

GOLF

YOUR LIFE, WELL PLAYED

OCTOBER 2019 / GOLF.COM

Travel Guide 2019

TOP 100 RESORTS

NORTH AMERICA

Cabot Cliffs, Cabot Links Golf Resort

Why this place (and 99 other destinations) rise above the rest

\$6.99 US / \$7.99 CAN



GOLF OCTOBER 2019 / VOL. 41 NO. 10 "BY ALL ACCOUNTS, IS THROUGH IR ON CABOT CLIFFS IS THE CLOSEST THING THE EASTERN SEABOARD HAS TO CYPRUS POINT." P. 84



TIME TO PLAY

Golf getaways are like golf swings—there's no one groove. Some people pursue max comfort, some prefer romping with pals or their kids. Ready for 100 adventures? C'mon, take the leap!



LUXURY
PAGES 72-83



BUDDIES
PAGES 84-95



**GENERAL
EXCELLENCE**
PAGES 96-105



FAMILIES
PAGES 106-117



Bill Hornstein

Villa del Palmar Beach Resort / TPC Danzante Bay

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HOW WE RANKED THEM



In one of the biggest editorial projects

GOLF has ever attempted, we culled the names of 243 rank-worthy resorts spread across North America. Under the expert guidance of resort industry veterans and our stable of well-heeled travel writers, we placed each resort into at least one of four experience categories: Luxury, Buddies, General Excellence and Families. Then, with the help of 3,700-plus golfers just like you, we conducted an online poll, asking GOLF.com readers to rate each resort based on five key variables: golf experience, accommodations, service, food and ambience. The results of this poll were then weighed against the opinions of a select group of GOLF's Top 100 Courses panelists and those of internal travel and editorial teams to list destinations in each category (Nos. 1–5, then alphabetically), generating GOLF's first-ever ranking of the Top 100 Resorts. Yep—we're in need of a vacation, too.

—David DeNunzio, Editor-In-Chief



“AS IF BANDON DUNES
NEEDED MORE LURES,
IT'S STRUTTING OUT
SHEEP RANCH, MAKING IT SIX
COURSES TO POPULATE
BANDONITES' DREAMS.”

Sheep Ranch, Bandon Dunes Golf Resort

Courtesy Bandon Dunes Golf Resort



More photos, videos and information about your favorite resorts on the best site in the game. Plus, the chance to book GOLF-branded stays with our new travel partner, Skylark.

GOLF MAGAZINE'S Top 100 Resorts In North America

Luxury

- 1. **Pebble Beach Resorts**
Pebble Beach, CA
- 2. **The American Club**
Kohler, WI
- 3. **Sea Island Resort**
Sea Island, GA
- 4. **Four Seasons Resort Lana'i**
Lana'i City, Lana'i, HI
- 5. **Dorado Beach, A Ritz-Carlton Reserve**
Dorado Beach, Puerto Rico

- ▼ **Albany**
Nassau, The Bahamas
- Amanera**
Rio San Juan, Dominican Republic
- Four Seasons Resort Costa Rica at Peninsula Papagayo**
Guanacaste, Costa Rica
- The Ritz-Carlton Dove Mountain**
Marana, AZ
- Fairmont Grand Del Mar**
San Diego, CA
- Four Seasons Resort Hualalai**
Kailua-Kona, Big Island, HI
- The Inn at Bay Harbor**
Bay Harbor, MI
- Four Seasons Resort Jackson Hole**
Teton Village, WY
- The Ritz-Carlton Kapalua**
Kapalua, Maui, HI
- Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea**
Kihei, Maui, HI
- Rosewood Mayakoba**
Playa del Carmen, Riviera Maya, Mexico
- Montage Palmetto Bluff / May River GC**
Bluffton, SC
- The Ocean Club, A Four Seasons Resort**
Nassau, The Bahamas
- One & Only Palmilla**
Cabo San Lucas, B.C.S., Mexico
- The Resort at Pelican Hill**
Newport Beach, CA
- Primland**
Meadows of Dan, VA
- Pueblo Bonito Beach Resorts / Quivira**
Los Cabos, B.C.S., Mexico
- Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita**
Punta Mita, Nayarit, Mexico
- The Ritz-Carlton Reynolds, Lake Oconee**
Greensboro, GA
- Sandy Lane Resort**
St. James, Barbados

Buddies

- 1. **Bandon Dunes Golf Resort**
Bandon, OR
- 2. **Pinehurst Resort**
Pinehurst, NC
- 3. **Cabot Links Golf Resort**
Inverness, Nova Scotia, Canada
- 4. **Sand Valley Golf Resort**
Nekoosa, WI
- 5. **The Resort at Diamante**
Cabo San Lucas, B.C.S., Mexico
- ▼ **Arcadia Bluffs**
Arcadia, MI
- Barefoot Resort and Golf**
North Myrtle Beach, SC
- Omni Barton Creek Resort & Spa**
Austin, TX
- Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa**
Birmingham, AL
- Boyne Golf**
Boyne Falls, MI
- Caledonia / True Blue Plantation**
Pawleys Island, SC
- Erin Hills**
Erin, WI
- Forest Dunes**
Roscommon, MI
- Gamble Sands**
Brewster, WA
- Innisbrook, A Salamander Resort**
Palm Harbor, FL
- Pine Needles Lodge / Mid Pines Inn**
Southern Pines, NC
- The Prairie Club**
Valentine, NE
- Pursell Farms**
Sylacauga, AL
- Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa**
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
- Streamsong Resort**
Bowling Green, FL
- Sunriver Resort**
Sunriver, OR
- Talking Stick**
Scottsdale, AZ
- Trump National Doral Miami**
Miami, FL
- Turning Stone Resort & Casino**
Verona, NY
- Villa del Palmar Beach Resort & Spa / TPC Danzante Bay**
Loreto, B.C.S., Mexico

General Excellence

- 1. **The Broadmoor**
Colorado Springs, CO
- 2. **The Greenbrier**
White Sulphur Springs, WV
- 3. **Fairmont Banff Springs**
Banff, Alberta, Canada
- 4. **Kiawah Island Golf Resort**
Kiawah Island, SC
- 5. **Sea Pines Resort**
Hilton Head Island, SC
- ▼ **The Ritz-Carlton Bachelor Gulch / Red Sky**
Avon, CO
- Baha Mar Resort**
Nassau, The Bahamas
- Omni Bedford Springs Resort**
Bedford, PA
- Cabo del Sol Beach & Golf Resort**
Cabo San Lucas, B.C.S., Mexico
- Cap Cana Resort**
Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
- Casa de Campo**
La Romana, Dominican Republic
- Fairmont Chateau Whistler**
Whistler, British Columbia, Canada
- Rosewood CordeValle**
San Martin, CA
- Gasparilla Inn & Club**
Boca Grande, FL
- Grand Wailea**
Wailea, Maui, HI
- Omni Grove Park Inn**
Asheville, NC
- The Ritz-Carlton Half Moon Bay**
Half Moon Bay, CA
- Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge**
Jasper, Alberta, Canada
- Four Seasons Resort La Quinta Resort & Club**
La Quinta, CA
- Las Colinas**
Irving, TX
- Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu**
Charlevoix, Quebec, Canada
- Nemacolin Woodlands Resort**
Farmington, PA
- Princeville Resort Kauai**
Princeville, Kauai, HI
- Pronghorn Resort**
Bend, OR
- Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North**
Scottsdale, AZ

Families

- 1. **Big Cedar Lodge**
Ridgedale, MO
- 2. **Colonial Williamsburg Resort**
Williamsburg, VA
- 3. **The Retreat, Links & Spa at Silvies Valley Ranch**
Seneca, OR
- 4. **French Lick Resort**
French Lick, IN
- 5. **Omni Mount Washington Resort**
Bretton Woods, NH
- ▼ **Beaver Creek Resort**
Beaver Creek, CO
- Rosewood Bermuda**
Hamilton, Bermuda
- The Coeur d'Alene Resort**
Coeur d'Alene, ID
- Giants Ridge Golf & Ski Resort**
Biwabik, MN
- Grand Isla Navidad Resort**
Isla Navidad, Mexico
- Grand View Lodge**
Nisswa, MN
- Hammock Beach, A Salamander Resort**
Palm Coast, FL
- Omni Homestead Resort**
Hot Springs, VA
- Horseshoe Bay Resort**
Horseshoe Bay, TX
- The Hotel Hershey / Hershey CC**
Hershey, PA
- Omni La Costa Resort & Spa**
Carlsbad, CA
- Ojai Valley Inn & Spa**
Ojai, CA
- Rodd Crowbush Golf & Beach Resort**
Morell, Prince Edward Island, Canada
- The Sagamore Resort**
Bolton Landing, NY
- JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa / TPC San Antonio**
San Antonio, TX
- Seaview, A Dolce Resort**
Galloway, NJ
- Sun Valley Resort**
Sun Valley, ID
- Taboo Muskoka Resort & Club**
Gravenhurst, Ontario, Canada
- JW Marriott Tucson Starr Pass Resort & Spa**
Tucson, AZ
- Walt Disney World Resort**
Orlando, FL



Albany



The Inn at Bay Harbor



Bandon Dunes Golf Resort



Fairmont Chateau Whistler



The Greenbrier



Four Seasons Resort Costa Rica at Peninsula Papagayo



Amanera



Rosewood CordeValle



Pinehurst Resort



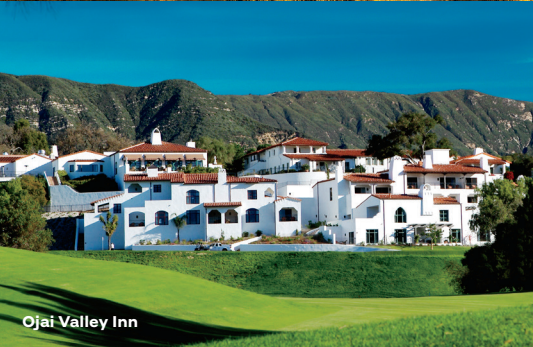
Four Seasons Resort Hualalai



Omni Homestead Resort



Dorado Beach, A Ritz-Carlton Reserve



Ojai Valley Inn



Rosewood Bermuda



Montage Palmetto Bluff



Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge



Villa del Palmar Beach Resort/ Danzante Bay



Four Seasons Resort Lana'i



Fairmont Grand Del Mar



The Ritz-Carlton Kapalua



Primland



Pueblo Bonita Beach Resorts/Quivira



The Resort at Diamante



Sandy Lane Resort



1

**Bandon Dunes
Golf Resort**
BANDON, OR

2

Pinehurst Resort
PINEHURST, NC

3

**Cabot Links Golf
Resort**
INVERNESS,
NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

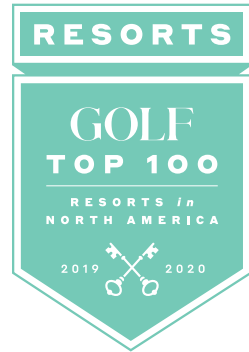
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**Sand Valley Golf
Resort**
NEKOOSA, WI

5

**The Resort at
Diamante**
CABO SAN LUCAS,
B.C.S., MEXICO

BUDDIES



Some resorts, bless them, are all about golf, golf, golf. They celebrate and share in our passion for the game, offering immersion therapy with multiple courses to play 18, 36, or until you just can't see the ball anymore. They're where we hard-core types indulge with like-minded friends, and when our daily golf bender is done, all we want, and get, is on-point efficiency and comfort (and maybe some craft beer) before we get back after it tomorrow.

GROUP THERAPY:
BANDON DUNES

Daily stay-and-plays start at: \$135. **Golf experience:** Pine Needles and Mid Pines (they're across the street from one another) boast 18-hole Donald Ross gems. **Best non-golf amenity:** Both resorts are heavily golf-centric, but a favorite hang off the courses is the In-The-Rough Lounge at Pine Needles. **While you're there:** We're not suggesting you leave, but it's worth mentioning the formidable Pinehurst Resort and its nine courses are but a few miles away. **Insider tip:** Play the slightly easier Pine Needles first, then Mid Pines in the afternoon. **Also good for:** General Excellence

pineneedleslodge.com
(800) 747-7272 (PN)
(800) 323.2114 (MP)

The Prairie Club
Valentine, NE

Best time to go: Sept. There's a little less wind and the courses play firmer and faster. **Daily stay-and-plays start at:** \$459 (includes unlimited golf, cart, lodging and breakfast). **Golf experience:** 36 holes of outrageous golf in Nebraska's beautiful but remote Sandhills region. **Best non-golf amenity:** Load up a cooler and take a leisurely 5-hour float down the Niobrara River. **While you're there:** Take on the Old Wagon putting course, a funky layout with giant

slopes overlooking the Snake River Canyon. A club shuttle drops you off and picks you up. **Insider tip:** There are no replay fees, which means, in summer, there's enough light to comfortably play up to 72 holes at no extra cost. Oh, and at dinner in the main lodge, don't ask for the specials. Get the steak. This is cattle country. **Also good for:** General Excellence theprairieclub.com (888) 402-1101

Pursell Farms
SYLACAUGA, AL

Best time to visit: Spring and fall are the best time for golf and outdoor activities. **Daily stay-and-plays start**

at: \$255. **Golf experience:** A clever Hurdzan-Fry design on a former family farm. **Best non-golf amenity:** Who doesn't want to embrace their inner country roots with a visit to the gun range? **While you're there:** If you come in the fall, play a full 18 at Pursell then take resort transportation to nearby Auburn University to see the Tigers play before 85,000 rabid fans. **Insider tip:** The resort is the family homestead of David and Ellen Pursell. If you ask nice enough, they might give you a personal home tour or an Orvis fishing or shooting trip. **Also good for:** Families pursellfarms.com (877) 292-3276

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa
PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL

Best time to go: For best course conditions, tee it up in late March and early April (right after The Players Championship); lowest rates can be found during the sticky summer months. **Daily stay-and-plays start at:** \$575. **Golf experience:** Play where the pros play at TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course, but don't overlook the adjacent Valley Course, also by Pete Dye. **Best non-golf amenity:** The 20,000-square-foot spa. **While you're there:** The World Golf Hall of Fame is just 30 minutes



The Resort at Diamante

floor. **While you're there:** Salt River Fields at Talking Stick hosts spring training for the Arizona Diamondbacks and Colorado Rockies, a short drive from resort. **Insider tip:** One of the world's most popular TopGolf locations is within walking distance; mention you're staying at the resort for potential special offers. **Also good for:** General Excellence talkingstickresort.com (480) 850-7777

Trump National Doral Miami
MIAMI, FL

Best time to go: Year-round, but the weather in winter is often fabulous, especially considering what the rest of the country is enduring at that time. **Daily stay-and-plays start at:** \$255. **Golf experience:** Four courses, including the famed Blue Monster, a former PGA Tour stop and one of the toughest and most exciting courses in Florida. If the Sunshine State were to host a U.S. Open, it'd be on the Blue. **Best non-golf amenity:** The American Wagyu ribeye or a 28-day dry-aged Porterhouse steak, both served at BLT Prime overlooking the Blue Monster. **While you're there:** Pamper yourself with up to 100 different spa offerings at the Trump Spa, and spend some time to relax at the Royal Palm Pool oasis. **Insider tip:** Trump National Doral Miami offers memberships, including a full-golf membership that allows unlimited access to all courses at the resort. **Also good for:** General Excellence trumphotels.com (800) 713 6725

Turning Stone Resort & Casino
VERONA, NY

Best time to go: Turning Stone is a four-season resort, but we love central New York in Sept.-Oct., when summer turns to fall and the leaves turn with it. **Daily stay-and-plays start at:** \$300. **Golf ex-**

perience: Turning Stone boasts some of the best public golf in the Northeast, and is regularly featured among GOLF's Top 100 Courses You Can Play. **Best non-golf amenity:** The casino and surrounding shows and nightlife have so much to offer you don't need to touch a single chip to get your money's worth. **While you're there:** Settle in and enjoy! This is a destination resort—there's more than enough to do on the sprawling property. **Insider tip:** Save some time for Sandstone Hollow, Turning Stone's nine-hole par-3 course, which winds through woods, wetlands and wild fescue. **Also good for:** Families turningstone.com (800) 771-7711

Villa del Palmar Beach Resort & Spa / TPC Danzante Bay
LORETO, B.C.S., MEXICO

Best time to go: Nov. to May; it's a little cooler and best time to catch whales passing by in the Gulf of California. **Daily stay-and-plays start at:** \$298. **Golf experience:** Imagine Sedona, Ariz., crashing into the sea—that's TPC Danzante Bay. Although architect Rees Jones is better known as a U.S. Open course renovator than as a creator of singular golf holes, he certainly achieved the latter here at No. 17, where he built one of the world's most stunning par 3s (see pg. 66). The downhill tee shot to a sliver of green placed on top of a rocky peninsula hovering above the Sea of Cortez is unforgettable. **Best non-golf amenity:** Get on a boat and explore the Bay of Loreto National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site. **While you're there:** There's a hidden disco on the property (in a yurt, no less) open on weekends only. **Insider tip:** Check the Alaska Air flight schedule from LAX to Loreto; it's the only way to get here directly from the states. **Also good for:** Families villadelpalmar.com (800) 790-4187



Erin Hills

This page, from top: Alfa Dog; Courtesy Pine Needles Lodge; Opposite page: Courtesy Erin Hills



Pine Needles Lodge

south in St. Augustine. **Insider tip:** Guests have the exclusive opportunity to book a tee time up to a year in advance at TPC Sawgrass. **Also good for:** General Excellence marriott.com (904) 285-7777

Streamsong Resort
BOWLING GREEN, FL

Best time to go: Fall and spring (summer temperatures reach the 90s consistently). **Daily stay-and-plays start at:** \$500. **Golf experience:** Three Top-100 rated courses, designed by Tom Doak (the Blue), Coore/Crenshaw (the Red) and Gil Hanse (the Black). **Best non-golf amenity:** Guided bass fishing. **While you're there:** Try your hand at

archery, a sport you just don't find everywhere. **Insider tip:** Order the grouper sandwich from Restaurant Fifty-Nine. **Also good for:** General Excellence streamsongresort.com (888) 294-6322

Sunriver Resort
SUNRIVER, OR

Best time to go: Summer months are the heyday at Sunriver and the best time to go with long days and plenty of sunshine. **Daily stay-and-plays start at:** \$179. **Golf experience:** Four spectacular courses, including the venerable Crosswater, the pristine Meadows course, the testy Woodlands course and the family friendly, 9-hole Caldera Links. **Best non-golf amenity:**

Rafting, canoeing, kayaking or paddle boarding on the majestic Deschutes River. **While you're there:** Drive 20 minutes from Sunriver to discover Paulina Falls, a double waterfall that drops 80 feet over volcanic cliffs onto a jumble of rocks. The falls are surrounded by towering conifers, just west of Paulina Lake and the Newberry Caldera. It's breathtaking. **Insider tip:** Downtown Bend frequently hosts summer music and beer festivals—plan your trip accordingly and you can catch some phenomenal talent passing through. **Also good for:** General Excellence destinationhotels.com (855) 420-8206

Talking Stick
SCOTTSDALE, AZ

Best time to go: Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, when the weather is good and rates are lower than the peak season of Jan. through Mar. **Daily stay-and-plays start at:** \$176. **Golf experience:** 36 holes at Talking Stick Golf Club were designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw. **Best non-golf amenity:** Fine dining and killer sunset views at Orange Sky on the resort's 15th