

GO EXPLORE

the front nine



The Palouse Ridge Golf Club features 100-foot elevation changes.

New Kids on the Tee Block

Nine courses recently deemed ready for play

By Jeff Wallach

IN CASE YOU'VE ALREADY PLAYED all of the more than 30,000 golf courses around the world, the good news is that new ones are still opening every year despite a slowdown in the golf boom — though a growing percentage of new venues are located outside the United States. Following are nine great recent debuts. By the time you've traveled to play these, we'll have another crop for you.

Going to School on a Putt

John Harbottle III designed an exciting syllabus for the **Palouse Ridge Golf Club** at Washington State University, Five hours east of **Seattle**. The environmentally responsible 7,308-yard layout carves through nearly treeless hills and incorporates swirling breezes, 100-foot elevation changes, 49 shaggy-edged bunkers, and two lakes. Home to the university's golf teams, it's sure to test your golf faculties as well. palouseridge.com

The Sound of One Glove Clapping

About an hour from **Ontario, Calif.**, Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest's **Journey at Pechanga** course begins — like all Zen journeys — with one tee shot, er, step. Forrest describes the layout thusly: "The journey starts out at the base of a large mountain, crosses the Pechanga River, a dry wash where I have not yet seen any water, then basically sets off into the sky." The 488-yard sixth hole alone drops 175 feet from tee to green. journeyatpechanga.com

What's Old Is New

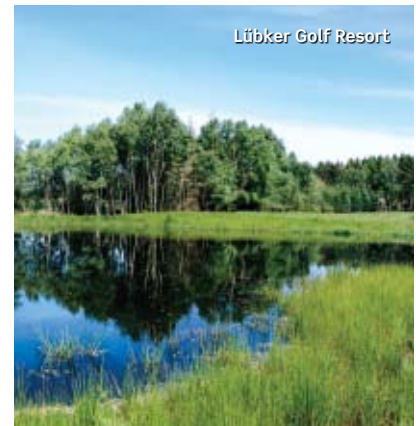
South of **Portland, Maine**, golf course architect Brian Silva outlasted several developers who tried and failed to make a go of what is now, finally, the **Old Marsh Country Club**. Silva emulated such golden-age architects as C. B. Macdonald and Seth Raynor in creating this semiprivate course across flat terrain pocked with wetlands and seven ponds.

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The 14th hole presents a drivable par 4. sundayrivergolf.com

Great Dane

Lübker Golf Resort in Djursland, 3.5 hours from **Copenhagen**, is the first real estate golf course in Denmark – and 95 percent of the homes sold out before construction even began. Robert Trent Jones II routed this course amid gently rolling hills, ponds, and a natural stream, and used the sandy soil to



create waste areas reminiscent of Pine Valley. Huge stands of birch, maple, and pine insulate the golf holes and create vertical hazards. lubker.com

Moorish or Lessish

A couple of hours south of **Lisbon**, Spain, **Amendoeira Golf Resort** features new courses by Nick Faldo and Christy O'Connor Jr. Faldo got the dry site and incorporated cactuses, wild herbs, oak and olive trees, and crushed-limestone bunkers. O'Connor's terrain features rich valley soil, lakes, and streams and encompasses orange groves and Moorish-style walls at the 13th green. oceanicogolf.com

I'll See You in Chambers

If you play the new **Chambers Bay** golf course, outside **Seattle**, you'll be holding court on the youngest course ever selected to host a U.S. Open event (in 2015). This Robert Trent Jones II links course on Puget Sound, built on the

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former site of a gravel quarry, distills the essence of the best Scottish and Irish seaside layouts. Brad Klein wrote in *Golfweek*, “Chambers Bay is the most carefully crafted and well-designed municipal golf course to open since Bethpage State Park’s Black Course in 1936.” chambersbaygolf.com

Eight Is Enough

It might be auspicious to card a “snowman” on the 8th hole of **Qinghe Bay Golf Club**, in **Beijing**, which opened on the first day of the Olympics – the eighth day of the eighth month in the century’s eighth year. The 36-hole complex might inspire birdies with its views of the Olympic stadium, aka the Bird’s Nest. asiangolffexplorer.com

Golf Package

Built along a historic mail route between Missouri and San Francisco, **Butterfield Trail Golf Club** gives fresh meaning to the concept of “airmailing” a drive. The Tom Fazio layout outside **El Paso**, Texas, routes through natural dunes. Part of the original trail actually runs through the course, and holes are named for old stagecoach stops. butterfieldtrailgolf.com

What’s Mayan Is Yours

The Golden Bear encounters El Jaguar 10 minutes from **Mérida**, on the Yucatán Peninsula. The newest Mexican course design from Jack Nicklaus, at the **Yucatán Country Club and Resort**, features holes representing the months of the Mayan calendar (there were 19, so this must include the clubhouse bar). Two holes play around Mayan ruins. yucatangolf.com 

Jeff Wallach is Continental’s “Front Nine” columnist.

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