


Good as

GOLD



Remodel first place winner:  
The Vintage Club, Indian Wells, Calif.

At first glance, it's easy to see that the first-place winners in the 2017 Golf Inc. Clubhouse of the Year competition have some things in common. They're both private clubs in Southern California, and they're located in affluent areas – one in a sophisticated coastal city, the other in a desert resort community.

But the similarities go beyond geography and demographics. Both embarked on projects with the same goal: to make their facilities more welcoming for members and to embrace the casual, outdoor-oriented lifestyle sought by today's changing club membership. And, in the opinion of our judges, both achieved their objectives splendidly.

The first-place award in the new construction category goes to Newport Beach Country Club. Its \$50 million project was spearheaded by Melzer Deckert & Ruder Architects, with Kay Lang + Associates handling interior design.

The winner in the remodel category is The Vintage Club in Indian Wells, which undertook a \$21 million project led by Aetypic Inc. and Robert J. Geering, with

interior design by Jerry Beale and Wilson Associates.

Among new construction entries, Cape Fear Country Club in Wilmington, N.C., was the second-place finisher, while Boothbay Harbor Country Club in Boothbay, Maine, took third place. The judges selected two new clubhouses for honorable mention: Seven Canyons in Sedona, Ariz., and Hideaway at Arrington in College Grove, Tenn.

Among renovated clubhouses, three Florida clubs took honors. The Country Club at Mirasol in Palm Beach Gardens, was second, and Sailfish Point Golf Club in Stuart, was third, while an honorable mention went to Frenchman's Reserve Country Club in Palm Beach Gardens. The Golf Club of Georgia in Alpharetta, Ga., also received an honorable mention.

Clubhouses that opened or reopened in 2016 were eligible for the competition. Scores were based on efficiency, aesthetics, sustainability and overall design.

The winners were chosen through a blind judging, with all identifying references removed from the entries.

Two Southern California clubs that embraced the trend toward casual outdoor living top the list of the best new and renovated clubhouses for 2017.

BY KEITH CARTER



### THIRD PLACE

**Boothbay Harbor Country Club**

Boothbay, Maine

**Owner:** Paul Coulombe

**Clubhouse architect:** Knickerbocker Group

**Consulting architect:** Kuo Diedrich

**Interior Design:** Image Design

**Contractor:** Knickerbocker Group

**Construction cost:** Undisclosed



This 100-year-old club was acquired by Paul Coulombe in 2013. He added the new clubhouse and renovated Boothbay Harbor's golf course to create a luxury destination for dining and socializing.

The clubhouse design was inspired by the shingle-style coastal cottages of New England, with a contemporary twist. The building is nestled into the edge of a cascading rock cliff. Though relatively small because of the seasonal aspect of the membership, the clubhouse features a nautical-inspired indoor-outdoor lounge

with an island bar designed to facilitate member interaction.

The interiors are classic New England, with rich Brazilian cherrywood floors, Oriental rugs and coffered ceilings. The 19th Hole Lounge has a mahogany and walnut bar, mahogany ceilings and scenic golf course views.

### What the judges said:

*I like the use of the decorative internal windows that reflect the New England character. The casual elegance of the pub coupled with the formal character of the steakhouse offer a nice variety of spaces to enjoy.*  
—Bryan Webb

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