

VIRTUOSO

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2008

INSIGHTS

Welcoming Travelers to the World of Virtuoso

On the **Wild Side**

Eco-chic lodges, wilderness retreats, and luxury camps from Tanzania to **Torres del Paine**

THE ADVENTURE ISSUE

+ New Zealand Golf Paradises | Epic Volcano Treks | Cruising the River Nile
Small-Ship Alaska | Globetrotting by Private Jet | Spotlight: Yucatán, Mexico



NEW ZEALAND'S

Front Nine

IT'S A FACT — New Zealand may be known for its extreme sports, yet golf is the nation's most popular pastime, and the country boasts more courses per capita than any other. Among the many world-class courses on both the North and South Islands, these nine stand at the fore. ►

Kauri Cliffs Golf Club — With 15 holes overlooking the Pacific — 6 of which are played alongside sea-plunging cliffs — this dynamic, David Harman-designed course has won awards and the appreciation of *GOLF Magazine*, *Golf Digest*, and many others.

Cape Kidnappers Golf Course — Designer Tom Doak said of Cape Kidnappers: "If it were ... any more dramatic, it would probably be cordoned off as a national park." This Hawke's Bay course plays fast, as the stiff winds send plenty of balls plunging deep into the sea.

Wairakei International Golf Course — Set amidst the dazzling scenery of North Island's Lake Taupo region, New Zealand's first internationally recognized golf course remains a classic, rated among the world's top 100 by *Golf Digest*.

Clearwater Golf Course — Home to the HSBC New Zealand PGA Championship, this Christchurch course combines the best of links and parkland play, complete with tranquil lakes, meandering streams, and mesmerizing views of the Southern Alps.

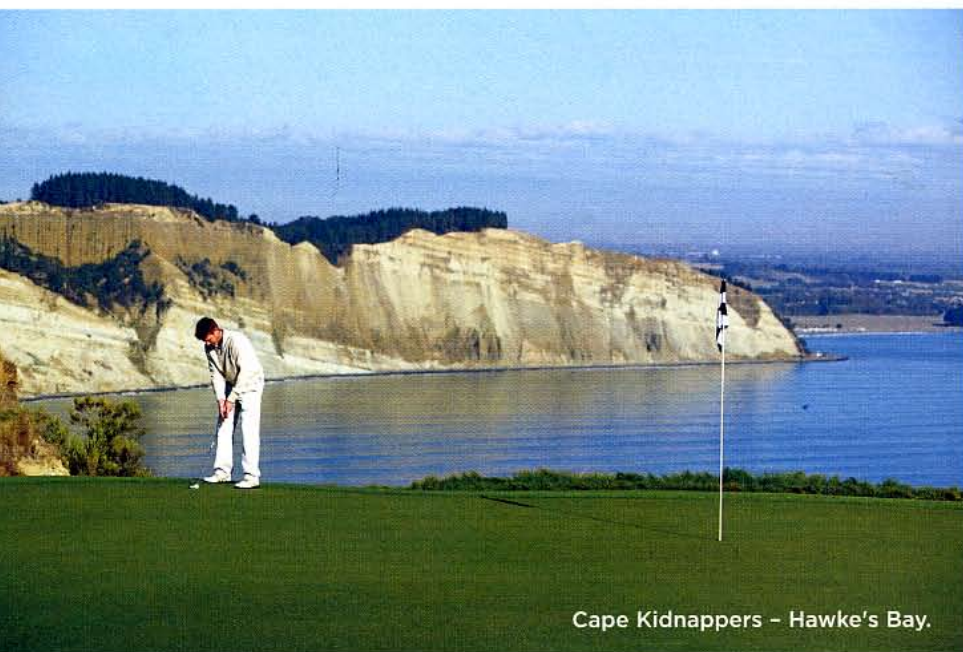
Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club — The most famous links course in New Zealand, Paraparaumu has hosted 12 New Zealand Opens. Even Tiger Woods is tested by the course's rolling fairways and daunting bunkers.

Carrington Golf Course — Situated on the Karikari Peninsula, this course is to Dye for — as in architect Matt Dye, who creatively designed Carrington to play like an inland course, taking advantage of natural contours and water hazards.

Lakes Resort, Pauanui — Set amidst the pristine bush along the Coromandel Peninsula, this beautiful course, which opened in late 2006, proves a formidable challenge for golfers of all levels.

Gulf Harbour Country Club — Offering outstanding views over Hauraki Gulf, this Robert Trent Jones course hosted the 1998 Golf World Cup as well as the New Zealand Open in both 2005 and 2006.

Kinloch Club — The only Jack Nicklaus-designed course in New Zealand, Kinloch is 1 of just 25 courses in the world to be selected by Nicklaus to be part of the legend's prestigious Signature Golf Club.



Cape Kidnappers - Hawke's Bay.

THREE WAYS TO TEE IT UP IN NEW ZEALAND

KAURI CLIFFS GOLF CLUB AND LODGE

Play and stay at this spectacular resort, set upon 6,000 oceanfront acres near the Bay of Islands. Virtuoso guests enjoy a complimentary room upgrade upon arrival, if available; full breakfast daily; and choice of either a guided nature tour or a green stone carving by a New Zealand artisan. *From NZD850 (approx. US\$650) per person, per night. Travel before **September 30, 2008**, and you'll enjoy four nights for the price of three! Contact your Virtuoso travel advisor to book this exclusive offer.*

PERRYGOLF

Play North Island's most impressive courses with the world's leading provider of luxury golf vacations. Traveling roundtrip Auckland, you'll spend 12 days exploring New Zealand's diverse natural wonders while enjoying six rounds at Kauri Cliffs, Cape Kidnappers, and Wairakei International. Other highlights include a visit to a thoroughbred stud farm and a wine enthusiasts tour of the Napier and Hawke's Bay wine regions. *Departs October 11, 2008. From \$12,090.*

SEASONZ TRAVEL

Do you prefer a round at Kauri Cliffs or riding horseback along a deserted beach? Taking in 18 holes at Wairakei International or trekking to the crater of an active volcano? Seasonz Travel will create a customized itinerary that meets your individual interests while introducing you to the best New Zealand has to offer, including private cruises around the Bay of Islands and Lake Taupo, a nature walk around the stunning Taupo region, a paraglide flight over Queenstown, and a Dart River high-speed jet safari. *Contact your Virtuoso travel advisor for more information.*