



More Than OK in BC

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S COURSES ARE SPECTACULAR, AND THAT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING

By **George Fuller**

NICKLAUS NORTH HOLE 12

What would you get if you combined Napa Valley, the Rocky Mountains and Seattle, and added great golf courses throughout British Columbia (BC). The westernmost province in Canada has aspects of all those destinations and more. There are the wines of Okanagan Valley, the four-season charms of Whistler, the scenic Kootenay mountains, the cozy towns of Vancouver Island and the excitement of Vancouver.

As far as golf, SCORE Golf, Canada's leading national golf magazine, ranks 17 BC golf courses among Canada's Top 100, and 12 of them are available for public play.

Golf Digest named Whistler "Canada's number one golf destination," touting in particular **Big Sky GC** (Bob Cupp), **Nicklaus North GC** (Jack Nicklaus) and **Fairmont Chateau Whistler GC** (Robert Trent Jones II). Add in the top-drawer accommodations at the **Fairmont Chateau Whistler** — the International Golf Tour Operator's North American Golf Resort of the Year for 2018 — and unique resort experiences like

Scandinave Spa and a peak-to-peak gondola ride (of course Whistler is also a renowned ski destination in winter), and you've got the makings of a great British Columbia golf vacation.

On the drive from Vancouver to Whistler, we suggest you add a round at **Furry Creek GC** to experience BC's most scenic golf hole, No. 14, located right on the shore of Howe Sound.

Hop across the Strait of Georgia to the provincial capital of Victoria and you'll find **The Westin Bear Mountain Golf Resort & Spa**, offering 36 holes of awe-

some Nicklaus-designed golf, including the Mountain Course — one of the most fun and scenic you'll ever play. Add in a visit to Victoria's charming Inner Harbour or the Butchart Gardens to round out your Victoria golf vacation.

There's also the option of tackling the **Vancouver Island Golf Trail**, a collection of six courses complemented by small towns and great food and drink. FYI, Vancouver Island is renowned as a microbrewery haven.

In the eastern part of the province, you'll find what is af-

fectionately called the "Napa of the North," BC's Thompson Okanagan region, home to **Predator Ridge Golf Resort**, where two golf courses rank high in SCORE Golf's Top 100. There are dozens of wineries in the Okanagan region. **Talking Rock** has recently ranked No. 1 on the British Columbia Golf Charts as well, and it's well worth a stay at **Quaaout Lodge and Spa** for a unique indigenous experience.

Among BC's best-kept secrets are the golf experiences in the Kootenay Rockies, where you will find **Wildstone** from SCORE Golf's Top 100 list, and another must-play at **Trickle Creek**. Best stop for lunch? Pedal & Tap on Kimberley's Platzl. An hour further north is Copper Point — again one of British Columbia's best. Here, you can pair hot springs with golf swings in a glorious mountain setting. ■

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