

FLORIDA

Heading away from the theme parks to the beauty of Fort Myers and Sanibel

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

A mix of colours, history, nature and sandy beaches

COSTA RICA

Ecotourism in the "The Happiest Place on Earth!"

PLANET GOLF

REVIEW

ISSUE 18

THE ESSENTIAL 13

Not sure what to pack?
We've got you covered

THE MASTERS

Our review and betting guide to the first Major of the year

STAY, PLAY & SPA

Finding peace and tranquility in Morocco and Argentina

EQUIPMENT & APPAREL REVIEWS

New equipment and apparel from Callaway, TaylorMade and Duca del Cosma

VIEW.COM

WELCOME

A new year and like Star Wars episode IV – A New Hope. As the vaccine programme rolls out around the world, thoughts of travel and holiday destinations start to gather momentum, excitement and possibilities of exploring or just relaxing, laying on a beach or playing a new golf course. With that in mind, Jane takes you on an eco trip to Costa Rica, Peter points and shoots his Canon camera in Trinidad and Tobago and Charmaine and myself visit Florida's Fort Myers & Sanibel, while Iesha gives our female readers the Top 13 essential items to pack for your travels.

In our Hotel and Spa section Peter brings you two wonderful options for a long or short break Argentina's Llao Llao Resort, Golf & Spa and the Michlifen Resort and Golf in Morocco.

As time flies by during lockdown, the month of April has

suddenly arrived and of course azaleas spring to mind for golfers with thoughts turning to the first Major Championship of the year, The Masters. For Dustin Johnson it will be the shortest reign of any Masters Champion unless he defends his title that he won in September, we bring you our world-renowned review and betting guide.

Jane also adds to our golf content this month interviewing Costa Rican professional golfer José Quesada who set up a programme to help people with physical disabilities enjoy the great game. We also have new equipment reviews from Callaway, TaylorMade and apparel from Duca del Cosmo.

With such a packed issue I hope it helps brings you the "New Hope" and optimism we all feel at PGR Magazine. We wish you and your families a wonderful spring. See you in July.

MEET THE TEAM

Editor

James Mason

Art Director

Jimmy Kennedy

Associate Editor

Peter Ellegard

Hotel and Spa Editor

Charmaine Hibbert

Features Editor

Jane Finn

Contributing travel writers

Kukua Akumanyi

Iesha Hinds

Bernadette Kennedy

Stephanie Mason

General enquiries

enquiries@planetgolfreview.com

Follow us on social media by clicking on the logo below or add us using our username

Instagram: @planetgolfreview

Twitter: @planetgolfrview

YouTube: James Mason Planetgolfreview



VIEW.COM

PLANTO THE

REVIEW

Cover image: View from the marina at Llao Llao Resort, Golf & Spa, Argentina. See page 43



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 The Masters**
Review and betting guide to this year's first Major Championship
- p 6 Trinidad and Tobago in Focus**
This month Peter takes his Canon camera and captures the colours of Trinidad and Tobago
- p 10 Costa Rica**
Mother Nature can be both awe-inspiring and brutal at the same time. Jane Finn heads to the "The Happiest Place on Earth" Costa Rica and discovers both beauty and the beast
- p 16 Interview**
Jane Finn talks to Costa Rican golf professional José Quesada and how a car accident changed his and his friend's lives
- p 20 The Essential 13**
Packing problems? Don't worry; Ilesha Hinds gives you her tips and what 13 essential items need to be in your suitcase for any trip
- p 24 Fort Myers & Sanibel**
James Mason and Charmaine Hibbert head away from Florida's well-worn beaten track and discover the beauty of Fort Myers & Sanibel
- p 30 Equipment & Apparel Reviews**
Featuring the latest releases from Callaway, Duca del Cosma and TaylorMade
- p 38 Stay, Play & Spa**
Style and history feature in our two reviews from Ifrane, Morocco, and Bariloche, Argentina

PLANET

REVIEW



VIEW.COM



Nate Weigle

GEORGIA ON OUR MINDS

Back in its rightful time slot and signalling the start to the golfing year once again, with our TV screens basking in vibrant colours and sunny Georgian spring days along with fantastic golf shots, yes The Masters is back

Above: Beauty and the beast at the par 5 13th, with Raes Creek waiting for any miss hit shot

It only seems like a few weeks ago that Dustin Johnson was handed the green jacket that declared him the 2020 Masters Champion, in fact it was November last year and Dustin's reign will be one of the shortest in the history of the event, unless he extends that for another year by winning again this week.

There is nothing like the Augusta National Golf Club in full bloom and while it was interesting to see how the course looked in winter, I for one am certainly looking forward to seeing the azaleas, magnolias and all the other wonderful species of flowers in full bloom again this year.

More than any other year the anticipation leading up to this years Masters Championship is palpable and surely the pandemic and the shut →

DUSTIN JOHNSON

8 | 1



TaylorMade

BRYSON DECHAMBEAU

11 | 1



Cobra Puma Golf

PATRICK CANTLAY

22 | 1



Titleist

SUNG-JAE IM

40|1



Titleist

CAMERON SMITH

45|1



Asian Tour

WILL ZALATORIS

80|1



@WillZalatoris

down of golf and live sport has a lot to do with that and I feel with the Masters being back to its normal time slot hopefully signals that we are on the path to some sort of normality.

TIPS TO WIN

Having only donned the green jacket for five months **Dustin Johnson 9/1 – with BetFred** – will be going all out not to be the shortest reigning Masters Champion in history. Dustin did go through a rough patch recently with his driver, but he seems to have rectified that problem and with his wedge play and putting I feel he will be the man to beat this week.

I did tip **Bryson DeChambeau 11/1 – with BetFred** – at the November Masters, I do feel his power is going to be a massive bonus around the Augusta National course and having had time to learn when to use that extra power and when not to instead of going gung-ho on every tee shot like he did last year will make him a dangerous competitor this time round. If you then add in his short game he will certainly be giving DJ a run for his money come Sunday.

I love match-play and according to some reports **Patrick Cantlay 22/1 – with UniBet** – was -23

for the three rounds he played and still didn't make it out of the group stages, but what that does show is how good a shape his golf game is in right now, especially when you add it to his final round 61 at The American Express and an opening round of 62 at the AT&T Pebble Beach earlier this year.

EACH-WAY TIPS

Another player that will feel he has unfinished business in Georgia from last year is **Sung-Jae Im 401 – with SportingBet** – and although the course is going to be a lot firmer than it was in November Sung-Jae certainly has the short game to cope around Augusta National greens. Im has made the Top 25 in nine of his eighteen starts so far this season and with the smaller field and past champions, I feel he will be challenging again come Sunday.

I am also going to stick with my 100/1 outside tip from the November Masters **Cameron Smith 45/1 – with SportingBet** – and of course his odds have been slashed after his runner-up finish firing all four rounds in the 60s and becoming the first player to do so and not don the green jacket. Let's not forget that Cameron also has another Top 5 finish here so for me his performance in

November wasn't a surprise.

MY OUTSIDE TIP

Nothing seems to faze **Will Zalatoris 80/1 – with BetFred** – and just to show his sixth-place finish at the US Open wasn't a fluke he followed that up with a Top 25 at the Players Championship and a Top 15 at a very tough Riviera Country Club for the Genesis Invitational and has had four other Top 10 finishes this wraparound season. This maybe Will's first Masters Championship but I think he could challenge the Top 5 this week.

LONGER ODDS TIP

Try **Victor Perez 150/1 – with SpreadEx**

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!

Right: The par 3, 12th hole at Augusta National has seen many dreams of a green jacket dashed



Mike Rundie

LATEST FIRST ROUND BETTING ODDS FOR THE PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Dustin Johnson 9/1
Bryson DeChambeau 11/1
Justin Thomas 11/1
Jon Rahm 12/1
Jordan Spieth 14/1
Rory McIlroy 16/1
Patrick Cantlay 20/1
Xander Schauffele 20/1
Tony Finau 28/1
Collin Morikawa 28/1
Patrick Reed 30/1
Viktor Hovland 33/1
Daniel Berger 33/1
Sung-Jae Im 35/1
Cameron Smith 35/1
Tyrrell Hatton 40/1
Hideki Matsuyama 40/1
Webb Simpson 40/1
Lee Westwood 40/1
Scottie Scheffler 40/1
Bubba Watson 45/1
Paul Casey 45/1
Sergio Garcia 50/1
Matthew Fitzpatrick 50/1
Tommy Fleetwood 55/1
Joaquin Niemann 55/1
Jason Day 55/1
Louis Oosthuizen 66/1
Adam Scott 66/1
Abraham Ancer 70/1
Justin Rose 70/1
Corey Conners 70/1
Max Homa 80/1
Billy Horschel 80/1
Will Zalatoris 80/1
Jason Kokrak 80/1
Harris English 80/1
Brian Harman 90/1
Matthew Wolff 90/1
Ryan Palmer 90/1
Matt Kuchar 100/1
Victor Perez 100/1
Marc Leishman 110/1
Shane Lowry 110/1
Phil Mickelson 110/1
Francesco Molinari 110/1
Carlos Ortiz 110/1
Cameron Champ 125/1

[More](#)

IMPRESSIONS FROM TRINIDAD & TOBAGO



Left: Hidden cove near
Plymouth, Tobago
Below: Wining - dancing
- to a steel pan band in
Buccoo, Tobago



Left: Coconut
palms, golden
sands and
waves at
Stonehaven
Bay, Tobago



Left: Trinidad
cricket legend
Brian Lara signed
cap and golf ball
commemorating
his first world
record score
Right: Colourful
cafes at Store Bay,
Tobago



Right: Mangrove
swamp, Caroni Bird
Sanctuary, Trinidad
Far right: Crystal-
clear waters at
Nylon Pool, Tobago



Below: Kayaks on the beach at Stonehaven Bay, Tobago
Right: Ruins and cannon at Tobago Plantations Estate, Tobago



Above: Fort James, Plymouth, Tobago
Right: Argyle Falls, Roxborough, Tobago



Left: House in Black Rock, Tobago



Above: Bird-watching boat trip, Caroni Bird Sanctuary, Trinidad



Left: Buccoo Reef
boat trip, Tobago
Below: Sunday
School dance
hall sign, Buccoo,
Tobago
Bottom right: Store
Bay Beach, Tobago



Above: Maracas
Beach, Trinidad
Left: All dressed
up - "The King"
at Sunday School
dance night,
Buccoo, Tobago
Right: Scarlet
Ibis at Caroni
Bird Sanctuary,
Trinidad
Below: Trinidad's
north coast



IMPRESSIONS FROM TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

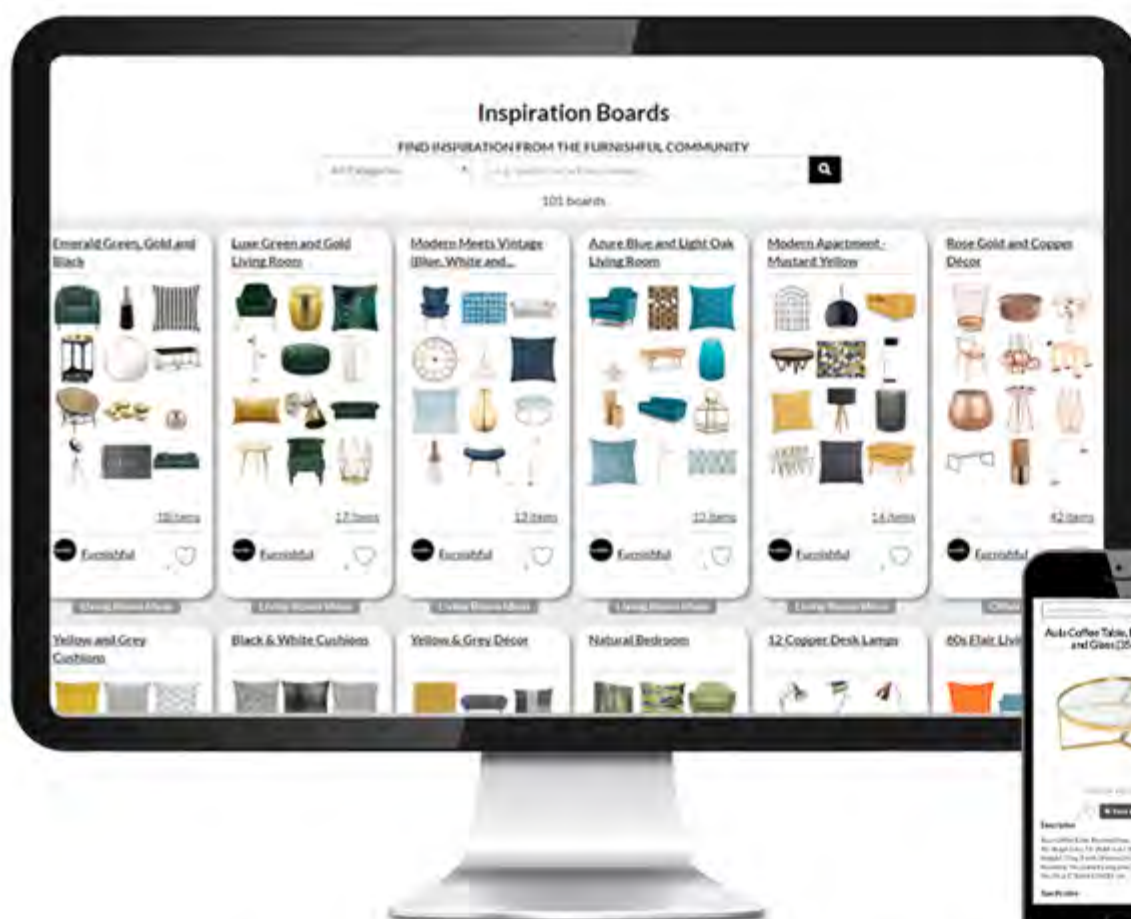
See more of Peter
Ellegard's work on
Instagram
@peterellegard or
peterellegard.co.uk





SHOP THOUSANDS OF
FURNITURE
AND
HOME DÉCOR
items from over 30
retailers

Shop Now



www.furnishful.co.uk

BORN TO BE WILD

Jane Finn immerses herself in Nature and
discovers why Costa Rica may be *"The Happiest
Place on Earth!"*



¡Pura Vida! ¡Pura Vida! In Costa Rica, whether you're traversing a mountain trail, hiking in the jungle, relaxing by the water or ordering shi-frijo for lunch, you're bound to be the recipient of this distinctive Tico greeting. Two simple words that translate as "Good Life," but how do you define it?

Is it catching the perfect wave, thundering across a deserted beach on horseback or playing a round of golf beneath a jungle canopy? Is it meeting new people, savouring the local cuisine, volunteering or a combination of all or some of these pursuits?

For me, ¡Pura Vida! means doing more of what you love to do. Walking your happy path, wherever it may lead, and on this trip, it led us to the magical, majestic Pacific Coast.

I have to admit as I touch down in Costa Rica, I am not too impressed with San Jose. It's boisterous, crowded and sprawling. Where is the peace and serenity, the nourishment I crave to feed my soul? However, within minutes of leaving the city, I get the answer to my question. Zipping along the highway en route to Jaco, the buildings that lined the narrow city streets soon give way to green, verdant rainforests, and the rallying cries of scarlet macaws replace honking horns, welcoming me to a piece of paradise on earth.

ECOTOURISM

Costa Rica is a world leader when it comes to environmental protection and doing ecotourism right. This tiny Latin American country makes up less than 0.03% of the planet's landmass but is home to more than 5% of the world's biodiversity. More than half of Costa Rica remains undeveloped, and 25% of the land is protected and dedicated to national parks, marine reserves and wildlife refuges. That's what I am here to explore, and it isn't long before I have my first taste of the wild.

I park the car at Crocodile Bridge and traverse it on foot to catch my first glimpse of these magnificent and somewhat terrifying

reptiles. From high above the Tarcoles River, I safely count more than 50 crocodiles lazing on the beach or stealthily navigating the muddy waters. Even at 200 feet, I could sense their power, their cunning and their strength. Crocodiles have inhabited the earth for millions of years, and in many cultures, they are revered as the keepers of ancient wisdom. Crocodiles remind us to absorb the experience before moving too quickly to the next activity. Intuitively I know that there are lessons they still have to teach me, so this would not be my last encounter with these unstoppable, untameable creatures.

As I pull off the highway and start climbing the private 1.5-kilometre road leading to Villa Caletas, my heart begins to sing. When French entrepreneur and visionary Denis Roy purchased this property in 1989, it was a wasteland. The rainforest had been decimated to make way for cattle ranching, and the landscape was barren and bleak. Today, every hectare has been painstakingly restored to its former glory and is once again teeming with life.

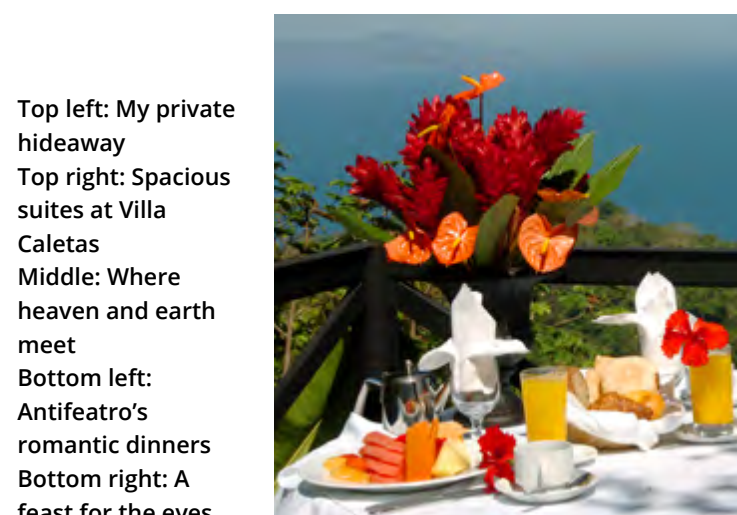
Within minutes of arriving at the main building, perched atop a 365-metre peak, I find myself on the terrace taking in the sweeping views of the Gulf Islands, Playa Herradura and the Nicoya Peninsula. Over the next few days, I feast on incredible meals and enjoy unparalleled service from this vantage point at the Anfiteatro restaurant. However, watching the sunset over the vast expanse of ocean before me would become a nightly ritual that never failed to delight.

Between Villa Caletas and the Zephyr Palace, this charming property provides guests with a choice of 10 different accommodations, exquisitely decorated and very romantic. I am lucky enough to snag a Junior Suite Superior with a private plunge pool, and after unpacking, taking advantage of this amenity was my number one priority. I had no sooner settled in with a perfectly chilled glass →

"For me, ¡Pura Vida! means doing more of what you love to do. Walking your happy path, wherever it may lead, and on this trip, it led us to the magical, majestic Pacific Coast"

Right: Choose a hand-painted sign that speaks to you about "the Good Life!"





Top left: My private hideaway
 Top right: Spacious suites at Villa Caletas
 Middle: Where heaven and earth meet
 Bottom left: Antifeatro's romantic dinners
 Bottom right: A feast for the eyes

"Over the next few days, I feast on incredible meals and enjoy unparalleled service from this vantage point at the Anfiteatro restaurant. However, watching the sunset over the vast expanse of ocean before me would become a nightly ritual that never failed to delight" →

“Suddenly a Tiger-Heron landed on the shore and snatched one of her babies before quickly dancing out of reach of Mama – I can only describe it as a ‘National Geographic’ moment, one I will never forget. She let out a fierce roar, and I could feel her anguish as she faced the difficult choice between saving the one or protecting the many”



Matthew Warner

of wine in hand, ready to let my mind drift, when the overhanging tree branch begins to rustle and sway. With bated breath, I wait to see who had come to call when a white-faced Capuchin monkey with her baby in tow emerged. I did nothing to entice her to stay, as it is illegal to feed or touch any wildlife except sit exceptionally still. For the next 15 minutes, I am entranced watching them frolic between the jungle and stone wall that surrounded our hideaway - another memory to treasure and a harbinger of what was yet to come.

As difficult as it was to tear myself away from the tranquillity of Villa Caleta, I am determined to get up close and personal with the crocodiles I had seen before. I have booked a safari with José's Crocodile River Tour, and I'm so glad I did as it turns out to be an experience of a lifetime.

RIO TARCOLES

The tour starts calmly enough as we languidly cruise the Rio Tarcoles, encountering motmots, pelicans, howler monkeys, and more than a

dozen crocodiles, the largest weighing in at 1,900 pounds. About the halfway point of our journey, we round a bend and come upon a mother surrounded by thirty or more babies. José cut the motor to get a better look, suddenly a Tiger-Heron landed on the shore and snatched one of her babies before quickly dancing out of reach of Mama – I can only describe it as a ‘National Geographic’ moment, one I will never forget. She let out a fierce roar, and I could feel her anguish as she faced the difficult choice between saving the one or protecting →

Top: Meandering Rio Tarcoles
Below left: Curious White-faced Capuchin monkeys
Middle: Baby crocodiles unaware of danger
Below right: A Tiger-Heron finds his mark



the many.

Several people on the boat are pleading with the crew to intervene and save the baby, but they are adamant that we had to allow Nature to run her course. Amazingly, another Tiger-Heron arrives who is equally intent on stealing the prize. As the fray ensues, the heron drops the baby crocodile, and mum goes on the attack giving him a chance to get back in the water. A stark reminder: this becomes a real-life lesson for me in how fragile life can be.

Day three, the sun has barely risen as I make my way to the entrance gates at Manuel Antonio, the smallest of Costa Rica's 27 National Parks. Still, it's one of my favourites because it contains several ecosystems within a compact area. Geographically and biologically complex, you could explore it on your own, but I find engaging a guide makes for a much richer experience. It's also another way for you to be able to help the local economy. The money you pay the guide will no doubt be spent on food, which in turns helps the local store and so it goes on. The same can be said for dropping a couple of dollars in the donation box at the wildlife refuges to support the volunteers who toil tirelessly to make sure these preserves will be there for generations to come.

ANCIENT SLOTHS

Our friend Fabio Solano from Tee Times Costa Rica has hooked me up with a local who is not only a certified ICT naturalist but also a photo enthusiast. Danny has a trained eye and a keen ear, not to mention a big-ass telescope. On every one of the eight trails, he points out sloths, toucans, frogs, flora and fauna that I would never have observed. I did not see the elusive and endangered squirrel monkeys, but the howlers made their presence known, and the white-faced capuchins came out to play. Danny's connection to nature helped me capture some stunning images through his lens.

Of all the two-winged and four-legged creatures we meet, I find the sloths the most intriguing. Ticos affectionately refer to them as 'perozoso', which translates as lazy, but I think that's a misnomer. Sloths are ancient, arboreal mammals that spend most of their time hanging upside down, taking in their surroundings. According to indigenous people, sloth symbolises relaxation and conservation. →



Shawn McCready

“Of all the two-winged and four-legged creatures we meet, I find the sloths the most intriguing. Ticos affectionately refer to them as ‘perozoso’, which translates as lazy, but I think that’s a misnomer”



Huntingdesigns



Huntingdesigns



Mathieu Schouteten

Top: A stunning pair of scarlet macaws make time for play
Middle/bottom left: Colourful bracket fungi make whimsical forest shelves
Bottom right: A two-toed sloth contemplates - what's for lunch?

When times get rough, they know how to adapt to change. They take time to think about their next move – skills we need to hone in these challenging times.

Costa Rica boasts more than 800 miles of coastline, and no vacation would be complete without some time by the sea. As much as I had enjoyed my inland adventures, I admit I am looking forward to spending time in Tamarindo, soaking up the sun and the beach town’s bohemian vibes.

For the next couple of days, I wander downtown on foot, chatting with local artisans and making a jewellery purchase or two along the way. I took a catamaran to Witch’s Rock to watch the surfers ply the waves, spent an afternoon snorkelling at a secluded bay, and visited Playa Grande, home to Las Baulas National Park and the largest nesting colony of leatherback turtles in the world. I also sampled more than a few cervezas at the Paradise and Volcano Brewing companies!

It’s our last night and looking for a little

romance, we make our way to Panga’s, a casual but elegant beachfront restaurant at the far end of town. The furnishings aren’t fancy. Rustic chairs and tables appear randomly strewn across the white sand shore, but trust me, they are strategically placed to ensure everyone has a front-row seat to witness the sky splashed with pink, orange and purple as the sun goes down. The arrangement ensures that groups can freely converse while couples enjoy an intimate dinner for two.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

And the food, in a word – fabulous! I have to say the wahoo carpaccio is heavenly, but the main courses are divine. If you’re a beef lover, be sure to try the rib eye. Know that it will be cooked to perfection since it arrives atop a volcanic rock that is heated to 500°F, allowing you to finish it off to the degree of rare/medium rare/well done that suits your personal taste.

Before retiring for the night, I gaze up at a star-filled sky, and a single word pops into my

head – mellow – and I realise I have mentally slowed down and recognise that busyness is not a badge of honour.

Costa Rica is a place where you can raise your consciousness and be in the moment. Life is continuously manifesting itself around you. If you close your tablet, turn off your cell phone, and stop worrying about your number of likes, you can’t help but feel alive, aware, grounded and centred.

¡Pura Vida! is more than a marketing slogan; it’s a mindset that Costa Ricans take to heart and live every day. ¡Pura Vida! is about being, not just doing. It’s about enjoying life’s simple pleasures and taking stock of what’s important – family, friends and community. Perhaps that’s why Costa Rica is ranked #1 out of 140 countries as the “Happiest Place on Earth!”

When you’re ready to reconnect with your surroundings and yourself, Costa Rica awaits. It’s time to find your happy path.

Far left: A postcard-perfect sunset
Top middle: Dining al fresco at Panga’s
Bottom middle: Pull up a chair and enjoy Tamarindo’s beach vibe
Top left: A women’s cooperative sells handmade pottery from distant villages
Bottom left: Celebrating a world made for two

“¡Pura Vida! is more than a marketing slogan; it’s a mindset that Costa Ricans take to heart and live every day”



Dominik Gubi



Erico Silva



JOURNEY PLANNER

WHERE TO STAY

Villa Caletas and Zephyr Palace
Sur Herradura, 21220, Costa Rica
T: +506 2630 3000
F: +506 2630 0404
E: reservation@villacaletas.com
W: hotelvillacaletas.com

WHERE TO EAT

Panga’s Beach Club
Tamarindo, Guanacaste, Costa Rica
T: +506 2653 0024
E: reservations@pngabeachclubcr.com
W: pangasbeachclubcr.com

THINGS TO DO

José’s Crocodile River Tour
Puntarenas Province, Tarcoles, Costa Rica
T: +506 2637 0795
WA: +506 887 7641
W: crocodilertour.com

Manuel Antonio National Park
Puntarenas Province, Quespos, Costa Rica
W: manuelantoniopark.com

Tee Times Costa Rica
T: US +1 866 448 3182
T: UK +44 20 8123 9209
T: CR +506 8982 7496
W: teetimescostarica.com
W: costaricagolf.vacations



CHALLENGE GOLF: Empowering People of All Abilities



Jane Finn talks to José Quesada and discovers how helping a friend recover from an accident turned into helping a nation win gold medals



I have listened to hundreds of TED Talks and paid big bucks to hear motivational speakers, but it has been a long time since I have been as inspired as I was after having lunch at the 18th & Greene with José Quesada.

José is a natural redhead, a spitfire, a bundle of energy, and a force to be reckoned with, who happens to be the PGA Director of Golf for Costa Rica’s Los Sueños Marriott Ocean & Golf Resort whose commitment and contribution to the game far exceeds his position. When José is not dreaming up innovative events or making improvements to an already exceptional course, he finds ways to make golf accessible to anyone who wants to play.

Sixteen years ago, a close friend of José’s

had an accident and lost his mobility and some of his motivation. That is when José set out, with his employer’s support, on a mission to help unleash the potential of people with intellectual or physical disabilities.

As José tells the story of how he started out teaching his friend in his backyard, there is a light in his eyes and a fire in his belly that burns bright. For José, it was gratifying to witness his friend’s progress. Week after week, his friend gained physical strength and mental agility, and José saw how recreation could drive health and happiness. One day, his friend turned to him and said: “Gracias. Algo mas Porque Vivir!” – “Thank you. Something else to live for!” That moment would prove to be the catalyst that would launch Challenge Golf.



What started as a clinic here and there with a handful of participants is now a thriving, grassroots organisation. La Iguana remains Challenge Golf’s home course, but the addition of Valle del Sol, Cariari and the Westin Reserva Conchal, which provide free facilities and volunteers, has extended the programme’s reach to hundreds of people in Costa Rica with diverse abilities.

Currently, Challenge Golf players range in age from 14 to 60, but José affectionately refers to them all as ‘his kids’ and his enthusiasm for every one of them is boundless. When I ask him why he does what he does, he exemplifies being humble and kind. All he says is: “I want to give back”, and deftly turns the conversation to his students’ accomplishments.

With every word, you can hear how proud he is of his players. Through golf, they have learned discipline, focus and patience. Some have regained physical strength. Others have acquired new skills, but most importantly, every participant has made new friends and built relationships that enhance their lives and the community. And while Challenge Golf’s mission is to have fun, encourage cooperation and help one another achieve their personal goals, that does not mean that the players are not competitive.

In 2016, Emanuel Viquez travelled to Milan and played in the ISPS Handa Blind Open. Emanuel competed and represented Costa Rica well, but with Christian Mora his trainer and José serving as his eyes, he also explored the

architecture, history, and culture and felt Italy's energy. Emanuel has gone onto university and is now working as an economist, demonstrating that golf is more than winning awards. It is about experiencing life to the fullest.

In 2018, a Challenge Golf delegation of four became the second team from North America to be invited to the Macau Masters, the largest tournament in the world for golfers with intellectual disabilities. In 2019, after working hard to hone their skills, Jafeth López Carvajal captured a gold, Paula López Alpizar and Sergio Umaña brought home silver, and Dennis Sala Cordero scored a bronze. Their victories were a win for them and their friends, showing that anything is possible with dedication, encouragement, and determination.

Due to current circumstances, the 2020

Macau Masters was cancelled, and it is uncertain if the 2021 event will go ahead as planned. Still, this has not deterred any Challenge Golfer from striving to earn a coveted spot on the team.

With the clinics also suspended, José has devised a series of challenges using household items to keep his players engaged while continuing to develop their skills. Everyone is encouraged to submit videos after completing an activity or exercise and receives one-on-one feedback and coaching support. Several times a month, participants don their uniforms and join their teammates online to share tips and trade stories. Parents report that they notice a change in demeanour and a more pronounced 'can-do' attitude on these occasions. Sharing their trials and triumphs virtually builds camaraderie



"Parents report that they notice a change in demeanour and a more pronounced 'can-do' attitude on these occasions"



and self-esteem, and everyone is grateful for these opportunities. Still, some admit they miss the combo lunches McDonald's generously supplies to anyone who attends a clinic! Like so many of us, they appreciate the technology that has kept them connected but look forward to celebrating in person once more.

Challenge Golf's participants, their families and their sponsors are sources of inspiration, living proof that the more you do, the more you can do. And José's passion for people is a reminder that each of us has a lot to give back if we so choose.

All of us have moments in our lives when

something seems impossible, and none of us can achieve success without some help along the way. You can give back by donating if you have the means or volunteering if you have the time. Either way, when you enrich the lives of others, you grow richer in the process.

To quote Denzel Washington: "At the end of the day, it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished...it's about who you lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you've given back."

Isn't it time you challenged yourself to do more? And yes, one person can make a difference!

"At the end of the day, it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished...it's about who you lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you've given back"

FACT BOX

Challenge Golf

W: facebook.com/ChallengeGolfCR/

T: +506 8814 4653

E: challengegolf@hotmail.com

José Quesada

Founder – Challenge Golf

PGA Director of Golf – La Iguana Golf Course

Los Sueños Marriott Ocean & Golf Resort

Playa Herradura 028-4023

Puntarenas, Costa Rica

T: +506 2630 9012

F: +506 2630 9098

E: jose.quesada@marriott.com

W: golflaiguana.com

Valle del Sol GC

Pozos de Santa Ana

San Jose, Costa Rica

T: +506 2282 9222

W: vallesol.com/en

Club Cariari

La Asunción de Belén

Heredia, Costa Rica

T: +506 4082 3300

E: info@clubcariari.com

W: clubcariari.com

Westin Reserva Conchal

Playa Concha, Cabo Velas

Guanacaste, Costa Rica

T: +506 2654 3000

T: +1 800 717 0916

E: golf@reservaconchal.com

To arrange to stay and play at any of these courses, contact:

Tee Times Costa Rica

T: US +1 866 448 3182

T: UK +44 20 8123 9209

T: CR +506 8982 7496

W: teetimescostarica.com

W: costaricagolf.vacations



SAMSONITE WOMAN

Getting the essentials right when you're packing for a trip can be a minefield for women. Iesha Hinds from Fashion Digest London highlights a few, new up and coming designers that put sustainability front and centre and her Top 13 must-haves for your next trip

1. PATAGONIA

First off the checklist is a monochrome set for the everyday. In a Patagonia set you'll look put together with minimal effort. I first came across this brand in 2019 when there was a big push for affordable, sustainable clothing from the high-end brands in the fashion community. Patagonia is a brand that doesn't claim to have it all figured out with regards to the sustainability challenges which are apparent in the production process and yet for a relatively new company they've achieved a lot more than the majority of brands. Self-critique and improvement are a key element in their mission and they aren't patting themselves on the back for the progress they have made thus far. A lot of their clothing is Fair Trade certified, reasonably priced while still maintaining a high standard when it comes to quality.

[Click here for Patagonia](#)



2. TELFAR

Telfar is a brand that has been on people's radar for a couple years now. It has managed to remain affordable and inclusive while creating the allure and desirability that is synonymous with the luxury brands of old. Their standout piece is the Shopping Bag which has been aptly nicknamed the "Bushwick Birkin" for its luxe, classic and utilitarian design yet affordable price. With their tagline "It's not for you - it's for everyone", Telfar has managed to attract the New Age client who wants something of quality that is sustainable but without the snobbery of some of the traditional brands. Similar to Patagonia it is the ethical and tolerant DNA of the brand that makes it one to watch in this increasingly conscious era. The Shopping Bag is hard to acquire, with each drop selling rapidly so my advice would be to join the email list on the home site and check Farfetch which has built a rapport among the smaller luxury boutiques from around the world. Note a lot of influencers provide a 10% off coupon code also for Farfetch.

[Click here for The Telfar Shopping Bag](#)



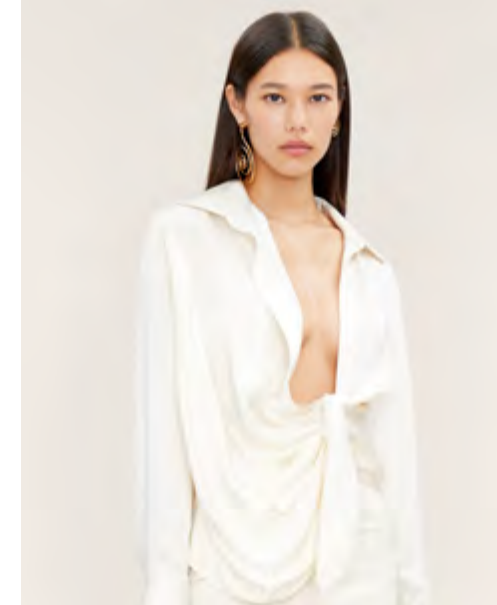
THE ESSENTIAL 13



The Blazer: A Kimono style take on the blazer that flatters the waist. A new British-based brand that has been featured in Vogue.
[Click here for Odd Muse](#)

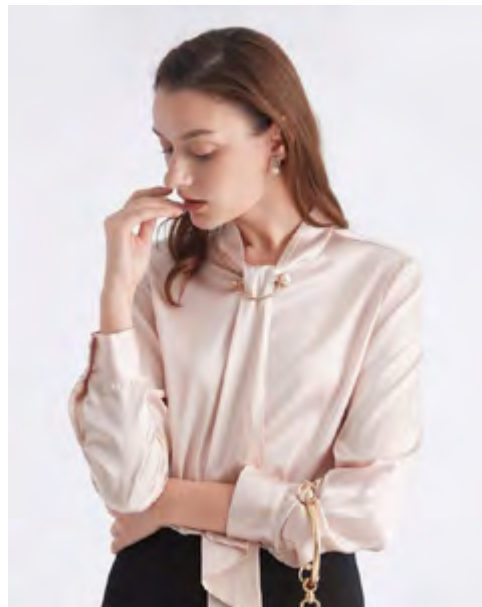


The T-Shirt: An elevated look with carefully tailored shoulder pads that allows for the wearer to look effortlessly put together.
[Click here for Frankie Shop](#)



The Shirt: An interesting take on what is often just a plain tailored shirt.
[Click here for Jacquemus](#)

The Blouse: Stand out in something silk with added golden-tone pearl D-ring cuffs for good measure.
[Click here for Lily Silk](#)



The Skirt: Leather pencil skirt with belt loops and a monochromatic belt for the perfect fit. Again, similar to Odd Muse, Santinni is a relatively new brand.
[Click here for Santinni](#)



The Jumper Dress: Get the ease of wearing a jumper dress that includes gold button details and extra tailoring in the shoulders for added structure. In a recent social media post, Kate Middleton can be seen wearing a Holland Cooper shirt bodysuit which is a good sign of things to come for the relatively new brand.
[Click here for Holland Cooper](#)





The Evening Dress: A dress with good tailoring and hides a multitude of sins after a meal or two, while maintaining your silhouette. I wore this to a wedding and had zero regrets.
[Click here for House of CB](#)



The Robe: The ultimate robe, as extravagant as it is, is perfect for the everyday because c'est la vie.
[Click here for Versace](#)



The Sunglasses: Another understated yet well-made piece to add to your collection, these sunglasses don't have the typical logos incorporated into their design, making them a true timeless, luxury staple that isn't subject to changes in creative directors' whims over the decades.
[Click here for Dita Eyewear](#)



The Sandals: Versatile, these Oran sandals can be worn to brunch, on the beach, anywhere really. These are deemed the most desirable pair and have held this title over the decades.
[Click here for Hermès](#)

The Bermuda Shorts: A well-tailored all-rounder ideal for the hot weather and cooler nights.
[Click here for Balmain](#)



Sleepwear: A multitude of nude coloured silk sets are available providing all the hypoallergenic benefits, comfort and style that one now demands from their evening attire.
[Click here for Skims](#)



The Swimsuit: A classic colour in a classic style, this swimsuit can be worn as a bodysuit under shorts or with a Sarong.
[Click here for Norma Kamali](#)



ISLAND LIFE

The Fort Myers & Sanibel area is blessed with beaches and golf courses that wouldn't look out of place on a Caribbean Island



The stunning view from the Captiva course at South Seas Island Resort

GASPARILLA GOLF CLUB

W: the-gasparilla-inn.com/activities/golf

It's hard not to love Gasparilla Golf Club and the pace of life on Boca Grand – it's like a little piece of the Caribbean moved to the Gulf Coast. It's 7.30am and after several large rum and cokes which followed some beautiful wine after dinner last night, I am not feeling 100% but the setting soon brings me back to my senses and after a few warm-up chips I head to the first tree.

There are four teeing options here ranging from (gold) 6,811 to (white) 5,691 yards. I decide to go from the golds and smash my first drive down the second fairway – oops, obviously not recovered from that last Cuba Libre five hours ago. But surrounded by this beauty not even a big high cut can dilute my excitement.

As I zip past a bunker in the middle of the fairway I think to myself that putting it on the second fairway may not have been a bad idea after all. The palm trees, that ever-present swish that carries across the course and the salty air remind you that you're not far from the sea. It's when you play your second shot to the par 4,329-yard 3rd green that you first experience Gasparilla Sound, which is the stretch of water that separates Gasparilla Island from the mainland.

And it's at this moment your heart will leap as it is a place of true beauty. I know better is to come as I can see more holes between me and the sea. There are two great back-to-back par 3s at the 5th and 6th, but the sea has me and as I stand on the 442-yard 8th tee the light is perfect. I've said many a time how blessed I feel to play the game of golf and there have been countless great moments – plus I know that there are more to come on this track – but there is not a soul in sight as I watch the Sound hit the sea walls. It's a wondrous feeling and one I hope you get to experience.

Pete Dye has done an amazing job taking the original nine-hole course which was on a nearby U.S. military reserve and embellishing and re-routing it so the run of holes from the par 3, 183-yard 14th to the 167-yard, par 3 17th play along the Sound's edge, where the waves truly are inches away when you stand on the tees boxes to



Above: Looking out to the Gasparilla Sound at the 15th green. Middle left: Bunker protecting the 3rd green. Middle right: 14th tee with the Gasparilla Sound lapping at your feet. Bottom: Amazing Gasparilla Sound backdrop at the 8th green.

COURSE VIDEO

start each hole on this stretch.

Gasparilla is not a tough course and it gives you a chance. But what makes this a must-play course is the setting. When you are standing on the 16th green about to walk over to the 17th tee, just take a moment to look back over those holes along the Sound. As the great Bobby Jones once said, take time to smell the flowers – or in Gasparilla's case that beautiful sea air, and be thankful you took up the game of golf. →



THE DUNES GOLF & TENNIS CLUB

W: dunesgolfsanibel.com

It's the last day of our trip and we have a double header today. First up is The Dunes which is owned and operated by Dahlmann Properties. Now if you like island greens and plenty of water you are going to love The Dunes. But if you are prone to losing a golf ball or three, this will be a challenge. I play off a 5 handicap and lost three balls to the liquid beast. My advice would be to buy a dozen very cheap golf balls. Water is such

a feature here that the practice range is a lake that you hit floating balls into!

There are some great little holes on this track with plenty of risk-and-reward. Island greens, island fairways...this course has the lot, with plenty of wildlife to see on the back nine that has been designated a wildlife preserve by the Audubon Cooperative Society.

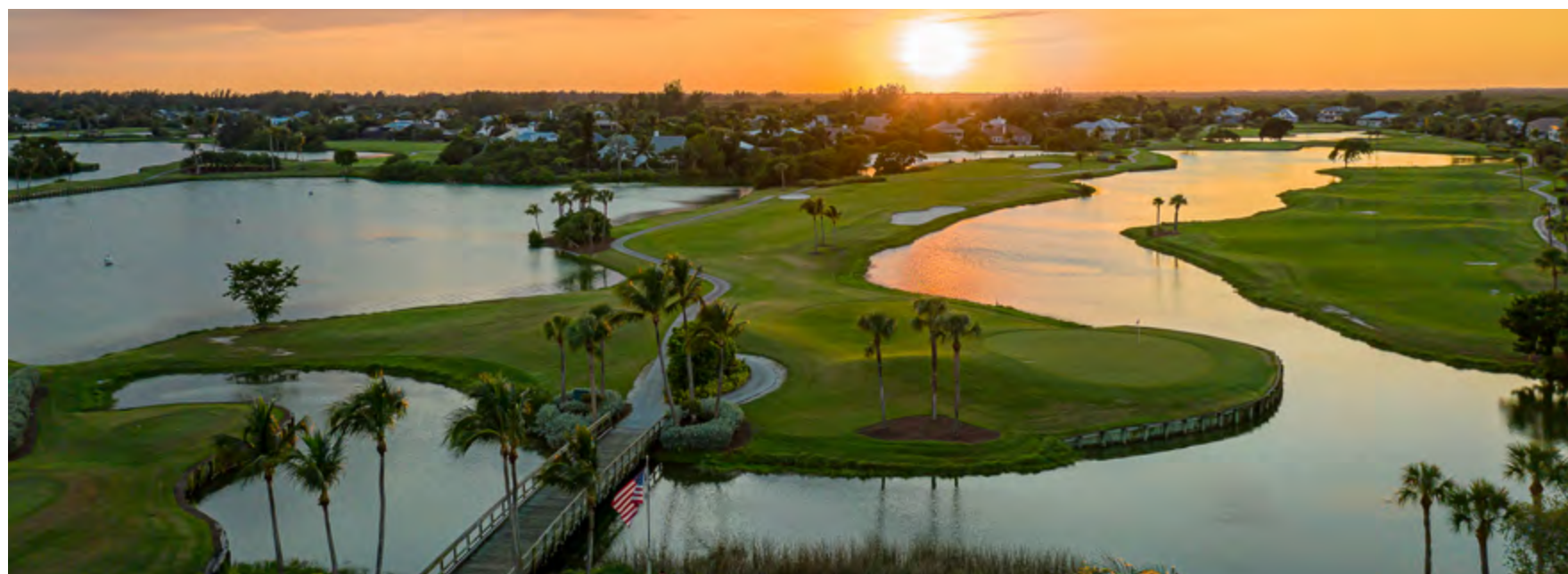
I don't get to see an alligator, but there is a majestic osprey with a fish that most fishermen would be proud to pose with. This fella isn't posing and when I approach my ball on the green at the 187-yard par-3 17th he decides it's time to pick up his fish and soar off. It's an amazing sight.

The Dunes' finale is a 458-yard par 5, which

has an island green. If you get a good drive away you can go for it, but it's a tough green to hold. But as I said this is a fun track and I think you should treat it that way. Unfortunately I have hit a nice snap hook but make the green with my third shot.

The Dunes is not a long course, measuring 5,583 yards from the back tees down to 4,878 from the golds. But what designer Mark McCumber has achieved is making golf strategy key. I would suggest you play with a member so you get to know the lay-up zones. If, like us, you turn up as a group, then putting your Pro V1s back in your bag and heading to the pro-shop for some cheap lake balls could be a good move.

"IF, LIKE US, YOU YOU TURN UP AS A GROUP, THEN PUTTING YOUR PRO V1s BACK IN YOUR BAG AND HEADING TO THE PRO-SHOP FOR SOME CHEAP LAKE BALLS COULD BE A GOOD MOVE"



COURSE VIDEO 

Left: Sunset over The Dunes course
Bottom left: Risk and reward at the par 4, 4th. Bottom middle: Looking back down the 12th hole. Bottom right: More risk and reward at the par 5, 18th island green



OLD CORKSCREW GOLF CLUB

W: oldcorkscrew.com

I've heard a lot of positive reports about this Nicklaus track and standing on the first tee I have to say if you go by aesthetics it certainly looks good – with all the trees it reminds me of being back in England, not that I am looking forward to going home tomorrow.

The 437-yard, par 4 1st has a generous fairway but a very tricky sloping green – a feature that becomes prevalent as you get deeper into the course. The wide fairways become a feature of the course giving you a great chance, but it's the second shot where your strategy comes into play. As I get to my ball on the par 5, 575-yard 3rd I know I'm not going to make the green in two and I should really just hit an iron up. But with a narrow entrance and water on the left I still take out my 3-wood and leave myself a short pitch.

The 4th is the first of many risk-and-reward holes. You can cut the corner of this 348-yard par 4 and have a go at the green over the water. The 6th is one of my favourite holes. I just like the way it looks with its waste bunker running down the left of the fairway in the landing area and surrounded by trees, followed by the longest par 3 on the course weighing in at 244 yards from the back tees. The front nine comes to a close with a 423 yard, par 4 played to a semi-island green.

I have to say, of the two nines the back nine is the stronger and gets underway with the stroke index one hole. This is followed by a very tough par 5 that has water down the left and is played to an elevated green, and at 547 yards all but the longest hitters are making this baby in two.

If the 7th is the longest par 3, the 189-yard, par 3 12th has to be the best short hole on the course, played over water to a green that has plenty of movement. Add in the thunder, driving wind, rain and the threat of lightning and believe me, it's a tough hole.

We are now moving rapidly, but I have to say the 13th is another great par 4, a slight dog-leg to the right with bunkers down the right with a small green cut into the trees and protected by bunkers both right and left and back.



Top: Water protecting the left of the 11th green. Below: Approach from the 1st fairway. Bottom: Raised green and run-off area at the 4th hole

COURSE VIDEO 

“THE STORM LASTS FOR NEARLY TWO HOURS WITH MOMENTS WHERE THE HAIRS ON YOUR ARMS ARE STANDING ON END FROM THE ELECTRICITY IN THE AIR. WITH THE SHELTER AND RUBBER-LINED BUGGIES I CAN WATCH NATURE’S SHEER POWER AND BEAUTY CRACKLE AND ZIP ACROSS THE HEAVENS”

With lightning just starting to streak across the dark, imposing clouds, we take shelter in one of the many conveniences on the course. The storm lasts for nearly two hours with moments where the hairs on your arms are standing on end from the electricity in the air. With the shelter and rubber-lined buggies I can watch nature's sheer power and beauty crackle and zip across the heavens.

The lightning and rain pass but the clouds are still heavy, but we decide to make a charge for home. It's a tough run of holes from here, with the 16th being a favourite. At only 396 yards it's all about placement. With two well-placed

large bunkers in the fairway, position from the tee is key for your 2nd shot. The 18th is a tough par 4 to finish with water all the way down the left-hand side. There is more fairway to aim at than you think, but it's the 2nd shot where not only will you be hitting a long iron/hybrid in, there's that water on the left of the green. I can see many a scorecard being ruined here if you are not keyed in.

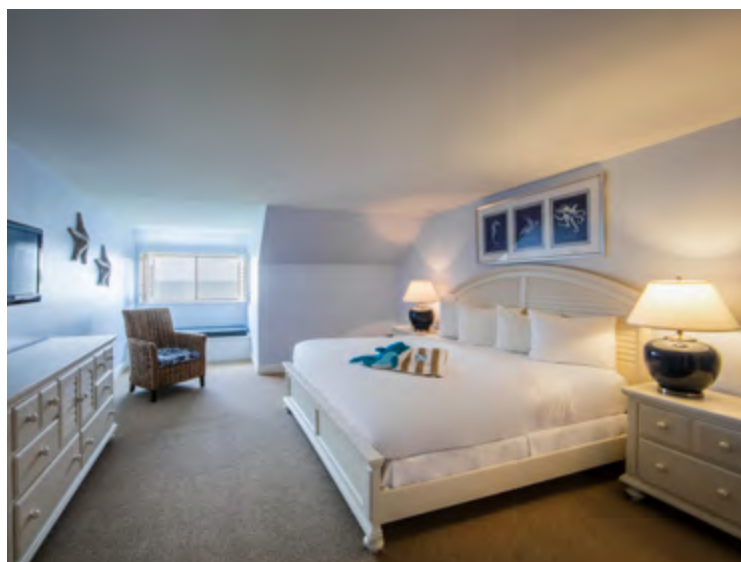
Old Corkscrew was a fitting finale to this trip and offered everything you would want, for players of all abilities. At only \$50 (£29) that will probably be the best value for money you will find anywhere.



SOUTH SEAS ISLAND RESORT

Florida, USA

By CHARMAINE HIBBERT



ENTRANCING CAPTIVA

Driving over Blind Pass from Sanibel Island onto Captiva Island you find yourself entranced by the sheer beauty of this Gulf island. **Charmaine Hibbert** discovers South Sea Resort is the perfect hidden gem to explore or jump off the rollercoaster of life. The choice is all yours

It's just over a two-hour drive from Gasparilla Island to the South Sea Island resort by road - and probably a lot faster by boat - but the views as we drive over the Sanibel Causeway are amazing with the blue waters of the Mexican Gulf either side of the bridge. I would imagine come the summer months this road gets pretty busy as there is only one lane either side. Once on Sanibel Island, the JN Ding Darling National Wildlife is on my right and as we hit Captiva drive the Gulf is now to our left, and with those crystal-clear azure waves just lapping the white sandy beaches it just makes you want to jump out of the car and dive in.

The first thing I notice as we arrive is that although it is a resort, the buildings are not that tall; the largest looks like it has three stories and all the rooms seem to have balconies. It is now 6pm and I am so looking forward to just sitting on a balcony watching the sunset, hopefully with a cocktail or another cold alcoholic drink in hand.

After a swift (group) check-in we are off to our rooms and here comes the moment of truth... I open my door and the view that greets me has →

Left: Bay side villa bedroom. Above: Romantic dinner for two on the beach



Top and bottom left: Fire pit beach party. Harbour view
Left: Aerial view of swimming pool. Top and right: My harbour entrance balcony view. A visiting dolphin

me forgetting all about the room as I throw my case on the sofa and open the doors to my wonderful balcony. Fortunately, I get the best of both worlds with a view of the harbour and the Gulf and I just sit and watch as a boat makes its way from the Gulf along the canal into the harbour. I am that engrossed, it's not until the boat has parked up that I realise that I have a beautiful sectional wicker type corner sofa with soft cushions and coffee table on the balcony where I can watch the boats and relax.

I make my way back into the room to dig out a bottle of wine I have in my bag as I just want to take a quick shower and chill out and watch the sunset. The apartment has a sofa, chair, coffee table and TV with a little kitchenette that has a breakfast bar. I make my way into the bedroom which is tastefully decorated with creams and dark wood furniture and a window that captures that wonderful view. The obligatory nose-dive onto the bed and the smell of fresh cotton sheets and a firm mattress confirm all I need to know.

HARBOURSIDE BAR AND GRILL

After watching the sunset slowly dip below the horizon, I get ready for dinner. Tonight we are eating at the Harbourside Bar and Grill as we make

our way up the steps of the white wood designed building overlooking the harbour. We are greeted by the maître d' who informs us that they have prepared a beef fillet for us or we can order from the menu. Now, you may wonder what the dilemma could be but so far James has had steak nearly every night this week and he has vowed that he will have fish tonight – but we all laugh when he starts shaking his head knowing he will be ordering the steak once more.

At least his starter was fish as we shared the seafood platter for two which was made up of lobster, oysters, tuna poke, charred octopus, clams, mussels and shrimp. I must admit I could have happily left it there, but I had already ordered the Asian glazed Chilean sea bass with rice, snow peas, edamame, bok choy and mushrooms and I am so glad I did as this had my taste buds dancing with delight. The wine and beers kept flowing and it was more of a stagger back to my room than a walk and I couldn't wait to hit the pillow.

ACTIVITIES

There is so much to do at South Sea Island especially if you bring your children. There is the Camp Skullywags kids club for 3 to 11-year-olds,

Sanibel Sea School where you can learn to snorkel, surf and catch fish along with guided birdwatching and shelling walks. Of course, there is cycling, hiking, fishing, kayaking, paddleboards, parasailing, banana boat rides, swimming pools, gym, exercise classes, yoga and a spa. It's been a long week and today I am just going to park myself on a sun lounger right near the beach bar on this two-and-a-half miles of pristine white sandy beach and soak up some rays while the guys go and play golf. Cheers!

South Seas Island Resort
5400 Plantation Rd
Captiva, FL 33924
United States

T: +1 239-472-5111
W: southseas.com

32 TAYLORMADE SIM2 TOUR



34 CALLAWAY APEX 21

36 DUCA DEL COSMA



VIEW.COM

EQUIPMENT & APPAREL

REVIEW

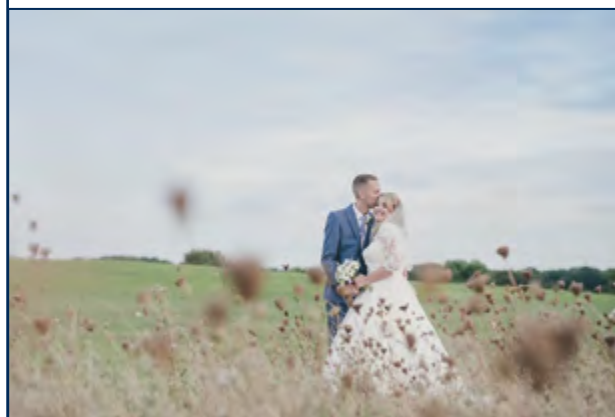


Farleigh



Stunning 27-hole
championship-standard golf course

Come and see where you belong



A perfect
wedding venue



Scrumptious
afternoon tea



Social events
for the whole family



Delicious
Sunday carvery

☎ 01883 627711 ✉ enquiries@farleighfox.co.uk

SIM 2: THE FORGIVENESS

TaylorMade release the second version of their SIM driver the SIM 2 comprising three models SIM2 Tour, SIM2 Max and SIM2 Max•D. James Mason puts the SIM2 Tour version to a socially distanced test in the studio and out on the course



TECHNOLOGY

The SIM2 Tour is a low spin traditional shaped driver design with TaylorMade stating that it offers power, speed, and forgiveness. The reconstructed SIM2 offers high MOI with a 16g steel weight positioned on the inertia generator. The TPS front weight is placed behind the face to encourage optimal launch with low spin, helping to deliver low spin and forgiveness.

Driver Reconstruction

The forged ring construction utilises a lightweight, high strength aluminium that's precision milled, which unites the critical components of the driver head into a singular force.

As the defining component, the forged aluminium ring is one of four elements of construction allowing the driver to be forgiving,

fast and powerful. The three other elements are the carbon crown, carbon sole and milled back face cup.

Full Carbon Crown and Sole

TaylorMade have developed a new high-strength carbon for the sole which has enhanced durability to protect against damage from turf interaction and high-speed contact. The nine layers of advanced carbon span the entire sole while simultaneously shaping the asymmetric Inertia Generator, which is aerodynamically designed to produce faster club head speeds.

With the extended use of the lightweight carbon TaylorMade are able to use a heavier 16g weight in the inertia generator moving the CG projection to centre face for optimal launch

angle and maximise MOI for more forgiveness.

Milled Back Face Cup with an Intelligently Optimised Sweet Spot

The milled back face cup is the only part of the driver head that is crafted from titanium. This strong and resilient material facilitates energy transfer to encourage faster ball speeds. Behind the face, internal CNC milling varies face thickness pinpoints performance where golfers need it most.

The intelligently engineered sweet spot has an oval shape and stretches diagonally from the high toe towards the low heel, which results in a sweet spot that captures more shots where golfers are most likely to make contact with the ball at impact.

VIDEO REVIEW ▶

TaylorMade SIM 2 Tour

LOFT 9°

SHAFT Project X

HZRDUS Smoke RDX

FLEX Stiff

LOFT SETTING Higher

RRP £449 / €529 / \$529.99

CONCLUSION

As soon as I got the SIM2 in my hands I was impressed by its looks. TaylorMade always seem to get the design of their drivers right, using the classic driver shaping while implementing new colours to keep it looking fresh.

Not having any moving weights did take me by surprise but in no way did that impact on the performance of the club, while I didn't notice any increase in distance like I did while testing the first SIM driver. What I did notice was the forgiveness. I

normally hit a lot of fairways but when I do carve one off to the right, it does go right! On the 2nd hole of testing I hit one of those shots which would normally end up halfway down the bank but when I got to the ball it was sitting to the right of the bunker but just in the rough and that was with the Tour model so I am sure the Max and D•Max versions which give even more forgiveness would be a great option if you need that help.

One of the other big

improvements was the sound at impact, if you listen to the video reviews you will hear that it sounds a lot more deeper and something that made me smile especially when I got it out on the course. You already get great distance with TaylorMade drivers, but if you are looking for added forgiveness and tighter dispersion from your driver then I would make sure you test one of the TaylorMade SIM2 drivers before you make your final decision.



Left: Toe view with speed injected port. Below: Sole view with high MOI and low spin port, also the 16g inertia generator



Above: Illustration of the carbon crown and sole, forged construction ring and milled back face cup and optimised sweet spot



REACHING THE APEX

Callaway release their new Apex 21 irons and James Mason puts the Pro version to the test in the studio and out on the course



TECHNOLOGY

Callaway have announced their new family of forged Apex irons which are the Apex 21, Apex DCB, Apex Pro 21, Apex TCB and Apex MB Irons. After the success of utilising AI in their drivers, Callaway have developed an AI designed Flash Face Cup to improve ball speeds, increase spin and robustness across the face.

The use of a Tungsten energy core has increased forgiveness, while the forged body and propriety urethane microspheres deliver a solid sound and feel at impact. Callaway have also enhanced the clubheads shaping for better turf interaction.

The Apex Pro 21 Irons utilise the AI designed Flash Face achieving a high COR's and fast ball speeds, while still maintaining that soft feel from the all-new forged 1025 hollow body construction and urethane microspheres. There are up to 90 grams of tungsten in the longer irons, the most ever for any Apex model and this helps improve launch characteristics while simultaneously improving forgiveness.

VIDEO REVIEW

Apex 21 Pro

SET 4 – PW

SHAFT True Temper Elevate ETS 85g

FLEX Stiff

RRP £157 – per iron

/ €1,284 – 5-PW

/ \$1,749.99 – 4-PW



Top left to right:

Various viewing angles of the Callaway Apex 21 Pro iron showing sole, top line, face and back.

Left: Illustration showing the tungsten energy core, AI Flash Face and urethane microspheres

CONCLUSION

I had two choices of shaft to test in the Apex 21 Pro and decided on the lighter Elevate ETS stiff shaft weighing 85g thinking that I may get some extra yardage over the 110g option, but while I didn't get a chance to compare them I really did enjoy playing the lighter shaft while still having that stiff flex for control.

I really enjoy the look and more importantly the feel and sound at impact. The propriety urethane microspheres certainly delivered on that front. The Apex 21 Pros gave me a great ball flight, slightly higher than I expected especially with the lower irons, but this also helped with control going into the greens.

Because of the COVID limitations I was only able to get these out on to the golf course once, but between that and the studio testing I was more than impressed with the Apex 21 Pros and would certainly recommend you get them in your hands for testing if you're in the market for a new set of irons this year.

SOLE CLASSIC

When it comes to fashion the Italians lead the way and now Duca del Cosma are bringing that style and elegance to a golf course near you. James Mason steps out in the new Elpaso golf shoe





CONCLUSION

The acronym KISS – keep it simple stupid – is often heard but seldom followed through on. The designers at Duca del Cosma have not only adhered to that principle when it comes to the new Elpaso golf shoe but have done so while hiding a host of technologies in plain sight.

The Elpaso shoe is a solid golf shoe and I loved the design with

its classic lines. Now this is a very thick leather quality shoe, so while I didn't get any blisters it took a few holes for the shoe to start to loosen the leather and start to mould to the way I walk and they were perfect from that point on – you can see the shoe in action on the TaylorMade SIM2 and Callaway Apex Pro Irons videos.

If you are looking for a classic looking, well-made golf shoe that will work with all your apparel choices, then I would certainly make sure the Elpaso shoe is on your must try list of purchases. You will certainly see me sporting this shoe on the fairways this summer.

DETAILS

Duca Del Cosma

MODEL Elpaso

RRP £179.95 / €199 / \$229

SITE: ducadelcosma.com



TECHNOLOGY

The Elpaso is a classic design golf shoe incorporating 100% Nappa leather upper which gives it its strength and comfort, while the recyclable microfibre sock system and insole gives the shoe its eco-friendly credentials.

The ARNEFLEX® insert sole is 100% breathable and utilises a high density open-cell polyurethane foam which gives breathability and absorption, while also eliminating moisture to keep your feet dry.

The memory foam also helps absorb impact and anyone who has ever suffered shin splints like myself will be more than happy with that news. The sole also contains antibacterial properties to help neutralise germs and eliminate odour. The memory system also gives the shoe a longer life span and helps prevent roughness to your feet. All this made from recycled rubber so you are also doing your bit to help the planet.

Duca del Cosma have also developed the new AIRPLAY XI spikeless sole which combines a great look with functionality. The 5mm square-shaped nubs across the outer sole generate progressive stability during the golf swing to ensure optimal grip, while still being lightweight and cushioning across the sole area with a heightened heel to help with your stance.





39 MICHLIFEN RESORT & GOLF



REVIEW



43 LLAO LLAO RESORT



VIEW.COM

STAY, PLAY & SPA

MICHLIFEN RESORT & GOLF

Ifrane, Morocco

By PETER ELLEGARD

MOUNTAIN HIGH

In the Atlas Mountains far away
from the busy souks of Morocco's
cities, **Peter Ellegard** discovers
Swiss-style chalets, tree-covered
mountains, lakes, springs and
snowy winters





“While the rest of Morocco sizzles in summer Ifrane has a cooler mountain climate with temperate summers and winter months can bring snow – Michlifen’s name actually means snowflake”

Above: Panoramic
vista from the
clubhouse terrace
Below left: Michlifen
resort at night
Below right: Deluxe
Savoyard suite

For me, the very mention of Morocco conjures up mental images of sun-baked deserts, walled medinas, Moorish architecture and bustling souks full of exotic sights, sounds, tastes and smells.

But how about Swiss-style chalets, cedar and evergreen oak-covered mountains, lakes, springs and snowy winters? Stay at Michlifen Resort & Golf and that’s exactly what you will experience.

Located 1,650 metres (almost 5,500 feet) high in Morocco’s Middle Atlas mountain range and opened in late 2018, it is a luxury golf and spa resort like no other in the country. The resort boasts the only Jack Nicklaus signature golf course in North Africa and

the hotel resembles a grand alpine chalet, in keeping with the mountain town it is situated in – Ifrane, nicknamed Little Switzerland for the style of its buildings and Alps-like setting.

While the rest of Morocco sizzles in summer Ifrane has a cooler mountain climate with temperate summers and winter months can bring snow – Michlifen’s name actually means snowflake. It is a true four-seasons destination offering a host of activities year-round.

ROOMS

The hotel has 28 deluxe rooms and 32 deluxe suites, all set around a soaring atrium and reached from the lobby by panoramic glass lifts with wood panelling. →



“Sit back in a Ralph Lauren sofa or leather Chesterfield club chair sipping your G&T by the roaring fire in the open-sided stone fireplace as you take in the tall stone columns propping up the heavy wooden ceiling beams”

There are four room styles: Nordic rooms have oak parquet flooring and thick carpet in the main areas and white marble offset by black mosaic tiles in the bathroom; Savoyard ones feature old wood panels, classic furniture and chandeliers with fruit pendants; American Lodge rooms’ decor includes spruce logs on the walls, fur rugs and stag antlers in the bathroom; and Tyrolean rooms have solid wood coffered ceilings decorated with an ivy garland, pine wainscot panels and carpets and fabrics in mainly green shades.

My Savoyard-style suite has an enormous lounge with a selection of fruits and snacks on the coffee table, a lovely big bedroom and comfy king bed and an equally sizeable bathroom, making a cosy and warm retreat from the chill evening autumn air outside.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

Michlifen guests have four dining experiences to choose from.

Hunting scenes grace walls of its swanky Le Cedray restaurant, which specialises in French gastronomy and is only open for dinner.

Another option for dinner is the riad-style L’Oriental, where Arabic dishes from Morocco to Jordan and Lebanon blend spices, candied fruits and slowly-marinated meats.

Mediterranean cuisine is on the lunch menu in Le Chalet restaurant, which also serves up buffet or traditional Moroccan breakfasts.

The stylish Michlifen Golf & Country Club clubhouse also has a restaurant, where you can dine inside or al fresco on the terrace overlooking the 9th and 18th greens of the golf course and the valleys beyond.

The hotel’s Lounja bar, off the lobby, is a class act. Sit back in a Ralph Lauren sofa or leather Chesterfield club chair sipping your G&T by the roaring fire in the open-sided stone fireplace as you take in the tall stone columns propping up the heavy wooden ceiling beams. The outdoor swimming pool also has a bar, serving snacks and drinks throughout the day.

Alternatively, you can enjoy a picnic with scenic forest and mountain views in one of the resort’s belvedere buildings near the hotel. Or, as I do, savour a Moroccan feast outdoors in a traditional Berber tent on an outside terrace.

SPA AND WELLNESS

The huge indoor swimming pool, heated to 30°C in winter and 26°C in summer, sits below a timber ceiling and central glass lantern roof, with large windows framing forest trees beyond and accentuating the feeling of being amidst the great outdoors.

Enjoy a scrub and steam with scented rose petals in his and hers hammams in the spa, or choose from five treatment rooms for individuals and three for couples, a balneotherapy centre with specialised treatments and massages in five dedicated rooms, a fitness room and a beauty salon. After your session, relax in the 70s-style Water Bar with a selection of soft drinks or herbal tea.

ACTIVITIES

Part of the IMG Prestige network, Michlifen’s 18-hole golf course is laid out through cedar forest and evergreen oak trees along a rocky mountain ridge. The course is open all year, except during snow.

Besides the restaurant, the clubhouse offers an academy with three IMG Performance →

Right: Relax in style
Far right, top: Dine in a pop-up Berber tent
Right middle: Classy clubhouse
Far right bottom: Preparing breakfast





Left top: Indoor tennis
Left middle: Paintball wizzards
Left: Biking excursion



Far left: Enjoy a massage in the forest
Left middle: IMG Performance studio
Left bottom: Indoor pool



studios, a fully-stocked pro shop, a large lounge and a bar.

In the hotel, a glass-walled sports room with high ceilings allows guests to play indoor sports such as tennis, basketball, volleyball, handball and badminton.

Outdoor activities include tennis, paintballing, bird-watching, mountain biking, fishing and horse-riding, with cross-country skiing, showshoeing and sledding in the snow in winter. Ifrane's ski station has lifts and slopes for skiing and snowboarding and lies 400 metres above the resort.

A kids club caters to children of all age groups and offers indoor activities, a cinema room and outdoor adventures including exploring the resort's educational vegetable garden and farm.

An apple orchard with goats and goat cheese tasting is nearby, as is Morocco's top wine estate, Chateau Roslane.

Beyond Michlifen, guests can visit Ifrane National Park and the area's ancient cedar forest, with one trail starting from an 800-year-old tree among resident Barbary macaques, as well as take excursions to local lakes and springs or tour colourful Middle Atlas towns and villages. The historic UNESCO World Heritage-listed cities of Fez and Meknes are both just over an hour away and the Roman ruins of Volubilis are another 40 minutes beyond Meknes.

CONCLUSION

From its solid wood, marble, stone and slate construction to luxury classic French and Italian furnishings, Michlifen will appeal to those who enjoy refined but relaxed comfort, while its mountain location, alpine lodge atmosphere and true four seasons weather makes it unique in Morocco.

Michlifen Resort & Golf
Avenue Hassan II, BP n°18
5300 Ifrane
Morocco

T: +212 5 35 86 40 00
W: michlifen.com

LLAO LLAO RESORT, GOLF & SPA

Bariloche, Argentina

By PETER ELLEGARD

SWEET SENSATION

Majestic Andes mountains, forests and lakes form the natural backdrop at an exclusive and historic golf and spa resort set in Argentina's land of giants, Patagonia. **Peter Ellegard** checks out this sweet, faraway escape

Right: Llao Llao's
indoor-outdoor pool
Below: Poolside spa
session





Far left, top and bottom: Gaze at mountains from your bed and bath
Middle: Llao Llao Resort is set amidst lakes and peaks
Top right: Dine with a view
Bottom right: Moreno Lake Lounge

In these dark coronavirus pandemic times, who hasn't dreamt of being able to escape to the ends of the earth?

Once unrestricted travel is possible again, you can do just that – by staying in a stunning 80-year-old five-star golf and spa resort set amidst a stunning panorama of lakes and towering Andes mountain peaks in the heart of Argentina's lake district in the country's Patagonia region.

Styled after a grand Canadian mountain lodge, Llao Llao Resort, Golf & Spa dates back to a time when Patagonia and the Andes were virgin territory. The creation of the Nahuel Huapi National Park in 1934 led to the construction of a luxurious international-standard hotel, as well as the foundation of towns and communication networks, to boost tourism to the region.

After architect Alejandro Bustillo's original design burnt down in 1938, the present hotel opened in December 1940, since then its guest list has included aristocrats, diplomats, bureaucrats, celebrities...and me.

Patagonia is so named because Spanish explorer Ferdinand Magellan encountered a race of giants called the Patagones there in 1520. You won't find giants today but when you stay at Llao Llao resort, the colossal scale of the landscape is what strikes you most.

Perched on a small plateau in its own 37-acre woodland park close to the Chilean border, the hotel is surrounded by the Moreno and Nahuel Huapi lakes and the brooding Lopez, Capilla and Tronador mountains.

The wood and stone used on the exterior is amplified inside with exposed cypress walls, floors, ceilings and staircases, wood and stone columns and huge exposed stone fireplaces.

ROOMS

The resort's signature Bustillo Wing contains 162 rooms, 11 studios and 12 suites. All are elegantly furnished and some have recently been refurbished in a more contemporary design.

My Lake Room looks out over Moreno Lake to the mountains and features a large double bed with bedside tables, desk, minibar, free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TV, safe, hairdryer and bathrobes and slippers in the bathroom. The Standard Rooms and Standard Suites have views of the hotel's gardens while the Lake Suite and Superior Lake Suite give views to the lakes, with the Superior option including a fireplace.

The Moreno Wing, added in 2007 and accessed from the main building by a panoramic bridge, offers 43 deluxe studios and suites, each with

terraces and views of Moreno Lake and Mt Tronador. There are also several lakeside cabins.

RESTAURANTS AND BAR

Restaurant Argentino serves up a selection of grilled meats and fish, grilled vegetables and home-made pasta for lunch and dinner. One dish not to miss is the region's speciality – Patagonian lamb.

With great views over Moreno Lake, Llao Llao Bistro has a more relaxed atmosphere, its dinner menu spanning a variety of regional dishes and deserts.

The Lobby Bar oozes character and history. Antler chandeliers hang from stout wooden beams and there's a cosy fireplace to warm yourself by with drinks and appetisers after exploring the mountains or a round of golf. Enjoy the scenery from its outdoor terrace in warmer weather.

The Winter Garden is famed for its salad bar and afternoon Llao Llao High Tea with cakes and pastries. Snacks are also available in the golf course clubhouse and the Moreno Lake Lounge, where you can take in expansive lake views while you sip locally-brewed craft beers. →

SPA AND WELLNESS

Swim year-round in the Llao Llao Spa’s heated inside-outside infinity edge pool looking out to snow-capped mountains or soak in the natural splendour from its indoor Jacuzzi.

A range of treatments for both sexes includes massages, facial treatments, cell regeneration therapy, hydrotherapy and detox and revitalisation experiences using ionozon, algae and thermal fango mud baths.

There is also a fully-equipped fitness gym and outdoor yoga, anti-stress and aromatherapy sessions take place against a mountain backdrop.

ACTIVITIES

Llao Llao’s 18-hole golf course is laid out below the resort hotel with several holes alongside Moreno Lake. Lessons are offered by the golf pro.

Among water sports are sailing and kayaking from the resort’s Moreno Lake marina and white-water rafting on the fast-flowing Rio Manso river.

Mountain biking trails run through the resort’s park and surrounding area and guides lead seasonal forest hikes. There’s also bird-watching and rock climbing plus a host of children’s activities for families.

A regular shuttle operates between the hotel and the region’s gateway, Bariloche, 25km away. The town is known as Argentina’s chocolate capital and many artisan shops sell homemade chocolate treats. It also has a thriving microbrewery industry and buzzes year-round, thanks to its outdoor adventure opportunities.

Cable cars take visitors up local mountains for sightseeing and hiking and South America’s most developed ski resort, Cerro Catedral, is on its doorstep for winter sports from April to September. Its base station is just 20km from Llao Llao.

The stunningly scenic drive along the Route of the Seven Lakes to San Martin de los Andes goes through forests past lakes, rivers and waterfalls and can be done by car, bike or bus. It is a long journey but is well worth it.

CONCLUSION

In the language of the native Mapuche people, Llao Llao translates as “sweet, sweet”. The name is very apt, as you would be hard pushed to find as sweet an escape as this anywhere in the world. If only you could bottle some of that amazing Patagonian air and those exquisite lake and mountain views to virtually transport you back to this South American paradise whenever you need your mind and soul lifting.

Llao Llao Resort, Golf & Spa
Avenida Bustillo km 25
Bariloche R8401 ALN
Argentina
T: +54 294 444 8530
W: llaollao.com/en

Top right: Family mountain biking
Top left: White-water rafting on the Rio Manso
Middle right: Route of the Seven Lakes
Middle left: Balcony vista from the spa
Bottom: Lobby Bar



Peter Ellegard



dmd

ENQUIRES@DIGITALMAGAZINEDESIGN.COM
DIGITALMAGAZINEDESIGN.COM
+44 (0)7860 724 897



AT YOUR DIGITAL SERVICE

Digital Magazine,
Web Banners or
Promotional Material

Template or
Custom Design

eBook,
Interactive PDF,
Flash, JPG, TIFF,
PNG, PSD

Documents from
8 – 100+ pages