

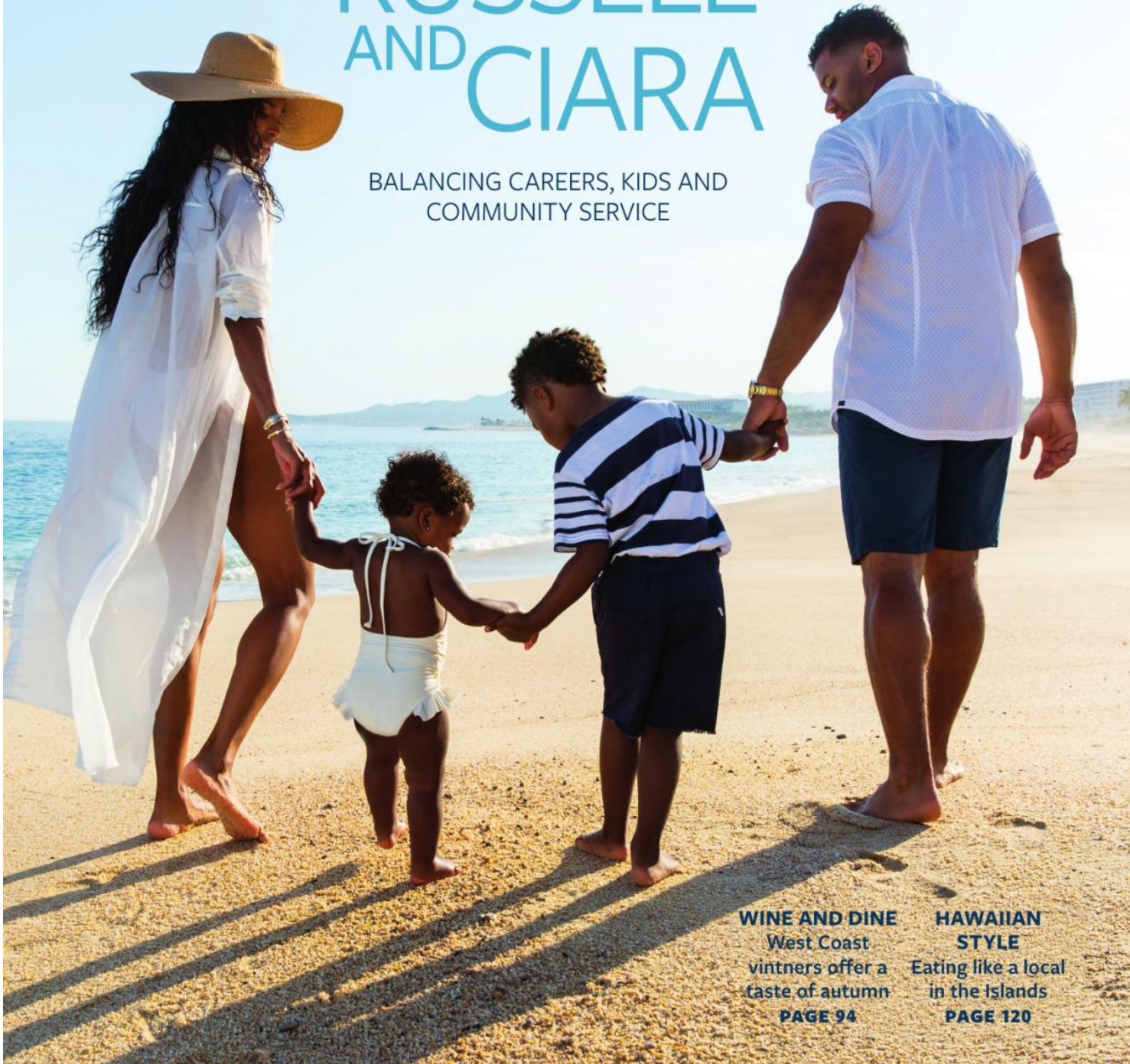
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Alaska BEYOND»

MAGAZINE SEPTEMBER 2018

RUSSELL AND CIARA

BALANCING CAREERS, KIDS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE



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» THE FEED IN PLAY



TWO NEW LOCATIONS FOR TEEING IT UP

By Jeff Wallach

» **Unique golf-course layouts** in Oregon and Mexico are providing ample reasons to pack your clubs and head for the airport.

In Oregon, Silvies Valley Ranch begs a visit not just for the quality of its golf, but also for the vision behind what may be one of the best new American resorts.

The working ranch, outside the small town of Burns, located about 130 miles southeast of Bend, has a theme that reaches beyond logos and furnishings. However, Pendleton blankets, deep leather couches and vast raw-beamed accommodations have been well-coordinated to create a carefree cowboy vibe.

Silvies' love-the-land ethic is evident in acts of restoration across the property—from the preservation of original homesteads to the re-creation of natural habitat.

The resort's golf course, designed by Dan Hixson, may also elicit a few unrestrained "yee-haws." The 18-hole course is set up in such a manner that it can be played as two separate layouts, thanks to the clever use of different tee boxes and a total of 27 greens.

While there are no water features on any of

the 18 holes, 100 gorgeously sculpted bunkers may distract from this realization. Fescue fairways throughout are as wide and open as the surrounding skies.

Hixson's separate nine-hole par-3 Chief Egan course rolls through a mountain meadow along Paiute Creek. Hixson also devised yet another layout, known as McVeigh's Gauntlet, a collection of seven difficult holes playing through steep hills for a few final golf challenges.

Another fun aspect of Silvies golf is the introduction of goat caddies. The ruminants are trained to carry your clubs in special bags strapped to their backs, and they will not try to change your grip.

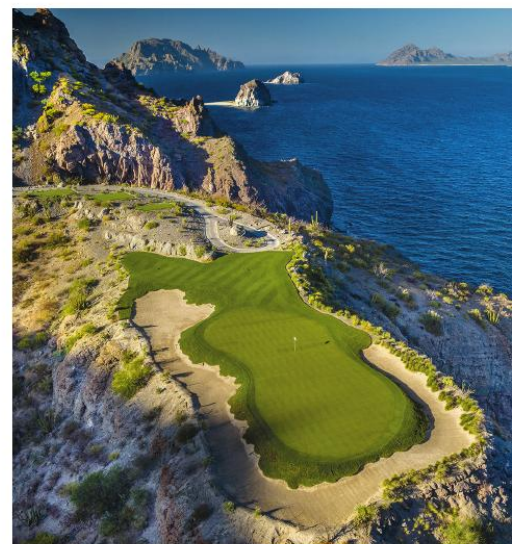
A second new golf complex gaining rave reviews is located on Mexico's Baja Peninsula.

» **Goat caddies, above, carry golf clubs in specially created bags at Silvies Valley Ranch in Central Oregon. TPC Danzante Bay Golf Club in Loreto, Mexico, features the par-3 17th hole, right, with a green perched above the Sea of Cortés.**

After renovating many of the golf world's top tournament venues, architect Rees Jones opened TPC Danzante Bay Golf Club in Loreto earlier this year, and it's one of his best and most enjoyable courses yet. Despite encompassing valleys, arroyos, dunes and desert terrain, Jones included something missing from many big-name golf designs: fun. Danzante proffers fairways that are difficult to miss, green complexes that are fair, and many ways of playing most holes—all of which offer views of the Sierra de la Giganta mountains or the shimmering Sea of Cortés.

While the course layout romps up and down secluded canyons, the journey is breezy and laid-back, with open pathways, and hole contours and bunkering meant to keep even errant shots in play. Four holes stretch across an inland dune; three wander into beachfront dunes; and the layout boasts 250 feet of elevation change. Anticipation builds throughout the round for the course's signature hole, No. 17, a downhill par-3, where the green perches precariously on a rock outcropping surrounded on three sides by the sea. It will be the rare golfer who hits only one ball to this eminently alluring target.

For a great family outing, try Danzante Bay's nine-hole putting course inspired by The Himalayas putting green at St. Andrews Golf Links in Scotland. ✈



FROM TOP: SILVIES VALLEY RANCH; DANZANTE BAY