

The Loneliness of Fred Couples

P.78

THE GOLF MAGAZINE INTERVIEW by Cameron Morfit

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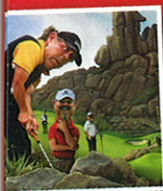
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Ask Travelin' Joe

He's been where you're going



You'll have your hands full with beautiful Twin Warriors in New Mexico.

Dear Joe,

My friends and I are taking our annual golf trip to Albuquerque and are overwhelmed by the number of great courses. We'll definitely play Paa-Ko Ridge, but can you recommend other "must-play" courses in the area?

—Warren Dorn, Cincinnati, Ohio

You should certainly do battle with **Twin Warriors** (\$89-\$145; 505-771-6155, mynewmexicogolf.com), a muscular Gary Panks design. Beyond that, base your decision on convenience. If you're pretty good golfers who don't mind a healthy drive, then tackle the ravines and wild greens at **Black Mesa** (\$62-\$87; 505-747-8946, blackmesagolfclub.com). If you're leery of the drive—or the challenge—**Sandia Golf Club** (\$36-\$85; 505-798-3990, sandiagolf.com) is scenic, fun and a lot closer.

Hi Joe,

A group of us are going to Gulf Shores, Alabama, for a week. We're planning on playing Kiva Dunes and Peninsula, but what other courses should we add to our list?

—Doug Rogers, via e-mail

I'd probably slip over to Kiva Dunes for a second round and then supplement Peninsula with a visit to Craft Farms Resort's **Cotton Creek** track (\$69-\$89; 251-968-7500, craftfarms.com), a watery Arnold Palmer design that features gentle mounding and is older and longer than its sibling, **Cypress Bend**. You should also try to check out **Rock Creek Golf Club** in Fairhope (\$55-\$79; 251-928-4223, rockcreekgolf.com). It's an underrated track that startles with elevation change, notably at the par-4 second, which features a 70-foot drop from tee to fairway.

What's New This Month?

OCEAN EDGE RESORT & CLUB Brewster, Mass.

Green fees: \$110-\$145;
For tee times call 508-896-9000
or visit oceanedge.com



Ocean Edge Resort is a Cape Cod gem.

For more than two decades this was the course that turned Cape Cod into Cape Fear. Open to guests, the semiprivate layout at the Ocean Edge Resort & Club was a 1986 creation by Brian Silva and Geoffrey Cornish, but a tight, quirky routing through woods and wetlands rendered the layout unduly penal. Chris Rule of Nicklaus Design kept most of the tee and green locations but reworked everything else, increasing playability by widening fairways, clearing trees and boosting visibility. That's not to say he made the course a pushover. The challenge remains just as stiff with the addition of new bunker and green complexes and about 300 yards, bringing the tips total to 7,011 yards. The 195-yard 8th, with its downhill tee shot over Blueberry Pond, and the rugged 600-yard 17th are two lethal scorecard wreckers.