



# rating the raters

Should not the primary purpose of publishing ratings\* be to inform readers where the best golf experiences are to be found? If so, here are my proposals to help knowledgeable golfers find worthy courses to play.

- Links golf and American parkland courses are two distinct golf games. One played under the mercurial winds along the hard ground with pitch and run out shots. The other played by launching artillery shots over hazards to elevated manicured targets. Let knowledgeable raters who prefer to play the links-style game rate links courses only. Let raters who prefer the parkland game rate parkland courses only... Two games and two lists.

- Let members of private clubs rate only private courses. Let golfers who play resort courses and courses open to the public (even including St. Andrews, Pebble Beach and The Links at Spanish Bay) rate courses which are accessible to the golfing public. Let only golf professionals and scratch competitive amateurs rate "championship" courses. As the game and new courses have steadily grown, 100 "top" courses, many of which are inaccessible even to raters, are far too few.

- Classical courses, those built before World War II, where all the creators have now passed away, should be rated by only those who have a historical perspective like a museum curator.

- After all the lists are compiled, publish them alphabetically, not in numerical order. Golf ratings are not figure skating contests. Or, at the very least, publish lists alphabetically in groups of 10. For example, Augusta, Bellerive, Congressional, etc.— all U.S. Championship venues.

- Publish regional lists by raters and/or readers. Publish national lists and international lists by the editors of their magazines. Editors are accountable to their readership, raters are not.

Even great golf courses and golf experiences can be very different; responsible raters should play the courses many times and in different seasons to appreciate their depth of design, maintenance and overall the experience. Volkswagens and Porsches are both well crafted German cars. Both provide reliable transportation, but there the similarity ends. So too with well designed golf courses. Vive le différence! ■

(\* See part 1 in our last July issue.

## juger les juges

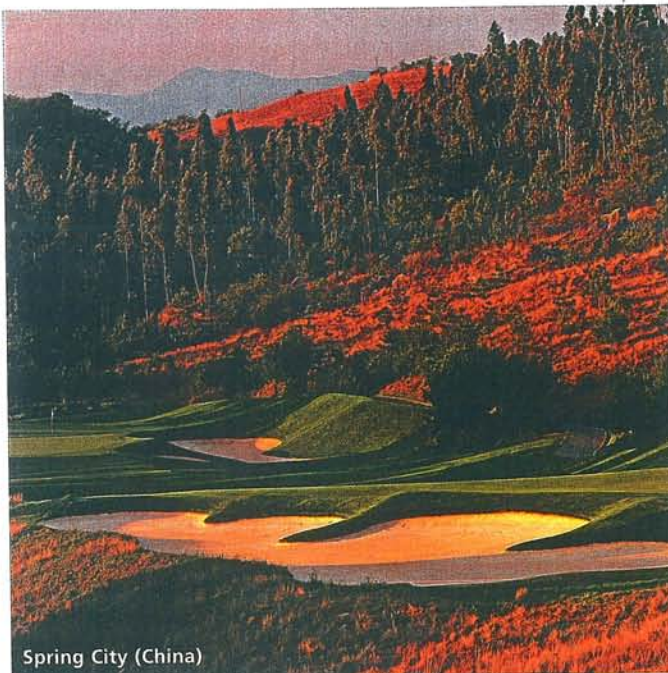
En publiant les classements de parcours, on devrait mieux dire aux golfeurs où sont les bonnes expériences à vivre? Voici des propositions.

Laissez ceux qui aiment les links seuls les juger.

Idem pour les parcours "inland". Leurs aspects sont trop différents pour figurer sur une seule liste. Laissez les membres de clubs privés juger de parcours fermés. Idem pour les golfs ouverts au public. Que seuls les grands joueurs notent les parcours de championnat, pas des amateurs lambda. Les tout vieux parcours ne devraient être notés qu'en les mettant en perspective historique à la façon d'un musée. Puis, quand ces listes sont compilées, ne publier les clubs que

par ordre alphabétique et, enfin, les distribuer par régions et par pays sous le contrôle de magazines appropriés.

Et bien intégrer qu'un seul passage suffit rarement pour juger un parcours. Tenir compte des saisons, des conditions de jeu, de la maintenance est important pour faire la différence entre des parcours bien conçus.



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