Robb Report

The 8 Best New Golf Courses for 2025

The courses mirror the best of their surroundings, be it woodland Florida, North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains, or Eleuthera's turquoise coast.

While golf season is long over in northern parts of the country, it's just hitting its stride in others. Plus, the turn of the year means that new courses and clubs are on the horizon. One of the most exciting grand openings took place this week at <u>Cabot Citrus Farms</u> in Brooksville, Florida, north of Tampa Bay and southwest of Orlando.

The 1,200-acre property, with two 18-hole courses and two shorter courses, has also become a golf destination, thanks to the recently completed homes on the fairways as well as other infrastructure that caters to multi-generational families rather than just golfers. One 18-hole course, Karoo, is described by Cabot as an "adventure golf masterpiece," with some justification It has some of the world's widest Bermuda fairways, expansive greens, and bold contours. The second course, Roost, mimics the old Florida landscape, with moss-draped oak trees, sandy scrublands and rolling meadows, offering good elevation. Kyle Franz designed Karoo, Franz and Mike Nuzzo created the Roost, with Ran Morrissett as architecture advisor.

"These courses represent what golf has become over the last few years—extraordinarily fun and diverse," Ben Cowan-Dewar, CEO and co-founder of Cabot, told *Robb Report* on opening day. Cabot's eventual goal is to create a village, surrounded by the golf courses, residences, a hotel, an activity center, multi-function clubhouses, and gathering points for meals. A racquet club with tennis, pickleball, and padel, along with swimming pools, will open later this year.



Cabot's different properties around the world have moved beyond golf only and are now destinations that also appeal to non-golfers. "That's always been core to what we're doing," says Cowan-Dewar. "The cottages have been so well received that the first phase sold out. Soon, we'll have larger single-family homes that will be used as winter homes."

Cabot Citrus Farms is similar to other courses creating tourism <u>focused on golf</u> as well as others developing into full-service resorts.

The other courses on this list, from GrayBull, Nebraska to Apogee South, Hobe Sound, Florida to Jack's Bay in Eleuthera, Bahamas, also blend into their landscapes to best effect, defining each course by the location's natural beauty. "This is an unbelievable piece of wilderness," says Cowan-Dewar. "We're leaning heavily into that with trails and field guides to the trees and wildlife. We've reinstated a sense of 'Old Florida' in all the right ways."

Jack's Bay, Eleuthera, the Bahamas



Nestled on the island of Eleuthera, <u>Jack's Bay</u> is a striking combination of coastal charm and championship golf. Set to open for play this winter, the course offers panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean and is complemented by a Tiger Woods—designed short course called the Playground. Jack's Bay's combination of golf and oceanfront cottages will make it welcome addition to luxury golf travel within a few hundred miles of the U.S.

