

# Green Golf Homes in Five Global Destinations

Golf homes, like the courses themselves, are getting more environmentally conscious as climate change threats grow in golf-friendly territory.



A home in Pearl Valley at Val de Vie, in South Africa's Winelands region.

Green golf homes, whether they are in residential golf communities or near major golf clubs, are increasingly a mainstream concept, says Christine Kane, the chief executive of [Audubon International](#), a nonprofit that evaluates and certifies golf communities and golf courses for their eco-friendliness through its Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf.

“Golf home buyers today definitely have more interest in sustainable living than they did even five years ago,” she said.

The increase in the number of Audubon-certified golf courses globally, many of which have a residential component, is one indicator of this rising interest: This year, 965 golf courses in 27 countries are fully certified in the program, up from 617 courses in 13 countries in 2010. Features of a green home include solar panels that supply energy, geothermal heating and cooling systems that reduce energy use, LED lighting, and windows with insulated glass that also conserve energy.

But according to Gary Berkson, a broker with Re/Max Central Realty in Orlando, Fla., and a golf-home specialist, buyers should be aware that green homes can cost up to 15 percent more than homes without sustainable features.

“Things such as solar energy and double insulated windows are pricey, but you can save money over the long run if you plan on owning the property for a while,” he said.

Here is a look at green homes in five destinations around the world.



Patrick O' Brien/Kiawah Island Real Estate

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C., \$2.37 MILLION

## A Coastal Home in a Green Community

Located on the roughly 13-square-mile Kiawah Island, about 45 minutes from Charleston by car, this home sits within [Indigo Park](#), a Platinum LEED Certified neighborhood with 16 homes. Each one has a geothermal heating and cooling system that cuts energy use by up to 80 percent, an energy-efficient washer and dryer, a tankless water heater that uses up to 35 percent less heat than traditional heaters, and a circuit to charge electric and hybrid cars.

The property is close to Kiawah Island Club, which has two golf courses — including one designed by Tom Fazio — a spa, a golf learning center and a variety of ocean-centric activities such as crabbing, fishing and kayaking. The island itself has a 10-mile-long beach and more than 30 miles of bike trails.

**Size:** 2,780 square feet

**Price Per Square Foot:** \$853

**Indoors:** The home is bright and has high ceilings, white oak hardwood floors and large windows with water views. A foyer leads into a spacious kitchen with a generously sized center island while the airy living room has wood ceiling beams and sliding doors that lead to a deck.

The master bedroom is on the entry level and has deck access as well as a spacious bathroom with a vaulted ceiling and ceramic tiles. The remaining three bedrooms are on the second floor and have vaulted ceilings and hardwood floors.

**Outdoor Space:** Laden with palm trees and other flora and fauna, the outdoor area includes a back deck with a pool that overlooks the island's wildlife-rich marshes. Lawn space is limited.

**Taxes:** \$24,525 per year



CAPE WINELANDS, SOUTH AFRICA, \$1.377 MILLION

## A Waterfront Home With Mountain Views

In South Africa's Winelands region, about a 45-minute drive from Cape Town, this property is in the golf community of [Pearl Valley](#) at Val de Vie. The nearly 2,500-acre community has more than 1,500 residences; all have modern architecture, and many have views of the surrounding Drakenstein and Simonsberg mountains. Val de Vie's amenities include a Jack Nicklaus-designed course, biking and jogging paths, polo fields, an equestrian center, three gyms, squash and tennis courts, a soccer field, a spa, and three large swimming pools.

There are numerous green spaces, protected undeveloped land and a biodiversity area. All the main buildings are powered by solar energy, and the community has a water filtration system and its own water supply in the event of a drought.

**Size:** 6,673 square feet

**Price per square foot:** Around \$206

**Indoors:** This U-shaped home was designed by the well-regarded South African architect Greg Wright and features high ceilings, clean finishes and floor-to-ceiling windows. It's divided into two wings. The single-story east wing has four bedrooms, four and a half baths and a spacious living room. An undercover walkway leads to the other wing, which has two floors. Another living room and a kitchen with a long counter are on the main floor and overlook the property's sun deck while the second level has two more bedrooms and baths including the master suite with a study and terrace overlooking one of the community's artificial lakes.

The house has 32 solar panels and LED lighting throughout.

**Outdoor space:** The generous outdoor areas are a highlight and include an open-air atrium with a barbecue and full of lush plants as well as a sun deck with a lap pool and second barbecue.

**Taxes:** \$148 a month



GUANACASTE, COSTA RICA, \$1.575 MILLION

## A Contemporary Property in a Sustainability-Focused Resort

Called [Villa Serena](#), the home is in Reserva Conchal, a 2,300-acre beachfront resort on the country's northwest coast. Standout amenities include the 96-acre wildlife reserve, a beach club, two spas, a large oceanfront fitness center and numerous outdoor activities such as kayaking and stand-up paddling. Reserva Conchal has several real-estate developments, each with its own aesthetic, and Villa Serena is part of Melina, whose dozen homes have views of the Robert Trent Jones II golf course and nearby tropical forest.

Sustainability is a priority at the resort: It has close to 1,400 solar panels that provide renewable energy including solar-powered streetlights, a desalination plant that re-mineralizes seawater to make it drinkable and an A.I.-equipped irrigation system that prevents overwatering. The development also produces organic fertilizer to use in its green areas and promotes reusable water bottles.

**Size:** 5,000 square feet

**Price per square foot:** \$315

**Indoors:** Built on the golf course, Villa Serena, while contemporary in design, has a tropical feel thanks to its open layout and abundance of indigenous trees and flowers that surround the home, including hibiscus bushes. Features include vaulted ceilings, off-white granite and marble countertops and floors, and a sprawling living room on the entry level that opens to a large terrace. The master suite is also on the main level and has both an indoor and outdoor shower. The rest of the bedrooms, all with terraces, are on the second floor.

Green elements include the sliding doors and ceiling fans that naturally cool the home and make air-conditioning unnecessary (though it does have air-conditioning), solar panels and a gray-water recycling system for bathrooms and irrigation. Villa Serena is constructed with sustainable local wood.

**Outdoor space:** The lawn is large, as is the terrace, which has an infinity pool facing the golf course, a hot tub, seating area and kitchen with a barbecue.

**Taxes:** \$4,800 a year. The resort also has a monthly association fee of \$225 a month.





ALENTEJO COAST, PORTUGAL, \$620,780

## An Apartment in a Beachfront Eco-Community

This apartment is within [Pestana Troia Eco-Resort](#), on Portugal's Alentejo Coast, about 90 minutes south of Lisbon. Covering close to 250 acres, the resort has indoor and outdoor swimming pools, tennis and paddle ball courts, a golf course, a gym and Turkish baths.

Pestana is certified under BREEAM, a respected accreditation group for assessing sustainability in buildings: the resort was constructed using materials with a low ecological footprint such as natural stones and is powered partly with solar energy. Residences have thermal insulation to minimize the use of heat, and there are boardwalks and footbridges throughout to encourage residents to walk or bike instead of drive. The resort is surrounded by protected land that is replete with wildlife, including pink flamingoes.

**Size:** 1,603 square feet

**Price per square foot:** Around \$387

**Indoors:** Situated in a building debuting this month, this three-bedroom condominium has a contemporary but warm feel from the light wood floors and finishes throughout. The spacious living room leads to a terrace, and the bright kitchen has a large center island and enough room for a dining table. The master bedroom has an attached bath while the second bathroom can be accessed from the smaller two bedrooms. Pestana's sustainability features are incorporated into this unit as well.

**Outdoor space:** A terrace overlooking the outdoor pool can accommodate a small table and a few chairs.

**Taxes:** \$2,500 a year



Phillip Reed

AMENIA, N.Y., \$6.25 MILLION (UNDER CONTRACT)

## A Modern Home in the Hudson Valley

Located about 90 minutes north of Manhattan, this home is part of the high-end golf community [Silo Ridge](#). Amenities include hiking and biking trails, a lake with activities such as boating, kayaking and fishing, an equestrian center, a community garden, a Tom Fazio-designed golf course, a pool with a waterslide and a new barn with a bowling alley, movie theater and an arts and crafts room for children. Residents also have access to three “comfort stations” that are stocked with free top-shelf alcohol, sandwiches and snacks.

Silo Ridge is luxurious but green. The golf course is registered in the Audubon International Signature Program for sustainable golf development; the staff uses only electric vehicles; construction waste is recycled on-site; and homes are constructed with energy-saving insulated glass and natural wood and stone. In addition, Silo Ridge’s management gave 530 of the community’s 850 acres to the North American Land Trust, which protects the land from development.

**Size:** 4,134 square feet

**Price per square foot:** \$1,511

**Indoors:** With a distinct modern aesthetic, the two-story home has floor-to-ceiling windows and doors and views of the golf course and the Hudson Valley beyond. Natural tones, including off white and soft beiges, are dominant throughout. The entry level includes a living room and kitchen, which are combined into a large, long space with a double-height ceiling, and the master bedroom, also with a double-height ceiling.

The remaining three bedrooms and a smaller living room are on the home's lower level, facing the golf course. All bedrooms on this level have sliding doors that lead to a shared terrace.

**Outdoor space:** The lower level has a roomy stone terrace overlooking the golf course while the entry level has a large wraparound covered porch. In all, the property has 2,065 square feet of outdoor space.

**Taxes:** In 2020, annual taxes are \$61,000.