



Natural born winner

The best seaside course on the continent of Australasia takes some getting to, but it's a pleasant task tracking down Tom Doak and Mike Clayton's Tasmanian creation. Barnbougle Dunes is located 50 miles north of the island's second town, Launceston, and - as its name suggests - it winds its way through a rugged array of coastal sand features. Roll up to the simple single-story clubhouse, pay your A\$80 and step into the wind that thunders along this coastline - the "Roaring 40s" continually blow here. This is a stripped-down version of the game with no buggies or even bunker rakes to dilute the experience. The course is laid out in sympathy to the twists, humps and folds shaped by the sea's retreat and the action of the wind. Doak is a modern course designer whose principal influences are the great architects of the 1920s. His favourite hazards are grass and sand, and sometimes the border between them is difficult to discern: giant bunkers are clawed out of the 100ft high dunes. Barnbougle Dunes is a compelling course that is both raw and artistic. It is one of 68 layouts featured in *The Finest Golf Courses of Asia & Australasia* compiled by golf writer and photographer James Spence. The book is published by First Shot Press and can be ordered from www.golfcoursesofasia.com for worldwide shipment.