

developing places like China and Dubai—and the availability of amazing parcels of land unencumbered by environmental red tape in remote locales such as New Zealand and Tasmania—the greatest courses, they argued, were increasingly being built in far-flung corners of the globe. What a difference a few years makes. If the roster of the best new courses to open in 2006 proves anything, it's that—Ryder Cup futility notwithstanding—America has hardly become barren ground for golf. Eight of the ten courses on our list were laid out on U.S. soil in areas as diverse as the craggy sandhills of Colorado, the rolling farmland of Wisconsin and, believe it or not, the industrial waterfront of New Jersey. In varying ways, each course pays homage to classic design principles and at the same time sets exciting new standards for the craft.

BAYONNE GOLF CLUB

Bayonne, New Jersey (private)

A round at Bayonne can seem like Alice's fall down the rabbit hole. The location—only four miles across the Hudson River from Wall Street—is unreal. Who would have thought that these 150 flat acres sandwiched between waterfront industrial parcels could have been transformed into such a fun rendition of an Irish links? Developer and architect Eric Bergstol actually got paid to accept millions of cubic yards of sludge and construction debris, and then he fashioned the landfill into a collection of golf-smart holes that twist and tumble through man-made dunes. Some holes are so compelling they overpower the competing vistas of the Manhattan skyline and the Statue of Liberty. Nearby Liberty National, also new last year, may have more teeth, but Bayonne wins on personality.

ARCHITECT: Eric Bergstol. YARDAGE: 7,106. PAR: 71.

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES: 201-823-4800,

bayonnegolfclub.com.

COLORADO GOLF CLUB

Parker, Colorado (private)

Three of the state's tallest mountains dominate the western views from Colorado Golf Club and the fairways themselves are roller coasters, but this Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw masterpiece is designed to be walked. Spread across seventeen hundred acres of a

