







# THE Front 10

America's best golf course communities.

BY ANDRÉA R. VAUCHER





**SHEER BEAUTIES**

Previous spread and above:  
The Cliffs features seven golf  
courses, including two designed  
by Tom Fazio. Opposite: Kuki'o  
is home to the only Fazio  
courses in Hawaii.

OUR PROCESS FOR SELECTING THE TOP 10 GOLF communities in the United States was partly subjective—as all top-10 lists should be—and partly scientific. Each property offers everything one would expect of a premier private club and vacation neighborhood: well-designed golf courses, well-situated homes, and well-heeled members. But the communities featured on the following pages distinguish themselves with amenities—perhaps a private ski mountain

or fly-fishing stream—not generally associated with country clubs. When added up (and, of course, considered against personal preferences), these attributes make our picks some of the finest places to own a vacation home for golfers and nongolfers alike.

**THE CLIFFS** \* A collection of seven residential communities spanning 20,000 acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina and South Carolina, the Cliffs features seven golf courses, including two designed by Jack Nicklaus and two by Tom Fazio. The courses are as diverse as the Blue Ridge landscape, and their clubhouses include gourmet restaurants that use ingredients from the community's organic farm.

The Cliffs bills itself as a "luxury family wellness resort," and its amenities emphasize health and vitality. "Wellness is the pillar on which the Cliffs is built," says Sam Varner, the club's director of living wellness development. "All residents are assigned a personal wellness coach, who provides guidance in lifestyle choices." The club has three wellness centers, an equestrian center, a lake with 20 miles of shoreline, a marina, and 50 miles of groomed hiking trails. Members also have access to founder Jim Anthony's private vacation lodges in British Columbia and Chilean Patagonia.



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Homesites at the Cliffs are available from \$300,000 to more than \$3 million, and finished homes range from \$700,000 to over \$6 million. The Cliffs donates 2 percent of the net purchase price of each property to one of four nonprofit organizations. 864.239.3510, [www.cliffscommunities.com](http://www.cliffscommunities.com)

**KUKI'O** \* Kuki'o encompasses 1,100 acres on the Big Island's Kohala Coast, and the community's invitation-only

golf and beach club features Hawaii's only Tom Fazio—designed courses. The club's championship course, set among black lava fields that slope down to a white-sand beach, presents a daunting challenge at 7,419 yards from the back tees, but it is countered by Fazio's more forgiving 10-hole, par-33 short course. As at all Discovery Land Co. properties, numerous comfort stations manned by chefs and equipped with full bars fortify golfers on both courses. Other







Members at the Greenbrier Sporting Club can access the golf courses and other facilities at the Greenbrier resort (above and below).

amenities include a golf clubhouse and an oceanfront beach club outfitted with water sports gear.

The 375 homesites at Kuki'o range from one-quarter acre to more than two acres; the prices for oceanfront lots of as much as an acre begin at \$3.5 million and peak at nearly \$13 million. Cottages, villas, and custom homes range from \$4.5 million to \$18.5 million. 808.325.4040, [www.kukio.com](http://www.kukio.com)

**THE GREENBRIER SPORTING CLUB** \* Founded in 1778 and redesigned after World War II by interior designer Dorothy Draper, the Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va., is the grande dame of American resorts. Members of the Greenbrier Sporting Club, which spreads across 2,000 acres adjacent to the hotel, can avail themselves of the resort's three golf courses and other venues and facilities. The Sporting Club also features its own course, designed by Tom Fazio, as well as a

private lodge, equestrian center, and sports complex.

When completed, the Sporting Club will have some 500 homes, each of which will be styled in a manner consistent with either the Greenbrier's classical architecture or the rugged

beauty of the Allegheny Mountains. Recent home listings were in the range of \$1.3 million to \$6 million; homesites in a new mountaintop neighborhood are priced from \$400,000 to \$2.2 million. 888.741.8989, [www.thegreenbriersportingclub.com](http://www.thegreenbriersportingclub.com)

