



THE GREATEST
ISSUE



TOP 100 COURSES in the U.S.



Rank: 59
CapRock Ranch
Valentine, NE

GOLF'S 117 COURSE PANELISTS HAVE VOTED! THE RESULT: AN ECLECTIC MIX OF TRACKS THAT FAVORS DIVERSITY, SANDY SOIL AND A RETURN TO THE GOLDEN AGE WHERE ENJOYMENT IS THE ULTIMATE REWARD.

By RAN MORRISSETT, ARCHITECTURE EDITOR

TOP 100 COURSES IN THE U.S. 2022 / 2023

2022-23 RANK	↑ ↓	COURSE NAME, CITY, STATE, ARCHITECT, YEAR	AVERAGE SCORE	2022-23 RANK	↑ ↓	COURSE NAME, CITY, STATE, ARCHITECT, YEAR	AVERAGE SCORE
1	-	PINE VALLEY PINE VALLEY, NJ GEORGE CRUMP/H.S. COLT, 1918	97.50	26	↓ 3	Somerset Hills BERNARDSVILLE, NJ A.W. TILLINGHAST, 1918	63.01
2	-	CYPRESS POINT PEBBLE BEACH, CA ALISTER MACKENZIE, 1928	96.01	27	-	California Golf Club of San Francisco SO. SAN FRANCISCO, CA A.V. MACAN, 1926/ALISTER MACKENZIE, 1928/ KYLE PHILLIPS, 2007	62.42
3	-	SHINNECOCK HILLS SOUTHAMPTON, NY WILLIAM FLYNN, 1931	91.92	28	↓ 3	Garden City GARDEN CITY, NY DEVEREUX EMMET, 1899/WALTER TRAVIS, 1906	62.20
4	-	NATIONAL GOLF LINKS OF AMERICA SOUTHAMPTON, NY C.B. MACDONALD, 1911	90.47	29	-	Maidstone EAST HAMPTON, NY JOHN PARK/WILLIE PARK JR., 1922	60.60
5	-	OAKMONT OAKMONT, PA HENRY & WILLIAM FOWNES, 1903-1950	85.07	30	-	Bethpage (Black) FARMINGDALE, NY A.W. TILLINGHAST, 1935	59.12
6	↑ 1	SAND HILLS MULLEN, NE BILL COORE/BEN CRENSHAW, 1994	84.09	31	↑ 3	Ballyneal HOLYOKE, CO TOM DOAK, 2006	59.11
7	↓ 1	AUGUSTA NATIONAL AUGUSTA, GA ALISTER MACKENZIE/BOBBY JONES, 1933	83.60	32	↓ 1	Kiawah Island (Ocean) KIAWAH ISLAND, SC PETE DYE, 1991	57.92
8	-	MERION (EAST) ARDMORE, PA HUGH WILSON, 1912	82.29	33	-	Inverness TOLEDO, OH DONALD ROSS, 1919/ANDREW GREEN, 2017	57.84
9	-	FISHERS ISLAND FISHERS ISLAND, NY SETH RAYNOR, 1926	78.28	34	↓ 8	Camargo CINCINNATI, OH SETH RAYNOR, 1926	57.73
10	↑ 2	LOS ANGELES (NORTH) LOS ANGELES, CA GEORGE C. THOMAS JR., 1927	77.53	35	↑ 1	Sleepy Hollow SCARBOROUGH, NY C.B. MACDONALD/SETH RAYNOR, 1913/A.W. TILLINGHAST, 1929/ GIL HANSE, 2017	57.12
11	↓ 1	Pebble Beach PEBBLE BEACH, CA JACK NEVILLE/DOUGLAS GRANT, 1919	77.32	36	↑ 1	Peachtree ATLANTA, GA ROBERT TRENT JONES SR./BOBBY JONES, 1947	56.89
12	↓ 1	Pinehurst No. 2 PINEHURST, NC DONALD ROSS, 1907-1935	76.75	37	↑ 3	Oak Hill (East) PITTSFORD, NY DONALD ROSS, 1921/ ANDREW GREEN, 2020	56.14
13	↑ 1	Chicago GC WHEATON, IL C.B. MACDONALD, 1895/SETH RAYNOR, 1923	75.68	38	↑ 3	Old Town WINSTON-SALEM, NC PERRY MAXWELL, 1939	55.91
14	↑ 3	Riviera PACIFIC PALISADES, CA GEORGE C. THOMAS JR./BILLY BELL SR., 1926	73.21	39	↓ 7	Ohoopie Match Club COBBTOWN, GA GIL HANSE/JIM WAGNER, 2018	55.64
15	↓ 2	Friar's Head BAITING HOLLOW, NY BILL COORE/BEN CRENSHAW, 2003	73.10	40	↓ 2	Bandon Trails BANDON, OR BILL COORE/BEN CRENSHAW, 2005	54.93
16	↓ 1	Winged Foot (West) MAMARONECK, NY A.W. TILLINGHAST, 1923	71.56	41	↑ 28	Baltusrol (Lower) SPRINGFIELD, NJ A.W. TILLINGHAST, 1922	54.13
17	↑ 2	Pacific Dunes BANDON, OR TOM DOAK, 2001	70.93	42	↑ 1	Myopia Hunt Club SO. HAMILTON, MA H.C. LEEDS, 1898	54.01
18	-	Prairie Dunes HUTCHINSON, KS PERRY MAXWELL, 1937/PRESS MAXWELL, 1957	70.34	43	↑ 3	Winged Foot (East) MAMARONECK, NY A.W. TILLINGHAST, 1923	53.87
19	↑ 16	Oakland Hills (South) BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI DONALD ROSS, 1917	70.19	44	↑ 3	Yeamans Hall HANAHAN, SC SETH RAYNOR, 1925	53.78
20	↓ 4	Crystal Downs FRANKFORT, MI ALISTER MACKENZIE/PERRY MAXWELL, 1932	70.14	45	↑ 3	Rock Creek Cattle Company DEER LODGE, MT TOM DOAK, 2008	53.19
21	↓ 1	Seminole JUNO BEACH, FL DONALD ROSS, 1929	70.07	46	↓ 2	Bandon Dunes BANDON, OR DAVID MCLAY KIDD, 1999	52.95
22	-	The Country Club (Clyde/Squirrel) BROOKLINE, MA TCC MEMBERS/WILLIE CAMPBELL, 1899	68.20	47	↓ 8	Quaker Ridge SCARSDALE, NY A.W. TILLINGHAST, 1926	52.70
23	↓ 2	San Francisco SAN FRANCISCO, CA A.W. TILLINGHAST, 1918	68.09	48	↑ 3	Muirfield Village DUBLIN, OH JACK NICKLAUS, 1974-2020	52.37
24	↑ 4	Southern Hills TULSA, OK PERRY MAXWELL, 1936	66.08	49	↑ 6	Valley Club of Montecito MONTECITO, CA ALISTER MACKENZIE/ROBERT HUNTER, 1929	52.00
25	↓ 1	Shoreacres LAKE BLUFF, IL SETH RAYNOR, 1921	63.15				

2022-23 RANK	↑ ↓	COURSE NAME, CITY, STATE, ARCHITECT, YEAR	AVERAGE SCORE	2022-23 RANK	↑ ↓	COURSE NAME, CITY, STATE, ARCHITECT, YEAR	AVERAGE SCORE
50	↓ 5	TPC Sawgrass (Players Stadium) PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL PETE DYE, 1981	51.46	75	↓ 4	Milwaukee RIVER HILLS, WI C.H. ALISON, 1929	44.02
51	↓ 9	The Golf Club NEW ALBANY, OH PETE DYE, 1967	51.30	76	↑ 5	Shadow Creek LAS VEGAS, NV TOM FAZIO, 1990	44.00
52	↑ 11	Honors Course OOLTEWAH, TN PETE DYE, 1983	51.11	77	↓ 11	Old Macdonald BANDON, OR TOM DOAK/JIM URBINA, 2010	43.73
53	↓ 1	Old Sandwich PLYMOUTH, MA BILL COORE/BEN CRENSHAW, 2004	50.48	78	↑ 7	Monterey Peninsula (Dunes) PEBBLE BEACH, CA SETH RAYNOR, 1924/ TOM FAZIO/JACKSON KAHN, 2015	43.68
54	↓ 5	Whistling Straits (Straits) HAVEN, WI PETE DYE, 1998	50.41	79	↑ 8	Lawsonia (Links) GREEN LAKE, WI BILL LANGFORD/TED MOREAU, 1930	43.46
55	NEW!	Congressional (Blue) BETHESDA, MD DEVEREUX EMMET, 1924/ANDREW GREEN, 2020	50.28	80	↓ 2	St. Louis ST. LOUIS, MO C.B. MACDONALD, 1914	43.43
56	↓ 6	Wade Hampton CASHIERS, NC TOM FAZIO, 1987	50.00	81	↑ 8	Aronimink NEWTON SQUARE, PA DONALD ROSS, 1928	43.31
57	↓ 4	Eastward Ho! CHATHAM, MA HERBERT FOWLER, 1922	49.88	82	↓ 21	Gamble Sands BREWSTER, WA DAVID MCLAY KIDD, 2014	43.06
58	↑ 1	Pasatiempo SANTA CRUZ, CA ALISTER MACKENZIE, 1929	49.72	83	↑ 3	Glens Falls QUEENSBURY, NY DONALD ROSS, 1920	42.98
59	NEW!	CapRock Ranch VALENTINE, NE GIL HANSE/JIM WAGNER, 2021	49.25	84	-	Newport NEWPORT, RI WILLIAM F. DAVIS, 1899/A.W. TILLINGHAST, 1924	42.78
60	↓ 6	Olympic (Lake) DALY CITY, CA WILLIAM WATSON/SAM WHITING, 1924	48.99	85	↓ 13	Congaree RIDGELAND, SC TOM FAZIO, 2017	42.66
61	↑ 1	The Creek LOCUST VALLEY, NY C.B. MACDONALD/SETH RAYNOR, 1923	48.52	86	↓ 9	Streamsong (Red) STREAMSONG, FL BILL COORE/BEN CRENSHAW, 2012	42.56
62	↑ 2	Essex County MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA, MA DONALD ROSS, 1917	48.42	87	↓ 12	Baltimore (Five Farms East) BALTIMORE, MD A.W. TILLINGHAST, 1926	41.91
63	↑ 10	Harbour Town HILTON HEAD, SC PETE DYE/JACK NICKLAUS, 1969	48.11	88	↑ 12	Cherry Hills CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, CO WILLIAM FLYNN, 1923	41.84
64	↓ 4	Pikewood National MORGANTOWN, WV J. ROBERT GWYNNE/JOHN RAESE, 2009	48.04	89	↓ 6	Hollywood DEAL, NJ WALTER TRAVIS, 1915	41.61
65	↓ 7	Kittansett MARION, MA WILLIAM FLYNN/FRED HOOD, 1922	47.97	90	↓ 11	Kingsley KINGSLEY, MI MIKE DEVRIES, 2001	40.92
66	↑ 1	Monterey Peninsula (Shore) PEBBLE BEACH, CA BOB BALDOCK, 1962/MIKE STRANTZ, 2004	47.86	91	↑ 3	Nanea KAILUA-KONA, HI DAVID MCLAY KIDD, 2003	40.32
67	↑ 1	Bel-Air LOS ANGELES, CA GEORGE C. THOMAS JR./WILLIAM F. BELL, 1926	47.65	92	↑ 2	Streamsong (Blue) STREAMSONG, FL TOM DOAK, 2012	40.28
68	↓ 12	Piping Rock LOCUST VALLEY, NY C.B. MACDONALD, 1911	47.21	93	↑ 5	Calusa Pines NAPLES, FL MICHAEL HURDZAN/DANA FRY, 2001	40.22
69	↓ 12	Plainfield PLAINFIELD, NJ DONALD ROSS, 1916	47.02	94	↓ 12	Prairie Club (Dunes) VALENTINE, NE TOM LEHMAN/CHRIS BRANDS, 2010	40.13
70	-	Gozzer Ranch HARRISON, ID TOM FAZIO, 2007	46.25	95	NEW!	Davenport PLEASANT VALLEY, IA C.H. ALISON, 1924/FORSE GOLF DESIGN, 2014	40.02
71	↑ 5	White Bear Yacht Club WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN WILLIAM WATSON, 1915	45.15	96	NEW!	Brookside CANTON, OH DONALD ROSS, 1922	40.00
72	↓ 7	Moraine KETTERING, OH ALEX CAMPBELL, 1930	45.00	97	↓ 17	Sheep Ranch BANDON, OR BILL COORE/BEN CRENSHAW, 2020	39.46
73	NEW!	Scioto COLUMBUS, OH DONALD ROSS, 1916/ANDREW GREEN, 2021	44.29	98	↓ 7	Sand Valley (Sand Valley) NEKOOSA, WI BILL COORE/BEN CRENSHAW, 2017	39.44
74	-	Ridgewood (E/W) PARAMUS, NJ A.W. TILLINGHAST, 1929	44.15	99	↓ 6	Palmetto AIKEN, SC H.C. LEEDS, 1897/ALISTER MACKENZIE, 1933	39.42
				100	↓ 8	Pinehurst No. 4 PINEHURST, NC DONALD ROSS, 1919/GIL HANSE, 2017	39.27



Rank: 79
Lawsonia Links
Green Lake, WI

● Flashback: 1986

It was in the fall of that year when I met Dick Youngscap. He had just built an interesting course in Nebraska. No, not Sand Hills (more on *that* later). The course to which I refer is Firethorn, in Lincoln, the state's capital. While touring the property, Dick shared interesting stories about what it was like working with Pete Dye, Firethorn's architect. The course was fetching for many reasons, one of them being that the site, at the time, was bereft of homes and offered the kind of "open" golf that I had experienced only in the UK. (I knew of Prairie Dunes, some 250 miles to the south, but had not yet been.)

I had always thought that if you owned a course, pretentiousness would come part and parcel. Not in Youngscap's case. He spoke plainly, truthfully and used words that even my 23-year-old self could understand. Little did I know what a gigantic impact he would have on the game, to say nothing of my view of design.

Spin the clock forward to 1994, when Youngscap had just finished overseeing the construction of another course in the Cornhusker State, in the remote region known as the Sand Hills, about 300 miles west and north from Firethorn. The course had distinct advantages, one of the most important being that it sat on top of the Ogallala, one of the world's largest aquifers. Water, even here, would not be an issue. The issue was figuring out how to drape 18 holes on the expansive property and connect and relate each one to the others. Literally, any direction you turned, there was some sort of

fascinating design option. The task of tackling these Nebraska dunes and the myriad of routing possibilities fell to Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw. Course architecture has thrived ever since.

Sand Hills fostered the modern *Field of Dreams* principle in course construction: Build it and they will come. Its priority was hyper-focused on the purity of the golf experience. Selling real estate never figured in. Memberships sold out quickly, with one of the first to ink his name to the Sand Hills roster being Chicago businessman Mike Keiser (more on *him* later). The course debuted on our 1997 U.S. ranking at the No. 10 spot. Lofty, for sure. Flash in the pan? Anything but. In this year's Top 100, Sand Hills climbs to No. 6, one spot ahead of Augusta National.

What a Difference 27 Years Makes

In a moment of reflection as GOLF's course panelists cast ballots for this year's Top 100 list, I dug into the ranking published in 1995, the last one that didn't feature Sand Hills, and compared it to the one on the previous pages. Have things changed? Yes! Shockingly, nine courses in the top 50 in 1995, headlined by Medinah No. 3 at No. 27, no longer appear at all (see sidebar, p. 63). Forty of the bottom 50 courses are gone too. In fact, nearly half of the courses ranked in the Top 100 in 1995 are absent from our 2022 effort. Who would have thought?

Of the 49 courses to make this year's list not to be found on the one from 27 years ago, 24 opened in 1994 or after,



Rank: 13
Chicago
Wheaton, IL





Inside the Ranking

TOP 100 COURSES BY ERA

Was there a Golden Age? You bet! More than 60 percent of courses on the 2022 Top 100 list were built in the first half of the last century. The stats also clearly show we are in the midst of a second Golden Age.

Era built	1995	2022	Change
1892–1942	58	66	+8
1943–1993	42	10	–32
1994–today	0	24	+24

many adhering to the minimalist school of architecture (or, said another way, “man taking his lead from nature”). Others, like **California GC of San Francisco** (No. 27), **Sleepy Hollow** (No. 35), **Old Town** (No. 38) and **Moraine** (No. 72), missed the list in 1995 but can thank enlightened restorations for them holding proud spots in GOLF’s latest ranking.

A deeper dive into the makeup of the 1995 and 2022 lists shows other trends, many of which are intertwined. First, there’s more than double the number of courses in the 2022 ranking that play across sandy foundations compared to 1995. Second, courses that embrace nature (as compared to simply having been built on it) have soared. Las Vegas’ **Shadow Creek** hangs in there as best of the latter breed, but is down 46 spots from 1995. Third, “long” views have replaced cramped, tree-lined corridors. We’ve been preaching this for a while: Faster, firmer playing surfaces that are more exposed to the wind create a richer playing experience, to say nothing of offering more interesting playing angles. Fact: The 2022 list features 50 percent fewer parkland courses (with trees down both sides of the fairways) than the 1995 version. (Oakmont became a top 5 course only when it was *deforested*.) Fourth, greatness is no longer defined by the number of professional events that a course hosts. Firestone, a Tour-stop staple for 60 years and three-time PGA Championship host, finished No. 56 in 1995—and No. 243 in 2022. In our raters’ eyes, the chance to connect with nature and designs that encourage creativity are more essential than Tour history. Fifth, and lastly, 2022 proves that greatness doesn’t require living beside a vast population center. The “boonies,” seemingly, are where it’s at. As you scour the 2022 ranking, you’ll note how the list favors golfers’ abilities to roam free and solve enjoyable puzzles posed by the architect in some of the most enchanting spots imaginable.

You don’t need a large body of water to boost your aesthetic, either. You can be in rural Wisconsin or northeast Georgia

or—indeed!—Nebraska, which is now one of the country’s hottest golf states. The unifying theme is that if you’re playing a course deemed “Top 100,” you’re increasingly playing on top of a pocket of sand.

We’re Going Where?

Search Valentine, Neb., on Google. Population: maybe 3,000. Here, livestock outnumber humans. Yet within a 30-minute drive, this sandy plain offers the public-access **Prairie Club**, featuring two fine 18-holers (the Dunes course is ranked No. 94), and the private **CapRock Ranch**, which makes its debut at No. 59, having

just opened in 2021. CapRock epitomizes the burgeoning trend of playing in wonderful inland locations. Here, it’s akin to teeing it up in a national park. Eight of CapRock’s greens sit along or border the Snake River valley, and only the screech of an eagle will disrupt you from soaking up the grandeur of the place.

Small-town wonders don’t stop in Nebraska. Other courses built since Sand Hills near sub-5,000-person towns include **Ohoopie Match Club** in Cobbtown, Ga. (No. 39), **Gamble Sands** outside Brewster, Wash. (No. 82) and **Congaree** near Ridgeland, S.C.



RANK: 55
Congressional (Blue)
Bethesda, MD



THE GREATEST
ISSUE



Rank: 62
Essex County
Manchester-
by-the-Sea, MA



Rank: 26
Somerset Hills
Bernardville, NJ



(No. 85). And let's not forget Bandon Dunes. To say that Mike Keiser, the resort's mastermind (I told you we'd get back to him), took the "bouncing" ball and ran with it would be an understatement. **Bandon Dunes** (No. 46) opened in 1999, **Pacific Dunes** (No. 17) in 2001, **Bandon Trails** (No. 40) in 2005, **Old Macdonald** (No. 77) in 2010 and **Sheep Ranch** (No. 97) in 2020. That's five courses in Oregon on our Top 100 today that didn't even *exist* in 1995. Talk about good news for the rec golfer: In 1995, 13 of the Top 100 were open to the public. Now, it's 20, a 50 percent increase.

We'd be remiss not to mention other visionaries in the Keiser mold who have put their stamp on golf in America: Herb Kohler (who passed away at age 83 as we were tabulating the ballots) and Johnny Morris. Back in the '80s, in **Kohler**, Wis. (pop: 2,500), Kohler reestablished the notion of pairing great accommodations with excellent golf. Morris, founder of Bass Pro Shops, shaped his love of the wilderness as a place to gather and spend time with family to create **Big Cedar Lodge** outside Hollister, Mo. (pop: 5,000). The resort is exceptional and

an exclamation point to the notion that golf in America's midsection has never been stronger.

Are We Having Fun Yet?

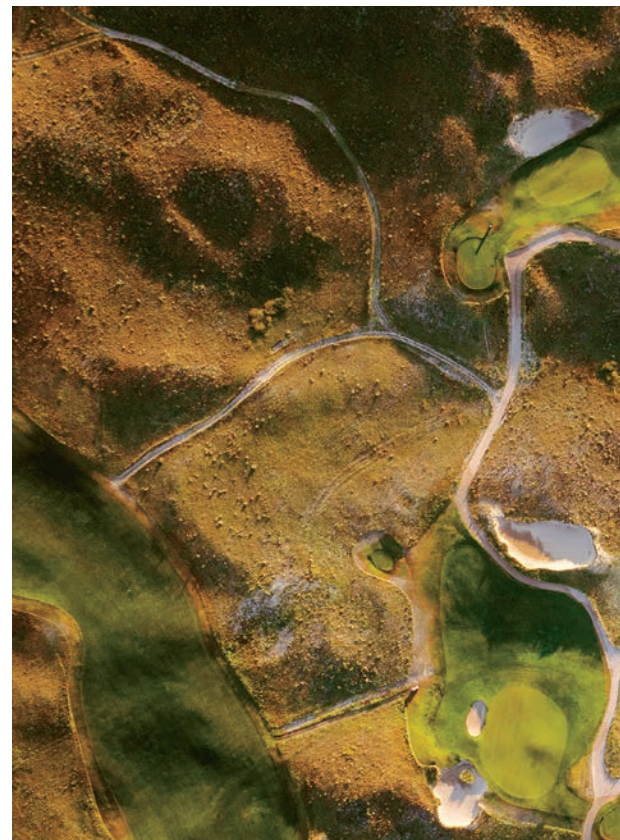
The pioneering Youngscap, Keiser, Kohler and Morris took chances, no mistake. Asking golfers to travel to remote areas is fraught with peril—if you get it wrong, people won't show and you're done. Kudos to their belief that compelling golf—no matter its locale—is what we want.

It's a matter of enjoyment. When you visit Sand Hills, for example, the last thing on your mind is how many fairways or greens you hit. The worth of the course—any elite course—isn't joined to a number. Rather, it's tethered to the enjoyment derived by playing it. Indeed, when you unburden yourself from reducing the game to statistics and start thinking more holistically, golf at its highest form becomes a spiritual awakening. That's true—and lasting—power. What a novel concept! Unfortunately, it's one that course developers strayed from during the second half of the last century. Today's reassertion of width, quirk, short grass and *wild* greens widens the sport's appeal. Golf in America is back on track.

A Major Conundrum

If a club thinks that hosting a men's professional event is a surefire way to jump up the ranking, it better think again. Yes, doing so confers prestige and press, but the strategy is rife with pitfalls. A sad act we've seen played out time and again in

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Rank: 80
St. Louis
St. Louis, MO

Rank: 78
Monterey Peninsula (Dunes)
Pebble Beach, CA



this country as courses are made “major ready”—making them more linear by reducing playing angles, adding ill-conceived hazards and trees, detaching fairway bunkers from their fairways and pushing tees back to “Tiger” territory. In short, every design aspect of a course comes under siege.

Say you’re a Golden Age course (which comprise two thirds of the 2022 Top 100 list—see sidebar, p. 55): The long-term ramifications of hosting an event where contestants can drive it 350 yards without batting an eye is a genuine consideration. The professional game has little bearing on the rec set these days. Is the trade-off between a week’s worth of fawning and altering the soul of classic design worth it? Our ranking—despite what individual clubs across our nation feel about the matter—says no.

We admire the route taken by **Congressional**, which has hosted five majors. Several years ago, it went back to the drawing board, with the membership giving Andrew Green the go-ahead for a monster renovation to return the course to its Golden Age roots. Congressional was well outside our Top 100 in 2020. This year, it vaults to the No. 55 spot. Once



Rank: 6
Sand Hills
Mullen, NE

Inside the Ranking

STATE YOUR CASE!

Restorations fuel the Empire State's lead in courses listed in our ranking, with Massachusetts, Oregon, Wisconsin and Nebraska showing great momentum.

State	1995	2022	Change
NY	10	15	+5
MA	3	6	+3
NE	0	3	+3
OR	2	5	+3
WI	1	4	+3
NC	2	4	+2
CA	11	12	+1
CO	1	2	+1
GA	2	3	+1
IA	0	1	+1
ID	0	1	+1
MO	0	1	+1
MT	0	1	+1
NJ	5	6	+1
WA	0	1	+1
WV	0	1	+1
HI	1	1	0
KS	1	1	0
NV	1	1	0
RI	1	1	0
TN	1	1	0
AL	1	0	-1
CT	1	0	-1
IN	1	0	-1
MD	3	2	-1
MN	2	1	-1
OK	2	1	-1
SC	6	5	-1
VA	1	0	-1
TX	2	0	-2
MI	6	3	-3
AZ	3	0	-3
IL	5	2	-3
OH	10	7	-3
PA	6	3	-3
FL	9	5	-4

tree-choked and *heavy*, it now offers multiple 1,000-yard views. And the greens! The one on No. 14 falls 14 feet (!) from back to front. If that doesn't grab you, then the one on the very next hole, where the green bleeds away from front to back, certainly will. Bottom line is that Green's work "salutes" the ground. That's what golf is all about: the interaction of ball and turf.

Other "tournament-caliber" courses that appeared in our 1995 ranking but failed to make this year's list include Crooked Stick, Colonial, Interlachen, Medinah and Olympia Fields. All have exciting restorations planned and may well rejoin our list in years to come. If they do, it'll be more because their membership (and its lucky guests) adore playing the course versus the limelight that stems from hosting a once-a-decade event.

Target Practice

We don't publish course distances for our Top 100 courses. What's the point? We think it distracts from what really matters, which are cool targets, both to aim toward and recover to. Our panelists tend to start at the green and work back toward the tee. **Pine Valley** (No. 1), **Oakland Hills** (No. 19), **Somerset Hills** (No. 26), **Yeamans Hall** (No. 44)—all replete with stellar targets. Same goes for a newcomer: **Brookside** (No. 96) in Canton, Ohio. Granted, some panelists see a few of Brookside's greens as too extreme at today's speeds. Had just a few of them had a slightly softer opinion, this 100-year-old Donald Ross design would have finished higher. Regardless, when judging a course for yourself, it's wise to start at the end. Building a great green complex takes enormous skill and





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Rank: 90
Kingsley
Kingsley, MI

remains the primary difference between good and great architecture.

Don't Quit Your Day Job

As we all know, joining a private club or vacationing to some of the public-access winners wrecks havoc on your wallet. Rather than bemoan the expense, let's use this moment to celebrate courses that don't, such as **Lawsonia Links** (No. 79) in Wisconsin and **Davenport** (No. 95) in Iowa. Leave it to common sense values found in the Midwest not to be swept up in unnecessary, costly thrills or conspicuous greenkeeping. (I know one course with an annual budget of \$900,000—for its bunkers! No wonder the Top 100 Value Courses gets so much traffic on GOLF.com.)

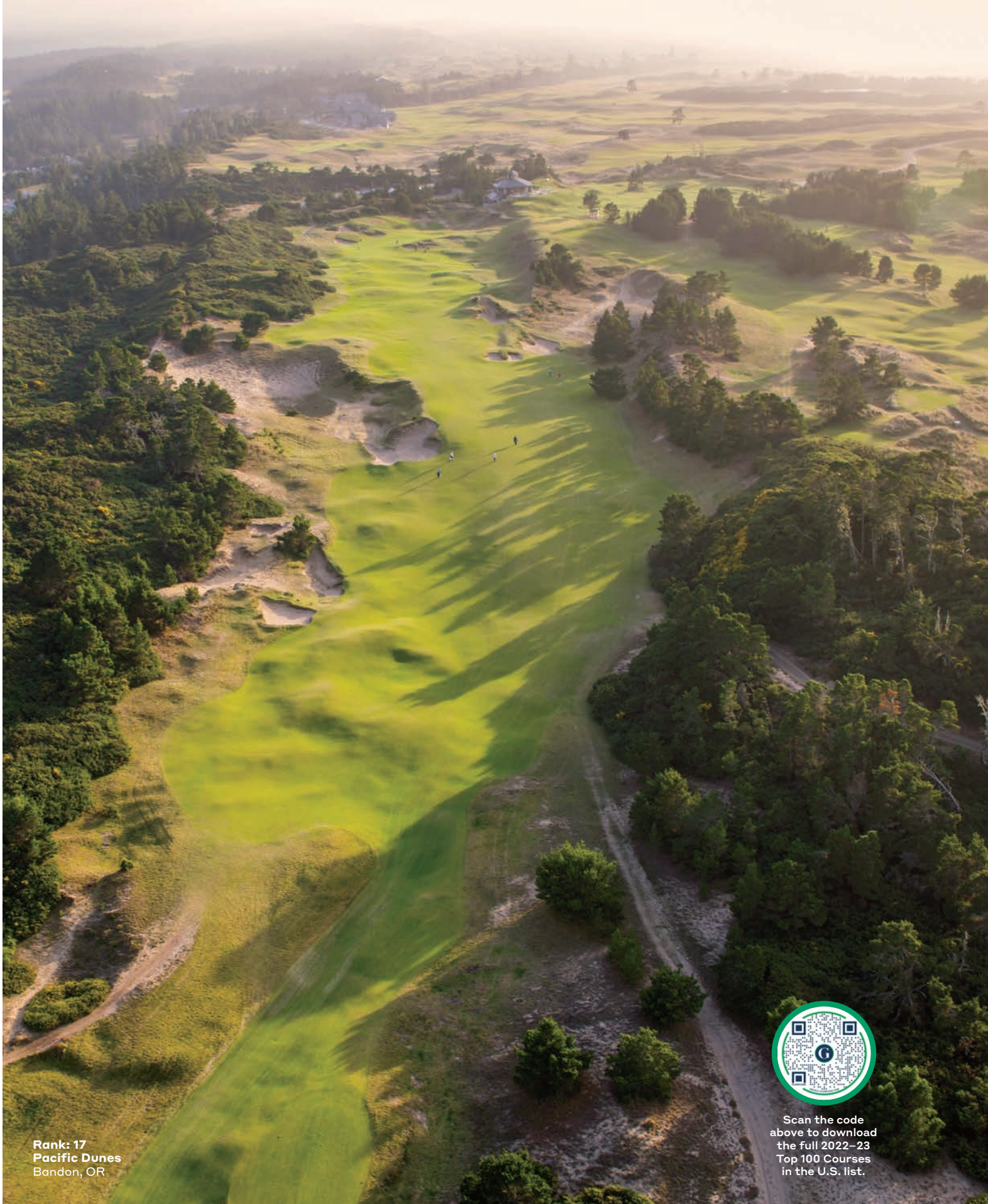
On the Horizon

Is there hope for new courses in densely populated areas? The jury is out. Land costs are through the roof—if you can find the land. For the good of the game, and as evidenced by our panel vote, a better strategy is to focus on restoring Golden Age gems, private or otherwise.



Rank: 95
Davenport
Pleasant Valley, IA

Previous page: Andy Johnson/The Fried Egg (2); Right: Channing Benjamin; This page, left: Larry Lambrecht; Right: Andy Johnson/The Fried Egg (2)



Rank: 17
Pacific Dunes
Bandon, OR



Scan the code
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the full 2022-23
Top 100 Courses
in the U.S. list.

A TALE OF TWO RANKINGS

The left column lists the 49 courses that appeared on our '95 ranking that are off the current list. Their replacements—the 49 courses on the right—are an intoxicating mix that showcases the rich and varied splendor of our nation's topography.

1995 Rank	Rank
MEDINAH (NO. 3)	27
COLONIAL	34
WORLD WOODS (PINE BARRENS)	39
SHOAL CREEK	40
DOUBLE EAGLE	41
CASCADES (UPPER)	43
BLACK DIAMOND (QUARRY)	45
LONG COVE	46
CANTERBURY	49
YALE	52
OAK TREE NATIONAL	53
SPYGLASS HILL	54
LAKE NONA	55
FIRESTONE (SOUTH)	56
INTERLACHEN	57
TROON NORTH (MONUMENT)	58
WILD DUNES (LINKS)	60
TROON	61
FOREST HIGHLANDS (CANYON)	62
BUTLER NATIONAL	64
CROOKED STICK	65
POINT O'WOODS	66
WANNAMOISSETT	67
JUPITER HILLS (HILLS)	68
SAUCON VALLEY-GRACE	69
PGA WEST (TPC STADIUM)	71
PUMPKIN RIDGE (WITCH HOLLOW)	72
PUMPKIN RIDGE (GHOST CREEK)	74
INDIANWOOD (OLD)	76
HAZELTINE NATIONAL	78
HIGH POINTE	79
THE MEDALIST	80
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY (SCARLET)	81
SALEM	82
THE QUARRY AT LA QUINTA	83
LANCASTER	84
LAUREL VALLEY	85
CHAMPIONS (CYPRESS CREEK)	87
MAUNA KEA	88
THE COUNTRY CLUB, OHIO	89
SAUCON VALLEY (OLD)	90
CC OF DETROIT	92
TRUMP DORAL (BLUE)	93
BLACKWOLF RUN (RIVER)	94
THE DUNES	95
OLYMPIA FIELDS (NORTH)	96
PINE TREE	98
COLLETON RIVER (NICKLAUS)	99
CAVES VALLEY	100

2022 Rank	Rank
SAND HILLS	6
FRIAR'S HEAD	15
PACIFIC DUNES	17
CALIFORNIA GC OF SAN FRANCISCO	27
BALLYNEAL	31
SLEEPY HOLLOW	35
OLD TOWN	38
OHOOPEE MATCH CLUB	39
BANDON TRAILS	40
MYOPIA HUNT	42
YEAMANS HALL	44
ROCK CREEK CATTLE COMPANY	45
BANDON DUNES	46
OLD SANDWICH	53
WHISTLING STRAITS (STRAITS)	54
EASTWARD HO!	57
CAPROCK RANCH	59
THE CREEK	61
ESSEX COUNTY	62
PIKEWOOD NATIONAL	64
MONTEREY PENINSULA (SHORE)	66
BEL-AIR	67
PIPING ROCK	68
GOZZER RANCH	70
WHITE BEAR YACHT CLUB	71
MORaine	72
MILWAUKEE	75
OLD MACDONALD	77
MONTEREY PENINSULA (DUNES)	78
LAWSONIA LINKS	79
SAINT LOUIS	80
ARONIMINK	81
GAMBLE SANDS	82
GLENS FALLS	83
NEWPORT	84
CONGAREE	85
STREAMSONG (RED)	86
HOLLYWOOD	89
KINGSLEY	90
NANEA	91
STREAMSONG (BLUE)	92
CALUSA PINES	93
PRAIRIE CLUB (DUNES)	94
DAVENPORT	95
BROOKSIDE (CANTON)	96
SHEEP RANCH	97
SAND VALLEY (SAND VALLEY)	98
PALMETTO	99
PINEHURST (NO. 4)	100



The restoration efforts at both The Country Club, east of Cleveland, and Lake Merced, outside of San Francisco, are already garnering rave reviews.

My guess is that you'll continue to see a tidal wave of new course openings in rural areas. We're anxious to see Brambles, two hours north of San Francisco, which promises bouncy conditions when its zoysia fairways finish knitting in. And, as reported last issue, the Keiser brothers are planning to debut their first solo projects—The Lido and Sedge Valley—in 2023 and 2024. The brothers aren't stopping there and plan to start new projects in Colorado, Florida and Texas. Their father isn't slowing down, either, with projects of his own looming in Oregon, California and Scotland. Where there are pockets of sand, there are the Keisers.

The charming Southern town of Aiken, S.C., has a pair of courses (Tree Farm and Old Barnwell) on its outskirts that will soon expand the area's golf riches, which include **Palmetto** (No. 99) and Aiken Golf Club (whose sub-\$40 green fee makes it one of the country's great bargains). Brookville, Fla. (pop: 8,500) is witnessing a comprehensive overhaul at World Woods, now Cabot Citrus Farms, driven by Ben Cowan-Dewar, who has worked with Keiser since 2006. Seven courses will be opening in the greater Palm Beach area, including a second course at MacArthur by Coore & Crenshaw. King-Collins is set to capitalize on their Landmand momentum with the opening of Red Feather in Lubbock, Texas.

Guess what? All 12 of these courses feature sandy soil. 'Nuff said! 🏌️