Golf Digest

THE 75 BEST GOLF RESORTS IN NORTH AMERICA

RANK/RESORT (RANK IN 2004)	SCORE	WEB/PHONE	ROOM RATE*	NEW AND NOTABLE
1 Sea Island, The Cloister & The Lodge (4) Sea Island, Ga.	91.32	seaisland.com 800-732-4752	$725	The popular Cloister's main building, rebuilt from the ground up, opened last spring. Guests rave about its timeless style . . . and many modern conveniences.
2 Bandon Dunes Golf Resort (2) Bandon, Ore.	90.16	bandondunesgolf.com 888-345-6008	$300	The resort's latest 18, Bandon Trails, is piling up accolades—just like its predecessors. Try the new, foursome-friendly Grove Cottages.
3 Pebble Beach Resorts (1) Pebble Beach	89.29	pebblebeach.com 800-654-9300	$535	Spyglass Hill is celebrating its 40th birthday with a $7.5 million renovation: 700 new trees, better drainage, more length (6,953 yards).
4 Four Seasons Resort Hualalai (7) The Big Island, Hawaii	87.69	fourseasons.com 888-340-5662	$675	A seaside Jack Nicklaus design is the big draw, but Four Seasons touches abound—starting with 42-inch plasma TVs in all rooms.
5 The American Club (3) Kohler, Wis.	86.88	destinationkohler.com 800-344-2838	$300	Its four courses (including Whistling Straits) are justifiably famous, but don't overlook the recently expanded Kohler Waters Spa.
6 Four Seasons Manele Bay/Lodge at Koele (8) Lanai, Hawaii	85.71	fourseasons.com 800-321-4666	$295	Manele Bay just got a $50 million makeover, and now its owners are completing the same for the Lodge. Lanai's two courses have been tweaked as well.
7 Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea (NR) Maui, Hawaii	85.00	fourseasons.com 800-819-5053	$440	Like ocean views? Eighty percent of the rooms here feature them. All offer easy access to the Blue, Gold and Emerald courses—and an expansive spa.
8 Pinehurst Resort (6) Pinehurst, N.C.	84.82	pinehurst.com 800-487-4653	$540***	Donald Ross' beloved No. 2 celebrates its 100th anniversary in '07, so look for special promotions. See also the new golf school and practice areas.
9 The Broadmoor (13) Colorado Springs	84.68	broadmoor.com 800-634-7711	$385	Mountain Course, one of three, has reopened after an extensive makeover by Nicklaus Design. Hotel's 144-room South Tower is back in business, too.
10 The Greenbrier (5) White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.	83.87	greenbrier.com 800-624-6070	$376	Resort is spending $50 million over four years to upgrade facilities. Old White Course, one of three, reopened last May after renovations.
11 CordeValle, a Rosewood Resort (17) San Martin, Calif.	83.75	cordevalle.com 888-767-3966	$645	Properly posh for its Silicon Valley surroundings. Sample its many golf-themed massages, including one on-course. Also on site: a vineyard.
12 The Fairmont Banff Springs (11) Banff, Alberta	83.18	fairmont.com 800-257-7544	$381	Styled after a Scottish castle, this hotel has 770 rooms, a famous spa and 27 impossibly scenic holes overlooking the Canadian Rockies.
13 The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua (19) Maui, Hawaii	82.59	ritzcarlton.com 800-262-8440	$505	The PGA Tour begins its season at the Plantation Course. Other two are the Bay and the Village. Latter will close in early '07, getting a Fazio makeover.
14 Kiawah Island G. Resort (14) Kiawah Island, S.C.	82.48	kiawah-island.com 800-654-2924	$495	Two-year-old Sanctuary Hotel is a certifiable hit. New: $22 million clubhouse at Ocean Course, just in time for '07 Senior PGA. Upcoming: '12 PGA.
15 The Ritz-Carlton G. Resort, Naples (T25) Naples, Fla.	82.46	ritzcarlton.com 800-241-3333	$329	Home to two Greg Norman courses, resort has a fleet of Segways that carry golf bags. Guests have access to its sister beach property overlooking Gulf.
16 The Boulders Resort & Golden Door Spa (10) Carefree, Ariz.	82.06	theboulders.com 800-553-1717	$489	Wayward shots will find new bunkers on all 36 Jay Morrish-designed holes. Spa visitors can partake of underwater, "back to the womb" experience.
17 Grand Wailea Resort Hotel & Spa (33) Maui, Hawaii	82.00	grandwailea.com 800-888-6100	$575	David Leadbetter Academy, first in state, opens in January. It joins three courses: Blue, Gold and Emerald, plus access to two more at Makena.
18 The Homestead (9) Hot Springs, Va.	81.94	thehomestead.com 800-838-1766	$490***	Cascades Course, one of three, is coming off a renovation that restored much of its original look and feel. Guest rooms are getting makeovers now.
19 Cabo del Sol (15) Cabo San Lucas, Mexico	81.43	cabodelsol.com 866-231-4677	$349	Thirty-six holes of seaside golf, one (Ocean) by Nicklaus and one (Desert) by Weiskopf. New golf academy has a relaxed feel, margaritas included.
20 The Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation (16) Greensboro, Ga.	81.25	ritzcarltonlodge.com 800-241-3333	$299	TaylorMade Performance Lab makes this resort a standout in instruction. Oh, yes, and there are 99 holes of golf on-site.
21 Mauna Kea/Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel (31) The Big Island, Hawaii	79.69	princeresortshawaii.com 866-774-6236	$395	Views of the land and sea are equally breathtaking on the resort's Robert Trent Jones Sr. course. All 660 rooms have private lanais (porches).
22 The Lodge & Spa at Cordillera (27) Edwards, Colo.	79.54	rockresorts.com 866-650-7625	$418**	Altitude ranges from 7,150 feet to 9,200 feet on its four courses. Need more golf? Access to two more 18s at Red Sky Golf Club, 15 minutes away.
T23 Four Seasons Resort Troon North (12) Scottsdale	78.90	fourseasons.com 888-207-9696	$525	Tom Weiskopf's Monument and Weiskopf/Morrish's Pinnacle are classic desert designs. Gallery at Four Seasons showcases art of the American West.
T23 Princeville Resort (29) Kauai, Hawaii	78.90	princevillehotelhawaii.com 800-826-4400	$565	Forty-five holes of RTJ Jr. golf—three nines at Makai Golf Club and another 18 at Prince course. New "solo" carts available for players with disabilities.
25 The Fairmont Chateau Whistler (NR) Whistler, British Columbia	78.89	fairmont.com 604-938-8000	$256	More than just stunning views of Blackcomb Mountain: Canada's only Leadbetter school is here, along with a Robert Trent Jones Jr. 18.
26 Nemacolin Woodlands Resort (T20) Farmington, Pa.	78.88	nemacolin.com 800-422-2736	$370	Lost 84 Lumber PGA Tour stop on Pete Dye's Mystic Rock, but not sitting still. Links Course is getting a $6 million renovation.
27 Wynn Las Vegas Resort and Country Club (NR) Las Vegas	78.64	wynnlasvegas.com 888-320-9966	$399	Shopping, entertainment, gambling, golf: This resort has it all. Tom Fazio-designed course sits on a prime piece of real estate just off the Strip.
28 The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay (34) Half Moon Bay, Calif.	78.57	ritzcarlton.com 800-241-3333	$340	No. 18 on the Old Course is getting a new tee and green, by Arthur Hills. The hotel features 38 new patio-fireplace rooms on the ground floor.
29 Mauna Lani Resort (24) The Big Island, Hawaii	78.53	maunalani.com 800-367-2323	$430	Two great 18s, the stronger of which is South. All rooms here recently renovated. Of note: shark ponds at the hotel, and the spa's "lava sauna."
30 Pine Needles and Mid-Pines Inn (47) Southern Pines, N.C.	78.22	pineneedles-midpines.com 800-747-7272	$216	U.S. Women's Open returns in June to remodeled Pine Needles 18. Remade five-bedroom Dogwood Villa at Mid-Pines' 10th is perfect for groups.
31 The Coeur d'Alene Golf & Spa Resort (22) Coeur d'Alene, Idaho	77.82	cdaresort.com 800-688-5253	$239	Just completed a $25 million renovation, including two showers costing $100,000 each (not a typo). Course's signature item: floating 14th green.
32 Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort and Spa (32) Koloa, Hawaii	77.60	grandhyattkauai.com 800-554-9288	$490	Poipu Bay course, a RTJ Jr. design, hosts yearly PGA Grand Slam of Golf. Spa is wrapping up renovation that is adding 20,000 open-air square feet.
33 Lake Las Vegas Resort, Hyatt & Ritz-Carlton (41) Henderson, Nev.	76.81	lakelasvegas.com 800-564-1603	$325	Construction is underway on Fazio's Rainbow Canyon, the resort's fourth course. Also in the works: a new Loews hotel.
34 Sawgrass Marriott Resort & Spa (52) Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.	76.43	sawgrassmarriott.com 800-457-4653	$309	It's *baaaaack*. The Players Stadium Course is reopening after a $40 million redo that includes a new drainage system and a vastly larger clubhouse.
35 Williamsburg Inn/Lodge and Conference Ctr. (28) Williamsburg, Va.	76.33	colonialwilliamsburg.com 800-447-8679	$159	Wrapping up a two-year expansion of the Lodge, addition of four 30-room guest houses. Next: A full-service spa opens in January.
36 Casa de Campo (35) La Romana, Dominican Republic	76.11	casadecampo.com.do 800-877-3643	$289	Pete Dye's famous Teeth of the Dog got a makeover in late '05 (new tees, greens, bunkers and more). Newest waterfront offering: Dye Fore.
37 The Phoenician (30) Scottsdale	76.03	thephoenician.com 800-888-8234	$599	Twenty-seven holes of desert golf alongside a well-loved hotel. Resort has added flashy new golf carts, renovated Windows on the Green restaurant.
38 Sun Valley Resort (NR) Sun Valley, Idaho	75.55	sunvalley.com 800-786-8259	$209	Wrapping up a $6 million remodel of its Lodge apartments, resort now turns to golf expansion: mountainous new Gun Club nine opening in '08.
39 The Sea Pines Resort/Harbour Town (39) Hilton Head Island	75.50	seapines.com 800-732-7463	$200	Three courses are in play at this venerable resort: Sea Marsh, Ocean and Harbour Town. The Inn has 60 rooms. Elsewhere: 500-plus alternatives.
40 The Breakers Palm Beach (43) Palm Beach	75.33	thebreakers.com 888-273-2537	$495	Finished major renovation of beachfront in '06. Late '04 brought a total makeover for old Breakers West course, renamed Breakers Rees Jones.
41 Sunriver Resort (36) Sunriver, Ore.	75.31	sunriver-resort.com 800-228-6088	$223	Multi-activity resort has 54 holes of golf and has earned four Diamonds from AAA for seven straight years. New nine-holer set to open by summer '07.
42 La Quinta Resort & Club (46) La Quinta, Calif.	75.16	laquintaresort.com 800-598-3828	$319	With 90 holes and a Jim McLean golf school, La Quinta has plenty to keep a golfer busy. Suites come with a fully loaded iPod and docking station.
43 The Inn at Pasatiempo (NR) Santa Cruz, Calif.	75.14	www.innatpasatiempo.com 800-834-2546	$110	Charming, French country-style Inn—site of countless weddings—overlooks classic Alister Mackenzie 18, where guests get preferred packages.
44 Four Seasons Resort Aviara (18) Carlsbad, Calif.	75.13	fourseasons.com 800-332-3442	$395	Arnold Palmer-designed 18 is 30 minutes north of San Diego. TaylorMade performance lab, opened in '05, is one of only two in the U.S.
T45 Harrah's/Harveys Lake Tahoe/Edgewood (NR) Stateline, Nev.	75.00	harrahs.com 800-786-8208	$164	Harveys is the slightly more youthful of the two casino hotels, but neither is exactly stuffy. Both share easy access to scenic, lakeside Edgewood 18.
T45 Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort (NR) Destin, Fla.	75.00	sandestin.com 800-476-7389	$178	Raven, one of four courses at this family-friendly resort, hosts a stop on the Champions Tour. Popular Baytowne 18 just got a thorough makeover.
47 Barton Creek Resort & Spa (37) Austin	74.89	bartoncreek.com 800-336-6158	$380	Crenshaw Cliffside course got all new greens in summer '06. Three other 18s include two Fazios, one Palmer. Resort has 300 guest rooms, suites.
48 The Westin La Cantera Resort (63) San Antonio	74.55	westinlacantera.com 210-558-6500	$389	Weiskopf/Morrish teamed for Resort 18, site of Texas Open and famed for its views of skyline, roller coaster. Palmer designed second course.
49 Fairmont Scottsdale Princess (42) Scottsdale	74.43	fairmont.com 800-344-4758	$569	Guests can pick from two courses (TPC Scottsdale Stadium or Desert) and many rooming options, including 119 secluded, newly renovated casitas.
50 Loews Ventana Canyon Resort (38) Tucson	73.94	loewshotels.com 520-299-2020	$379	Two well-regarded Fazio courses cement this resort's golf credentials. Be sure to make time for star-gazing. This area has 350 clear nights a year.
51 Beaver Creek (NR) Beaver Creek, Colo.	73.64	beavercreek.snow.com 970-496-4500	$119	Ski-mad winter destination does golf well, too. RTJ Jr. 18 is a treat—and open only to members and resort guests in the peak summer months.
52 The Lodge at Torrey Pines (NR) La Jolla, Calif.	73.62	lodgetorreypines.com 858-453-4420	$375	Lodge guests have access to two courses, the North and South. Latter will stage '08 U.S. Open. Adjacent to hotel: 2,000-acre nature preserve.
53 The Lodge at Ventana Canyon (40) Tucson	73.56	thelodgeatventanacanyon.com 520-577-1400	$549	Lodge has only 50 suites, making for a clublike setting. Its fans love the way nobody gets lost in the shuffle. Well, that and the two Fazio 18s . . .
54 Kingsmill Resort & Spa (NR) Williamsburg, Va.	73.08	kingsmill.com 800-832-5665	$189	Three 18s and a nine-hole par 3 are the starring attractions for golfers. River Course hosts an LPGA event. Nearby: lots of history and amusement parks.
55 Grand Cypress Resort (44) Orlando	73.02	grandcypress.com 407-239-1234	$259	Jack attack: 45 holes of Nicklaus-designed golf. Resort now offering memberships. Each comes with 12 hours of private instruction.
56 Treetops Resort (48) Gaylord, Mich.	72.91	treetops.com 888-873-3867	$169	Eighty-one holes of hilly, memorable golf in the clear Northern Michigan air. A $3 million renovation brought room upgrades, fitness center.
57 PGA Village (NR) Port St. Lucie, Fla.	72.88	pgavillage.com 800-800-4653	$126	One of the best values on this list, it offers a course by Dye, two by Fazio (just finishing an extensive renovation) and a 35-acre instructional park.
58 Keystone Resort (NR) Keystone, Colo.	72.80	keystone.snow.com 877-625-1556	$149	One course by RTJ Jr. (Ranch) and one by Hurdzan/Fry (River). An old log homestead serves as the clubhouse—and one of the region's top restaurants.
59 The Equinox Resort & Spa (NR) Manchester Village, Vt.	72.69	equinox.rockresorts.com 866-379-7625	$329	Gleneagles course, built in 1927, was updated by Rees Jones in '92. The resort also features schools for shooting, fly-fishing, off-road driving.
T60 Kauai Marriott Resort and Beach Club (50) Kauai, Hawaii	72.40	marriott.com 800-872-6626	$364	Guests have access to the Nicklaus-designed Kiele and Mokihana courses. (The Kiele's back nine is being redone.) Another draw: a 26,000-square-foot pool.
T60 Ocean Hammock Resort (NR) Palm Coast, Fla.	72.40	oceanhammock.com 888-707-0946	$229	Seaside lodge is cozy, offers best access to golf. Pick also from condos, villas, private residences. Nicklaus-designed course is as tough as it is scenic.
62 Kiva Dunes Golf & Beach Resort (56) Gulf Shores, Ala.	72.00	kivadunes.com 866-540-7100	$235	Hit but not crushed by hurricanes, the resort is open and arguably in better shape than ever. Thirty new condos opening along the 18th in early '07.
63 Daufuskie Island Resort & Breathe Spa (49) Hilton Head Island	71.80	daufuskieresort.com 800-648-6778	$349	Bloody Point, Melrose 18s have been managed by Troon Golf the past two years and are looking great after bunker renovation at Melrose.
64 Turtle Bay Resort (NR) Oahu, Hawaii	71.78	turtlebayresort.com 800-203-3650	$440	With massive, multiyear lodging overhaul complete, George Fazio course is getting spruced up. Palmer course hosts annual seniors, women's events.
65 Boyne Highlands Resort (NR) Harbor Springs, Mich.	71.69	boynehighlands.com 800-462-6963	$102**	New beds, flat-screen TVs spruce up the rooms at mountainous Michigan getaway. Pick from four courses, including the RTJ Sr.-designed Heather.
66 The Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa (58) Tucson	71.25	westin/lapalomaresort.com 520-742-6000	$479	Lure for golfers is three Nicklaus nines from the mid-'80s. Nongolfers have plenty to keep them busy, from Elizabeth Arden spa to five pools.
67 The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa (NR) Scottsdale	71.23	kierlandresort.com 800-354-5892	$659	Creature comfort: Air-conditioned golf carts are one way to beat the heat on this resort's 27 holes. Giant canopies help keep the range cool, too.
68 La Costa Resort and Spa (71) Carlsbad, Calif.	71.08	lacosta.com 800-854-5000	$325	Get your game in shape for its two courses at a new, $1.5 million practice facility. Also new in '06: villa rooms and suites, "Kidtopia" kids club.
69 Desert Springs J.W. Marriott Resort and Spa (NR) Palm Desert, Calif.	70.88	desertspringsresort.com 888-538-9459	$399	The front lobby has a whole new look—modern, sleek, with a 60-foot waterfall. Coming soon: remade, expanded spa. For golfers: two Ted Robinson 18s.
70 Boca Raton Resort & Club (66) Boca Raton, Fla.	70.82	bocaresort.com 888-491-2622	$459	Get ready for upgraded Boca Bungalows, bigger rooms with kitchenettes alongside the Resort course, one of two designs. (The other: Country Club.)
71 Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa (57) Phoenix	70.64	arizonabiltmore.com 800-950-0086	$445	Mission possible: Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired architecture is this resort's theme. Golfers can pick from two 18s, plus an 18-hole putting course.
72 Doral Golf Resort & Spa (68) Miami	70.50	doralresort.com 877-893-6725	$349	Blue Monster, the most famous of its five courses, just finished renovation in advance of WGC event in '07. Greg Norman's 18 got a makeover in '05.
73 Walt Disney World Resort (62) Orlando	70.13	disneyworld.com 407-939-6244	$205	A magic kingdom for golfers as well: ninety-nine holes in just about every variety. Highest-rated courses are Dye's Eagle Pines and Fazio's Osprey Ridge.
74 Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club & Lodge (53) Orlando	70.12	bayhill.com 888-422-9445	$325	A $7 million renovation has been done at Arnie's place. All 70 guest rooms have been redone, and 2,000 square feet of meeting space has been added.
75 Carmel Valley Ranch (75) Carmel, Calif.	70.00	cvrgolf.com 800-422-7635	$199	Set on 400 acres down the road from that other famous resort in Pebble. Pete Dye designed the course, short on yards (6,234) but long on great views.

*Base room rate in high season **2006 rate; 2007 not yet available ***Includes breakfast and dinner for two

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Additional research by Mary Jane McGirr