

Best **NEW**

GIL HANSE'S **STREAMSONG BLACK** AND TOM FAZIO'S **CONGAREE** ARE COMPELLING WINNERS

BY RON WHITTEN

MASSIVE OAKS AND ACRES OF NATIVE SAND FRAME HOLES AT CONGAREE,
INCLUDING THE 340-YARD, PAR-4 THIRD (BOTTOM RIGHT).



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STREAMSONG BLACK'S HUMONGOUS GREENS ALLOW FOR HOLE LOCATIONS THAT MAKE THE COURSE DIFFICULT FOR TOUR PLAYERS BUT PLAYABLE FOR RESORT GOLFERS.

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invention and reaffirmation are the themes of Golf Digest's Best New Course winners for 2018. The **BLACK COURSE AT STREAMSONG RESORT**, the third 18 at the hugely popular central Florida golf mecca, prevails in the Public Course category. This Gil Hanse design introduces a new concept to American golf, the jumbo-size green, and the surprising manner in which that idea came about is a big part of its story.

This is Hanse's third Best New win, after Rustic Canyon in 2002 and the remodeled TPC Boston in 2007. Streamsong Black won in a close contest over **MAMMOTH DUNES**, the second 18 at another extremely popular golf resort, Sand Valley in central Wisconsin. This David McLay Kidd design features huge fairways, some 100 yards wide, all edged in sand, an idea he introduced five years ago at Gamble Sands in eastern Washington. In third place is the **CRADDOCK COURSE AT THE RETREAT & LINKS AT SILVIES VALLEY RANCH** in east-central Oregon, one 18 of a reversible design by architect Dan Hixson. Its counterpart companion, the **HANKINS COURSE**, routed in the opposite direction with a couple of alternate holes, finished fourth.

Previous page (Congaree): Crescent Moon Pictures • Streamsong Black: courtesy of resort

