

No Holes in this One

Picture Perfect Golf, true to its name, gives you the ultimate tee-time experience



Imagine 300 acres of breathtaking natural beauty, with towering oaks, pines and magnolias... along with treacherous bunkers, lagoons and strong headwinds.

This is the setting for Harbour Town Golf Links, on idyllic Hilton Head Island in South Carolina—a locale that has been described as “nothing short of a work of art” by Sports Illustrated. Not surprising, considering that the course was designed by noted golf course architect Pete Dye with help from famed golfer Jack Nicklaus.

Picture Perfect Golf transports you to this dream location. The creators of this multimedia title have thought of everything in making this the ultimate virtual golfing experience. From the spectacular photography to the context-sensitive menus to the encouraging comments of fellow golfers and the chirping of birds, there is a marked attention to detail.

A comprehensive online documentation familiarises you with the game, and even if you can't tell a birdie from an albatross, it won't be long before you start discussing handicaps and bogeys like the pros.

A dandy wood-finish Dashboard details all the information you will need. The current player's name, hole number, par, and the distance of the ball to the pin are available at a glance.

The Dashboard houses the Wind Indicator (shows the wind direction and speed), and the Lie Indicator (displays the current location of the ball). It also lets you choose your club and control your swing.

Though you normally see the course from the player's perspective, you can click the Top View toggle button, located on the left side of the Dashboard, for a bird's-eye view of the hole you are currently playing. A handy Main Menu button takes you to the opening screen, in case you would like to try out practice shots, reset preferences or view statistics.

Picture Perfect Golf can be customised to perfection: you can compete against up to eight players or computer partners (or form teams if you wish); and set skill levels, handicaps and mulligans (free retries) for each player. You can even choose different locales to play in if you have the appropriate CDs.

Jack Nicklaus called Harbour Town Golf Links the “thinking man's golf course”. *Picture Perfect Golf* is ideal for the thinking armchair golfer—and the best part is, any time is tee-time!

HARIKRISHNAN MENON

Rating: HHH

Price: Rs 699
Developer: Europress
Distributor: Elite International Technologies
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Test Drive Off-Road 2

What do you get when you mix dirt with four-wheel drives? Excitement, that's what. All the hallowed names of dirtworld are here—Jeep Wrangler, Dodge



Ram, Ford Explorer, and of course, the Hummer. Settings are really happening—the beaches of Hawaii, the wastelands of Mojave Desert and the pristine Swiss Alps. The music from Sevendust, Gravity Kills, and Fear Factory absolutely jams. The game is let down big-time by the poor quality of graphics though.

Rating: HH

Contact: BPBMultimedia

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Zapitalism!

Still fantasise about building your own business empire some day?



Here's your chance — immigrate to the island of Zapinalia, where Queen Keshi has just decided to

open up the economy for the first time in 1000 years. Match your wits with the best, buy, sell and negotiate to your heart's content. Be patient though—success comes with time and experience, in the world of big business. Strange mixture of graphics (good in some places, amateurish in others), and the gameplay can get boring at times.

Rating: HH

Contact: BPB Multimedia

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Andretti Racing

For all you Mario Andretti fans here is a



game that brings the absolutely raging excitement of American Indy Car Racing to your desktop. This is your chance to

get into those four-wheeled rockets, and indulge in all that risky rocketry which you wouldn't dream of trying in the real world. The graphics are smooth, and the gameplay is engagingly real.

Rating: HHH

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