

# 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*

The sixth at  
the Castle Course,  
St. Andrews, Scotland

tlgolf.com



DISPLAY UNTIL MARCH 25

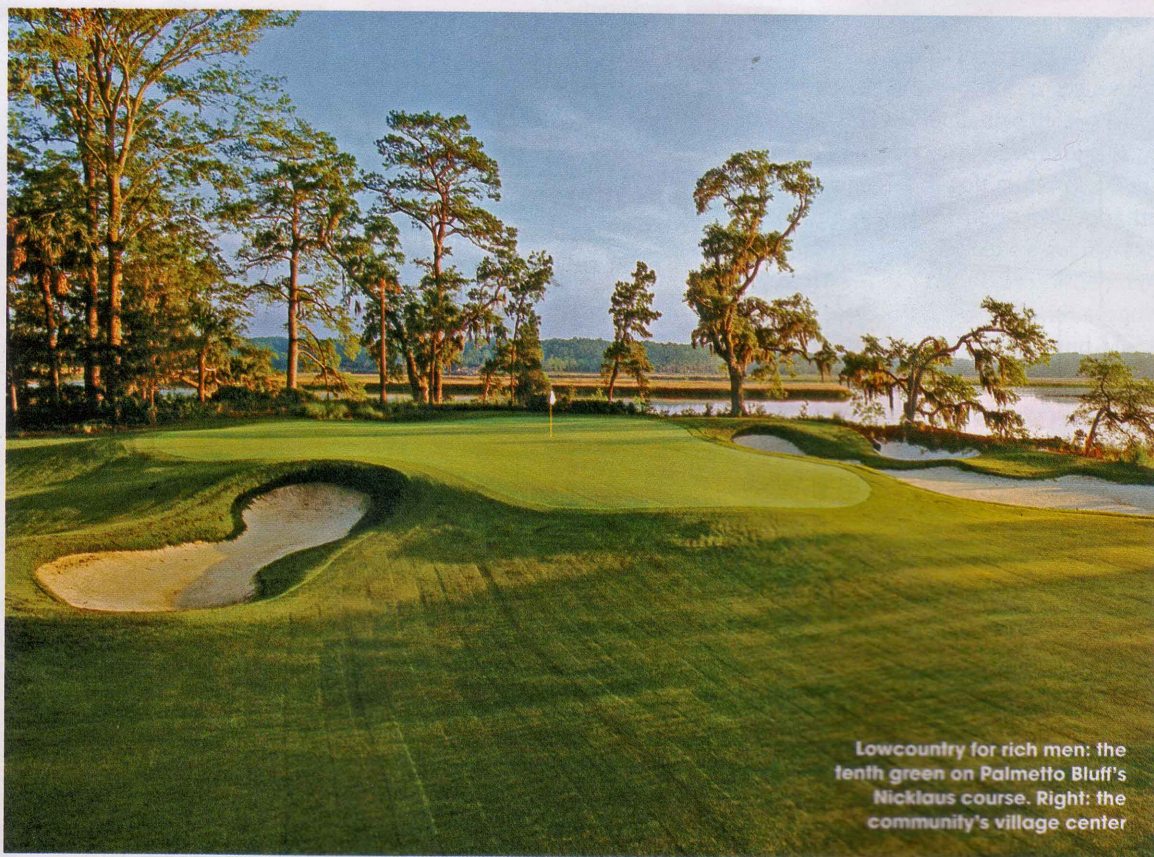
U.S. \$4.50 CANADA \$5.50



# 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.

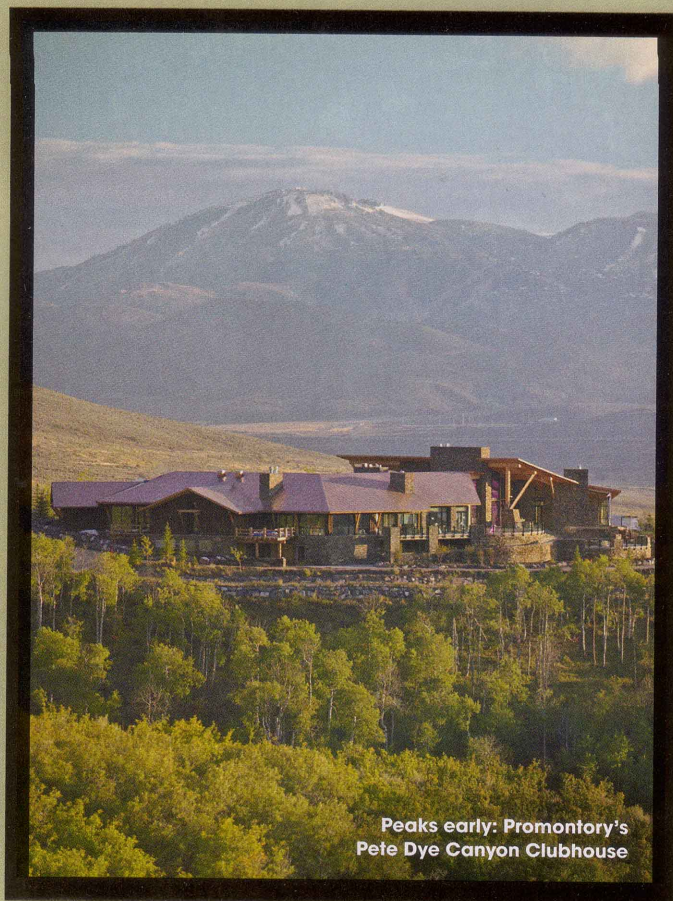
Consider: At the Cliffs Communities, building a global headquarters for Gary Player Golf wasn't nearly enough, so this year they up and hired Tiger Woods to design his first U.S. course, the Cliffs at High Carolina. Likewise, at Reynolds Plantation, adding one of the best new courses of the year, the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

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: COURTESY OF PROMONTORY; COURTESY OF THE CLIFFS COMMUNITIES; COURTESY OF PRONGHORN