USA Today readers choose Myrtle Beach the best golf destination

Readers of USA Today were asked what golf destination they believe is the best in the world, and they chose Myrtle Beach.

The Myrtle Beach area has been voted “Best Golf Destination” in the 10Best Readers’ Choice contest on the newspaper’s web site. The honor has been recognized online and is expected to be acknowledged in the print edition of USA Today on Friday. Voting ended Monday.

“It’s good when the people that spend their money on golf vacations vote for you,” said Chris King, director of communications for the Myrtle Beach Golf Holiday marketing cooperative. “That makes it a gratifying award for us.”

Myrtle Beach was one of 20 golf destinations – each with at least one supreme public course – chosen by a panel that included USA Today golf writer Steve DiMeglio, 2002 PGA Championship winner Rich Beem, golf pro Olle Nordlund and USA Today sports staffer and avid golfer Tyler Kupper.

The contest was largely one for U.S. destinations, as Scotland was the only international location that was included. Members of the public were allowed to vote once per day over four weeks.
Myrtle Beach tops a list that is dominated by Southeast destinations, which take up the top five. Myrtle Beach is followed by Kiawah Island outside of Charleston; Pinehurst, N.C.; Sea Island, Ga.; and Naples, Fla.

Rounding out the top 10 are Bandon, Ore.; Maui, Hawaii; Pebble Beach, Calif.; Scotland and Scottsdale, Ariz.

Other destinations in the running were Kohler, Wis.; Las Vegas; Miami; Orlando; Palm Springs, Calif.; Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.; Ruidoso, N.M.; the Texas hill country and Greenbrier, W.Va., and Coeur D’Alene, Idaho.