

ENGLAND

A journey to Cornwall's north-west coast and the beauty of Rock, St Enodoc and The Point at Polzeath

PORTUGAL

Soaking in the 60s bohemian vibes and history along the Silver Coast

CANADA

The many places and faces from Newfoundland to Cape Breton and Sable Island

PLANET GOLF

REVIEW

ISSUE 21

VIEW.COM

EQUIPMENT & APPAREL REVIEWS
TaylorMade Stealth Driver and MG3 Wedges, Titleist T300 Irons.

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Footwork: getting the right balance during your swing

SWITZERLAND Pt2
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THE MASTERS
Our review and betting guide to golf's first Major of the year

STAY, PLAY & SPA
Weekend or short stay getaways, we bring you reviews from Ireland, Spain and the USA

WELCOME

Happy New Year to you all. I know it's been a while since you have heard that, but then you probably haven't spoken to me and in these troubled times I am hoping it's a year full of love and laughter for you and your families.

Whether you agree with the removal of COVID restrictions or not, one of the benefits for us all both mentally and physically is being able to enjoy the summer months and feeling those warm rays on our faces again and the joy and laughter that summer seems to bring with it. With that in mind we bring you Jane's journey along Portugal's Silver Coast, Peter points his Canon camera and captures the many faces

of Canada's East Coast and I bring you part two of my trip to Switzerland and Cornish delights from England. There is also our "Play, Stay and Spa" section from Ireland, Spain and the USA.

The Masters is upon us and we bring you our world renowned betting guide to the first Major Championship of the year. We also have the latest equipment reviews of TaylorMade Stealth Driver and MG3 Wedges and Titleist T300 Irons and our new Pro Tips from Shain. That just leaves me to say I hope both golfers and non golfers enjoy all the features and that they help you enjoy a wonderful summer

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PROTOD

REVIEW



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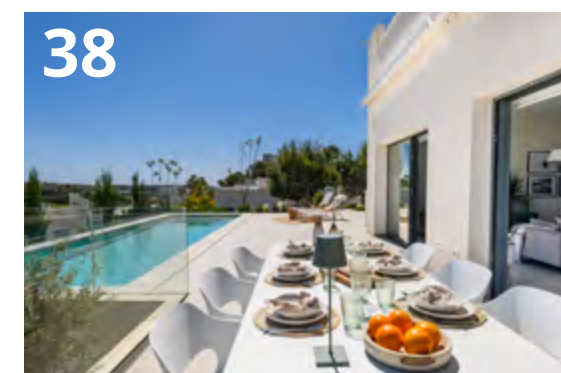
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STENZEN

REVIEW



JON RAHM

11|1



Callaway

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER

16|1



@DellMatchPlay

CAMERON SMITH

16|1



Original Penguin



Mike Rundle

FIELD OF DREAMS

All the talk and excitement as we move into Masters week is will Tiger Woods being teeing it up at Augusta National and if so can he win his sixth green jacket and his sixteenth Major Championship? We bring you our world renowned betting guide to the 86th edition of The Masters

Flowers are starting to open their petals and nights are longer and warmer. That can only mean one thing: it's spring and there is no better place to see at this time of year than Augusta National in April and the former flower nursery in full bloom. Emerald green fairways, Pink dogwood, magnolia, juniper, yellow jasmine and 30 varieties of azaleas, bringing an amazement of colours booming through our now HD screens.

Yes the first Major Championship of the year is upon us and the world's best golfers will arrive here hoping to be donning that famous green jacket in the Butler Cabin come Sunday night. We bring you our tips to win, the best of the

JORDAN SPIETH

20|1



Peetlesnumber1

SAM BURNS

50|1



Callaway

TYRRELL HATTON

60|1



Ping

each-way tips and some longer odds tips that just may have their day in the sun.

PICKS TO WIN

Apart from his first appearance in The Masters **Jon Rahm 11/1 – Bet365** – has not been outside the Top 10 in his last four starts at Augusta National. And having lost his world number one spot at the WGC Dell Match Play, he will be looking to hit back with a Major Championship to reclaim that top spot.

The new world number one **Scottie Scheffler 16/1 – with WilliamHill** – had a strange introduction to his first Masters, teeing it up in November with no fans. But, he did get to sample Augusta in April last year, having finished inside the Top 20 on both occasions and coming into this week having won three times already this year, Scottie will not only be targeting that green jacket but extending his stay as the worlds best golfer.

I am not sure many of us will forget the first November Masters and no fans, but also **Cameron Smith 16/1 – Bet365** – becoming the first player to shoot all four rounds in the 60s and not become The Masters Champion. The new Players Champion comes into this week on the

back of his second victory this year and will be looking to shoot four rounds in the 60s again this week, but this time hoping he will be sitting in the Butler Cabin come late Sunday afternoon.

EACH-WAY TIPS

The only time that **Jordan Spieth 20/1 – with WilliamHill** – didn't make the Top 25 at The Masters was the November edition, but he followed that up six months later with his second third place finish to go along with his two runner-up finishes and his win. Lets not forget that Jordan took the runner-up spot in this first ever Masters appearance. He may not be playing great and only challenged once this year at Pebble Beach, but with his record here I wouldn't discount him this week.

This will be **Sam Burns 50/1 – with 10Bet** – first appearance at The Masters and most aficionados will tell you there has only been three people who have won The Masters at their first attempt Horton Smith who won the inaugural event, Gene Sarazen who didn't play in the first event and Fuzzy Zoeller in 1979. But with two wins already to his name on the wraparound season so far, Sam Burns could become a member of that very exclusive club.

OUTSIDE TIP

After not doing so well in his first four starts at Augusta **Tyrrell Hatton 60/1 – with Bet365** – made the Top 20 for the first time last year. Tyrrell comes into this week after making the knockout stages of the WGC Dell Match Play and has had a good run of results from the start of this year and hasn't been outside the Top 25 in his four starts and has a runner-up at a tough Bay Hill and I can see him being in the thick of it this year.

LONGER ODDS

Try **Kevin Na 200/1 – 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 downhill 10th hole where Bubba Watson produced his miraculous chip to win his first green jacket



Oliver Gunning

LATEST FIRST ROUND BETTING ODDS FOR THE MASTERS FROM BETFRED

Jon Rahm 10/1
Justin Thomas 12/1
Rory McIlroy 14/1
Scottie Scheffler 16/1
Jordan Spieth 16/1
Cameron Smith 16/1
Dustin Johnson 16/1
Patrick Cantlay 18/1
Brooks Koepka 18/1
Collin Morikawa 18/1
Viktor Hovland 20/1
Xander Schauffele 22/1
Bryson DeChambeau 28/1
Sam Burns 33/1
Will Zalatoris 33/1
Hideki Matsuyama 33/1
Daniel Berger 40/1
Louis Oosthuizen 40/1
Joaquin Niemann 40/1
Russell Henley 45/1
Patrick Reed 45/1
Corey Connors 50/1
Bubba Watson 50/1
Adam Scott 50/1
Tyrrell Hatton 50/1
Tiger Woods 50/1
Sung Jae Im 50/1
Shane Lowry 50/1
Matthew Fitzpatrick 50/1
Paul Casey 55/1
Tommy Fleetwood 60/1
Marc Leishman 66/1
Tony Finau 66/1
Abraham Ancer 66/1
Sergio Garcia 66/1
Justin Rose 66/1
Talor Gooch 80/1
Billy Horschel 80/1
Webb Simpson 80/1
Seamus Power 100/1
Jason Kokrak 100/1
Lee Westwood 100/1
Cameron Young 100/1
Robert MacIntyre 100/1
Thomas Pieters 100/1
Max Homa 100/1
Si-Woo Kim 110/1
Gary Woodland 125/1

[More](#)

IMPRESSIONS FROM CANADA'S EAST COAST



Left: Quirpon Island, Newfoundland
Below: Sculpture at L'Etang du Nord,
Magdalen Islands, Quebec



Left: Giant
fiddle, Sydney
harbourfront,
Cape Breton
Island, Nova
Scotia
Below:
Red cliffs
and beach,
Magdalen
Islands,
Quebec



Left: Bald eagle
with a fish,
Baddeck, Cape
Breton Island, Nova
Scotia
Below: Glenora
Distillery, Glenville,
Cape Breton Island,
Nova Scotia



Left: Dawn
view of Bonne
Bay and
Gros Morne
National Park,
Newfoundland

Below: Wild horse, Sable Island, Nova Scotia
Right: Fern-covered post, Sable Island, Nova Scotia



Above: Sand dunes, Sable Island, Nova Scotia
Right: Inuit woman and baby, Qikiqtarjuaq Island, Nunavut



Above: Inuit hunter and hunting shack, Qikiqtarjuaq island, Nunavut

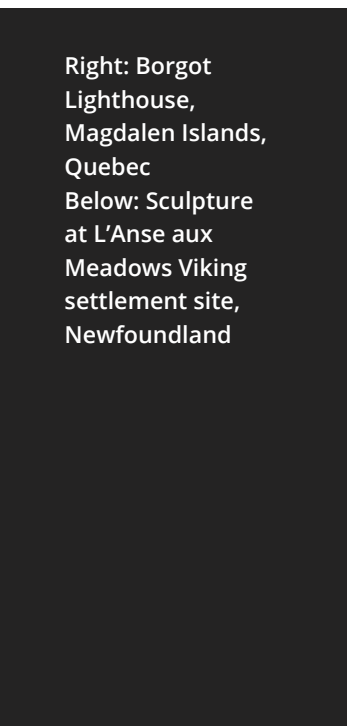


Left: Iceberg trapped in the frozen sea, Qikiqtarjuaq island, Nunavut

IMPRESSIONS FROM CANADA'S EAST COAST



Left: Musket firing, Louisbourg Fortress, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia
Right: Cabot Trail sign, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia



Above: Muskoka chairs and lighthouse, Baddeck, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia
Right: Knitted socks, Trout River, Gros Morne National Park, Newfoundland

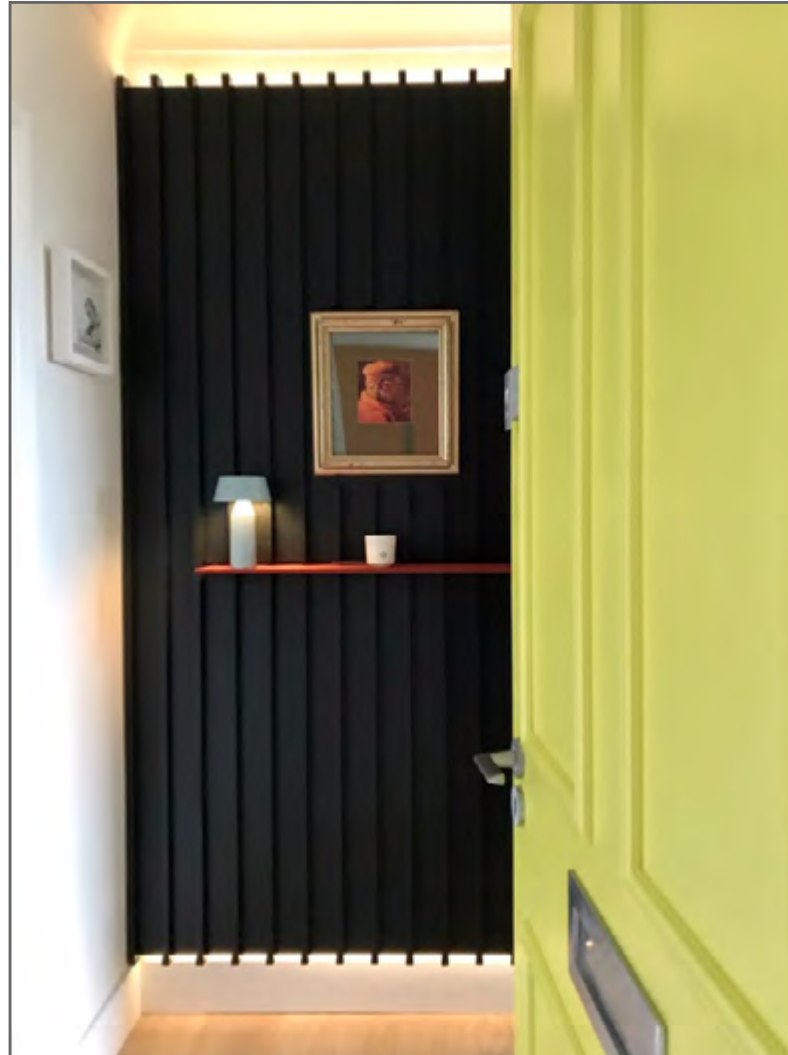


Above: Viking Trail sign, Newfoundland
Right: Glace Bay harbour, Sydney, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia



IMPRESSIONS FROM CANADA'S EAST COAST

See more of Peter Ellegard's work on Instagram
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Jane Finn discovers a 60s vibe while searching for hidden gems on Portugal's Silver Coast

SILVER SURFER



Vitor Oliveira

WORDS BY JANE FINN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID FINN

I ease the car onto the Vasco da Gama Bridge, admiring the bluebird sky above that's mirrored in the cool, blue waters of the Tagus River below. It's November, and Portugal is enjoying "St. Martin's Summer". The sun is beaming, and my heart does a little skip as I leave the hustle and bustle of Lisbon behind, feeling like an explorer, embarking upon a quest to uncover the secrets of the largely undiscovered Silver Coast.

In a little over an hour, my husband Dave and I are checking into the luxurious, five-star Evolutée Hotel at the Royal Óbidos Spa and Golf Resort. Stepping onto the balcony, I can taste the tangy saltiness of the sea in the afternoon breeze as I catch a glimpse of the wild Atlantic Ocean in the distance. It's too late in the day to play a round, but there's plenty of time for a Mandalay massage before heading into town.

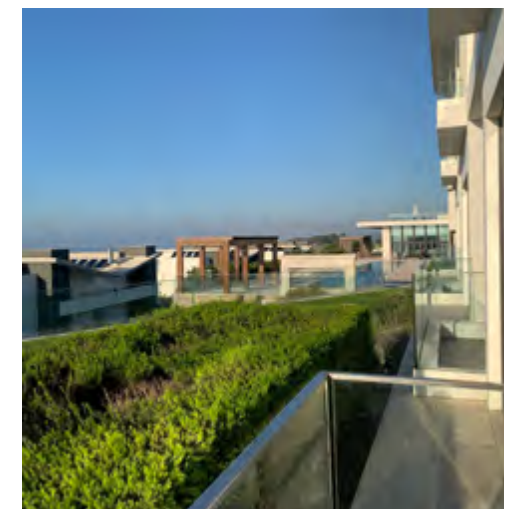
Óbidos is delightful during the day but even more enjoyable in the evening after the tour buses have departed. Driving west towards the ancient town, I can't help but be impressed →

Right: Feel the medieval magic of Óbidos

Far right: View from the balcony at the Evolutée Hotel



"Stepping onto the balcony, I can taste the tangy saltiness of the sea in the afternoon breeze as I catch a glimpse of the wild Atlantic Ocean in the distance"



“A sea of twinkling lights illuminates the historic quarter’s whitewashed houses, and it’s easy to imagine that nothing has changed in a thousand years”

by the well-preserved Moorish fortress that dominates the skyline. It feels like a place where time has stood still. As I step through the Porta da Vila gates, I’m immediately transported back to an era of intrigue where royalty reigned supreme. It was here that with the help of the Knights Templar, King Afonso I defeated the Moors to reclaim Portugal.

At first, the narrow main street lined with quaint shops, restaurants and cafés feels touristy, but as Ivo, our local guide, helps me navigate the maze of cobblestone paths, he weaves a tale of battles won, battles lost, triumph and tragedy, and I soon get a real sense of people and place. For more than eight centuries, Óbidos was known as the House of Queens, when a succession of kings would gift the village to his bride on their wedding day. Today, it remains the culturally diverse, historic heart of central Portugal.

LITERATURE FOR ALL

In 2015, Óbidos was declared a UNESCO Creative City of Literature, home to the annual international FOLIO festival and more than 14 unique and somewhat eclectic book shops. I pop into the lovely Igreja de São Tiago church where, as you might expect, there’s an air of reverence surrounding the tomes sold here. At the quirky Market Bookstore, I find wooden crates brimming with books among the organic fruits and vegetables, many of them quite old, perhaps even rare. My final stop is Espaço O and the Livaria De Adega, a wine cellar turned



Brunna Peretti

bookstore where I’m tempted to sample a local vintage while perusing the titles, but as darkness falls, I’m being drawn to investigate the castle looming overhead.

Making the trek to the top of the fortress is not for the faint of heart, but it’s worth the effort. I tread paths worn thin over the centuries by those who have walked the ramparts before me. Admittedly, I’m a little winded by the time we reach the battlements, but when I lean over the

edge, that’s when the magic happens. A sea of twinkling lights illuminates the historic quarter’s whitewashed houses, and it’s easy to imagine that nothing has changed in a thousand years.

Dinner is at The Literary Man, the biggest literary hotel in the world, but its story runs much deeper. The converted convent reflects the vision of Óbidos’s former mayor, Telmo Faria, who wanted to attract writers, artists, bibliophiles and tourists to the region to not →

Above: Moorish castle above Óbidos



John Kamenberg



Nabil Murshed

Far left: You’ll find food, wine and books at The Market Bookstore
Left: Aerial view of the old quarter
Right: Dining surrounded by books at The Literary Man



Below: Bask in the stunning sunsets seen along the Headlands' road
 Right: Riding a monster wave at Nazaré



Luis Ascenso

only preserve its heritage but also stimulate the local economy. In addition to hotel guests, the public is welcome to enjoy a literary libation at the gin bar, or curl up on a big green, velvet settee and delve into the pages of any of the more than 65,000 books that fill the shelves. If I was travelling solo, I couldn't think of a better place to hang out with a book as my companion.

But Faria's vision extended beyond the literary world. He was also the impetus that brought world-class golf to the Silver Coast. Bom Sucesso, Campo Real Lisboa and the prestigious Marriott Praia del Rey and West Cliffs complex, one of Europe's Top 10 Golf Resorts, all lay within striking distance of the town. Dave plays them all; however, Royal Óbidos is my favourite. Why? Not because it is one of the

fairest layouts that suits me to a tee, or because they serve the best fish soup I've ever tasted, but because the second I enter the clubhouse, I feel the presence of Seve Ballesterro. Royal Óbidos was his final masterpiece, and every aspect of the club celebrates the spirit of a great golfer and family man who left this world too soon.

THE ALLURE OF THE SEA

I must have been a child of the sea in my past life, for wherever I go, the ocean beckons, and Portugal is no exception. While the country's western shores may be known as the Silver Coast, it serves up mile after mile of golden sand, intimate beaches, rugged rock formations and some of the most incredible water in the world.

I've heard rumours that this may be the week that the wind and tides come together in perfect harmony to create those record-breaking 30-metre (100-foot) waves that propelled Garrett McNamara to stardom and turned a sleepy little fishing village into a world-renowned surfing destination. So, we put away our clubs and head north to Nazaré for a walk on the wild side of the Atlantic.

As we approach Praia do Norte, the dirt track that leads to the dunes is crammed with vehicles, so we make our way on foot towards the action. Dune buggies, vans, buses, and trailers painted every colour of the rainbow are squeezed into the narrowest of spaces, creating a kaleidoscopic wall that surrounds the beach. As I round the bend, I swear I'm about to step onto the set of →

"I've heard rumours that this may be the week that the wind and tides come together in perfect harmony to create those record-breaking 30-metre (100-foot) waves that propelled Garrett McNamara to stardom and turned a sleepy little fishing village into a world-renowned surfing destination. "



“As I round the bend, I swear I’m about to step onto the set of a 1960s Beach Boys’ movie. There’s a definite bohemian vibe to this place”

a 1960s Beach Boys’ movie. There’s a definite bohemian vibe to this place, and while I’m not planning on catching a wave, I’m thrilled to be here watching these carefree spirits prep for the big challenge when it comes. Unfortunately, today is not the day, but I can still admire their prowess, determination, and sheer grit.

As the sun begins its descent, we take the funicular from the cliff top of Sitio to the much calmer, more serene Praia da Nazaré. As we stroll along the boardwalk to Pangei-by-the-Sea for dinner, I notice the line-up of historic, traditional fishing boats nestled on the sand, and I’m reminded of simpler times.

Our table is ready, and I settle in with a glass of Summertino to watch Chef Carlos prepare his signature dish, octopus served three ways. Everyone is mesmerised as he arranges the garnish. The meal is a work of art that pays homage to one of Portugal’s most revered ingredients, presented by a master chef with a flourish and a big grin.

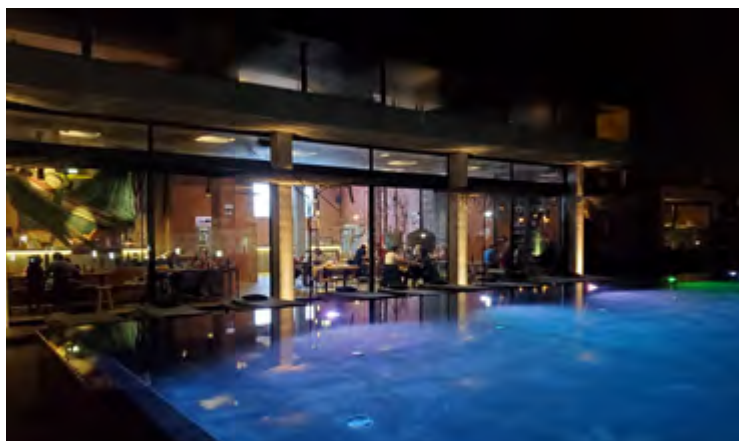
SANCTUARY

The next day fog blankets the windswept cliffs in Santa Cruz. I’m disappointed that I can hear the thundering roar of the surf, but my view of the sea is shrouded. Suddenly, the sun pierces the day and reveals an expansive stretch of golden beach in all its glory. I’m now free to explore the tide pools and hidden coves before making my way to Noah Surf House.

I didn’t know what to expect, but it certainly isn’t the sense of peace and tranquility that envelops me as we head up to the second floor. Intuitively I know that this is no ordinary accommodation but a sanctuary where I can quiet my mind and feed my soul.

Tonight, we’re staying in one of the guest pods nestled on the hillside. As I open the door, I marvel at the attention to detail that has created this veritable oasis. The entire complex has been constructed using reclaimed and repurposed materials with a focus on sustainability. Natural elements combined with a minimalist décor reflect the beauty surrounding me when I pause long enough to appreciate it.

Heading to the communal kitchen and full-service restaurant, I’m suddenly aware that the path leads through a herb garden surrounded by rosemary hedges, and my appetite nudges up a notch. Judging from the smells wafting up →



Top: Good vibrations surround this decked out minibus

Top left: Windswept cliffs, coves and caves, Santa Cruz

Bottom left: The infinity pool appears to blend with the sea

Left: Surf’s up. Grab a board, and let’s go!

“Marta, and her boyfriend Nuno, began holding weekly Get2gethers where guests, locals and staff mingle, make music, share laughter, exchange information and forge new friendships”

Right: Spend a night in a private pod perched above the beach
Top middle: A Room with a View - Bungalow Mar at Noah Surf House
Bottom middle: Guests and locals mingle at a Get2gether



from the open kitchen, I'm in no doubt that my hunger will soon be satisfied.

Tonight, it's tapas for two. Five perfectly proportioned dishes, including creamy burrata cheese, topped with smoky tomatoes, delectable garlic prawns that announce their presence long before they reach the table and ceviche that is bright, spicy, and delightfully acidic. Our feast is accompanied by a rich, full-bodied glass of Quinta das cerejeira Grande Reserva 2014 – a vintage I had sampled earlier in the week at Quinta do Sanguinhal when I was there to learn

the Pereira da Fonseca family's secrets for producing award-winning wines.

When Noah Surf House opened, one of the owners, Marta, and her boyfriend Nuno, began holding weekly Get2gethers where guests, locals and staff mingle, make music, share laughter, exchange information and forge new friendships. For now, these magical evenings are reduced to joining a few others around the fire pit to exchange the highlights of where we've been, what we've seen and who we've met. The perfect end to a perfect day!

I awaken to a gentle light that gradually fills the room and a view that declares this is where heaven and earth meet. I understand that This Place that Celebrates the Sea is more than Noah Surf House's tagline – it's a defining experience, a place where one can simply be.

Tomorrow, I leave the Silver Coast with hidden treasure, the knowledge that it's the traveler's willingness to connect with people, share dreams, and respect the environment that turns a vacation into an adventure.

Above top: The tasting room at Quinta do Sanguinhal
Above bottom: A tempting feast for two

JOURNEY PLANNER

HOW TO GET THERE

TAP Air Portugal

W: flytap.com

WHERE TO STAY

Evolutée Hotel & Spa

T: + 351 262 965 220

W: royalobidosgolf.com

Noah Surf House

T: + 351 261 932 355

W: noahsurfhouseportugal.com

WHERE TO EAT

Restaurant of The Literary Man Hotel

T: +351 262 959 214

W: theliteraryman.pt

Pangeia-by-the-Sea

T: +351 917 934 726

W: pangeiarestaurante.com

WHAT TO DO

Get local with a local

Silver Coast Travelling

T: +351 961 481 448

W: silvercoasttravelling.com

Quinta do Sanguinhal

T: +351 262 609 190

W: vinhos-sanguinhal.pt

Royal Óbidos Golf Course

T: +351 262 965 220

W: royalobidos.com

The Marriott Praia-D'el-Rey Golf & Beach Resort

T: +351 262 905 005

W: praia-del-rey.com

West Cliffs Ocean & Golf Resort

T: +351 2620249 880

W: westcliffs.com

FEELS LIKE HEAVEN

Amazing scenery, miles of sandy beaches, history, culture and some wonderful golf courses, Cornwall has it all. James Mason takes a winter trek down to the south-west of England to sample three very different golf courses



ST ENODOC GOLF CLUB CHURCH COURSE

Not even two logs in a bag hanging from my tripod could stabilise it enough to stop the wind blowing it down, so unfortunately the video link of the course with this review is from a previous visit.

But even 45mph winds are not going to stop me teeing it up today. The great thing about links golf is if the wind blows it will clear most of the bad weather away leaving beautiful clear blue skies in December.

I love the opening two holes here and the wonderful views from both greens. They are still great fun to play in this wind, even if I have hit driver, 2-iron, 2-iron, 7-iron into the first green and aiming my tee shot on the 2nd out towards the 7th tee to watch it not only drift back into the fairway but into the right hand rough!!

The reason I am here this week is because St Enodoc have been busy putting in some course updates and there are new back tees at the 12th, 13th, 14th and 18th holes. I do like the start to the back nine and the 10th is one of my favourite holes played from the elevated tee with the church as its backdrop.

The new tee at the 12th sits right by the beach and has really added to the feel of the hole. To be honest I can understand the new tee at the 13th especially with today's modern equipment, but I can see this becoming a problem during tournaments as it sits right behind the 12th green and could cause hold ups as players on the 12th will have to wait until the tee is cleared. The other option would be to make it a call-up hole.

Right: Looking down on the 9th fairway

Below Left: Stunning views at the par 3, 15th

Below Right: Four pot bunkers protecting the par 3, 8th green

COURSE VIDEO 



YOU ALMOST HOPE THERE IS A HOLD UP SO YOU CAN STAND ON THE NEW TEE AND TAKE IN THE MAJESTIC VIEWS OF ROCK, STEPPER POINT, BREA HILL AND THE CAMEL ESTUARY FROM THIS NEW VANTAGE POINT



The new tee at the 14th has certainly made this a tougher and more aesthetically pleasing hole and brings the ridge that runs down to the 10th fairway into play for any ball going right,. The drive on this hole now is all about strategy.

What can I say about the new tee complexes at the 18th – they have taken a great finishing hole and made it even better. You almost hope there is a hold up so you can stand on the new tee and take in the majestic views of Rock, Stepper Point, Brea Hill and the Camel Estuary from this new vantage point. Walking off the 18th green I feel the new changes have just added to what is already one of my favourite golf courses in the UK. →



Left: The 340-yard 8th hole. Below: The tough, par 3 15th hole. Right top: Sun setting over the 16th. Right bottom: The stunning view from the 17th green



IF YOU HAVE THE TIME OR FANCY A QUICK TWILIGHT ROUND OF GOLF WHILE YOU ARE IN THE AREA THEN I WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND YOU PLAY THE HOLLYWELL COURSE, YOU WILL HAVE A LOT OF FUN

COURSE VIDEO



ST ENODOC GOLF CLUB HOLLYWELL COURSE

I have played at St Enodoc many times before, so on this trip, I wanted to make sure I got to play the Hollywell course as well as the Church course. Unlike yesterday I was able to film the tee shots, although not without the help of a large piece of firewood in a plastic bag weighing down the tripod. The winds may not have been up to yesterday's 45mph speeds but they were still up in the mid-20s mph.

The 280-yard 1st has a generous fairway. The black and white marker post is usually your aiming point, although in this cross wind, my aiming point is the left hand rough and let the wind bring the ball back, which it duly does just short of the green. As I make my way up the fairway I start to get a feel for the course. I am not sure there is a flat lie anyway on the fairway; as I crest the hill I can see this is a very small green which has many contours. I just miss my eagle putt and tap in for a birdie start.

The 2nd is a 190-yard par 3 again played to a very small undulating green that is framed by small mounds. It is December and while the course has a very heathland look to it, with it being winter it is hard to tell as there are lots of worm casts about. I have a feeling this is a beautiful little course in the summer months and perfect for a quick round or twilight golf. Measuring just 4,082 yards, nine par 3s all under 190 yards and with the longest par 4 measuring 399 yards, you can see how this is a fun course to play for all the family.

My favourite run of holes starts from the 13th to the 17th, standout par 3 being the 15th, weighing in at 176 yards. This is played from an elevated tee to a raised green, and anything not hitting and staying on the putting surface will see you playing a very tricky chip shot back up to the green.

I walk off the 18th green with a huge smile on my face, it has been a lot of fun. You can obviously distinguish the original James Braid designed holes to the ones added in 1982 to complete the 18 holes, but if you have the time or fancy a quick twilight round of golf while you are in the area then I would highly recommend you play the Hollywell course; you will have a lot of fun.

→

THE POINT AT POLZEATH GOLF COURSE

After listening to the rain come down all night, I was slightly worried that I wouldn't be able to play today, but here I am standing on the 486-yard, par 5 opening hole. While I haven't warmed up, there are some fantastic practice facilities here with the range to my right; but with the forecast saying rain will be coming back in this afternoon, I want to make sure I get round.

To my surprise, I manage to hit a decent drive and 3-wood, to give myself a chip and putt birdie, so I am certainly happy with that start. Unfortunately it's a grey damp Cornwall day as I make my way round but the course certainly offers some wonderful views. I can imagine in summer; the beauty of the surrounding area really shines through.

As I arrive at the redesigned par 3, 7th hole, what has stuck out for me is that it is early December and even with the torrential overnight rain, the greens are in amazing condition and still running smooth and fairly fast. All credit to the green keeping staff who I have spotted working on several projects around the course.

The greens have been fairly fast and true, with several having some severe run offs that I am sure in the summer months really do come into play. They are fairly flat with not too many contours; however, the new green at the 7th not only has two tiers, you can see they have

also added some nice green complexes. With this being played uphill framed by trees and a bunker protecting the right hand side, this is going to become another wonderful addition to a great collection of par 3s.

The back nine opens up with the downhill 355-yard par 4, In the summer, if you get your angles right and catch the right slopes, you can get very close to the green here. I think the par 3 12th is the pick of the bunch when it comes to the shorter holes and is played downhill. If you miss right, then the chances of finding and playing your ball are minimal. The back nine, I feel, is the stronger nine with the 13th, 14th and 17th holes being my favourites.

The 9th and 18th holes both dogleg right and are played uphill, then bring you back to the clubhouse. Both are tough finishing holes. Sitting in the bar, reflecting on the course, I am gutted that I didn't get to play the course in all it's summer glory. You can tell from the design it's a fun layout to play. It's not a St Enodoc or Trevose, but then it's not trying to compete with those courses; it offers a totally different challenge.

The Point at Polzeath offers the perfect base to play those courses and enjoy a wonderful parkland course that has great facilities both on and off the golf course, and I for one can't wait to come back and play this course in the summer. →

COURSE VIDEO 

IT'S NOT A ST ENODOC OR TREVOSE, BUT THEN, IT'S NOT TRYING TO COMPETE WITH THOSE COURSES; IT OFFERS A TOTALLY DIFFERENT CHALLENGE. THE POINT AT POLZEATH OFFERS THE PERFECT BASE TO PLAY THOSE COURSES AND PLAY A WONDERFUL PARKLAND COURSE THAT HAS GREAT FACILITIES BOTH ON AND OFF THE GOLF COURSE

Left: Sunset over the 9th green with the 18th in the background. Below left: Looking down on the par 3, 12th. Below top: aerial view of the course. Below bottom: 14th green with the 17th in the background



PORT GAVERNE HOTEL

Cornwall, England

By CHARMAINE HIBBERT



ROOM AT THE INN

Less than 200 yards from Port Gaverne beach, **Charmaine Hibbert** steps back in time and stays at an inn that was built over a century ago

After a very scenic 5-hour drive, part of which was on the beautiful A303 that sees me pass Stonehenge, I arrive at Port Gaverne, which suddenly appears out of nowhere as the road takes a turn and goes down a steep hill. The road continues back up another steep road that takes you into Port Isaac, where the BBC filmed their Dr Martin TV series.

With the bay at Port Gaverne on your right, the Port Gaverne Hotel is on your left. My first impressions are that it is a very beautiful, quaint old inn with a restaurant, which has several nooks and crannies for you to chill out and enjoy the local beer.

After a quick check-in I am being taken up several flights of steep narrow stairs and through a couple of narrow corridors. Upon entering my room it feels like being transported back into the 21st century. I am surrounded by modern décor with the main colours being teal and white with some beige accents, the en-suite bathroom was decorated using modern beige stone tiling. The room also has satellite TV, a Nespresso coffee machine, tea making facilities and a nice selection of biscuits to accompany your beverage of choice.

A glass door leads out onto the room's own balcony, which is wide enough to accommodate several chairs. This also leads on to a communal deck that has a gazebo and lots of outdoor sofas and chairs, from where you can catch glimpses of the bay and the Atlantic Ocean.

After settling in we head down to the bar and enjoy a few local beers, while checking out the hotel's many nautical art pieces and knick-knacks.

After a good night's sleep, we head down to breakfast. This is served in the hotel's restaurant. To give you some idea on pricing in the restaurant, the cider battered haddock, chips and pea puree will set you back just short of £19, or you could choose for the two-course option for £35 or the three-course option for £45.

On the menu is, of course, a full Cornish breakfast: beans on toast, kippers, cereal, fresh fruit and pastries, a selection of fruit juices, tea and coffee. I start with the fresh fruit and orange juice, which is then followed by the full Cornish breakfast, coffee and toast. The full Cornish consists of sausages, two rashers of bacon, one large mushroom, black pudding and your choice of eggs. A special mention for the scrambled eggs as they are perfect both days.

CONCLUSION

The hotel is an old nineteenth century inn, so be prepared for the narrow steep stairs, but there are really only two flights so it's not that bad. The room I stayed in was large and well-appointed; an ideal base for those on golf tours, walking/hiking trips or just to get away for a quiet autumn break – it gets busy here in the summer months. The restaurant is expensive, similar to central London hotel prices, something you will need to consider. However, there are other options in Port Isaac which is only a 10-minute walk away. →

THE POINT AT POLZEATH

Cornwall, England

By CHARMAINE HIBBERT

The drive from St Enodoc golf club to The Point at Polzeath has taken us about eight minutes. I have to smile at the fact that the road leading up to the clubhouse is actually better than the road which brought me from Rock to The Point.

After being shown around the facilities by Jeremy, the owner of The Point, we are sat on the sofa of our three-bedroomed house looking out to the bay at Polzeath and Newlands Island. If I am honest, I am transfixed and could sit here all day just soaking up those views with a cup of tea, or a large glass of wine.

Back to the accommodation; the three bedrooms are all doubles and can be converted to twin rooms for touring golfers, or family and friends. The largest has en-suite facilities and a walk-in shower. There is also a shared bathroom for the other two rooms, which has a very large walk-in shower, bath and WC. There is also a separate WC upstairs on the main floor.

The design of the house is upside down, so the main living areas and kitchen are on the first floor with large sliding doors that open up onto a balcony. You can soak up that view in the summer months and just watch the sun go down. There is also a chill-out room, which opens up to the balcony at the back while also opening up to the front and an outside eating area with space for six people.

The kitchen has everything you would expect at home – an induction cooker, microwave, large fridge/freezer, and another large indoor dining table for six people. The design is very crisp and modern with stone floors which are all underfloor heated. All the bedrooms open up to a patio area at the back of the house, again, offering those wonderful views. You →



Above: View from the sitting room down to Polzeath and Newlands Island. Below: rear view of the houses and balconies

HOME FROM HOME

Charmaine Hibbert uncovers the perfect base to discover North Cornwall, that not only has all the creature comforts of home but also boasts a health and wellness centre and its own 18 hole golf course outside your underfloor heated, eco-built front door





Top left and right:
Health and Wellness
centre. Bottom
left: Kitchen and
relaxing room at the
house. Bottom right:
Outside bar patio and
restaurant on the first-
floor main building

can even hire or bring your own bbq if you want some smokey meat and fish with your chosen alcoholic drink.

Jeremy also informs me that coming on stream soon will be some luxury eco-pods, which if the standard of craftsmanship of the houses are anything to go by, I will certainly look forward to coming back to review.

RESTAURANT AND BAR

The restaurant isn't open at our time of visiting, but food is served in the bar, which like the house has floor to ceiling windows that slide open onto a very large patio area. I have been informed this area gets very busy in the summer months. Again, like the houses, the bar has a very modern feel to it, and the staff are very friendly and helpful.

It is Friday so how can we not order the fresh fish of the day and chips? However, James has spotted the thrice-cooked buffalo chicken wings, so we have those as a starter. The wings are definitely a great idea and very spicy. The local Cornish Skinner's Brewery Sunshine IPA goes down a treat. This helps get my taste buds back on track for the fish and chips. Similar to the wings, this is also a must-try, and not just for the fresh fish; the batter really does complement the flavours of the fish wonderfully.

FACILITIES

Whilst James heads off to play golf on The Points own 18-hole golf course, I am heading to the Health and Wellness club. There are two sections to the gym, which has plenty of machines and free weights, along with spin, core conditioning, pilates, legs, bums and tums,

kettlebells, aqua aerobics, mind body, dance, dance fitness, circuits and HITT classes all available to book.

You certainly are spoilt for choice, there are also two astroturf tennis courts available to book and football pitches. Today I am just going to have a swim in the 18 meter pool and then chill out in the steam room and sauna.

CONCLUSION

With St Enodoc and Trevoze golf clubs being so close, in addition to also having its own 18-hole parkland course, The Point is the perfect base for golf holidays or groups of golfers. It is also great for those who just want to walk or hike and discover the beauty of this part of Cornwall.

Fish and chips here will cost you £15. You can also go for the two-course option for £25. There is also the three for £16 or five for £25 small plates and sharers menu. All food at The Point is made with locally sourced, seasonal produce from their network of local suppliers.

The Point at Polzeath
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Wadebridge
PL27 6QT

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W: thepointholidays.co.uk

JOURNEY PLANNER

HOW TO BOOK

Countrywide Golf Holidays
T: +44 1637 879991
E: info@countrywide-golf.com
W: countrywidegolfholidays.com

WHERE TO STAY

Port Gaverne Hotel
W: portgavernehotel.co.uk
T: +44 01208 880244

The Point at Polzeath
W: thepointatpolzeath.co.uk
T: 01208 863000

WHERE TO PLAY

St Enodoc Golf Club
W: st-enodoc.co.uk
T: +44 1208 863216

The Point at Polzeath
W: thepointatpolzeath.co.uk
T: 01208 863000

WHERE TO EAT

Port Gaverne Hotel
W: portgavernehotel.co.uk
T: +44 01208 880244

The Point at Polzeath
W: thepointatpolzeath.co.uk
T: +44 1208 863000



SIERRE & CRANS-MONTANA: SWINGING IN THE ALPS Pt2

BY JAMES MASON AND CHARMAINE HIBBERT
PHOTOGRAPHY CRANS MONTANA TC

Part two of our recent trip to Switzerland, takes us up the mountain and the pure fresh air of Crans Montana, where you can do everything and nothing – the choice is yours



This is part two of our trip to Switzerland as we make our way from Andermatt to Crans Montana on another amazing train journey with more majestic views. We disembark at Crans Sierre and make our way to the hotel, which is only a five-minute walk from the station. After some gastronomic delights served up by the chef at Hôtel de la Poste Sierre and a few glasses of wine, we decide to get an early night as we have a busy schedule tomorrow playing Crans Sierre GC before making our way up the mountain to Crans Montana.

Crans Montana sits on a plateau at 1,500m where you have 180° views of the surrounding area and the mountain lifts are open all year round, so you can see those views when they are covered in snow or green and blooming with wild flowers. In the summer months you

can hike a 15th century water channel named the Bisse or for the more energetic you can mountain bike or e-bike.

For wine lovers there are over 14 different grape varieties grown locally; some are unique to this region, such as the Petite Arvine, Reze, Heida or for reds Cornalin, Diolinoir and Humagne rouge. Of course if you prefer to just relax and exercise those taste buds, Crans Montana has over 90 different restaurants offering a variety of cuisines from around the world. And for those who love to shop you will find Monclerc, Prada, Louis Vuitton, Rolex and many more on Rue du Prado. But the best items come free. Just give me that clean mountain air, those amazing views, green grass, wild mountain flowers and a →picnic basket. Cheers!



Top left: Paddle boarding in one of the many clear lakes. Left: Crossing the Bisse du ro Passerelle from Crans-Montana to the Tseuzier dam. Top right: Mountain biking trails. Right: Views and mountain bike trails. Below: Looking across the lake to Hotel du Lac



JOURNEY PLANNER

WHERE TO STAY

Hôtel de la Poste Sierre

T: +41 27 456 57 60

W: hotel-sierre.ch

Art de Vivre - Hôtel et Spa

T: +41 27 481 33 12

W: art-vivre.ch

WHERE TO EAT

Le Tréfle

T: +41 27 456 57 60

W: hotel-sierre.ch

Tout un Art

T: +41 27 481 33 12

W: art-vivre.ch

WHERE TO PLAY

Sierre Golf Club

T: +41 27 458 49 58

W: golfsierre.ch

Crans-sur-Sierre Golf Club

T: +41 27 485 97 97

W: golfcrans.ch



Top left: Water protecting the 1st green. Right: The 5th green with its beautiful mountain backdrop

COURSE VIDEO 



Left: All carry from the back tee on the par 3 3rd. Right: The 14th green with more amazing views. Far left: 17th green protected by water at the front



GOLF CLUB DE SIERRE

W: golfsierre.ch

Standing on the first tee, I can see today is going to be a totally different golfing experience than the past few days. Don't get me wrong; the stunning views are still there and to be honest I have come to realise that when playing golf in Switzerland, amazing views are a prerequisite for any golf course architect that designs a track here.

But the topography of the course here is relatively flat, which makes this an easy walking course and it's at the 3rd and 4th holes that I learn today is all about strategy as well. Fortunately I am playing with Silvio, who is a member here

and tells me to play 5-iron and 8-iron tee shots on the next two holes, respectively. Now an 8-iron to start a par 5!! Silvio explains about the club president who designed these holes and the outcome of that is not too many of the members speak to him now!

It's a new challenge and I have to say both greens, like all the greens here, are very good with some subtle and not so subtle contours. It's a hot day and according to Silvio, Sierre gets more hours of sunshine than any other part of Europe – I'm not sure that's entirely accurate – so the tree-lined fairways not only frame the holes wonderfully with the mountains as an ever present backdrop, but they also offer lots of shade.

The original course was a 9-hole layout until the club purchased some new land back in 2005

and you can tell the difference between the new and old sections of the course. The back nine is more open, but thankfully strategy still remains a big part of playing well here.

I don't really want to mention individual holes as I feel the whole course works wonderfully and like me when you are sitting in the bar it will be hard to decide what is your favourite hole or favourite part of the course. But a special mention has to go to the par 3 7th which from the back tee is played over the bright blue lake that protects the green. It really is a gem of a hole, but then so too is the...and the... You get my drift. If you're in this part of Switzerland then you have to tee it up at Sierre Golf Club. →

“It's a hot day and according to Silvio Sierre gets more hours of sunshine than any other part of Europe – I'm not sure that's entirely accurate – so the tree-lined fairways not only frame the holes wonderfully with the mountains as an ever present backdrop, but they also offer lots of shade”

CRANS-SUR-SIERRE
GOLF CLUB

W: golfcrans.ch

It's 6.45am and the sun is rising on my last day in Switzerland and I am both sad and excited. Sad because it's been an amazing four days of golf, but excited as I am about to play Crans-Sur-Sierre seven-days after the European Tour's, Omega European Masters was held here and I know the course is going to be in spectacular condition.

As I stand on the 1st tee, the grass is manicured to perfection and I am surrounded by Swiss

wooden apartments. I hadn't realised how close they were, but it makes my opening tee shot all the more impressive. The 540-yard par 5 plays downhill and it's when you get to the crest of the hill that the views start to open up. A wedge sees me on the putting surface and I break into a smile as I walk onto the green. It's like walking on a snooker table – not that I have ever walked on a snooker table, but if I had this is how I imagine it to feel.

Even though it has been a week since the tournament, the greens roll true and fast and with the subtle and not so subtle breaks your putting game really needs to be in great shape if you want to score well. As I make my way round, there

are lots of familiar sights which most avid golf viewers will recognise. But you really don't get the feeling of how claustrophobic the 6th hole can be driving down that avenue of pines.

You then walk through some apartments and all of a sudden, as you approach the 7th tee that view hits you. Voted in the Top 50 golf views in the world, I have seen it many times on TV, but standing here sends shivers down my spine - it is that spectacular; and you really do need to be standing next to me to feel the sheer wonder of this spot.

The back nine opens up with another amazing hole with water down the left and that backdrop again, with the pine trees behind the green make

for yet another well designed golf hole. But it really would be unfair to pick out certain holes as the course really unfolds perfectly, from the amphitheatre behind the par 3 13th, water protecting the greens at the 12th and 14th, the house where Jackie Onassis stayed after JFK had been assassinated next to the 16th and of course the amazing final hole that sits in the town of Crans Montana.

To sum up. you really need to put Switzerland on your bucket list to play golf. And make sure that Crans-Sur-Sierre is your final course, because once you've played here I know you will be on the phone to your golf travel agent booking your next trip out. Switzerland is that spectacular.

COURSE
VIDEO

“Standing here sends shivers down my spine – it is that spectacular; and you really do need to be standing next to me to feel the sheer wonder of this spot”

Top left: Pine trees surrounding the 5th green. Left: Stunning views at the 7th and 8th holes. Top right: Wooden cabins and mountain views at the 14th. Right: Water and more amazing vistas at the 10th. Water protecting the green at the 12th



27 TAYLORMADE STEALTH



EQUIPMENT & APPAREL

REVIEW

31 TITLEIST T300



33 TAYLORMADE MG3



VIEW.COM



Farleigh



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COLOUR ME MINE

To great fanfare TaylorMade introduced what they are calling the Carbonwood era, but is what glitters always gold? James Mason puts the Stealth Plus to the test



TECHNOLOGY

TaylorMade have introduced a new face material for the Stealth driver range named Carbonwood and the new 60x Carbon Twist Face uses 60 layers of carbon fibre arranged to optimise energy transfer. This helps deliver a higher COR and a more precise face geometry through a lighter, but larger face.

Carbonwood is a lighter material than titanium, so the TaylorMade engineers were able to design a larger face than the one that sits in the SIM2 and SIM2 Max drivers. It also only weighs 26g, which is 40 per cent lighter than the titanium face in those SIM drivers.

The 60 layers of carbon have a nanotexture cover which is made from a thin polyurethane layer that creates a strong and flexible striking surface. This helps optimise distance in both dry and wet conditions. The nanotexture face texture helps create the ideal amount of friction between the face and the ball at impact to reduce spin in dry conditions, but with the nanotexture face featuring full-face score-lines it's also designed to provide improved spin performance in wet conditions.

Because of weight savings from the 60X Carbon Twist Face, engineers were able to incorporate the use of a 10g sliding weight track designed to help golfers control shot shape by shifting mass on the sole to create desired ball flight. Stealth Plus is designed to be the lowest-spinning driver in the family.

You can personalise the Stealth Plus model, choosing from six face colour options: red, green, yellow, blue, orange, and grey; and two body →



Left: Sole view of the Stealth Plus and Stealth. Middle: The different components that make up the new Stealth range



Left: Sole and face views of right to left, Stealth, Stealth Plus and Stealth HD. Right: Hero shot of the Stealth driver.

colour options – black and chalk. You can also choose a gloss or matt crown finish with or without the TaylorMade T-logo and eight sole colour options: blue, black, red, orange, green, gold, pale blue and volt. There is also a choice of mono or colour head cover.

CONCLUSION

I think, like a lot of you out there, I was excited to get hold of the new Stealth driver and loved the look of the red face and the many colour options available if you wanted to customise. And I have to say when I got the driver in my hands I wasn't disappointed. The red face really jumps out and the matt finish of the crown and the flashes of red really give it a mean look.

After playing the Stealth driver in both casual and competitive rounds of golf, I have to ask. Did it give me more length off the tee than the SIM1, which I had to stop practicing with on the practice ground because it was too long and balls were going into the trees? No, it didn't. Did it give me more forgiveness and tighter dispersion than the SIM2, which I was very impressed with? Again no it didn't.

The Stealth driver does have the distance of the SIM1 and forgiveness of the SIM2. If you have any of those drivers I would say wait until the next generation. But, if you haven't purchased a driver in the last five-years, I would certainly recommend the Stealth driver. You will get more distance and more forgiveness with better dispersion than your current model. So make sure you get it on your testing list.



Left: Stealth Plus with the yellow twist face option. Middle: The six twist face colour options. Bottom: Toe view of the Stealth driver. Below: Sole view of the womens Stealth driver



CLUB TESTED
TaylorMade Stealth Plus
LOFT 9°
SHAFT Project X Riptide CB 40
FLEX Regular
LOFT SETTING 10°
WEIGHT SETTING Neutral
RRP £579 / €739 / \$599.99
VIDEO REVIEW [▶](#)

BADGE OF HONOUR

After testing the Titleist T100s in the last issue James Mason puts the T300 game improvement irons from the T Series to the test over both links and parkland courses in Cornwall and Surrey

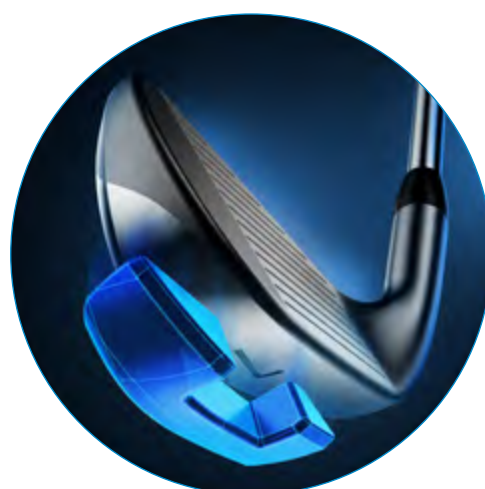


TECHNOLOGY:

The new T300 irons utilise an updated Max Impact technology that increases speed across the new High COR variable face thickness (VFT) design, that is thinner towards the heel in the long and mid irons to improve performance at what is traditionally one of the least effective strike points. Titleist's forgiving mid-sized cavity-back designed iron includes a 40 per cent increase in tungsten which helps improve the clubs' CG for optimal launch, spin and increased MOI.

The high-density tungsten (D18) weights are used in the heel and toe of the 4-7 irons for greater mass efficiency. Titleist engineers were able to add 40 per cent more tungsten than was in the previous generation of the T300 irons through a brazing process applied from aerospace construction. This all helps give the irons a solid feel, optimal balance, distance and forgiveness.

Behind the T300 badge is the Max Impact 2.0, which is a Cantilever Core Support Structure, that features a new high-resilience polymer core, helping the club to achieve its maximum speed and distance. The size and shape of the T300 irons are designed to give higher handicapped golfers more confidence, while the new chrome-plated finish still gives it that premium look.



Top left to right:
Full technical illustration. Sole and cavity view.
Toe and badge view. Top line and address view.
Bottom left to right: Max Impact 2.0 illustration. Tungsten weighting illustration. High COR variable face thickness illustration

CONCLUSION

The T300 irons are aimed at the golfer who wants high launch, long distance and forgiveness. After testing these over four courses in Cornwall and Surrey I can say the Titleist T300 certainly give you all of that – although the high launch into 45mph winds at St Enodoc GC maybe wasn't useful. But on the positive

side, going downwind you could certainly let that baby ride. I'll certainly take drive 6-iron into the 560-yard, par 5 16th!

I normally play bladed irons and when you get to game improvement irons you normally give up looks, feel and the sound of a solid strike at impact. What I liked about the T300 irons I didn't really have to give up to much

of those things, the irons look great, I liked the feel and sound at impact, but most of all I loved the distance, forgiveness and the ball flight they offered. It may be a high launch but it's not a floppy flight and is more of a penetrating ball flight that comes down from a nice height, helping to stop the ball quickly on the green.

VIDEO REVIEW Titleist T300 Irons

SET 4-PW

SHAFT True Temper AMT Red

FLEX Regular R300

RRP £899 / €1255 / \$1199.99

GRIND MASTERS

Wedge play around the green can make or break a scorecard – the difference between making par or dropping shots. James Mason puts TaylorMade's MG3 Micro-ribs to the test on both links and parkland courses



TECHNOLOGY:

The main technology in the MG3 Wedge System is the Raised Micro-Ribs (0.02mm tall and .25mm wide) which span the entire face and sit between the traditional grooves. These create an abrasive and textured surface area that improves the interaction between clubface and ball.

The other changes to the face – compared to MG2 wedges – include a scratch finish on the toe area which helps reduce glare at address.

TaylorMade's Milled Grind Sole process produces individually CNC milled wedges for accuracy and consistency from club to club. Player-inspired alterations to the sole and bounce offerings for MG3 wedges include:

- Low Bounce (LB) – The new LB sole geometry promotes a smoother entry and exit of the

club through the turf.

- Standard Bounce (SB) – With a slightly wider sole than on MG2, is geared towards increased playability and forgiveness on various shots.

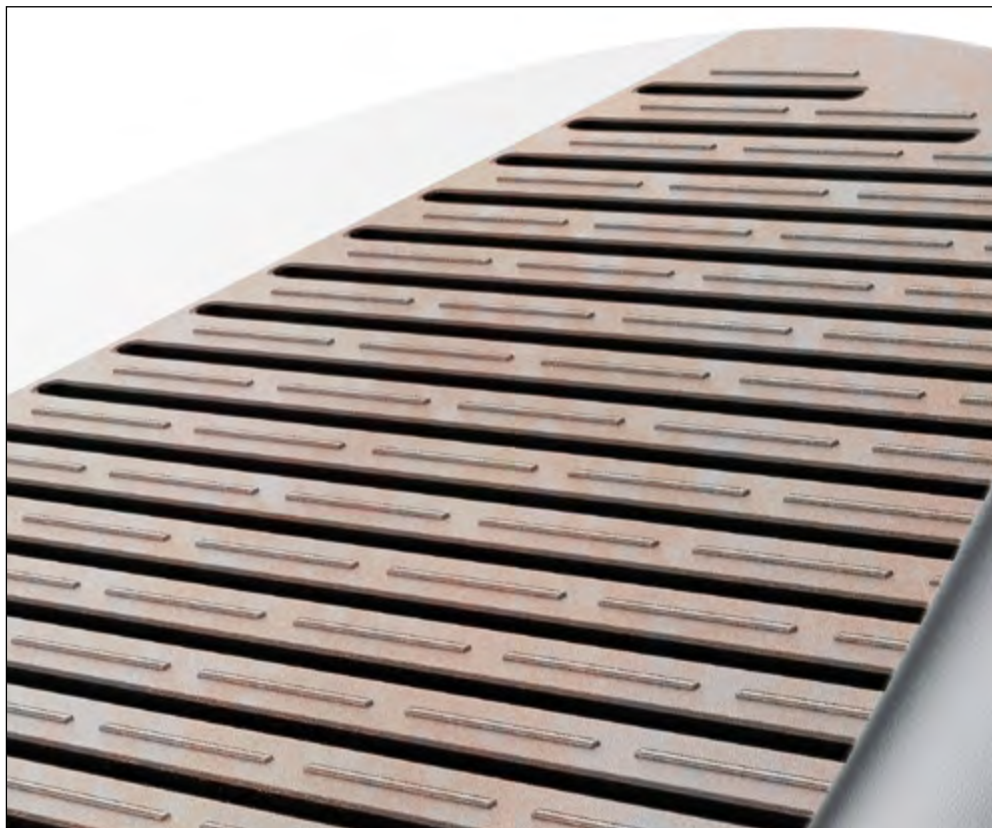
- High Bounce (HB) – The HB sole geometry is designed to help players with a steep attack angle or those who play in softer conditions.

- TW Grind – Offered in custom offerings only, with 56° and 60° lofts available. Each sole on the MG3 TW was inspired by Tiger's grind.

The wedges also use a precision mass placement which has optimised the CG location to encourage lower launch with increased spin. Basically the higher the loft, the higher the CG, but this has also helped deliver a solid sound and feel on impact.



Left: Close up of TaylorMade's raised micro-ribs
Top left to right: Satin RAW black finish. Milled grind sole. Face angle view. Right: TW Grind is only available in custom offerings with lofts of 56° or 60°



VIDEO REVIEW 
TaylorMade MG3 Wedge System
WEDGES 52° and 56°
SHAFT True Temper Tour issue
FLEX S200 Stiff
RRP £149 / €189 / \$239.99

CONCLUSION

Having tested these wedges on both links and parkland courses with the different turf interactions, I can say that so far these wedges produce more spin than any other wedges I have tested. The raised micro-ribs do an amazing job.

My wedge game around the green is probably the weakest part of my golf game and these wedges certainly made me look

good. The more I played with them the more confident I became knowing that the ball would near enough stop dead – and that was on the more finesse type shots around the green, not just full shots into the green. As they say, the proof is in the pudding; once you get the MG3 wedges in your hand to test, you will know exactly what I mean.

PRO TIP



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SOCIAL MEDIA

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Twitter: [@shainJGolf](https://twitter.com/shainJGolf)
YouTube: [shainjohnsongolf](https://www.youtube.com/shainjohnsongolf)

FANCY FOOT-WORK

The transfer of weight during the backswing and then into the downswing and through the impact zone is crucial. **Shain Johnson** explains how to get this right to create more stability and power



Insight drill: Start down in a squat position. As you go down and come up you should feel the pressure on the balls of your feet. If you were to distribute that pressure to the heels of your feet, you now feel out of balance and have insufficient power to drive yourself back up again. This is similar in golf, if you don't apply the appropriate pressure you will have insufficient power to drive your shots.



Downswing: As you transfer your weight to your lead side you want to feel the weight shift into the heel of your lead foot. Often you can find with too much movement, the pressure can move to your toes instead of your heels and this can cause different swing characteristics.



Backswing: Taking your backswing, I want you to load your trail foot on to the ball of your foot and take care not to distribute that pressure to your heel. This will ensure you have the correct stability and power. Think of your right knee – left knee for left handed players – as the anchor for your swing.



Video watch: Practice this next time you're on the range. Be mindful of the pressure placements throughout your swing. If you struggle to get a feel for this, close your eyes and try, as this may help you feel the movement better.

LONDON CALLING

Well Kent & Surrey Golf Alliance really but why let that get in the way of a good headline!

KASGA (Kent & Surrey Golf Alliance) is a charitable golf society with over 70 members. We support the charity CALM who are tackling mens mental health and suicide. [Find out more by clicking here...](#)

We are looking for companies who wish to get involved in sponsoring us, partnering with us or wish to donate prizes for our charity raffles. All money we raise goes to CALM via our JustGiving page [click this link here](#)

Our remaining events for 2022 are as follows:

- 7th May – Sweetwoods Park GC
- 11th June – Pedham GC
- 20th August – Boughton GC
- 17th September – Farleigh GC
- October – Le Touquet captains weekend
- 2nd December – Princes GC

Any support would be appreciated and will help us to raise more money and awareness for this worthy cause.

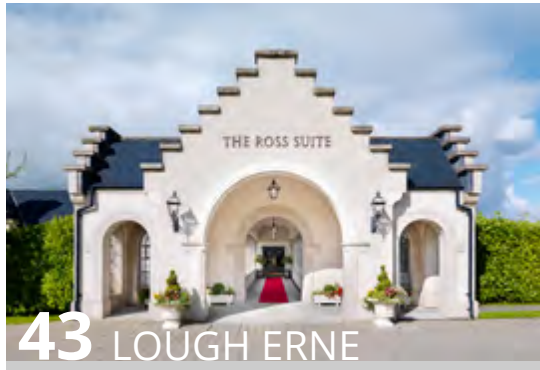


Website: kasga.co.uk/#Get-in-touch

Instagram: [@kasga2020](https://www.instagram.com/kasga2020)



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REVIEW



48 SILVIES VALLEY RANCH



VIEW.COM

STAY, PLAY & SPA

LAS COLINAS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Alicante, Spain

By JAMES MASON and CHARMAINE HIBBERT

WINTER WARMER

No temporary greens, astroturf mats, muddy fairways or casual water, but plenty of blue skies. **James Mason** and **Charmaine Hibbert** discover winter golf, tennis, cycling, gastronomic delights and beautifully designed villas and apartments at Las Colinas





VILLAS AT LAS COLINAS G&CC

An hour's drive from Alicante airport sees us arriving at Las Colinas Golf and Country Club and after a swift check-in, we are in golf buggies heading to our villa. A press of an electric key fob and the gate to the complex opens and we park in the bay reserved for the residents' car or, in our case, golf buggy.

The stonework on the walls that surround the garden are very impressive and so too is the garden with its single orange tree. The large wooden door swings open and reveals an expansive lounging area with very high ceilings on the left that has sliding doors to a covered patio area with dining set and the garden beyond.

On the left is a fully-fitted kitchen with stainless steel appliances and then two double bedrooms on the right with a shared shower/toilet at the end of the corridor. While on the left is the master en-suite double bedroom with large wardrobe and double doors opening onto the patio. As there are three of us sharing I obviously bagsy the en-suite. →



LAS COLINAS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB



It's early November and I am stepping onto the first tee at Las Colinas in shorts – although I do have a body warmer on. The rain and cold of the UK seem so distant but are only a three-hour flight away. A half decent drive leaves me a 4-iron into the green on this tough opening hole. The good news is there are five teeing options so you don't have to play from the tips where I video from. This dogleg left has a narrow entrance to a raised green and believe me, bogey is a good score here.

As I make my way to the 2nd tee, I already like the feel and sculpturing of the course. The 3rd hole is one of the many show stoppers here; played from an elevated tee I can see →

Top left: 13th and 15th holes. Left: Bunkering surrounding the 17th green. Top right: Dining set up in one of Las Colinas apartments. Right: Living room and views from one of the apartments





“As we make our way through the seven-course tasting menu my taste buds are dancing in delight and if you are stuck on which dish to go for, then I would highly recommend you go for the tasting menu”

out over to some of the beautifully designed residences and beyond. The tee shot is played down to the fairway below which doglegs to the left. The large fairway bunker that helps frame the fairway is your aiming point, but you can also bite a large chunk off by going left and trying to gain more distance by using the slope. But it doesn't end there on this risk and reward par 5. Depending on how far you have made it down the hill, you now have to decide if you are going to brave the carry over water to

a green that lies diagonally to you, making your landing area very narrow.

The 5th brings up the first of the par 3s on the front nine and is played over water to a green that has a ridge running through it. The second one comes at the 7th and while it only measures 121 yards from the back tees and plays downhill, it's a tough little hole played through trees.

After a well-deserved hotdog at the halfway hut which sits sheltered in some trees, I head →



Top left: Looking down the 1st hole. Left bunkering on the 9th hole.



Above: The Italian-inspired Il Palco restaurant. Leftt: Nikkei cuisine at the Umawa restaurant

Of course it's time for the face dive into the pillow test. The smell and feel of crisp cotton pillowcases and sheets fill my senses, and a nice firm mattress is exactly what I had hoped for. The large bathroom has a bath/shower combination with a sink, toilet and bidet and plenty of towels and free toiletries for those who are only bringing a cabin bag for a long weekend.

Restaurants

Tonight we are dining at Umawa, which offers Nikkei cuisine using locally sourced products from the area under the guidance of Chef Alfonso Lillo. As we make our way through the seven-course tasting menu my taste buds are dancing in delight and if you are stuck

on which dish to go for, then I would highly recommend you go for the tasting menu. The ambience of the restaurant with its low-key lighting and subtle, modern classic furnishings perfect match the food.

Our third night finds me eating at the Italian-inspired il Palco restaurant. Chef Fabio Morisi produces some wonderful dishes that just leave you looking forward to the next time that you can eat here. The restaurant décor has been designed by Pepe Leal and, like the Umawa restaurant, perfectly complement the chef's wonderful dishes.

Facilities

Apart from the golf course, the resort has a fully equipped gym where you →

to the back nine, which opens up with a par 3 that again is played through trees to a long narrow green that is 45 yards deep and offers a lot of pin placements. The hole measures 180 yards from the back tees and can play anything from a 7-iron up to hybrid depending on pin position. It really is another well-designed hole to kick-start this half of the course.

Another risk and reward par 5 comes at the 11th and then the beautifully designed par 4, 388-yard 12th hole, where the raised green is framed by three bunkers: two large, short right and left, and a small one to the right of the green. As I stand in the fairway, 8-iron in hand staring up to the green with the blue sky and the bright green colouring of the course, I have to remind myself it's November as I am now playing in just my shorts and polo shirt.

The course comes to the perfect crescendo

with two par 3s and two risk and reward par 5s with another wonderfully designed par 4 sandwich in between them. The par 3 14th is played from an elevated tee over water, while the 17th weighs in at a mighty 246 yards from the tips and is a driver for me. The two par 5s both have water protecting the green, with the 15th having a semi island green for you to aim at if you decide to except the risk.

The par 4 16th that is sandwich in the middle is a great hole measuring 419 yards but the framing of the hole with the bunkers, like the rest of the course before it, looks visually stunning. Making my way off the course and sitting on the patio outside the club house with cold refreshments being consumed and stories swapped, one thing we are all agreed on: we can't wait to get back out there again tomorrow.



Left: Course overview
Bottom left: Narrow green at the par 3, 10th hole. Below: Aerial view of the 11th and 12th holes



COURSE VIDEO

Right: Night view of the swimming pool
Middle left: Enjoying the cycle trails. Middle right: Tennis academy and multi-sports courts. Bottom right: View from Las Colinas beach bar



can also book a personal trainer for the time you are here. There is a wellness area where you can book massage and beauty treatments and there is also a physiotherapy service. Las Colinas also has an outdoor pool which you can relax by or use for part of your fitness regime. And for those who prefer to hit their ball with a racket there is the Adriano Tavelli Tennis and Paddle Academy, where you can play or take lessons to work on your game. There is also a multi-sports court where you can play football or basketball.

Beach Club
Las Colinas also has its own beach club which is just a few minutes away from the resort. It sits on La Glea beach and has a restaurant which is open night and day, an infinity pool, Balinese beds, hammocks and there's a massage service available as well. And to top it all off a cocktail bar, for those who's only workout they need is to work on their tan, cheers to that!



LOUGH ERNE RESORT

Enniskillen, Northern Ireland

By Peter Ellegard and JAMES MASON

WELCOME TO THE PLEASURE CONE

Peter Ellegard and **James Mason** travel to Northern Ireland on separate trips and find the perfect place to relax and hit the fairways...

Right: Lough-side
conical lodges





Above: Black night, white lights at Lough Erne Resort
 Below: Bedroom in one of the conical lodges

LOUGH ERNE HOTEL REVIEW



Spanning 600 acres of a peninsula on the southern shore of Northern Ireland’s island-studded Lower Lough Erne, five-star Lough Erne Resort is set in an area steeped in history and surrounded by magnificent nature.

Lough Erne (actually two connected lakes) is in the pristine Fermanagh Lakelands and forms part of the longest navigable waterway in Europe. Just across the lake from where the resort stands today, Castle Archdale was a wartime RAF base for Catalina flying boats.

The region is rich in cultural and archaeological sites dating as far back as the Stone Age. Nearby Enniskillen is famed for its literary connections, with playwrights Oscar →

LOUGH ERNE GOLF COURSE REVIEW



Lough Erne is the second Nick Faldo-designed course I have played – the other being being the now-closed Roco Ki in the Dominican Republic – and I feel Nick could become one of the best course designers of this era. It is set in a beautiful part of the country between Castle Hume Lough and Lower Lough Erne, and as at Roco Ki Nick has been truly blessed with the land he has been given to work with.

The course he has produced is not only beautiful on the eye but is an awesome test of golf. With five different tees to choose from, this track can measure from 7,167 yards from the black tees to 5,015 from the reds, and is a tough test from them all. There is really no weak hole on the course but make sure you grab something to eat at the superb halfway hut. You’ll probably need it after the 637-yard, par 5 9th that plays to a narrow green that’s angled across you, but the back nine just gets tougher.

Castle Hume Lough and its wetland areas come into play on many of the →

Above right: Looking down the 13th hole
 Right: The infinity green at the 10th



“In 2011, the resort went into administration when its bank loans were called in as a result of the global financial crisis. However, it continued to operate and in 2013 hosted Barack Obama and other world leaders for the 39th G8 summit”

Below: Balcony Suite
Bottom: Loughside Lodge



Wilde and Samuel Beckett among famous old boys of Portora Royal School (now Enniskillen Royal Grammar School) and commemorated with blue plaques.

Lough Erne Resort opened in 2007 as Northern Ireland’s only five-star golf resort at a reputed cost of £30 million, the vision of Fermanagh-born businessman Jim Treacy. Two years later saw the debut of the Faldo Course, designed by six-time Major winner Sir Nick Faldo.

In 2011, the resort went into administration when its bank loans were called in as a result of the global financial crisis. However, it continued to operate and in 2013 hosted Barack Obama and other world leaders for the 39th G8 summit.

Under American ownership and management since the following year, Lough Erne Resort has continued to go from strength to strength, winning numerous awards and honours.

ROOMS

After being greeted by the doorman, dressed like a lord of the manor in tweed jacket and flat cap, you check in to one of the resort’s 120 rooms, suites and lodges. They exude a grand Irish country estate ambience and all offer king-size or twin beds, bathrobe and slippers that can be used in the spa, a free-standing claw-foot bath and standalone rain shower.

Traditional Rooms overlook the main arrival area and are generously proportioned. Lakeview Rooms, one of which I call home for a couple of nights, are similar and look out to Castle Hume Lough.

Junior Suites are open plan with a spacious lounge area. Lakeview Suites give sweeping views over Castle Hume Lough and Deluxe Suites, which each feature a four-poster bed and private balcony.

Ideal for families or golf groups on self-catering stay, 25 Loughside Lodges – some shaped like conical turrets – are named after some of the many islands on Lower Lough Erne and offer two or three en-suite bedrooms accommodating up to six adults, each one having a spacious lounge area, kitchenette and dining area.

SPA AND WELLNESS

Thai-inspired experiences given by trained Thai and European therapists from a treatment menu using ESPA products help you relax and →



Above: Sunset over the 7th green. Left: statue of course designer Sir Nick Faldo

holes so you will need to plot your way around the course and depending what teeing options you choose, your short game will need to be on point. There are some great par 3s here, but not too many courses have one as their finishing hole and this baby can wreck a good scorecard with one bad tee shot. Named “Cygnets Rest,” and weighing in at 228 yards, you need to avoid sand on the left and water on the right!

One of the main images you would →



unwind after your round in the resort's Thai Spa. Signature treatments include a traditional Thai massage and Golfers Tonic.

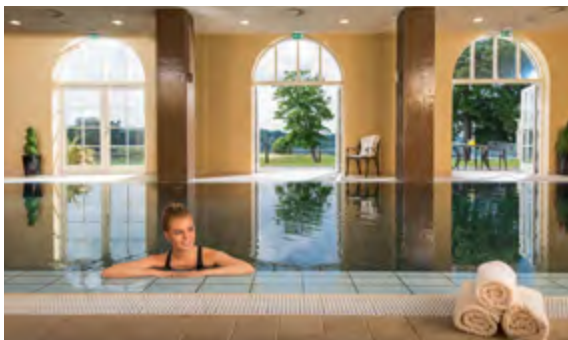
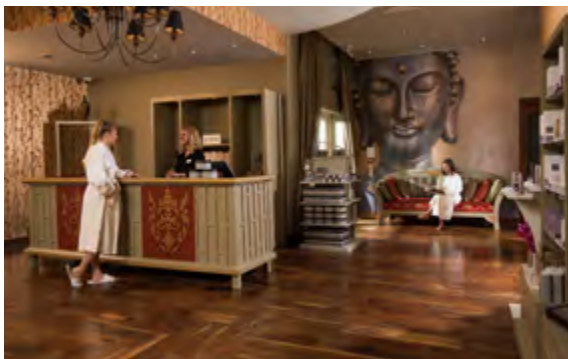
The spa has 10 treatment rooms including a dual treatment room. Before treatments, spa users can rest in the Sabai Sabai Room, meaning Health and Happiness, a light relaxation area, and afterwards in the Lap Sabai Room, meaning Deep Sleep, a deep relaxation area.

The infinity pool and thermal suite's sauna, steam room and Jacuzzi are complimentary for hotel guests.

RESTAURANTS AND BAR

The elegant Catalina Restaurant at Lough Erne Resort, was Northern Ireland's first 3 AA rosette hotel restaurant and has earned many accolades.

Among them, Best Hotel Restaurant for 2019/20 in the Irish Restaurant Awards, which also honoured Executive Head Chef Noel McMeel as Fermanagh's best chef in 2017, 2018 and 2019. He was also named one of →



Above: Infinity pool in the Thai Spa
Left: Spa lobby
below: Pool with a view



have seen from Lough Erne is the 351-yard 10th hole, which doglegs right with the green sitting in the water like an infinity pool. Another beautiful hole is "Forest Drive" which is the 2nd hole that also doglegs right from the edge of the Lough. And make sure your phone has some battery power left by the time you reach "Faldo Turn" - the 16th has some stunning views out over the estate. Back in the Loughside Bar next to the crackling open fire after your round, you are sure to be planning your next round or trip. I have loved my time in Northern Ireland, not just for the many wonderful golf courses but also some culinary delights and great nights out.

Top: Bunkering at the 17th tee green. Top right: Looking down the 1st hole. Right: The 14th green



Ireland’s top 10 chefs for 2018 by Food & Wine magazine. His ethos is to use locally-sourced ingredients on the restaurant’s menus, which feature classic and contemporary dishes.

The Loughside Bar & Grill, in the clubhouse adjacent to the main hotel, specialises in prime Irish meats and seafood from the grill. In the Blaney Bar, guests can enjoy drinks including wine, cocktails, local craft beers and Irish whiskeys as well as its eclectic Grazing Menu or vegan and vegetarian options, with a backdrop of Castle Hume Lough and the Faldo Course.

Classic afternoon tea with a modern Irish twist is served in the resort’s Garden Hall.

ACTIVITIES

Lough Erne Resort guests have two 18-hole golf courses to choose from. The 7,071-yard Faldo Course is laid out alongside both Castle Hume Lough and Lough Erne, offering stunning views of them as well as the hotel.

Developed in partnership with Blue Green Yonder, a range of outdoor activities includes water biking, stand-up paddle boarding, archery, walking tours and bushcraft. The Sunset

Waterbike Safari and Starlight Waterbike Trail take guests across Lower Lough Erne. There are several delightful walks in and around the resort, including the on-site Collop Walk that skirts part of the Faldo Course and the two lakes.

Free lakeside yoga sessions are available on three days a week in summer months.

Beyond the resort there is fishing, boat hire and mountain bike trails among activities, while things to see include the famous Belleek Pottery factory with its museum and visitor centre, the Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark which also incorporates the Lough Navar Forest, National Trust properties Castle Coole and Florence Court, and Enniskillen Castle’s two museums.

CONCLUSION

When you fancy taking off for a relaxing golf or spa break you couldn’t do better than touching down for a few days at Lough Erne Resort. From the refined comfort of its grand rooms and the pampered bliss of its oriental spa to its acclaimed food and top-notch golf facilities, you really will feel on cloud nine.

“The Sunset Waterbike Safari and Starlight Waterbike Trail take guests across Lower Lough Erne. There are several delightful walks in and around the resort, including the on-site Collop Walk that skirts part of the Faldo Course and the two lakes”

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Left: The Catalina Restaurant
Far right top to bottom: Castle Hume Lough, bat boxes, Enniskillen Castle
Right top to bottom: Diners enjoy award-winning food



SILVIES VALLEY RANCH

Oregon, USA

By PETER ELLEGARD

HI HO SILVIES LINING

Yeehah! **Peter Ellegard** saddles up and heads for the Oregon hills for a taste of ranch life and golf with some nimble caddies



There’s something rather special about caddies Bruce and Mike at Oregon golf resort Silvies Valley Ranch.

Not only do they carry your golf clubs, they also happily bring your beer. They never complain and they work for peanuts when it comes to tipping. In fact, offering those will have them eating out of your hands.

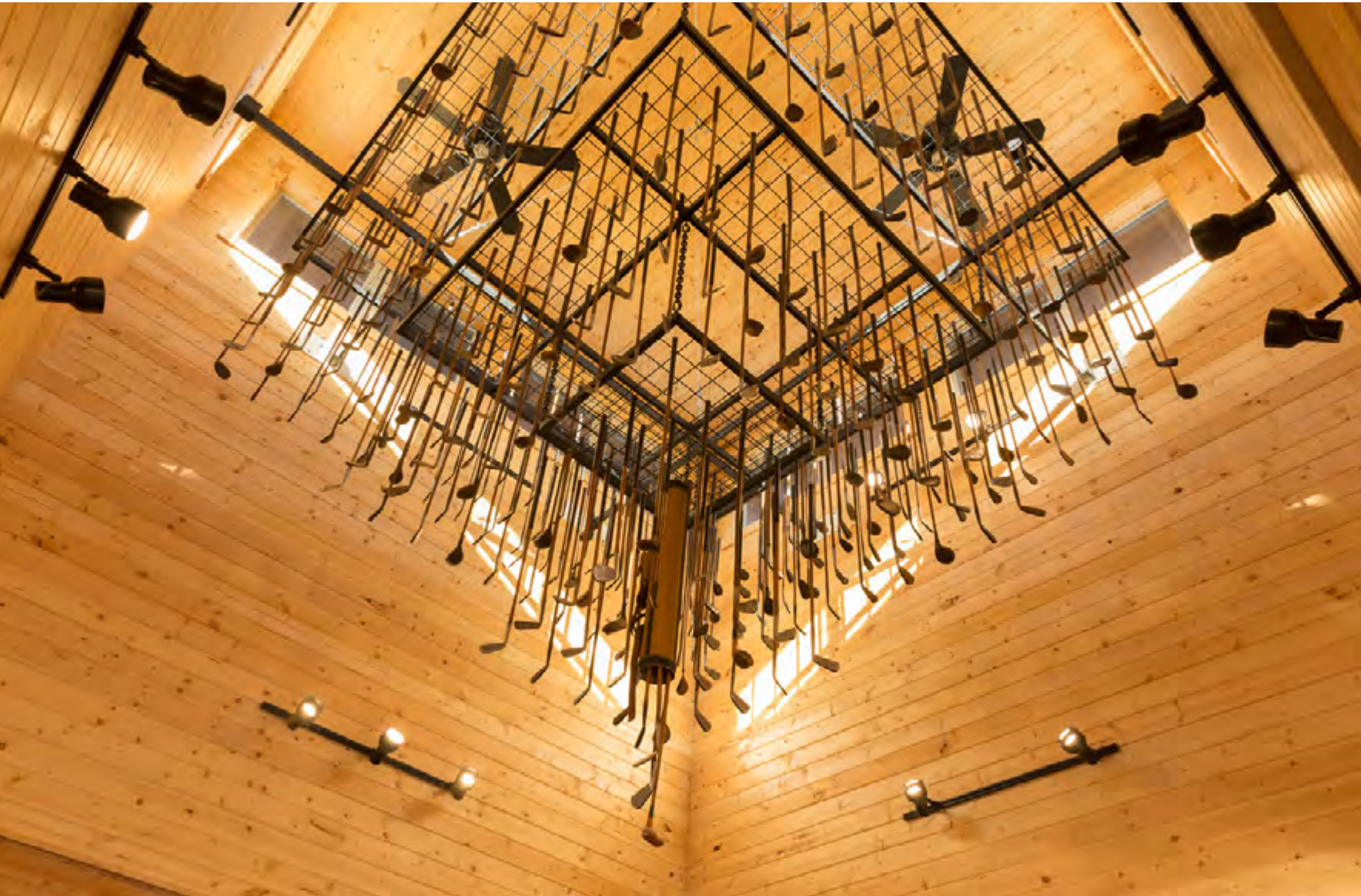
As their full names – Bruce LeGoat and Mike LeChevon – suggest, these are not so much fore-caddies as four-legged ones.

Situated a three-hour drive from Boise, Idaho, and four and a half hours from transatlantic gateway city Portland, Silvies spans a colossal 140,000 acres of hilly sagebrush scrub, grassland and forest in eastern Oregon’s high desert. It is a working ranch with 4,500 cattle and 3,000 goats besides being an eco-friendly golf resort.

When a new seven-hole golf course was added to its two reversible, 18 hole layouts, it was too hilly for buggies, so a couple of the goats were trained as caddies and fitted with specially-made golf club packs including space for six beer cans.

I meet Bruce and Mike during my stay on the ranch while they are still undergoing training. I’m introduced to them in their pen by retired vet Scott Campbell, who owns Silvies with his wife Sandra. Together, they and their family have turned a remote ranch dating back to 1883 into a luxury retreat that is just as welcoming for families as it is for romantic couples’ stays or golf breaks.

Unlike dude ranches elsewhere in the →



Left: Lofty clubs
Below: Ranch tack room

“Unlike dude ranches elsewhere in the States that offer sanitised Western experiences, this is the real deal where you can even join authentic cowboys on cattle round-ups to keep them dogies moving, as well as trying other adventurous activities”



States that offer sanitised Western experiences, this is the real deal where you can even join authentic cowboys on cattle round-ups to keep them dogies moving, as well as trying other adventurous activities – and, of course, play golf.

Or you can just chill out under vast skies as you gaze at the endless horizon.

ROOMS

Guests have a choice of luxury lakeside log cabins and Ranch House rooms.

The eight log cabins are on a boardwalk close to the main lodge and each features Western décor with one or two bedrooms, king-sized beds, rain shower, a stocked in-room wine cooler, a large flat-screen TV and a cosy living room with leather seats set around a coffee table in front of a wall-mounted fireplace and another leather sofa looking out over the lake and beyond.

I stay in one of the 18 Ranch House rooms. Mine is on the ground floor and like the others, has its own dedicated entrance. I have a single king bed although you can opt for double kings instead. The high pine-panelled ceiling gives an airy feel to the spacious bedroom and living area while ranch art adorns the walls.

The Ranch House rooms also have a rain shower in the bathroom, a stocked mini-bar, a desk, leather furniture and large TV screens.

RESTAURANTS AND BAR

Dinner is served on the solid wood, communal Ranch Table in the lodge dining room with other guests and ranch hands, which makes a great way to share your day’s experiences.

However, the food is as far from the bland fare you might remember from school dining rooms as the ranch is from its neighbours. The gourmet kitchen serves up “Ranch-to-Table Blue Mountain Gourmet Cuisine” that features mouth-watering dishes based around organic, grass-finished beef and chevon (goat meat), together with ranch-grown herbs and local Oregon-sourced vegetables.

Vegetarians are also well catered for with advance notification.

All the bread is sourdough, made on the ranch from a 100-year-old family yeast starter.

Alternatively, you can enjoy private dining in the Posse’s Den, dine in the off-grid Egan’s Hideout (aka the clubhouse), have boxed →

Right: Log cabin lounge area
Far right: Lakeside cabin reflections
Right below: Ranch House room



Right: Whisky galore in the bar
Far right top: Pancakes, Silvies-style
Far right bottom: Lodge dining room





Top far left: Feeding time for Silvies' goats
Bottom far left: Cowboy and cattle
Left: Goat caddies Bruce and Mike
Top right: Rocking Heart Spa entrance
Right: Spa hot tub



lunches and picnics, or try the food from the ranch's authentic chuck wagon.

At the bar, whisky lovers can sample the collection of over 110 different Scotches and 50 other whiskies, while Silvies also offers an extensive wine list.

SPA AND WELLNESS

The Native American-inspired Rocking Heart Spa features a half-size Olympic lap pool, climbing wall, saunas, hot tubs and a sun deck with comfy loungers. Guests can lap up a variety of spa treatments including full body massages for singles and couples, facials, manicures, and pedicures.

The fitness centre offers state-of-the-art training and exercise equipment including treadmills, elliptical crossover trainers, strength equipment and dumbbells.

ACTIVITIES

For the adventurous, the sky's the limit at Silvies, which has its own private airstrip. Besides joining the ranch cowboys on cattle drives, guests can go horse riding and help with goat herding or go hiking with goats. There's 50 miles of hiking trails and they can also go biking, fishing, shoot on its three gun ranges or try tomahawk, knife and star throwing.

Resort staff take guests on tours of Indian caves, in addition to offering horse-drawn wagon rides and exploring the ranch by all-terrain Polaris RZR vehicles to see its livestock and bountiful wildlife.

Among winter activities are snowshoeing, fat-tire snow bikes, ice-fishing and snow golf.

There are four golf courses at Silvies, all designed by Oregon architect Dan Hixson and laid out over 600 acres of high desert ponderosa

pine forest and mountain meadows. At 5,000 feet, they are the highest elevation courses in Oregon.

The reversible, links-style Hankins and Craddock Courses incorporate more than 100 bunkers and the direction of play is reversed each day (Craddock is played on even days and Hankins on odd days) to create a different layout with a variety of pin placements and tee box options. If someone in a four-ball manages to one-putt each of the last four holes, the entire foursome gets a round of Silvies' signature cocktail, the Horseshoe Nail, at Egan's Hideout.

The nine-hole Chief Egan's Course is a family pitch and putt layout named for Chief Egan, the last war chief of the Paiute Tribe who engaged the US Calvary for the final time in 1882. The location on Paiute Creek is believed

to be close to Egan's last camp.

Challenging, ridge-top McVeigh's Gauntlet comprises seven holes and was named Best New Golf Experience for 2018 in the US by Golf Magazine. Buggies are not allowed on it but it is perfect for Silvies' fleet-footed goat caddies.

Donations for using them support the local wetlands and bird and bat house maintenance on the ranch.

CONCLUSION

From the moment you arrive and are greeted with a welcome sparkling drink in the reception building, you are cosseted and made to feel part of the family at Silvies Valley Ranch. After check-in, you leave your car at the gate and are taken to your accommodation where a chunky and powerful buggy is at your disposal

throughout your stay.

From the fun goat caddies to the amenities, activities and hospitality at Silvies, the resort's slogan says it all: Simply Amazing.

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