

BARBADOS

Ladies and gentlemen, we are now commencing our approach to Bridgetown, Barbados

CAMBODIA

Images of a wonderful history intertwined with a tragic past

HAWAII

Maui the home of whales, dolphins, sharks and secluded beaches

PLANET GOLF REVIEW

ISSUE 16

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Our review and guide to this year's first Major Championship

STAY, PLAY & SPA

Featuring The Broadmoor in Colorado and Post Lech, Austria

EQUIPMENT & APPAREL REVIEWS

Featuring Cleveland, Cobra and TaylorMade

VIEW.COM

WELCOME

First of all we would like to take this opportunity to send our condolences, thoughts and prayers to any of our readers and their families who have lost loved ones over the last few months and we would also like to say a big thank you to all the key workers, NHS staff and healthcare workers around the world. At least 2020 has shown the decision makers how important you are to the human race, hopefully the term “low skilled” will be consigned to the dustbin of history.

What this time of isolation has also shown us is how important family and friends are and also taking the time to relax and enjoy time together. With all the travel restrictions still in place during the time of writing this letter, at least it

will give you time to plan your perfect holiday over the winter or next year. With that in mind we bring you reviews on the beautiful islands of Barbados and Maui, while Peter takes his Canon camera to Cambodia and captures so much more than images, but its history and tragedy. The Hotel & Spa reviews come from America and Austria. Finally, we bring you equipment reviews from Cleveland, Cobra and TaylorMade.

I am sure all the reviews will give you plenty of food for thought and dreaming of being back on a beach or on an overseas golf holiday. Here is hoping the second half of 2020 brings every one of you those two most important things in life, happiness and good health, both physical and mentally.

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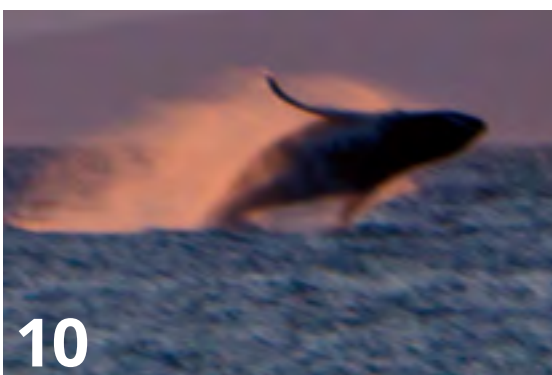
REVIEW



Interactive links

By clicking on the interactive links on the cover headlines, contents headlines or section opening image will take you to the start of each feature and by clicking on the word contents at the bottom of each page this will take you straight back to the contents page.

There are also links that will take you to video reviews and links on our adverts that will take you directly to their websites. All this means you don't have to scroll through the magazine – unless you want to – just a click will take you to the feature you are looking for.



- p 4 PGA Championship**
Review and betting guide to this years first Major Championship
- p 6 Cambodia In Focus**
This month Peter takes his Canon camera and captures the wonderful history and tragedy of this beautiful country
- p 10 Mystical Maui**
Hawaii always conjures up thoughts of a paradise of white sandy beaches and surfers, but Jane Finn finds the island of Maui has so much more to offer and explore
- p 16 Barbados**
James Mason and Charmaine Hibbert travel to Barbados and come back with stories of rum shacks, dominoes and sunsets
- p 28 Equipment & Apparel Reviews**
Featuring the latest releases from Cleveland, Cobra and TaylorMade
- p 36 Stay, Play & Spa**
Style and history feature in our two reviews from Colorado, USA and Lech, Austria

STENZEN

REVIEW





James Kennedy

HARD DAY'S NIGHT

The first Major Championship without fans, 2020 has been a strange year. What I haven't missed since the restart is the "Get in the hole" shouts on the tee at par 4s/5s and "Mashed potato" I am sure the players haven't either. Will there be less tension coming down the stretch of a Major Championship with no fans? Here are our picks who may be about to find out

With the introduction last year of the new worldwide tour schedule we should be sitting here this week already knowing who had won each of the four Major championships, but 2020 has not been any ordinary year and here we are in August about to play the first of only three Major championships this season, with The Open Championship already being cancelled.

I am sure there have been many changes since I played TPC Harding Park but if you want to read my review and see my video of the course click [here](#). I wouldn't say it's the prettiest course, but there are some beautiful holes on this course and it certainly has a wonderful finishing hole. If I were to choose a hole that was my favourite apart from the 18th it would be a toss-up →

JUSTIN THOMAS

10 | 1



Camilla220

BROOKS KOEPKA

10 | 1



Jim Karr

WEBB SIMPSON

25 | 1



Keith Allison

DANIEL BERGER

50|1



TaylorMade

MATTHEW FITZPATRICK

50|1



Cyrille Bertin

LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN

80|1



PGA of Australia

between the 14th and 15th holes. But the 13th hole is the beginning of a great run in and the players in contention will have to be on their toes or any hopes of winning this Major could be snatched away with one bad shot.

TIPS TO WIN

I don't normally go for back-to-back winners but I think **Justin Thomas 10/1 – with BetFred** – looks like a man on a mission at the moment and to become the third youngest player in history to win thirteen events on the PGA Tour sitting behind Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods says a lot about Thomas's standing in the game of golf. One of Justin's main weapons coming down the stretch at the weekends WGC FedEx tournament was his wedge game, which will stand him in good stead for this week.

It was good to see **Brooks Koepka 10/1 – with BetFred** – back to his best at the weekend's WGC event and trying to defend his title and it looks as though the time spent with his coaches and that slight movement back of his right foot has paid dividends and given Brooks the confidence he needs to start challenging again. I am sure Koepka will be relishing this week and will be in buoyant mood when he hits the first tee on Thursday to defend his PGA title.

Right: Risk and reward at the driveable par 4, 5th hole at Royal Portrush

Quietly going about his business at the weekend's was **Webb Simpson 28/1 – with WilliamHill** – who has had two wins so far this season and moved down into second spot on the FedEx Cup rankings after Thomas's win. Webb is already a major champion winning the US Open back in 2012 which always helps when you get into the weekend of a Major Championship and having made the third round of the WGC Match-play that was held here in 2015 so he will have some course knowledge already in the bag.

EACH-WAY TIPS

I am sticking with **Matthew Fitzpatrick 50/1 – with WilliamHill** – this week, I know he will be disappointed with the double bogey on the 17th when in contention at the WGC FedEx, but I am sure he will learn a lot from that. What is more important is that was Matthew's second Top 6 finish from his last two starts on two tough courses. Hitting fairways and greens is going to be key this week at TPC Harding Park and I think that will suit the Yorkshireman's game perfectly.

Another player I am going to stick with is **Daniel Berger 50/1 – with WilliamHill** – who added a runner-up finish to his win and third place finishes, so far from his four starts since the restart. Like Fitzpatrick he will be disappointed

with his tee shot on the 18th at the WGC when he was right in the thick of battle, but I am sure he will take the positives knowing he was challenging again and I think these are great odds for an inform player.

MY OUTSIDE TIP

When the WGC Match-Play event was held at TPC Harding Park in 2015 **Louis Oosthuizen 80/1 – with SpreadEx** – made the Quarter finals so he will know the course well. Since the restart there have been flashes of Louis getting back to his best. An opening round of 64 at the Travelers and some solid golf at the Memorial Tournament for the first three rounds, but it wasn't until this weekend's WGC tournament that Oosthuizen has put four rounds in the 60s together and coming into form at the right time on a course he will feel comfortable on at these odds could be a nice pound each-way punt.

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!



LATEST FIRST ROUND BETTING ODDS FOR THE PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Justin Thomas 9/1
Brooks Koepka 10/1
Jon Rahm 12/1
Rory McIlroy 12/1
Bryson DeChambeau 16/1
Dustin Johnson 20/1
Xander Schauffele 20/1
Tiger Woods 25/1
Webb Simpson 25/1
Patrick Cantlay 28/1
Collin Morikawa 30/1
Hideki Matsuyama 33/1
Jason Day 33/1
Rickie Fowler 33/1
Daniel Berger 40/1
Matthew Fitzpatrick 40/1
Patrick Reed 40/1
Tommy Fleetwood 40/1
Tony Finau 40/1
Tyrrell Hatton 40/1
Viktor Hovland 40/1
Gary Woodland 45/1
Adam Scott 50/1
Jordan Spieth 50/1
Justin Rose 50/1
Abraham Ancer 66/1
Louis Oosthuizen 66/1
Sergio Garcia 66/1
Shane Lowry 66/1
Marc Leishman 70/1
Brendon Todd 80/1
Byeong Hun An 80/1
Matt Kuchar 80/1
Phil Mickelson 80/1
Sungjae Im 80/1
Billy Horschel 90/1
Harris English 90/1
Henrik Stenson 90/1
Matthew Wolff 90/1
Paul Casey 90/1
Bubba Watson 100/1
Chez Reavie 100/1
Scottie Scheffler 100/1
Joaquin Niemann 110/1
Corey Connors 125/1
Danny Willett 125/1
Ian Poulter 125/1
Kevin Kisner 125/1

[More](#)

IMPRESSIONS FROM CAMBODIA



Left: Angkor Thom gateway, Siem Reap
Below: Ta Prohm Temple, Siem Reap



Left: Monks at Angkor Wat, Siem Reap



Left: Monk blessing family in Angkor Wat temple, Siem Reap
Right: Stone arches, Baphuon Temple, Siem Reap



Right: Girl making offering in Angkor Wat temple, Siem Reap
Far right: Temple reflections at Angkor Wat, Siem Reap



Below: Children fishing,
Kampong Plouk floating
village, near Siem Reap
Right: Boys and statue
at Wat Tep Pothivong,
near Siem Reap



Above: Gate near
Ta Prohm Temple,
Siem Reap
Right: Monk
praying, Angkor
Wat, Siem Reap



Above: Ringing a
giant temple bell,
Wat Tep Pothivong,
near Siem Reap

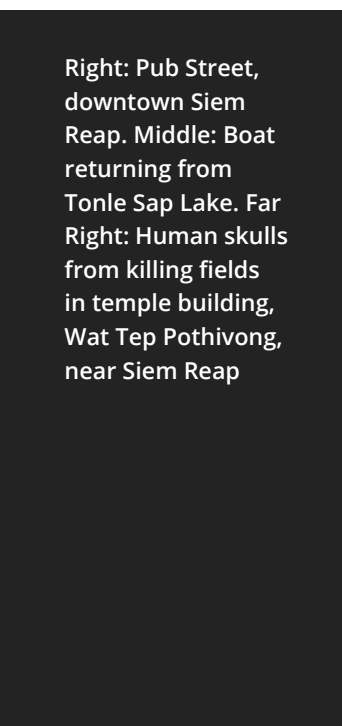


Left: Chau Say
Tavoda Temple,
Siem Reap

IMPRESSIONS FROM CAMBODIA



Left: Houses on stilts, Kampong Plouk floating village, Tonle Sap Lake
Right: Wat Phnom Temple, Phnom Penh

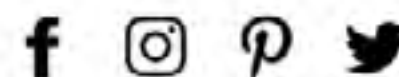


Below left: Floating restaurant, Tonle Sap Lake. Below right: Shrine in Wat Tep Pothivong, near Siem Reap



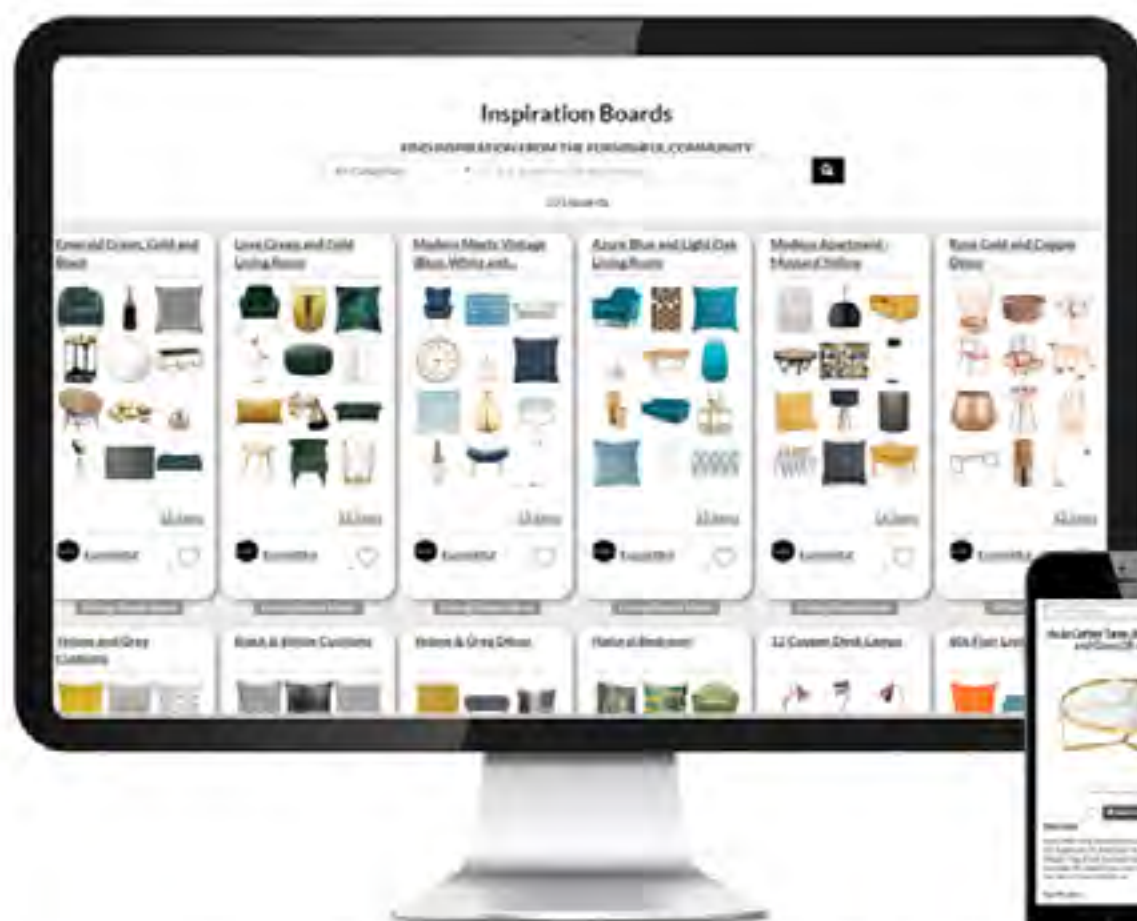
IMPRESSIONS FROM CAMBODIA

See more of Peter Ellegard's work on Instagram
@peterellegard or peterellegard.co.uk



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Doug Kaye

MYSTICAL MAUI

Jane Finn discovers humpback whales, Martian
landscapes, spinner dolphins, sea turtles,
waterfalls and Mai-Tais as the sun sets



Akira

It's 6am. The sky is still inky black and the stars are just starting to fade. The mile of pristine beach stretching out below me is completely deserted and the only music I hear is the sound of the surf. Meanwhile, the clouds are silently rolling down along the sides of the mountains, like lava rushing to the sea and as the sun comes up the craggy peaks are illuminated with a mystical glow. This is the magic that is Maui, and I can't help but smile when I think of the rainbows that greeted us when we touched down yesterday.

Hawaiians have a deep respect for nature, the ancestors, and the wisdom of their elders. The revitalisation of their native language and the reverence they show for the sacredness of the land are intrinsic values that weave through the fabric of everyday life. So, Mo'olelo, let's talk

story as I share a few tales of the people we met and the places we discovered on this journey.

Our first stop is the Sheraton Maui, where the legend of Ka'anapali began, part of an enclave of seven luxury resorts that attract thousands of visitors every year.

Unique to the Sheraton is the nightly sunset ceremony, best observed at the Cliff Dive Bar with one of Cisco's award-winning Mai-Tais in hand. As darkness descends, torches are lit, and I find myself transported back to a time when the Royal families had dominion over this land. Divers who can trace their lineage back to King Kahekili leap from the lava promontory called Pu'u Keka'a (Black Rock) reenacting how the King was able to navigate the portal to the next world and return to this sacred spot unscathed. Yes, the gods provide for one and all in Maui!

THE ROAD TO HANA

I'm never content to stay in one place too long, and I'm craving some adventure, so today we're off to explore Maui's northeastern shore and the road less travelled. We've had a late start, and while the quaint shops and eateries of Paia beckon, we know we have to press on and wait until our return to soak up the bohemian vibe of this charming town.

The Road to Hana is the most celebrated track in Hawaii, and when you drive it, you will know what I mean when I say it's all about the journey, not the destination. At first, you might wonder what all the fuss is about until you reach marker 16 on Highway 36. At this point, the name of the road changes to Highway 360 and the markers are reset. This is where the real fun begins. For the next 42 miles or →

Top right: Take a trail and find a waterfall where you can swim in perfect solitude
Middle right: Pu'u Olani looms on the horizon beyond Makena Beach
Bottom: Hear the surf roar and feel the spray on your face at Pauwala Point



Sammy K



Miller's Hill



Pauwala Point



Priya Sathgal

“As you make your way through verdant rainforests and encounter magnificent seascapes, you need to be prepared to stop and follow a trail or feel the spray of the roaring ocean and fully appreciate the beauty that surrounds you.”

68 kilometres, the road serves up curve after curve, more than 600 in total and you will need to traverse 59 bridges, many of which are one-way. But more importantly, as you make your way through verdant rainforests and encounter magnificent seascapes, you need to be prepared to stop and follow a trail or feel the spray of the roaring ocean and fully appreciate the beauty that surrounds you.

We stop frequently and perhaps linger too long walking in the Garden of Eden or floating in the pools beneath the falls at Waikamoi, but I am happily experiencing what lies beyond the road. I hate to admit it, but we should have struck out at 7am to complete the entire loop. As dusk descends, we decide to turn around before reaching Hana. I’m disappointed that we didn’t reach our final destination, but I’m delighted we didn’t make the mistake of forfeiting the trip because we were short on time.

Our consolation prize is getting back to Paia in time for dinner. We hope to dine at Mama’s Fish House, the number one rated restaurant in Maui, but not having the foresight to make a reservation means that won’t happen tonight. On the advice of a fellow traveller, we find our way to the Flatbread Company which turns out to be an excellent choice. By combining the “magic of earth and fire,” they serve up a pizza made with local organic ingredients that I will savour long after my last bite.



Jason Jacobs

FINDING OUR NORTH STAR

I also like changing venues and moving to the Napili Kai Resort creates new possibilities to discover the magic of Maui. Founder Jack Millar was a savvy traveller who enjoyed learning from others. He studied people and places and brought the best of what he saw to create a unique experience in Maui. More a

community than a resort, the spirit of Ohana – family - permeates every aspect of this property.

Napili Kai is not a high-rise hotel but a series of low-rise buildings featuring rooms and self-contained suites where you can meet your neighbours and make new friends. →

Below left and middle: Looking for a little romance? Napili Kai Beach as evening descends
Below: welcome to Mama’s Fish House



Staff encourage guests to mix and mingle in the hibiscus garden, at a Slack Concert or by participating in a nightly putting tournament, paired with another guest to challenge your companion. Gathering at Happy Hour on the Sea House Terrace sparks conversations that continue when we adjourn to the restaurant to feast on some of the freshest Ahi Tuna I’ve ever tasted.

When it’s time to relax, our beautifully appointed one-bedroom suite at Puna Point has all the amenities I could ask for, but it’s the view that takes my breath away. We’re facing west, perfectly positioned atop the narrow crescent of beach and ocean that gives this area its name, to take in another glorious sunset. I’m also so close to the water that I feel like I’m part of the sea and lulled by the gentle slap of the waves I have the most restorative sleep I’ve had in months.

As I step out onto our balcony at 7am the next morning, the word that comes to mind is muted. There is a faint trace of pastel pink and yellow at sunrise and no clouds over Lanai. Even the ocean is so calm that the surf seems to have lost its roar.

It’s hard for me to leave my tranquil perch, but we’re booked on an early cruise aboard the Pacific Whale Foundation Ocean Discovery, and I don’t want to miss what I hope will be our chance to see whales, up close and personal. We have ample room to roam about freely and interact with our knowledgeable guides, Serena and Tiffany, and of course, Andrew, our bartender!

The channel between Maui and Lanai is a whale sanctuary, and I can only imagine the activity taking place beneath the waves. We’re less than 10 minutes out of port when we come across a “competition”; four lusty males vying for the attention and then the affection of a lone female. Within minutes, we spot “joiners” at 11, 1 and 3 o’clock and a young juvenile on the fringe, which is too immature to join in the fray. Researchers here don’t use GPS devices to track the whales. Instead, since every fluke is unique, much like a human fingerprint, they are photographed and catalogued for identification purposes. Based on the different flukes our guides note, we are privileged to see more than 15 different whales in just under an hour.

Still basking in the excitement of our whale →



Douglas Peebles



“We’re facing west, perfectly positioned atop the narrow crescent of beach and ocean that gives this area its name, to take in another glorious sunset.”



From dusk to dawn, light fills the skies and dances on the water. Sunset makes the perfect backdrop for Happy Hour!

sightings, we find some shade at City Hall under a Banyan tree, believed to be the largest Banyan tree in North America, maybe even the world. It's cool under the tree's giant canopy, the perfect spot to regroup before setting out to explore Lahaina. This former whaling village has been transformed into Maui's most famous hotspot where you can shop 'til you drop or sip a Bikini Blonde while you people watch.

Evening finds us on the rooftop at Fleetwood's on Front Street, sampling some great wine before dinner. The bar and restaurant are owned by no other than Mick Fleetwood (for the uninitiated he was cofounder of the band Fleetwood Mac), and earlier this week, I met a couple who had the good fortune to be on the scene when McFleet turned up to play. They got some awesome pictures of themselves with Mick as well as his hundred thousand dollar gold-plated drums. I remember thinking, wow, that's the stuff memories are made of when you're in the right place, at the right time, with the right karma. Suddenly it dawns on me how lucky we were to have been out in the channel this particular morning. I didn't get my photo snapped with a whale, but I have memories that will last a lifetime.

ANOTHER EPIC DAY IN PARADISE!

It's pre-dawn, and I'm sitting in the parking lot, not at Haleakala Crater, but at the Kihei boat ramp waiting for the sun to come up. I've signed up for a day trip with Blue Water Rafting to explore the rugged and remote Kanaio Coast. Maui isn't big on signage, which is part of its charm, but in the dark, I start to question if I've got the meeting place right. Suddenly, Nick, our cool but very competent captain, emerges from the shadow, and within minutes we're underway.

The sun has yet to make an appearance when less than a kilometre from shore, we spot a female whale and her calf accompanied by an escort male. Nick cuts the engine, and we drift as our trio frolic in front and alongside our 'raft'. No one wants to break the spell, so we wait until the tails come up, and our whales dive deep before moving on.



Left: A flash of pale blue on the ocean surface is the prelude to a humpback preparing to breach

Doug Kaye

We take our time to enjoy the sun coming up from more or less behind Mt. Haleakala. We cruise by Oneuli, the black sand beach I explored yesterday, and then around Pu'u Olai - (Red Hill/Millers Hill), Pu'u Olai Beach (Little Beach), and Oneloa Beach (Big Beach).

It's a picture-perfect day, no trade winds, so the sea is calm, the sky is clear, and the water is sparkling. Something on my left catches my eye, and I shout to Nick above the motor - "dolphins!" He throttles back, and within minutes we're surrounded.

Nick explains that they are actually 'sleeping' or at least at rest, half of their brain shutting →

"Researchers here don't use GPS devices to track the whales. Instead, since every fluke is unique, much like a human fingerprint, they are photographed and catalogued for identification purposes."



Top right:
Flatbread's pizzas
will leave you
wanting more
Top left: Sunset
ceremony on
Fleetwood's roof
top can't be beat

down at a time so they can rejuvenate without drowning. And we complain about not getting a good night's sleep! These are Spinner dolphins, and they're much smaller than the bottlenose variety and stay together in pods of a hundred or more, not only for protection but also because they are incredibly social. Spinner dolphins can not survive in captivity because they not only physically but spiritually need to be part of a bigger collective. Maybe they're kupuna!

We continue to push south, past the cinder cones that are now covered in the infamous red dirt to explore the sea caves. The lack of trade winds is working in our favour, but it also means they're not blowing the clouds and 'bog' away, so we can't see the Big Island less than 30 miles away. After that, it's nothing but 8,000 miles of open ocean. A little bit scary but also exhilarating!

We turn back and get ready to approach the Kanaio Coast. The lava here is more than 600 years old, and the weight of all those years has caused compression caves to form at the base of the cliffs that are impressive and fearsome at the same time. It takes a capable captain to navigate the rocky shore, read the waves and maneuver the boat into the perfect position to feel the surge, catch the spray and view the 'sunrooms' where we're rewarded with a double rainbow. Spirits talk to you here. You can feel the raw power of nature but also the wisdom of the elders whose faces at times appear carved into the volcanic cliffs. All I can say is what a ride!

Maui is known as the number one island for snorkelling, so our day would not be complete without spending some time beneath the waves. Molokini is one of only three volcanic calderas in the world, and Hawaii's only island

marine and bird sanctuary. As I slip into the crystalline waters on the backside of the crater, I can see the ocean floor which could be more than 150 feet below me. The water is teeming with life including colourful blue and yellow tangs, orange spine unicorns, black triggerfish, red pencil urchins and yes, even a white tip reef shark. Reluctantly I haul myself back into the boat, convinced it couldn't get any better than this until we stop at Olowalu for one last snorkel. I'm still adjusting my mask when a giant sea turtle passes by and invites me to join him in a dance. Time stands still for the next 20 minutes, while the best guide I could imagine leads me to the hidden treasures of his world.

Tomorrow, we make our way to Lanai for the second week of our Hawaii odyssey, but that's a story for another day.

Bottom left: Look
for the faces of the
elders carved in to
the Kanao Coast
Cliffs

Bottom right:
Spinner Dolphins
travel in schools
of a hundred or
more for safety
and because they
enjoy each other's
company



Michael Griffith

JOURNEY PLANNER

WHERE TO STAY

Sheraton Maui Resort & Spa

T: +1 808-661-0031

W: marriott.com

Napili Kai Beach Resort & Sea House Restaurant

T: + 1 (800) 367-5030 or +1-808-669-1500

W: napilikai.com

WHERE TO EAT

Flatbread Company

T: +1 808-579-8969

W: flatbreadcompany.com

Mama's Fish House & Inn

T: +1 808-579-8488

W: mamasfishhouse.com

Fleetwood's on Front Street

T: +1 808-669-MICK (6425)

W: fleetwoodsonfrontst.com

THINGS TO DO

Pacific Whale Foundation

T: +1 808-249-8811

W: pacificwhale.org

Blue Water Rafting

T: 808-879-7238

W: bluwaterrafting.com/bwr

TEKKING TIME EN' LAZINESS.

This old Bajan proverb means by taking your time, you can achieve a lot. James Mason and Charmaine Hibbert discover the perfect pace of life in Barbados



The flight to Barbados with British Airways has been great, but it's the feeling of the heat as it hits you when you walk from the aircraft and feel the warm air of the Caribbean enveloping and embracing me like a long-lost family member. That is the moment I really know I have arrived and that cold crisp October morning has been left behind, slowly becoming a distant memory.

More British people travel to Barbados than to any other Caribbean island; they like to think of Barbados as "Little England". In fact, during World War Two the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party, Grantley Adams sent a telegram to King George VI saying: "Go on England, Little England is behind you."

HOLETOWN

This is the second time I have been to Barbados and in those 15 years there has been quite a lot of changes, none more so than in Holetown, As I remember the beach was always the main focus with a few restaurants and food shacks, but that has all changed and as our host at Royal Westmoreland stops our taxi we are met by what I can only describe as life. From the wonderful smells of food being cooked, snatches of different music as you make your way through the crowds and most of all laughter.

What hasn't changed about Holetown is the people enjoying the vibe of the area. It is October but the warm Barbados evening means

people are still in shorts and shirts. I would recommend you head to First and Second streets and just gravitate to whatever music you enjoy; you're sure to have a great night no matter where you choose.

BRIDGETOWN

The capital of Barbados is Bridgetown which was awarded UNESCO World Heritage status in 2011 and cited for its well-preserved colonial architecture, it also has its own Nelson's Column at the top of Broad Street. The statue actually predates the one in Trafalgar Square by nearly 30 years. It seems the Barbadians knew Nelson would get his own statue in London before Londoners did! →

“It’s the feeling of the heat as it hits you when you walk from the aircraft and feel the warm air of the Caribbean enveloping and embracing me like a long-lost family member”



Left: When the sun goes down the party starts
Top right: Nishi Restaurant Holetown.
Top far right: UNESCO Garrison
Right: Colonial architecture in Bridgetown
Far right: Statue of Lord Nelson





You will find history all over the island but the largest concentration of museums, galleries and historic squares and statues will be found in Bridgetown along with shops and restaurants. Look out for the bars just on the edge of town where you will find lots of people playing dominoes and the locals are more than happy for you to join in for a game and enjoy a few shots of rum with them.

BEACHES

As you can imagine there are so many beautiful beaches to choose from, but if you are looking for deserted beaches I would suggest you hire

a car/buggy and head to the east side of the island. The Atlantic Sea may be livelier than the serene Caribbean Sea, but the beaches are no less spectacular and there is a good chance you will have one completely to yourself.

CONCLUSION

From the moment you land in Barbados life just slows down. You will enjoy every moment of your time here, from the people, the food, the nightlife and the vast array of activities or to just chilling on a beach. Yes by “Tekking time en’ laziness”.

“The Atlantic Sea may be livelier than the serene Caribbean Sea, but the beaches are no less spectacular and there is a good chance you will have one completely to yourself.”



Top left: Playing dominoes at a rum shack. Top middle: Time flies when we’re having rum
Top right: Carnival time. Bottom left: Beach on the popular Caribbean west coast. Left: A deserted beach on the Atlantic east coast

JOURNEY PLANNER

WHERE TO STAY

Royal Westmoreland

T: +44 1524 782503

W: royalwestmoreland.com

Sandy Lane Hotel

T: +1 246 444 2000

W: sandylane.com

WHERE TO EAT:

L’Acajou Restaurant

T: +1 246 444 2000

W: sandylane.com

Mullins Beach Bar

& Restaurant

T: +1 246 422 2044

W: royalwestmoreland.com

Nishi Restaurant

T: +1 246 432 8287

W: nishi-restaurant.com

WHERE TO DRINK

Red Door Lounge

T: +1 246 620 761

FB: reddoorbarbados

Jamestown Bar & Grill

T: +1 246 538 8696

FB: JamestownBar

WHERE TO PLAY

Royal Westmoreland

T: +1 246 419 0394

W: royalwestmoreland.com

The Country Club

T: +1 246 444 2000

W: sandylane.com

The Green Monkey

T: +1 246 444 2000

W: greenmonkeygolfcourse.com

TYPICALLY TROPICAL

James Mason and Charmaine Hibbert discover an island of blue skies, palm trees, golf courses, unspoilt sandy beaches, rum punches, spas and music



ROYAL WESTMORELAND

W: royalwestmoreland.com/golf

Ian Woosnam, who is a resident here along with a catalogue of other top sports stars and celebrity owners, states: "It's the best collection of par 3s I have ever seen on one course", and I must admit I have to agree with the former Masters champion and Ryder Cup captain, there is not a weak design among them. With carries over ravines and coral rock they are stunning and I am still not sure which is my favourite among them, with the 3rd and 15th just piping the 7th and 12th.

But my favourite hole is the 6th - a very short par 4 dogleg left, of only 335 yards, where you aim your tee shot at the coral rock face, left side of the fairway, leaving just a little wedge in to a green that is surrounded by the same coral rock face. It's like a little amphitheatre and an amazingly beautiful little hole. The 10th is an awesome driving hole played from an elevated tee, with a ravine running down the left-hand side. But the best, as they say, has to be saved until last and the 461-yard par 4 18th is probably one of the most spectacular finishing holes anywhere.

Played from an elevated tee looking out to the Caribbean the fairway rolls away and downhill on this slight dogleg right. It's a great driving hole and if you catch the right part of the fairway you can leave yourself with just a wedge in. If not, you're looking at hitting a 5/6 iron into a tight green protected by a coral rock face and a nice 50-foot drop, with the clubhouse behind.

I used to think there was no better way to finish a round of golf than a nice chilled beer with friends or when on a golfing holiday in a beautiful clubhouse with fantastic views of the course you have just played. But that long held belief has taken a bit of a dent since I was in Barbados. Both Royal Westmoreland and the Sandy Lane hotel asked us to try full body and foot massages after playing.

Now I really do love a beer after playing, and like many golfers I will admit to a history of back pain, but the hands of the masseuse revitalising my tired back, limbs and feet, is a feeling beyond that cool well-earned beer slipping past my



Above: Sunset over Royal Westmoreland. Far left: Par 3, 3rd hole from the back tee
Left: Rocks and water at the 7th
Below: Plenty of bunkers protecting the par 3, 15th green

Above: Water protects Montado's 9th green with the hotel as its backdrop. Left: The 17th green with the 8th green in the background

parched lips. I now understand why my partner loves it and sneaks off for pampering every now and again, and why the tour players have them booked after each day's play. They really do make you feel like new, revitalised and looking forward to the next day's golf. →



THE COUNTRY CLUB

W: royalwestmoreland.com/golf

The Country Club and The Green Monkey courses share the same clubhouse with some amazing views out to the Caribbean Sea, but that is where any comparison between the two courses ends.

I played the old Sandy Lanes Golf Club many years ago and enjoyed the old colonial style clubhouse and the course had some spectacular views. The original course opened for play in 1961, but with new Irish billionaire owners J P McManus, Dermot Desmond and John Magnier acquiring the Sandy Lanes resort in 1997 they decided to renovate the property and the golf course.

The original 18-hole golf course was reduced to a new 9-hole layout and renamed the Old nine and Tom Fazio created two new 18-hole courses and used some of the original holes to create The Country Club course, which opened for play in 2001.

Standing on the first tee I could see this design was going to be more of a resort-style course with wide immaculately manicured fairways and the five different teeing options gives golfers of all abilities a chance to enjoy the course.

The greens are lush and there are five lakes to test your shot-making abilities. The layout is solid, if unspectacular but there are a few memorable holes such as the 195-yard par three 18th, where your tee shot is played from an elevated tee across a pond with fountain feature to a rather uninviting green.

As you would expect, the original holes on this track are well bedded in and offer some wonderful challenges. As I make my way around I have to say I starting to reminisce and wished Tom had redesigned the original course rather than splitting it in two. You will enjoy the run of holes from the 14th to the 18th; they do not have a par 4 among them and contain yet another amazing par 3, with wonderful views out to the
 →Caribbean Sea.



“YOU WILL ENJOY THE RUN OF HOLES FROM THE 14TH TO THE 18TH; THEY DO NOT HAVE A PAR 4 AMONG THEM AND CONTAIN YET ANOTHER AMAZING PAR 3, WITH WONDERFUL VIEWS OUT TO THE CARIBBEAN SEA”

Top: View from the tee on the par 3, 3rd hole. Above: Looking up the fairway on the 13th. Right: View from the clubhouse over the par 3, 18th green



THE GREEN MONKEY

W: royalwestmoreland.com/golf

The Green Monkey comes with a great reputation. People around the island speak about this Tom Fazio design with reverence, so will this very exclusive track live up to its reputation or is it all hype because so few get the opportunity to play here? I was invited along to find out for myself. From the very moment you step into the award-winning clubhouse with its views out onto the west coast of Barbados and the Caribbean Sea beyond, you can see why

Tiger Woods chose this location for his wedding reception.

I walk to the pro shop and sign in, and the pro announces to everyone who's in ear shot: "So you're playing the Green Monkey today, sir. You are in for a treat - it's a fantastic course," to which everyone in the shop looks around with envy. I am beginning to feel the pressure myself, hoping my game is going to be up to it as I hear myself stating I will be playing off the Masters tees, when asked what tees I will be playing from.

I am introduced to Sean my caddie and I am off pretty sharpish, more from wanting to collect my thoughts than from excitement. I step on to the first tee which looks in better condition →

"I STEP ON TO THE FIRST TEE WHICH LOOKS IN BETTER CONDITION THAN SOME GREENS I HAVE PLAYED ON. IT IS AT THIS POINT THAT YOU REALISE WHY PEOPLE TALK ABOUT THIS TRACK WITH REVERENCE, I AM NOT SURE I COULD FIND A BLADE OF GRASS OUT OF PLACE IF I TRIED"

The left fairway is the 17th
while the right fairway
above the quarry is the 9th



“THE 9TH IS A LONG 635-YARD PAR 5 PLAYED FROM A VERY HIGH TEE LOOKING DOWN ON TO A PERFECT FAIRWAY. BUT BE CAREFUL TO CONCENTRATE AND NOT LET YOUR EYES AND MIND WANDER TO MUCH OUT TO THE SPECTACULAR VIEWS OF THE SEA”



Left: The iconic green monkey in the bunker at the par 3, 16th hole. Below: Looking down the 9th hole towards the Caribbean



than some greens I have played on. It is at this point that you realise why people talk about this track with reverence. I am not sure I could find a blade of grass out of place if I tried.

My caddie advises me to aim down the left side of the fairway and that my target should be a tree in the left hand rough. I duly oblige and I am in the middle of the fairway. I have 165 yards to go and I am thinking 7 iron and Sean is telling me to hit an easy 8 iron. I win the argument and my third shot is from the back rough as I have airmailed the green. Note to self - listen to the caddie, that's why he's there.

Sean turns out to be a great reader of greens, after the first I have learnt my lesson. Even when standing over half my putts thinking, are you sure that's going to be slow and from the right, to me that's fast and from the left. As I roll another putt in on the exact line he gives me, I wonder how I doubted him. The course had been designed around an old quarry and Fazio has used the exposed coral and stone to great effect. The 16th is the signature hole and it's a great hole to play; from the back tees it's a 3 wood down into the quarry its self, with the quarry walls and a pond framing the green. It's not until you get down to the green you realise just how big it really is.

One of my personal favourites is the 3rd, which is a 423-yard par 4 with a tough second shot to a raised green protected by coral stone with a 40-foot drop in front. The 8th is another great par 3, weighting in at 198-yard and played uphill over a ravine. The 9th is a long 635-yard par 5 played from a very high tee looking down on to a perfect fairway. But be careful to concentrate and not let your eyes and mind wander to much out to the spectacular views of the sea.

Bobby Jones once said to stop and smell the flowers; there are not only flowers here but some amazing views. As you walk off the 18th and make your way back to the clubhouse to enjoy a cold beer, you can truly say you have played one of the best courses in the Caribbean.

OVER THE RAINBOW

Charmaine Hibbert wakes up where the clouds are far behind and where trouble melts like lemon drops

SANDY LANE RESORT

Sandy Lane, Barbados

By CHARMAINE HIBBERT

It's been another relaxing day by the pool for me while James has been playing golf, our bags are packed and we are waiting for the pick-up to take us to Sandy Lane. The journey doesn't take long and within minutes we are escorted to reception while our bags disappear, a swift check in and we are being escorted to our rooms, the surprise was my bags are already here waiting for me.

We have both been allocated Luxury Ocean Rooms and you guessed from the title the balcony looks straight out on to the clear blue azure waters of the Caribbean Sea and its pure white sandy beach. The décor is very formal and classic with lots of deep oranges, browns and creams and the bathroom is a masterpiece of white marble bath and duel vanity with grey stone work, dark wood with a large walk in shower.

The balcony is large enough to play tennis and has two double-seater sofas each with a coffee table and two stone pillars adding to the classical décor finish. I notice as I take my face dive onto the pillows that the



Left: Rainbow at Sandy Lane beach
Bottom left: view from the Luxury Ocean Rooms. Bottom right: View from the upper Terrace



controls for the air conditioning are attached to the bedside table, so any adjustments that need to be made during the night can be achieved without having to leave those crisp, warm cotton sheets.

L'ACAJOU

We are dining with the resident manager tonight in the L'Acajou restaurant and James has dived straight in and gone for the tenderloin steak cooked Pittsburgh style – or as they say here Black and Blue. I have decided to try the herb crusted loin of Colorado lamb with Provencal vegetables, fennel crumble and fondant potato, with lamb jus. Our host has chosen a couple of red wines for us to sample from the cellars and while I have a couple of glasses James and Eric seem to rather enjoy the bottles that have been chosen.

The food as you can imagine is wonderful and the lamb was cooked to perfection for me, but it is the views from the restaurant that have

got me captivated. The table sits between two stone pillars on a balcony looking out to the Caribbean Sea and while the time is around 8.30pm it's dark but not so you can't still see the sea lapping the shore; it looks so peaceful that I know I will be taking a walk along there later.

Unfortunately, I can't go for the chocolate delight as it contains nuts, so I have gone for the chocolate soufflé, while James has gone for the pineapple baked Alaska. After coffee Eric bids us goodnight and we decide to take a walk along the beach - the perfect way to end a wonderful meal.

BAJAN BLUE

What better place to have breakfast than right on the beach? The sky is a wonderful deep blue and the sun is posing in all its magnificent splendour as we start with some fresh fruit before hitting the hot food selection and egg station. The Bajan Blue restaurant has an informal →



vibe and apart from breakfast it is open throughout the day and offers European, Caribbean and Asian cuisines along with Sandy Lane's famous Sunday Brunch. Other options include a sushi station and state-of-the-art grill.

THE SPA AT SANDY LANES

I spend the morning on the beach while James is off playing one of the Sandy Lane golf courses before heading off to the spa. I have decided to just chill out for a while before my treatment in the secluded outdoor spa garden and make use of the hydrotherapy pool. The spa here was redeveloped several years ago and is over 47,000 square feet and as well as the pools it has 11 treatment rooms.

Today I have decided to try the hot stones massage, I am quite surprised how large the treatment room is on entering and it also has its own private hydrotherapy pool with the décor being granite and cherry wood with soft music gently drifting around the room. After massaging the oils into my body, the masseuse expertly places the stones and they are the perfect temperature, warm as they touch my skin but not too hot so they make me jump and I slowly start to feel the heat penetrating my body.

The masseuse slowly and deeply manoeuvres the stones around my back, arms and legs before turning me over, I am trying my best to stay awake and soak in the subtle feelings and the heat from the stones as they work round my body, but my mind just drifts off with the sheer elation that my body is feeling. As always, the session is over way to soon and I am left to slowly gather my soaring spirit.

After meeting up we spend the rest of the afternoon on the beach slowly watching the sunset on another wonderful day in Barbados.

Sandy Lane Hotel
Sandy Lane
St. James, BB24024
Barbados

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Top left: Breakfast on the beach. Top right & middle: Pools at The Spa at Sandy Lane. Above: Dinner at L'Acajou. Right Bajan Blue



ROYAL WESTMORELAND

Holetown, Barbados

By CHARMAINE HIBBERT



VIVA LA VIDA

Kicking back and just relaxing by your own private pool or watching the sunset over dinner, **Charmaine Hibbert** discovers the villa life

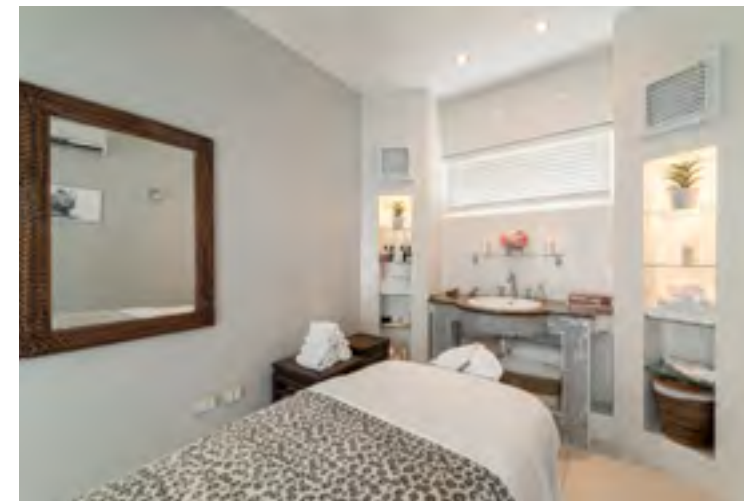
After a 40-minute drive from the airport we arrive at Royal Westmoreland and I get a glimpse of the clubhouse as we are whisked off to our villa. I knew we were staying in a villa but it wasn't until the door opened that we realise just how big this villa is.

The main living area is open plan with a formal dining table as well as a breakfast island that you can sit around, not forgetting the deep comfy sofa surrounding the stone fireplace! There are three bedrooms; being the gentleman James has let me pick first and while I do like the idea of a pool right outside my bedroom door, it's on the lower ground floor so I have decided to go for the room with a view and balcony.

We are given a golf buggy to get around the resort and after a shower we meet for dinner at the clubhouse. The clubhouse has a relaxed atmosphere and serves food throughout the day, so if you fancy breakfast, lunch or an evening meal in relaxed surroundings or just a few drinks to watch the sunset, this really is a nice spot to chill out and let time just drift away.

After a wonderful night's sleep James is off to play golf. Now I →

Left: Villa and pool at night. Above: Mullins Restaurant just as the sun sets



Top and bottom left:
Private pool and
open plan kitchen
and living room. Left:
Pool at Sanctuary
gym. Top and right:
Singita Wellness spa
treatment room and
class facilities



can sample the Sanctuary gym which is onsite and is open from an eye watering 5am in the morning through until 9pm and has personal trainers to help you keep fit.

Or I could get in shape myself using the many treadmills, elliptical upright bikes, recumbent bikes, rowing machines, nautilus weight machines, free weights, medicine balls, stretch bands, mats and steps... and then cool down in the Sanctuary's pool or jacuzzi; or there are plenty of tennis courts to practice on. Alternatively, I could just chill out next to my own pool and relax in the sun and wait for the trip to the spa later this afternoon. You all know me by now so I have opted for the latter!

SINGITA WELLNESS SPA

It is surprising how much energy it takes to sit by a pool and when James arrives back and states we need to make our spa appointments so get ready, I have to say I am looking forward to having my deep tissue massage and James seems pretty excited about his sports massage. Apparently, he has been recommended it by one of the regular golfers who visits here each winter.

The courtyard has a nice pond feature and after some brief form filling we are each led away to separate treatment rooms which are decorated with silvery/grey mosaic-type tiles. To be honest, I knew what was going to happen when I heard the soft music playing and it certainly doesn't take

the masseuse's magic hands long before I start to do my nodding dog impersonation before drifting off.

All too soon I am being asked to turn over while the towel was raised to spare my modesty and then it's over. I do check my phone just to see if it was the full hour. I make my way to relax in the shade by the outdoor pool with a cool glass of water and when James arrives he looks at me sheepishly and explains that he must have snored the whole 1hr and 15mins and was out like a light. He says that he felt great and even though the masseuse gave him the most rigorous massage he still managed to not even remember turning over, his exact words being that he had been massaged in a parallel dimension.

Singita Wellness use the Africology product line which is eco-friendly, organic and sourced from natural African ingredients. You can buy a pass to the spa for treatments and a variety of classes including pilates, ballet barre, core conditioning and yoga during your stay. We decide to chill out for a while by the pool and then head down to the Royal Westmoreland's private beach for the rest of the afternoon, before jumping the shuttle bus back to the villa.

MULLINS BEACH CLUB

We had enjoyed a cocktail at the beach yesterday but I was certainly looking forward to dining at Mullins Beach Club and I must say we

couldn't have timed it any better. Our second cocktail in and the sun has started to slowly drift down onto the horizon in all its bright yellow and orange splendour.

Because we couldn't make up our minds we have decided to share the shrimp and potato roti and local jerk pork with root veg and sweet potato mash. Now the service isn't fast, but to be honest we are enjoying our cocktails and the atmosphere so we aren't in a rush to get anywhere else. The food is amazing and as much as I want to keep the shrimp and potato roti to myself, James is enjoying that jerk pork just a bit too much for me not to have a try.

Dessert of course is the cheesecake – how could it not be?! And a couple of rum punches to boot are the perfect nightcap to what has been a wonderful day.

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30 TAYLORMADE SIM



VIEW.COM

EQUIPMENT & APPAREL

REVIEW

32 COBRA SZ HYBRID



34 CLEVELAND CBX2





SIM
D R I V E R

IT WASN'T ENOUGH
TO CREATE A DRIVER
THAT WENT FAR.

SO WE INVENTED ONE THAT COULD ALSO FORGIVE.

We changed the shape of the driver, allowing us to make it both fast and forgiving where you need it most: the downswing. Our Tour Players are loving it, but the real reason we changed the shape was to help make you better.



NEW SIM ON THE BLOCK

James Mason discovers if
its time you traded in for a
new SIM



TECHNOLOGY:

The main new technology evolves around the impact area known as the speed generation zone, which is the last three feet before the club makes impact with the ball. TaylorMade have found a way to increase clubhead speed using aerodynamics. A new asymmetric sole design, enhanced Inertia Generator and a series of shape-inspired innovations work in unison to improve forgiveness while also increasing aerodynamics and clubhead speed at the most critical stage of the swing.

Tour players accelerate from 90mph to 120mph as they come into the hitting area. The new SIM drivers are engineered to improve aerodynamics through this area and what that improved clubhead speed means to you is more distance.

The SIM, SIM Max and SIM Max•D drivers all feature a raised crown and sole and like a formula 1 racing car this all helps to reduce drag and improve airflow around the clubhead as you come into that speed generation zone.

While a raised crown and sole improves aerodynamics, this normally comes with a trade-off in the form of higher COG. However, the SIM family of drivers counteract that with the Inertia Generator which is positioned low and back with a heavy steel weight at the rear of the club. This design element then helps move the COG very low, optimising launch angle and increasing MOI providing additional forgiveness.

With the advancements TaylorMade have been able to achieve with their carbon materials over the last 15 years of designing drivers they have again made weight savings in the crown and sole panelling which has enabled them to introduce the

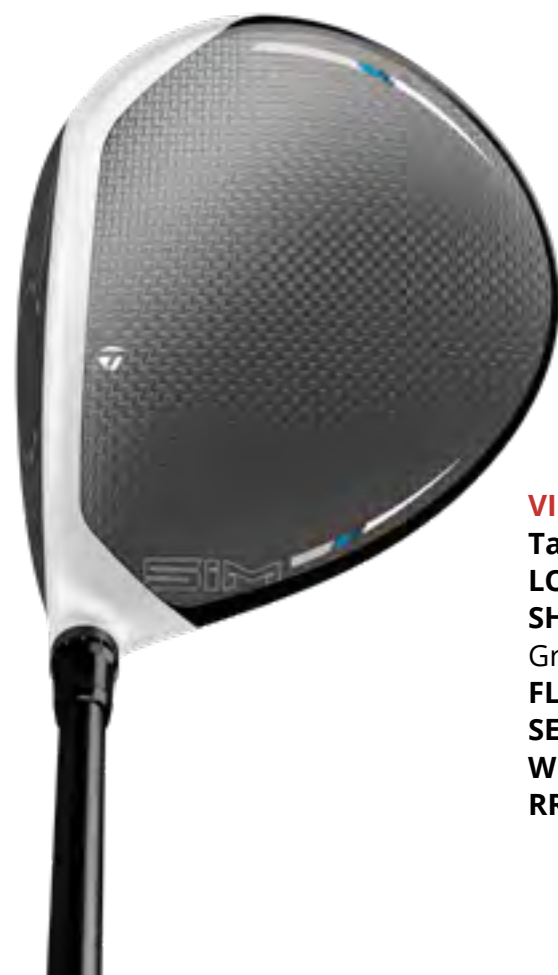
Inertia Generator.

They have also kept and improved the twist face technology that helps straighten your ball flight, which is now known as the speed injected twist face and introduces three new key features: an ultra-thin titanium face with redesigned Inverted Cone Technology (ICT), variable amounts of injected resin based on testing of the face and a proprietary algorithm to tune each head.

Continuing its adjustability technology, the SIM driver features Sliding Weight Technology that allows for up to +/- 20 yards of draw or fade bias. And the 2° Loft Sleeve™ allows for the adjustment of loft, lie angle and face angles of the driver. The Loft Sleeve™ is available on all three models, while Sliding Weight Technology is only offered on the SIM model.



Right: Sliding weight system and Inertia Generator
Far right: Toe and face view
Below left: Raised carbon crown and graphics



VIDEO REVIEW

TaylorMade SIM

LOFT 9°

SHAFT Project X HZRDUS Smoke Green 70

FLEX Stiff

SETTING LOFT 11°

WEIGHT SETTING N

RRP £479 / €579 / \$549.99

CONCLUSION

TaylorMade launched their new generation of drivers known as the SIM, SIM Max and SIM Max D, in January but with the lockdown we have only in the last month been able to get on the course and test them.

The main technology that has been introduced in the SIM (Shape in Motion) driver is the Inertia Generator and believe me when I started hitting balls into the trees at the end of the practice range, which is 290-yards away and where I have practiced with every driver I have ever tested

and never lost a ball, I knew this technology does everything it says on the tin.

It is not often that you can see what some of the new technologies can do for the average golfer, but with most ranges having TrackMan installed and free fittings offered by PGA pros and most discount stores, you can go and compare your current driver with the SIM for yourself. Believe me, you will love the results you get with the new TaylorMade SIM drivers.



SMOOTH OPERATORS

From the heat and humidity of the Philippines to the heavy, damp, muddy conditions of a very wet winter in the UK James Mason has a chance to put Mizuno's new T20 wedge technology to the test in very different climate conditions



TECHNOLOGY

The Cobra engineers have optimised specific zones in the new hybrid ranges. The first is the Hollow Split Rail technology, which gives added flex and helps create a larger sweet spot for a higher launch angle. This works with the back weighting where they have moved the weight low and back to help with that high launch angle.

The forged E9 face is a two-piece construction featuring a high-strength 455 stainless steel that has enabled the engineers to produce a thinner but stronger face and redesign the shape of the clubhead, which is slightly larger but has helped the designers increase the MOI for added forgiveness on off-centre strikes and a squarer leading edge to help with alignment.

With Cobra equipment you can use their Cobra Connect which helps you track your accuracy and distance with each club, helping you analysis the strengths and weaknesses of your golf game so you know what areas you need to improve and work on.

The hybrids are available in 2H (17°), 3H (19°), 4H (12°) and 5h (24°).

VIDEO REVIEW

Cobra SZ Hybrid

LOFT 21°

SHAFT UST Recoil ESX 480

FLEX Regular

RRP £189 / €209 / \$199.99



CONCLUSION

Cobra have introduced the Speedzone range, which come in a variable or one length design depending on your preference and if you haven't tried the one length clubs I would suggest you go for a fitting and give them a go.

The first thing I noticed is how well the club sat behind the ball as some hybrids do look slightly awkward in the address position. Not only does the larger head shape help this, but so does the matt black finish. The sound at impact is a solid meaty thud, which I really liked.

I am sure the split rails giving that larger sweet spot and higher launch angle working with the rails that offer great turf interaction will be something mid to higher handicapped players are going to enjoy, along with the added forgiveness on off-centre strikes.

If you are in the market for a new hybrid – and if you have trouble with your longer irons I certainly recommend replacing them with a couple of hybrid clubs – then you should make sure you test a Cobra SZ hybrid before you make your final purchase decision.

Top left to right: 12g weight illustration
Forged two piece face illustration and address and face views

Left: The Cobra SZ comes in variable length (red and yellow) or one length (blue and red) options

SOLE SAVIOR

The Cleveland CBX 2 wedge system

Cleveland's CBX 2 wedges are designed to help improve the short game of the biggest group of golfers the mid-high handicapped player. Brian Schielke, Marketing Director at Cleveland Golf states: "That's why Cleveland CBX 2 wedges were created. They make the short game easier and more forgiving for the majority of golfers out there playing game-improvement equipment." →





Top left: Tour Zip grooves and laser milling illustration
Middle left: Hollow cavity illustration
Bottom left: V, S and C grind illustration. Right: Toe and grind view. Far right: Face and grooves view



TECHNOLOGY

The hollow-cavity design has a hollow chamber near the heel so a heavy weight could be placed in the toe, helping maximise MOI and perimeter weighting for increased forgiveness.

The CBX 2 also offers Cleveland's latest development in Feel Balancing Technology; a toe-biased centre of gravity is combined with a Gelback TPU Insert for vibration reduction,

providing a soft and crisp feel at impact. This is combined with the three sole grind options for you to choose from, which are arranged by loft to bring more versatility to your short game.

CBX 2 features the fourth generation of Cleveland's Rotex Face Technology which has achieved sharper Tour Zip Grooves and combined with their laser milling and aggressive face

milling has helped increase spin, giving you more control around the green.

Cleveland's CBX 2 wedges are offered in a variety of different lofts and sole grinds. The V-Shaped Sole grind comes in 46°-52° lofts. The S-Shaped Sole grind from 54° to 56° lofts and the C-Shaped Sole grind from 58° to 60° lofts.

VIDEO REVIEW

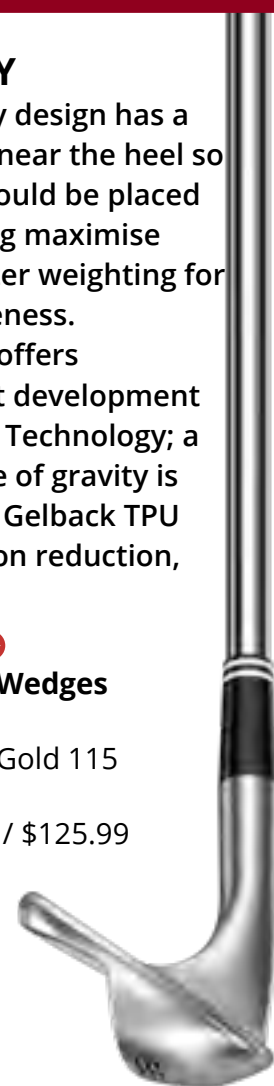
Cleveland CBX2 Wedges

LOFT 52° & 56°

SHAFT Dynamic Gold 115

FLEX Wedge

RRP £129 / €149 / \$125.99



CONCLUSION

If you play cavity backed or game improvement irons, then you are going to love Cleveland's CBX2 wedges or if you are someone who struggles around the green with the bladed type wedges, this wedge design is perfect for you.

The wider sole, the hollow cavity design and adding more weight to the toe end of the wedge is all going to help your wedge play and ball control. The

added bonus is you don't lose out on the groove technology as the CBX2 has three groove systems in play to help give you maximum control of your golf ball and the Gelback TPU Insert gives you a great feel at impact.

I think the big plus for mid to high handicapped players is that the grind options have been taken out of your hands and all you need to do is decide the best

lofts you need to complement your current set of irons, as Cleveland have developed the grinds to fit each of those lofts. All you need to do is practice your short game as you now have a wedge that can help you improve your game and scoring around the greens.





REVIEW



VIEW.COM

STAY, PLAY & SPA

THE BROADMOOR

Colorado, USA

By PETER ELLEGARD

DREAM CATCHER

With over a century of experience keeping the most famous, infamous and, well just people with a lot of money, happy **Peter Ellegard** sojourns to Colorado Springs to find out what delights The Broadmoor has to offer



Known as the Grande Dame of the Rockies, The Broadmoor is a luxury Colorado institution that has been welcoming guests for over a century.

Situated 6,000 feet high on a 3,000-acre tranche of land at the foot of Cheyenne Mountain – inside which the US Air Force’s NORAD command and control bunker was built during the Cold War – the elegant, pink-facaded five-star resort lies five miles from the city of Colorado Springs and 75 minutes’ drive from international gateway Denver.

Mining entrepreneur Spencer Penrose opened his opulent Broadmoor Hotel in 1918 on the site of a casino and small hotel. The imposing Italianate edifice, the work of the designers behind New York City’s Grand Central Station with its grounds fashioned by the firm that laid out Central Park, was aimed at creating a stylish hotel blending European elegance with Western hospitality as part of a master plan to create a leisure destination. A golf course designed by renowned architect Donald Ross opened a few days later.

By that time, Colorado Springs had evolved from its founding in 1871 into a wealthy city, earning it the sobriquet City of Millionaires as it had more millionaires per capita than anywhere else in America. In its early years it was nicknamed Little London because so many residents were of British descent.

The Broadmoor has hosted many famous guests, from comedians, astronauts and movie stars to presidents and royalty. A gallery of celebrity guests’ photographs lines one →



Left: The elegant, pink facade of The Broadmoor reflected in Cheyenne Lake
Below, left and right: Suites at The Broadmoor

“By that time, Colorado Springs had evolved from its founding in 1871 into a wealthy city, earning it the sobriquet City of Millionaires as it had more millionaires per capita than anywhere else in America.”



“Arriving via the landscaped drive you certainly get a sense of its history and grandeur, underlined by a wonderful, green 1937 Cadillac V8 Touring Car parked outside the entrance”

corridor wall.

The hotel has been owned since 2011 by American billionaire Philip Anschutz, whose AEG group also owns London’s O2 venue, the LA Galaxy MLS football team, California’s Coachella festival, Windstar Cruises and the Sea Island resort in Georgia.

Arriving via the landscaped drive you certainly get a sense of its history and grandeur, underlined by a wonderful, green 1937 Cadillac V8 Touring Car parked outside the entrance in which guests can explore the Pikes Peak mountain region. A fleet of such Cadillacs once took guests to the top of the mountain after Penrose had a road built to the summit.

ROOMS

Having checked in at the oak-panelled main lobby, given a makeover in a multi-million dollar centenary hotel revamp, I head up to my sumptuously-furnished and spacious classic king room to drop my things ready for the day’s activities. The hotel has 784 rooms, spanning three categories plus suites, in a complex comprising the original building and

two additional towers set round a lake. Some, like mine, have a decadent, classical European feel while others are more contemporary.

Besides the main campus accommodation, guests can also stay in cottages alongside the 18th fairway of Ross’s East Course, in Brownstone houses and in its five-bedroom exclusive retreat, Estate House.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

Take your pick from 10 restaurants as well as 10 cafes and lounges at The Broadmoor. They range from its casual pool café to the Penrose Room, Colorado’s only Forbes Five-Star, AAA Five Diamond restaurant.

Centenary overhauls saw the opening of Parisian patisserie-style Café Julie’s in the main building and The Grille in its Golf Club building.

I enjoy pre-dinner drinks in the Golden Bee, an authentic 19th century English pub that was transported to Colorado panel by panel when the building was demolished. You can wet your whistle with imported English beers (there’s even a yard of ale for the brave), American

craft ales or something stronger.

Following that, dinner is served in the Summit restaurant, which specialises in contemporary regional American cuisine with a classical twist and takes its inspiration from Pikes Peak. The restaurant features a striking glass-enclosed wine turret housing over 500 bottles.

SPA

The newly-renovated Broadmoor Spa features separate male and female steam rooms, saunas, aromatherapy rooms and lounges besides its Mountain View Room and Terrace overlooking the golf courses to the Rocky Mountains beyond which are open to both sexes. Treatments include a range of massages, body scrubs, wraps, facials (for men as well as women) and hydrotherapy.

Hotel guests also have the use of the fitness centre, indoor pool and outdoor whirlpool.

ACTIVITIES

One thing is certain if you stay at The Broadmoor – you won’t get bored. There are →

Right: Veteran Cadillac and landscaped garden welcome guests to the hotel
Far right, top: Main campus building lobby
Right middle: The Grille restaurant
Far right bottom: Ristorante del Lago





Left top: Fly fishing at the fishing camp, 75 miles from the hotel
Left middle: Horse riding at The Ranch at Emerald Valley
Left: Crossing a canyon on a rope bridge

two golf courses: the East Course, which has hosted numerous tournaments including the 2018 US Senior Open and 2011 US Women's Open, and the tighter West Course. Both are a blend of the original Donald Ross layout, the back nine forming part of the East and the front nine now part of the West with the other holes added by Robert Trent Jones Sr.

A fishing lodge and jetty on the lake by the East's 6th hole offers guests the chance to try fly fishing with help from expert guides. I have never tried before but manage to catch a trout with one of my casts.

I also join head falconer Deanna Curtis for a falconry demonstration with a Harris hawk and a falcon, which I get to hold while wearing a special handler's glove.

The hotel operates a tram to the nearby cascading Seven Falls waterfalls, hiking on many trails on-campus and in the area, mountain biking, tennis and indoor bowling as well as zip lines, rappelling and suspension bridges. It also has a heritage museum and the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo on site and owns the historic Pikes Peak Cog Railway, although that is currently closed as much of the equipment has reached the end of its working life.

Guests who really want a true wilderness experience can stay at one of The Broadmoor's specialist off-campus properties: The Ranch at Emerald Valley in Pike National Forest, Fly Fishing Camp on a private stretch of one of Colorado's best fishing rivers, and Cloud Camp, 3,000 feet above the hotel atop Cheyenne Mountain.

CONCLUSION

Few hotels combine such a feeling of being connected with the great outdoors with sheer indulgent luxury as The Broadmoor. Yet it manages to do so successfully and with a friendly Western welcome bereft of any stuffiness. I would sling my hook back there again in a heartbeat.

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Far left: Zip line adventure
Left middle: Peter Ellegard with falcon
Left bottom: Mountain biking in the woods

HOTEL GASTHOF POST LECH

LECH, Austria

By PETER ELLEGARD

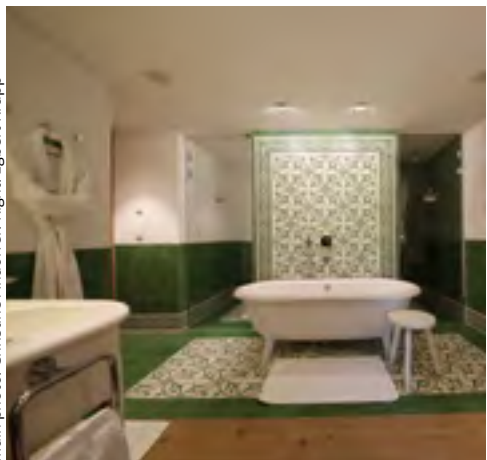
FAMILY AFFAIR

Peter Ellegard meets three generations of the Moosbrugger family who have transformed a one-time farmhouse into the stylish but homely Hotel Gasthof Post Lech in exclusive Austrian resort, Lech

Right: Florian Moosbrugger with his wife, Sandra, their two daughters and his mother. Below: Hotel Gasthof Post Lech's heated outdoor pool and its stunning views



All photos: Herbert Lehmann unless credited



Main photo: Christine Andorfer. Right: Egbert Krupp

Peter Ellegard

Peter Ellegard

Left: Rooms and suites have either traditional or modern themes. Right: Fresh honey straight from a honeycomb and traditional meat slicer

The tiny village of Lech in the Arlberg area of Austria's westernmost state, Vorarlberg, is one of Europe's most exclusive ski resorts. Its patrons down the years read like a Who's Who and have included the Dutch, Monaco and Jordanian royal families. It was also a favourite of Princess Diana and featured in the movie Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason.

Among its clutch of five-star hotels is the charming and historic Hotel Gasthof Post Lech, a winter favourite that is aiming to attract more visitors to experience this beautiful alpine region in summer, particularly golfers.

I fly to Zurich for a two-hour taxi transfer to Lech although guests can also take an express train to a station 17km away, from where the hotel will then pick them up.

At the Post Lech I am welcomed by owner Florian Moosbrugger and given a tour by English assistant manager Matt. The hotel is a real family affair. Florian and his wife Sandra are the third Moosbrugger generation to run it, with occasional help from their two teenage daughters. Originally a farmhouse, it had 20 guest beds a general store and post office when it was bought in 1937 by Florian's grandparents.

They helped Lech develop into a stylish winter sports resort and expanded the hotel, passing the mantle on to Florian's father, Franz, who

with his wife, Kristl, rebuilt it and added more rooms and facilities. In the 1970s it joined the prestigious Relais & Chateaux group. Sadly, Franz, a keen mountaineer, died suddenly in the Himalayas in 1988, leaving Kristl to manage it on her own.

Since Florian and Sandra took it over in 1999, the Post Lech has been named Austria's Hotel of the Year and Florian has been Hotelier of the Year. They have continued to augment its offerings under the watchful eye of his mother.

ROOMS

The Post Lech has 48 rooms and suites. Many are traditionally Austrian and rustic in feel, others being more contemporary but all exuding class. Every room has a hair dryer, safe and minibar, telephone, satellite TV, DVD player and hi-fi system as well as broadband internet.

My spacious room is traditionally furnished and has a red wooden-framed bed with matching bedside cabinets all bearing the postal horn logo, with an alpine scenery painting and canopy above it with lamps hanging from antlers either side. There is also a sofa and two wicker chairs with a table that has a bowl of fruit and bottles of water and juice.

The huge, gaudily-tiled bathroom has a free-standing bath, shower and toilet cubicles, two sinks and two bathrobes with Post Lech-branded slippers. A branded backpack, to use when out hiking or on day trips, hangs on one of several hooks in the vestibule, where there is also an umbrella. Leave your shoes out at night and they are cleaned by the morning. Outside, there is a balcony with a table and chairs where I relax and enjoy the scenic mountain and chalet views.

RESTAURANTS AND BAR

The main restaurant in the hotel is the open-plan Postblick, which has large windows enveloping two sides giving lovely mountain vistas. There are another two restaurants offering a more intimate dining experience while the Kutscherstube serves Austrian fare from 10am to 10pm. The Terrace also offers outside dining, weather permitting.

The food, served by friendly staff dressed in traditional Austrian clothing, is exquisitely presented and delicious, prepared by a kitchen masterminded by creative, award-winning young Tyrolean head chef David Waggener. Dishes served up for dinner on one evening included beef tartare – ever-present on the menu, along with schnitzel and tafelspitz →

(boiled beef) – as well as lobster foam soup with gin cream and saddle of deer.

For breakfast, there’s a comprehensive selection of muesli, cereals, fruit, cakes and cheeses, cold meat sliced as you wait, fresh honey dripping from a beehive honeycomb and a menu of cooked options.

The cosy bar, named after US writer Ludwig Bemelmans, a regular guest in the late 1950s, is just the place for a pre or post dinner cocktail. I recommend the mojito.

SPA AND WELLNESS

The uber-modern spa offers a range of massages, therapies and beauty treatments. I’m reluctant to leave the relaxing swing seat by reception for my massage. There’s a salt-water steam bath with exterior grotto, a sauna giving a view to the glorious nature outside and a relaxation room looking out to a towering mountain.

The outdoor infinity pool, accessed via glass doors on the hotel’s top floor, is heated and open all year. There are loungers set around it and the blossom-filled Ebra Park has paths through pretty floral and herb gardens laid out behind the hotel in what was the farmyard where guests can walk and enjoy afternoon tea in its tea house.

Families are catered for, too. Inside the bath house is a children’s pool complete with water slide.

ACTIVITIES

Opened in 2015, the nine-hole Lech Golf Club lies just above the village, and at an altitude of 1,500 metres is the highest course in the Alps. Post Lech guests enjoy 40% off green fees and golf and stay packages are available. There are four 18-hole Voralberg courses less than an hour’s drive away including Lech Golf Club’s sister club Bludenz-Braz and Monfort Rankweil Golf Club, right on the Swiss border.

Post Lech guests can explore the surrounding area on its mountain bikes. The hotel also offers hikes with experienced mountain guides, stopping off for a snack at its Formarin mountain hut.

CONCLUSION

Although Lech is renowned more as a winter resort, it provides spectacular mountain scenery that can be enjoyed to the full in summer, which is strangely off-season for the high Alps. And the Hotel Gasthof Post Lech makes a welcoming, stylish and comfortable yet traditional home-from-home base, whether you want to climb every mountain or just enjoy a few of your favourite things.

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Right and below: Warm room, sauna and relaxation room in the Post Lech’s spa



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