

Best New Affordable Public

The par-5 13th at
The Golf Club at
Redlands Mesa
in Grand Junction, Colo.

1

The G.C. at Redlands Mesa*
Grand Junction, Colo.
7,007 yards, par 72.
Jim Engh, designer.
970-263-9270.
www.redlandsgolf.com
*Walking anytime

2

The Harvester G.C.*
Rhodes, Iowa.
7,340 yards, par 72.
Keith Foster.
877-963-4653.
www.harvestergolf.com

3

Dacotah Ridge G.C.*
Morton, Minn.
7,109 yards, par 72.
Rees Jones.
507-644-4653.
www.dacotahridge.com

4

Olympia Hills G. & Conf. Center*
Universal City, Tex.
6,923 yards, par 72.
Baxter Spann.
210-945-4653.
www.olympiahills-golf.com

5

Ol' Colony G. Complex*
Tuscaloosa, Ala.
7,041 yards, par 72.
Jerry Pate.
205-562-3201.

6

Old Silo G.C.*
Mount Sterling, Ky.
6,977 yards, par 72.
Graham Marsh.
859-498-4697.
www.oldsilo.com

7

Coyote Crossing G. Cse.*
West Lafayette, Ind.
6,839 yards, par 72.
Hale Irwin.
765-497-1061.
www.coyotecrossing-golf.com

8

Aspen Lakes G.C. (Faith/Hope 9s)*
Sisters, Ore.
7,302 yards, par 72.
Bill Overdorf.
541-549-4653.
www.aspenlakes.com

9

New Albany Links G.C.*
New Albany, Ohio.
7,004 yards, par 72.
Barry Serafin.
614-855-8532.
www.newalbanylinks.com

10

Murphy Creek G. Cse.*
Aurora, Colo.
7,456 yards, par 72.
Ken Kavanaugh.
303-361-7300.
www.golfaurora.com

Why They Won

Each of our Best New winners has a secret to success

IN ONE SENSE, GOLF DIGEST'S BEST NEW Courses survey is simply a numbers game. Our nationwide panel of more than 700 low-handicap male and female golfers scrutinize nominated courses and score them on the basis of several criteria—shot values, design variety, memorability and aesthetics for all courses, plus playability for public courses and resistance to scoring for private and Canadian candidates. With a bonus for walkability, we add up the average score for each criterion, and the highest total wins. But that's never the complete story. Winners prevail for a reason.

BEST NEW UPSCALE

No golf course in recent memory has generated such anticipation as Pacific Dunes in Bandon, Ore., the companion 18 to the highly acclaimed Bandon Dunes, No. 41 in Golf Digest's 2001 ranking

of America's 100 Greatest Courses. The wait is over and the verdict is in: Pacific Dunes is a sequel that exceeds the original, a second helping that's tastier than the first. It's also an emphatic statement by 40-year-old architect Tom Doak that golf can be exciting and capricious, yet still be natural.

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Pacific Dunes is so skillfully shaped that it's impossible to tell where Mother Nature left off and man began. Fairways are simply sand dunes with grass on them, greens are just flatter dunes with shorter grass, and bunkers just dunes gouged out by wind. The routing plays atop bluffs above the ocean beach on several occasions, culminating with the magnificent par-4 13th, where the green seems in jeopardy of being engulfed by an enormous cresting wave of sand. But Doak's imaginative inland holes are

what elevate his course beyond the reputation of its sister 18.

One critic has suggested that it's a shame Doak didn't give Pacific Dunes sufficient length to be a true championship test. Granted, Pacific Dunes is 6,557 yards, par 71, from the back tees, but in the stout wind normally prevalent along the shoreline, its fairways and greens play firm and fast. What makes Pacific Dunes so delightful is that you're never sure of a result until the ball stops rolling. A tee shot down the middle might scramble along a contour and drop into a bunker, or skip right past it. A punch shot beyond the flag may trickle back down to the hole, or cling to the back fringe.

A U.S. Amateur should definitely be in Pacific Dunes' future, with Bandon Dunes sharing duty in qualifying rounds.

BEST NEW AFFORDABLE

The Golf Club at Redlands Mesa is a fantasy golf calendar come to life. Architect Jim Engh, a 43-year-old who lives in Colorado, has long delighted in transforming hostile environments into golf playgrounds, as evidenced by the mountainous Sanctuary Golf Club outside Denver, our Best New Private Course of 1997. Redlands Mesa is far different, but just as exhilarating.

Positioned beneath the slopes of

jagged buttes south of Grand Junction, Colo., in the shadow of the towering pink and red sandstone face of the Colorado National Monument, Redlands Mesa is like playing golf along the bottom of the Grand Canyon, with a couple of sojourns to the Garden of the Gods thrown in. During the course of 18 holes, Engh has us teeing off from narrow pinnacles and playing along the edges of sheer cliffs, skirting the top of one and the base of another. He has us marching down box canyons, firing to hilltop greens and putting beneath balancing rocks. From many elevated tees, Engh's distinctive bunkering—narrow, deep squiggles of sand—look like fissures in the earth. His trademark greens—extended surfaces recessed into bowls—are receptive to shots slightly off line. In the hands of a less skillful designer, Redlands Mesa could have become one gigantic game of pinball. But Engh offers plenty of room to maneuver on a fascinating course that occasionally overwhelms the senses in its grandeur.

BEST NEW PRIVATE

The secret to Kinloch Golf Club is the width of its holes. Carved from a dense forest of hardwoods and pines in the southwest Richmond, Va., suburb of Manakin-Sabot, most of Kinloch's holes are unusually broad. This was a function of agronomy, explains Kinloch's designer, 46-year-old Lester George, who lives in Richmond. To successfully grow bent-grass fairways and greens in such a hot, muggy locale, George knew he needed to provide plenty of sunlight and air to the turf, so he cleared corridors up to 100 yards wide. Once he did that, George realized he had the opportunity to create any number of alternate fairways and optional routes.

With founding Kinloch member Vinny Giles (a former U.S. and British Amateur champion) suggesting design strategies, George created a course in which every hole can be played at least two different ways. Of course, many courses dangle the bait of risk and reward, but too often the risk is too great and the reward too meager, so no one ever bites. There are no roads less traveled at Kinloch. Each alternate fairway and optional route makes perfect sense. What George did was position tees to provide different angles for different abilities, install bunkers that complicate decisions and shape greens that deter runaway putts.

Kinloch is a thoughtful design that makes golfers analyze, and sometimes agonize, before executing each shot. There's also this: If they can play a U.S. Open outside Washington, D.C., then an Open at Kinloch in Richmond ought to be a no-brainer. Kinloch is that good.

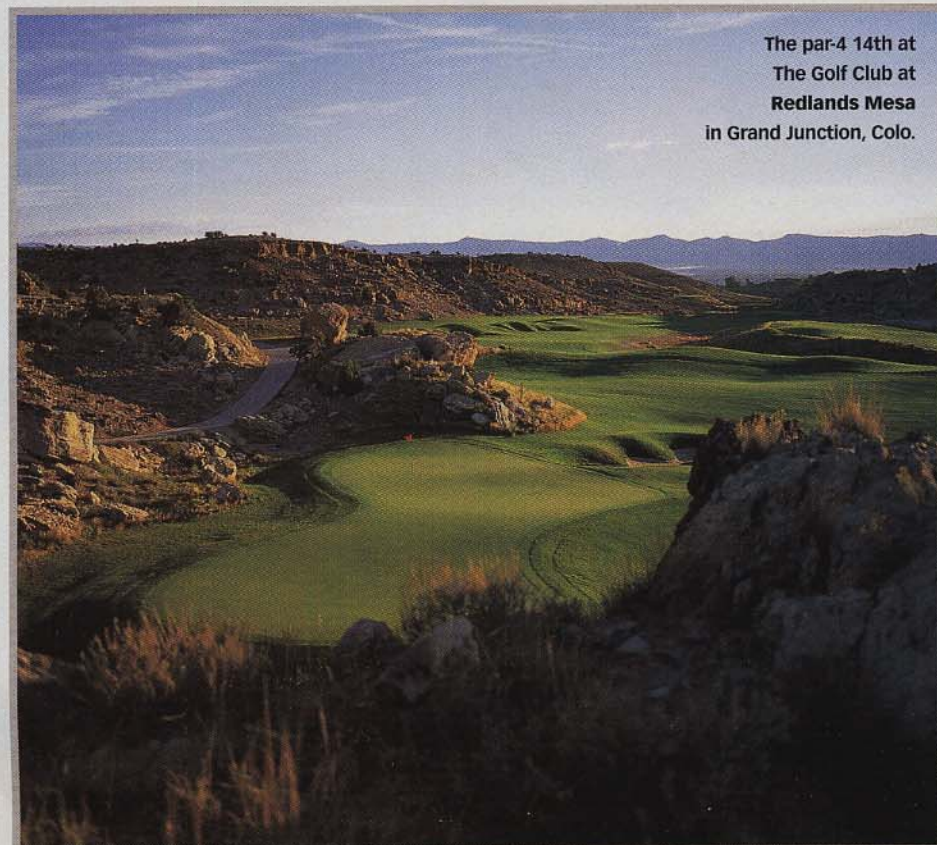
BEST NEW CANADIAN

The ultimate goal of those involved with Fox Harb'r Resort in Wallace, Nova Scotia, is to have it become the Pebble Beach of Canada,

and then some. Though the Fox Harb'r course is not yet a match for America's No. 1 course, its victory in a very competitive Best New Canadian race will certainly add to its allure.

Designed by veteran Canadian architect Graham Cooke (this is his first Best New triumph), Fox Harb'r is a low, rolling landscape of uneven lies, elaborate bunkers and massive greens. Except for an opening stretch in tall pines, holes afford constant views of the scenic Northumberland Strait, that portion of the Atlantic between Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The layout climaxes with a string of holes snug along the rocky, jagged ocean coastline and a gambling par-5 18th that curves left around a lake, vaguely suggesting the 18th at Pebble Beach, with a few railroad-tie walls thrown in. ■

For past winners in all the Best New Courses categories, please visit www.golfdigest.com/courses/bestnew.



The par-4 14th at
The Golf Club at
Redlands Mesa
in Grand Junction, Colo.



The par-4 17th at
Fox Harb'r
Resort in Wallace,
Nova Scotia.

1
Fox Harb'r Resort*
Wallace, Nova Scotia.
7,205 yards, par 72.
Graham Cooke,
designer.
902-257-1801.
www.foxharbr.com
*Walking anytime

2
**Stewart Creek
G.C.***
Canmore, Alberta.
7,150 yards, par 72.
Gary Browning.
877-993-4653.
www.stewartcreekgolf.com

3
**St. Eugene Mission
G. Resort***
Cranbrook, B.C.
7,007 yards, par 72.
Les Furber.
877-417-3133.
www.golfsteugene.com