



By Ron Whitten

Photos By Stephen Szurlej

Though there are no sure things, in life or in Golf Digest's annual survey of America's Best New Courses, the teaming of Jack Nicklaus and Tom Doak in a course design seemed like a can't-miss proposition.

And it didn't miss. As many expected, Nicklaus and Doak's symbiotic Sebonack Golf Club in Southampton, N.Y., reigns as America's Best New Private Course of 2007. It's the seventh Best New honor for Nicklaus since 1984, the second for Doak since 2001.

Tom Fazio, designer of 12 previous Best New winners, didn't get a first place in 2007, but he did have a pair of runners-up. His Fallen Oak, north of Biloxi, Miss., finished second in the Best New Public \$75 and Over competition to The Highland Course at Primland in a remote corner of Virginia. Fazio's Coppinwood, in Goodwood, Ontario, was edged for Best New Canadian honors by Muskoka Bay Club, a Doug Carrick design.

A former Fazio apprentice did shine this time. Ed Carton, who spent six years in the field and at the drafting table for Fazio, won his first Best New honor with another Virginia layout, Spring Creek Golf Club, the year's Best New Public Course Under \$75.

The Remodel category has been split into public and private sectors, to recognize the shift toward course renovation in American architecture, and the 2007 winners are familiar names. The Old White Course at The Greenbrier in West Virginia is our first Best New

Public Remodel champion, and TPC Boston, a stop on the PGA Tour, is our inaugural Best New Private Remodel.

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HOW WE RANK THE COURSES

Golf Digest's annual survey of America's Best New Courses is conducted by a panel of more than 800 golfers who considered nominees that had opened (or reopened after a remodel) between May 1, 2006, and April 30, 2007. Our panelists rated courses on their **Shot Values, Design Variety, Resistance to Scoring, Memorability and Aesthetics**. The categories are **Private Courses, Public Courses (Under \$75 and \$75 and Over), Private Remodel, Public Remodel** and **Canadian**.

Surveys overseen by Topsy Siderowf, Sue Sawyer and Mary Jane McGirr. Additional research by Jennifer Pelton.



BEST NEW PRIVATE

No. 1/ Sebonack Golf Club: The latest swagger on New York's Long Island.

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BEST NEW PUBLIC \$75 AND OVER

No. 1/ The Highland Course at Primland: An isolated corner of the golf universe.

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BEST NEW PUBLIC UNDER \$75

No. 1/ Spring Creek Golf Club: Classic risk-reward finish at this Virginia beauty.

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BEST NEW PUBLIC REMODEL

No. 1/ The Greenbrier (Old White): West Virginia retreat restored geometric features.



BEST NEW PRIVATE REMODEL

No. 1/ TPC Boston: It's not often a makeover results in an older look.

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BEST NEW CANADIAN

No. 1/ Muskoka Bay: Who needs bunkers when granite walls work so well?

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[Best New Private Remodel](#)

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BEST NEW PRIVATE

1. SEBONACK G.C. • Southampton, N.Y. • Yards 7,481 • Par 72 • Designers: Jack Nicklaus and Tom Doak • Initiation Fee: \$650,000-PLUS • sebonack.com

2. SNAKE RIVER SPORTING C. • Jackson Hole, Wyo. • Yards 7,533 • Par 72 • Tom Weiskopf • Fee: \$150,000 • snakeriversportingclub.com

3. MOUNTAINTOP GOLF & LAKE C. • Cashiers, N.C. • Yards 7,127 • Par 70 • Tom Fazio • Fee: \$100,000 • mountaintopgolfclub.com

4. PRONGHORN (TOM FAZIO CSE.) • Bend, Ore. • Yards 7,447 • Par 72 • Tom Fazio • Fee: \$100,000 • pronghornclub.com

5. BAYONNE G.C. • Bayonne, N.J. • Yards 7,120 • Par 71 • Eric Bergstol • Fee: \$200,000 • bayonnegolfclub.com

6. COLORADO G.C. • Parker, Colo. • Yards 7,604 • Par 72 • Bill Coore and Ben

Crenshaw • Fee: \$95,000 • coloradogolfclub.com

7. LIBERTY NATIONAL G.C. • Jersey City, N.J. • Yards 7,458 • Par 72 • Bob Cupp and Tom Kite • Fee: undisclosed • libertynationalgc.com

8. THE C. AT OLDE STONE • Alvaton, Ky. • Yards 7,372 • Par 72 • Arthur Hills and Drew Rogers • Fee: \$60,000 corporate; \$25,000 individual • olde-stone.com

9. THE MADISON C. • La Quinta, Calif. • Yards 7,426 • Par 72 • Tom Fazio • Fee: undisclosed • madisonclubca.com

10. BOOT RANCH • Fredericksburg, Tex. • Yards 7,135 • Par 71 • Hal Sutton • Fee: \$100,000 • bootranch.com

BEST NEW PUBLIC: UNDER \$75

1. SPRING CREEK G.C. • Gord Le, Va. • Yards 7,172 • Par 72 • Fee: \$70 • Designer: Ed Carton • 540-832-0744 • springcreekgolfclub.com

2. JUG MTN. RANCH G. CSE. • McCall, Idaho • Yards 7,287 • Par 72 • Fee \$60: Don Knott • 208-634-5072 • jugmountainranch.com

3. MONARCH DUNES G.C. • Nipomo, Calif. • Yards 6,810 • Par 71 • Fee \$73 • Damian Pascuzzo and Steve Pate • 805-343-9459 • monarchdunesgolf.com

4. THE MANOR RESORT G.C. • Farmville, Va. • Yards 7,214 • Par 72 • Fee: \$49 • Rick Robbins • 434-392-2244 • themanorresort.com

5. THE DOGWOODS AT HUGH WHITE STATE PARK • Grenada, Miss. • Yards 7,015 • Par 72 • Fee: \$39 • Gary Roger Baird • 662-226-4123 • dogwoodsgolf.com

6. BLUE RIDGE SHADOWS G.C. • Front Royal, Va. • Yards 7,302 • Par 72 • Fee:

\$72 • Tom Clark • 540-631-9661 • blueridgeshadows.com

7. BLACK BEAR G.C. • Delhi, La. • Yards 7,276 • Par 72 • Fee: \$49 • Roy Bechtol and Randy Russell • 318-878-2162 • blackbear-golf.com

8. WHITE HORSE G.C. • Kingston, Wash. • Yards 7,093 • Par 72 • Fee: \$63 • Cynthia Dye McGarey • 360-297-4468 • whitehorsegolf.com

9. CANYON RIVER G.C. • East Missoula, Mont. • Yards 6,966 • Par 72 • Fee: \$48 • Lee Schmidt and Brian Curley • 406-721-0222 • canyonrivergolfcommunity.com

10. SAND CREEK STATION • Newton, Kan. • Yards 7,359 • Par 72 • Fee: \$49 • Jeff Brauer • 316-284-6161 • sandcreekgolfclub.com