



PLANET GOLF REVIEW

ISSUE 2

INTERVIEW

Sergio Garcia talks
Qatar Masters,
Caddies, Real Madrid,
his charity work and
golf course design.

EQUIPMENT

Reviews of Mizuno's MP-25 irons
and S5 Wedge System.
Nike's Method Matter M4-12 putter,
GolfBuddy's LR4 Rangefinder.

TRAVEL

Minnesota/Ryder Cup
Thailand
& Greece

HOTEL & SPAS

Nestleton Waters Inn
Westin Edina Galleria

PLUS

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

3-pages of Christmas gift
ideas covering all budgets.

VIEW.COM

WELCOME

Welcome to the second exciting edition of planetgolfreview's digital magazine. Once again we hope you'll find it colourful, easy-on-the-eye and bursting with great golfing features and ideas. For Issue 2 it's with pleasure that we bring you an exclusive interview with one of our (and we'd guess your) favourite golfers of all time, Sergio Garcia – someone we would all love to see finally win a major championship.

Christmas is always a special time of year – and invariably a challenge when it comes to finding the right gifts for loved ones! So for 2015 we're delivering three pages of sensational suggestions to make unwrapping the presents around the tree even better.

Jingle-bells, old favourites on the radio and TV, and that first smattering of snow: it's a wonderful time. But in time our minds start to wander to distant climes where it's sunshine all the way. With that in

mind and next year's Ryder Cup fast approaching, we bring you two features from the host state Minnesota. Thinking of attending? We recommend you take your clubs: there are some excellent courses to play, and we bring you eight to choose from. Charmaine, in her own unique style, scouts out where to stay and what to do in Minneapolis and the broader, beautiful state of Minnesota.

On the other side of the globe Thailand is becoming a big destination for golfers and we've got it covered, with comprehensive reviews of courses in Pattaya, Bangkok and Chiang Mai. Elsewhere Larry Berle lifts the lid on Greece, while Charmaine takes a plunge in a freshwater lake in Ontario.

So, plenty for you to enjoy before and after Christmas, and no matter what your faith or beliefs we wish you and your family season's greetings full of love and laughter.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Meet the team

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PROTODIED

REVIEW

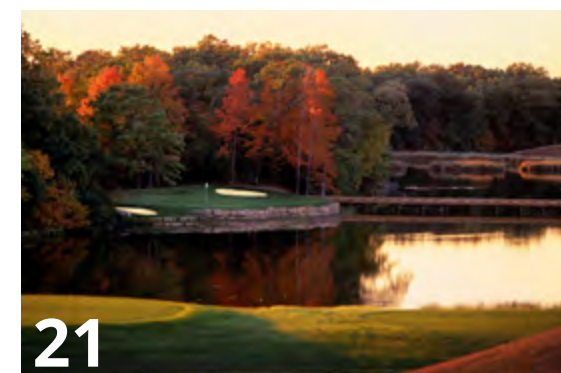




- p 4 Sergio Garcia**
One of the most popular European golfers in the world
- p 8 Christmas Gift Ideas**
Taking the stress and worry out of gift buying
- p 11 Equipment Reviews**
We put the latest equipment through a full eight rounds of golf playing test, on a variety of golf courses featuring differing topography.
- p 12 Mizuno MP-25 Irons**
- p 15 Mizuno S5 Wedge System**
- p 17 Nike Method Matter M4-12**
- p 19 GolfBuddy LR4 Rangefinder**
- p 21 Destination Reviews**
Winter is here and whether you are looking forward to next year's golf tour or want to go off the beaten track, we've got you covered
- p 22 Minnesota/Ryder Cup**
- p 33 Thailand**
- p 37 Main Land Greece**
- p 40 Hotel & Spas**
Your guide to some of the best places in the world to relax, unwind and be pampered... you know you deserve it.
- p 41 Nestleton Waters Inn**
- p 44 Westin Edina Galleria**
- Apparel**
Whatever the weather, we review the latest apparel that protects you and your feet from the elements, while still making you look good.
- p 47 FootJoy Layering**
- p 49 FootJoy Hyperflex**

STREET N E T N Z C

REVIEW



A full-page photograph of Sergio Garcia in the middle of a golf swing. He is wearing a light grey polo shirt, grey trousers, a dark baseball cap, and black golf shoes. The background is a dense line of green trees. A large white diagonal shape cuts across the left side of the image, serving as a background for the title text.

SPANISH INQUISITION

Sergio Garcia is poised to try to regain his Qatar Masters crown in January. Ahead of the tournament he talks golf, fundraising and *Los Blancos* to James Mason

Doha Golf Club plays host to the Commercial Bank Qatar Masters in January, a tournament that Sergio Garcia has graced every year since 2007. During that time, he has clocked an impressive five top 10 finishes and a win. When I caught up with Garcia for a chat last year just before defending his title, he was delighted to have finally won the event following a tense play-off with Finland's Mikko Ilonen.

So, I wondered, what were Sergio's thoughts about defending his Qatar Masters title? "I am very excited," he says. "It was a tournament that I have been close to winning several times and I was finally able to do it this year. So, yes, I am really looking forward to defending my title next year."

I'm sure he'll be feeling even more excited this year going into the event. But with a runner-up finish at The Players Championship this year, a top-ten finish at The Open Championship, and top 20 finishes in both The Masters and US Open Championship, it is another year that slips by without a major championship win.

Garcia is one of the most-liked tour players around, one whom golf fans across the world would love →

ex-Tiger Woods and Adam Scott caddy – even if it was just for the majors to help get him over the line?

“I don’t think it is that simple,” he replied. “You need a caddy where your personalities match and that you are comfortable working with each other. I obviously know Steve but don’t know him as a person to work with, and what works for one person is not necessarily going to work for me. At the end of the day you have got to go with what you feel is best for you. Steve has obviously had a great career, but it’s not like he and Adam Scott have won lots of majors like he did with Tiger.”

A fair point and only Sergio knows. But looking from the outside – and obviously being a big Sergio fan – having someone on the bag who has been in that position before could just make that one shot difference.

The ‘Desert Swing’ of the European Tour is always one of the highlights of the season and will see many of the world’s top players lining up against each other at the Qatar Masters. Following Garcia’s battle with Rory McIlroy two years ago, when he had two straight runner-up finishes to the Irishman, is Garcia relishing the prospect of renewing hostilities?

“Yes, I’m looking forward to that – it’s always good to play against the best and at the moment Rory is that player. It would be nice to be up there again, fighting with him and others.”



Sergio winning the “Fifth Major” The Players Championship at Sawgrass in 2008

Below: Sergio with Ryder Cup team mates Justin Rose, Graeme McDowell and Ian Poulter



Craig O'Neal

Muar Chee

“STEVE HAS OBVIOUSLY HAD A GREAT CAREER, BUT IT’S NOT LIKE HE AND ADAM SCOTT HAVE WON LOTS OF MAJORS LIKE HE DID WITH TIGER.”

Before the 2014 Qatar Masters, there was an inaugural nine-hole Commercial Bank Challenge Match which featured three of the world’s top golfers and six Qatari teenagers competing in a fun team event.

Garcia’s group was the last to tee off, and after finishing on the ninth green the Spaniard was delighted to learn that his team won the event with a score of five-under 67. He was particularly impressed with his young team-mates for the day: Sami Al Qush, who was 15, and Abdulrahman Al Naimi, then 13.

“It was very good. I thought they played very nicely – very impressive,” Garcia said after his team’s victory. “They hit the ball quite well and had a good attitude. I think they had a good time and enjoyed it.”

Beyond golf, Garcia has a passion for football. He is a big fan of Real Madrid, arch rivals of Barcelona. He’s also club president of CF Borriol of the Spanish Fourth Division, and in September 2010 fulfilled a long-held dream by playing for the team, putting in an eight-minute appearance in the one-nil defeat of Sporting Ribarroja CF.

Any die-hard Real fan would love to have attended the 2014 Champions League final to see the team beat Atletico Madrid, finally landing La Decima (‘The Tenth’ such trophy). So was Garcia in the stands? “Unfortunately I couldn’t make it. I had to watch the match on TV.”

The answer to my next question might raise a few eyebrows in golf circles, but I was not at all surprised to hear a resounding “Yeah” when I asked if he would’ve given up golf to play for Los Blancos. “If I could play football at the same level I play golf, that would be amazing. But I am a little too old now and my footballing age is pretty much past me. But if I could do it all over again, then yes, it would be great.”

And in which particular position would he have liked to grace the Estadio Santiago Bernabéu? “Just behind the strikers. Or perhaps on the →

to see win a major championship. In many ways this is down to him being perceived as the heir apparent after his duel with Tiger Woods at the 1999 PGA Championship, following on from compatriots Severiano ‘Seve’ Ballesteros and José María Olazábal with his swashbuckling style of play – combined with that beguiling Latin mixture of dark good looks and cheeky boyish smile.

As most of you know, I write a betting guide for both the European and PGA Tours, and there is one thing I’ve noticed during major championships when Sergio is in contention: a critical point in the round will arrive and he always seems to make the wrong decision at the right time, and I wondered if having a caddy on his bag who had been in that position before would help in those critical decision-making moments. So I asked Sergio if he’d thought about employing Steve Williams –

right or left wing as an attacking midfielder player.”

I have long admired the way Garcia puts together his playing schedule. It leaves him plenty of time to relax, although this wasn't the case a few years ago, before he saw the benefits in taking time out to recharge the batteries. So where in the world does a top-ranking sportsman head when he is kicking back from playing golf?

“I like to go to Switzerland and relax, and back to Spain to spend time with my family. But if you are asking about a holiday, Thailand is a really nice place. We always enjoy going there – I like to spend a week or 10 days in a nice resort. I also like Ibiza y Formentera in Spain, and Majorca; the islands are beautiful and the water is really clear.”

One of the many likeable things about Garcia is his down-to-earth, approachable manner and the way he deals with people, be this during interviews or when he's patiently



Sergio practicing his new putting technique.

signing autographs for hundreds of fans after handing in his scorecard. It shouldn't come as a great surprise, therefore, to learn that he does a lot of fundraising work for charity.

In 2002 he set up The Foundation, which provides grants that benefit numerous health causes. These include children's cancer research, cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis in various countries around the world.

The Foundation also partnered the PGA TOUR in 2013 to raise awareness and funds for youth development organisation The First Tee, pledging \$1,000 for every birdie and \$2,000 for each eagle the competing tour players made through the FedEx Cup play-offs. In total, \$110,000 was raised.

When asked about his charity work, Garcia was firm in his commitment to it. “These people need our help. It's something I really like to do, to give back for all the good things I have in my life.”

Garcia clearly sees charity

“I LIKE THE IDEA OF LEAVING MY LITTLE FOOTPRINT AND DESIGNING A FEW COURSES HERE AND THERE. I WOULDN'T LIKE TO DO A LOT OF THEM, JUST A FEW, BUT DO THEM RIGHT.”

work as part of his legacy, but I also know that he likes the idea of becoming involved with golf-course design. His first designed course, the Aranya International Golf Club in Qinhuangdao, China, opened for play in July 2013. “Yes, I like the idea of leaving my little footprint and designing a few courses here and there. I wouldn't like to do a lot of them, just a few, but do them right and do them well. It's more about quality than quantity.”

We wrapped up the interview with a brief chat about his change-of-putting stroke that seems to have been a key factor in Sergio challenging for the big tournaments again. It takes a lot of character to hold your nerve standing over a putt while millions of people are watching your every move. But I believe that this character trait will stand him in good stead in regaining his Qatar Masters crown in January. And who knows, he may finally win that major championship, I know that would make every golf fan smile. His talent certainly deserves it. ●





INTRODUCING THE **UN**METALWOOD.

M1TM

Engineered with multi-material construction, M1 gives every golfer an unrivaled combination of performance and personalisation. By using an ultralight carbon-composite crown and a thinly cast titanium body, we were able to shift more weight low - where it's needed most - and create the revolutionary T-Track System.

UNLOCK MORE DISTANCE AND CONTROL.

ETIQUS Sport Pro
The ETIQUS collection
consists of 24 timepieces
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Galvin Green ERIC
Thermal base layer
£60 €80 \$90



Galvin Green - BRAD
half zip
windstopper
jacket
£180 €250
\$275



GolfBuddy LR4
Read full review here
£219.95 / €299.95 / \$299.99



**Adidas Golf Climaheat
Boa Boot**
Provides warmth
and comfort
£129 €180 \$199



FootJoy Hyperflex
Read full review here
£135 €190 \$199



Magic moments

Deciding what to buy that golfer in your life can be a minefield, so we have tried our best to make it easier for you this year. Here are planetgolfreviews picks to help Santa put a smile on any golfer's face

**Motocaddy
Dry Series Bag**
fully-waterproof
cart bag
£179.99 €250 \$275



Motocaddy S3 PRO
For gadget-loving golfers
£399.99
€550
\$610



Golfilicious
Stunning golf and food photography
£24
€34
\$37



Hill Billy
Lightweight and robust electric trolleys
£259 €359 \$395



Callaway Players Set
Essential items for golfers
£29.99 €40 \$45



TaylorMade M1 Driver
Breakthrough in Distance, Playability and Feel
£429
€595
\$650



GFORE Merino Blocked Crew
The ultimate in both performance and luxury
£129 €175 \$199



Bridgestone Extra Soft Double dozen
Latest ball delivers distance & feel
£19.99 €28 \$30

Galvin Green DELTA INSULATM snood
Popular multi-purpose accessory
£25 €35 \$38



Mizuno S5 Wedge System
Read full review here
£110 €150 \$160



CHRISTMAS



**Mizuno
MP-25 Irons**
Read full
review here
3-PW
£920 €1,300 \$999

The TALON
Visual feedback
on golf stance
and set-up
£229 €315 \$350



TaylorMade Preferred Golf Balls
Fast speed off the driver and
soft feel throughout the bag
£44.99 €62 \$68



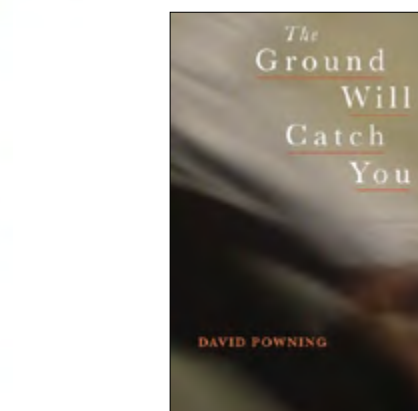
Chervo WOLINE hat
Women's golf hat both
warm and snug
£54.65 €75 \$80



**FJ Asymmetric
Chill-Out Pullover**
Read full
review here
£65 €90 \$99



The Ground will catch you
A thought-provoking,
character-driven novel
£7.99 €11 \$12



A Golfer's Dream
A "regular guy"
playing America's
100 top courses.
£3.80 €5 \$5
Kindle only



**Adidas Golf Climaheat
Pom Beanie**
Ultimate insulation
to lock heat in
£14.99 €20 \$22



**Sun Mountain
H2NO Ultra Lite**
Ideal option for
avid-walking
golfers
£189 €262 \$299



CHRISTMAS



12 MIZUNO MP-25 IRONS



REVIEW



15 MIZUNO S5 WEDGE SYSTEM



17 NIKE METHOD MATTER M4-12



19 GOLFBUDDY LR4 RANGEFINDER

VIEW.COM

EQUIPMENT

PERFECT IMPACT

40-years of playing Mizuno irons, James Mason still gets that rush of excitement when the new MP-25 irons arrive in time for his Minnesota/ Ryder Cup scouting trip



The even numbers,
Mizuno's MP-25 irons

It is always with a sense of anticipation when I open up any box that has Mizuno embossed on the outside of it, like you, I had seen the nice press release images and had a peek on the website, but it is not until you hold a club in your hands and put it down in the address position do you really start to appreciate a club.

In all the years I have been playing Mizuno irons – now in my 41st year – I have never been let down, in fact I think my appreciation of their forged workmanship just increases with each new iron release and as I rush out into the garden to have a little swing, I have to say on first impressions the MP 25s have it all: the balance, the weight and the look, Minnesota and Hazeltine National here I come! →



TECHNOLOGY

Inspired by the results from the Forged JPX 850 Boron irons last year – [see review here](#) – it wasn't going to be long before Mizuno moved that tech into their new forged cavity blade. The combination of the grain flow forging and the injection of a boron steel billet allowed for the engineering of a micro-slot pocket cavity on the 3-6 irons, this process helps give the MP-25s added ball speed off the face, resulting in you gaining extra distance but at no loss of that renowned Mizuno feel.

By adding just 3% of the Boron metal

into the mix with their 1025e steel Mizuno have increased the strength of the face of the iron by 30% allowing them to design the face of the club thinner, which not only helps with feel but obviously an increase in swing speed. This also works well with the speed pocket because as the face flexes the energy you produce at impact, along with the shockwaves that are created are then rebound back into the ball creating extra ball speeds off the face and again helping with adding more distance to your game.

One of the commitments that I and

I'm sure most golfers are going to appreciate is what Mizuno are calling their Swing DNA, when you have your custom fitting – and remember whether you buy from your pro or from an outlet most now come with a free custom fitting process – this will show the best shaft and set up for your golf swing. The good news is no matter what shaft is best for you, there will be no extra cost and it will take five working days from the time Mizuno receive your order to the clubs being in your hands – allowing of course for parts and location.



Face, back, topline and heel view, no matter what the angle, the MP-25 irons exude power and beauty

CLUB TESTED

Irons MP-25, 4 iron – PW

LIE -2°

SHAFT Rifle Project X 5.5 (stiff)

RRP 3-PW £920 / €1,300 / \$999



CONCLUSION

I wasn't disappointed and I know you won't be, these beauties have everything, look, balance, feel at impact and boy what a feel, the sound and distance – yes it's official I now use an 8-iron for my 150-yard shots and a 7-iron for my 160-yards shots. I think the combination of shaft and the added Boron metal worked great for me. It was also another club everyone wanted to hit on my testing trip. The MP-25s are real head turners, not just because of looks but that solid sound at impact as it echoes round the trees, the great ball flight the clubs produce and with the built in forgiveness, the Mizuno MP-25s really do need to be on your testing list when you're buying your next set of irons. •



THE NEW MP-25

BORON FUEL INJECTED



MP-25

#NOTHINGFEELSLIKEAMIZUNO

When you land a ball in the middle of the green and spin it back off the front, your friends takes notice, do it at next years Ryder Cup venue and everyone takes notice. How Mizuno's S5 wedge system made even James Mason's short game look good!



Left: Two finishes to choose from, the White Satin or Blue IP. Below: The face and topline view of the Blue IP finish

A second Mizuno box arrives for my testing trip to next year's Ryder Cup venue Hazeltine National in Minnesota, and inside was the new S5 wedge system and as I pull out the beautiful white satin finished wedges, my excitement grows and I just want to be out on the course coming down the stretch and banging a couple of 100-yard wedges into those greens to see how quick these babies can get the ball to stop. →



SPIN DOCTORS

TECHNOLOGY

Mizuno use a quad cut CNC milled grooves which are wider but shallower on the 54° to 62° wedges with a deeper narrow groove on the 49° to 53° wedges. The reasoning behind this is to maximise the amount of spin you put on the ball from both full shots and those little half shots around the green, giving you as much control of the ball as possible.

Mizuno also use the grain flow forging process to give you that soft touch at impact that has become Mizuno's trademark in their irons throughout the years, and by

using the same 1025E Pure Select Mild Carbon steel billet they use for the forged irons you now get the same feel and consistency throughout your set from 2 iron – 62° wedge.

Where other manufacturers have gone for smaller faces, Mizuno have used a midsize profile design and I think this works really well especially when you are hitting your gap wedge with a full swing and with the slightly rounded leading edge you can still open and close the face to play those little touch shots around the green. The good news is when you sit the club behind the ball it still looks

great, which a lot of people commented on when I let them have a practice during my tip. The top line is not over bearing and ugly so maintaining that classic blade look at address.

There are two finishes to choose from, as I said I tested the white satin, but the Blue IP finish looks great and as it's a secondary finish, so once you have been using it a while it will slightly wear on the sole and the white satin finish will start to blend through. You can also customise your Blue IP wedge with 6 characters and a choice of 12 colours finishes.

CONCLUSION

I played the S5 wedges over eight courses and everyone I played with commented on how much spin I was getting on the ball. When you are watching next year's Ryder Cup matches and they get to the 16th hole by the water at Hazeltine National, this is where I span the ball from the middle of the green back off the green from 100-yards out with the 56° wedge – my group just couldn't believe how much backspin I was getting, the greens were running at 13 on the stimp meter, so that obviously helped as well.

The S5 are great weapons to have around the green and from a 100-yards they gave me the confidence to be able to attack the flag, and if they can do that for my short game I know they can help you improve your scoring around the green. I would definitely recommend you give them a test run and see how they can benefit your short game. •

CLUB TESTED ▶

FINISH White Satin

LOFTS 52°, 56°, 60°

SHAFT Dynamic Gold Wedge flex

RRP £110 / €129 / \$130



Left: Back view of the white satin finish.
Right: The Blue IP finish showing the back and topline





Left: The M4-12s insert
and face. Above alignment
line at address

DANCEFLOOR DIVA

With the greens in Minnesota running between
11 and 13 on the stimp meter you need a putter
you can trust in your hands

I think one of the hardest clubs to test is a putter because it comes down so much on how you like the look at address and the feel at impact and all this can be subjective. If you hole three or four putts in a row on the practice green with a new putter you are going to be far more confident once you are out on the course.

I have to say as I get the new Nike Method Matter in my hands, the look, balance and weight feel perfect and after a couple of practice putts on my putting mat at home, the feel at impact is solid and rolls beautifully and more importantly sits behind the ball just the way I like my putter too, now to get this little black beauty out to Minnesota to put it through its paces. →

TECHNOLOGY

Nike use an RZN layer which they used in the Vapor combo irons I tested earlier in the year, and this gives the putter a nice soft feel at impact and that all important faster forward roll movement to reduce the time the ball skids at impact, this also works well with the lower centre of gravity which again helps reduce spin at impact.

Nike use what they call an RTS System and this is to help you line up your ball at address and with the two weight and height options relocating the weight to the perimeter, helping increase stability, you should now be able to get the clubface back to square on a more consistent basis.

Nike's perimeter weighting helps bring the face back to square at impact



CONCLUSION

When I pulled out the Method matter on the Helzeltine National greens which were running at 13 on the stimp meter I needed a weapon in my hands that I felt comfortable with and after holing a few great birdie putts for my group I was certainly gaining a lot of confidence with this baby.

As I said when I first got the club to test, the feel and weight were perfect but it's when you make that first crucial putt, the way you feel the ball come off. ●

The sole of the Nike M4-12 showing the perimeter weights



CLUB TESTED ▶

NIKE METHOD M4-12

WEIGHT 345g

HEIGHT 34"

LOFT 2.5°


RRP £100 / €125 / \$130



LOCK AND LOAD

Eight golf courses with differing topography, what better place for James Mason to put GolfBuddy's LR4 rangefinder to the test.



CLUB TESTED 
GOLFBUDDY LR4
RRP £219.95 / €299.95 / \$299.99

I think one of the best additions to help amateur golfers over the past 5-years or so has been the introduction of GPS and Rangefinder devices into the game. Having the knowledge of knowing exactly how far you need to hit your next shot and the distances of the hazards in your way gives you a better chance of scoring well and making the correct decisions, which all helps to lower your handicap and win matches.

When I undertake trips to review courses I have never played before, packing a range finder is up there with making sure I have my golf shoes with me. My recent visit to Minnesota to scout out courses for you to play while attending the 2016 Ryder Cup matches also became the perfect trip to put the new GolfBuddy LR4 Rangefinder through its paces.

TECHNOLOGY

The GolfBuddy LR4 can magnify your target up to 6 times and has a range of 5,880 yards or 5,800 metres and with the 23mm multi-coated lens that can be easily adjusted to your eyesight, whether you wear glasses or not, gives you perfect vision and results every time.

There are three different modes you can use the GolfBuddy LR4 range finder in, these are Normal Mode, Scan Mode or Pin Mode. Normal mode is a point and shoot option so you can pick out hazards and know exact distances to each one so you can eliminate them from play. The Scan mode lets you scan a variety of objects in 10-second bursts, while the The Pin mode helps you isolate the pin from its background.

CONCLUSION

It's a personal preference but I have always preferred laser range finders over a GPS unit – don't get me wrong there are some great GPS units out there – I just find lasers much more accurate. With a GPS you are reliant of the positioning of satellites and I have done tests wearing a watch, while testing a lazer and the GPS has been over 20-yards out of sync, and when that equates to being two clubs out you can see why I prefer a laser.

I enjoyed using the GolfBuddy LR4, it is a great design that sits in the hand perfectly and with the grooves for your fingers on the top of the unit it helped me gain a steady hand while aiming the laser at the pin. The simplicity of point and shoot saves time and gives you the distance you need in an instant. All the courses I played during my trip to Minnesota had the flagstick reflectors which helps laser range finders lock onto the pin. I was really impressed how the LR4 was able to pick out the pin from a dense background without any problems.

If you are looking for a range finder I would make sure you give the GolfBuddy LR4 a test, and if you are thinking of what to buy for the golfer in your life the new GolfBuddy LR4 would make the perfect gift. ●





THIS IS HOW

Adam Scott

Jason Dufner

Marc Leishman

Charley Hoffman

Geoff Ogilvy

Padraig Harrington

Jbe Kruger

Gregory Havret

Tom Lewis

Daniel Brooks

YOU ADVANCE

Jimmy Walker

Webb Simpson

Victor Dubuisson

Scott Stallings

Bernd Wiesberger

Cameron Tringale

Rafa Cabrera-Bello

Darren Fichardt

Lucas Bjerregaard

Robert Garrigus



footjoy.co.uk/dna



22 MINNESOTA



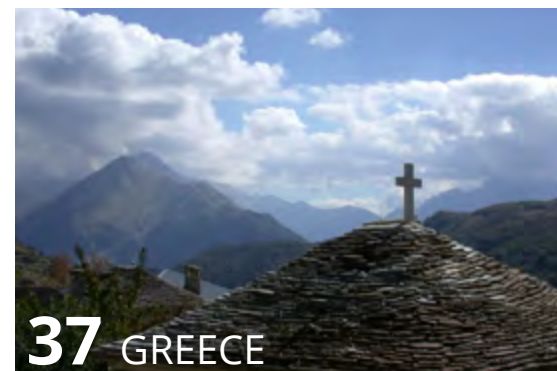
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DESTINATIONS

REVIEW



33 THAILAND



37 GREECE



When most of us think about golf in America, Minnesota isn't one of the states that springs to mind, but after my recent Ryder Cup scouting trip, it really should be and if you are planning on going to watch the 2016 Ryder Cup matches make sure you bring your golf clubs, as there are some fantastic courses you and your family, friends or partner can tee it up on.

But great golf isn't the only thing Minnesota has to offer, if you love the outdoors there are over 10k lakes to enjoy and some stunning scenery that surround them, the state just lives for its outdoors activities. But if you love to be indoors then you don't have to go outside, you can enjoy the Minneapolis area from its many skyways, and of course there is Mall of America, the biggest shopping mall in the world where all the clothes are tax free, yes that's right tax free!!

Add in great food like the steaks at Mancini's in St Pauls and Capital Grille in Minneapolis, the fish at →

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

James Mason goes on a scouting mission to Minnesota, next years Ryder Cup hosts and finds much more than just great golf courses.

Minnesotans just love being outside and not just in the summer months →



Fire Lake Grill House & Cocktail Bar in Bloomington and refreshing local beers like Surly's Microbrewery, it becomes the perfect Ryder Cup host.

Minnesotans are big sports fans – one of the reasons the Ryder Cup is being held in the state – there are Basketball, hockey and NFL teams and Minnesota will soon be getting its own soccer team to play in the MLS. As for the people they are more akin to Canadians and the Minnesota Nice tag is real, they are great people, fun to talk to and like a good laugh, hey anyone who buys me a drink in a bar goes down as being a top lad/lass in my book.

Put it this way, I already know you're going to have a great time, its just when you decide to go and find out for yourself, but I would steer clear of the winter months that doesn't sound like fun, well unless you love the snow that is, then go and knock yourself out! →

Whether you like sports, great food, going off the beaten track or city life, Minnesota has it all





►Hazeltine National

It's not everyday you get to tee it up at a Ryder Cup venue and with one year to go until the 2016 Ryder Cup at Hazeltine National, I am walking into the clubhouse as Davis Love III passes me on the way to today's captains press conference with Darren Clarke, and after listening to the captains answer questions from around the world, I head out to the 11th tee for a shot gun start.

I look up at the marker post that is telling me it's a par 5 of 605-yards and I am informed by one of my playing partners that it's not the longest hole that I will be playing today! In all there are two other holes over the 600-yard mark with the 15th being the longest at 645-yards.

You have guessed it Hazeltine National is a beast of a course and weighs in at a staggering 7,674 yards. To be fair to Hazeltine I do think it will make a great Ryder Cup venue, the facilities are fantastic and the greens are fast and true – they were running at 13 on the stimpmeter today and will be running at 14 once the Ryder Cup gets underway.

The routing of the course is different for the Ryder Cup than it has been for the US Open and the PGA Championships that have been held here before. The TV cameras will mainly be focused on the holes by lake Hazeltine and I have to say that is the section of the course I enjoyed the most, with the 402 yard 7th and the 452-yard 10th with the 402-yard 15th on the Ryder Cup back nine.

The 7th is played right along Lake Hazeltine to a green that sits on its own peninsula. Hazeltine National hosted the 1991 US Open Championship which was won by Payne Stewart and they have built a bridge in his memory just before you reach the fairway. It's a nice touch by the club and I think the perfect hole to have that memorial and plaque.

The 10th is a great hole, you play your drive to the top to the corner of this dogleg left and as I reach my ball and look down to the green that sits some 60 feet below again with Lake Hazeltine as its backdrop, it really is going to look the perfect setting on TV.

What I will say about Hazeltine National is for the average golfer it is a long slog of a course from the back tees, but there are six teeing options and I would suggest you play from one of those to get the maximum enjoyment from the course. →



Left: The 605-yard 11th hole.

Right: The stunning 10th hole with the 7th green and Lake Hazeltine in the background. Below the bridge and plaque dedicated to 1991 US Open Champion Payne Stewart



“THE TV CAMERAS WILL MAINLY BE FOCUSED ON THE HOLES BY LAKE HAZELTINE AND I HAVE TO SAY THAT IS THE SECTION OF THE COURSE I ENJOYED THE MOST”

MINNESOTA



"I HAVE NEVER SEEN A BETTER COLLECTION OF
PAR 3S ON A GOLF COURSE"



Top: Autumn
colours at the
stunning par 3,
13th hole.

Left: Looking back
at the Clubhouse.

Below: The Legends
18th hole with its
grass mounds.

▲ Legends

As I stand on the first tee at the Legends course I have to say what a contrast it makes from playing at Hazeltine National yesterday. The course has so much character and the way it is routed through the large grass mounds gives this course a stunning aesthetic that you can't help but want to play your best golf.

I smash my drive down the middle to the corner of this dogleg right hole and I am off and I have to say the great holes just flow, lucky I never noticed the water next to the green on the second which was hidden by the trees on the right, but as I pull up next to the green it's a beautiful setting.

I have never seen a better collection of par 3s on a golf course, all four individually would be worth talking about if they were on any other golf course but to have four truly great par 3s on one course is exceptional, it's no wonder that Legends was national golf course of the year in the US.

It is hard to choose between them but for me the 7th and 13th would be my picks and the drive across the bridge to the green on the 13th alone is worth playing here for.

But the par 3s are not the only highlight, there are some classic par 4s played to raised greens that are framed by the grass dunes giving them their own little amphitheatres. If you are coming over to watch the Ryder Cup matches or visiting Minnesota on a golf tour, make sure you make some time to play the legends, like me, you will be glad you did, I am just gutted I couldn't go straight back out and play it again. →





"WHEN PEOPLE TALK ABOUT MUST PLAY COURSES, WELL THE CLASSIC SHOULD NOT ONLY BE ON THAT LIST, IT SHOULD FEATURE NEAR THE VERY TOP OF THAT LIST!"



► The Classic

After a 3-hour drive from Minneapolis we hit Madden's Resort, I had heard a lot about The Classic and as we enter the resort I spot a few holes from our coach window, which starts to get the adrenalin pumping.

After a warm up on the practice ground it was onto the buggies and away we go. I have to say as I stand on the tee I am a little underwhelmed, the hole is played up hill and our forecaddie tells us to aim over the bunkers on the left, but as I reach the top of the hill my opinion changes, and what everyone had been eulogising about suddenly appears. My friends looking at that view I knew I was about to play a special golf course.

The hole is spectacular and I have to say from the position of my second shot I have not seen too many better looking opening holes in my life. The hole goes downhill and doglegs

gently to the right, the fairway then rises up to a green that has more complexes than Lady Gaga on valium! But it's the lake on the right and the tree lined fairway that make the aesthetics of the hole so pleasing to the eye and with the sun high in the sky it really is one of those special golf moments you just have to savour.

But the great holes just keep coming, with the short par 3, 2nd right next to the lake which you play over the corner of and then the 3rd which is a short par four risk and reward hole where you can go over the reeds and go for the green with some 260-yard carry, or play safe and wedge into the green with the lake as its backdrop. It truly is a great run of holes and they just keep coming with the 4th taking us in to the trees.

I could eulogise about every hole on the course, it really is that good. When you add in

the perfect greens that run true and very fast with some amazing complexes and fairways that you would be happy to have as tee boxes on your home course, you can picture the standard we are talking about.

You would expect a big name to have come up with a design like this and a money no object budget, but you would be wrong, the superintendent of the course came up with the design and I tip my hat off to you sir, because any of the top golf course designers in the world would love to have this track on their CV.

When people talk about must play courses, well The Classic should not only be on that list, it should feature near the very top of that list! If you are coming over to Minnesota for the 2016 Ryder Cup, you do have to bring your clubs and play this course. →



Top: Don't be short or long at the 11th.
Left: Fall colours at the 218-yard, Par 3, 14th.
Bottom: Aerial view of Madden's Resort



Not feeling too great this morning as I stand on the tee on the Lake's first hole, we had rather too much to drink at Madden's Resort having destroyed a few songs on the Karaoke last night!

But I managed to get one off the bottom of my driver that made the centre of the fairway. I have to say it's a beautiful little opening hole, not too long at 420-yards and with a nice bit of run off the ridge in the fairway I have a 7-iron into the hole which as you would expect is set amongst other species including of course pine trees.

And yet again I have to say the greens are in stunning condition, it has been a theme of this week and The Pines' greens are certainly up there with the best.

It really is a great track and the 2nd to the 4th holes dogleg through the trees. The 5th is an interesting little hole that you need to play short of the water that sits in front of the green, I've hit a 4-iron but because I went for the left side of the fairway I had a downhill lie, so I suggest you stick closer to the tree line on the right to give yourself a nice shot into the pin.

The 7th is the Lakes signature hole and it looks stunning from the tee which has been finished off with some beautiful stone work, add in the water you have to play over to a long thin green with a steep bank on the right, which has railway sleepers built into it, it really is a gem of a hole.

The Lakes nine comes to a close with another great par 3 that is played to a green that is 100-yards wide and not very deep so you really need to be on the right section to give yourself a chance.

The Woods nine starts with a great par 5 that takes a sharp dogleg to the right, and the 2nd is a slight dogleg right but plays to a green that sits below you and is another hole I know you are going to enjoy playing, as is the par 3 that follows it, again water comes into play on the right.

If I was going to pick which nine is the better I would have to say The Woods just edges it slightly, I really enjoyed the way the holes are designed through the trees and it has a stunning par 5 finishing hole where water again comes

into play on the left hand side, as for the green, well lets just say I don't think you will see many two putts here!! There are another loop of nine holes here called The Marsh, but unfortunately I didn't have a chance to play that them.

No matter what you score on the day and what nines you choose to play, when you are sitting round the nice fire pit outside the clubhouse with a cold beverage in hand, you will have plenty to talk about – especially some of those green complexes – and like me you will have some wonderful memories of your time here. →

"YOU HAVE TO PLAY OVER TO A LONG THIN GREEN WITH A STEEP BANK ON THE RIGHT, WHICH HAS RAILWAY SLEEPERS BUILT INTO IT, IT REALLY IS A GEM OF A HOLE."



► THE PINES

Left: The beautiful finishing hole on the Woods course:
Right: The Lakes signature hole.





There are not many courses that were designed by a Civil Engineer that have held PGA Tour tournaments on them, let alone major championships, not only that but a course that can boost a winners board that includes Sam Snead, Ray Floyd, Doug Sanders, Horton Smith and Jimmy Demeret.

The Keller Golf Club in St Pauls hosted the St Pauls Open between 1930 – 1968 and has also hosted the PGA Championship twice! Not bad for a course that measures just 6,675-yards from the tips, when you put that into comparison with Hazeltine National - that will host the 2016 Ryder Cup, weighing in at a staggering 7,674-yards - it just shows you how the game has moved on.

But as I stand on the first tee on a hole that measures 332-yards, with the sun just rising, above the horizon you can instantly see that this is a course that can wear its history in the game with pride. It's a gentle start to the round but don't be fooled by its length, put your ball in the

▶ KELLER GOLF CLUB

Top: Morning shadows at the opening hole.

Right: The very large tree protecting the 4th green.

Bottom: The par 5, 12th hole

wrong place and a bogey or worse is going down on your scorecard.

Standing on the second tee from its elevated position, I am informed the bunker I am looking at that splits the fairway was a new addition during the recent renovations, and you have to decide what angle you want to attack the flag from, but I also think it is a good addition and makes you think more about how you want to play the hole.

The back nine is really strong and when you start the run of holes from the 8th you certainly know you are playing a stunning course, the setting is beautiful. Standing on the Par 5, 12th hole I am told there used to be a sign stating "Golfers where liable for any accidents caused!!" Apparently some golfers used to try and reach the Lake across the highway from the elevated tee – probably not a good idea.

Unfortunately they have been aerating the greens, this week but you can see they will again be running quick and true come the summer

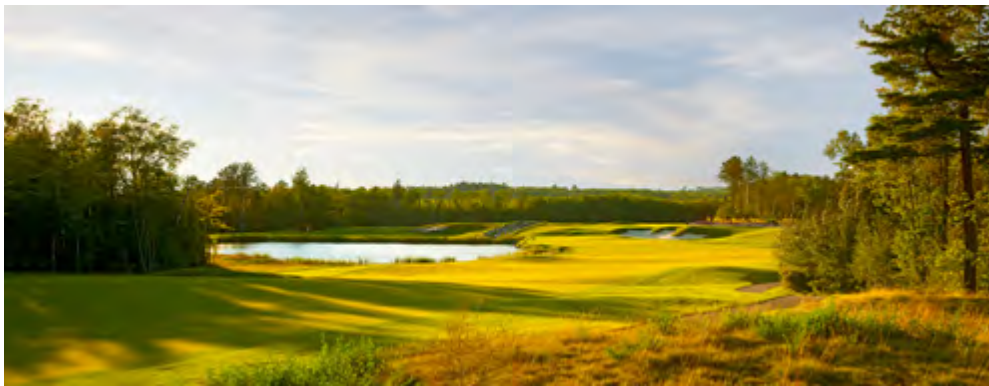


"THERE ARE NOT MANY COURSES THAT WERE DESIGNED BY A CIVIL ENGINEER THAT HAVE HELD PGA TOUR TOURNAMENTS ON THEM, LET ALONE MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIPS,"

months. I think the original designer Paul Coates – Richard Mandell undertook a renovation in 2014 – has done an excellent job, both aesthetically and strategically. It's a course you need to be in the right position off the tee, but you are not too severely punished for a bad shot.

There are two holes that I am not sure about which are the par 3 4th because it has a magnificent tree protecting the green, the only problem is you have to go over it and at 150-yards I think it can punish a good shot. The other hole is the 17th, again there is another beautiful tree that you have to play over to get to the green.

But those aside, the other holes really are great golf holes and I am sure the professionals of that era loved teeing it up here and the mounding and topography certainly make for great viewing points. This course maybe too short for today's top professionals but it is a course I know you will love playing, I know I did and would certainly love to play again when those greens are back to their best. →



“DESIGNER JEFFERY
BRAUER HAS DONE A
GREAT JOB AMONGST THE
PINES ON THE SHORES OF
LAKE VERMILION.”



I head out of Duluth after my nights stay right next to Lake Superior, I am heading up to play Wilderness at the Fortune Bay Resort and as I hit the reservation and glimpse a couple of the holes my excitement levels start to rise.

I check in to the resort and hit the well appointed range which has miniature Titleist tour bags full of balls and just behind the range is a great chipping green that is mown so well it wouldn't look out of place on a championship course.

I meet my three playing partners, Brian, Ryan and David who all work for the resort, as we hit the first tee and I tee up my ball I can see I am in for a treat, the fairways are wide which fits in with being a resort, giving everyone playing

a chance. The design and the way the rock formations are blended into the design gives the hole a unique feeling.

The course is now in full autumn bloom and the colours and views around the course are amazing, the designer Jeffery Brauer has done a great job amongst the pines on the shores of Lake Vermilion.

Walking on to the 5th tee, you could be forgiven for thinking you were in England, I am looking down the fairway that is beautifully framed by trees that are showing their full range of colouring, greens, browns, light greens, reds and orange's just hit your sensations like a hammer and the design of the hole is perfect for this setting. A dogleg right that puts the

emphasis on position – it is fitting that nature has decided that this isn't a hole you can overcome with power – the second shot is played to one of the toughest greens I have probably ever played, at what must be some 60 yards deep with a valley in the middle and some amazing green complexes.

As I hit the 18th of what has been a great day's golf I leave my drive in the perfect position to attack the flag, the green is like a little amphitheatre with the mounding to the right and the water to the left, my 4-iron arrows in on the flag but just runs out of green, a bad chip and two putts later I walk off knowing I have played yet another great course on my Minnesota travels.

The stand out holes for me were, the 3rd – a

tough par 3 with the wind today to a back pin placement and yet another tough green when the pin is at the back like it was today and of course the beautiful 5th hole. The par 5, 8th is another visually impressive hole and the bunkers, water and rocks give it a beautiful aesthetic.

I birdied the 11th and 14th and they are both great par 4s with the 14th being nicknamed the two million dollar hole because of its views of the lake. But for me the 13th with its risk and reward from the back tees, the design of the hole bringing the lake into play just edges the rest and if you don't play it from the back tee you should at least take a look, hey you're here on holiday grab your driver and have some fun, I certainly did and I know you are going to as well. →

Top left: The tough par 3, third hole.

Bottom Left: Risk and reward at the 13th hole.

Above: Aerial view of The Wilderness at Fortunes Bay



It's the last day of my trip to Minnesota and today I am playing at Giants Ridge, the first course I am playing is the Legends and I am standing on the first tee after my warm up on the practice ground looking at the carry to the fairway on this 377-yard opening hole. It's very intimidating but once I get my drive away I realise it's the look of the ravine you have to carry, not the distance, which is the scary part and to my surprise I am left with a little 9-iron into the green. How looks can be deceiving!

But there is nothing deceitful about the Legends, it's a resort course with wide fairways and four different teeing options ranging from 6,930-yards from the tips to 5,085-yards from the reds, giving everyone a chance to enjoy a challenging course in some spectacular surroundings.

As I have stated in my previous reviews on this trip, it's now October in Minnesota and the fall is well and truly underway giving the courses some spectacular colouring. And when mixed with a piece of land that has some great topography, designer Jeffery Brauer has done an amazing job here.

You know you're in for a treat when the perfect opening hole is then followed by a great par 3, over water. Look out for the giants paw print on the par 5, 3rd hole and don't land in it

as I just have! There really isn't a weak hole on the course which my playing partner John Kendall, who is the head professional here pointed out, when people were asked to vote on their favourite hole - which would become the courses signature hole - every hole on the course received votes.

The course is a Troon run facility so as you can imagine as I make my way round the course, the fairways, tees and greens are in fantastic condition. According to the vote the signature hole is the 11th and I have to say I am not sure what the locals were drinking that day! Not that it isn't a great hole, when I played it I thought it was a beautiful designed par 3 over water and deserved that accolade. But as I walk up the steps to the tee on the 17th tee there is no question that the 17th is without a doubt the signature hole on this course.

Played across a lake to a green set in the trees and from the back tees measures a heart pumping 226-yards, the design, the aesthetics and just the sheer beauty of its setting make it not only the signature hole here, but also make it one of the best par 3s you will ever play.

I am sure you will have your own debate over a few cold drinks in the bar, but I do know one thing for sure, you will be glad you made the journey upstate to play this gem of a course. →

▶ LEGENDS

“ACCORDING TO THE VOTE THE SIGNATURE HOLE IS THE 11TH AND I HAVE TO SAY I AM NOT SURE WHAT THE LOCALS WERE DRINKING THAT DAY!”



Above left: Giants footprint at the 3rd hole.

Above: This has to be the signature hole, the stunning 17th.

Below: The par 5, fourteenth hole.



JOURNEY PLANNER

WHERE TO STAY

Radisson Hotel

Bloomington by Mall of America
www.radissonmallofamerica.com

Madden's Resort

Brainerd
www.maddens.com

Westin Edina Galleria hotel

Edina
www.westinedinagalleria.com

Comfort Suites Canal Park hotel

Duluth
www.choicehotels.com

Fortune Bay Resort Casino

Tower
www.fortunebay.com

Villas at Giants Ridge

Biwabik
www.villasatgiantsridge.com

WHERE TO EAT

Split Rock Grill

Radisson Hotel
Bloomington
www.radissonmallofamerica.com

Mancini's Char House & Lounge

Saint Paul
www.mancinis.com

FireLake Grill House & Cocktail Bar

Bloomington
www.firelakerestaurant.com

The Capital Grille

Minneapolis
www.thecapitalgrille.com

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant

Edina
www.westinedinagalleria.com/edina-minnesota-restaurants



The Quarry is part of the Giants Ridge resort and once again Jeffery Brauer was the designer of the course, and although The Legends and The Quarry are virtually next door to each other, as I rock up onto the first tee and look down the fairway The Quarry feels and looks totally different.

Standing behind my ball picking the line I really do get the feeling I am back at home on a Surrey heathland type course – although the softer fairways tell you a different story as I make my way to my ball. Unlike the Legend, you can walk the Quarry course. The second is a stunning brut of a par 5 from the back tees and like the legends the great holes just keep coming as I make my way round.

The difference I believe between the two courses is that The Quarry is a golfers golf course, a thinking course with tighter fairways and you need to be in the right position rather than bomb it from the tee. Again there are four teeing options ranging from 7,201-yards from the tips to 5,119-yards from the reds.

There truly isn't a weak hole on the course and the stunning elevation changes, which are all natural from the time when this piece of land was mined for iron ore give these holes the



Above: The beautiful 14th hole as the sunsets.

Below: The stratigic 13th hole.



► THE QUARRY

"IF YOU WANTED ME TO GIVE YOU A RUN OF HOLES THAT I THOUGHT YOU NEED TO LOOK OUT FOR THEN I WOULD HAVE TO SAY THE 1ST TO THE 17TH,"

wow factor. When you make your way around the course you will see lots of displaced blue/grey bedrock, which ended up here when they diverted the water from the lake to be able to mine the iron ore.

If you wanted me to give you a run of holes that I thought you need to look out for then I would have to say the 1st to the 17th, the course is that good and although the 18th has some great views of the lake as you play the hole, I think it needs to be stronger considering the rest of the course. Put the 18th on any other course and it be a classic finishing hole, but the rest have set a standard, that the 18th just misses out on.

But I do have a favourite which was the par 4, 9th which has a very narrow fairway that you need to lay up to, you then play your second shot through a narrow funnel of trees and grass dunes. It may only be 377-yards long, but in my opinion it's a gem of a hole.

I am sure when you play here and are sitting on this magnificent outside deck that over looks the lake you will all have your own opinions and I wouldn't be surprised if everyone in your group picked a different hole and that's what makes The Quarry a must play golf course, a golfers golf course. ●

JOURNEY PLANNER

WHERE TO EAT

Surly's Microbrewery
Minneapolis
www.surlybrewing.com

Canal Park Brewing Co
Duluth
www.canalparkbrewery.com

Sunset Steakhouse
Fortune Bay Resort Casino
Tower
www.fortunebay.com/dining/sunset

THINGS TO DO

Mall of America
Bloomington
www.mallofamerica.com

Galleria Edina
Edina
www.galleriaedina.com

WHERE TO PLAY

Hazeltine National, Chaska
www.hazeltinenational.com

Legends GC, Prior Lake
www.legendsgc.com

The Classic, Brainerd
www.maddens.com/the-classic-course.html

The Pines, Nisswa
www.grandviewlodge.com/golf-course

Keller GC, Maplewood
<https://parks.co.ramsey.mn.us/golf/Pages/Keller-Golf-Course.aspx>

The Wilderness, Tower
www.golfthewilderness.com

The Legend, Biwabik
www.giantsridge.com/legend.html

The Quarry, Biwabik
<http://www.giantsridge.com/index.php>

A golfer wearing a light blue polo shirt, brown trousers, a white cap, and white gloves is captured in the middle of a golf swing on a green fairway. The background is a soft-focus view of a golf course with trees and a body of water.

MINNESOTA

CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF

Minnesota is your perfect golf holiday destination – featuring award-winning courses, characterised by beautiful, natural settings, excellent conditions and affordability. Golfers can opt for their favourite style – links, deep woods, breath-taking river and lake views.

When you pair accessibility with quality and value, you begin to understand what makes Minnesota a great place to golf and explore.

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today at exploreminnesota.com

#ONLYINMN

James Mason undertakes a journey to Thailand that began 40-years ago, while reading a review by Peter Allis in *Golf Monthly* magazine.

I remember as a kid picking up a copy of *Golf Monthly* and reading a review of the Rose Garden Golf Club in Thailand by Peter Allis, his words inspired me to want to play there one day. Alas I missed out on playing the Rose Garden, but it's a destination that I will be going back to and one that I would highly recommend to you. "Golf in the Kingdom" as it is being labelled is more than just playing golf, it's an experience all geared to give you the best golfing holiday you will experience.

You could be a couple who enjoy playing golf together and looking to playing some great tracks and staying in beautiful hotels with spas and plenty of history or in a tour group, who want to experience the golf and nightlife. Thailand offers you everything. Throw in the hour-long foot massage for £7, including tip!! Which you just have to experience after a round of golf and it's the perfect recipe. No wonder Thailand has become a destination that sees tours and couples going back for more. →

Sunrise over the stunning Chiangmai Highlands Golf Club

A PASSAGE IN TIME



Above: Siam Country club nestled in its beautiful surroundings.
Below: Sunset at Burapha Golf Club.



PATTAYA

►Burapha Golf Club

US Open and USPGA Champion David Graham and architect Gary Pank designed the two 18-Hole championship tracks and it was a design I really enjoyed. There are four loops of nine (A) American Wood, (B) British Links, (C) Crystal Spring and (D) Dunes.

You can mix and match any of the nines and it's a track that you will want to go back and play. I played the C & D loops and standing on the first tee of the 465-yard par 4 dogleg left with water on the right, you knew you were in for a treat. There are four tees you can choose to play from, each offering a good test of golf.

The par 3 5th at 138 yards is a great little hole over water, but don't be fooled, the green has a ridge that runs through it and if you are on the wrong section you will be doing very well to get down in two putts. This is followed by a great little par 4 with water all the way down the left and another beautiful looking par 3 8th, you play down from an elevated tee to a green that's protected by no less than eight bunkers.

I loved the Dunes loop and its hard to pick out individual holes as I think it's a great nine, but the finishing four holes are great fun and well designed holes to give you a good chance at finishing with a good score. The Thailand Open was held here in 2010, which is all credit to the course and the people who run this very friendly golf club.

►Siam Country Club

There are two tracks that make up the Siam Country club, the Old course was designed back in 1972 but had a total renovation in 2006 and at the same time they built a 27-hole track known as the Plantation course. Consisting of 3 nine-hole loops called Sugar Cane, Tapioca and Pineapple, American company Schmidt & Curley designed both courses and along with the stunning clubhouse and superb practice facilities, they have done a fantastic job.

I played the Tapioca and Sugar Cane nines, you can tell from the moment you step on to the first tee you are in for a great day, as there is not a blade of grass out of place. Sometimes it is hard to pick stand out holes especially when I know you will enjoy them all.

You will love the two par 3s on the Tapioca nine, but the 172 yard 7th plays to a triple green and the Par 5 4th at 581 is a great risk and reward hole over water if you want to go for the green in two, or you can play down the beautifully manicured fairway.

The Sugar Cane nine opens up with a great par 4 of 400 yards, which is all risk and reward, protected by bunkers all the way down the left of this dogleg left, you can elect to smash a drive over the lot and go for the green or hit a 3-wood and wedge in. Again you will enjoy all the holes on this nine, another two great par 3s

and you will love the view on the Par 5 5th you will be confronted with no less than 20 bunkers to navigate from the tee, it is a stunning view, but don't worry they are not ALL reachable!!!

►Night Golf at Laem Chabang Country Club

Laem Chabang Country Club was designed by Jack Nicklaus, this is another 27 hole complex, Lake, Mountain and Valley are the three nines with the Lakes being used for night golf. I have never played golf under floodlights before, but I must say I am a convert now, it was great fun and I would thoroughly recommend it. It's strange, you cannot see the beauty of the course and its setting, how it sits and complements its environment, but the night and the lights give it a unique beauty that you could only experience in the darkness that surrounds you and each hole. →



Golf under the lights at Laem Chabang Country Club



“It’s easy to get distracted by the view from the fairway to the green, the clubhouse makes a great backdrop with water to the left”



BANGKOK

►Thai Country Club

Tiger Woods won the Asian Honda Classic here back in 1997 and from the back tees measures 7,157 yards, but like all modern tracks there are four tees to choose from on this Denis Griffiths design. The amazing award winning clubhouse design, with its stunning views out across the course from the balcony, welcomes you, as does the unexpected warm plunge pool in the men’s locker room. All this adds to the elegance of the day.

Your day will just get better once you step onto the first tee, it’s a gentle opening hole with water on the left and behind the green of this 375 yard par 4. Water is a feature on 18 holes

on this track and comes in to play on all the par 3s, with some great risk and reward holes on two of the four par 5s, the 523 yard 4th and 570 yard 17th both have carries over water if you go for the green in two.

The 18th is a worthy finishing hole, there is a 64-yard difference between the black and blue tees. Its easy to get distracted by the view from the fairway to the green, the clubhouse makes a great backdrop with water to the left of the green, which has a fantastic water feature, be careful as the water is only a couple of yards over the back of the green and anything long will be wet.

Above: A fitting finale to a great course

►Muang Kaew Golf Club

Above one of the many water features at Muang Kaew GC

Billed as a golfing oasis in Bangkok, it certainly is, busy motorways surround this track, and it is surprising that there is a course in the middle of them. Lee Schmidt redesigned Seni Thirawat original design in 2003. Muang Kaew offers wide fairways, with water featured on all 18 holes, with risk and reward shots on all four of the par 5s. One of them being the 541 yard 18th, which has a waterfall feature in front of the green, it’s a great finishing hole and one that can see you counting the money or crying into your well deserved beer. →



CHIANG MAI

►Alpine Golf Resort

I really enjoyed this region of Thailand and I found the climate perfect golfing weather, it was hot without being that uncomfortable sticky heat, which was great for shorts and polo shirts. Set in a valley and surrounded by the mountain ranges in the heart of the San Kampaeng natural forests that bristles with some amazing colours, it's a stunning setting and course designer Ron Garl has produced a track that complements its majestic surroundings. It can be a beast of a track from the black tees at 7,541, its hardly short from the front men's tees coming in at 6,814, with a set of tee boxes between the two.

But its far from being a sluggers track, it opens up with a couple of gentle par 4s with water featuring on both, with tricky greens. There are two great par 3s and two stunning par 5s with the 4th being over 600 yards no matter what box you tee it up from. The front nine is rounded off with a very strategic par 4 where you navigate over water twice.

The back nine keeps the pace going and the holes just get better and better, with the Sawgrass inspired island green 151 yard 15th, being only one of the highlights. You will walk off the 563-yard par 5 18th knowing you have played a great course set in beautiful surroundings.

Above: The bridge over to the 9th green at Alpine Golf Resort

“Chiangmai Highlands was voted one of the top 3 courses in Thailand by readers of Asian Golf Monthly and you could see why.”

►Chiangmai Highlands GC

Chiangmai Highlands GC is another course designed by Schmidt-Curley and sits in the foothills east of Chiang Mai. Chiangmai Highlands was voted one of the top 3 courses in Thailand by readers of Asian Golf Monthly and you could see why.

From the clubhouse to the practice facilities, everything is perfect and you are not let down when you get onto the course its self. For me it's a tough call between this track and the Alpine Resort as my favourites on this trip, but Chiangmai Higlands just wins it. Every hole offered not only aesthetic beauty, but also an enjoyable challenge on this immaculately kept track.

The 2nd and 14th are great par 3s over water, you will also love the view from the 13th and 17th tees, but I can guarantee you will enjoy the views on every tee. ●

Below: Changmai Highlands Golf Club and its beautiful surroundings at sunrise.



JOURNEY PLANNER

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Riverside Hotel, Bangkok
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Siem Kempinski, Bangkok
www.kempinski.com

Summit Windmill Residence Hotel
Bangkok
www.summitwindmillgolfresidence.com

Veranda The High Resort, Chiang Mai
www.verandaresortandspa.com

Shangri-La, Chiang Mai
www.shangri-la.com

Manathai Village, Chiang Mai
www.manathai.com

WHERE TO PLAY

Burapha Golf Club, Pattaya
www.buraphagolfthailand.com

Siam Country Club, Pattaya
www.siamcountryclub.com

Laem Chabang International, Pattaya
www.laemchabanggolf.com

Thai Country Club, Bangkok
www.thaicountryclub.com

Muang Kaew Golf Club, Bangkok
www.muangkaewgolf.com

Alpine Resort, Chiang Mai
www.alpinegolfresort.com

Chiang Mai Highlands, Chiang Mai
www.chiangmaihighlands.com

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.golfasian.com
www.solargolf.com

A GREEK ODYSSEY

Larry Berle, goes so far off the beaten track to discover the real Greece, that he needs a caravan of 4x4 Jeeps to circumnavigate his way.

On past trips to Greece I have ventured out to the islands of Crete and Santorini, but on this trip I get to explore the many delights of the Greek mainland, but with a slight twist, our mode of transport will be a caravan of 4 jeeps!

As I make my way down to breakfast at the Alexandros hotel I am joined by my 16 travelling companions after our hearty fare of local coffee and freshly prepared local produce, we have a team briefing and then we board 4 jeeps and head through the busy streets of Athens.

It's a beautiful city and the smells of coffee and pastries just make you want to stop at one of the many little cafes along the way. But we have an agenda to stick to as our guides chatter on their two-way radios. We depart the hustle and bustle of the city hitting the highway

heading northwest.

An hour later after travelling through some wondrous scenery we stop on the shores of the Sea of Corinth in Aspra Spitia (White houses). A truly beautiful setting for a restaurant, the Greek cuisine is to die for – if no one was looking I would probably lick the plate!! And as I look out to the sea with that salty sea air gently blowing through my hair taking the edge off the heat, it's one of the many life experiences I will remember from this trip.

We then headed for Delphi, home of the famous Oracle, for a fascinating 2-hour tour. Our guide is Penny Kolomvotsou and if you decide to make this trip I would try to request her as your guide. I have to say Penny was very knowledgeable but in a way that helped

me understand and appreciate the history and information she was trying to share with us.

It is day two and our caravan of Jeeps circumvented Lake Mornos, a beautiful alpine lake — we go up and down mountainsides on narrow windy roads some blacktop, and some dirt roads that are cut through forests and we occasionally come out along mountainside cliffs, It's hard not to keep stopping to just soak up these spectacular views and of course take the odd photo along the way.

This is thirsty work so we decide to take a coffee break in the quaint village of Lidoriki (pop. approx 600) and what a perfect place to take a short break, this is the real Greece running to its own pace of life, you can feel your heart beat slow – even with the caffeine →



One of the many churches I visited, sitting peacefully in its majestic surroundings



Tripology car caravan,
leaving Delphi



running through your veins.

We ascend to a hanging church for a picnic lunch overlooking Lake Mornos, it truly is a wonderful setting for a picnic. As we arrive at Elatou where we are to rest for the night, the village is that small I am sure the only reason it ends up on any maps is because of the hotel we are staying in!

It is 9 am and we are back on the road again ascending through the Pinos Mountains to vast views over Lake Evinos. Today's coffee stop sees us being introduced to a tavern keeper in the village of Arachova where they produce their own liquors and essential oils.

This trip is not only about the natural beauty of the countryside but is a greek culinary experience as well, the food comes non-stop, delicious and varied dishes – the last thing I would have expected would be to say “if this restaurant were in my home town, it would be a regular stop for me, but that is how I felt – If you are a foodie, you are going to love this trip. Two of my travelling companions own a restaurant in Northern California and they were enquiring about the recipes and trying to figure out what ingredients were in the meals, I am sure their regular customers will not only be happy with the new additions to the menu, but will be making this journey themselves.

Many of the villages seem to be one step

back in time. Many of them appear to be self sufficient, raising their own small herds of sheep or goats and small plots of lands, growing most of the vegetables they need. Several times we stop on one of the mountain roads while a farmer who is out with his flock of sheep or goats takes his sweet time to move his herd out of the way. This would probably be very annoying at home but here it's just part of the pace of life, and as we pass a little old lady walking her single goat on a leash, I have to say I think it's the perfect pace to live your life.

Our day comes to an end just above the village of Karpneissi at the hotel Montana, this is a town of approx 15,000 and is a ski resort in the winter, the hotel has 105 rooms, 23 suites, spa, gym and activity center for the kids.

Day four sees us heading for Kremaston Lake and along the Trikeriotis River, today's coffee stop is Prousous Monestary which is built into the cliff and turns out to be the highlight of the day. We stop for dinner at No Timo, this restaurant is so small that our group of 16 pretty much took over the entire place. I asked our guide the name of the restaurant she said “some of these restaurants are so small I don't even know their names, I just know the names of the owners.”

It is day five and we are stopping for lunch at Neromyaos which means water mill, →

**“THE VILLAGE IS THAT
SMALL I AM SURE THE
ONLY REASON IT ENDS
UP ON ANY MAPS IS
BECAUSE OF THE HOTEL
WE ARE STAYING IN!”**

THE STORY OF THE ORACLE AT DELPHI

In the Classical era (approx 600 B.C.- 400 B.C. Delphi was considered the center of the world (at least the world as the Greeks knew it). As the myth goes, Zeus released 2 birds from the farthest points of the world and where they met Zeus declared as the center of the world and threw down a stone from the heavens, now called the Naval stone, right here in Delphi.

People flocked here not only because it was the center of the world but also because of the Temple of Apollo and eventually to consult the Oracle of Delphi at Apollo's Temple.

Just what was this oracle? No one spoke to the Oracle directly, they spoke to a priestess who was the intermediary. There was a rock that emitted vapors that were known to create hallucinations and from this, people got their advice, usually about major choices facing them in life from the Oracle.

Was it religious? Was it Political? We don't know, but one might assume that consulting the Oracle was a way of confirming or not confirming ones belief in a major decision one was making. Several people made multiple trips to consult the Oracle, if they didn't like what they heard the first time they just returned until they did!

So one could conclude that it could have been a bit like the Wizard in the Wizard of OZ. If you don't like the answer then just “ignore the man behind the curtain” I doubt we will ever really know. But hey, welcome to the world of Greek Mythology.

Delphi is now a Unesco protected site and definitely worth visiting. One of the charming things about this trip, especially for kids, is the Mythology of Greece, Zeus, Apollo, and his many kids, mistresses and wives. Our guide shared several of these myths with us.

the proprietor is giving us a short cooking demonstration on their version of a burger, mixing beef, onion, egg, soaked bread, parsley and oregano, as we tuck in I have to say it's probably one of the tastiest burgers I have ever had. The Taverna is riverside so we decide to eat outdoors next to a small waterfall where they keep a small fish farm so diners are guaranteed fresh fish.

We all pile back into the jeeps for what turns out to be a spectacular dirt road climbing to a mountain pass just above the tree line at 5,400 feet with awesome views of the lakes, streams and villages below. The beauty of the Greek Mountainside and these roads is truly something to behold.

We then drive to Meteora this turns out to be

the highlight of the trip, with it's Monasteries built in the rocks, so much so I have decided to dedicate a side bar to it, but it truly is well worth the journey.

It's the final day of our journey and we are heading back to Athens, we stop off for lunch at a beautiful little taverna that is right next to the Aegean Sea, then the final leg of our journey takes us to Athens and our farewell dinner in the center of Athens with great food, live music and dancing.

I have traveled the world and taken part in lots of organised trips but this one is so unique and fascinating, it is also a great way to get out of the tourist spots and see the real Greek countryside while still taking in its mythology, history and culture. ●

Lake Evinos as seen from above



WHAT MAKES THIS TRIP SO WONDERFUL FOR THE FAMILY?

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A pace of life that we could all learn from, maybe we have lost touch of what it really means to live a life fulfilled



THE ROCK FORMATIONS AND MONASTERIES OF METEORIA

By LARRY BERLE

Meteoria is about a 6-hour drive north of Athens and the 2nd most visited tourist site in Greece. There are 6 monasteries here, four for monks and two for nuns – 98% of Greece is Greek Orthodox.

A couple of monks who wanted a hermit like existence in order to be closer to God founded the first of these in the 14th century. They set up homesteads in caves, and little by little as more Monks were interested in the lifestyle a community of hermit monks began to emerge.

They began to build a very isolated Monastery where they lived quietly and spent 8-hours of everyday in prayer. Over the centenaries the community grew to about 100 monks and the building of other monasteries in the community ensued, access was almost impossible for the public, as the only way to reach these buildings was by a basket and rope – they were pulled up by their fellow monks, this is also how supplies and food got into the monasteries, steps to enter did not come until 1925.

Electricity showed up some time in the 1980's along with running water. This, of course was followed by roads and tourists. Today there are only three monks living in this monastery and it is supported by tourism. The only Monastery left in Greece that still does not allow tourists, to the best of my knowledge is Mt Athos on the other side of Greece.

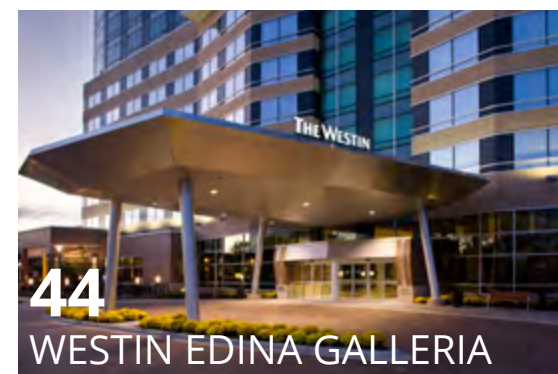
Perfect isolation, with the only access via a rope and basket





HOTEL & SPA

REVIEW





NESTLETON WATERS INN

Ontario, Canada

By CHARMAINE HIBBERT

Sometimes you visit a hotel that you just want to shout about and tell the whole world to come and visit, and all the more so when you find out that this once privately owned family bungalow, set on 93 acres of land has turned been into this stunning B&B by the bare hands of the father and son who run the hotel – a true labour of love. As I arrive I have the pick of all the rooms as the big wedding tomorrow means all the rooms tonight are free (lucky me!) but it is such a hard choice to make with all the beautifully appointed, individually decorated rooms.

I am massively indecisive at the best of times but I opted for the Morgandy Suite on the second floor – Morgandy is Celtic for “Little one from the edge of the sea” – and I felt very much at home in this gorgeous queen size suite, it overlooks the fountain at the front and has a cute heart shaped tub. I must admit the tub did swing it for me, what can I say; I’m a hearts and flowers kind of girl!

Nestleton is not a licensed hotel, even though you can find an ice bucket and two wine glasses in the suites, you can bring your own wine to enjoy at your leisure – or down on the deck, but we’re coming to that!

The fresh water lake that the hotel looks out on to has just got a →

Above: A welcoming site, Nestleton Waters Inn entrance. Below: One of the individually decorated rooms

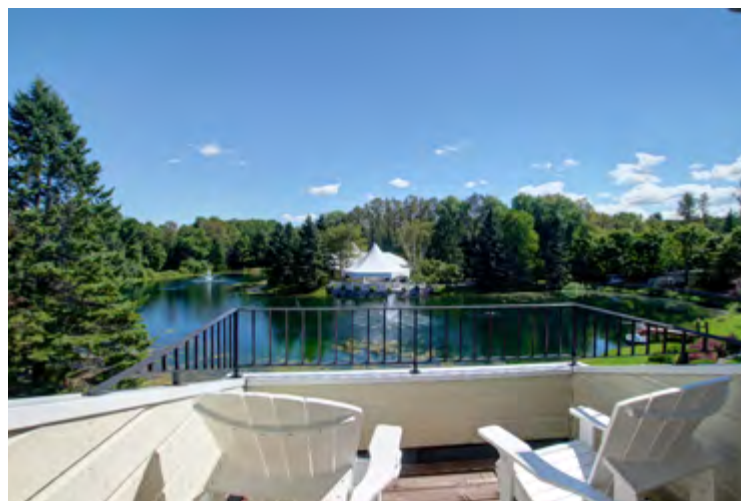
A MOMENT IN TIME

Charmaine Hibbert becomes the first person to take the plunge into the fresh water lake off Nestleton Waters Inn’s new deck, but that’s not the only heart stopping moment she experiences on her visit.





Top: Horse and carriage rides are available during the summer.
Top Right: View over the fresh water lake, from the Cameo Suite.
Bottom Right: Yoga by the lake



A labour of love for three generations of the Kiezebrink family

new deck and I decide to be the first guest to take the plunge on this beautiful July afternoon, treading water in the cool waters of the lake and looking back at the hotel to admire the handiwork of Henry and Erik, I am overwhelmed with pride - and I have only just met them - but it really is some achievement. And at that moment I thought nothing could beat this feeling as I relax on one of the reclining wooden chairs and look out into the lake to dry off, but boy was I wrong...

There are far too many great things to list about this place but as you all know by now this is my favourite part of any trip – the spa. A spa treatment is the perfect compliment to your luxury stay at Nestleton Waters Inn, but please be aware that their massage therapy is scheduled by appointment only so it is best that you enquire at reception. A couple's massage may also be available but this will depend on availability. All Spa Luxury facials are done with an Italian product called 'Bioline' and it is customised to the client's skin type, which is great because I suffer from sensitive, combination skin. I opted for the deep cleansing facial, I really needed it due to the polluted air back in the UK and for the first

time in a long time it left my skin feeling like it was able to breath. The treatment costs \$93.50 and lasts an hour. I couldn't leave without having a full pedicure (my feet have never felt so much love) the treatment also lasts an hour and costs \$65, a pedicure is definitely something I will be booking in once a month after my treatment here. It feels a bit cheeky being this indulgent but my nails needed some love too so I tried the mini-mani, a half hour session costing \$55.

TALKING LEISURE

If a spa treatment is not something you would care to try out here, there are other activities that you can indulge in; onsite amenities include: canoe or rowboat, swimming or fishing from the deck. I am no good with a fishing rod so I did not partake in this activity. Although it would have made a pretty amusing sight. I did love walking around the grounds, such a wonderful setting. In the area you can enjoy attractions such as brewery or winery tours, waterparks, zoos, museums, golf, skiing and so much more. Nestleton Inn have also negotiated some great guest discount

shopping vouchers and special partnerships so it's worth finding out what they have on offer. For example there is a winter sleigh or a summer horse and carriage ride with pickup for guests at the inn. I absolutely love the idea of both, hopefully something I will be able to experience for myself in the future.

I have stayed in hotels all over the world, but I have to say none come as close to the service and friendliness of the Nestleton Waters Inn, add in the beautifully unique rooms, stunning location and of course that lake and you can see why so many couples choose this as the perfect location for their wedding. Even now being back in London when things get a little hectic I imagine myself sitting on the lounge on that deck and breathing in that uncontaminated fresh air. I do hope one day you get to experience your own moment in time on that deck, it truly is a special place. ●

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WESTIN EDINA GALLERIA HOTEL

Minnesota, USA

By CHARMAINE HIBBERT

PLAYING TO THE GALLERIA

Wondering where to stay and what to explore during your stay in Minnesota for next years Ryder Cup matches? Charmaine Hibbert finds the perfect place to eat, sleep and of course shop.

After a near 3 hour journey back from Madden's Resort we pull up outside the Westin Edina Galleria Hotel, it's not too dissimilar to many hotel entrances – I did like its modern feel and design – but it's when you walk into the hotel that you get a great feeling of space. A nice touch was the little wine tasting bar set up just to the left of the spacious lounging area – where you can meet friends, family or clients – which after my 3-hour journey is a godsend.

Now American hotels do like to use a lot of browns and beiges in their hotels, but I have to say I am impressed with the way the Westin have used these colours in a more modern palette and style. Entering my room the first thing I notice is that it isn't the biggest room I have stayed in on this trip, but what makes it stand out was again the way they have used the colour palette to give the room a nice modern feel, the bathroom is perfect, you can't beat a nice big shower with stone tiling and standing under the large square shower head with the hot water just washing away the long journey well, I could just stand under here for hours it feels that good.

One place you have to make sure you visit, especially for breakfast →

Above: The Westin at night.

Right: The Galleria's spacious lobby.

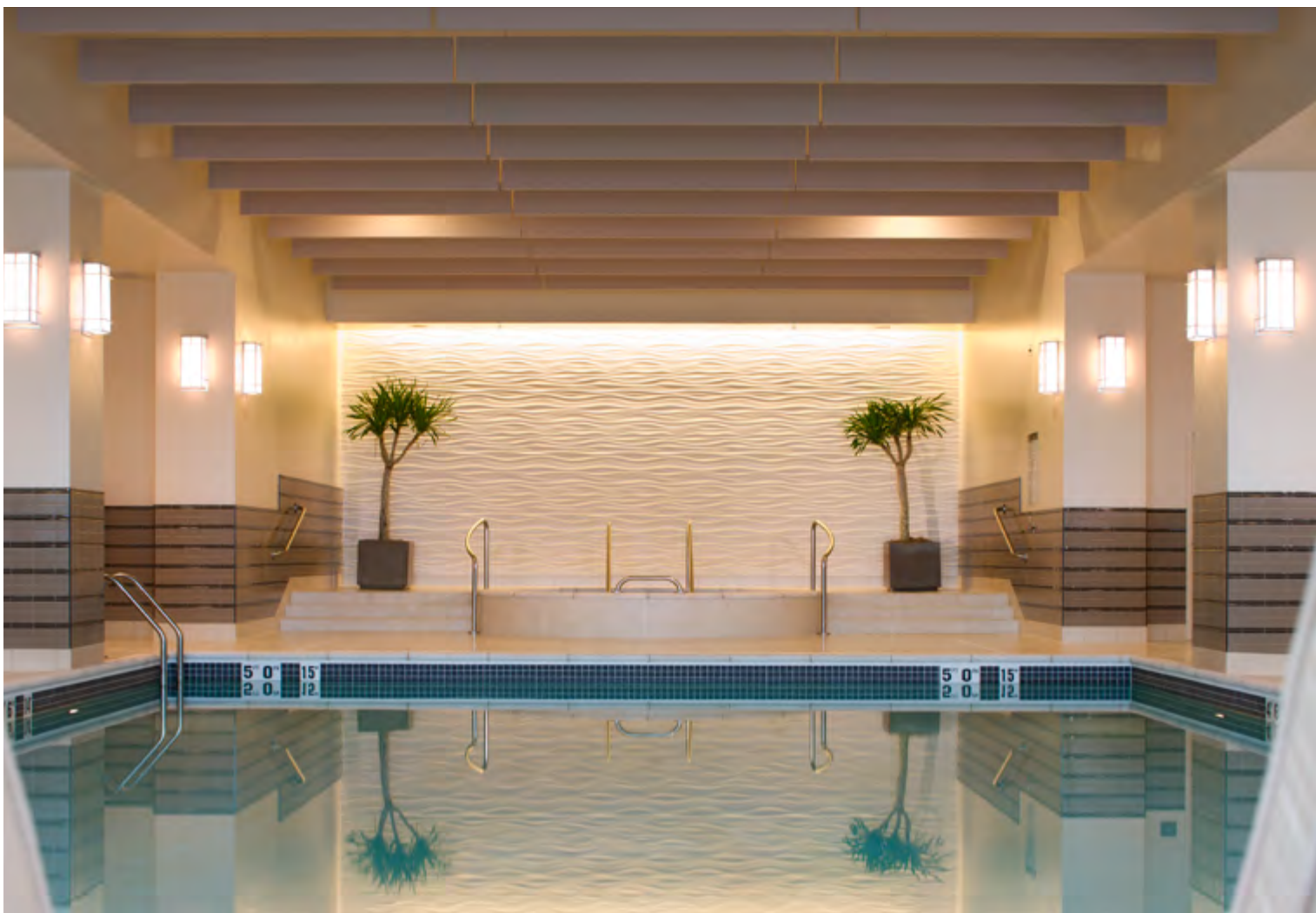
Far Right: One of the many well appointed-rooms





Above: The modern take on the brown and beige theme.

Right: There are plenty of leisure facilities for you to enjoy.



is McCormick and Schmick’s Seafood and Steak restaurant which you can walk to through the lobby area. I have the Classic eggs Benedict with Canadian Bacon and English Muffin. I also want to try the Cinnamon French Toast with fresh berries and bananas – the healthy option right! I only want a slice so my waitress suggests the kids portion – good thinking on her part – well until I see the size of the kids portion, I can feed another two adults with that, but boy oh boy was it worth it and the three other people I shared it with think so too.

RETAIL THERAPY

Those of you who read my reviews will know I am partial to a spa treatment or two, I did miss my spa pampering on this trip, but boy did the shopping make up for that loss. Who needs a spa when you can be out shopping (words I never thought would pass my lips!) but once you get to experience the Edina Galleria Shopping Centre (center in the U.S) you will understand exactly what I mean.

Back in the UK I do most of my shopping online but I am in my element here, and if you are coming over to watch the Ryder Cup

matches next year or just visiting the beautiful state of Minnesota, you need to make some time to shop here.

I am hoping to be out here during the Ryder Cup and I know my partner is already getting excited about the matches - I promise I am too - *ahem* but as a non-golfer it’s just a different level of appreciation for the sport! Walking round the Edina Galleria Shopping Centre I can’t help but just soak up its relaxed and sophisticated atmosphere, which for me just adds to the shopping experience here. Plus the Minnesotans are really, really friendly people, I got lost in conversation with a few locals during a much needed lunch break – shopping really does help you work up an appetite!

But boy did the day fly by, there are 70 local and national retail stores at my fingertips and I must have had a peek in them all – I did question my sanity many times on the merits of leaving my credit card in the safe back at the hotel, well that was until I got to Tiffany & Co. then I knew I had made the right decision, well sort of! ●

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The Edina Galleria Shopping Centre.





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MERINO V-NECK PULLOVER NAVY
£87.50 \$NA €120

When I go on these testing trips I think apparel is just as important as the equipment that I am testing, and so I try to replicate what I know you will need for your next golf trip/tour or playing at your local club. Obviously being a golfer fashion is a big part of playing now along with practicality and comfort. One of the big considerations as we all know is being on a golf course anywhere between 3-5 hours where the weather can change at any moment.

TECHNOLOGY

FootJoy have introduced what they call their advanced fabrics which include designs in Cooling Pique, Oxford Knit, Stretch Pique and a cotton-feel Spun Polyester, giving you a technologically-advanced polo shirt keeping you cool when the sun is up and warm when it's not.

The polo's combine well with the →

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PERFORMANCE TROUSERS NAVY £55 \$85 €76



mid-layer tops including the popular chill-outs, both Brushed Chill-Outs and Pique tops, as well as the Lambswool or Merino jumpers or slip-over.

FootJoys Performance trousers are made from a comfortable, stretchable polyester and spandex blended fabric and come in three styles, regular, athletic and a tapered-leg Slim Fit option.

CONCLUSION

FootJoy have the perfect blend of combinations and for my 9 day trip I took three polo shirts, two pairs of trousers, one pair of shorts, a slip over, one jumper and one chillout top, I did add to this by buying a FootJoy Performance mid layer Half-Zip Vest mainly because it was on sale at Hazeltine National and had the Ryder Cup logo on it!!

That combination worked for me giving me plenty of variations and covered all weathers and although it didn't rain – the trousers are shower resistant – the early morning starts were quite cold, but with FootJoys layering system using a combination of mid and essential mid layers, I was able to keep nice and warm until the sun started to come up – which you can check out on the Minnesota course videos.

I am a big fan of the half slip top or sleeveless half zip tops, even in the summer, as they keep my back warm and for someone who suffers sometimes with a bad back it helps keep those muscles warm, allowing me to swing freely.

So when you are planning your next golf holiday/weekend away or just want to look good on your home course I recommend you take a look at FootJoys layering system. Pick the combinations that will work whether the sun is in or out and with a combination of outfits and colours like me you will be covered for the whole trip while still travelling light. ●

Southern comfort

EIGHT DAYS OF GOLF
IN A NEW PAIR OF
SHOES SOUNDS LIKE A
RECIPE FOR DISASTER,
JAMES MASON
PUTS THE FOOTJOY
HYPERFLEX TO THE
ULTIMATE TEST

I must say after a recent shredding of my heels by a make of golf shoe that nearly killed a press trip, it is with slight trepidation when I now go on testing trips as I have no back-up golf shoes or clubs with me. The equipment that I am testing is with me for the 1-2-weeks I am away, putting the equipment through its paces, over at least 3 courses and in this case eight golf courses, so its sink or swim time.

So I am pleased to say my feet and especially my heels were in Footjoy heaven with the Hyperflex golf shoes.

TECHNOLOGY

FootJoy have combined four new technologies to not only offer stability and traction but they also come with heightened comfort, all this and a two-year waterproof guarantee.

FlexGrid™ 2.0 exoskeleton upper – This is the high-performance upper material which gives the Hyperflex their unique look, but it's not all about looks. This new material is strong enough to control and support your feet during the swing and retain its shape. It also incorporates the breathable membrane which is guaranteed waterproof for two years.

FineTunedFoam™ 2.0 – This technology helps you walk off the 18th without any aches, pains and more importantly blisters or cuts. It gives the midsole of →



Not sure if we need
a caption here

the shoe a softer and lighter feel for perfect comfort and cushioning.

The O.P.S.™ technology is what supports you during your golf swing. Helping you get as much power into the ball by stabilising and supporting the heels of your feet.

N.E.O.™ (Next Evolutionary Outsole) We all know what it's like to have one of your feet slip at that crucial moment. FootJoy have incorporated the 'Tornado' Cleats by SoftSpikes into the Hyperflex which has been specifically engineered to provide flexible yet durable traction during your golf swing.



Left: FootJoys next evolutionary outer sole.
Right: The full Hyperflex range of available colours.
Below: Exoskeleton upper where the hyperflex gains its strength.



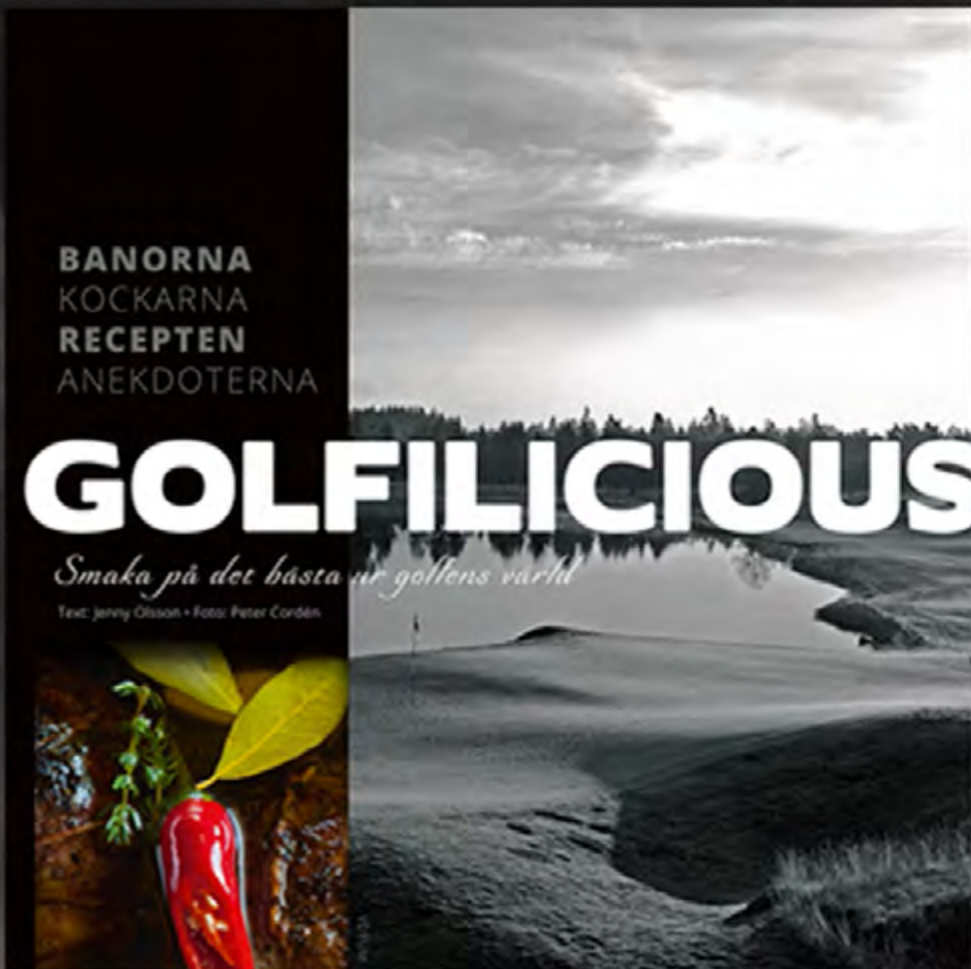
CONCLUSION

As I stated in my introduction my feet and heels were blister free and I have to say the way the technology works, they also never felt tired. Several times I was wearing small ankle type socks during my testing that would slip down and I was basically only wearing the sock on the sole of my feet and the Hyperflex still didn't break skin.

Add in the traction and stability that you feel during your swing and the Hyperflex golf shoes do inspire confidence, especially when you want to give the driver that extra nudge on a long par 4 or 5.

At the end of the day there is a reason why the tour players have FootJoy as the number one golf shoe on tour, and if they're happy when their swing speeds are 120mph plus - and their livelihoods depend on the smallest of details - I certainly felt more than happy with the traction and stability with my 101mph swing speed. More importantly so did my feet and if they can do that for my very sensitive feet I know they can do the same for you. ●

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WIDTH Medium
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