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Bradley Cooper TAKES THE LEAD

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The Platinum List

HOTELS ■ GOLF COURSES ■ CRUISES ■ SPAS



Pebble Beach Golf Links

Water settings never hurt. Put a golf course near an ocean, sea, bay, lake, or firth and the appeal factor rises. Perch it on a cliff, still better. Unavailable? Call in the mountain ranges to surround the course. To complete the package, add compelling design, expert conditioning, and customer service as well as a top-notch resort experience as the glittering ribbon to tie it all together.

Are there exceptions? To be sure, but *Celebrated Living* readers made their preferences clear by returning perennial favorite **PEBBLE BEACH GOLF LINKS** to the top spot on the U.S. Platinum List and giving the **OCEAN COURSE AT HALF MOON BAY GOLF LINKS** a stunning debut on the Platinum List in the seventh position.

Half Moon clearly studied the Pebble Beach playbook — multiple courses (Pebble's **SPYGLASS HILL** has again been returned to the list), unparalleled lodging opportunities (The Lodge at Pebble Beach, The Inn at Spanish Bay, and Casa Palmero),

and those all-compelling cliff-top holes.

Half Moon can't claim the longevity of Pebble (the Jack Neville and Douglas Grant design opened in 1919), but the Arthur Hills-designed Ocean Course has hosted the 2008 LPGA Samsung World Championship and is a regular site for U.S. Open men's and women's qualifiers. And it has dramatic closing holes high above the Pacific, heading back toward the Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay.

Other California cliffside and seaside beauties include **MONARCH BEACH GOLF LINKS** and **TORREY PINES SOUTH COURSE**. The latter, with New York's **BETHPAGE BLACK**, makes up the municipal-course segment of the list, while the former is allied with The St. Regis Monarch Beach. It loses the first two fairways for two days each year (June 25 to 26 in 2011) for the Concours d'Elegance classic-car show — but no one seems to complain.

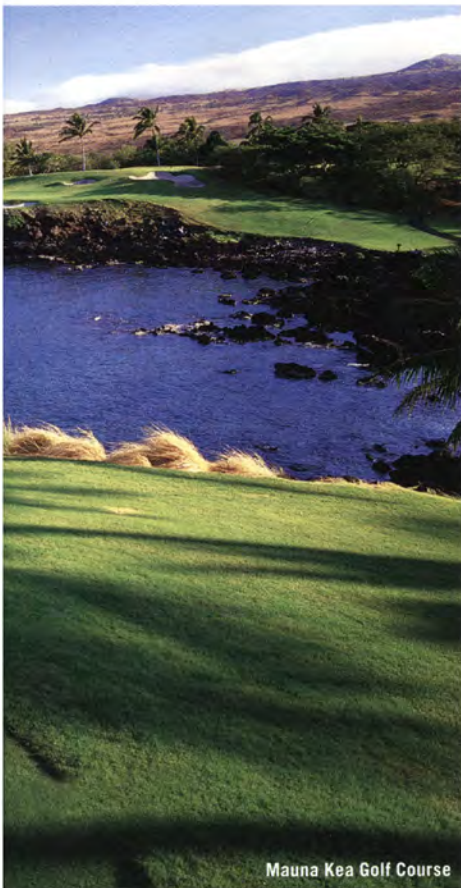
Further west are the Hawaiian entries — **MAUNA KEA GOLF COURSE, THE**





Boasting some of the most breathtaking landscapes in the world, these reader-selected golf courses — including perennial favorites as well as a number of newcomers — are as much about the setting as they are about the pristine greens.

BY THOMAS BEDELL



Mauna Kea Golf Course

GOLF COURSES

Top 20 U.S.

1. **Pebble Beach Golf Links, California**
(800) 654-9300, pebblebeach.com
2. **Mauna Kea Golf Course, Kohala Coast, Hawaii** (808) 882-5405, princeresortshawaii.com
3. **Torrey Pines South Course, La Jolla, California** (800) 985-4653, torreypinesgolfcourse.com
4. **Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club & Lodge, Orlando, Florida** (tie)
(888) 422-9445, bayhill.com
4. **Harbour Town Golf Links, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina** (tie)
(800) 732-7463, seapines.com
6. **Fazio Canyons at Barton Creek, Austin, Texas**
(866) 572-7369, bartoncreek.com
7. **Ocean Course at Half Moon Bay Golf Links, California**
(650) 726-1800, halfmoonbaygolf.com
8. **Cuscowilla Golf Resort on Lake Oconee, Eatonton, Georgia**
(800) 458-5351, cuscowilla.com
9. **Cog Hill No. 4, Lemont, Illinois**
(866) 264-4455, coghilgolf.com
10. **The Challenge at Manele, Lanai, Hawaii** (808) 565-2000, fourseasons.com/manelebay
11. **The Ocean Course, Kiawah Island, South Carolina**
(800) 576-1570, kiawahresort.com
12. **Blackwolf Run, Kohler, Wisconsin**
(800) 344-2838, americanclub.com
13. **Spyglass Hill Golf Course, Pebble Beach, California**
(800) 654-9300, pebblebeach.com
14. **The Dunes Golf & Beach Club, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina** (tie)
(843) 449-5236, thedunesclub.net
14. **Monarch Beach Golf Links, Dana Point, California** (tie)
(949) 240-8247, monarchbeachgolf.com
14. **The Plantation Course, Maui, Hawaii** (tie)
(800) 527-2582, kapaluamaui.com
17. **Bethpage Black, Farmingdale, New York**
(516) 249-0707, nysparks.state.ny.us
18. **Troon North Golf Club (Monument), Scottsdale, Arizona**
(480) 585-7700, troonnorthgolf.com
19. **Pinehurst No. 2, North Carolina**
(800) 487-4653, pinehurst.com
20. **Bandon Dunes, Bandon, Oregon**
(888) 345-6008, bandondunesgolf.com

CHALLENGE AT MANELE, and **THE PLANTATION COURSE** — all of which have such a dizzying array of heroic, wind-blown ocean carry-shots that it's difficult to pick a favorite (although readers put Mauna Kea in the No. 2 slot).

Further east, one of our Editors' Mentions, **ARCADIA BLUFFS**, has just renovated its already elegant clubhouse overlooking Lake Michigan and has added 15 guest rooms with enticing stay-and-play options. Likewise, **THE DUNES GOLF**

& **BEACH CLUB** in Myrtle Beach extensively renovated its historic clubhouse.

Though it has steadily climbed in past-years balloting, the Crenshaw-Coore design at **CUSCOWILLA GOLF RESORT ON LAKE OCONEE** never quite made it into the top 20 — until this year, when it vaulted to eighth. Resurfacing the greens last year may have helped.

ARNOLD PALMER'S BAY HILL CLUB & LODGE is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a Golden Anniversary Package, including