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JANUARY 2011

GOLF
MAGAZINE

**Best New
Courses of 2010**

10 GREAT PLACES YOU CAN
PLAY - FROM JUST \$45!

The Best New Courses 2010



LARRY LAMBERT/DIAMANTE GOLF CLUB

BEST NEW INTERNATIONAL COURSE OF THE YEAR 2010

1. Diamante (Dunes)

Cabo San Lucas, BCS, Mexico; 7,300 yards, par 72; \$275-\$306;
866-901-1456, diamantecabosanlucas.com

Six miles north of downtown Cabo San Lucas, on the Baja Peninsula's western coast, this striking Davis Love III design not only fronts the Pacific Ocean, it features fairways and greens etched into colossal, brilliant white sand dunes. Most distinctive is the 588-yard, par-5 17th that heads away from the beach and offers multiple landing areas and a green 50 feet above the fairway. Nearly as compelling is the 154-yard, par-3 16th, its target obscured by Pine Valley-like sand and scrub with the ocean beyond. Purists may pout about the lake that affects play at the 12th and 13th, and the 146 slope from the tips may as well be 166 when the wind howls, as it so often does. But for its relentless shot demands, sheer variety and stunning beauty, Diamante is our pick for the best new overseas course in 2010.

2. Mission Hills Resort Haikou (Blackstone)

Haikou, Hainan, China
7,777 yards, par 72; \$200;
86 898 6868 3888,
missionhillschina.com;
Designer: Brian Curley

3. The Dunes at Shenzhen Peninsula (West)

Hainan Island, China
7,484 yards,
par 72; \$200;
86 0898 6213 8800,
shenzhoupeninsula.com;
Designer: Tom Weiskopf

RENOVATION OF THE YEAR 2010

Greensboro Country Club (Farm Course)

Greensboro, N.C.; 7,302 yards, par 72; greensborocc.org

Since its 1909 inception, Greensboro Country Club has been the most prestigious golf institution in town, but its Carlson Farm course was never a source of great pride. The suburban 1963 Ellis Maples design was intended to be a meaty, modern alternative to the club's shorter Donald Ross course at its downtown facility, but Carlson Farm failed to take advantage of its potential. Forty years after the club acquired the course, it enlisted Donald Steel for an extreme makeover. Ably assisted by Jonathan Gaunt, Steel transformed a tired 6,914-yard, par-71 layout into a 7,302-yard, par-72 funfest. Two new par 3s, the 5th and the 14th; completely rebuilt greens and bunkers; new zoysia grass fairways; and dramatic alterations to seven other holes have infused the Farm with the kind of challenge and playability that can compete with any course in the region. In a year when Old Macdonald captures top new course honors, it's only fitting that the renovation award goes to the Farm.

TOP: GREENSBORO C.C.; BOTTOM: JIANN DOST

2010 ARCHITECTS OF THE YEAR: TOM DOAK AND JIM URBINA



WOOD SARGOLD

Doak (center) and Urbina (right) with Bandon Dunes creator Mike Keiser.

HAD WE INITIATED THIS award before 2008, Tom Doak would have already won it, likely more than once. Forget minimalism—no modern designer has advanced the cause of classic virtues, with its emphasis on strategy, width and contouring more successfully than Doak. "Undulating topography is the soul of great golf courses," says Doak, who has a skill for either finding it or creating it with reliably spectacular results. Pacific Dunes, Australia's Barnbougle Dunes and New Zealand's Cape Kidnappers are among his most effective expressions. Sharing top honors with Doak is his longtime collaborator, Jim Urbina. Once described as a "practical genius (on a bulldozer), someone who could translate ideas into tangible shapes," Urbina first teamed with Doak on a Pete Dye-led crew in 1985, and he has served as Doak's right-hand man on many of Doak's greatest layouts, including Pacific Dunes. Old Macdonald marks the first time in Urbina's 27 years in the business that he's earned a design credit, and what a debut it is. The layout's rippling fairways and sprawling greens demonstrate a mind-boggling attention to detail.