



The fourth hole at No. 2 Cornerstone

COURTESY OF CORNERSTONE/DICK DURRANCE

By Bradley S. Klein

Few courses are opening in the U.S. these days, but the ones that are debuting are pretty good. They had better be if they are to stand a chance.

With the golf market more competitive than ever, owners and designers know they have to deliver quality and value to establish a toehold and draw play.

Our No. 1 new course, Mountaintop, in Cashiers, N.C., certainly does that. Set in a residential community, this high-end private club designed by Tom Fazio is built on a rugged site. Yet even with 300 feet of elevation change, it remains walkable and playable, largely because Fazio confined the uphill transitions for the land between greens and the next tees, while the steepest downgrades are reserved for the carry areas immediately fronting tees.

Not every course on this list is high-end. Part of the appeal of our No. 45 new course, Bandon Crossings in Bandon, Ore., is precisely that the inland layout designed by Dan Hixson is modestly priced and readily accessible – in contrast to the fully booked and more expensive links-inspired trio of courses at nearby Bandon Dunes Resort.

One of our courses represents a “blow up and start over” project. The Champions Course at TPC Scottsdale (Ariz.), ranked No. 41, is a total overhaul of the 20-year-old TPC layout that sat there. So thorough a renovation did architect Randy Heckenkemper undertake that we consider it a new course.



The 17th hole at No. 7 Tetherow

COURTESY OF TETHEROW/MIKE HOUSSKA



Golfweek's course rankings are based on input from nearly 500 raters who regularly submit ballots based on 10 criteria, each of which is graded on a 10-point scale.

Scores for each course are averaged to get the overall rating.

Criteria details can be obtained by downloading the Rater Handbook at www.golfweeksbest.com.

It will be interesting to see how many of these 50 rookies crack the top 100 of our Golfweek's Best Modern list, which is published each March. One already has done so: Chambers Bay in Tacoma, Wash. It's hard to know which debut is more impressive: its No. 3 on the Best New list or No. 17 position on the 2008 Golfweek's Best Modern list.

Not that we're alone in our esteem for this Robert Trent Jones Jr. layout that sits on Puget Sound. Still in its infancy, Chambers Bay already has been tapped by the U.S. Golf Association to host the 2010 U.S. Amateur and the 2015 U.S. Open.

As an early judge of talent, *Golfweek* is not alone. ○

Golfweek's Best New Courses

	Location	Opened	Architect	Type	Rating avg.
1. Mountaintop	Cashiers, N.C.	2007	Tom Fazio	Real Estate, Private	8.10
2. Cornerstone	Montrose, Colo.	2007	Greg Norman	Real Estate, Resort	8.00
3. Chambers Bay Golf Course	University Place, Wash.	2007	Robert Trent Jones Jr., Bruce Charlton	Daily Fee, Municipal	7.83
4. Golf Club of Cape Cod	Falmouth, Mass.	2007	Rees Jones	Private	7.75
5. Cougar Canyon Golf Links	Trinidad, Colo.	2007	Jack Nicklaus	Real Estate, Resort	7.42
6. The Preserve Golf Club	Vanceleave, Miss.	2007	Jerry Pate	Daily Fee	7.38
7. Tetherow	Bend, Ore.	2008	David McLay Kidd	Real Estate, Private	7.33
8. Colorado Golf Club	Parker, Colo.	2007	Bill Coore, Ben Crenshaw	Real Estate, Private	7.26
9. Club at Irish Creek	Kannapolis, N.C.	2007	Davis Love III	Real Estate, Private	7.25
10. Sugarloaf Mountain Town & Country Club	Minneola, Fla.	2008	Bill Coore, Ben Crenshaw	Real Estate, Private	7.21
11. Martis Camp	Truckee, Calif.	2007	Tom Fazio	Real Estate, Private	7.17
12. Gozzer Ranch Golf & Lake Club	Arrowpoint, Idaho	2007	Tom Fazio	Private	7.13
13. Highland Course at Primland	Meadows of Dan, Va.	2007	Donald Steel	Resort	6.83
14. Blue Ridge Shadows Golf Club	Front Royal, Va.	2007	Tom Clark	Daily Fee	6.75
15. Palouse Ridge Golf Club	Pullman, Wash.	2008	John Harbottle	Daily Fee, University	6.75
16. Promontory – Jack Nicklaus Course	Park City, Utah	2007	Jack Nicklaus	Real Estate, Private	6.60
17. Golf Club at Gray's Crossing	Truckee, Calif.	2007	Jim Hardy, Peter Jacobsen	Real Estate, Private	6.50
18. Adam's Mountain Country Club	Eagle, Colo.	2007	Tom Weiskopf	Real Estate, Private	6.50
19. Creek Club	Oconee, Ga.	2007	Jim Engh	Real Estate, Private	6.44
20. TPC San Francisco Bay at Stonebrae	East Bay Hills, Calif.	2008	David McLay Kidd	Real Estate, Private	6.39
21. Lake Presidential Golf Club	Upper Marlboro, Md.	2008	Chris Cole	Daily Fee	6.38
22. Creighton Farms	Aldie, Va.	2008	Jack Nicklaus	Real Estate, Private	6.36
23. Timilick Tahoe	Truckee, Calif.	2008	John Harbottle, Johnny Miller	Real Estate, Private	6.33
24. Hasentree Golf Course	Wake Forest, N.C.	2007	Tom Fazio	Real Estate, Private	6.25
25. Juliette Falls Golf Course	Dunnellon, Fla.	2007	John Sanford	Real Estate, Daily Fee	6.22
26. Long Shadow Golf Club	Madison, Ga.	2007	Mike Young	Real Estate, Daily Fee	6.18
27. Eagle Falls Golf Course	Indio, Calif.	2008	Clive Clark	Resort, Daily Fee, Casino	6.13
28. Butterfield Trail Golf Club	El Paso, Texas	2007	Tom Fazio	Daily Fee, Municipal	6.00
29. Federal Club	Glen Allen, Va.	2007	Arnold Palmer, Harrison Minchew	Real Estate, Private	6.00
30. Indian Wells Golf Resort – Players Course	Indian Wells, Calif.	2007	John Fought	Daily Fee, Municipal	6.00
31. Ocean Ridge – Leopard's Chase	Sunset Beach, N.C.	2007	Tim Cate	Daily Fee	6.00
32. Harmony Club	Timnath, Colo.	2007	Jim Engh	Real Estate, Private	5.93
33. Cliffs at Keowee Falls	Salem, S.C.	2007	Jack Nicklaus	Real Estate, Private	5.83
34. Cottonwood Hills Golf Club	Hutchinson, Kan.	2007	Nick Faldo	Real Estate, Daily Fee	5.72
35. Blue Top Ridge	Riverside, Iowa	2007	Rees Jones	Daily Fee, Casino	5.67
36. Founders Club	Pawleys Island, S.C.	2008	Tom Walker	Daily Fee	5.67
37. The Home Course	DuPont, Wash.	2007	Mike Asmundson	Daily Fee	5.54
38. Olivas Links	Ventura, Calif.	2007	Forrest Richardson	Daily Fee, Municipal	5.50
39. Sevillano Links	Corning, Calif.	2007	Mike Stark	Daily Fee, Casino	5.50
40. Trinitas Golf Club	Stockton, Calif.	2007	Mike Nemeo	Daily Fee, Private	5.50
41. TPC Scottsdale – Champions	Scottsdale, Ariz.	2007	Randy Heckenkemper	Daily Fee, Municipal	5.42
42. Quarry Golf Club	Canton, Ohio	2007	Brian Huntley	Real Estate, Daily Fee	5.40
43. Canyon River	Missoula, Mont.	2007	Brian Curley, Lee Schmidt	Daily Fee	5.38
44. Brasada Ranch	Powell Butte, Ore.	2007	Jim Hardy, Peter Jacobsen	Daily Fee	5.38
45. Bandon Crossings	Bandon, Ore.	2007	Dan Hixson	Daily Fee	5.36
46. Bella Collina	Monteverde, Fla.	2008	Steve Smyers, Nick Faldo	Real Estate, Resort	5.36
47. Golf Club of Kansas	Lenexa, Kan.	2008	Tom Jackson	Private	5.13
48. Providence Golf Club	Davenport, Fla.	2007	Mike Dasher	Real Estate, Daily Fee	5.00
49. Stowe Mountain Club	Stowe, Vt.	2007	Bob Cupp	Resort, Daily Fee	5.00
50. Champions Pointe Golf Club	Henryville, Ind.	2007	Clyde Johnston	Daily Fee	5.00

HOW WE DID IT: *Golfweek* defines new courses as those having opened in the past two calendar years (2007-2008). This is done to give the *Golfweek's* Best panel of raters enough time to visit courses, thereby making the ratings statistically valid.

The 18th hole at Promontory's Nicklaus Course, ranked No. 16

