

Robb Report

Vacation Homes

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2008

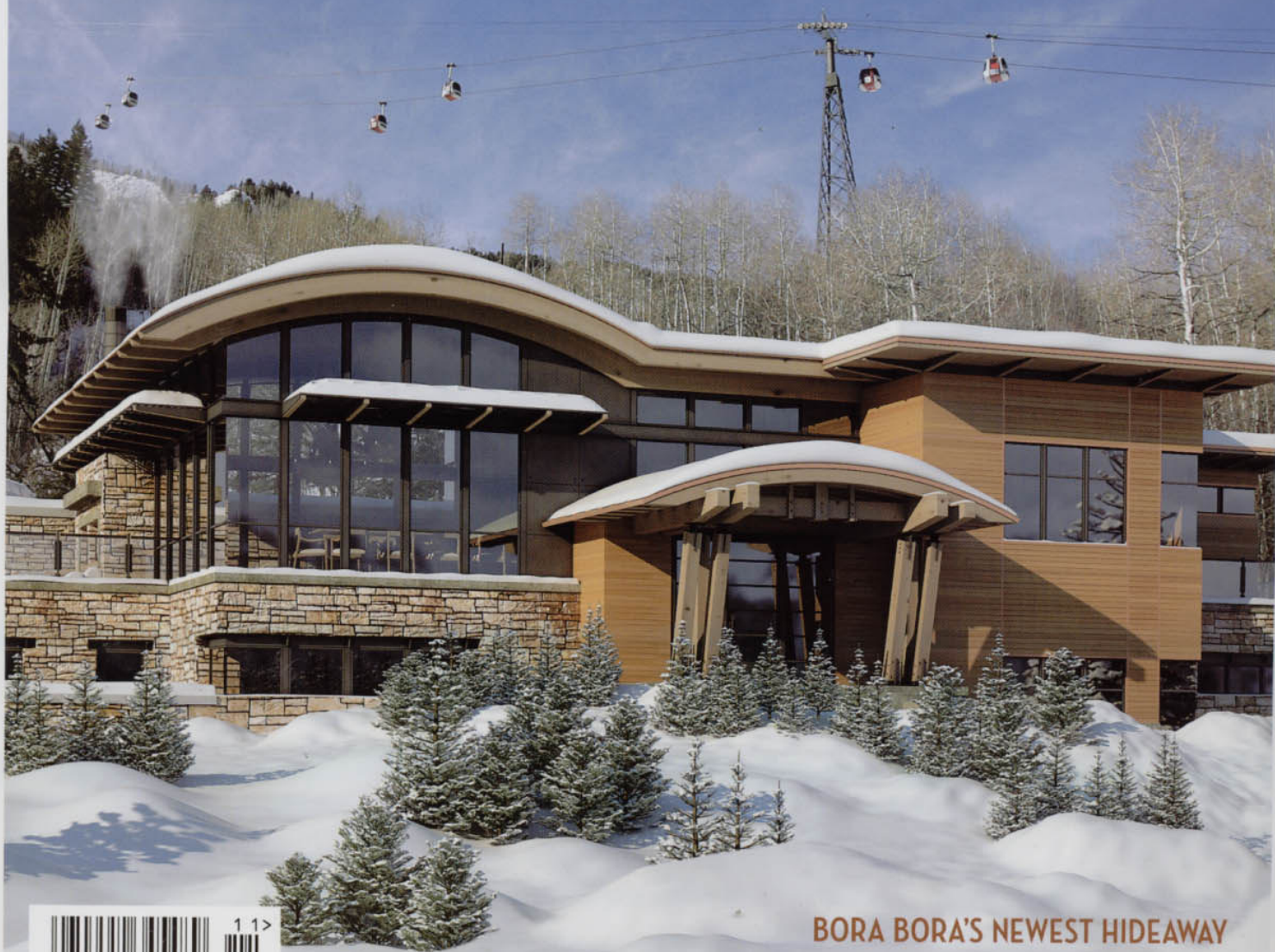
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CHECHESSEE CREEK CLUB



Location Okatie, South Carolina

ABOVE: The 41 homes at the Chechessee Creek Club represent a return to the golden years of golf and leisure. **BELOW:** Each cottage is designed to emit a cabin-in-the-woods ambience (left). The course's sixth hole affords views of the creek (right).

IN 1998, TWO-TIME Masters champion Ben Crenshaw and business partner Bill Coore set out to design a challenging golf course in the marshlands of Okatie, South Carolina, that would enrich its surroundings rather than overpower them. Completed in 2000, the golf course, part of the Chechessee Creek Club, weaves through low-country live oaks and along the property's namesake creek.

Before construction started 10 years ago, the 291-acre club called for 124 homesites to be placed along the course and river. But, in keeping with the club mantra "for the love of the game," that number was reduced to just 41 half-acre sites, which are now approaching sell out. "It was important that the residential component of the club be a complement to the golf," explains Franklin Newell, Chechessee Creek's general manager. "We reduced the number of homesites to ensure a special golf experience, not a development dominated by homes."

Ten of Chechessee's 41 homes have been set aside for fractional ownership and are priced at \$235,000 for a one-sixth share. The remaining 31 homes are offered as fully furnished whole-ownership residences, priced from \$1.5 million.

Local firm Thomas & Denzinger Architects and

Atlanta-based architectural planners Historical Concepts designed the three- and four-bedroom homes in a rustic style, with gable roofs, porches, and wood siding. Inside, reclaimed wood floors, paneled walls, and transom windows provide a comfortable living space. "People don't come here to show off," says Historical Concepts partner Terry Pylant. "They are here to enjoy life, and we designed these homes to meet their needs."

Where most communities make home ownership a prerequisite for club membership, Chechessee Creek makes club membership a prerequisite for home ownership, further emphasizing its commitment to golf. Club membership—priced at \$50,000 for locals living within 50 miles of the club, \$30,000 for national members, and \$10,000 for international members—grants access to the course and the 9,200-square-foot clubhouse, which includes vintage-style locker rooms and a fine-dining restaurant. Chechessee also offers a unique golf program that employs mature caddies who are able to relate with club members, a practice facility with a 13-acre driving range, river kayaks, and access to an 18-foot Boston Whaler moored on the club's private dock. [Taylor Hill]

Chechessee Creek Club, 843.987.7000,

www.chechesseecreekclub.com

