

AMERICA'S TOP 100 GOLF COMMUNITIES

TRAVEL + LEISURE GOLF
presents the definitive list of the best places to live—and live well

BY DAVID RYNECKI



Breathtaking: Mt. Jefferson State Park sets the stage for Jefferson Landing

NO ONE CAN DOUBT THAT GOLF'S STAR HAS RISEN DRAMATICALLY in the last couple of decades, and there are many explanations as to why: The crush of baby boomers entering their prime golf-playing years. Bull markets. Tiger Woods. A cosmic conjunction between the calming nature of the game and the psychological needs of an anxious era. But when it comes to how, not why, the culture of golf has changed in that time, one trend clearly eclipses all the others: the marriage of golf to real estate, and with it the blossoming of a new golf lifestyle.

STATE-BY-STATE

NORTH CAROLINA

BALD HEAD ISLAND Southernmost barrier island in North Carolina, with miles of pristine beaches. Accessible only by boat. **GOLF:** 18 holes (George Cobb). **RESORT HOME LISTINGS:** \$500,000 to \$4 million.

JEFFERSON LANDING ON THE NEW RIVER Jefferson Blue Ridge Mountain hiking, canoeing and fly-fishing rival the golf. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Larry Nelson). **RESORT HOME LISTINGS:** \$250,000 to more than \$2 million. **CONTACT:** 800-292-6274 or jeffersonlandingclub.com.

WADE HAMPTON Cashiers idyllic setting, low-key golf and a rustic, understated community. **GOLF:** 18 holes (Tom Fazio). **RESORT HOME LISTINGS:** \$759,000 to \$4 million.

BEST VALUE IN A PLANNED COMMUNITY

Jefferson Landing

Jefferson, N.C. – Set on the historic New River near skiing, hiking and attractions such as Grandfather Mountain. Includes New River Golf Course. Homesites available from \$60,000s and townhomes from \$170,000s; manages vacation rentals.

BEST COMMUNITIES FOR FAMILY GATHERINGS

Jefferson Landing, Jefferson, N.C. – Set on the river, water activities are here to please young and old, plus a well-known golf course, and nice clubhouse with dining, swimming and workout rooms. Ski slopes are also just a short drive away.

Jefferson Landing (New River) • Jefferson, N.C.

Positioned in a bucolic valley amid the rolling plains of Ashe County, the New River Course at Jefferson Landing tracks through a gracefully rolling site. Tributaries from the nearby New River and the snake-like Naked Creek define play on 15 holes.

★★★★½ JEFFERSON LANDING CLUB

R-Highway 16 - 88, Jefferson, 28640, Ashe County, (336)982-7767, (800)292-6274, 80 miles from Winston-Salem. **E-mail:** www.jeffland@skybest.com. **Web:** www.jeffersonlandingclub.com.

Facility Holes: 18. **Yards:** 7,111/4,960. **Par:** 72/72. **Slope:** 121/103. **Green Fee:** \$35/\$59. **Cart Fee:** \$15/Person. **Walking Policy:** Mandatory carts. **Walkability:** 1. **Opened:** 1991. **Architect:** Larry Nelson/Dennis Lehmann. **Season:** April-Nov. **High:** May-Oct. **To obtain tee times:** Call golf shop. **Miscellaneous:** Reduced fees (weekdays, guests, twilight, seniors, juniors), range (grass/mats), lodging (50 rooms), credit cards (MC, V, AE, D), BF, FF.

Reader Comments: An excellent course and value for a resort ... I recommend it highly ... Mountain gem ... Fun to play, tricky; lots of elevation change ... Most enjoyable mountain course I ever played ... Great accommodations and staff.