

Golf Digest

The No. 1 Golf Publication

'IT'S GO TIME!'

'MY 3 KEYS' TO GREAT DRIVING BY RICKIE FOWLER

AMERICA'S
▶ 100 GREATEST COURSES

BOOK BONUS
▶ TOM WATSON ON CONSISTENCY

HOT LIST
▶ THE RIGHT BALL FOR YOU





Eight courses from the 2009 ranking dropped off. They are Black Diamond (Quarry), Lecanto, Fla.; Grandfather Golf & Country Club, Linville, N.C.; Kiawah Island Club (Cassique), Kiawah Island, S.C.; Long Cove Club, Hilton Head Island; Quaker Ridge Golf Club, Scarsdale, N.Y.; Sanctuary, Sedalia, Colo.; Stone Canyon Club, Oro Valley, Ariz.; and Tullymore Golf Club, Stanwood, Mich.

Note: A course must be open for one year to be eligible for our rankings, which means hot new courses like Old Macdonald in Bandon, Ore., and The Prairie Club duo in Nebraska (all of which opened last June) haven't yet qualified. They'll be candidates for our 2013 surveys.

One course will remain ineligible for the foreseeable future, because this writer was involved in its design and construction. To avoid any appearance of favoritism, Erin Hills in Wisconsin, site of this year's U.S. Amateur and the 2017 U.S. Open, was not considered for any ranking.

WHO'S HOTTER, FAZIO OR COORE & CRENSHAW?

TOM FAZIO and the team of Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw each landed three new courses on the 100 Greatest this year. So is one design firm hotter than the other?

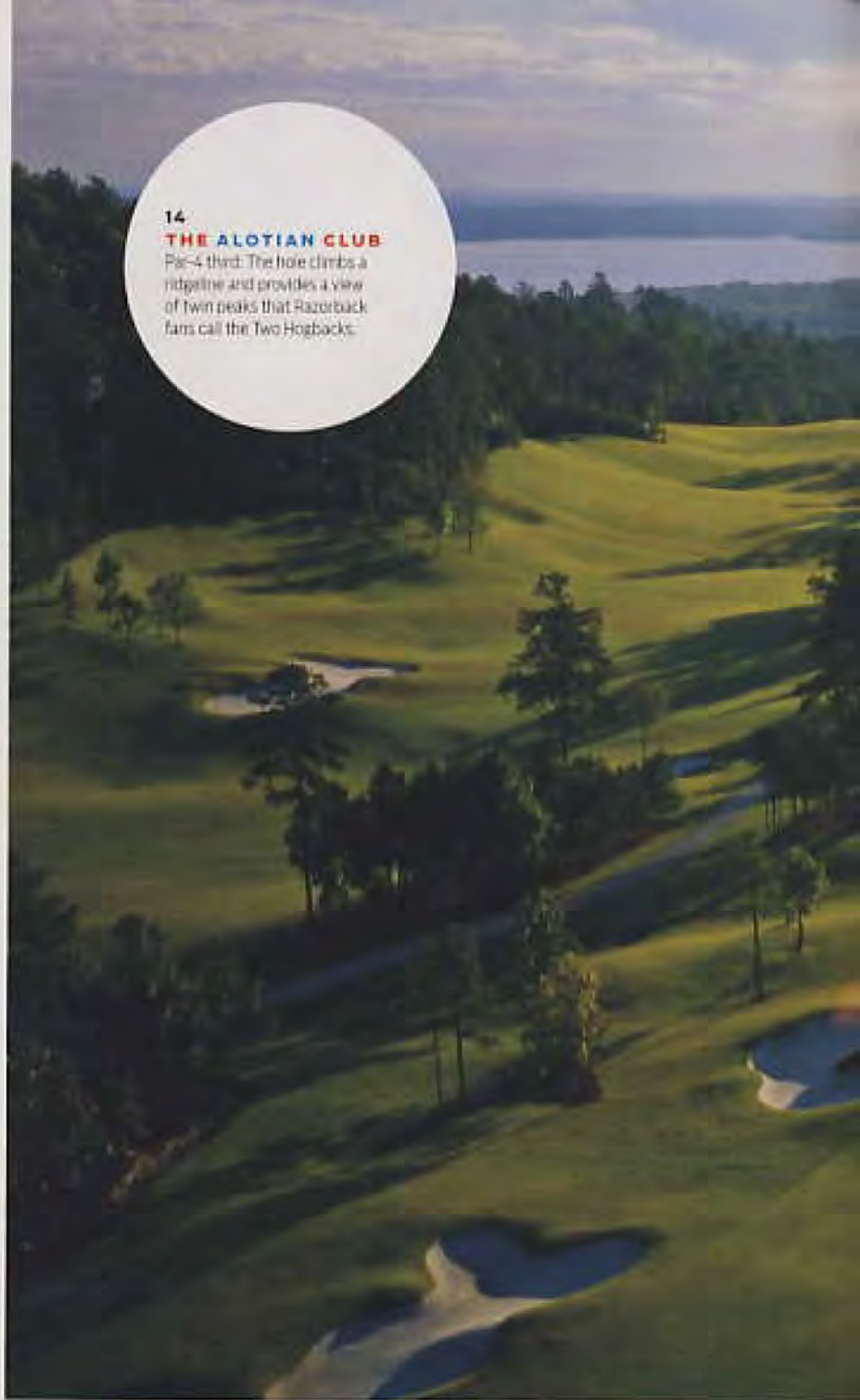
Fazio has some numbers going for him. His three newly ranked courses are higher on the list: Alotian at 14, Mountaintop at 74 and Diamond Creek at 87. Coore & Crenshaw's three are Friar's Head at 34, Kapalua at 88 and Old Sandwich at T-89. Fazio has 16 original designs on this year's 100 Greatest and has done major remodeling at nine others on the list. (Thus he has worked on one-quarter of the 100 Greatest.)

Coore & Crenshaw have five 100 Greatest courses and have done major remodeling at three others: Prairie Dunes, Pinehurst No. 2 and Riviera. (Fazio also worked at Riviera, and more recently.) As a percentage of their total work, Coore & Crenshaw have the edge. They have tried to avoid handling more than three jobs at any time, so they've designed just 20 U.S.

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THE ALOTIAN CLUB

Par-4 third: The hole climbs a ridge and provides a view of two peaks that Razorback fans call the Two Hogbacks.



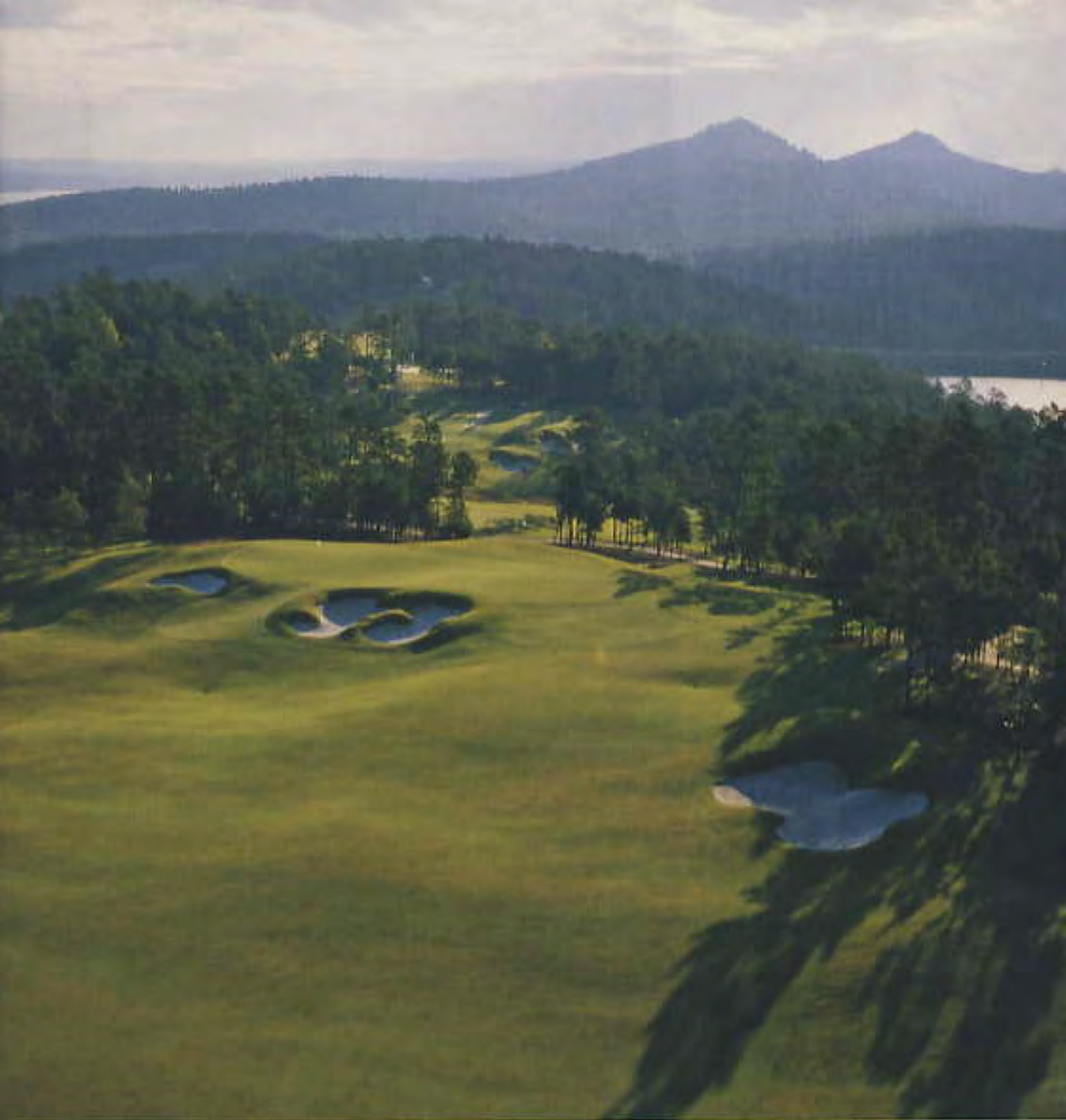
BRAGGING RIGHTS

The Alotian, new to our list this year, is the first 100 Greatest course from Arkansas. That leaves 10 states yet to place a course on the list since Golf Digest began ranking the top-100 courses in 1969: Alaska,

Iowa, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont and Wyoming.

New York has the most courses on this year's 100 Greatest (12), with three in the top 10 and five in the top 25. California is second

with 11 in '11, two in the top 10 and three in the top 25. Neither state holds the cumulative record for most courses on America's 100 Greatest. Florida is the all-time leader, with 26 courses ranked at one time or another from 1969 through 2011.



(Florida has just three courses ranked this year.) California is second all-time with 23, and New York is third with 18. If we include courses listed on our 200 Toughest in 1966 and '67, California becomes the leader (34), followed by New York (31) and Florida (30).

Of the 381 courses appearing on a *Golf Digest* ranking since 1966, 24 courses have been on them all: Augusta National, Baltusrol (Lower), Congressional (Blue), Cypress Point, Hazeltine National, Inverness, Laurel Valley, Los Angeles (North), Medinah (No. 3), Merion (East), Oak Hill

(East), Oakland Hills (South), Oakmont, Olympia Fields (North), Olympic (Lake), Peachtree, Pebble Beach, Pine Valley, Pinehurst (No. 2), Riviera, Scioto, Seminole, Southern Hills and Winged Foot (West).

In 1969, *Golf Digest* reduced its rankings from 200 Toughest

to a Top 100. Since then, 240 courses have been ranked. Only 31 courses have appeared on every Top 100 ranking since 1969, the 24 above and the following seven: The Country Club, The Golf Club, Maidstone, Plainfield, Prairie Dunes, Shinnecock Hills and Spyglass Hill. —RW