

GOLF Magazine's Top 10 New Courses You Can Play

The crop of candidates for our Top 10 New honors ran the gamut from the spiritual (Del Webb at Ave Maria) to the sinister (John Daly's Murder Rock Golf & Country Club), but the winners rose above the fray. Selected with input from our course-ranking panelists, editors and spies in the field, these are the best new public-access courses opened in 2007—and the best new private and international tracks—and most of them can be played for a lot less than \$100. No matter where you live, there's a must-play newbie right around the corner.

Believe it or not, the course on the left is not in Ireland, Scotland, Australia or New Zealand. It's in America and is our 2007 Course of the Year. Continue on to the gallery and learn where this emerald beauty can be found.

Best New Course of the Year

Chambers Bay Golf Course

University Place, Wash.

7,585 yards, par 72

Green fee: \$65-\$150 877-29-LINKS, chambersbaygolf.com

At Chambers Bay the visuals scream Ireland: giant sand dunes, rumped fairways, stunning sea views, and unpredictable weather. But this superb new course is almost 5,000 miles west of Ballybunion, atop an old gravel mine about an hour south of Seattle, Wash. This Robert Trent Jones II-designed municipal track is a walkers' only feast for the eyes, and a relentless test of both swing and stamina. Call it Bethpage Black-by-the-Sea.

The eye candy commences right at the 1st hole, with a 50-foot-high dune to the right and the backdrop of Puget Sound. It only gets better from there. Highlights include the par-4 5th, called "Free Fall," which plummets 80 feet from tee to landing area and culminates in two separate greens—150 yards apart. The farther green is receptive to a lowrunning approach, while the closer one is fiercely guarded by sand. The dearth of forced carries means Chambers Bay is playable for all, although a memorable exception to that is the jaw-dropping par-3 9th, its wavy potato chip-contoured green perched on the far side of a ravine.

Chambers Bay earns the greatest compliment it's possible to bestow on a new course: By the time your caddie replaces the flag at 18, all you can think about is repeating the journey.