



GARY GALYEAN'S GOLF LETTER

THE INSIDE REPORT ON WORLD GOLF

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Dear Subscriber:

WHILE BEING DRONED, trolled, snooped, censored and intruded upon by worrisome digital and political forces loose in the world, many of us have decided that sticking to our knitting is far more enjoyable.

Much of that knitting takes place at clubs where it is still possible to find civility and tasteful conviviality. As David Fordham wrote, "A good club is much more than a mere catering establishment. It should be a refuge from the vulgarity of the outside world, a reassuringly fixed point, the echo of a more civilised way of living, a place where (as was once said of an Oxford college) people still prefer a silver salt-cellar which doesn't pour to a plastic one which does."

The purpose of THE GLOBAL TEN is to offer occasional alternatives to your Club. The news about this year's best golf hotels includes one new name for the first ten - Links House at Royal Dornoch; and one new name for our Watch List - The Resort at Cabot Links.

Our eye has been on Links House for the past seven years since it took on the responsibility of offering a small, five-star hotel just 100 feet from the first tee at Royal Dornoch.

2019

THE GLOBAL TEN

— First —

OLD COURSE HOTEL
St. Andrews, Scotland

— Second —

GREYWALLS
Gullane, East Lothian, Scotland

— Third —

THE LODGE AT PEBBLE BEACH
Pebble Beach, California

— Fourth —

THE BROADMOOR
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TURNBERRY RESORT
Ayrshire, Scotland

— Sixth —

THE LODGE AT SEA ISLAND
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LINKS HOUSE AT ROYAL DORNOCH
Dornoch, Scotland

— Eighth —

GLENEAGLES
Auchterarder, Scotland

— Ninth —

BANDON DUNES
Bandon, Oregon

— Tenth —

PINEHURST RESORT
Pinehurst, North Carolina

Inverness, Nova Scotia, is now the most talked about golf destination on the North American East Coast. The difficulty of traveling there and the region's short season add to the allure of finally finding Cabot Links' two superior courses on a summer day.

While Links House and Cabot Links are relatively new bright spots, the better known among THE GLOBAL TEN continue to lead the world in dependably producing superior experiences, just as they have for decades.

The primary criterion in making our selections is the quality of the golf course that the property either owns or to which it has reasonable access. The course's hosting of the most important championships cannot be ignored. These are the venues most revered by players, spectators, architectural authorities, historians, etc.

Service, accommodation, food, and non-golf activities are also heavily weighed. Most-elusive is *the intangible factor* that produces, for whatever reason, feelings and memories that are often the most important to achieve and the most difficult to define for an endear-

ing experience - especially an experience at one of the ten best golf hotels in the world:

— First —

OLD COURSE HOTEL
St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland
www.oldcoursehotel.co.uk

Golf in St. Andrews. No explanation is needed. More memorable than anywhere in the world. Twenty-nine Open Championships, 16 Amateur Championships, 8 Walker Cups ... the point is made. The Old Course Ho-



tel has the privilege of sharing a setting and a hotel experience that are commensurate - a word Rolls-Royce likes to use - with the excellence of the game as it is played in Fife. From its vantage point overlooking the most famous hole in the world - the Road Hole - the hotel allows guests a long view of the town of St. Andrews and, therefore allegorically, the long history of the game.

The anticipation of the 150th Open Championship in St. Andrews in 2021 has already made a room at the Old Course Hotel elusive if not impossible. Go when the crowd has gone.

— Second —

GREYWALLS
Gullane, East Lothian, Scotland
www.greywalls.co.uk

Simply the world's most civilized hotel adjacent to an Open Championship course or, for that matter, any championship course anywhere. The return of the Open Championship to Gullane every seven years or so serves as welcome reminder of the stunning stage this Edwardian house occupies adjacent to the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers.

Upon your first visit, as you look out your bedroom window across the Muirfield links and the Firth of Forth to the hills of Fife, you will find that the setting, as well as the nearly faultless execution of the staff, will surpass your expectations. A fine restaurant, cozy library, fireplaces, and a rose garden complete the ambience of Greywalls' 22 guest rooms.

— Third —

THE LODGE AT PEBBLE BEACH
Pebble Beach, California
www.pebblebeach.com

Say "Pebble Beach" and the stories and memories flow, always with a smile or fond reflection because this is America's premier golf destination.

Having hosted six U.S. Opens and five U.S. Amateurs, Pebble is central to the American golf experience. Everyone has or will play Pebble Beach. The interplay of sea and land, the dramatic routing along the cliffs, into the trees, and back out to the sea is unmatched.

Pebble Beach presents the best *series* of par fours in the world- the 8th, 9th and 10th; four of the best par threes [All five leaders during the final round of this year's U.S. Open bogeyed the 12th; the 17th determined the winner as it had also done in 1972 and '82; and the 7th determined the winner in 1992.]; and three of the most exacting and memorable par fives in major championship play - the beautifully precarious 6th, the exacting 14th, and a home hole where two trees and the ocean demand distance, accuracy and often recovery.

Lodge guests have preferred access to starting times at Spyglass Hill, The Links at Spanish Bay, and Del Monte.

— Fourth —

THE BROADMOOR
Colorado Springs, Colorado
www.broadmoor.com

The Broadmoor owns the world's only continuous record for winning the Mobil Five Star ranking - 56 years! As the flagship of American resorts, The Broadmoor hosted the 1959 U.S. Amateur (Jack Nicklaus' first major victory), the 1967 U.S. Amateur, the 1995 & 2011 U.S. Women's Opens (1995, Annika Sorenstam's first major victory), the 2008 & 2018 U.S. Senior Opens, and will host the 2025 U.S. Senior Open.



The Broadmoor's perseverance for perfection is reflected by its constant re-investment in itself through staff training, renovation of guest rooms, recreation and public areas, restaurants, and their world-renowned spa.

— Fifth —

TURNBERRY RESORT
Ayrshire, Scotland
www.turnberry.co.uk

Four Open Championships and four Amateur Championships establish the undeniable legacy of Turnberry's golf excellence and charm.

Turnberry served as the most western Royal Air Force Station during both World Wars and is memorialized

on a small mound near the 12th green. A double Celtic Cross was erected by the people of Kirkoswald Parish in



1923 to honour those airmen stationed at Turnberry Air Field who died during the First World War. Sixty-seven years later, four sections were added to the base of the memorial bearing the names of those who died at Turnberry during the Second World War.

Turnberry is the only hotel in ownership of an Open Championship course. The propriety provides superior service, food, accommodation and an entertaining second course.

— Sixth —

THE LODGE AT SEA ISLAND
St. Simons, Georgia
www.seaisland.com



During the 17 years that have passed since first opening, the Lodge has reached a maturity of operation that is smooth, attentive, tasteful but never over produced. Under the watchful eye of Steve Bartolin, president of The Broadmoor-Sea Island Company, there is an ease of accomplishment at the Lodge that comes only from expert direction and discernment.

Next door to the Lodge is the Sea Island Golf Performance Center which is arguably *the best in the world for club fitting, instruction and fitness*.

Bobby Jones, H.S. Colt, Walter Travis, Sam Snead, Rees Jones, Hugh Alison, Tom Fazio, Tony Jacklin, Davis Love Jr., and Davis Love III have all left the imprints of their remarkable talent at this unforgettable enclave.

— Seventh —

LINKS HOUSE AT ROYAL DORNOCH
Dornoch, Sutherland, Scotland
www.linkshousedornoch.com

While it is gratifying to welcome a new property to THE GLOBAL TEN, there can also be a measure of ner-

vousness when walking out on that limb. Since opening in 2012, Links House's earnest approach to the work at hand and the respect for the community in which they provide it has been without reproach. Even working their way through the tangled world of travel media, they seemed to understand that they did not want notoriety at the expense of overstatement.

That said, the details and range of all that Links House provides are alluring. Three stone buildings are home to fewer than 20 guest rooms, apartments, suites, and a library and restaurant. An adjacent Sporting Bothy provides Links House staff with storage and maintenance space for guests' gear. The design forethought is clear. Will become too precious? Time will tell.

Royal Dornoch and the other notable courses nearby have always been worthy of the drive north regardless of where you found a bed. Links House now provides fresh reasons to be there. In addition to golf, fishing, shooting, hiking, biking, and overland driving, there are now charming guest rooms and delicious Highland fare.

— Eighth —

GLENEAGLES
Auchterarder, Perthshire, Scotland
www.gleneagles.com

Gleneagles continues to extend its unchallenged legacy as *the* Scottish country hotel destination. Like most of the other properties on our list, there is something exhilarating about arriving in a remote location and finding the finest elements of home augmented by superb dining and sport.

Set in the shadow valley between the Ochil Hills to the south and the Grampians to the north, this 220-room hotel is magnificently sited on 830 acres that begin the climb into the Highlands.

The King's and Queen's courses were laid out in 1919 by five-time Open Champion James Braid with the help of C.K. Hutchison. The Centenary Course, used for the 2014 Ryder Cup, was designed by Jack Nicklaus.

One of the hotel world's great dining rooms, fishing, shooting, an equestrian center, falconry school, squash, tennis, indoor pool and noteworthy spa make this a complete and fulfilling resort experience.

— Ninth —

BANDON DUNES
Bandon, Oregon
www.bandondunesgolf.com

Bandon Dunes has established its competitive edge by hosting five U.S.G.A. championships in its first 10 years.

Since opening in 1999, the allure and array of its superior course designs built on sand overlooking the Pacific have confirmed that, however remote, where excellence is created they will come.

The building of Bandon Preserve, a 13-hole par 3 course designed by Coore & Crenshaw, and The Punchbowl, a massive putting course designed by Tom Doak and Jim Urbina, complements the repertoire of Bandon's four major designs. Nowhere else in America will you find such a grouping of architectural excellence, turf and an uncluttered enjoyment of the game.

— Tenth —

PINEHURST RESORT & COUNTRY CLUB
Pinehurst, North Carolina
www.pinehurst.com



Three U.S. Opens, one U.S. Women's Open, three U.S. Amateurs, a P.G.A. Championship, a Ryder Cup, and the forthcoming 2024 U.S. Open are proof of Donald Ross' masterpiece, Pinehurst No. 2.

Having undergone a massive but partial restoration - if such a thing is possible - eight years ago, the course has received mixed reviews for that work. However, the firm turf and strategic golf lessons Donald Ross taught us at Pinehurst survive regardless: It is more fun to play along the ground than through the air.



For C.W.T. & B.N.:

*"God is on the side not of the heavy battalions,
but of the best shots."*

François-Marie Arouet aka Voltaire

— THE WATCH LIST —
Contenders to THE GLOBAL TEN, alphabetically

THE AMERICAN CLUB
Kohler, Wisconsin
www.destinationkohler.com

THE LODGE AT CORDEVALLE
San Martin, California
www.cordevalle.com

THE GASPARILLA INN
Boca Grande, Florida
www.the-gasparilla-inn.com

THE LODGE AT KAURI CLIFFS
Matauri Bay, New Zealand
www.kauricliffs.com

THE LODGE AT TORREY PINES
La Jolla, California
www.lodgetorreyprines.com

MARCLIFFE HOTEL & SPA
Aberdeen, Scotland
www.marcliff.com

RESORT AT CABOT LINKS
Inverness, Nova Scotia
www.cabotlinks.com

THE SANCTUARY AT KIAWAH
Kiawah Island, South Carolina
www.kiawahresort.com

OITAVOS
Cascais, Portugal
www.theoitavos.com

VILLA D'ESTE
Cernobbio, Italy
www.villadeste.it

Yours vy truly,

Gary A. Galyean
Editor & Publisher

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