

# CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

*Three courses made considerable moves in the rankings by way of dramatic redesigns. Call it Extreme Makeover: Top 100 Edition*



**IN WITH THE OLD**  
Modern Pinehurst No. 2 (above) has been restored to its more rugged mid-20th-century look.



COURTESY PINEHURST RESORT (2)

## PINEHURST (No. 2)

*Pinehurst, N.C.*

**No. 19 to No. 15 World**

**No. 11 to No. 10 U.S.**

**Out:** 35 acres of grass, traditional primary Bermudagrass rough, narrow fairways, obsolete bunkers.

**In:** Hardpan, sandy scrub, pine straw and wiregrass frame the fairways; increased fairway width; reshaped bunkers; 271 extra yards for the 2014 U.S. Open.

**Result:** Restored to the look that Pinehurst embraced in the 1940s, with less lushness, more natural landscape. Increased emphasis on shotmaking to find proper angles into still lethal greens.

**Architects:** Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw

**Reopened:** March 2011

## L.A. COUNTRY CLUB (NORTH)

*Los Angeles, Calif.*

**No. 52 to No. 39 World**

**No. 31 to No. 24 U.S.**

**Out:** Many trees; tired bunker shapes and placements; relentlessly tough holes.

**In:** Great-looking Golden Age bunkers; barranca back in play on several holes; greens restored to 1920s sites; wider fairways; alternate tee and hole locations; restoration of par-4 6th green.

**Result:** A near-total return to the George Thomas 1927 original design; amped up aesthetics via restoration of the sculpted bunkers and long-hidden vistas of the Santa Monica Mountains, the city skyline and the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

**Architects:** Gil Hanse, Jim Wagner, Geoff Shackelford

**Reopened:** November 2010

## OITAVOS DUNES

*Cascais, Portugal*

**No. 88 to No. 68 World**

**Out:** Select trees; scrub and native plants from greenside dunes; cupcake par 5 on front nine.

**In:** Two new back tees, the first extending the par-5 7th to 525 yards, the second lengthening the 9th from 155 to 190 yards; reshaped dunes at the par-3 14th; new hotel left of 18th tee.

**Result:** Much-needed added challenge on some holes, improved visibility and fairness on others; cleaned-out white dunes form a striking visual contrast with the green fairway grass and blue Atlantic Ocean; glass-intensive hotel blends seamlessly into natural landscape.

**Architects:** In-house

**Reopened:** 2010