

The Top 100 Courses Issue p.64

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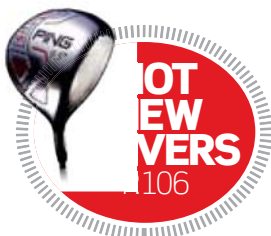


THE GOLF MAGAZINE INTERVIEW
LANNY WADKINS

"My idea of a sports psychologist
was a friendly bartender." p.100



**Adios Fidel,
Hello Tiger**
Inside Cuba's Golf Boom
by Josh Sens





The TOP 100 COURSES IN THE U.S. AND THE WORLD

These lists are the most thorough and respected rankings in golf—and a banner celebration of the greatest courses on the planet

THE WORLD'S best golfers endure perpetual scrutiny. But the world's best courses? Not so much. Sure, some enjoy bursts of publicity when hosting Tiger, Phil and Co., but most toil quietly, verdant masterpieces played—and critiqued—by a fortunate few.

That is why our biannual ranking of the Top 100 Courses in the U.S. and the World is so meaningful. Whether you agree with the results or not, these are the most thorough and respected rankings in golf—and a banner celebration of the greatest courses on the planet.

Pine Valley remains the undisputed king of the rankings, topping both the U.S. and World lists, but this year 14 newcomers have made the breakthrough. One of them—Chambers Bay in Washington State—cracked our World Top 100 despite being newer than some of the balls in your bag. The first-timers represent a staggering variety of imagination and destinations, spanning the globe from Portugal to the Monterey Peninsula. Congratulations to each, and welcome to the club.

Joe Passov, Top 100 Chairman

THE TOP 100 WORLD COURSES

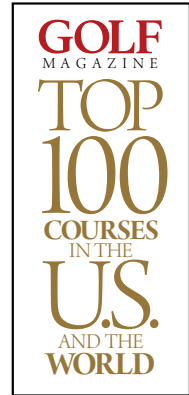
2009 Rank	2007 Rank	Course Name Architect/Year Opened	Average Score	2009 Rank	2007 Rank	Course Name Architect/Year Opened	Average Score
1	1	Pine Valley Pine Valley, N.J. <i>George Crump/H.S. Colt, 1918</i>	95.75	51	55	Garden City Golf Club Garden City, N.Y. <i>Devereux Emmet, 1899</i>	51.93
2	2	Cypress Point Pebble Beach, Calif. <i>Alister MacKenzie, 1928</i>	92.24	52	47	Los Angeles (North) Los Angeles, Calif. <i>George Thomas, 1921</i>	51.81
3	4	Augusta National Augusta, Ga. <i>Alister MacKenzie/Bobby Jones, 1933</i>	85.71	53	62	Royal Lytham & St. Annes St. Annes on Sea, England <i>George Lowe Jr., 1897</i>	51.59
4	3	St. Andrews (Old Course) St. Andrews, Scotland <i>Nature, 1400s</i>	85.65	54	46	Morfontaine Senlis, France <i>Tom Simpson, 1927</i>	51.35
5	7	Royal County Down Newcastle, N. Ireland <i>Old Tom Morris, 1889</i>	82.53	55	60	Nine Bridges Jeju Island, South Korea <i>Ron Fream/David Dale, 2001</i>	51.03
6	6	Shinnecock Hills Southampton, N.Y. <i>William Flynn, 1931</i>	81.83	56	53	Woodhall Spa Woodhall Spa, England <i>H. Vardon, 1905/H.S. Colt, 1912/V. Hotchkiss, 1926</i>	50.64
7	5	Pebble Beach Pebble Beach, Calif. <i>Jack Neville/Douglas Grant, 1919</i>	81.30	57	52	Oak Hill (East) Rochester, N.Y. <i>Donald Ross, 1923</i>	50.47
8	9	Oakmont Oakmont, Pa. <i>Henry Fownes, 1903</i>	77.91	58	57	Bandon Dunes Bandon, Ore. <i>David McLay Kidd, 1999</i>	50.42
9	8	Muirfield Gullane, Scotland <i>Old Tom Morris, 1891/H.S. Colt, 1925</i>	76.51	59	59	The Golf Club New Albany, Ohio <i>Pete Dye, 1967</i>	50.00
10	10	Merton (East) Ardmore, Pa. <i>Hugh Wilson, 1912</i>	74.63	60	51	Southern Hills Tulsa, Okla. <i>Perry Maxwell, 1936</i>	49.07
11	11	Sand Hills Mullen, Neb. <i>Bill Coore/Ben Crenshaw, 1994</i>	74.14	61	61	Kingsbarns St. Andrews, Scotland <i>Kyle Phillips, 1999</i>	48.87
12	16	National Golf Links of America Southampton, N.Y. <i>C.B. Macdonald, 1911</i>	73.68	62	58	Medinah (No. 3) Medinah, Ill. <i>Tom Bendelow, 1928</i>	47.89
13	12	Royal Portrush (Dunluce) Portrush, N. Ireland <i>H.S. Colt, 1929</i>	70.81	63	69	Ganton Ganton, England <i>Harry Vardon, 1905</i>	47.87
14	15	Royal Melbourne (West) Melbourne, Australia <i>Alister MacKenzie, 1926</i>	69.48	64	66	Loch Lomond Luss, Scotland <i>Tom Weiskopf/Jay Morrish, 1994</i>	45.99
15	18	Royal Dornoch Dornoch, Scotland <i>Old Tom Morris, 1886</i>	67.66	65	67	Maidstone East Hampton, N.Y. <i>John Park/Willie Park Jr., 1891</i>	45.07
16	13	Pacific Dunes Bandon, Ore. <i>Tom Doak, 2001</i>	67.29	66	74	Camargo Indian Hill, Ohio <i>Seth Raynor, 1921</i>	44.86
17	19	Turnberry (Ailsa) Turnberry, Scotland <i>Willie Fernie, 1909/P. MacKenzie Ross, 1951</i>	67.16	67	65	Winged Foot (East) Mamaroneck, N.Y. <i>A.W. Tillinghast, 1923</i>	44.85
18	14	Ballybunion (Old) Ballybunion, Ireland <i>P. Murphy, 1893/Tom Simpson, 1936</i>	67.10	68	71	Inverness Toledo, Ohio <i>Donald Ross, 1919</i>	44.74
19	17	Pinehurst (No. 2) Pinehurst, N.C. <i>Donald Ross, 1907</i>	66.48	69	77	Old Sandwich Plymouth, Mass. <i>Bill Coore/Ben Crenshaw, 2004</i>	44.29
20	22	Crystal Downs Frankfort, Mich. <i>Alister MacKenzie/Perry Maxwell, 1932</i>	65.17	70	64	Quaker Ridge Scarsdale, N.Y. <i>A.W. Tillinghast, 1926</i>	44.18
21	20	Seminole Juno Beach, Fla. <i>Donald Ross, 1929</i>	64.73	71	73	Shoreacres Lake Bluff, Ill. <i>Seth Raynor, 1921</i>	44.09
22	24	Carnoustie (C'shp) Carnoustie, Scotland <i>A. Robertson, 1842/T. Morris, 1872/J. Braid, 1926</i>	64.09	72	75	Royal Adelaide Adelaide, Australia <i>Alister MacKenzie, 1926</i>	44.05
23	21	Winged Foot (West) Mamaroneck, N.Y. <i>A.W. Tillinghast, 1923</i>	63.67	73	70	Harbour Town Hilton Head Island, S.C. <i>Pete Dye/Jack Nicklaus, 1969</i>	43.70
24	27	Chicago Golf Club Wheaton, Ill. <i>C.B. Macdonald, 1895/Seth Raynor, 1923</i>	62.86	74	87	Kawana (Fuji) Kawana, Japan <i>C.H. Alison/Kinya Fujita, 1936</i>	43.64
25	25	Prairie Dunes Hutchinson, Kan. <i>Perry Maxwell, 1937/Press Maxwell, 1957</i>	62.17	75	76	Nanea Kailua-Kona, Hawaii <i>David McLay Kidd, 2003</i>	43.50
26	23	San Francisco G.C. San Francisco, Calif. <i>A.W. Tillinghast, 1918</i>	62.14	76	89	Valderrama Sotogrande, Spain <i>Robert Trent Jones, 1975</i>	43.33
27	26	Kingston Heath Melbourne, Australia <i>Des Soutar, 1925/Alister MacKenzie, 1928</i>	62.11	77	NEW	Chambers Bay University Place, Wash. <i>Robert Trent Jones II, 2007</i>	43.33
28	28	Oakland Hills (South) Bloomfield Hills, Mich. <i>Donald Ross, 1917/Robert Trent Jones, 1950</i>	60.89	78	63	Kauri Cliffs Kerikeri, New Zealand <i>David Harman, 2000</i>	43.14
29	30	Royal Birkdale Southport, England <i>George Lowe Jr., 1889/Fred Hawtree, 1932</i>	60.50	79	86	Somerset Hills Bernardsville, N.J. <i>A.W. Tillinghast, 1918</i>	43.02
30	29	Riviera Pacific Palisades, Calif. <i>George Thomas/Billy Bell Sr., 1926</i>	58.56	80	80	Royal Liverpool Hoylake, England <i>George Morris, 1869</i>	42.77
31	31	Fishers Island Fishers Island, N.Y. <i>Seth Raynor, 1926</i>	58.33	81	68	Cruden Bay Cruden Bay, Scotland <i>Herbert Fowler/Tom Simpson, 1926</i>	42.67
32	33	Friar's Head Baiting Hollow, N.Y. <i>Bill Coore/Ben Crenshaw, 2003</i>	58.33	82	81	Walton Heath (Old) Tadworth, England <i>Herbert Fowler, 1904</i>	42.38
33	38	Sunningdale (Old) Sunningdale, England <i>Willie Park Jr., 1901/H.S. Colt, 1922</i>	57.23	83	82	Ballyneal Holyoke, Colo. <i>Tom Doak, 2006</i>	42.19
34	39	Royal St. George's Sandwich, England <i>Laidlaw Purves, 1887</i>	57.20	84	95	Swinley Forest Ascot, England <i>H.S. Colt, 1910</i>	41.96
35	32	Bethpage (Black) Farmingdale, N.Y. <i>A.W. Tillinghast, 1935</i>	57.05	85	78	European Club Brittas Bay, Ireland <i>Pat Ruddy, 1992</i>	41.67
36	41	Cape Kidnappers Hawke's Bay, New Zealand <i>Tom Doak, 2004</i>	56.75	86	79	Highland Links Ingonish, Nova Scotia, Canada <i>Stanley Thompson, 1935</i>	41.56
37	34	The Country Club Brookline, Mass. <i>Willie Campbell, 1895/Rees Jones, 1985</i>	56.55	87	72	Royal Melbourne (East) Melbourne, Australia <i>Alex Russell, 1932</i>	41.36
38	36	New South Wales La Perouse, Australia <i>Alister MacKenzie, 1928/Eric Apperly, 1947</i>	55.69	88	NEW	Ottavos Dunes Cascais, Portugal <i>Arthur Hills, 2001</i>	40.38
39	37	Hirono Kobe, Japan <i>C.H. Alison, 1932</i>	54.31	89	92	St. George's Inslington, Ontario, Canada <i>Stanley Thompson, 1929</i>	40.24
40	40	Whistling Straits (Straits) Haven, Wis. <i>Pete Dye, 1998</i>	54.22	90	85	Spyglass Hill Pebble Beach, Calif. <i>Robert Trent Jones, 1966</i>	40.13
41	45	Olympic (Lake) San Francisco, Calif. <i>Sam Whiting, 1924</i>	53.86	91	NEW	Waterville Waterville, Ireland <i>Eddie Hackett, 1973/Tom Fazio, 2006</i>	40.00
42	43	Casa de Campo (Teeth of the Dog) La Romana, Dominican Republic <i>Pete Dye, 1971</i>	53.82	92	97	Machrihanish Machrihanish, Scotland <i>Charles Hunter, 1876/Old Tom Morris, 1879</i>	39.13
43	35	Barnbougle Dunes Bridport, Australia <i>Tom Doak, 2004</i>	53.75	93	98	North Berwick (West) North Berwick, Scotland <i>David Strath, 1878</i>	38.77
44	54	Lahinch Golf Club Lahinch, Ireland <i>Old Tom Morris, 1893/Alister MacKenzie, 1927</i>	53.47	94	96	Durban Country Club Durban, South Africa <i>Laurie Waters/George Waterman, 1922</i>	38.75
45	49	Portmarnock (Old) Portmarnock, Ireland <i>George Ross/W.C. Pickeman/Mungo Park, 1894</i>	52.47	95	88	Cabo del Sol (Ocean) Los Cabos, Mexico <i>Jack Nicklaus, 1994</i>	38.48
46	42	Muirfield Village Dublin, Ohio <i>Jack Nicklaus/Desmond Muirhead, 1974</i>	52.43	96	83	Scioto Columbus, Ohio <i>Donald Ross, 1916</i>	38.37
47	48	Kiawah Island (Ocean) Kiawah Island, S.C. <i>Pete Dye, 1991</i>	52.33	97	84	Tokyo Tokyo, Japan <i>Komei Ohtani, 1940</i>	38.33
48	44	Royal Troon (Old) Troon, Scotland <i>Willie Fernie, 1887/James Braid, 1923</i>	52.21	98	NEW	Valley Club of Montecito Santa Barbara, Calif. <i>Alister MacKenzie/Robert Hunter, 1929</i>	38.30
49	50	Baltusrol (Lower) Springfield, N.J. <i>A.W. Tillinghast, 1922</i>	52.17	99	94	Naruo Osaka, Japan <i>H.C. Crane, 1904/C.H. Alison, 1930</i>	37.86
50	56	TPC Sawgrass (PLAYERS Stadium) Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. <i>Pete Dye, 1981</i>	52.07	100	NEW	Royal Porthcawl Porthcawl, Wales <i>H.S. Colt, 1913</i>	37.83

HOW WE RANK THEM

We don't tell our panelists what constitutes greatness in a golf course. They tell us. Each panelist considers factors such as design rhythm, creativity, setting and conditioning, but the value of each category is left to each panelist's discretion. Our 100 voting members hail from 17 countries and include major championship winners, Ryder Cup players, architects, amateur champions, photographers, journalists, historians and a small but fiercely passionate crew of course connoisseurs (a dozen in all) who have played at least one entire edition of *Golf Magazine's* Top 100 Courses in the World.

Each course that places in the top three on a panelist's ballot earns 100 points; spots 4-10 earn 85 points, followed by 11-25 (70 points), 26-50 (60 points), 51-75 (50 points), 76-100 (40 points), 101-150 (30 points), 151-200 (20 points), 201-250 (10 points), and 251+ (0 points). Any course that received a "remove from ballot" vote has 10 points deducted. Architects on the panel are not permitted to vote for their own original designs, nor can course owners vote for their own properties.

For more information and a full list of our panelists, visit golf.com/topcourses.



OITAVOS DUNES #88



OITAVOS DUNES

#88 World

How good is Oitavos Dunes? It has "the potential to be the best course in Europe," said Irish Ryder Cup hero Paul McGinley. Home to a European Tour event, Oitavos is a 2001 Arthur Hills seaside design 30 miles west of Lisbon. Lead architect Drew Rogers benefited from a rolling landscape of scrub-covered dunes, umbrella pines and open coastal areas, along with multiple views of the Atlantic Ocean, but give him and his team credit for the diversity of holes and required shots.

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OITAVOS DUNES

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