

SICILY

Verdura Resort

Play, stay and spa at this beautiful
European Tour destination

THE OPEN

Review & Betting Guide to
The Open Championship
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PLANET GOLF

RE

ISSUE 10

VIEW

.COM

TUSCANY

Tales of wine, cheese,
festivals and great food

NORTHWEST IRELAND

Mystic mist at Ballyliffin,
WB Yeats at Donegal,
Metal Man at Sligo and
Solitude at Rosapenna

EQUIPMENT & APPAREL

Mizuno, Titleist, Evnroll
and Stuburt

WELCOME

Summer is finally here and in the UK we are in the middle of a heatwave and a summer of great sport with the World Cup and Wimbledon just finishing, with the PGA Championship and Ryder Cup still to come and of course this week's Open Championship.

As usual we have our renowned review and betting guide to kick start the magazine and while everyone is enjoying barbeques and wine in the garden check out Jane Finns feature on Tuscany and her travels through vineyards and wine festivals.

For those of you looking for a golf holiday destination we feature the Northwest of Ireland in this issue and if any of you managed to catch Russell Knox winning the Irish Open and the wonderful links at Ballyliffin, then you will be pleased to know both links courses at the resort are reviewed along with Sligo GC, Donegal GC and Rosapenna Resort.

Those of you who prefer a long weekend away being

pampered at a resort that also caters for the golfer in the family, then check out our review of the Verdura Resort in Sicily, home to the European Tours Rocco Forte Sicilian Open, which also has wonderful spa facilities with four outdoor thalassotherapy pools and fifteen treatment rooms, all right next to the crystal blue waters of the Mediterranean.

We also bring you equipment and apparel reviews from Mizuno, Titleist, Evnroll and Stuburt. So, sit back with that glass of Chianti that Jane recommended, enjoy the rest of the summer and The Open Championship while planning your next getaway with the help of PGR Magazine.

Here's to a summer of love, travels and great sport.

James

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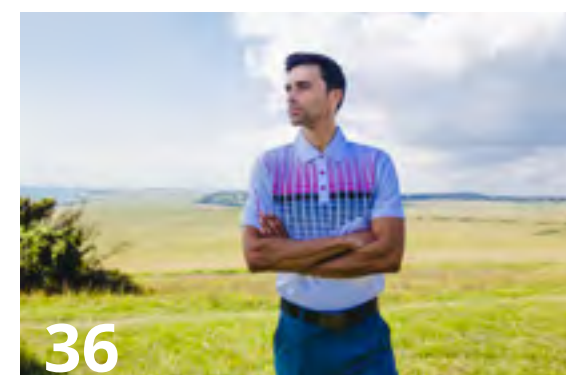




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PLANETGOLF

REVIEW



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PLACE YOUR BETS

The third major championship of the year is upon us and tough Carnoustie Golf club plays host to this year's Open Championship. We pick six players from the three categories who we feel could challenge this year.

Carnoustie or more commonly known by its nickname of Carnasty, should give you an idea of how tough the locals think this course is. Carnoustie was recently rated by *Top 100* website viewers as the toughest golf course in Britain & Ireland. Much has been written about Carnoustie over the years, the finishing holes are brutal and many consider that it has one of the greatest back nines in championship golf.

The first record of golf being played at Carnoustie dates back to 1527, a 10-hole course was laid out in 1842, then Fifteen years later in 1857 Old Tom Morris designed an 18-hole layout, which was extended in 1926 by James Braid. The course stayed relatively untouched until 2017 when architects Mackenzie & →

DUSTIN JOHNSON

12|1



James Kennedy

JUSTIN ROSE

16|1



ImagopixATL

TOMMY FLEETWOOD

11|1



Asian Tour

PATRICK REED

25|1



James Kennedy

RUSSELL KNOX

55|1



James Kennedy

THORBJØRN OLESEN

80|1



Alemarcoli

Ebert made changes to the 3rd hole creating a fairway to the right of the reconfigured central bunkers to tempt golfers into being more aggressive from the tee.

The course is famous for its burns and bunkers, the par five 6th measures 520 yards from the white tees and is regarded as one of the world's best holes. Named, "Hogan's Alley", after the great Ben Hogan who won the Open Championship here in 1953. Two fearsome bunkers placed in the middle of the fairway and a third bunker to the right make this one of the toughest fairways to hit and strategy will be the key to this hole.

The 15th, 16th and 17th are considered around the world as three of golf's very best closing holes. "Lucky Slap", the 15th, is a 460-yard par four, where the fairway slopes from left to right into the path of two waiting bunkers and the approach shot must avoid a cluster of three bunkers situated to the right of the green.

The 17th is named "Island" because the Barry Burn snakes in front of the tee and then loops back, cutting across the fairway. Into the prevailing wind, placing your tee shot on this brutal par four on the final day could be the difference between being champion golfer of the year or just another Carnoustie statistic!

MY TIPS TO WIN

It is hard to look past world number one **Dustin Johnson 12/1 – with SportingBet** – with eight Top 10 finishes from his twelve starts on the PGA Tour with two of those being wins and two

runner-up finishes and he has only been outside the Top 20 once. Dustin has not really challenged at The Open but does have several Top 10s finishes but I think that will change this year.

Justin Rose 16/1 – with Bet365 – has been chasing down the world number one spot this year and has been playing some great golf and also has two wins from his twelve starts on the PGA Tour and has only been outside the Top 25 twice. The 127th Open at Royal Birkdale is where Justin announced himself to the world, 147th Open could be the tournament that sees him take the world number one spot.

Tommy Fleetwood 20/1 – with SportingBet – holds the course record at Carnoustie which he set at last year's Dunhill Links Championship firing a second round 63. With two Top 5 finishes at the US Open in the last two years, Tommy is certainly not fazed by winning a major championship and although I think playing in front of a home crowd in Liverpool last year may have been too much pressure, I feel he will handle that better at Carnoustie.

EACH-WAY TIPS

After picking up his first major championship at The Masters, I don't think it will be too long before we see **Patrick Reed 33/1 – with Ladbrokes** – winning his second and I feel his game certainly suits links golf. Patrick has a Top 5 finish at the US Open and finished inside the Top 25 at the Scottish Open and I feel these are great odds for the Masters Champion.

If there is to be a Scottish winner of this year's Open Championship then **Russell Knox 66/1 – with SportingBet** – is at the head of that queue. Russell is in great form after a second place at the French Open, winning the Irish Open and although his final round at the Scottish Open didn't go to plan, he still played some great golf to be in with a shout going into the final round. Knox knows Carnoustie well and the dangers it holds, but I think these are great odds for someone who is in such good form.

MY OUTSIDE TIP

Thorbjørn Olesen 100/1 – with SportingBet – is a past champion of the Alfred Dunhill Links where one round of the four is played over the Carnoustie track, so he is a player that knows this course well. Thorbjørn is having a great year on the European Tour with a win and two Top 6s from his last five starts and again I feel these are great odds.

LONGER ODDS

Try **Peter Uihlein 150/1 – with Bet365**

We would like to emphasise that betting should be for fun and not a way to make a living. We see it as a way of adding excitement to a tournament while you watch and hopefully this guide will help you make an informed choice.

As always good luck and have fun!

The beautiful Carnoustie Golf Club home of this years Open Championship

Kevin Murray Golf Photography



LATEST FIRST ROUND BETTING ODDS FOR THE OPEN FROM LADBROKES

Dustin Johnson 12/1
Jordan Spieth 16/1
Justin Rose 16/1
Rickie Fowler 16/1
Rory McIlroy 16/1
Jon Rahm 20/1
Justin Thomas 20/1
Tommy Fleetwood 20/1
Brooks Koepka 25/1
Henrik Stenson 25/1
Jason Day 25/1
Tiger Woods 25/1
Francesco Molinari 33/1
Hideki Matsuyama 33/1
Patrick Reed 33/1
Paul Casey 33/1
Sergio Garcia 33/1
Alexander Noren 33/1
Branden Grace 40/1
Marc Leishman 40/1
Phil Mickelson 40/1
Tyrrell Hatton 40/1
Bryson Dechambeau 66/1
Bubba Watson 66/1
Ian Poulter 66/1
Louis Oosthuizen 66/1
Matt Kuchar 66/1
Matthew Fitzpatrick 66/1
Rafael Cabrera-Bello 66/1
Russell Knox 66/1
Lee Westwood 66/1
Adam Scott 80/1
Patrick Cantlay 80/1
Thomas Pieters 80/1
Zach Johnson 80/1
Andy Sullivan 100/1
Brandt Snedeker 100/1
Chris Wood 100/1
Paul Dunne 100/1
Shane Lowry 100/1
Thorbjørn Olesen 100/1
Tony Finau 100/1
Xander Schauffele 100/1
Ryan Fox 100/1
Brian Harman 125/1
Charl Schwartzel 125/1
Daniel Berger 125/1

[More](#)

Grape discoveries

While touring the Tuscany vineyards
Jane Finn may have just discovered
the meaning of life!

I love my wine ... sometimes a little too much ... especially on a Friday evening after a long week of too much work and too little fun but a ten-day wine vacation has taught me not only how to swirl, sniff and sip a fine glass of Chianti but even more importantly, how to be in the moment and savour the entire experience.

Every month in Tuscany offers endless possibilities to indulge your passion for wine but if you are as fortunate as we were to visit in September, every corner of the region is a whirlwind of festivals dedicated to the celebration of the grapes. The medieval village of Greve sits at the epicentre of the verdant Chianti valley that lies between Florence and →

Main image: View
from Banfi. Insert:
Chianti Classico



Below: Hand
stemming the
grapes at Banfi



*Talk about value
and, within
minutes we were
no longer tourists
but a part of the
local scene.*

Siena and I can't think of a better place to start your own personal wine and wine odyssey. We arrived in Greve the final afternoon of a three day event and headed to the main square that was packed with friends and family, young and old alike who had come together to celebrate the harvest and the latest releases by local producers. The typically quiet piazza had been transformed by a sea of stands into the

most wonderful open air wine showcase. It was duly noted that we did not have 'glass in hand' and we were quickly directed to the Segretaria where we purchased our wine glasses for 10 Euros each that along with a ticket allowed us to taste up to eight glasses of wine. Talk about value and, within minutes we were no longer tourists but a part of the local scene.

At our first stop we learned the cardinal rule of Italian wine-tasting. Whether you are at the market, a winery or an elegant restaurant in Florence, you'll never truly appreciate the beauty of the wine unless it is accompanied by food. So, before sampling the wine, we were offered a chunk of soft, dense Tuscan bread to dip in golden, spicy olive oil the likes of which I have never experienced. At the same time, we noticed that the bread itself was unique in that it was made without salt. It was at this moment that another lifetime lesson kicked in to ensure that we took full advantage of every opportunity to not only play but learn from others. It's really very simple, if you have a question – ask! People love to share their stories, their culture



Left: Badia a
Coltibuono
Restaurant. Below:
Handmade pasta at
Badia a Coltibuono

and their traditions and Italy is no exception. Being curious about this peculiarity, we were soon treated to a tale that underscores the fiercely independent nature of the Tuscan people. According to legend, in the 12th century the Pisan authorities raised the price of salt but the Tuscans refused to pay and being resourceful, discovered a new method for making bread →



MY SUGGESTIONS

Here are a few suggestions of the wineries you will want to include in your itinerary.

If you want to discover Chianti's roots then a visit to Badia a Coltibuono is definitely in order. Here's where it all began in 1051 when the monks of the Vallombrosan Order founded the abbey and began planting the first vines. Under Napoleon's rule, the estate was secularised and eventually sold to the Stucchi- Prinetti family and has remained in their hands for six generations. While much is new such as the cooking school and the elegant and romantic restaurant housed in the refurbished stables, the family remains dedicated to preserving

the heritage of the estate. Serving handmade pasta, traditional local meats such as lamb or rabbit, local sheep and goat's cheeses and of course their own wines as well as other quality Italian vintages from the region, Coltibuono reinforces that the marriage of food and wine is one made in heaven.

Castello di Meloto originally belonged to the Coltibuono Abbey but was transferred to the Ricasoli family in 1269. When you pull up to the castle keep don't immediately bolt for the tasting area. Instead, take a deep breathe, note the aroma of the herbs and let your eye wander to the extensive garden overflowing with lavender, rosemary,

oregano and bay laurel. Relax and you'll be fully ready to appreciate a personal tour of the castle that was lavishly restored in the Baroque style in the 18th century before moving on to the main event, the ancient wine cellars housed below the foundations of the castle.

The wines here are exquisite and with good reason. Barone Bettino Ricasoli was the driving force behind the consortium that established the laws that still govern the production of Chianti Classico wines today. If you want to linger to learn more about Ricasoli's influence, their newly renovated restaurant and bar makes the perfect 'classroom' setting.

I've seen the Mona Lisa behind glass →

without the precious ingredient. So why now, centuries later, when salt is so inexpensive do the proud people of this area still continue to bake bread their way? Because they know that it is that subtle difference that makes the perfect foil for a complex Pecorino cheese or a spicy salami and of course, the wine!

Glimpses like this into the past ensure the present comes to life at every vineyard you stop at along the way. For Tuscans, wine-making is not all about process and profits; it's about people and the land. So go and experience all that Tuscany has to offer.

Top right: Vignamaggio with Sandro and Shopping for bread and cheese. Below left: Florence Roof Top View. Right: The wine cellar at Castello di Meloto



Now I know the real reason it took Leonardo almost 5 years and 31 layers of paint to perfect his masterpiece!

and barricades, surrounded by throngs of people but it was certainly more impressive to be standing in the courtyard at Vignamaggio sipping a glass of Monna Lisa Riserva while Sandro enthralled us with the story of Leonardo da Vinci and Lisa del Giocondo's romantic liaison. Now I know the real reason it took Leonardo almost 5 years and 31 layers of paint to perfect his masterpiece!

And if that wasn't enough, after touring the production facilities take a leisurely stroll through the courtyard to the Italianate garden where Kenneth Branagh's Much Ado About Nothing was filmed. All in all, the ideal place to experience Tuscany from an artistic

point of view and savour another glass of outstanding wine.

What does Manhattan and Castello di Verrazzano have in common? Giovanni, the prodigal son and famous navigator who discovered New York Bay and was later immortalized when a bridge was named in his honour. After hearing about not only his exploits but the centuries old rivalry with the family that shares the valley, you can indulge in a seven-course feast that features the best wines from the estate as well as local specialties such as wild boar and guinea fowl but be forewarned, you better wear your 'buffet' pants!

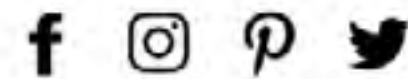
High-tech and high-touch make a great pairing when it comes to producing dark

red, full bodied Brunello wines. Banfi is the largest producer in Montalcino and your hosts will more than delighted to tell you the story of the Mariani family who made it 'big' after they returned to their roots. Although the production facilities are truly state-of-the-art, it is evident that the present is indelibly intertwined with the past when you adjourn to the tasting area adjacent to the castle. Here's where you almost feel yourself travelling back in time where if you are feeling rather 'princely' you have the opportunity to spend the night in the luxuriously appointed rooms within the castle keep. But despair not if you are more a 'serf' like us, you'll appreciate your driver transporting you back to your fattoria or residenza after you have received the 'royal treatment' sampling from the world-renowned Banfi cellars.

So, if you're of the vintage that remembers when your parents bought Chianti wine for the cute little wicker basket that could be retrofitted as a candle holder at the next dinner party, set that sentiment aside and start planning your trip today. Lose yourself, but not your way, exploring the wonders of Tuscany!

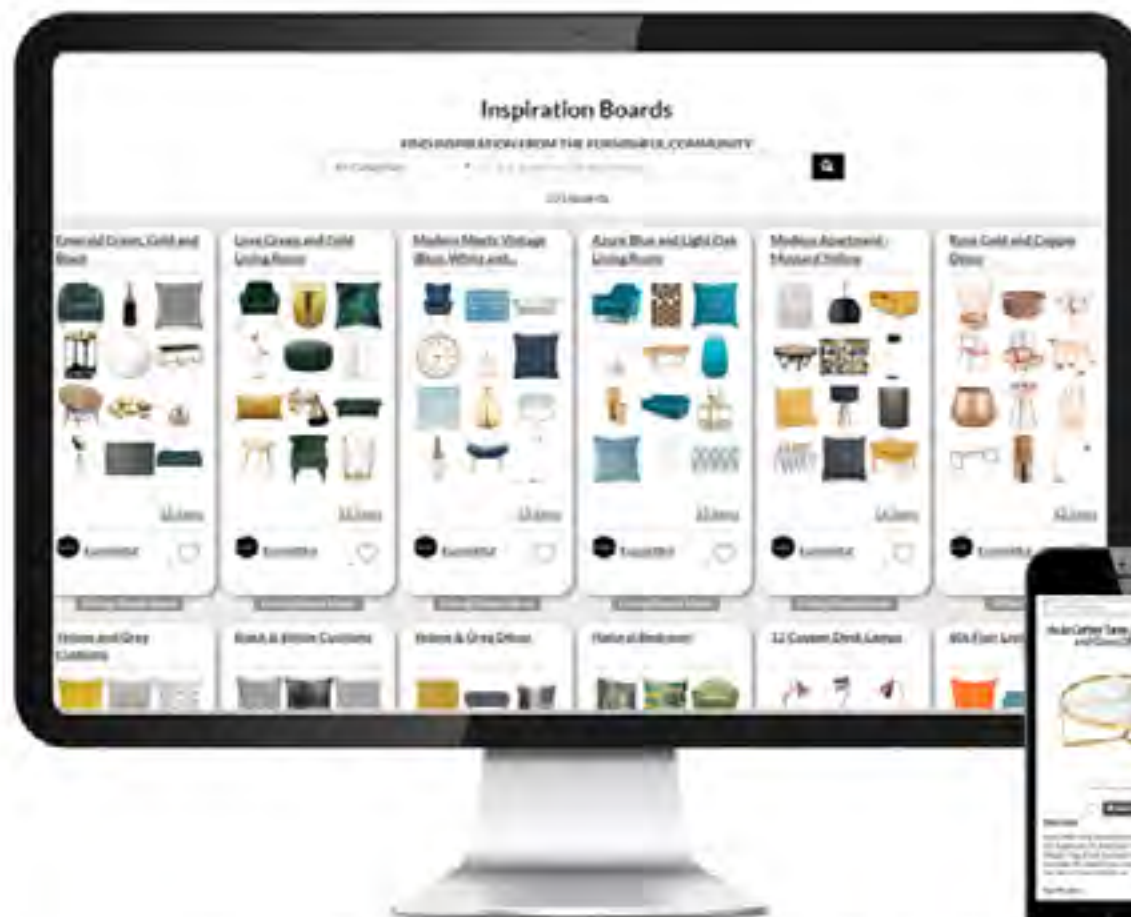
Above: The Greve Wine Festival

Jane Finn and her husband Dave are travel writers from Canada. To follow their adventures, visit www.golftravelandleisure.com



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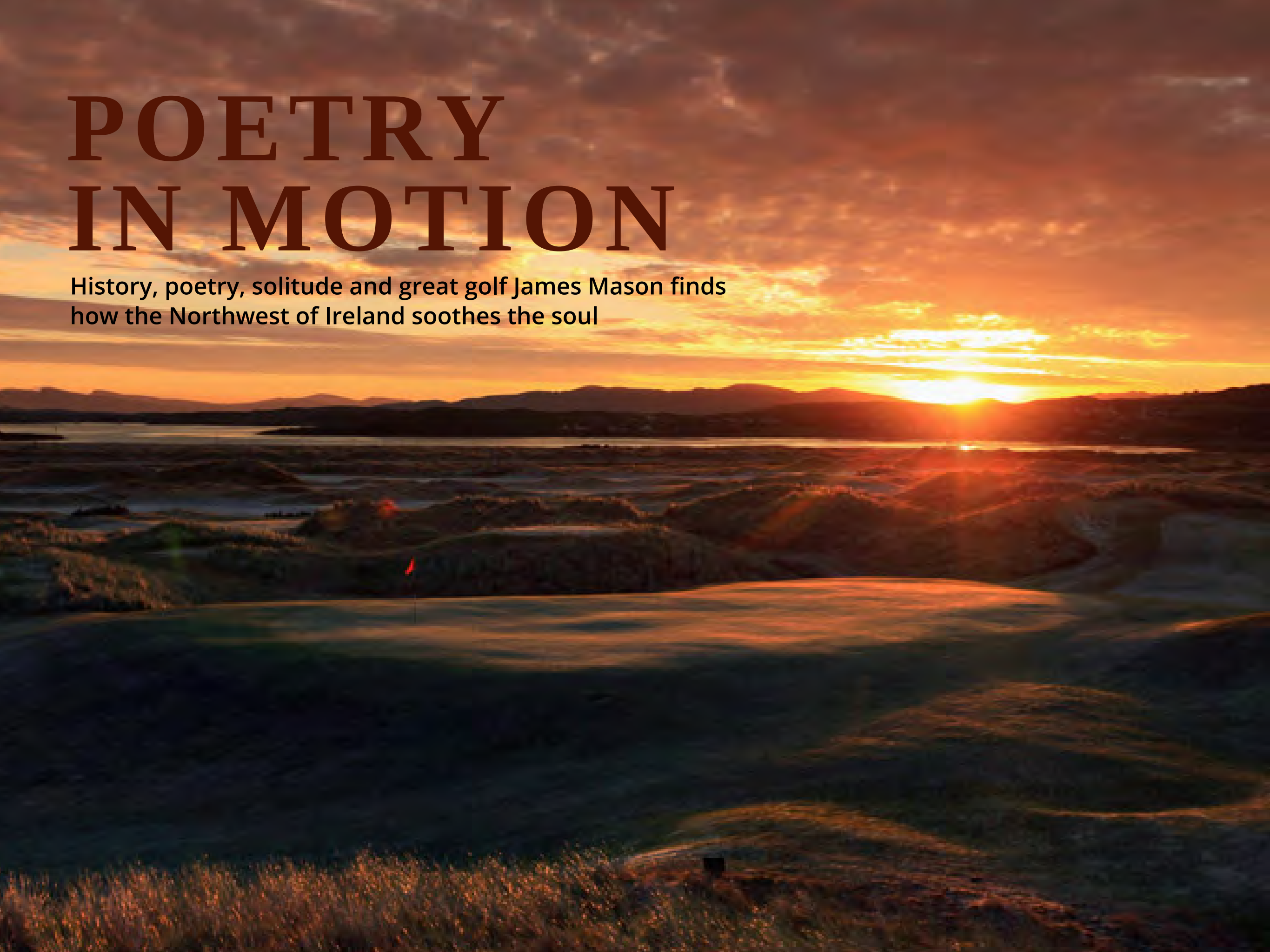
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POETRY IN MOTION

History, poetry, solitude and great golf James Mason finds
how the Northwest of Ireland soothes the soul





**Cast a cold Eye
On Life,
on Death
Horseman, pass by**

Left: The magnificent view looking back down the 17th hole at Sligo. Below: Words from WB Yeats “He wishes for the Cloths from heaven” at St Columba’s Church the cemetery where Yeats is buried

That’s the inscription on the gravestone of the famous poet WB Yeats. His grave sits in the cemetery of the small St Columba’s parish church in Drumcliffe, under the Ben Bulbin Mountain in County Sligo – a place we visit on the way to Donegal Golf Club after playing Sligo the day before. Ireland may not be able to offer you nailed-on sunshine but the country does have its fine-weather moments and an enviable record for poets, history and of course golf.

Ireland offers some of the best links golf that you’ll find anywhere in the world including Scotland. In fact many a Scot came to the Emerald Isle to create some of these stunning tracks. The Celtic Tiger may have a stone in its paw at the moment, but the number of golfers visiting Ireland is up. That doesn’t mean packed fairways and five-hour rounds. Far from it: in the week I’m here we play plenty of golf in less than four hours and only have rain on two holes at Rosapenna Sandy Hills and rain off and on at Ballyliffin Glashedy. →



What warmth you don't get from the climate is made up for in abundance by the welcome you receive no matter where you go, be it strolling along a beach (in search of a ball!) to the bars and restaurants. You'll always get a cheery hello and a genuine smile. So whether you're visiting Ireland for golf and some culture, or just golf, golf and more golf, Ireland is somewhere I would defiantly put on your must-visit list.

COUNTRY SLIGO GC

It's not until you reach the second green and third tee at Sligo and look back down to the sea that you realise you are in for a treat. Sligo Golf Club, or as its better know Rosses Point, has seen a number of changes since golf was first played here back in 1894. George Coombe designed the original nine holes with an additional nine being added in 1907 by Capt Willie Campbell. None other than Harry S Colt undertook the biggest redesign in 1928.

And when you are standing on the third tee looking out to sea you can just imagine how proud Harry must be of this beautiful links. The third hole is actually called Metal Man, I don't

ask why. I imagine it could be because you'd need to be made out of metal if you're not to lose your concentration while admiring the stunning view. But the impressive views don't stop there and I'm just happy to be playing fun golf and not a medal round as I could see myself getting very easily distracted.

The tee shot from the fifth will just make your heart smile, I must admit I'm a big fan of elevated tees and they're here in abundance. When you get to the par-3 ninth hole you will see the link with WB Yates, but I'll leave you to find that out for yourself, no need for me to spoil that for you here.

The back nine like the front doesn't let up on the views and the stunningly designed holes, which just gather momentum as you play them. I think the green keeper must have some fun with the par-3 sixteenth – the tee is over 83 yards long with a green that is 35 yards deep so it can play anywhere from 213 to 100 yards in length. Throw in a head wind and you have one tough par-3 to go with a finishing stretch of holes that could wreck a card if you lose your concentration.

→

VIDEO



“WHEN YOU GET TO THE PAR-3 NINTH HOLE YOU WILL SEE THE LINK WITH WB YATES, BUT I’LL LEAVE YOU TO FIND THAT OUT FOR YOURSELF, NO NEED FOR ME TO SPOIL THAT FOR YOU HERE”



Top to bottom: Cast a cold eye, the par 3 9th green. The 10th Ben Bulbin looking out to Ballymulderry. Looking down the fairway from the 14th – Mahon’s burn – tee. The 18th green known as Christys Farm looks across to Oyster Island

→

DONEGAL GC

Donegal Golf club was originally formed in 1959 but has moved since the first course was laid out on land near Donegal Town at Tullycullion. The current location is on the Murvagh Peninsula, where one of Ireland’s leading golf course designers Eddie Hackett was commissioned to design a course that opened for play in 1976.

The course has been through quite a bit of reshaping and modelling which Pat Ruddy has undertaken, but I must admit it wasn’t until I see an aerial photograph of the course that I realise it’s on a peninsula. You come off the main road and through a forest that opens up into the course, so you really do have no idea that this track is surrounded on three sides by water.

The course opens up with a 530-yard, par-5 and depending on the wind gives you a nice chance to open with a birdie. There are five teeing options on this track so you can play anywhere from 7,392 to 5,720 yards – there’s a set of tees to suit your game or you can have a bit of mix and match.

I really enjoy this course and it’s a tough test

of golf. It may not have the stunning surround-sound views of Sligo, but it does offer a beautiful setting to play golf, especially the sixth and eight holes where you’re playing right beside the beach. Even if you’re not playing from the back tees I would recommend you go and have a look. As I would the 12th back tee – not that I recommend you play from up there, it’s a monster! Weighing in at 594 yards, if the wind is blowing and you’re playing into a 3/4 club headwind, I think even Popeye would have trouble getting up in three.

The back nine finishes with two relatively short par-4s measuring 355 and 379 yards from the white tees, so if you’re playing from those you will have a couple of birdie chances if you manage to keep it on the fairway. From the back tee on the 18th you have an extra 60 yards to negotiate with your drive, which needs to be threaded through two big sand dunes. But no matter what tees you play from, it’s a tough but fair challenge and one that I know you’ll want to play again.

Top left to right:
Looking down on the long 5th green.
Looking back down the 8th fairway.
Bottom left to right:
Looking back down the 11th from the 12th tee. Signpost behind the 11th and 14th greens

VIDEO



“WEIGHING IN AT 594 YARDS, IF THE WIND IS BLOWING AND YOU’RE PLAYING INTO A 3/4 CLUB HEADWIND, I THINK EVEN POPEYE WOULD HAVE TROUBLE GETTING UP IN THREE ”



ROSAPENNA GOLF RESORT, SANDY HILLS

I’d heard a lot about the Rosepenna resort and sometimes you feel let down because people have built it up so much. I have a sneak preview of what I’m in for the night before, when we have a late-night commando raid on the Tom Morris Links, I only play the back nine but am mightily impressed so can’t wait to get out the following morning and not even a downpour can put me off.

And to my relief Sandy Hills is everything I’ve been told and more. From the opening hole to the crescendo that is the 18th, I must be beaming from ear-to-ear. I love the design, the →

Old Tom Morris Snr statue looking down the fairway outside the Rosapenna Golf Resort clubhouse

“YOU MAY SEE OTHER HOLES FROM THE GREENS AND TEES, BUT WHEN YOU’RE ON MOST FAIRWAYS YOU’RE SECLUDED BY THE DUNES. I CAN SEE PLAYING HERE ALONE COULD GIVE YOU A REALLY SPIRITUAL PEACEFUL FEELING”

way the course is routed and the splendid views, and its undulating green complexes. Sandy Hills has everything.

The course was opened in 2003 and sits next to the Old Tom Morris Course, and as it says in the press releases: where Tom’s courses run along the Dunes, the Pat Ruddy-designed course goes through them, which does surprisingly offer you plenty of solitude. You may see other holes from the greens and tees, but when you’re on most fairways you’re secluded by the dunes. I can see playing here alone could give you a really spiritual peaceful feeling, the kind that I used to experience on the practice ground with no one around.

I love all the par-3s, in fact I’m not sure there is a weak hole on the course. You will be hard pushed to name a favourite because as you start going back over them at the bar, you can hear your brain ticking away, saying how about the 18th and the way it funnels down to the green... but the sixth is the same with that stunning view...and how about the tee shot down to the fairway below at the eighth...or the fifth and how the green sits between the dunes...and on and on it goes. In the end you’ll just settle for the fact that all the holes have something special about them and you need to come back again someday to sample that feeling of peace you feel while walking and playing among the dunes at Sandy Hills. →

VIDEO 



Top: 11th par 3 green on Sandy Hills Links. Bottom: 10th hole Sandy Hills Links with a cloud capped Muckish in the background

Top: 6th Green Sandy Hills Links looking out to Sheephaven Bay Bottom: Par 5, 16th on the Old Tom Morris Links

“YOU WILL BE HARD PUSHED TO NAME A FAVOURITE BECAUSE AS YOU START GOING BACK OVER THEM AT THE BAR, YOU CAN HEAR YOUR BRAIN TICKING AWAY, SAYING HOW ABOUT THE 18TH AND THE WAY IT FUNNELS DOWN TO THE GREEN...BUT THE SIXTH IS THE SAME WITH THAT STUNNING VIEW...AND HOW ABOUT THE TEE SHOT DOWN TO THE FAIRWAY BELOW AT THE EIGHTH...OR THE FIFTH AND HOW THE GREEN SITS BETWEEN THE DUNES...AND ON AND ON IT GOES”



Left: The par 4, 2nd hole on the Sandy Hills Links. Right: The par 3 14th on the Old Tom Morris Links





Top left: The par 3, 5th hole on Glashedy Links
Bottom left: 15th green on Glashedy Links. Top right: Looking down on the 11th green from the 12th tee Old Links. Bottom right: Mist rolling off the sea on the 15th Old links

Glashedy Links

VIDEO 

Old Links

VIDEO 

BALLYLIFFIN GOLF CLUB GLASHEDY LINKS AND OLD LINKS

There are two courses at Ballyliffin: the Old Links and Glashedy. Everyone has a favourite and some of the golf magazines have put Glashedy above the Old Links, but for me I feel the Old Links just clinches it. What I would say is that Glashedy is a tougher course, but in the end you're just going to have to go there and find out for yourself which one you prefer. One thing is for sure: you won't be disappointed that you did.

Ballyliffin has a very unique history and if you're interested in going into this in-depth I would suggest reading the history section on their website. A brief synopsis is that Ballyliffin GC was formed just after the Second World War when land was rented from several land owners, but work on the new course which is now known as the Old Links began in 1970. By 1973 there were eighteen holes.

There is no one designer of the Old Links: it seems that Eddie Hackett and Pennick & Lawrie course designers all had a helping hand with quite a few suggestions by Martin Hopkins. Throw in

a couple of holes being re-routed by Pat Ruddy and Tom Craddock in 1991, while they were commissioned to design the Glashedy course, and a Faldo design in 2009, and a course has emerged – under Pollan Strand, Binion Hill and Crockaughrim Hill which add an air of mysticism to these links – and you have a truly wondrous setting to play the Royal and Ancient game.

I compare the fairways on the Old Links to playing golf on bubble wrap, the way they just ripple and roll, so don't be expecting a perfect lie or stance. This is links golf the way it's meant to be. You may be lucky like we are on the 16th to watch a low cloud roll in off the sea and cover the course in its whispery white tentacles – truly an amazing experience adding to this majestic feeling that Ballyliffin inspires.

Glashedy Links, was, as mentioned earlier, designed by Pat Ruddy and Tom Craddock in 1991 to alleviate play on the Old Links. At over 7,200 yards from the tips it's a tough, tough challenge and if the wind is up it could make you

cry and laugh in equal measure. It sits on higher ground than the Old Links, but like the Old Links it offers some truly beautiful vistas that the eyes can't help but soak up.

I could run you through each hole, telling you the yardages and views, but I'm going to leave that this time. You'll see those views and holes on the images and video on this page. I don't say this about many courses: yes there are places I think you should visit and play, but if there was only one destination to play golf in your lifetime I would tell you to visit Ballyliffin and play both courses. Because I know when the Ballyliffin clubhouse disappears in the rear-view mirror as you pull away, those courses, that arena, that mysticism, will leave within you a feeling of pure joy and elation, no matter how you played.

JOURNEY PLANNER

TRANSPORT

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WHERE TO STAY

Glasshouse Hotel

Sligo

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W: theglasshouse.ie

Rosapenna Hotel & Golf Resort

T: +353 74 915 5301

W: rosapenna.ie

Redcastle Hotel

Donegal

T: +353 74 938 5555

W: redcastlehoteldonegal.com

The Grand Hotel

Dublin

T: +353 1 845 0000

W: thegrand.ie

WHERE TO PLAY

County Sligo Golf Club

T: +353 71 917 7134

W: countysligogolfclub.ie

Donegal Golf Club

T: +353 74 973 4054

W: donegalgolfclub.ie

Rosapenna Golf Resort

T: +353 (0)74 91 55000

W: rosapenna.ie

Ballyliffin Golf Club

T: +353 74 937 6119

W: ballyliffingolfclub.com



Looking back down
the 17th Sandy Hills
Links at Sunrise

JOURNEY PLANNER

WHERE TO EAT

Rosapenna Hotel & Golf Resort

T: +353 74 915 5301

W. rosapenna.ie

Redcastle Hotel

Donegal

T: +353 74 938 5555

W. redcastlehoteldonegal.com

THINGS TO DRINK

McGrory's

Culdaff, Donegal

T: +353 74 937 9104

W: mcgrorys.ie

T: +00 (0) 0000000



20 MIZUNO ST180 DRIVER



20
MIZUNO
GT130 3-WOOD

VIEW.COM

EQUIPMENT

REVIEW

23 TITLEIST SM7 WEDGES



25 EVNROLL ER8 PUTTER



Irons to touch your soul

THE MP-18 SERIES. REFINED BY OUR YORO MASTER CRAFTSMEN.



#NOTHINGFEELSLIKEAMIZUNO



ST180 DRIVER

GT180 FAIRWAY WOOD

Becoming consistent from the tee and hitting more fairways is what we all strive to achieve. Mizuno's new low spinning drivers and fairway woods are designed to minimism the spin on the ball which in theory should help you hit straighter longer tee shots and those second shots into par 5s. James Mason finds out if the tech lives upto expectations →



Mizuno's shockwave
sole on the ST180
driver



TECHNOLOGY

Mizuno have taken their shockwave sole technology which they have been using in their fairway woods and placed this in the ST180 driver, the Shockwave technology as you will remember crumples on impact and then expands back into shape exploding that energy into the back of the ball helping to increase distances.

Mizuno have now combined the Shockwave sole with their internal Waffle Crown design which redistributes weight low and forward – remember a lot of clubs have

been moving the weight low and back – this now works with the Forged SP700 Ti face that has a precise multi-thickness across the surface giving you accelerated ball speeds as the shockwave sole expands back into the ball.

The ST180 uses Mizuno's Quick Switch adjustable hosel giving you 4° of loft adjustment ranging from 7.5° – 11.5° with three different lie options in there as well. Mizuno have also expanded the number of high-end shafts which are fitted without any additional charge. →

TECHNOLOGY

The GT180 fairway woods use an amplified first wave sole technology that moves the weight low and forwards giving a flatter trajectory but at the same time generating more ball speed at impact, this is helped by the use of the thinner and more responsive 1770 maraging steel in face.

Like the ST180 driver Mizuno have used their Internal Waffle Crown which saves weight which is then reallocated low and forward, and with the 17 gram sliding weight on the sole you have total control of your

balls spin rate moving it forward for a lower spinning penetrating ball flight or to the back for a high launch higher spinning ball or any increments you choose in between to give you the perfect set up for your swing. Combine all this with the quick switch adjustable hosel that you can adjust by 2° up or down and with 3° of lie options you can set up the fairway wood to fit your swing perfectly, Mizuno have also expanded their fairway wood line of high-end shafts which can be fitted for no extra charge. →

GT180 fairway wood
with its low profile
design and movable
weight system



CLUB TESTED

Mizuno ST180 Driver standard

SHAFT Mitsubishi Tensei CK Blue 60

FLEX Stiff

LOFT 9.5°

LIE Standard

RRP £399.00 / €459.00 / \$532.50

VIDEO REVIEW 



Right: Mizuno's quickswitch system

CONCLUSION

From the moment I picked the driver up I knew I was going to enjoy hitting this, I loved the design and the matt blue finish and the way the clubhead sat behind the ball. I also felt Mizuno had produced the perfect weight for a driver, feeling heavy enough giving it stability but light enough so you had total control. When I stood up and hit my first tee shot with the ST180 on the opening hole of the Sicilian Open course the sound at impact was perfect but it was the way it rocketed off the face even on a slightly miss hit shot, it stayed online and carried the bunker giving me a

perfect wedge into the green.

As you can imagine that just gave me plenty of confidence and over that round and proceeding rounds of golf I have enjoyed every minute of playing - well I should say smashing - the ST180 driver, from its penetrating ball flight, the distances and the feel of the face at impact, I know some of the designers are really happy with the technology that has gone into this driver and they have every right to be, it is certainly one I would highly recommend you get out on the course and put to the test.

CONCLUSION

I loved the adjustability of the GT180 3-wood with the sole weight, I normally like the weight back to give me a higher launch angle and ball flight but when using this club on the Sicilian Open composite course with the wind up, I chose to adjust the 14° 3-wood I was testing down to -2° on the hosel and then moved the weight forward to give me a lower trajectory, lower spinning and more penetrating ball flight and boy did it bullet off the face.

The windy conditions in Sicily were ideal to put the adjustability of the GT180 to the test as the next couple of rounds the wind died down and I was able to adjust the club back to my normal

high launch, high trajectory settings, but what that testing trip did prove was the GT180s adaptability to coup with any conditions with a couple of changes to its set up.

For me the design of the head and face is perfect, the low profile face sits behind the ball on the fairway and in semi rough perfectly and its aerodynamics and the way the club doesn't drag during your swing are fantastic as you feel you have total control.

I have no hesitation in saying you should put this on your testing list and make sure you can test it in various conditions and you will see how versatile and how well the GT180 can coup with anything thrown at it.



Right: Amplified first wave sole technology and 17 gram adjustable weight

CLUB TESTED

Mizuno GT180 3-Wood

SHAFT Mitsubishi Tensei CK Blue 60

FLEX Stiff


LOFT 14°

LIE Standard

SET UP Various settings

RRP £315.00 /

€369.00 / \$420.50

VIDEO REVIEW 

GROOVY KNIGHTS

When it comes to lowering your score having a solid wedge system in your bag will help you shave shots off your handicap. James Mason finds out if the Titleist SM7 wedges will be your knights in shining armour.

TECHNOLOGY

Titleist use a progressive Centre of gravity which helps give precise distance gapping and trajectory control. CG can vary on different lofted clubs based on the bounce and sole grind of each wedge. By using a progressive CG this helps give you confidence in your distance control and shot dispersion that you hear the pros talk so much about.

This works with the Spin Milled groove technology and the Vokey

Design SM7 wedges feature a Parallel Face Texture for more consistent groove edges, tighter tolerances, for maximum spin. SM7 wedges also feature a distinct groove design between lofts: low lofts (46°-54°) are designed with narrower, deeper grooves, while higher lofts (56°-62°) have wider grooves.

Knowing your ball will spin and stop if you hit it right again whether your using the →



longer wedges from 46°-54° from distance or the shorter wedges around the green from 56°-62° with their wider grooves helping improve your consistency and confidence.

CONCLUSION

Like putters wedges all come down to feel and with six different grind options and twenty three different loft options this really is a club you should be fitted for and



Left to right:
Jet black finish,
Tour chrome and
Brushed Steel

working with your pro to find the best set up for you. I tested the 50° F grind with the Jet Black finish, the 54° S grind in Brushed Steel and the 58° D grind in Tour Chrome finish and I loved them and so did some of the other journalist who were on the testing trip with me, they all wanted to have a go with them.

The weight and balance of each wedge is perfect and the spin and control you get is very impressive




especially when you know how far you are hitting each one and the variations in between. For me the brushed steel finish stole the show, but the jet black is also impressive, although having to wear reading glasses now I would find it hard to read the loft numbers on the toe of the club without getting my glasses out to do so.

I have said this many times, for amateur golfers you need at least



three wedges in your bag, apart from your putter, wedges are the most used club and being able to control your distances from 120-yards and in, will help your scoring no end. I recommend you have a chat with your club pro and find out what the best set up for your game would be and then make sure the Titliest SM7s are on your testing list. Having them in your bag will change your game for the better.

Left to right:
Leading edge. Spin
Milled grooves
with Parallel Face
Texture. Toe and
bounce view.

CLUB TESTED
Titliest SM7
SHAFT Vokey design
FLEX Wedge Flex
LOFTS 50° 54° 58°
GRINDS 50° = F, 54° = S & 58° = DTechnology
RRP £150.00 / €164.95 / \$149.99
VIDEO REVIEW 



Going the Distance

Distance control is the key to holing more putts, Jame Mason finds how Evnroll's ER8 Tour Mallet shapes up

TECHNOLOGY

Twenty years ago Guerin Rife designed putters with closely spaced grooves running across the face allowing a putter to roll the ball smoothly upon impact; the design had the desired effect and many major golf manufacturers are now using variations of Guerin's original groove technology.

Closely spaced grooves create a superior roll and that softens the impact. In tests, a ball hit in the centre of a non-grooved putter travelled 25 feet. That same putter with grooves with just a quarter of the →



MISHITS

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MISHITS

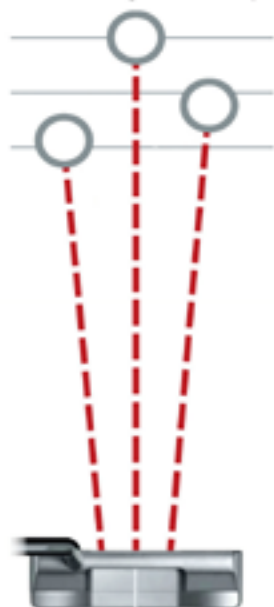
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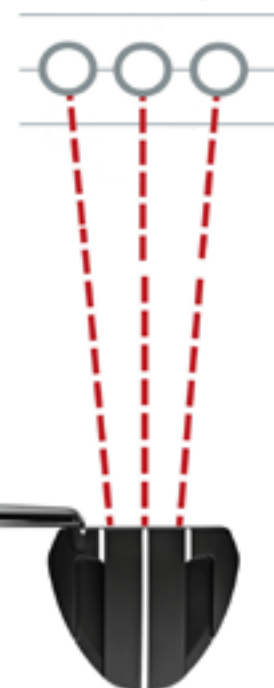
Conventional putters when mishit travel shorter distances and more offline. Resulting in more missed putts.



STANDARD PUTTER

MISHITS

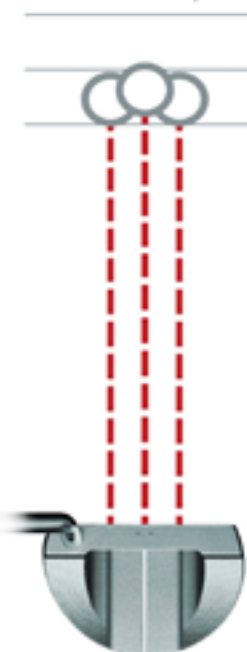
PING Ketch putters with TR Grooves when mishit still travel offline, yet they travel the same distance. Results in less missed putts.



KETSCH PUTTER

MISHITS

EVNROLL putters when mishit not only travel the same distance, they also end up in the same spot. Results in more made putts.



EVNROLL PUTTER

contact surface only reached 23.5 feet.

On a 15 foot putt, a ball hit just half an inch off-centre will travel about 6" offline and 5% shorter. That slight miss-hit is a missed putt!

Evnroll®. Precise face milling imparts progressively more energy transfer on off-centre hits to roll the ball a consistent distance with every stroke. This milling pattern also moves the ball back to the centre, so you can roll your putts the same distance to the same spot you were aiming at even on miss hit putts.

CONCLUSION

I have tested several Evnroll putters now and not once have I been disappointed they have all oozed perfection and the ER8 is no different, the mid-size tour mallet design just breeds confidence in your putting stroke. From the way the club sits behind the ball to the way the shaft gently moves into your body putting you into the correct position with your head over the ball. The chunky slightly tacky putting grip is perfect and the two dots on the top edge with the white alignment aid on the base of the mallet at address help with your set up and ball placement in front of the putter face.

The feel as the ball comes off the clubface is perfect and with the technology embedded in the milling and face design, you know if you have read the line the ball will run the distance you have calculated, even if you slightly miss-hit the putt.

The only thing Evnroll putters can't correct is a bad read or judge of distance, but you should make sure you get an Evnroll putter in your hands before your next purchase and if you like a mallet design the ER8 will be a potent weapon in your hands.

Below: Alignment aids with two dots on the topline and a single white stripe



CLUB TESTED

Evnroll ER8 Putter

DESIGN Mid size tour mallet

WEIGHT 385 grams

HEIGHT 33"

GRIP Standard

RRP £300.00 €340.00 \$359.99

VIDEO REVIEW [▶](#)





THE SWEETEST FACE IN GOLF™

ER9.1
10K EXTREME

Zero dispersion.
100% accuracy.

NEW FOR 2018

ER1.2
TOUR BLADE

ER2cs
CENTER SHAFTED

ER3
REDESIGNED

ER7cs
CENTER SHAFTED

ER9.2
10K EXTREME

Designed by Guerin Rife

evnroll.com



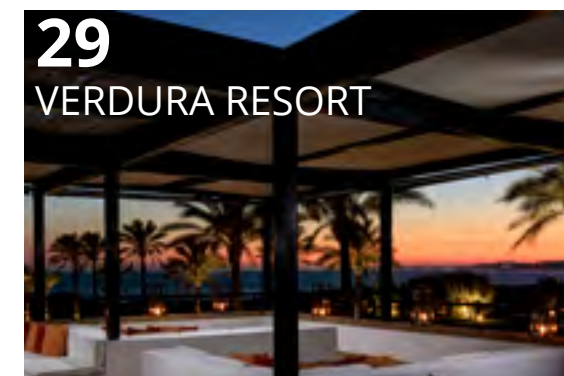
29 VERDURA GOLF



VIEW.COM

STAY, PLAY & SPA

REVIEW



29
VERDURA RESORT



James Mason and Charmaine Hibbert bring back
perfect memories from a weekend in Sicily

Set Adrift on Memory Bliss



SUN, SEA AND GOLF

It's the second day after the Rocco Forte Sicilian Open and we have a chance to play the composite course which uses holes from both the East and West course which were both designed by one of my favourite golf course designers, Kyle Phillips, who we interviewed in issue one which you can download [here](#).

I crash my drive over the right-hand fairway bunker giving me only a short wedge into the raised green, it's the perfect opening hole at only 397-yards, but the wind is starting to pick up and with all the holes by the sea being used I know we are in for a tough afternoon playing from the championship tees. The 2nd hole is playing straight into the wind and watching professional golfer Mike Lorenzo-Vera yesterday when he took driver off the deck, I knew this was going to be tough going today, still I happily made my putt to walk off with par.

The 3rd hole on the composite course takes you to the sea and with the wind today it takes a driver and a 3-wood to get anywhere near the green and a nice wedge shot over the little valley that is short of the green gives me another tap in par. The forth plays by the sea with the beach running the length of the right-hand side of the fairway and by the green, it's only 352-yards but if you miss the green you're on the beach or in the shrubs beyond the green.

The first of the two par 3s arrive and both are well designed holes, but it's the 7th at only 122-yards which is going to grab your attention as it plays straight out to what looks like an →

Below: 10th hole on the East course heading back to the clubhouse



Left: Watching the sunset from the outside bar

LA DOLCE VITA

The darkness of night makes it is hard to take in the resort; it does look beautiful with all the lights setting a relaxing mood, modern but Moorish architecture

It is almost 11.30pm as we pull up outside reception; it has taken a little over an hour to get here, thankfully the check in is very quick and our luggage has been whisked away to our rooms. Due to our late arrival the hotel has informed us there is food in the room but I am dying for a drink and to be honest a beer is the only thing that is going to quench my thirst.

When I take my first sip I am so glad that I went with the beer option, Birr Arpa turns out to be a very local beer from Sambuca di Sicilia which is 15-minutes away from the resort and I highly recommend you try and find your local stockist.

The darkness of night makes it hard to take in the resort; it does look beautiful with all the lights setting a relaxing mood, modern but Moorish architecture and I can hear and taste the saltiness of the sea in the air. I know what the resort looks like from photographs but I will have to wait for sunrise to get my bearings. I finally make it to my room and my eyes light up when I see the bed, which looks beautiful in the low light. A four-poster style but without the posts and netting hanging down on three sides from the metal rectangle that seems to float from the ceiling. The furniture complements it completely, I then walk through the wardrobe where you can hang your clothes on one side, with



infinity green floating on the Mediterranean, it's a beautiful little hole and plays as the 6th hole on the East course normally.

The back nine starts with a tough par 4 measuring 442-yards but is playing straight into the wind and a solid drive and probably one of the best hit 3-woods just gets me on the front of the green, this hole plays as the 9th on the East course.

Two par 5s bring you to the first of the two par 3s on the back nine with the sea just over the 16th fairway to your right and the wind is now really picking up. The green sits slightly below you and is protected by two bunkers at the front and one back left, but it's the par 3 →

It plays straight out to what looks like an infinity green floating on the Mediterranean, it's a beautiful little hole and plays as the 6th hole on the East course normally

Above: The renovated buildings behind the 18th green.

Below: Looking down the 16th hole on the East course

Sizilian Open
Composite Course
VIDEO 



Top to bottom: One of the many lounge areas at Verdura resort. Room with a sea view and balcony. Lounge area and bedroom in one of the villa options. Private deck areas looking out to the Mediterranean



shelves, a mini bar and safe on the other, all finished in a dark wood.

My shoes are off so when I enter the bathroom I can already feel the underfloor heating and the sand stone finish is oozing quality, the walk-in shower is big enough for at least four people and the deep bath with central taps is perfect for a romantic night in with candles and wine.

After a wonderfully refreshing sleep I open up the big doors to reveal my own shaded patio with two sun loungers, table and chairs with a perfect view of the Mediterranean Sea. I then realise that my room isn't a frontline suite, but the way the resort has been designed the frontline rooms are built below and into the terrain giving the rooms behind an uninterrupted view. Flavio Albanese who designed the property has certainly done a wonderful job and with Sir Rocco Forte's sister Olga Polizzi undertaking the interior design, the resort certainly has that uncluttered elegant feel about it. What also impressed me was the design of the window shutters which are again finished in dark wood and sit snugly to the glass so the sun can be beaming outside but if you choose to have





That is the one you will see on the TV with the tee nearly sitting on the beach played to a raised green that like the 7th has the aqua blue sea as its backdrop behind the green.

15th that is the one you will see on the TV with the tee nearly sitting on the beach played to a raised green that like the 7th has the aqua blue sea as its backdrop behind the green.

The hole is actually the 17th on the West Course and with the 18th which as we are playing it today is the 16th plays along the ocean with the beach to your left and the green sitting below the clubhouse, it's a great finishing hole, but as I am playing the composite course so I know the real show stopper is to come.

The finishing holes to the composite →



Top: Looking back down the 18th hole on the East course.
Below: The 5th hole on the West course

East Course

VIDEO 

them closed you would never know. I head to breakfast and pick one of the outside tables, the sun is bouncing off the huge swimming pool with the water twinkling like jewels on a tray.

The Rocco Forte Sicilian Open is being played and the boys are out watching the golf which gives me time to grab one of the green bikes and cycle round the resort to take in the site.

Cycling is the ideal way to traverse the resort. There are a number of docking stations so you can cycle around, stop for lunch, a drink or a stroll along the beach and then just pick up another bike, it is the perfect way to get around, enjoy the unpolluted air and exercise at the same time.

RESTAURANTS

As you would imagine in Italy the food is wonderful and over the three days we sample a variety of pasta dishes which

are produced to perfection and the buffet lunch during the golf showcased a variety of dishes and desserts all washed down with some lovely local wines while sitting perched above the 16th hole, where the sea crashes on the shore to the right as you look down the fairway.

There are several restaurants here including a fish restaurant which seems to float on small stilts as the waves gently reach the shore just outside the door, the pizzeria which is at the other end of the property and its delicious BBQ smells waft over the course as we stand around the 18th green and watch the final groups finishing.

VERDURA SPA

After another restful night's sleep and breakfast, it's time to hit the spa. I am shown around the four outdoor thalassotherapy pools which are kept at different temperatures, there are →



Right: Al fresco dining at Verdura resorts fish restaurant. Top far right: Breakfast or Dinner by the pool. Bottom far right: Outside lounge area

The design could have been transported from ancient Rome with big square slabs of stone in the middle with stone seating surrounding them.



fifteen treatment rooms including double treatment rooms, an indoor pool, gym, fitness room, two saunas, one Finnish and one infrared and a double-height steam room which is as big as a football pitch.

Now I love a good steam so after my tour I head there and to my surprise and delight I have the place to myself, the sand stone is similar to the stone used in my bedroom and the design could have been transported from ancient Rome with big square slabs of stone in the middle with stone seating surrounding them.

As you would expect the showers are no ordinary showers, operated by a touch of a button with an option of four cold body jets. After about 45mins of going from the steam room to the showers and back again it was time to relax and I head to the relaxation room which looks out to the mountains, you can choose →

Left and Top:
The four outdoor
thalassotherapy pools.
Bottom: One of the
fifteen treatment
rooms

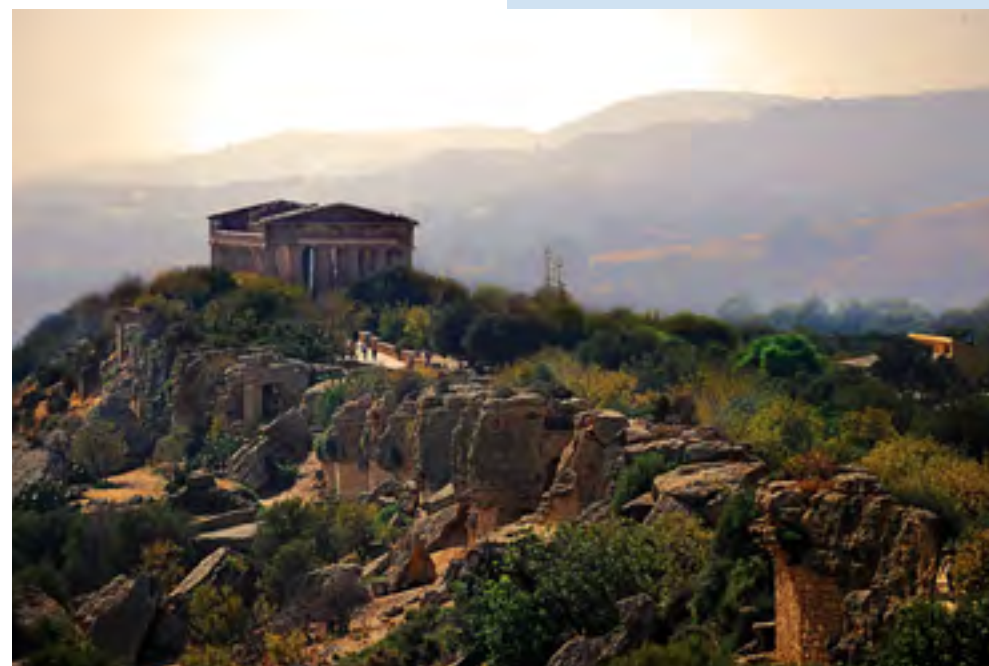




An aerial view of the Kyle Phillips designed courses

course are the finishing two holes on the East course and offer a stern test. The 17th measures 460-yards and is played to a fairway that slopes downhill and then back up to a raised green that runs back to front. But it's the 18th that looks fantastic on the TV; this is by far one tough hole to play with the wind blowing off the Mediterranean to your right, the sliver of a fairway perched above the shore to your right and played from an elevated tee. If you are really brave you really should be on the right hand side of the fairway to open up the green; it is a jaw dropping beautifully designed final hole but I certainly hope you have won your match before you get to the final two holes, it's a very tough finish befitting another fantastic Kyle Phillips designed course.

It is a jaw dropping beautifully designed final hole but I certainly hope you have won your match before you get to the final two holes.



from indoor or outdoor loungers, now the views are perfect, I am not sure how long I lasted but I feel so relaxed I find myself waking up an hour later.

It is our last night at the resort and watching the sun go down over the pool and looking out to sea with a few drinks on the outside terrace is the perfect way to end what has been a wonderful stay at the Verdura Resort.

PLANETA VINEYARD

I would normally end my review there, but the final day sees us leave the resort and head to Planeta vineyard on our way back to the airport, now as you are all probably aware I like a glass of wine or four and the Planeta vineyard produces one of the best Chardonnays in the world so I was certainly looking forward to seeing how this wonderful wine is produced. As we reach the entrance I have a little chuckle to myself, the entrance is so unassuming, the buildings are typical Sicilian style farm buildings. We are introduced to our host who is a cousin to the family who own the vineyard and



the knowledge she imparts to us is truly inspiring, I could listen and taste the wines for hours and not just because of my love for the grape. Listening how each wine is produced around the island in the different vineyards, what grapes are used how the vines interact with the soil and the short history of the Planeta are worth the visit alone.

The visit ended with lunch in one of the courtyards, with different cheeses, breads, olives and of course, a large quantity of wine produced by Planeta being consumed. If I haven't got this point across so far let me just spell it out for you, you need to spend an afternoon here.

As we head back to the airport to catch our flight, I reflect back on what has been a wonderful three days, I could certainly spend a lot longer here, I feel so relaxed and refreshed. The food and wine has been exceptional and the Verdura Resort is the perfect getaway for a couple of days, a long weekend or a week or two, throw in the beautiful island of Sicily and the wonderful locally produced wines, yes you need to put Verdura Resort on your must visit list.

Top: Relaxing at the Verdura Spa. Left: Valley of the Temples, Sicily has a rich history for you to explore



It is our last night at the resort and watching the sun go down over the pool and looking out to sea with a few drinks on the outside terrace was the perfect way to end what has been a wonderful stay at the Verdura Resort.



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REVIEW



40 MIZUNO GOLF SHOES 2018



VIEW.COM

APPAREL



Affordable Quality



.....Unrivalled Affordable Quality

A British brand with over 100 years of experience in providing high quality footwear & apparel, our 2018 collection utilises the latest performance technologies & state-of-the-art fabrics designed specifically for golf.

Proud of our history, we are focused on providing unrivalled affordable quality through the entire collection.

For more information

Visit www.stuburt.com / Tel: 0161 886 4010

Climate Change

IN A FOUR HOUR
ROUND OF GOLF
THE CLIMATE CAN
CHANGE SEVERAL
TIMES JAMES
MASON FINDS OUT
WHAT SOLUTIONS
STUBURTS NEW
SS18 RANGE OFFERS



TECHNOLOGY

Stuburt's Spring/Summer 18 range has been designed with both performance and fashion in mind. This year's polo shirts use Stuburts DRI-back moisture transfer technology, a breathable fabric that helps to regulate body temperature to keep your body cool and comfortable while playing a round of golf on those hot summer days.

The Endurance range of polos are contemporary in design. The Endurance Block features a funky box graphic on the front body panel; the Endurance Faded Stripe comes with a striped graphic and contrasting sleeves while the Endurance Block Stripe and Endurance Stripe have a bold look with graphics. The Urban, Urban Response and Urban Corby polos give a trendy, retro look and the Sport-Tech is a classic polo design.

The Hydro Sport sweaters V-Neck, Half Zip and slipovers are lightweight, soft and feature a double rib collar, hem and cuffs with a 55% acrylic and 45% cotton blend. →

**ENDURANCE
BLOCK POLO**
£22.99 \$30.50
€26.00

The Sport-Tech stretch gilet, an item I wear a lot to keep my back warm is 100% polyester, a stretch fit that offers excellent breathability and is windproof with thermal insulation properties, it also features Stuburt's DRI-back moisture transfer technology.

Endurance-Tech trousers and shorts are light, comfortable and stylish with stretch qualities to allow freedom of movement during the golf swing. They are designed specifically with the golfer in mind using a blend of polyester and elastomultiester.

CONCLUSION

This is the third year that I have tested Stuburt's range of golf apparel and I have always found them innovative with their polo shirt designs, this year is no different and I think the design guys have done a fantastic job with their choice of colours, particularly the squared and faded designs.

Golf fashion has become big business and the technology used in the materials



HYDRO SPORT SWEATERS
HALF ZIP
£39.99 \$45.50 €52.99



SPORT-TECH STRETCH GILET
£44.99 \$59.50 €50.99

to help you feel comfortable throughout a round of golf not only to protect you from the elements but also wickering away sweat from your body and keeping you cool and dry has come a long way.

Every year Stuburt manage to produce wallet friendly exciting new designs. I highly recommend you take a look at this year's offering, I am sure you will love them as much as I do.



SPORT-TECH POLOS
£19.99 \$26.50 €22.99

SPORT-TECH STRETCH GILET
£44.99 \$59.50 €50.99

ENDURANCE-TECH
TROUSERS
£39.99 \$45.50 €52.99



ENDURANCE BLOCK POLO
£22.99 \$30.50 €26.00



ENDURANCE FADED STRIPE
£21.99 \$29.99 €24.99



The White/Black/Lime option of Mizuno's Wave Cadence golf shoe

Mizuno has a tour-wide reputation for its forged irons, but globally it is footwear that represents the brand's largest product. With all that technical know-how behind them Mizuno have now moved back into the UK golf footwear market. I tested the ultra-light NEXLITE SL last year and was blown away at how light but strong the shoes were, so I couldn't wait to get my hands on the two new additions to this year's the range.

TECHNOLOGY

Wave Cadence

The design of the shoe is based on Mizuno's award-winning running shoes, Wave Cadence blends the comfort and support of a high-end running shoe, with the lateral stability and traction needed during a golf swing

Mizuno's Wave platform technology midsole design gives both cushioning and stability. Based around a nature inspired unique shape, that helps absorb and disperse the impact of each step you take. In essence when your heel strikes the ground, it lessens the impact on your shins and knees giving you a smoother, more cushioned feel.

A new designed plate allows the shoe to cope with uneven terrain providing a secure foundation for your golf swing, this works with Mizuno's hardwearing X10 carbon rubber, helping high-impact areas like the heel to last longer and perform better, and the Silver Tornado →

On the crest of a wave

JAMES MASON PUTS MIZUNO'S TWO NEW GOLF SHOE OPTIONS TO THE TEST





WAVE CADENCE GOLF SHOES
£130.00 \$171.99 €149.00

Tour Lock soft spikes help to enhance that solid platform during your swing. Finally, the Wave Cadence shoe features U4ic, a midsole compound engineered for comfort and performance and the shoe is topped off with water-resistant uppers for those unexpected showers and for early morning golfers that morning dew.

NEXLITE Boa
 Next-generation NEXLITE shoe features the Boa closure system instead of traditional laces, which makes it easier to put your golf shoes on and off. The Boa dial tightens and releases a durable Nylon-coated stainless-steel wire lace that doesn't stretch. I found the tightening system improved the fit and comfort as my foot felt more secure in the shoe.

Like the first NEXLITE the Boa is extremely lightweight, weighing in at just 275 grams, and remains one the lightest shoes in golf. Mizuno have added a key golf-specific technology into this shoe called IG Multi Technology (Impact Grip System), this is engineered to deliver added grip and stability throughout the

swing in firm conditions, and specifically through impact. To top all this off the Mizuno NEXLITE Boa comes with a two-year waterproof warranty.

CONCLUSION
 I loved the design of both shoes and they couldn't be more different with the Wave Cadence looking more like a modern running shoe and the NEXLITE Boa a modern athletic designed golf shoe. They both gave unbelievable comfort and stability and it was the first time I had used the Boa system instead of



Top left: The Wave Cadence colour line-up
 Above and below: The Nexlite Boa in Black, White/Red and White/Black

laces, I am a convert. They really do hold your feet in place and you don't have to keep tying your laces to get that firm, gripped feeling. I loved the modern design of the Wave Cadence, I am very much a trainer person with a collection to rival any professional sports person so having this design in a golf shoe feels like heaven to me. Mizuno have come into the golf shoe market and blown it away, you have to pick up the NEXLITE Boa to believe how light it is, it really is pure genius and hats off to the designers and the technology they have used to achieve this. Like me I think you will be hard pressed to make a decision between what ones to buy, my advice, buy both and then the only decision from there is what colours to choose, but I know whatever decision you make from there, you will be more than happy with how the shoe performs and how comfortable your feet feel after your round, enjoy.

NEXLITE BOA GOLF SHOES
£110.00 \$145.50 €129.00



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