



# JHONNY BE GOOD

Meet Jhonattan Vegas, one of the PGA Tour's Hot Young Guns

# TexasGolfer

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PEOPLE, PLACES & THE SPIRIT OF THE GAME

*The*  
★ TEXAS GOLFER ★  
**TRAVEL  
ISSUE**

# Escape!

Southern California's  
Uber-Luxe Pelican Hill Resort

Tropical Treat at Kapalua, Maui

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Hill Country Haven

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Cover photograph of Pelican Hill South, Hole 18 supplied by The Resort at Pelican Hill



**"BASICALLY, PELICAN  
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# Palatial Pelican Hill

By SCOTT KAUFFMAN

In the hit 1960s television series “Gilligan’s Island,” the comical cave scenes for Gilligan’s shipwrecked *S.S. Minnow* passengers were shot in Newport Beach. Even the opening theme song’s famous phrase, “a three-hour tour,” was sung as the *Minnow* headed out to sea with Newport Bay’s rock jetties in the backdrop.

Now more than 40 years after the show went off the air and knowing where Gilligan and the gang were actually “stranded,” I don’t feel quite as bad for the Skipper, Thurston Howell III and his wife, “Lovey.”

If there’s one place I’d ever wish to be shipwrecked, Newport Beach would definitely be it. Of course, rather than be stuck in Gilligan’s caves, I’d prefer to set up camp at Newport’s palatial Resort at Pelican Hill.

And that applies whether I’m travelling with my golf buddies, wife and kids or just my wife on a romantic getaway. Basically, Pelican Hill, a 504-acre Palladian-styled resort situated high above a stretch of this swanky Southern California coastline, has it all.

The first-class golf club, highlighted by two ocean-view courses designed by Tom Fazio and a 44,000-square-foot clubhouse, is just the start. There’s also a top-rated 23,000-square-foot spa, highly acclaimed dining led by the signature Andrea Ristorante and 328 luxurious resort accommodations that range in size from 847 square feet for regular oceanview “bungalows” to 3,628 square feet for exquisite three-bedroom oceanview villa residences that feature around-the-clock butlers and a private 10,000-square-foot Villa Clubhouse built in the truest Tuscan-themed style and architecture.

When you pull up to Pelican Hill’s large herringbone patterned auto plaza, where you find Bentleys and Benzes sitting idle to the side, there’s an instant sense of arrival. Then, once

you make your way through the grand lobby and look out past the Roman-inspired Coliseum Pool—the largest circular pool in the world—and see the stunning vistas of the blue Pacific Ocean, you realize you’re truly somewhere special.

Indeed, the neighboring Pelican Hill communities are recognized for having some of the priciest real estate in America, where hillside homes can start at \$10 million.

The resort is situated just a short 15-minute drive from the heart of Southern California’s chic seaside community of Newport Beach and the largest small-yacht harbor in the world (estimated 16,000-plus boats). Head another 20 minutes in the opposite direction

along the picturesque Pacific Coast Highway and you’re in the lovely little village of Laguna Beach, a charming surf and arts-oriented town with numerous boutique shops and restaurants.

But who needs to leave Pelican Hill when there’s so much to do right on property, namely golf. Like the rest of the resort, the ocean-view courses coexist in perfect harmony with the coastal California landscape. The Ocean North and Ocean South courses offer 36 out-

standing holes created by Fazio, and two distinct playing experiences with one common characteristic: stunning views of the Pacific Ocean from nearly every vantage point.

Of the resort’s two layouts, the Ocean South Course is the top choice, with three rare oceanfront holes—Nos. 11-13—situated alongside the precious Newport Coast. The back-to-back par 3s at Nos. 12 and 13 feature Crystal Cove State Beach on the left and \$30-million estates on the right. Standout holes, yes, but by no means are they the signature holes.

“I couldn’t pick a signature hole, because there are so many of them,” Fazio says of his creations.

If only Gilligan and the gang had this kind of golf as an option, perhaps they would never have left the island. ■

