

THE
GOLF
MAGAZINE

**BEST
NEW
COURSES
OF 2008**

In tough economic times, you need to know what courses are really worth your money. Here are the best new courses to debut in 2008, including:

**THE TOP 10 NEW COURSES
YOU CAN PLAY**

**THE TOP 10 NEW
PRIVATE COURSES**

**THE BEST NEW
INTERNATIONAL COURSES**

Plus: New awards for the
**BEST RESTORATION and
ARCHITECT OF THE YEAR**

By Joe Passov

AS IT WAS FOR JUST ABOUT EVERYONE, 2008 was a tough year in golf. Fewer than 85 new courses, public and private, opened in the U.S. last year, compared to 113 in 2007 and an all-time high of almost 400 in 2000. It was the lowest number of new course openings in more than two decades. More courses closed—almost 100—than opened in 2008.

But even among a thinner crop of candidates, quality courses can still be had. We spent a lot of time searching so that you can spend your money wisely. And you'll be spending less of it—six of our top ten new public courses can be yours for less than \$90, and five of them cost less than \$60. Those are numbers we can all rally around.

You'll also find our picks of the year's best new private tracks, the best new international courses, the best restoration of a classic, and our first ever award to the architect of the year.

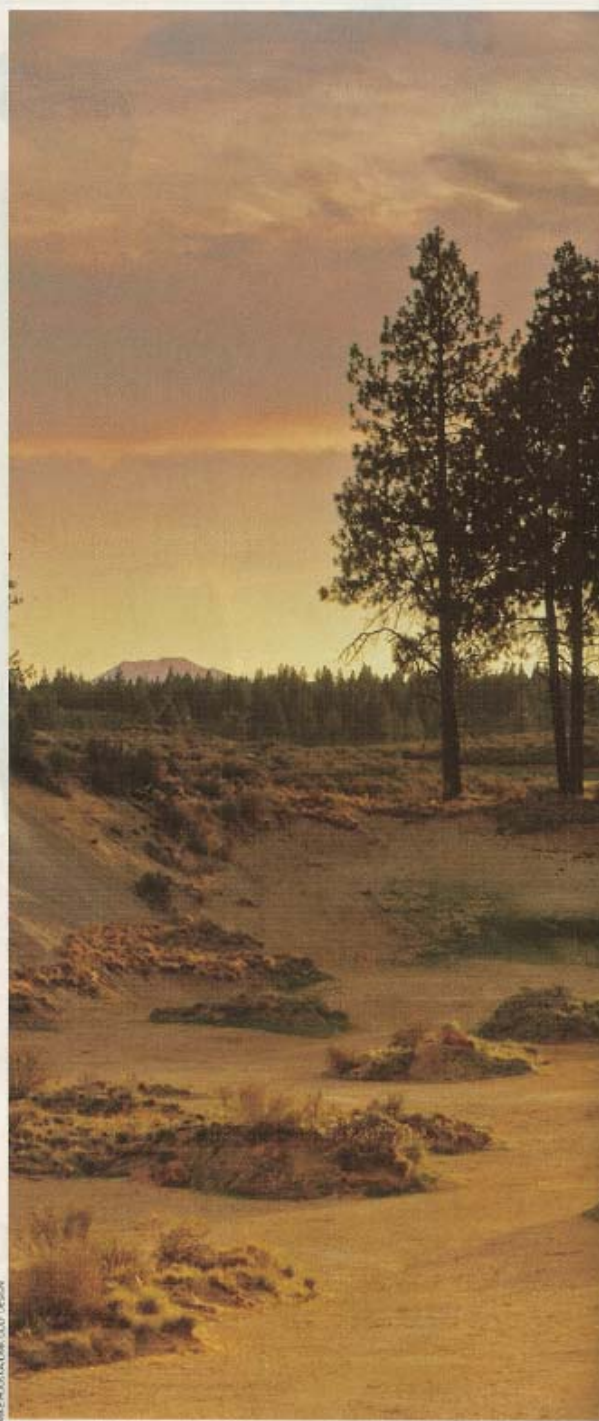


PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

9 Lake Presidential Golf Club *Upper Marlboro, Md.*

7,230 yards, par 72; Green fees: \$50-\$95;
301-627-8577; lakepresidential.com

WITH all of the Beltway blather we were subjected to last year, it's easy to forget that there is one new arrival in the Washington area that even the most partisan of politicians can agree on: Lake Presidential Golf Club, located 20 miles from the White House in suburban Maryland.

Lake Presidential is the handiwork of Landmark Land Company, the outfit that yielded Kiawah Island and PGA West,

among others. Its newest layout is more mellow than monstrous, a beautiful stroll through wooded and stream-filled terrain. The only point of debate here is which par 5 is better: the fishhook-shaped, 570-yard 8th, which features a tee shot from out of a chute of trees, or the reachable 515-yard 18th, which tackles the namesake lake from the get-go with an imposing, forced-carry tee shot.

