

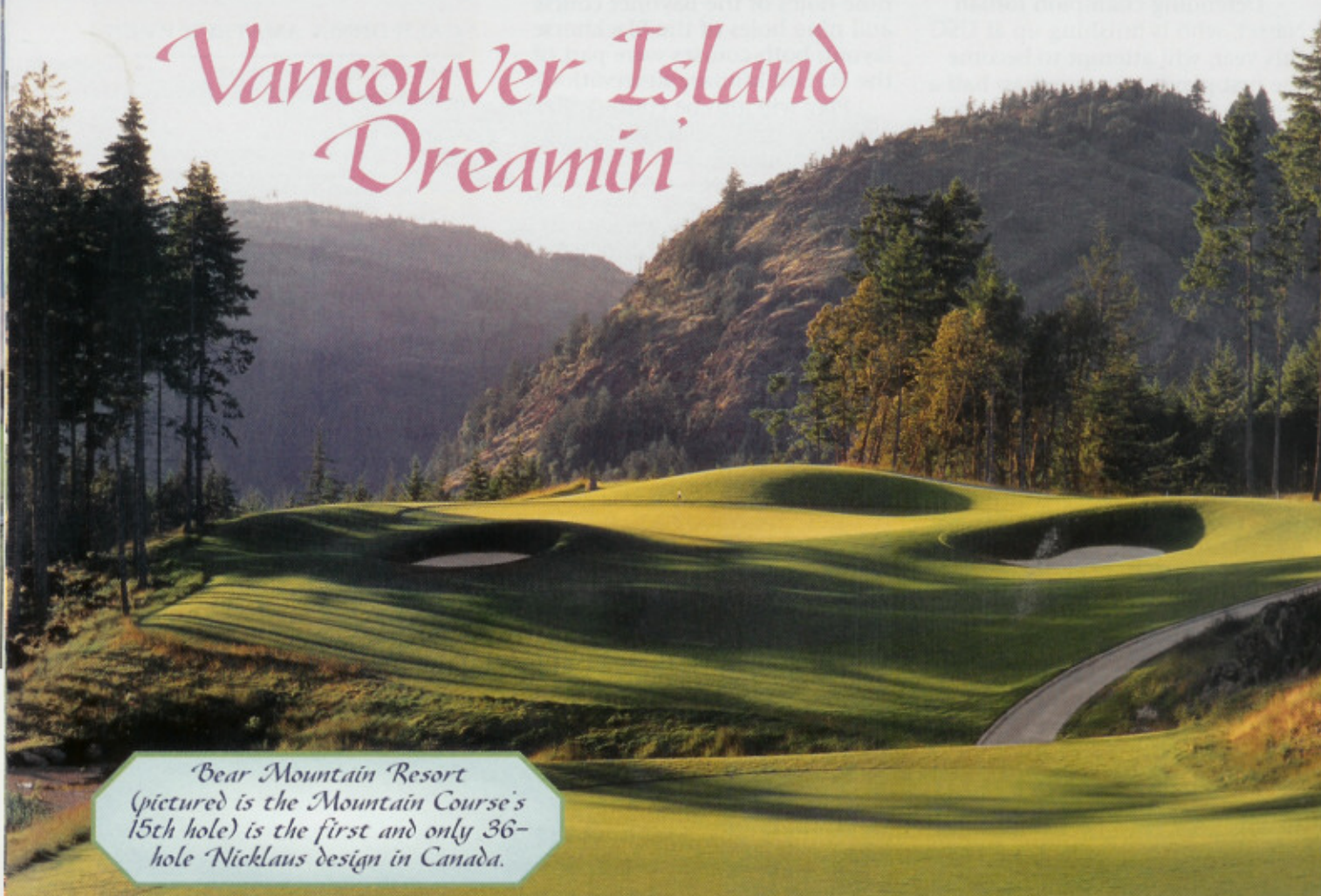
The Official Journal of the Southern California Golf Association

The background of the cover is a photograph of a golf course. In the foreground, there is a blue water hazard with some reeds and grasses. Beyond the water, a green fairway leads to a golf green with a red flag. The background is filled with tall, slender pine trees under a clear sky.

**NORTH BY NORTHWEST**  
Set sail for Vancouver Island



# Vancouver Island Dreamin'



*'Bear Mountain Resort (pictured is the Mountain Course's 15th hole) is the first and only 36-hole Nicklaus design in Canada.*

By Katie Denbo

There is a place not far away at which not only some of the most beautiful scenery in the world can be seen, but possibly some of the most fantastic golf as well. Set sail for Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

With climate so mild that year-round golf is possible, the island — a short three-hour plane ride from the Southland — boasts 10 championship golf courses on its Vancouver Island Golf Trail (five are highlighted here), all within a 250-mile stretch of eastern coastline. If golf is on the agenda, a golf paradise stands before you, and if not, a whirlwind of other activities awaits.

● Twenty miles outside Victoria, *'Bear Mountain Resort* is the

product of founder and NHL star Len Barrie along with other prominent NHL player investors (including Rob Niedermayer of the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim). As the first and only 36-hole Nicklaus design in Canada, Bear Mountain is also the first and only master-planned resort community on Vancouver Island.

The cornerstone of Bear Mountain Resort is the par-71, 7,083-yard Mountain Course, co-designed by Jack and son Steve Nicklaus in the foothills of Mount Finlayson. During their round, players will go on a ride up the 1,100-foot mountain for views of the ocean, Mount Baker and Finlayson, and the Port Angeles, Wash., cityscape, then back down to play beneath and between the trees the course was carved from.

**Did you know?** The com-

munity's real estate is booming as well: *The Gates*, the first 37 residential lots at Bear Mountain, sold out in 37 hours in 2002, while in 2004 the *Fairways Hotel* building, with 65 rooms, sold out in quarter shares in one day. At the end of 2005, two other condominium complexes sold out in a day as well, totaling \$134 million CAD and ranking as the highest one-day total for real estate sales in Vancouver Island history.

● *Olympic View Golf Club* in Victoria is settled at the base of Olympic Mountain. At just over 6,500 yards, the Bill Robinson layout, built in 1990, is quiet and peaceful with 12 lakes and two waterfalls, including the 60-foot waterfall tumbling behind the signature 17th hole. Golfers are playing in the forest, eagles soar

overhead and native animals, including deer, can make appearances as well. And, while the course starts off wide, it tightens in the back nine.

**Did you know?** If you make par or better on the 107-yard par-3 16th, you're better than Tiger Woods. With a large gully to the right of the green and bunkers in front and back, Woods bogeyed the hole two days in a row, even though it's rated the course's 18-handicap hole.

● Another Robinson course is *Arbutus Ridge Golf and Country Club* in Cobble Hill, a 6,200-yard layout where less than half the holes are safely hit with a driver. The course starts out fast — its first hole, a 372-yard par 4, is considered one of the hardest starting holes on the island; although it's straight away, the majority of the fairway is all downhill.

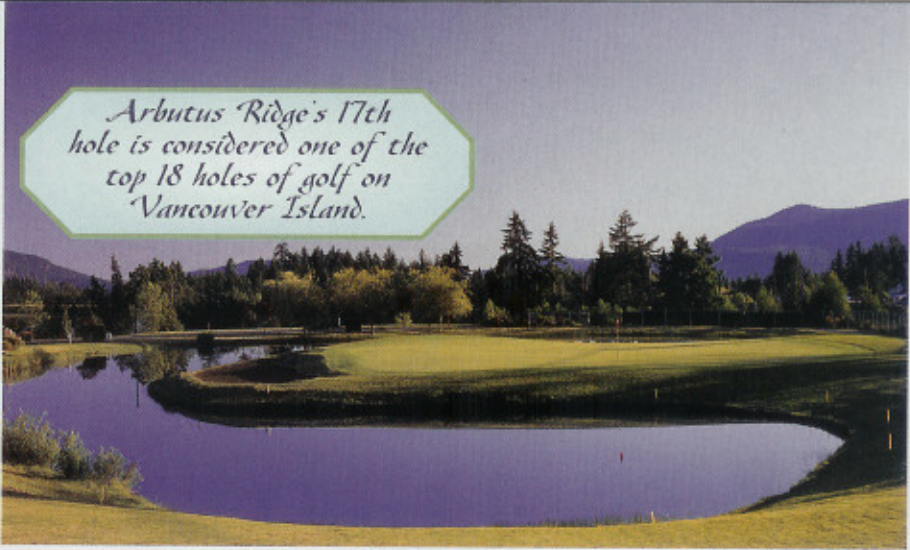
Handmade stone walls and bridges are scattered throughout the course, as are the views: take in the Satellite Channel and Mount Baker while on the back nine. Need an island-green fix? The 214-

yard, par-3 17th hole requires precision to avoid both the water and the bunker that sit at the back of the green.

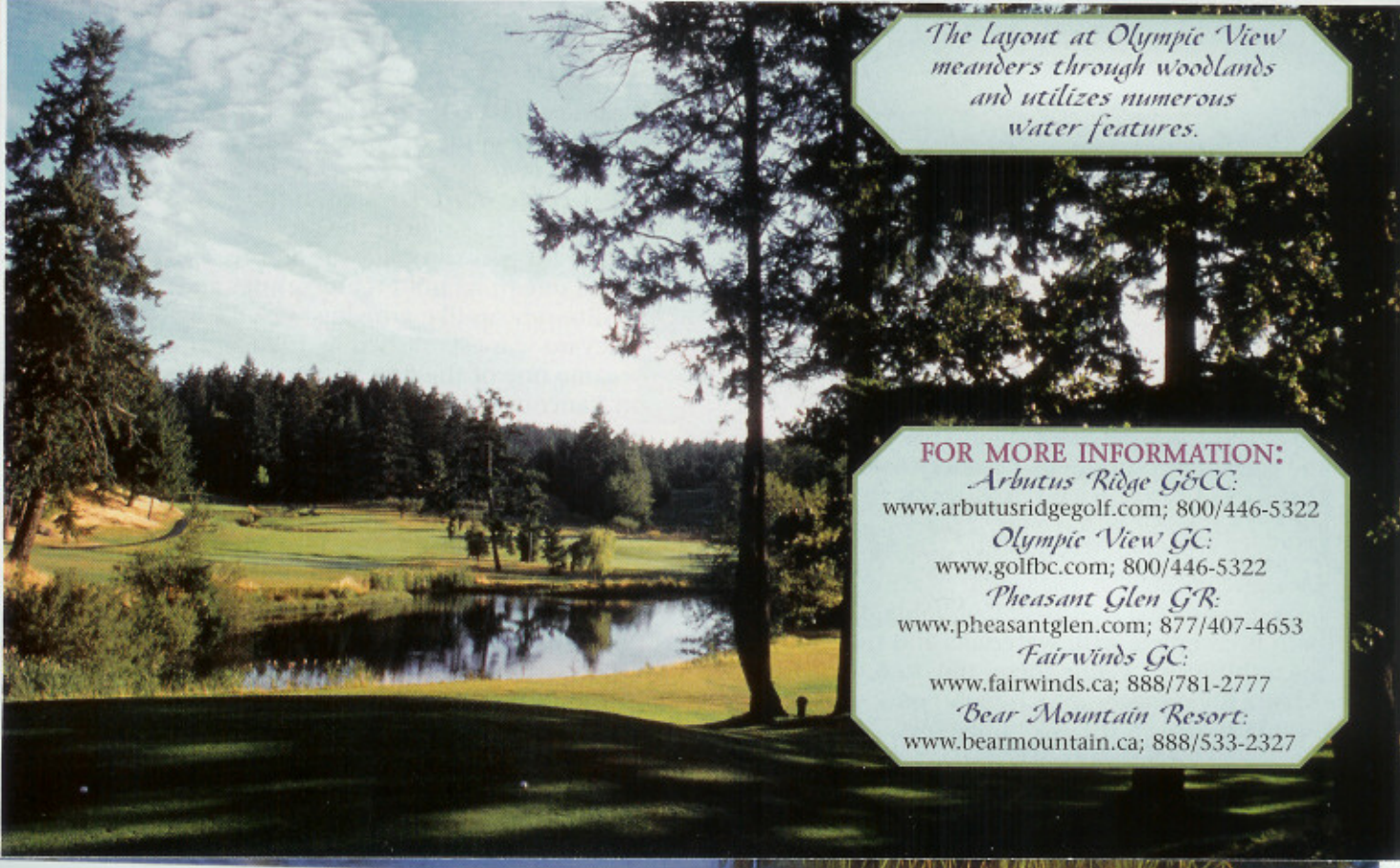
**Did you know?** For two-sport players, Arbutus Ridge also has one of the finest covered tennis facilities on Vancouver Island, with full public access. You can also catch the course's *Fore Star Shuttle Service*, which picks golfers up from downtown Victoria and stops right at the course.

● Nanoose Bay is a scenic two-hour drive up the coast from

Victoria, and it's also home to *Fairwinds Golf Club* and residential community. Designed by Les Furber, the 6,151-yard course showcases some of the finest views of the Pacific Ocean and surrounding waterways. Its greens are contoured and overall, the course is one of the most thought-provoking on the island. The course is situated in the middle of a 1,200-acre master-planned community, complete with ocean views and many choices between single-family homes and townhomes for sale.



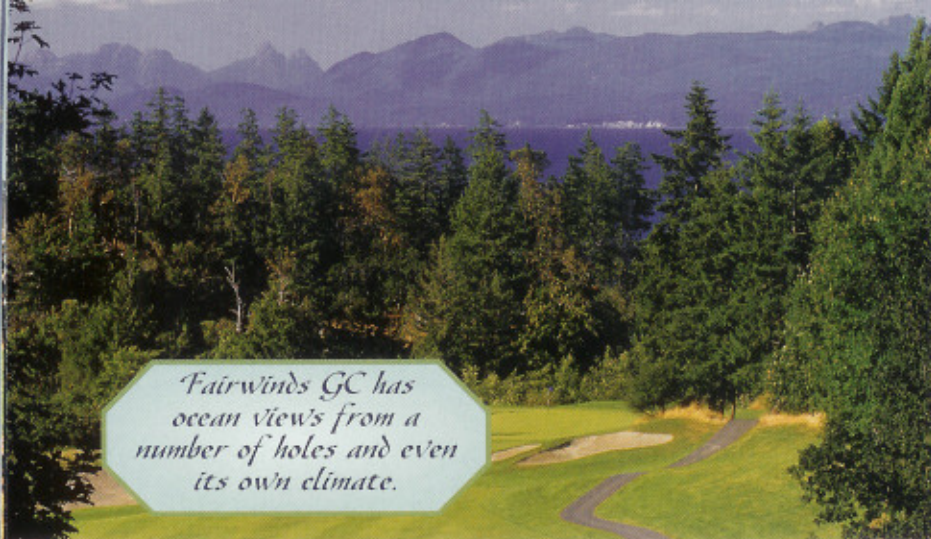
*Arbutus Ridge's 17th hole is considered one of the top 18 holes of golf on Vancouver Island.*



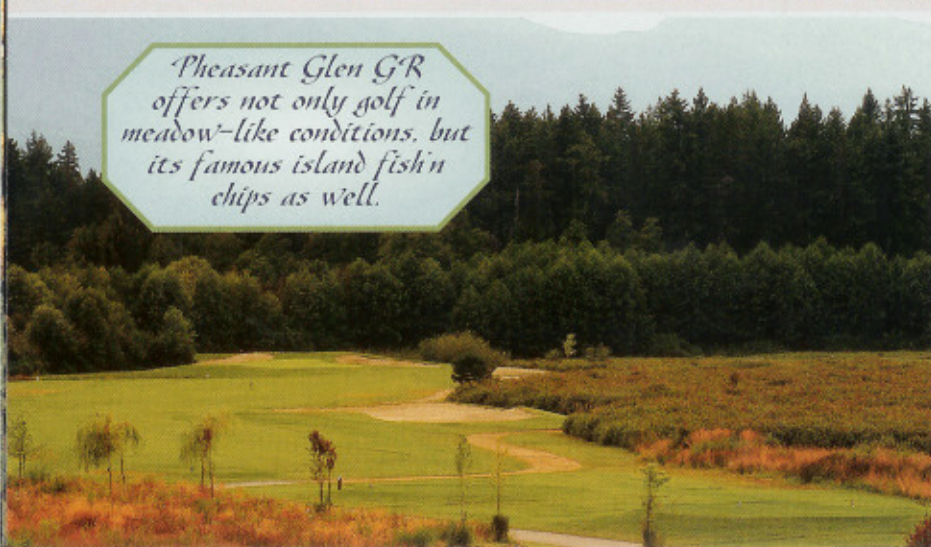
*The layout at Olympic View meanders through woodlands and utilizes numerous water features.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

*Arbutus Ridge G&CC:*  
[www.arbutusridgegolf.com](http://www.arbutusridgegolf.com); 800/446-5322  
*Olympic View GC:*  
[www.golfbc.com](http://www.golfbc.com); 800/446-5322  
*Pheasant Glen GR:*  
[www.pheasantglen.com](http://www.pheasantglen.com); 877/407-4653  
*Fairwinds GC:*  
[www.fairwinds.ca](http://www.fairwinds.ca); 888/781-2777  
*Bear Mountain Resort:*  
[www.bearmountain.ca](http://www.bearmountain.ca); 888/533-2327



*Fairwinds GC has ocean views from a number of holes and even its own climate.*



*Pheasant Glen GR offers not only golf in meadow-like conditions, but its famous island fish'n chips as well.*

**Did you know?** Because it is situated in a natural rain shadow and is within close proximity to the hills, Fairwinds GC actually has its own climate. This means that Fairwinds has some of the nicest consistent weather in the already-mild Vancouver Island area.

● Off the beaten path, Qualicum Beach maintains a small, island-town feel that its residents love and appreciate. *Pheasant Glen Golf Resort* is no different. The 6,600-yard Frank Russell layout has more meadows and woodlands than other courses in the Vancouver Island area; while there are elevation changes, the course is easily walkable as well. Pheasant Glen is also in the process of being certified as an Audubon Sanctuary Facility.

**Did you know?** Pheasant Glen is home to the Brent Morrison Golf Academy, one of the premier teaching facilities in British Columbia. One of the teaching professionals is Leila Chartrand, a University of Southern California alumna (2002) and former captain of the USC women's golf team. Among other career highlights, she qualified for the 2004 and 2005 LPGA Canadian Open.

**Need more Vancouver Island? For the full story, visit [www.foremagazine.org](http://www.foremagazine.org)**

## Five must-do things on Vancouver Island

**1. The beer and chocolate pairing at Spinnakers Brewpub and Guesthouse in Victoria.** A short walk from Victoria's Inner Harbour, this nautical-themed pub pairs five artisan beers and five homemade chocolates for a unique and memorable taste experience. [www.spinnakers.com](http://www.spinnakers.com)

**2. An after-dinner walk at Schooner's Cove Hotel & Marina in Nanoose Bay.** After a round at Fairwinds, come back to the hotel for some fresh seafood or prime rib at the *Laughing Gull Pub* and watch the sunset and spectacular scenery over the docked boats. [www.fairwinds.ca](http://www.fairwinds.ca)

**3. The mineral bath at Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Resort in Seaside.** Located in *The Grotto Spa*, the largest resort spa in British Columbia, the natural bath is complete with waterfalls and tucked inside a makeshift cave. While there, stay in one of Tigh-Na-Mara's log cottages, beach-view condos or, for the luxury-seeker, the spa bungalows, complete with



fireplaces, Jacuzzi tubs, full kitchens and only a short walk to the sand. [www.tigh-na-mara.com](http://www.tigh-na-mara.com)

**4. A tour of Cherry Point Vineyards in Cobble Hill.** Located in the Cowichin Valley, which is one of the most important agricultural areas on the island due to its mild temperatures and Mediterranean-like growing season, the vineyard was established in 1990 and became one of the first licensed wineries on Vancouver Island in 1994.



[www.cherrypointvineyards.com](http://www.cherrypointvineyards.com)

**5. Take a floatplane ride to the mainland.** Harbour Air Seaplanes offers some of the best overhead views of area golf courses and scenery available, and planes land right back in Victoria's Inner Harbour.



[www.harbour-air.com](http://www.harbour-air.com)