in this community's daily operation. There are outsize touches—a stuffed polar bear in the clubhouse—but the decorum and detail work is subtle. ▶

**Bend in the fairway: Shadows stripe the Fazio course at Pronghorn. Above: number thirteen on the Cliffs at Glassy**



# The Top 25

## 13 THE GREENBRIER SPORTING CLUB White Sulphur

Springs, West Virginia

A community with a built-in dignity and athletic gusto, courtesy of the grande dame resort that spawned it, the Sporting Club is anchored by a member's lodge, sports complex and spa, all adjoining the Tom Fazio-designed Snead course. Custom-built homes opt for either a classic or vernacular design, the former hip-roofed with columns and clapboard, the latter marked by fieldstone and broad porches.

## 14 TALISKER Park City, Utah

An emerging enclave for the wealthy, worldly and athletic, Talisker stretches across ten thousand acres of Wasatch wilderness, near the understated glamour of Park City. Golf is by Mark O'Meara, and some homesites have lift access to Deer Valley Resort skiing.

## 15 ISLEWORTH Windermere, Florida

The lake-region community that has everything just added a unique touch to its golf practice facility: bunkers with varieties of sand types to let the resident tour pros (there are many) hone their escape shots. The art installations by Sotheby's continue, including treasured sculptures on street corners.

## 16 WINDSOR Vero Beach, Florida

Windsor melds studied elegance with a neo-traditional neighborhood design that was ahead of its time when it was founded by the well-connected Canadian couple Hilary and Galen Weston. There is a polo/equestrian center, croquet lawn, gun club and an exclusive art gallery, along with golf by Robert Trent Jones II. Visitors can lodge in an elegant guesthouse.

## 17 KUKI'O Kona, Hawaii

For people of means who are never quite content anywhere but in Hawaii, this community's half-mile-long Big Island beach is pristine. Within the fifteen-hundred-acre property, only 375 homesites are designated. A well-staffed beach club for members earns sighs, as does the spa and the Tom Fazio golf.

## 18 WADE HAMPTON GOLF CLUB Cashiers, North Carolina

The peaks and knobs of quiet Cashiers are filling up with golf and guard gates while the easy society of Wade Hampton moseys along at its own pace. The community was prospected by a brother-and-sister development team and is blessed with prime Blue Ridge acreage and the right course designer, Tom Fazio, whose beloved layout quietly turned twenty last year.

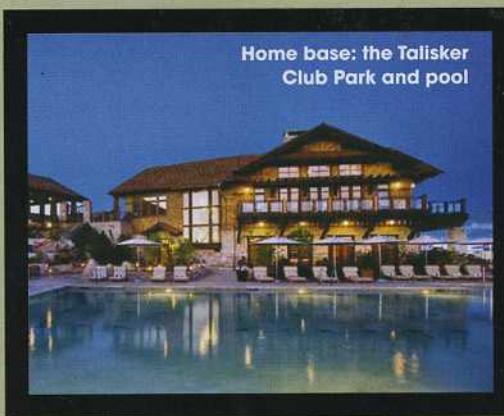
**HOW WE COMPILE THE LIST** Our compilation of the Top 100 communities seeks out superb golf, luxury residences, extraordinary locations and a breadth of lifestyle opportunities. To be eligible, communities must offer property owners an opportunity for membership in an affiliated private golf club. Limited public access to the course—such as for guests at a resort—is allowed but may detract from a

## 19 REYNOLDS PLANTATION Greensboro, Georgia

Despite its just-folks ambience, this is one of the most innovative golf communities in the U.S. Its wild new Jim Engh-designed Creek Club has raving fans (and a few doubters). Also newly minted is the state-of-the-art (and then some) golf-experience program created in partnership with TaylorMade.

## 20 YELLOWSTONE CLUB Big Sky, Montana

On track for a grand opening in 2009, the golf clubhouse will treat members to views of the Spanish Peak mountain range. Self-billed as the only community in Montana offering private skiing and golf, it is certainly the most elite.



## 21 JOHN'S ISLAND Vero Beach, Florida

Flanked by the Indian River and the Atlantic, this haven of quiet grandeur has three courses, tennis, a full gym and apocalypse-proof real estate values.

## 22 IRON HORSE Whitefish, Montana

It's a short drive to Glacier National Park from this 820-acre sporting utopia overlooking Whitefish Lake. The smartly run Outdoor Pursuits program offered by its developers can take residents from horseback to whitewater to the trailhead of a distant peak. Back at the ranch are a Fazio course and other indulgences, such as crackling fires and gourmet cuisine.

## 23 SPRING ISLAND Okatie, South Carolina

Even without covenants and codes, the ecology-minded life-long learners residing here would keep their homes low-slung and wedded to the landscape. A fitness center, pool and tennis complex tone the body, and courses in studio art, music and botany sharpen the mind.

## 24 STOCK FARM Hamilton, Montana

Not a pun on the name of its founder, Charles Schwab, Stock Farm is a Montana golf enclave set apart from the region's potentially overwhelming ski culture. Golf, fitness-center workouts and prairie contemplation provide contentment. There are two distinct home-siting options: mountain or valley.

## 25 SILVERLEAF Scottsdale, Arizona

Built on a New Urbanist template, with neighborhood life encouraged. The golf course helped establish Tom Weiskopf as a specialist in desert design. In the distance, the shadowy McDowell Mountains frame memorable Scottsdale sunsets.

community's ranking. Each property is reviewed in the following six categories, in order of importance: golf amenity; residential architecture and style; location, including natural setting and proximity to cultural activities; management, service and programming options; nongolf amenities, such as a full-service spa, equestrian center or marina; and environmental stewardship.

# America's TOP 100 Golf Communities

## ALABAMA

**GREYSTONE** **Birmingham** Junior golfers under the tutelage of resident pro Hank Johnson outplay their parents at a young age. A true golf spirit pervades this leafy and genteel property. **GOLF:** 36 holes (Bob Cupp, Rees Jones). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$350,000 to \$2 million. **CONTACT:** 205-986-5120, [greystonecc.com](http://greystonecc.com).

**SHOAL CREEK** **Shoal Creek** Celebrating thirty years of camaraderie and competition, Shoal Creek is set to host the USGA Junior Amateur in July. Equestrian sports and fishing in stocked ponds are recreational highlights. **GOLF:** 27 holes (Jack Nicklaus). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$800,000 to \$4.5 million. **CONTACT:** 205-991-4653, [shoal-creek.com](http://shoal-creek.com).

## ARIZONA

**BLACKSTONE COUNTRY CLUB** **Peoria** The highlight of 2007 here was the opening of Blackstone's 30,000-square-foot Hacienda clubhouse. A new hot spot on cool desert nights is an outdoor cantina with flat-screen televisions and fire pits. Youth is well served—lots of kid-friendly programming. The course is one of the finest in the West Valley. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Jim Engh). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$450,000 to \$2 million. **CONTACT:** 800-617-5301, [blackstonecountryclub.com](http://blackstonecountryclub.com).

**DESERT HIGHLANDS** **Scottsdale** It's been twenty-five years since developer Lyle Anderson first threw open the gates at this pioneer desert community. About 500 of the original 560 homesites are either built on or are under construction. The culinary program here is serious business, overseen by maestro chef Michael Hoobler. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Jack Nicklaus). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$995,000 to \$8 million. **CONTACT:** 480-585-7444, [deserthighlandsScottsdale.com](http://deserthighlandsScottsdale.com).

**DESERT MOUNTAIN** **Scottsdale** Ennui is impossible in a community with six separate golf clubs, each with its own theme, from Tuscan to Southwestern. Grass tennis courts complement the golf juggernaut. **GOLF:** 108 holes (Jack Nicklaus). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$600,000 to \$7.6 million. **CONTACT:** 800-322-0044, [deserthighlandsScottsdale.com](http://deserthighlandsScottsdale.com).

**11 ESTANCIA** **Scottsdale** See Top 25. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Tom Fazio). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1.8 million to \$8 million. **CONTACT:** 480-473-4400, [estanacioclub.com](http://estanacioclub.com).

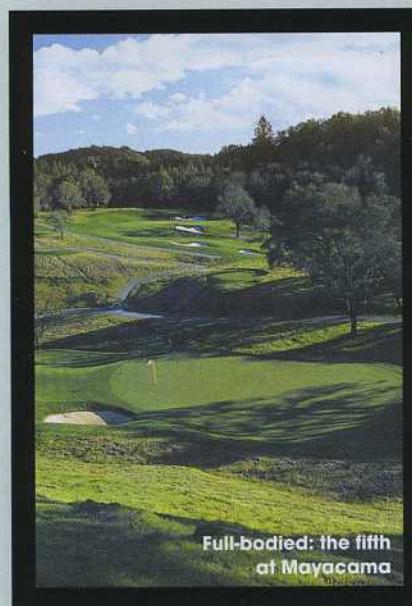
**FOREST HIGHLANDS** **Flagstaff** Other than houseguests asking you to show them the Grand Canyon and old Route 66, life in this gated, piney retreat is hard to beat. Member tournaments and social events fill the season. **GOLF:** 36 holes (Jay Morrish/Tom Weiskopf; Tom Weiskopf). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$595,000 to \$3.2 million. **CONTACT:** 928-556-8606, [dmbrightly.com](http://dmbrightly.com).

**MIRABEL** **Scottsdale** Golf here is a catered affair. The eighth tee has a chef's station where light snacks, like Reuben quesadillas, are skillfully prepared. On the fourth and thirteenth holes, filet mignon jerky awaits. At eighteen you'll be handed a scented towel, either warm or cool, depending on the season. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Tom Fazio). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1.5 million to \$6 million. **CONTACT:** 866-647-2235, [mirabel.com](http://mirabel.com).

**THE RIM GOLF CLUB** **Payson** Along with the small-town atmosphere, residents find a big-city service culture. Everything from personal grocery shopping to secretarial services can be ordered with a phone call at this Crescent Resources development seventy-five minutes from Scottsdale. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Jay Morrish/Tom Weiskopf). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1 million to \$2.7 million. **CONTACT:** 800-311-5370, [therimgolfclub.com](http://therimgolfclub.com).

**SEVEN CANYONS** **Sedona** Ball-beating rises to a state of aesthetic bliss at this community's Practice Park, set amid red-rock mountainsides and soon to be enhanced by a studio providing on-site club fitting. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Tom Weiskopf). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$2.5 million to \$3.5 million. **CONTACT:** 866-694-8844, [sevencanyons.com](http://sevencanyons.com).

**25 SILVERLEAF** **Scottsdale** See Top 25. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Tom Weiskopf). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1.5 million to \$10 million. **CONTACT:** 480-502-6902, [silverleaf.com](http://silverleaf.com).



Full-bodied: the fifth at Mayacama

**STONE CANYON** **Oro Valley** Poised at three thousand feet alongside cleft-rock walls and boulder-strewn bumps, the golf course is a visual knockout. A 44,000-square-foot clubhouse is in the works. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Jay Morrish). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1 million to \$4 million. **CONTACT:** 877-219-9100, [stonecanyon.com](http://stonecanyon.com).

**SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN** **Gold Canyon** Plans are set for continued hosting of the LPGA Tour's Safeway event and construction of an expanded sports club (to open in 2009), with space for personal training, spa treatments and a pool. **GOLF:** 36 holes (Jack Nicklaus). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$599,000 to \$2.5 million. **CONTACT:** 877-983-3300, [superstitionmountain.com](http://superstitionmountain.com).

## CALIFORNIA

**THE BRIDGES AT RANCHO SANTA FE** **Rancho Santa Fe** This is the sort of place where Marvin Hamlisch provides evening entertainment and a cadre of boutique vintners shows up to offer private tastings. Members and culinary staff recently teamed up to build an organic-herb garden. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Robert Trent Jones Jr.). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$2 million to \$7 million. **CONTACT:** 858-756-8700, [thebridgesrf.com](http://thebridgesrf.com).

**THE CROSBY AT RANCHO SANTA FE** **Rancho Santa Fe** A hushed enclave of tile roofs, white stucco and well-tended palms. A forty-three-residence neighborhood is due to open next year across from the sports club. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Fred Couples/Schmidt-Curley). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1.2 million to \$5 million. **CONTACT:** 858-759-7220, [thecrosby.com](http://thecrosby.com).

**THE HIDEAWAY** **La Quinta** Two eighteen-hole golf courses provide variety, yet membership is by invitation only and bestows equity. Serving a

community of fewer than five hundred homes is a massive clubhouse with a full-service spa and dining. **GOLF:** 36 holes (Clive Clark, Pete Dye). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1.7 million to \$4.5 million. **CONTACT:** 760-777-7400, [hideawaygolfclub.com](http://hideawaygolfclub.com).

**LAHONTAN** **Truckee** Tahoe in all its Gothic woodland beauty, with two pools, clay-court tennis, a fitness center and a restaurant said to serve the finest cuisine on the entire North Shore. **GOLF:** 27 holes (Tom Weiskopf). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1.5 million to \$5 million. **CONTACT:** 800-582-9919, [lahontanrealty.com](http://lahontanrealty.com).

**4 MAYACAMA** **Santa Rosa** See Top 25. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Jack Nicklaus). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$5.2 million to \$6.4 million. **CONTACT:** 866-393-1818, [mayacama.com](http://mayacama.com).

**OLD GREENWOOD** **Truckee** Constructed according to the strict standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council. Villa owners take advantage of low-maintenance luxury as well as membership in Tahoe Mountain Club. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Jack Nicklaus). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1.2 million to \$3.3 million. **CONTACT:** 800-754-3070, [oldgreenwood.com](http://oldgreenwood.com).

**THE QUARRY** **La Quinta** Intimate and exclusive, with inspiring views of the Santa Rosa Mountains. No tee times needed, and you can put your guests up in superior lodge rooms, with golf and the spa just steps away. **GOLF:** 28 holes (Tom Fazio). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1.4 million to \$4.8 million. **CONTACT:** 760-777-1100, [quarryinfo.com](http://quarryinfo.com).

**3 SANTA LUCIA PRESERVE** **Carmel** See Top 25. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Tom Fazio). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$3.7 million to \$5.5 million. **CONTACT:** 877-626-8200, [santaluciapreserve.com](http://santaluciapreserve.com).

**SANTALUZ** **San Diego** Remote homesites offer privacy. A sports and activity center named the Hacienda, sited opposite a village green, anchors this coastal community. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Rees Jones). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1.2 million to \$9 million. **CONTACT:** 858-759-3109, [santaluz.com](http://santaluz.com).

**SHERWOOD** **Thousand Oaks** An elite address where they fuss over every detail while maintaining a masculine, clubby air. To see how its courses hold up against greatness, attend the Target World Challenge and follow Tiger Woods around. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Jack Nicklaus). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$3.6 million to \$15 million. **CONTACT:** 805-373-5992, [sherwoodcc.com](http://sherwoodcc.com).

**NEW STONE EAGLE** **Palm Desert** Tom Doak's course design sets a tone of rugged refinement here. From the gatehouse to a golfers-only refuge called the Aerie, the building architecture uses dusky pigments and petros forms. Doak's course occupies a site that was barely walkable before the bulldozers rolled in. **GOLF:** 19 holes (Tom Doak). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$2 million to \$5 million. **CONTACT:** 760-773-6223, [stoneeagleclub.com](http://stoneeagleclub.com).

**TEHAMA** **Carmel** Most small-town mayors who build a posh clubhouse and Jay Morrish golf course high above Pacific waters would have to be investigated. Clint Eastwood escapes that fate. A twenty-eight-acre estate parcel was recently available. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Jay Morrish). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS (LOTS ONLY):** \$2.5 million to \$6.2 million. **CONTACT:** 831-625-2075, [tehamagolfclub.com](http://tehamagolfclub.com).

**TRADITION** **La Quinta** Inside the golf clubhouse are century-old Talavera tiles and hand-crafted Spanish light fixtures. Where orange trees once grew is an eighteen-hole course designed by major-domo Arnold Palmer, plus a nine-hole

**TESORO Port St. Lucie** The \$4.5 million Ginn sur Mer Classic debuted here this past fall, establishing Tesoro as a Tour-worthy site. An ornate beach club is in the making, and a Tom Watson course will open later this year. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Arnold Palmer). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$2 million to \$10 million. **CONTACT:** 888-297-3339, tesoroclub.com.

**TUSCANY RESERVE Naples** While eagerly awaiting completion of their lavish 34,000-square-foot clubhouse, members spend time at the Casa Corteze, a Tuscan-looking (naturally) golf emporium with traditional club services. Also in the works is a full regalia of high-tech analysis, teaching and club-fitting equipment. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Pete Dye/Greg Norman). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$690,000 to \$4 million. **CONTACT:** 800-924-2290, wclcommunities.com.

**TWINEAGLES Naples** A string of luxury villas called Bramble Pointe is the latest TwinEagles neighborhood to move briskly toward sell-out. The 1,115-acre community offers the spectrum, from coach homes to grand estates. Two golf courses, fitness center and tennis. **GOLF:** 36 holes (Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$300,000 to \$5.5 million. **CONTACT:** 888-403-0085, twineagles.com.

**16 WINDSOR Vero Beach** See Top 25. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Robert Trent Jones Jr.). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1.5 million to \$16.5 million. **CONTACT:** 800-233-7656, windsorflorida.com.

**GEORGIA**  
**THE FORD PLANTATION** Richmond Hill Brimming with dignity and distinction, the site of the old plantation was visited by Frederick Law

Olmsted and declared wondrous. Modern-day amusements include a deep-water marina, equestrian center, on-property naturalists, hunting and fishing preserves, plus a spa and sports complex. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Pete Dye). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1.2 million to \$5.9 million. **CONTACT:** 877-735-8367, fordplantation.com.

**19 REYNOLDS PLANTATION** Greensboro See Top 25. **GOLF:** 99 holes (Jim Engh, Bob Cupp, Tom Fazio, Rees Jones, Jack Nicklaus). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$455,000 to \$5 million. **CONTACT:** 800-800-5250, reynoldplantation.com.

**1 SEA ISLAND Sea Island** See Top 25. **GOLF:** 54 holes (Tom Fazio, Rees Jones, Davis Love III). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$2 million to \$23 million. **CONTACT:** 912-638-5161, seaislandproperties.com.

## HAWAII

**HUALALAI** Kona This property wins so many awards for its resort component you could forget it has a private side. Members are pampered, yes, but also nurtured in the subtleties of Hawaiian life through cultural experts and naturalists. **GOLF:** 36 holes (Jack Nicklaus, Tom Weiskopf). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$4.6 million to \$25 million. **CONTACT:** 808-325-8500, hualalairealty.com.

**17 KUKI'O** Kona See Top 25. **GOLF:** 28 holes (Tom Fazio). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$3 million to \$20 million. **CONTACT:** 808-325-4040, kukio.com.

## IDAHO

**NEW THE CLUB AT BLACK ROCK** Coeur d'Alene Rockford Bay, a prime Lake Coeur d'Alene overlook, is the site of Jim Engh's award-winning golf course here. Adjoining it is a private

marina and 31,000-square-foot clubhouse. On tap is an ambitious second phase built around a course by Tom Weiskopf. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Jim Engh). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$995,000 to \$3.4 million. **CONTACT:** 208-665-2024, blackrockidaho.com.

**NEW GOZER RANCH** Coeur d'Alene This former mining town's high-prairie wholesomeness has been attracting young families for years. Now comes Gozzer Ranch, outfitted with multiple marinas, a links by Tom Fazio and a restored general store. A clubhouse complex is due to open next year, with spa, fitness, pool and fine dining. A restored barn and sandlot ball field are part of the vision. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Tom Fazio). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1.4 million to \$4 million. **CONTACT:** 208-765-9034, gozzeranchclub.com.

## MASSACHUSETTS

**THE PINEHILLS** Plymouth As homes have gone up and the two pulse-quickening courses have matured, the Village Green has attracted shops and businesses that up the convenience factor. Most appreciated is a new racket and fitness center. **GOLF:** 36 holes (Jack Nicklaus, Rees Jones). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$350,000 to \$2 million. **CONTACT:** 888-209-8880, pinehills.com.

**TURNER HILL** Ipswich Now member-owned, the Turner Hill course earned raves from Padraig Harrington when the Open champ did a clinic there last summer. The course had already held a New England PGA championship. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Hurdzan/Fry). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$770,000 to \$1.6 million. **CONTACT:** 978-356-7070, turnerhill.com.

**WILLOWBEND** Mashpee A twenty-seven-hole complex allows routing options in order to keep

## THE SPIRIT OF STEWARDSHIP IS WINNING THE WEST

**UTAH'S REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR, JON HUNTSMAN JR.**, has been seen of late in public-service ads urging federal officials to unite with several Western states in a bid to help stem climate change. The governor's father, Jon Huntsman Sr., is a self-made billionaire whose determined philanthropy has targeted goals as lofty as finding a cure for cancer. In the mountain town of Driggs, Idaho, the family is building Huntsman Springs, a golf and sporting club that will embody the family's activist spirit of land stewardship and conservation. One of the Huntsmans' first completed projects was a five-hundred-acre wildlife refuge, replete with restored wetlands. They have set up an environmental-management department at the community and embarked on "dark sky" initiatives.

Being the purview of wealthy, educated, forward-thinking lovers of the outdoors, the new communities of the West are naturally drawn to what was once an unpopular cause among conservatives. For example, buying a home in 3 Creek Ranch (which makes our Top 100 list for the second time) means signing on to an environmental-stewardship program that requires the help of resident volunteers.

The Snake River Sporting Club, new to our list this year, has two forms of Audubon certification already under its belt, including recognition for habitat restoration and water conservation—the latter being an issue of deep concern both west and east of the Rockies these days. Gozzer Ranch, a new Idaho community, seemed to catch the do-good zeitgeist when it dumped the

frothy name "Charbonneau" and branded itself after a flinty Panhandle homesteader named John Gozzer. Developers went a step further and saved a historic in-town frame structure, the century-old Blackwell House, to use as a sales office.

There are newer golf communities—including some in the intramountain West—whose published mission statements never get past the notions of fun and games amid pretty scenery, but more and more the need for activism in the name of preserving the land and culture of the rural West are part of the gated-golf industry. —D.G.

Skyscrapers: The Tetons tower over 3 Creek Ranch.



# America's TOP 100 Golf Communities

the experience fresh. Besides golf, there's a tennis stadium and a 13,000-square-foot fitness center. Overflow guests stay in club villas. **GOLF:** 27 holes (Michael Hurdzan, Bruce Besse Jr.). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$895,000 to \$2.2 million. **CONTACT:** 508-539-5200, willowbendrealestate.com.

## MISSOURI

**THE NATIONAL** Parkville Tom Watson's talents as a course designer would be far better appreciated if only he would stop winning tournaments. The courses he fashioned here would do any old-line club proud. **GOLF:** 36 holes (Tom Watson). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$450,000 to \$6 million. **CONTACT:** 816-746-0200, thenationalgolfclub.com.

## MONTANA

**22 IRON HORSE** Whitefish See Top 25. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Tom Fazio). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1.3 million to \$5 million. **CONTACT:** 800-473-2755, ironhorsemt.com.

**9 NEW SPANISH PEAKS** Big Sky See Top 25. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Tom Weiskopf). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1.4 million to \$6 million. **CONTACT:** 877-995-3100, spanish-peaks.com.

**24 STOCK FARM** Hamilton See Top 25. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Tom Fazio). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$500,000 to \$1.5 million. **CONTACT:** 406-375-1888, stockfarm.com.

**20 YELLOWSTONE CLUB** Big Sky See Top 25. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Tom Weiskopf). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:**

\$4.9 million to \$15.5 million. **CONTACT:** 888-700-7748, yellowstoneclub.com.

## NEVADA

**LAKE LAS VEGAS** Henderson On a 320-acre lake seventeen miles from the Strip, residents take yacht cruises and zip about on rental watercraft. They also enjoy their golf—a new Tom Fazio layout is in the planning stages. **GOLF:** 54 holes (Jack Nicklaus, Tom Weiskopf). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$375,000 to \$30 million. **CONTACT:** 800-564-1603, lakelasvegas.com.

**MONTREUX** Reno A newly launched cluster of homes called Renaissance adjoins the community's 34,000-square-foot private clubhouse and the Nicklaus course used each year for the PGA Tour's Reno-Tahoe Open. No-fee concierge services include activity bookings and airport shuttle reservations. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Jack Nicklaus). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$900,000 to \$4 million. **CONTACT:** 775-849-9444, montreuxgolf.com.

**SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS** Las Vegas One look at the massive spa and pool complex would suggest that hedonism rules here. In fact the community is rigorously altruistic, hosting collegiate tournaments, operating a scholarship program and donating millions to charity through the Southern Highlands Charitable Foundation. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Robert Trent Jones Sr./Robert Trent Jones Jr.). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$350,000 to \$5 million. **CONTACT:** 877-261-1010, southernhighlands.com.

## HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

**THE MASTER PLAN FOR OLDFIELD**, a golf community in Okatie, South Carolina, included funds for a landscaped berm to run the length of Oldfield's frontage on Highway 170. Historical Concepts (historicalconcepts.com), a land-planning and architecture firm in Peachtree City, Georgia, suggested an alternative.

"Instead of a walling off the community with a berm," says Aaron Daily, a principal in the firm, "we had the idea to run a white rail fence along the road and graze some horses in that acreage, then build a country store a quarter-mile in from the highway." Visitors turn onto a simple road and soon encounter the security station, disguised as a country store and post office—both

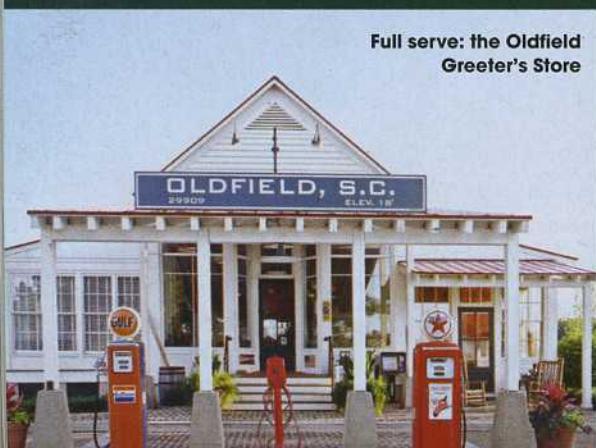
fully operational. Down to the vintage gas pumps out front, the Greeter's Store was designed with the passion for authenticity Historical Concepts brings to all its work.

Golf communities in the Southeast are coming to rely on Historical Concepts for infusions of architectural character and spot-on period detail. Spring Island, Chechessee Creek and Palmetto Bluff are also graced by private homes and/or common buildings that spring from the company's antiquarian spirit.

"Anything we create begins with the question of what views do we have and what's growing there," says Daily. "On some projects we'll get three-dimensional imagery of the trees, so we know the location and even the width of every limb." Jim

Strickland, founder of the firm, encourages staff members to travel old Dixie roads, stopping to take notes and photos of pre-World War II buildings. According to Daily, Strickland is thrilled whenever someone points to one of his finished structures "and says how nice it is the developers were able to save that old house." —D.G.

Full serve: the Oldfield Greeter's Store



## NEW MEXICO

**LAS CAMPANAS** Santa Fe The one Sun Belt state not batty about our royal and ancient game redeems itself with a club community that nails the golf amenity and fully covers the Santa Fe curriculum of wellness, arts, culture and aesthetics. **GOLF:** 36 holes (Jack Nicklaus). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$665,000 to \$9 million. **CONTACT:** 800-992-4250, lacampanas.com.

## NORTH CAROLINA

**BALD HEAD ISLAND** Bald Head Island The amenity that typifies this barrier-island village is the Shoals Club, a white-columned, airy, ocean-front clubhouse and pool/fitness complex added in 2004. **GOLF:** 18 holes (George Cobb). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$500,000 to \$4.2 million. **CONTACT:** 800-804-9826, baldheadisland.com.

## NEW BALSAM MOUNTAIN PRESERVE

**Sylva** A total of 354 homesites, plus an eighteen-hole Arnold Palmer golf course and other amenity buildings, dot the community's 1,400 buildable acres. The remaining 3,000 acres go into a voluntary conservation easement. Chaffin/Light, inventors of the organic golf community at Spring Island, attract the sort of home buyers who compose rhyming odes to nature for their community newsletter. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Arnold Palmer). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1.5 million to \$2.9 million. **CONTACT:** 866-452-3456, balsammountainpreserve.com.

**NEW MOUNTAINTOP** Cashiers A member's only lodge affords views of Lake Glenville. At the manorial main clubhouse is a resort-style swimming pool, spa, tennis center and fitness complex. Clubhouse overlooks a golf course dotted on by its designer, local resident Tom Fazio. One extra: At a wood-fired oven at the practice facility, members order handmade pizzas to fuel themselves. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Tom Fazio). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$2 million to \$4.5 million. **CONTACT:** 866-743-7353, mountaintopgolfclub.com.

**18 WADE HAMPTON GOLF CLUB** Cashiers See Top 25. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Tom Fazio). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1 million to \$4 million. **CONTACT:** 828-743-3411, mckkeeproperties.com.

## OREGON

**8 PRONGHORN** Bend See Top 25. **GOLF:** 36 holes (Tom Fazio, Jack Nicklaus). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$2.5 million to \$3.7 million. **CONTACT:** 800-541-9424, pronghornclub.com.

**SUNRIVER RESORT** Sunriver Homeowners at Sunriver are usually longtime lovers of the resort who take the plunge. The Sage Springs Club & Spa, like all Sunriver amenities, retains a high-country ruggedness despite how comfortable it is. **GOLF:** 63 holes (Bob Cupp, Robert Trent Jones Jr.). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$280,000 to \$2 million. **CONTACT:** 800-547-3922, sunriver-resort.com.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**BELFAIR** Bluffton The two courses here are among the very few Tom Fazio chose to inject with mystery or a sense of the accidental. Looming, lugubrious live oaks must have made him do it. One hour inside Belfair's clubhouse could make you feel like an English lord. **GOLF:** 36 holes (Tom Fazio). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$600,000 to \$2 million. **CONTACT:** 843-757-0701, belfair1811.com.

**BERKELEY HALL** Bluffton Every over-the-top practice facility in American golf owes a little something to the game-improvement theme park built here in 2002. Architecturally, a striking community throughout. **GOLF:** 36 holes (Tom Fazio). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$800,000 to \$3.3 million. **CONTACT:** 843-815-8423, berkeleyhallclub.com.

**7 THE CLIFFS COMMUNITIES** **Travelers Rest** See Top 25. **GOLF:** 72 holes (Tom Fazio, Tom Jackson, Jack Nicklaus, Ben Wright). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$700,000 to \$3.5 million. **CONTACT:** 877-254-3371, [cliffscommunities.com](http://cliffscommunities.com).

**COLLETON RIVER PLANTATION** **Bluffton** There are few better places to teach a youngster the game than Colleton River's nine-hole par-three, designed by David Borland and named in his memory after Borland died in a plane crash with Payne Stewart in 1999. A Stan Smith tennis center and deepwater docks enhance the sporting life for residents. **GOLF:** 45 holes (Pete Dye, Jack Nicklaus, David Borland). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$800,000 to \$3.9 million. **CONTACT:** 800-673-6456, [colletonriverclub.com](http://colletonriverclub.com).

**DANIEL ISLAND PARK** **Charleston** On Daniel Island's community calendar you'll find boat shows, blues festivals, oyster roasts and antiques fairs. People decide to move to the island in a snap then agonize over which neighborhood they like best—we suggest Daniel Island Park, the golf enclave. **GOLF:** 36 holes (Tom Fazio, Rees Jones). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$850,000 to \$5.8 million. **CONTACT:** 800-958-5635, [danielisland.com](http://danielisland.com).

**5 KIAWAH ISLAND** **Kiawah Island** See Top 25. **GOLF:** 126 holes (Pete Dye, Tom Fazio, Clyde Johnston, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Tom Watson). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$695,000 to \$19 million. **CONTACT:** 888-593-5759, [kiawahisland.com](http://kiawahisland.com).

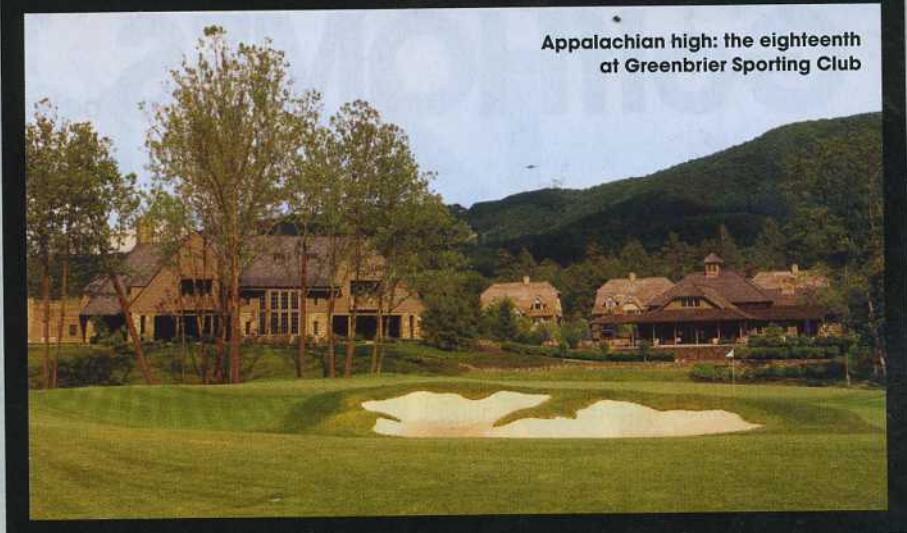
**LONG COVE CLUB** **Hilton Head** As Hilton Head has become more citified, the coastal quiet and calm of Long Cove has come to mean that much more. Along with a Pete Dye golf course that his acolytes croon over, there are eight tennis courts, as well as a private marina (with sixty-nine slips) with Intracoastal access. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Pete Dye). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$500,000 to \$3 million. **CONTACT:** 843-686-1070, [longcoveclub.org](http://longcoveclub.org).

**NEW OLDFIELD** **Oktie** The opening of a sports-club café shows Oldfield adding yet another amenity dedicated to social recreation. Its River House and Outfitters Center were ahead of industry trends and have since been widely copied—even the unique Greeter's Store, with its dash of country kitsch (see sidebar, previous page) has inspired imitation. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Greg Norman). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$650,000 to \$1.4 million. **CONTACT:** 866-653-3435, [oldfield1732.com](http://oldfield1732.com).

**2 PALMETTO BLUFF** **Bluffton** See Top 25. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Jack Nicklaus). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1.1 million to \$2.5 million. **CONTACT:** 866-316-5262, [palmetto-bluff.com](http://palmetto-bluff.com).

**THE RESERVE AT LAKE KEOWEE** **Sunset** Few communities in our list have been as active lately as the Reserve, which is building twenty-seven new golf holes and a marina. A new phase of lakeside homes have been planned, and more than 400 acres have been placed in a conservation easement. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Jack Nicklaus). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$875,000 to \$4 million. **CONTACT:** 888-217-8884, [reserveatlakekeowee.com](http://reserveatlakekeowee.com).

**NEW SEABROOK ISLAND** **Seabrook Island** Any developer seeking a grand oceanfront site like Seabrook's has to be a glutton for frustration. The expanses of open beach and maritime forest this classic resort community occupies keep everyone happy—golfers, horsemen, shell collectors and surf casters. Down the road lies Charleston and its diverse stimulations. **GOLF:** 36 holes (Robert Trent Jones Sr., Willard Byrd). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$240,000 to \$5.9 million. **CONTACT:** 843-768-2560, [discoverseabrook.com](http://discoverseabrook.com).



**23 SPRING ISLAND** **Oktie** See Top 25. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Arnold Palmer/Ed Seay). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1 million to \$6.5 million. **CONTACT:** 843-987-2200, [springisland.com](http://springisland.com).

## TEXAS

**BARTON CREEK** **Austin** The much-admired resort operation here is run by industry stalwart KSL. Home buyers in neighborhoods like Calera Court, with its refined European styling, receive automatic social memberships in Barton Creek Country Club. **GOLF:** 72 holes (Ben Crenshaw/Bill Coore; Tom Fazio; Arnold Palmer). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$500,000 to \$9.7 million. **CONTACT:** 866-214-3136, [bartoncreek.com](http://bartoncreek.com).

**COMANCHE TRACE** **Kerrville** A mid-summer grand opening is scheduled for the new nine holes by Jay and Carter Moorish. The original eighteen is a popular tournament site, hosting multiple North Texas PGA events. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Tom Kite/Roy Bechtol/Randy Russell). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$280,000 to \$1.6 million. **CONTACT:** 877-467-6282, [comanchetrace.com](http://comanchetrace.com).

**SPANISH OAKS** **Bee Cave** Low-handicap players testify to the strength of the golf course, which poses a stern test of your long game and all sorts of pop quizzes around the greens. When golf is over, the fun moves to Lake Travis, where the community operates its own ski boat and a catch-and-release fishing camp for grown-ups and kids. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Bobby Weed). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$850,000 to \$2.5 million. **CONTACT:** 877-554-4628, [spanishoaks.com](http://spanishoaks.com).

**VAQUERO** **Westlake** As complete a club community as you'll find, with quality and originality in every amenity, Vaquero is privately owned by its members and requires an invitation to join. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Tom Fazio). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1.5 million to \$10 million. **CONTACT:** 817-430-6600, [vaqueroclub.com](http://vaqueroclub.com).

## UTAH

**GLENWILD** **Park City** Luxury and privacy conspire mightily in Glenwild's 39,000-square-foot clubhouse, with massive windows exposing the alpine surroundings. The fitness/treatment facility and extensive hiking trails are lifestyle highlights. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Tom Fazio). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1.8 million to \$4.5 million. **CONTACT:** 877-924-9453, [glenwild.com](http://glenwild.com).

**PROMONTORY** **Park City** See Top 25. **GOLF:** 36 holes (Pete Dye, Jack Nicklaus). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1.8 million to \$6.5 million. **CONTACT:** 888-458-6600, [promontoryclub.com](http://promontoryclub.com).

**Appalachian high: the eighteenth at Greenbrier Sporting Club**

**NEW TALISKER** **Park City** See Top 25. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Mark O'Meara). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$2 million to \$7 million. **CONTACT:** 866-333-9210, [taliskerclub.com](http://taliskerclub.com).

## VIRGINIA

**NEW THE VIRGINIAN** **Bristol** The cohesion between course design, building architecture, landscaping and environment is as graceful as you can find. The bold features of the Tom Fazio course seem to bask in their 538-acre parcel. In the clubhouse, a fireplace towers some forty feet to an arched cathedral ceiling. The tennis, swim and fitness amenities at this private community are all generously designed. **GOLF:** 21 holes (Tom Fazio). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$475,000 to \$3.7 million. **CONTACT:** 276-645-7050, [thevirgian.com](http://thevirgian.com).

## WASHINGTON

**TUMBLE CREEK** **Cle Elum** Drawn by a 2,600-acre subcontinent of streams and woodland—plus a Tom Doak-designed course—some 150 families have already moved into this three-year-old community within the larger Suncadia project. The golf house and a swim-fitness center were the first two building amenities constructed. The main clubhouse is next on tap. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Tom Doak). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$400,000 to \$1.2 million. **CONTACT:** 800-667-1828, [tumblecreek.com](http://tumblecreek.com).

## WEST VIRGINIA

**13 THE GREENBRIER SPORTING CLUB** **White Sulphur Springs** See Top 25. **GOLF:** 72 holes (Tom Fazio; Charles Blair Macdonald/Seth Raynor; Raynor/Jack Nicklaus; Dick Wilson/Bob Cupp). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1.5 million to \$6 million. **CONTACT:** 888-741-8989, [thegreenbriersportingclub.com](http://thegreenbriersportingclub.com).

## WYOMING

**NEW SNAKE RIVER SPORTING CLUB** **Jackson Hole** Buying a home in this 554-acre mountain community enters you in a luxury sports decathlon—events would include golf, skiing, fly-fishing, horseback riding, tennis, whitewater rafting and hiking. Recovery from outdoor exertions will be found in the yoga studio (opening next year in Snake River's fitness center) or in the natural hot springs early fur trappers extolled. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Tom Weiskopf). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS (LOTS ONLY):** \$1.3 million to \$1.6 million. **CONTACT:** 888-434-7772, [snakeriversportingclub.com](http://snakeriversportingclub.com).

**103 CREEK RANCH** **Jackson Hole** See Top 25. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Rees Jones). **RECENT HOME LISTINGS:** \$1 million to \$8 million. **CONTACT:** 888-920-9292, [3creekranch-jh.com](http://3creekranch-jh.com).

# GolfHOMES

DOWN MEXICO WAY

**P**ROTECTIVE OF ITS SOVEREIGNTY after centuries of Spanish colonialism, Mexico long resisted foreign ownership of land within its borders. By 1972, however, Mexican law was loosening up to encourage foreign investment. A legal instrument called the *fideicomiso* facilitated property purchases by Americans. Mexicanophiles in the United States quickly took to the concept, which uses bank trusts as title holders. The pioneering phase is probably over, but you can still feel like a trendsetter by buying a home south of the border. You'll find tax rates to be reasonable and title insurance available from U.S. firms. And due to its emerging status, Mexico seems less influenced by the factors that have cooled our domestic real estate market. —David Gould

## Paraiso del Mar

### La Paz

Two veteran Cabo San Lucas developers took their act north to Baja California Sur's capital city to build Paraiso del Mar, the pearl of a protected bay along the Sea of Cortez. They hired Arthur Hills as their course designer, offering him a parcel that could legitimately be called linksland and should play low and bouncy in the Scots style. Of the seventeen hundred acres here, more than a thousand are set aside as sanctuary. Paraiso del Mar's appeal will lie partly in the *pueblito* vibe of La Paz, a quieter alternative to Cabo. Home choices include oceanfront condos and freestanding casas with preserve views. Shown is a drawing of the Casa del Sol. Visit [paradiseofthesea.com](http://paradiseofthesea.com).



**BEDROOMS: 2**  
**BATHS: 2**  
**SQUARE FEET: 2,080**  
**PRICE: \$435,000**

**BEDROOMS: 5**  
**BATHS: 5 full, 1 half**  
**SQUARE FEET: 5,945**  
**PRICE: \$11.5 million**



## El Dorado Golf & Beach Club

### Los Cabos

The concierge-style service lavished on homeowners by this community's developer, Discovery Land Company, comes in handy in Cabo. The challenges of a foreign language and legal system make the developer's hyper-attentiveness (guided excursions, party planning, on-demand dry-cleaning) seem a necessity. The private Nicklaus course at El Dorado yielded some of its seafront holes to homesites during a recent renovation, but the new holes, inland on higher ground, offer fine ocean views. The home shown had its interior done by a Discovery Land Company subsidiary that allows a homeowner to shop, select and install all decor and furnishings through one contact person. Visit [discoverylandco.com](http://discoverylandco.com).

## Punta Mita

### Puerto Vallarta

A second Jack Nicklaus golf course is nearly finished inside the gates of this high-profile seaside community. In very recent times, Punta Mita has become a showcase of luxury spas, plunge pools, beach clubs and gourmet-dining venues. The destination will rise another notch on the global pecking order when the new Nicklaus course and the St. Regis Resort & Residences open this spring. Already in place is a Four Seasons and an array of luxury residence options. The home depicted features an oversize garage with space for two golf carts, as well as a second-story infinity-edge pool that overlooks the Pacific Ocean and Banderas Bay. Visit [puntamita.com](http://puntamita.com).

**BEDROOMS: 6**  
**BATHS: 5 full, 3 half**  
**SQUARE FEET: 10,500**  
**PRICE: \$3.975 million**

