

TRAVEL + LEISURE
GOLF

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2008

FLORIDA'S FINEST

Coastal Resorts
and the
Sandy Central Hills

COURSES
OF THE YEAR
FROM ST. ANDREWS TO
THE GREAT NORTHWEST

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The eighteenth at the Legacy Course at
Roco Ki, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

2008

BEST NEW COURSES

IN THE HALF DECADE THAT WE'VE COMPILED LISTS of each year's best new courses, some bona fide pilgrimage sites have topped our charts. Cape Kidnappers, Tom Doak's odyssey along the sea cliffs of New Zealand, was our first Course of the Year, in 2004. Subsequent winners Bandon Trails, Ballyneal and Chambers Bay identified the broad landscapes of the American West as prime soil for cutting-edge golf design, a trend that shows little sign of abating: Six of the ten courses on this year's list are either in the Rocky Mountains or lie west of them. But 2008's top honor comes ashore in the Kingdom of Fife. There, in golf's cradle, the ribbon has been cut on one of the most ambitious (and controversial) designs in recent memory—a course that is certain to keep golfers talking for years to come.



Old town, new thrills: The sixth at the Castle Course doglegs toward St. Andrews.

THE LEGACY COURSE AT ROCO KI

PUNTA CANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (RESORT)

Celebrated elsewhere in this issue (see The Faldo File, page 70, and "The Player's Paradise," page 96), the new Nick Faldo course in the Dominican Republic required a midstream rerouting because the tricky island terrain had reacted unpredictably to construction tactics that would have worked perfectly well in most places. Faldo rolled with the punches, finding corridors through upland mangrove that would become his "Harry Potter" look, a reference to the spidery exposed root system of that ubiquitous island tree. There's even more magic and wizardry on the finishing holes, with their ocean views and dramatic green sites. —Mike Offit

ARCHITECT: Nick Faldo. YARDAGE: 7,075. PAR: 72. GREEN FEES: \$225-\$400. TEE TIMES: 888-476-2654.

