
Golf Digest Names 1988's Best New Golf Courses

The Links at Spanish Bay, in Pebble Beach, California, Black Diamond Ranch Golf and Country Club in Lecanto, Florida, and Blackwolf Run Golf Course in Kohler, Wisconsin, have been named America's Best New Resort, Private and Public Courses, respectively, by GOLF DIGEST.

The sixth annual selections are announced in the January, 1989 issue.

Courses opened for play between July 1, 1987 and June 30, 1988, were eligible and voted on by a panel of 400 panelists. Seventy-seven courses were evaluated on the basis of five criteria: Shot values, playability, design balance, memorability and esthetics.

The Links at Spanish Bay was designed by the team of golf architect Robert Trent Jones Jr., golfer Tom Watson and Frank (Sandy) Tatum, former U. S. Golf Association president. The trio recreated the look, feel and playability of a grand old Scottish Links,

using several holes from St. Andrews, Muirfield and other famous U.K. courses as models.

Runners-up in the resort course category were The New Course at Grand Cypress in Orlando, Florida, designed by Jack Nicklaus, and Teton Pines Golf Club in Jackson, Wyoming, designed by Arnold Palmer and Ed Seay.

Designer Tom Fazio's Black Diamond course also includes reminders from other great courses, like Pinehurst and Jupiter Hills. But the heart of the course begins on the par-3 13th, where the first of two deep abandoned limestone quarries is encountered. The course then plays more like Pebble Beach, with holes over chasms, along clifftops and down an escarpment. Fazio has now won top honors two straight years. His Wade Hampton course was named Best Private Course in 1987, and his Barton Creek layout was third.

Indianwood Golf and Country Club

(New Course) in Lake Orion, Michigan, designed by Bob Cupp and Jerry Pate, and Metedeconk National Golf Club in Jackson, N. J., designed by Robert Trent Jones and Roger Rulewich, were runners-up in the private category.

Pete Dye's Blackwolf Run course has a diverse collection of holes that clearly resemble previous Dye designs. Though the course is located in the rolling meadowland and river bottom of eastern Wisconsin, the long, deep bunkers, towering mounds lining some holes and greens half hidden by ominous bunkers are an unmistakable reminder of PGA West. It also features one of the few double greens Dye has ever designed.

Second to Blackwolf Run was Page Belcher Golf Courses (Stone Creek Course) in Tulsa, Oklahoma, designed by Don Sechrest, while Michaywe Hills Golf Club (Lake Course) in Gaylord, Michigan, designed by Jerry Matthews, finished third. ♣

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