

Swinging toward profit | Renovation & Development of the Year

Golf Inc.™

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Cabot Citrus Farms

THE PROMISE OF TECH

These 18 innovative tech leaders are transforming the golf business one tee time at a time.

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MANAGING
PARTNER &
CO-FOUNDER,
METOLIUS GOLF



JASON PEARSALL
FOUNDER & CEO,
CLUB CADDIE



JEFF MA
CHIEF DIGITAL OFFICER,
TROON



Cabot announces new golf course management division

Cabot is expanding further into the management space. Four courses under its purview will now be known as Cabot-managed properties.

Cabot has managed the operations of four U.S. golf courses since 2022 through CDN Golf Management, one of Cabot's affiliates. These courses are now officially under Cabot's umbrella: Cascata Golf Club and Rio Secco Golf Club in Las Vegas, Nevada; Grand Bear Golf Club in Saucier, Mississippi; and Chariot Run Golf Club in Laconia, Indiana.

Ben Cowan-Dewar, CEO of Cabot, said his team has enjoyed managing those courses so much that they wanted to bring them together under the Cabot name.



Rio Secco Golf Club

“As the Cabot brand and team grew, it was really pulling that together and really seeing that all come under one roof and all under one team,” he said. “While not branded Cabot necessarily, [these courses] feel like very much a part of the Cabot family. It was a recognition of that and pulling it all in under one brand.”

Cascata Golf Club sits 3,200 feet above the Las Vegas desert valley and recently unveiled a renovated golf shop. Rio Secco Golf Club is in the Black Mountains of Nevada and features a par-72 Rees Jones-designed golf course with views of the Las Vegas Strip. Grand Bear Golf Club was designed by Jack Nicklaus and sits in the De Soto National Forest. Chariot

Run Golf Club has an equestrian-themed golf course with bentgrass fairways and greens, lakes and scenic trees.

Cabot, which is well known for its people-focused culture, plans to bring that focus to these courses.

“It continues to be an evolution: How can we make them the best properties we can?” Cowan-Dewar said. “That is really what our focus has been. Anything we can do to add to that is what we’re

focused on every day. In some ways that can be little things, and in some it’s probably greater reimaginings. Each asset’s a little bit different, and that’s how we look at them and think about them.”

Cowan-Dewar said that there are currently no plans to add more courses to the management portfolio but that Cabot is constantly looking at new opportunities and will continue to grow both sides of the business.

More management news

■ **Escalante Golf** has acquired Canyata Golf Club in Marshall, Illinois. The club is Escalante’s 25th property in a portfolio that spans 17 states. Canyata was founded in 2005 by local businessman Jerry Forsythe as an exclusive golf retreat. The 18-hole course covers some 7,200 yards across 400 acres of former farmland cut in half by a ravine. Escalante will use the acquisition to launch a luxury golf and travel membership plan called Icon Golf which includes membership to Canyata, playing privileges at eight other U.S. properties owned by Escalante and opportunities to participate in a variety of curated events, from golf destination trips around the world to shorter three-day stays at domestic Escalante-owned clubs and tournaments at renowned locations such as Pebble Beach.

■ **GreatLIFE Golf** has added Seven Springs Golf and Country Club in Trinity, Florida, to its management portfolio. The club, 33 miles northwest of Tampa, is GreatLIFE’s sixth in the state. Seven Springs is a semi-private club with two 18-hole courses: the par-72 Champion Course and the shorter, par-64 Executive Plus. The club has two swimming pools, fitness rooms, tennis courts, pickleball courts, practice facili-

ties and bocce ball courts. Dining options include a full-service restaurant and a poolside snack bar. The club offers both membership and daily-fee opportunities. GreatLIFE Golf’s portfolio includes 57 courses in 10 states.

■ **Thompson Golf Group** has acquired The Wilds Golf Club in Prior Lake, Minnesota. The acquisition included two undeveloped parcels of land that Thompson will use for future amenities and services. Thompson Golf plans



The Wilds Golf Club

to make additions and improvements including: a full-course bunker renovation project scheduled to be completed later this year; GPS-equipped golf carts; expanded golf programs and camps for juniors; new public events such as couples nights, parent-child tournaments and influencer invitationals; additional golf instruction staff and more.



2025 DEVELOPMENT *of the* YEAR

From a reimagined Florida landscape to a new destination in Southeast Asia, this year’s winners swung for the fences and exceeded expectations.

BY TREVOR MASON

Any new golf course development is somewhat of a gamble. With such a huge investment, the end result better be worth the time, money and effort.

This year’s Development of the Year winners each had different goals in mind, but ultimately, they all strove for one all-encompassing purpose: to make the best golf course they possibly could.

Cabot Citrus Farms took first place with a gargantuan effort: four golf courses built simultaneously. This required a construction team numbering in the hundreds. The result is two 18-hole courses and two short courses that occupy the site of the former World Woods Golf Club.

“Cabot Citrus Farms is a celebration of elevation, nature and a landscape that is so unique to Florida we chose it as our first U.S. location,” said Ben Cowan-Dewar, CEO and co-founder of Cabot. “Our ultimate goal is to unite people through exceptional golf, outdoor adventures and a strong sense of community. It is an honor to have our team’s efforts recognized by Golf Inc., and we look forward to welcoming guests for generations to come.”

This year’s judges were Casey Paulson, general manager of Driftwood Golf & Ranch Club; Kevin Norby, ASGCA, RLA, of Norby Golf Course Design; and Darryl Bartlett, senior project manager of NMP Golf Construction.

FIRST PLACE
Cabot Citrus Farms
Brooksville, Florida

Owner/Developer: The Cabot Collection

Architects: Karoo – Kyle Franz; Roost – Mike Nuzzo, Kyle Franz, Rod Whitman and Ran Morrissett as golf course architecture adviser; The Wedge & The Squeeze – Mike Nuzzo

Contractor: GreenScape Methods
Cost: \$35 million

The Cabot Collection wanted to build on the legacy of World Woods Golf Club by creating a destination for world-class golf, outdoor adventures and a strong sense of community, all while preserving the property’s distinct Floridian character and natural beauty.

This is Cabot’s first resort in the U.S. and the flagship for introducing its brand to a wider American audience. Cabot strives to build golf courses that stand the test of



time, based on the idea that building great things is the best business model.

Cabot Citrus Farms features two redesigned 18-hole courses, Karoo and Roost, and two new short courses, The Squeeze and The Wedge. Crafted by a diverse team of architects, the courses embrace the area's natural elevation changes and scenic beauty while employing innovative golf concepts for players of all skill levels.

The redesign of the existing courses was an extensive effort, repurposing materials and installing new infrastructure to enhance sustainability and playability. Each of the four courses offers a distinct playing experience.

The Karoo course is being called an "adventure golf" masterpiece, with some of the widest Bermuda fairways in the world, expansive greens, multiple routes to pins and bold contours to encourage creative play.

The Roost course features canopies of moss-draped trees and sandy soil in a tranquil setting that takes golfers back in

time. It flows across sandy scrubland and rolling meadows with numerous 50-foot elevation changes and a 40-foot-deep sinkhole.

The 10-hole Squeeze course blends diverse, dramatic terrain with a relaxed atmosphere and features half-par holes alongside par-3s, par-4s and par-5s.

The 11-hole, par-3 Wedge course is described as "small on size but big on golf." Its sloping greens and varied lies are combined with speakers and low-profile lighting to create a lively atmosphere and allow golfers to enjoy the course after dark.

The development includes a variety of residential units and allows homeowners to place their homes in a rental pool when they're not in use.

Cabot Citrus Farms has applied for Audubon International Platinum Signature Sanctuary certification, making Cabot the first multi-property brand to enroll all its golf courses and their surrounding environments in the program.

What the judges said:

"Large development. Big scope. Golf courses are visually striking. Looks like great use of minimal elevation. Minimal vertical amenities. Development looks very golf focused."

– Casey Paulson

"Well-developed vision for the property, including lodging, amenities and golf. Golf course and building architecture blends well with the site. Dramatic shaping of fairways and golf course features. Expansive low-maintenance areas should help reduce water and fertilizer needs."

– Kevin Norby

"This place has it all: storybook housing, amenities galore and a wonderful collaboration on golf. It will be a winning destination for years to come."

– Darryl Bartlett