

14 GREAT AMERICAN GOLF RESORTS

If golf is your game, here's where to stay and play across the United States.

If there's anyone who can appreciate the benefits of a top-notch destination resort, it's golfers. After a long day on the links, they can stroll back to the hotel and swap stories about the day's round at the lobby bar, slip into the spa for a massage or soothing soak in the whirlpool, relax over a nice steak dinner and bottle of wine, and then do it all over again the next day. For anyone who thinks that sounds like the ideal vacation, here are some notable hotels combining championship golf and championship accommodations.

The Phoenician Scottsdale, Arizona

From the moment you step into The Phoenician's lobby and gaze at the scenic Sonoran Desert laid out before you, it's clear that the setting is king here. The sprawling retreat sits on 250 acres at the base of Camelback Mountain and includes nine pools, 11 tennis courts, eight restaurants, a full-service spa, a top-notch art collection and even a cactus garden. Over on

the greens, you'll find some of the most beautiful holes in all of the Southwest.

MOST POPULAR GOLF HOLE

One of Director of Golf Kevin Betts' top picks is hole No.8 on the **DESERT COURSE**. "It features views directly south, from the city skyline to the Tempe Butte."

FAVORITE POST-GOLF ACTIVITY

Lunch or happy hour at Relish Burger Bistro, located atop the clubhouse. It's home to the **LARGEST TEQUILA COLLECTION IN THE STATE**, including The Phoenician's own private label.

WHAT'S NEW

GLOW PARTIES at the pool complex, **FAMILY YOGA, STARGAZING**.

The Grand Del Mar San Diego, California

Having opened in 2007, the Grand Del Mar is one of the newer properties in the bunch, but it has the look

and feel of a classic Mediterranean estate. Its five-star accommodations feature luxurious touches like marble bathrooms with huge soaking tubs and pillow-top beds with goose-down pillows. Your stay here can include horseback riding lessons at the equestrian center, deluxe treatments at the spa or 18 holes on the Tom Fazio-designed Grand Golf Club, which Golf Director Shawn Cox says "captures the essence of Southern California's coastal beauty."

MOST SCENIC GOLF HOLE

"Hole No.4," according to Cox. "Its second shot gives the impression of an **INFINITY POOL** with **CANYONS DROPPING OFF** behind and around the hole."

COOLEST GIFT SHOP GOLF ITEM

BELTS from 59 engraved with **THE HOTEL'S STAR SIGNET LOGO**, including pink ones for female golfers.

SEASONAL MUST

The resort's second annual **"SUMMER CONCERTS AT THE GRAND"** series takes place every Sunday from July 14 through Sept. 1.



The Resort at Pelican Hill
Newport Coast, California

The Broadmoor

Colorado Springs,
Colorado

I really cannot think of anything negative to say about the Broadmoor,” a delighted Andrew Harper traveler says of their stay at this 95-year-old resort. “It truly was one of my best vacations.” Built on the site of a former dairy farm in the foothills of Cheyenne Mountain, the Broadmoor was once revered as a place to go to get relief from various bronchial afflictions. Visitors today still make a point to get out and enjoy the fresh mountain air, be it fly-fishing on the Platte River, rock-climbing in the Garden of the Gods or playing a round on one of the Broadmoor’s three golf courses.

BEST COURSE FEATURE

“We are fortunate to have an absolutely majestic setting that serves as a nature preserve in many ways,” says Head Golf Pro Mark Kelbel. “All kinds of **BIRDS, DEER, FOXES AND COYOTES** live here, and occasional **BEAR SIGHTINGS** are possible.”

WHAT’S NEW

A restaurant called **PLAY** with a **GAME ROOM** and six lanes of **BOWLING**. Try one of the adult milkshakes.

FUN FACT

Noted writer **JOAN DIDION** used to **ICE SKATE** at the Broadmoor as a child.



The Broadmoor



The Phoenician
Scottsdale, Arizona

The Willcox

Aiken, South Carolina

Aiken may be a renowned horse town (some of the top thoroughbreds in the world train there), but it’s just a hop, skip and a jump from Augusta National, site of the prestigious Masters golf tournament, as well as several other notable courses. That makes it equally appealing to golf lovers, as well. When not out swinging the clubs, discerning Aiken visitors stay at this delightful inn dating back to 1897.

FUN FACT

The nearby **AIKEN GOLF COURSE** was the first course in the country to have **LADIES’ TEES**.

FAVORITE POST-GOLF ACTIVITY

A **DEEP-TISSUE MASSAGE** at the hotel spa. “Deep pressure is used to relieve tired and sore muscles,” says General Manager Tina McCarthy.

BEST GIFT SHOP GOLF ITEMS

WILCOX SIGNATURE PIQUÉ COTTON GOLF SHIRT, plus Dermalogica Daily Defense SPF 15, to avoid getting burned out on the course.

Fisher Island Club

Fisher Island, Florida

This 216-acre resort is located within the exclusive residential community of Fisher Island, which is reachable only by private yacht or auto-ferry. Guests navigate the property on personal golf carts, zipping from the secluded beach to the world-class tennis center to the nine-hole Links at Fisher Island, which is the handiwork of P.B. Dye, the youngest son of renowned course designer Pete Dye.

MOST POPULAR GOLF HOLE

“The seventh hole,” says Director of Golf Jim Curran. “It offers beautiful views of **DOWNTOWN MIAMI** and **MIAMI BEACH**.”

FAVORITE POST-GOLF ACTIVITY

Cocktails in one of the airy seaside pavilions at the green overlooking **BISCAYNE BAY**.

NOTEWORTHY FEATURE

On property is the historic 1920s-era **VANDERBILT MANSION**, the former estate of William K. Vanderbilt, which has been **NEWLY RESTORED** to its former glory.



The Resort at Pelican Hill
Newport Coast, California

The Resort at Pelican Hill

Newport Coast, California

Guests of this 332-room retreat often rave about its over-the-top amenities and stunning Palladian architecture, with details like the travertine flooring and Italian-limestone fireplaces. They'll also compliment the staff, who they'll note as wonderfully attentive yet not overly stuffy. And there's no way they're not going to mention the spectacular Pelican Hill Golf Club, whose 36 holes were designed by Tom Fazio to take full advantage of the waterfront setting.

MOST SCENIC GOLF HOLE

"The best is hole No.13 on the Ocean South Course, with its **180-DEGREE PANORAMIC VIEW** from three directions," says VP of Golf Steve Friedlander. "Lots of photos are taken here, and when the surf is up, the sound of the **WAVES ROARING** is incredible."

NOTEWORTHY FEATURE

Pelican Hill was voted one of the country's **GREENEST GOLF RESORTS**. Its water-quality management system allows

them to **RECYCLE MORE THAN 50 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER** a year.

WHAT'S NEW

The **FAZIO UNLIMITED GOLF PACKAGE**, which is available throughout 2013 and includes select bungalow or villa accommodations, unlimited golf, complimentary forecaddie, and more.

The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island Golf Resort

Kiawah Island,
South Carolina

This oceanfront resort just 30 minutes outside of Charleston is situated in the heart of the laid-back deep South, but it is ideally suited to an active crowd, who enjoys activities like kayaking, fishing, birding and biking. Guests also can take advantage of the hotel's award-winning tennis center, six pools and five championship golf courses, including the Ocean Course, site of the 1991 Ryder Cup

tournament nicknamed the "War at the Shore."

MOST CHALLENGING GOLF HOLE

Almost any hole on the **PETE DYE-DESIGNED OCEAN COURSE**, which *Golf Digest* once named **AMERICA'S TOUGHEST RESORT COURSE**.

COOL PERK

Guests of The Sanctuary can cruise around in one of the hotel's **MERCEDES-BENZ CONVERTIBLES**.

NOTEWORTHY FEATURE

The resort sits on one of the **TOP 10 BEACHES IN THE COUNTRY** according to Dr. Stephen Leatherman, aka "**DR. BEACH**."



The Sanctuary at
Kiawah Island Golf Resort

The Boulders

Carefree, Arizona

At this esteemed Waldorf Astoria property just outside Scottsdale, guests retreat to adobe casitas and villas that meld into the desert landscape. Each features a private balcony or patio perfect for enjoying the unspoiled views. When you're done relaxing, you can choose from a number of activities, including swimming, tennis, rock-climbing, horseback riding, and, of course, golf, on either of the two Jay Moorish courses, each dotted with ancient saguaros and postcard-worthy rock formations.

MOST SCENIC GOLF HOLE

Hole No.5 on the South Course. It was literally carved from the desert and is characterized by a **DRAMATIC ROCK OUTCROPPING** that shelters the green. From there, you have unmatched vistas of the resort and the surrounding **SONORAN DESERT**.

BEST GIFT SHOP GOLF ITEM

New **ORGANIC SOAPS** designed exclusively for the hotel, shaped to resemble the resort's namesake **BOULDERS**.

NOTEWORTHY FEATURE

Guests can stargaze with a **PROFESSIONAL ASTRONOMER** on regular moonlight hikes.

The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua

Kapalua, Hawaii

Welcome to paradise. The tropical island of Maui is home to this well-appointed Ritz-Carlton, providing guests with an authentic Hawaiian experience, not just through the hotel's design and features, but with activities like lei-making classes and interpretive walking tours. Loosely translated,

the name Kapalua means "arms embracing the sea," and visitors can easily appreciate the resort's breathtaking setting on either of the two 18-hole golf courses on the 23,000-acre property.

MOST SCENIC GOLF HOLE

On the Plantation Course, Dustin Irwin, sales and marketing manager of Kapalua Golf, narrowed it down to hole No.17. "It's the highest point on the course, and **IT FEELS LIKE YOU'RE ON TOP OF THE WORLD**," he says. On the Bay Course, Irwin's vote was for hole No.5, where you'll spy "**TURTLES** in the bay, **WHALES** jumping, and **MOLOKA'I**."

FAVORITE POST-GOLF ACTIVITY

For the gentlemen, watching sports on the flat-screen TV as you soak in **THE GROTTO** on the men's side of the spa.

NOTEWORTHY FEATURE

The **JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU AMBASSADORS OF THE ENVIRONMENT** program, which offers everything from whale-watching excursions to cooking classes.



The Lodge at Torrey Pines

The Lodge at Torrey Pines

La Jolla, California

An Andrew Harper guest-summed up their stay here this way: “The Lodge is a beautiful, elegantly casual hotel that was perfect for a long, relaxing weekend. The staff also had a laid-back graciousness about them, and was very attentive to our requests. And, of course, you can’t beat the location.” That location includes proximity to the celebrated Torrey Pines Golf Course, home of the annual Farmers Insurance Open PGA Tour event, where guests of the hotel can get preferred tee times.

WHAT’S NEW

The North course at Torrey Pines will be undergoing a **\$7 MILLION REDESIGN** led by longtime pro **PHIL MICKELSON**. The work is scheduled to be completed in 2015.

FAVORITE POST-GOLF ACTIVITY

Dan Fullen, general manager of The Lodge at Torrey Pines, suggests making reservations for the weekly **ARTISAN TABLE**, a four-course wine and food pairing served family style on the terrace of the hotel’s signature restaurant, **A.R. VALENTIEN**.

BEST GIFT SHOP GOLF ITEM

Pictures and postcards of **TIGER WOODS** playing Torrey Pines.



Wequassett Resort and Golf Club

Chatham, Massachusetts

The Wampanoag Indians were the first to enjoy the secluded Cape Cod inlet overlooking Pleasant Bay that now houses the Wequassett Resort and Golf Club, made up of charming guestrooms and clapboard cottages. Modern guests love lounging poolside, attending clambakes, renting sailboats and playing rounds of 18 at the nearby Cape Cod National Golf Club, a championship course serving as a qualifying site for the U.S. Amateur Championship later this year.

MOST POPULAR GOLF HOLE

“All of them,” insists Mark Novota, the resort’s managing partner. “The breezy, well-groomed course takes full advantage of the Cape’s **UNIQUE TOPOGRAPHY** and **NATURAL BEAUTY**.”

FAVORITE POST-GOLF ACTIVITY

Cocktails at LiBAYtion, the resort’s **AL-FRESCO WATERFRONT BAR**, or at Thoreau’s, an **INTIMATE TAVERN**.

SEASONAL MUST

On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in July and August, guests can head to the Garden Terrace and listen to live music out under the stars as part of the annual **CAPE COD JAZZ FESTIVAL**.

Inn at Palmetto Bluff

Bluffton, South Carolina

Of this timeless Auberge Resort along the banks of the May River, an Andrew Harper guest exclaimed, “The Inn at Palmetto Bluff was essentially a perfect vacation venue,” singling out the hotel’s “superb” service, “haute cuisine,” “wonderful” kayak and boat tours, and the “nicest lap pool I have ever seen.” Others are quick to add to that list of achievements the inviting May River Golf Course, a meandering 18-hole Jack Nicklaus course where caddies are mandatory. Explains Head Pro Greg Wrobel: “We encourage players to walk the course so they can best appreciate the beautiful landscape.”

MOST SCENIC GOLF HOLE

Wrobel gravitates to No.14. “Based on the time and tides, the scenery changes, and **DOLPHINS CAN EVEN BE SEEN FROLICKING** in the waters.”

FAVORITE POST-GOLF ACTIVITY

A spa treatment called **THE 20TH HOLE**, which includes a deep-tissue massage, private steam, and Vichy treatment in the green.

WHAT’S NEW

THE FURNISHINGS AND ELECTRONICS WERE RECENTLY UPGRADED IN ALL OF THE COTTAGES. The rooms now feature iPads, allowing guests to request bell services, order room service and schedule spa treatments and tee times.



The Lodge at Sea Island Golf Club



The Lodge at Sea Island Golf Club

Sea Island, Georgia

Looking for a romantic getaway, where one of you can be out playing golf on one of three top-ranked courses while the other enjoys a day of pampering at a world-class spa? Look no further than The Lodge at Sea Island, part of the vast Sea Island resort complex that has been drawing generations of visitors to Georgia's idyllic Golden Isles since 1928. Rooms at the Lodge offer views of the Atlantic and the surrounding fairways and greens of the Sea Island Golf Club.

MOST SCENIC GOLF HOLE

Hole no.14 on the **LINKS-STYLE SEASIDE COURSE**. Says Director of golf Brannen



The American Club Resort

Veal: "Its entire length is bordered by the Atlantic and Lowcountry marsh. From here one can see the green as it stretches south toward **JEKYLL ISLAND** and north toward the **ST. SIMONS ISLAND CAUSEWAY**."

FAVORITE POST-GOLF ACTIVITY

A game of pool or poker in the **10,000-SQUARE-FOOT MEN'S LOCKER ROOM**.

COOL PERK

A BAGPIPER SERENADES GUESTS at sunset each day.

The American Club Resort

Kohler, Wisconsin

In the quaint village of Kohler, an hour north of Milwaukee, you'll come across this charming Tudor-style property, the Midwest's only AAA Five Diamond resort. The amenities include gorgeous rooms decked out with the finest Kohler bathroom fixtures, a spa and salon, upscale boutiques, gourmet dining rooms, and even a 500-acre wilderness preserve. But the golf is what people are really writing home about, given that all four of the resort's courses are ranked in *Golf Digest's* list of America's 100 Greatest Public Courses.

MOST SCENIC GOLF HOLE

Hole No.5 on the River Course at Blackwolf Run, says Jim Richerson, group director and general manager of Kohler Golf. "**THE TEE SITS 40 FEET ABOVE THE**

Area Alliance Partners

Arizona

Hotels

The Boulders, A Waldorf Astoria Resort; Carefree

The Cloister and The Lodge at Sea Island; Sea Island

Four Seasons at Troon North; Scottsdale

The Phoenician and The Canyon Suites; Scottsdale

Royal Palms Resort and Spa; Phoenix

Sanctuary Camelback Resort & Spa; Paradise Valley

Travel Partners

Wide World of Golf

Cape Cod, Massachusetts

Hotels

Wequassett Resort and Golf Club; Chatham

Colorado

Hotels

The Broadmoor; Colorado Springs

Florida

Acqualina Resort and Spa on the Beach; Sunny Isles Beach

The Betsy - South Beach; South Beach

Fisher Island Hotel & Resort; Fisher Island

King & Grove Tides; South Beach

Mandarin Oriental, Miami; Miami

The St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort; Miami

Georgia

The Lodge and The Cloister; Sea Island

The Stephen Williams House; Savannah

Hawaii

Hotels

Halekulani; Honolulu

Kahala Hotel & Resort; Honolulu

Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows; Kohala Coast

The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua; Maui

St. Regis Princeville Resort; Princeville

Travel Partners

Cuvée Escapes

LaCure Villas

Pure Kauai

Pure Maui

Wide World of Golf

Southern California

Hotels

Beverly Hills Hotel and Bungalows; Beverly Hills

Canary Hotel, Santa Barbara

Four Seasons Biltmore; Santa Barbara

The Grand Del Mar; San Diego

Hotel Bel-Air; Beverly Hills

Island Hotel Newport Beach; Newport Beach

L'Ermitage Beverly Hills; Beverly Hills

The Lodge at Torrey Pines; La Jolla

Montage Laguna Beach; Laguna Beach

The Peninsula Beverly Hills; Beverly Hills

Rancho Valencia; Rancho Santa Fe

IFC The Resort at Pelican Hill; Newport Beach

San Ysidro Ranch; Montecito

Simpson House Inn; Santa Barbara

The Willows Historic Palm Springs Inn; Palm Springs

Travel Partners

Beautiful Places

Four Seasons Residence Club Avira

LaCure Villas

Pelican Hill

Wide World of Golf

South Carolina

Hotels

Charleston Place; Charleston

21 The Inn at Palmetto Bluff; Bluffton

Planters Inn; Charleston

The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island Golf Resort; Kiawah Island

Wentworth Mansion; Charleston

The Willcox Hotel; Aiken

Travel Partners

The Excursionist

Wide World of Golf

Wisconsin

Hotels

The American Club; Kohler

3 (S) Canoe Bay; Chetek

Travel Partners

Wide World of Golf



FAIRWAY WITH A DRAMATIC VIEW of the Sheboygan River and the natural Wisconsin landscape.”

FAVORITE POST-GOLF ACTIVITY

Having a cigar and a pint of Jigger Ale on the deck overlooking the 18th green at either Blackwolf Run or Whistling Straits.

JIGGER ALE IS SHIPPED TO THE RESORT DIRECTLY FROM SCOTLAND and is not served anywhere else in the country.

FUN FACT

When **WHISTLING STRAITS HOSTS THE** green, it will be the first public course to hold the event since 1991.