

PANAMA

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TENERIFE

Europe's latest golf destination

GOLF EQUIPMENT & APPAREL REVIEWS

Cleveland

Mizuno

MacGregor

Greg Norman

Oscar Jacobson

Stuburt

MASTERS

Our renowned guide to the years first major championship

PLANET GOLF

REVIEW

ISSUE 9

FOXHILLS RESORT

Spa, Golf, Boot camp or just relax in the beautiful Surrey countryside

VIEW

.COM

WELCOME

The Masters as always signals the start of the golfing year, despite the professionals now playing all year round and we have had two WGC events already with Bubba Watson winning the match play as I write the editor's letter for this issue. We of course open up with our world-renowned review and betting guide to the first major of the year on page 3.

It has been a long winter and with the snowfall over the last couple of weekends it has certainly felt that way. It was good to finally get the clubs out at Foxhills last weekend and while I was reviewing the two courses, Stephanie was checking out the rest of the Foxhills Hotel and spa facilities. You can read both our reviews of this wonderful Surrey resort in our Play, Stay and Spa section on Page 30.

Canadian travel writer Jane Finn makes her debut on the pages of PGR Magazine and gives us a wonderful insight to Panama. The photo of Jane typing her feature while sitting on the deck of a tree house looking over the

forest below will send you online to book your holiday there see page 6.

We have golf and whale watching in Tenerife and feature three wonderful golf courses on the island. I visited Tenerife twice last year and its popularity has increased, particularly with travelling golfers; you can read why on page 11.

The new golfing year will see many of you looking to purchase new equipment, golf bags, apparel, golf shoes and of course travel bags. We bring you reviews of the latest equipment from Cleveland, Mizuno, Macgregor, Greg Norman, Oscar Jacobson and Stuburt. The equipment section starts on page 17.

I wish you all a fantastic and safe year of travel, be it for a golf tour, holiday, or business and I hope our features bring you some insight to help you make an informed choice, we know how important these trips mean to all of us.

MEET THE TEAM

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EDITORIAL

REVIEW





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PLANETGOLF

REVIEW



VIEW.COM



PREDATORY INSTINCTS

Will Tiger Woods tame the field? Tension and excitement mounts as we enter Masters week, we take a look at who I believe will be challenging for that coveted green jacket come Sunday.

As we head into the first major of the year, this will probably be one of the most intriguing Masters for a long time with the return of Tiger Woods. Having proved to himself that he can not only play golf again but actually challenge, I am sure the world will be watching this week to see if he can add to his four wins over the Augusta National course.

As I have stated before and I am not the only golf journalist to believe that The Masters is the easiest of the four majors to win, with a restricted field and past champions being invited to play the same course each year, it certainly narrows the list of potential champions. →

JUSTIN ROSE

14 | 1



BUBBA WATSON

18 | 1



PHIL MICKELSON

20 | 1



ALEX NOREN

50|1



Australian PGA

MATT KUCHAR

66|1



ImagopixATL

BRANDEN GRACE

100|1



Hanson K Joseph

But come Thursday morning as the first tee shots echo around this green oasis, with its many flowers in full bloom from its past existence as a flower nursery, all thoughts of winter start to disappear. Springtime in Georgia is here and as those pictures from Augusta National beam out of televisions the world over we can finally say the golfing year starts here.

MY TIPS TO WIN

Having just missed out in a play-off last year **Justin Rose 14/1 – with SportingBet** – will be more determined than ever to be wearing that Green Jacket come Sunday. Last year was Justin's second runner-up finish in three years taking his tally of Top 5 finishes here to three and with three Top 8 finishes from his four starts on the PGA Tour so far I feel he may just go one step further this year.

It looks like **Bubba Watson 18/1 – with Bet365** – is back to his best with two wins from his last four starts and with a weeks rest and some extra practice time at Augusta he will be raring to go come Thursday morning. Who can forget that duck hook wedge out of the trees on the 10th in the play-off to win his first of two Green Jackets.

Another spectacular shot on his way to winning his third green jacket was **Phil Mickelson's 20/1 – with BetFred** – shot off the pine straws and over Rae's Creek at the 13th on the final day in 2010. Phil has been playing some great golf this year, winning in Mexico culminated a run of four events where he wasn't outside the Top 6 and he had a runner-up finish in that run as well and I expect him to be right in the thick of it again come Sunday.

MY EACH-WAY TIPS

Alex Noren 50/1 – with SportingBet – teed it up at The Masters for the first time last year and missed the cut, but I feel it's a different player turning up this year. Alex has played full time on the PGA Tour this year and has only been outside the Top 25 once in seven starts and has a runner-up and two third places finishes and I think these are great odds for the Swede.

When it comes to Augusta knowhow **Matt Kuchar 66/1 – with Ladbrokes** – has been in the thick of this event on several occasions, but he has not quite got it over the line. While I am writing this guide Matt is competing in the Houston Open and sits inside the Top 10 and 3-shots off the lead

going into the final round and he is playing some steady golf. If Kucher is challenging going into the back nine on Sunday at Augusta, the chant's of Koooooch may well be heard echoing around Georgia when it comes to that time to don the Green Jacket in the Butler cabin.

MY OUTSIDE TIP

I feel like **Branden Grace 100/1 – with PaddyPower** – has been treading water waiting to get to this event, he has had one Top 10 finish so far this year from his five starts on the PGA Tour. Branden has had several Top 6 finishes in majors over the last couple of years and I think that experience may just tell this week and I think these are great odds for the South African.

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

As always good luck and have fun!

The club house at Augusta National



Brad Nelson

LATEST FIRST ROUND BETTING ODDS FOR THE MASTERS FROM LADBROKES

Rory McIlroy 10/1
Dustin Johnson 11/1
Justin Thomas 11/1
Jordan Spieth 12/1
Tiger Woods 12/1
Justin Rose 14/1
Bubba Watson 16/1
Jason Day 18/1
Phil Mickelson 18/1
Jon Rahm 20/1
Rickie Fowler 20/1
Paul Casey 22/1
Henrik Stenson 33/1
Hideki Matsuyama 33/1
Sergio Garcia 33/1
Alexander Noren 40/1
Tommy Fleetwood 40/1
Marc Leishman 50/1
Patrick Reed 50/1
Adam Scott 66/1
Brian Harman 66/1
Louis Oosthuizen 66/1
Matt Kuchar 66/1
Thomas Pieters 66/1
Branden Grace 80/1
Bryson Dechambeau 80/1
Charl Schwartzel 80/1
Patrick Cantlay 80/1
Tyrrell Hatton 80/1
Xander Schauffele 80/1
Charley Hoffman 100/1
Daniel Berger 100/1
Rafael Cabrera-Bello 100/1
Tony Finau 100/1
Cameron Smith 125/1
Gary Woodland 125/1
Kevin Kisner 125/1
Kiradech Aphibarnrat 125/1
Matthew Fitzpatrick 125/1
Pat Perez 125/1
Ryan Moore 125/1
Webb Simpson 125/1
Zach Johnson 125/1
Adam Hadwin 150/1
Francesco Molinari 150/1
Jimmy Walker 150/1
Kevin Chappell 150/1

[More](#)

Just when you thought tree houses were a distant memory Jane Finn heads off to Panama and rediscovers her childhood with adult style tree top living

A PANAMA PARADISE



Spectacular views
from the Tree
house deck

BY JANE FINN

Its 7 o'clock as the sun rises over the ridge. The stillness of the morning is broken only by the sounds of the Agua Blanco River babbling below or the occasional soft whinny of a horse grazing on a nearby hillside. Butterflies and birds of every colour flit through the rainforest and the sky is so clear I can see the Pacific Ocean, about an hour and a half away. I'm so relaxed but also so energized at the same time that I find myself reflecting on how I came to be at the top of the world, in our treehouse in Lucero.

I had read about the Panamanian Papers, understood the importance of the Canal and knew that Panama was rapidly emerging as the best value travel destination in Central America, but I was still unprepared for the scene that greeted me as we made our way towards the city. Slowly, suburban enclaves give way to towering office buildings, luxury condos, shopping malls, casinos and 5-star hotels. The skyline reminds me of Miami, and before I know it, we're in the downtown core. →

Right and far right:
Vibrant colours
reflect the Panama
people from their
clothes to their
homes



“I find myself reflecting on how I came to be at the top of the world, in our treehouse in Lucero”



“It was awe inspiring to watch a giant container ship glide through the massive locks and then sail past a rainforest at the Crossroads of the World”

The streets are teeming with people and traffic. Taxis loudly honk their horns, anxious to get their passengers to their next meeting and street vendors vie with cafes and restaurants for your patronage. At first, it’s hard to take it all in then it strikes me, after dining on tapas and ceviche; the city is like Panamanian food – fresh, vibrant and a little bit spicy.

In contrast, when we visit Casco Viejo the next day, I feel like I have taken a step back in time. The narrow cobblestone streets referred to as callejones encourage exploration on foot and when you stroll along the Esteban walkway, the views of Cerro Ancon and the Bay of Panama are spectacular. Dating back to the 17th century, this UNESCO heritage site is experiencing a period of renewal. Heavily influenced by French, Spanish and American architecture, crumbling facades are under repair, plazas, and hidden courtyards have been restored to their former glory and new luxury apartments, art galleries, and night clubs are taking up residence behind the walls, a testimony to how the historical and modern can coexist in harmony.

A trip to Panama would not be complete without a visit to the Canal so before hopping on the Pan-American Highway, the world’s longest road, we stop at Miraflores Locks to see what many consider to be the ‘eighth wonder of the world.’ It was awe inspiring to watch a giant container ship glide through the massive locks and then sail past a rainforest at the ‘Crossroads of the World.’

While I would have been hard-pressed to get behind the wheel in Panama City, once we crossed the Bridge of the Americas it was a comfortable drive to the string of coastal towns that lie just an hour outside the city. Punta Charme, Gorgona, El Palmar and San Carlos are all beautiful, but we decided to check out Coronado, Panama’s first resort community to see for ourselves why tourists who came for vacation are relocating here in increasing numbers. The new Scarlett Martinez International Airport at Rio Hato provides Europeans and North Americans easy access to Coronado’s spectacular white and black beaches, crystalline waters, five golf courses and a large ex-pat population but that is not the only reason so many want to call these Pacific Shores home.

NEW BEGINNINGS

For those longing to escape to a tropical paradise, Panama has a lot to offer, and it appears that many foreigners are impressed with the country’s stable democracy, state-of the art medical facilities and affordable lifestyle based on US dollars. Also, retirees - pensionados – are entitled to numerous benefits including discounts ranging from 30% to 50% on airlines, restaurants, movie theatres and hotels and there is no tax on foreign income. With an income of greater than \$1000 per month, ex-pats can obtain a residential visa and start living the good life in less than three months.

For those who prefer a more temperate →



Palm trees, colonial architecture, blue skies and vibrant colours



Far left: Panama City. Left: Cargo ship on the Panama Canal. Right: The wonderful colonial architecture



Below: Fusion Bar,
Shelter from the storm.
Right: Tough choice
between the pool or sea



climate, Boquete in Chiriqui province also beckons, so we headed north to discover what this region had to offer.

In David, the capital city, we met up with Daniel, an entrepreneurial spirit, solid family man, and Boquete's unofficial ambassador who joined us as we made our way up into the mountains. The 45-minute drive passed all too quickly as he shared his insights about not only what to see and what to do but also the people, the politics, real estate investments and why Boquete has become a haven for backpackers, tourists, and expats alike. His enthusiasm was infectious, and Daniel set the tone for the rest of our trip. He left us in no doubt that, though

Dave was here to play Panama's only mountain golf course, we had chosen well when we decided to visit Boquete and explore life like a local, in our quest for what's next.

One of our first stops was Sugar & Spice, an artisan bakery and gathering place for expats. While sitting at an outdoor table, it was easy to strike up a conversation over a cup of the world's best tasting coffee and gain their perspective on why they had left North America for the simpler life.

That afternoon, we hiked the Sendero Los Quetzales trail to Cerro Punta, Panama's food basket where we gorged on the plumpest, juiciest strawberries I've ever tasted; only

to return by car for a twenty pound sack of vegetables known as puercas for the princely sum of \$6 US dollars.

SO MUCH TO SEE AND DO

There is a magical quality about the Chiriqui highlands and over the few days, we quickly adapted to a more relaxed and natural way of life. We visited the Caldera Hot Springs on horseback, travelled to the top of Volcan Barú to see the sun rise, took in a soccer game on a makeshift pitch below a coffee plantation and learned how the indigenous people of the Embera tribe live. We also explored La Amistad International Park, part of a Biosphere Reserve

"That afternoon, we hiked the Sendero Los Quetzales trail to Cerro Punta, Panama's food basket where we gorged on the plumpest, juiciest strawberries I've ever tasted."



“We sought refuge in Boquete’s oldest bar Fusion J&B to quench our thirst with a Balboa. It was then that we truly embraced the local culture and they embraced us”

A MOMENT THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME

You know that expression “Life isn’t measured by the number of breaths you take, but by the moments that take your breath away?” When we stepped onto the deck of our tree house at the Lucero Golf and Country Club, I literally experienced the latter. Standing 40 metres above the floor of the Caldera Valley, protected by the rainforest canopy and the Jaramillo Mountains, I felt a profound sense of peace. It was at least an hour before I tore myself away from the views to explore our very private, very romantic getaway.

Luxuriously appointed, our treehouse included a walk-in rain shower, cozy sitting area with kitchenette and deliciously comfy bed where we could see not only the stars, but the twinkling lights of David in the distance.

Nestled next to the tee off blocks at the third hole of Lucero’s mountain golf course, we were steps away from the clubhouse and Season’s, the community’s farm-to-table restaurant. Last year alone, the staff planted over 500 tropical fruit trees, 320,000 coffee plants and an extensive vegetable garden.



Above: The rope bridge to our apartment. Left: Not any ordinary tree house. Bottom: My view as I write this feature



maintained by both Panama and Costa Rica, zip-lined through the cloud forest above a canopy of trees, went whitewater rafting past spectacular gorges and discovered hidden waterfalls.

Did I mention that we were able to do all this despite the fact that we were here during the rainy season? Like clock work, around mid-afternoon, the rain would come. Sometimes it was nothing more than a gentle mist, other times it was biblical, but it didn’t dampen our spirits. In fact, it was a welcome respite from the heat of the coastal areas, but one afternoon we got caught in a torrential downpour. Drenched and feeling a bit parched, we sought refuge in Boquete’s oldest bar Fusion J&B to quench our thirst with a Balboa. It was then that we truly embraced the local culture and they embraced us.

We were the only non-speaking Spanish patrons in the restaurant, not that it mattered as English is widely spoken throughout Panama, but that day we arrived during the final moments of the UEFA Championship game and emotions were running high. It was hard keeping up with the conversation when suddenly, the fans erupted, and we were immediately swept up in the celebrations, one of the crowd, rejoicing in the victory and the camaraderie of friends.

I’m not sure how it happened, but as I sit here, the evening before we depart, Daniel’s prediction rings true, after our time in Boquete, Panama has captured our hearts. To quote Daniel, “we don’t just like it, we love it!” This little slip of a country, the gateway between two continents may have satisfied our wanderlust – not just for a few weeks but potentially a lifetime!

Jane Finn and her husband Dave are travel writers from Canada. Follow their adventures at: www.golftravelandleisure.com.



EUROPE'S NEW GOLFING MECCA

It's mid November and James Mason is heading back to Tenerife this time to discover courses in the South of the island

The first and
seventeenth greens
at Abama Golf



Above: Looking back up the 4th fairway and the different stone banked levels.
Below: The par3, 7th hole with its mountain backdrop and carry



"THE ATLANTIC OCEAN IS JUST SHIMMERING IN THE BACKGROUND BEYOND THE TERRACOTTA CLUBHOUSE, IT'S A BREATH-TAKING SIGHT WORTHY OF A PAUSE TO REALLY SOAK IT IN"

GOLF COSTA ADEJE

Well after flying from a cold UK where I was chipping ice off my windscreen I find myself on the patio outside the clubhouse at Golf Costa Adeje, enjoying a buffet lunch in shorts, polo and factor 50 sunscreen, what a difference a four hour flight makes.

After hitting a few balls into the nets and shaking off a bit of rust I am standing on the par 5, 1st hole. Now I do think courses that open with a par five especially when you are playing holiday golf are the way to go. This is not an overly challenging course and if you have managed to warm up properly you can get off to a flying start maybe with a birdie or better or like me after a large lunch making the green in three and taking two putts for par doesn't put

you on the back foot straight away.

As I pick my ball out of the hole and replace the flag I take a look back down the fairway and I am stunned by the view, the Atlantic Ocean is just shimmering in the background beyond the terracotta clubhouse, it's a breath-taking sight worthy of a pause to really soak it in.

Those views hit me again as I stand on the tee of the par 5, 3rd hole, but more of those in a second because just in front of the tee is what the Spanish call a barranca and I am sure if you put your tee shot in there you will be calling it something completely different! But Barranca is a deep rock filled gully that you have to carry with your drive, fortunately there are three teeing options so you can choose the one that →

VIDEO 

Below: The 13th with more stone moulding framing the fairway



→

Below: Mountain backdrop at the 3rd tee.
 Bottom left: The wonderful 10th hole with its stunning backdrop.
 Bottom right: Vibrant colours on the Par 3, 11th tee



suits or challenges your golf game.

But its your shot into the green that will get most of your attention as from the fairway it looks like it floats in the Atlantic Ocean behind, course designer Pepe Gancedo has certainly made the most of this wonderful piece of land.

As I get to my drive on the 4th hole and look back up the fairway the series of steps that I have just came through look like individual plateaus, each step imbedded with stones give it a unique character, which is topped off by another infinity type green, it's a fantastic golf hole.

What also gives the course that eye catching pop is the black waste sand areas, reddish/pink rocks/barrancas, wild flowers, cactus and palm trees, it really is a beautiful setting.

I could keep raving about each hole, but this could turn into an essay rather than a review and it is only my first day on the island. I will finish with this, as I sit back in the clubhouse a cool lager shandy in hand, José “Pepe” Gancedo I raise my glass to you sir, what a wonderful start to any golfing road trip.

LA TECINA ON LA GOMERA

After a 40-minute ferry ride from Tenerife to La Gomera and a truly stunning 30-minute drive from the port to the golf course that took me up the mountain and back down the other side, I am staring out to sea from the patio of the clubhouse amazed by more wonderful views.

After a warm up on the practice ground I jump the buggy up to the first tee, which takes about 5-minutes back up the hill and gives you a chance to take in some of the course and more of those wonderful views.

After a chat to the starter I smash my ball down the fairway and I am off. As you can imagine there are stunning views not only of the Atlantic Ocean below me, but the rocks and hills that surround me and the vegetation of the course with its variety of greens and flowers in what seems like full bloom, just play on your senses.

The fourth is the courses most iconic hole and as I make my way to the tee I can see why. At 186-yards all carry downhill with the Atlantic glistening away as a backdrop, its at times →



Above: More wonderful views on the 14th

like these that you realise for all its frustrations it's a great game we play, Bobby Jones who loved to smell the flowers would have taken an extra few minutes on this hole.

This course is no one trick pony and Donald Steel has done a wonderful job of creating a challenging golf course that takes full advantage of its position. The back nine opens up with another stunning hole, this time a par 4 but still played downhill to what looks like an infinity green and at 397-yards at altitude the longer drivers out there may just fancy their chances of driving the green.

The course gently makes its way downhill and the par 3, 11th is another great hole with the green sitting in its own little amphitheatre. The run home from there offers more great golf holes and if your golf game isn't in great shape don't worry, the views will soothe your soul.

The quote of the day came from the Editor of Women and Golf Magazine Allison Root, sitting round the table enjoying some gastronomic delights and a well deserved cerveza, she stated, "I have never played a course where I have taken so many photos" I certainly couldn't have summed up the course any better.

VIDEO 

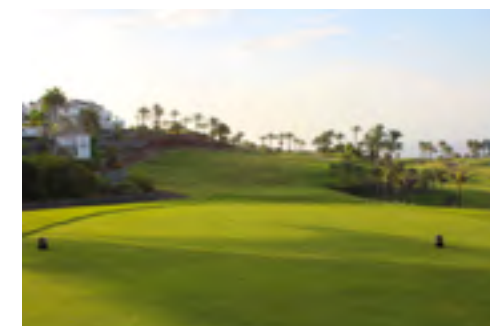
"IF YOUR GOLF GAME ISN'T IN GREAT SHAPE DON'T WORRY, THE VIEWS WILL SOOTHE YOUR SOUL"

ABAMA GOLF

Its an early start but I am excited as I have heard a lot about this course, I jump in my buggy and head to the first hole pull out my driver and climb up to the tee and I am certainly impressed by what I see. Tall pines, lush green fairways and white sanded bunkers greet me and the Atlantic Ocean once again sitting as a backdrop in the distance and with the early morning golden sun casting shadows across the course Abama looks stunning.

The hole just invites you to play your best, the fairway dips and rises before me and I land my ball on top of the hill and I race to the buggy, I am not sure why I am just excited by the look of the course. I get to my ball and have a half wedge shot in to a green that lies across and is surround by mounding at the back and two bunkers at the front. The green is as you would expect of a modern course has plenty of complexes to test your reading ability and fast to test your putting stroke and I duly miss my birdie putt, but I am just buzzing on how good this course looks. →

Below: The perfect start Abama's 1st hole





Above: Picture perfect at the 4th.
Below: Looking back up the 9th.
Bottom: Stunning start to the back nine at the 10th



“THE JUXTAPOSED GREEN AGAINST THE RED TINGED DIRT, ROCKS AND PALM TREES THAT GIVE THE COURSE ITS BEAUTY”

The 2nd just reaffirms the lushness of the course and on reaching the green – which sits slightly below you are again surrounded by mounding at the back but this time protected by three bunkers, two short and left and one right – it’s the aesthetics and the juxtaposed green against the red tinged dirt, rocks and palm trees that give the course its beauty.

The first par 3 arrives at the 4th hole and is all what you would want, elevated tees with four teeing options, water to play over, palm trees, white sanded bunkers, the Atlantic Ocean as a backdrop and the green sits nestled down to the left of a rock and cactus plant covered hill, it’s a golf course designers dream piece of land.

Abama is the course that keeps on giving one great hole after another, stunning view after stunning view especially as I look down to the green from my ball on the 6th fairway. The

green just seems to sit in the sea, its an illusion of course as we are above the sea in the hills but the back of the green that has seven palm trees surrounding it just seems to fall away into the ocean.

If you thought the first par 3 was a great hole the second on the front nine comes at the 7th played over a small barranca that is filled with rocks and cactus plants, the green sits on a plateau and if you miss it your ball will bounce off down the slopes, hitting the green is key here.

The front nine finishes with a wonderfully designed hole but I don’t really appreciate it until I reach the green. It plays downhill from an elevated tee and the green sits below you but its when I get to the green then look back up to the fairway that I see the amphitheatre of rocks and waterfall feature in them, it really is a great way to finish the nine.

Below: Looking down at the 11th green with its ocean backdrop



Wondering if the back nine could keep up the pace I pull up at the tee and have a little chuckle to myself as I walk out onto the 10th tee. The Moroccan inspired red terracotta bricked hotel and palm trees frame the green and this par 5 hole plays downhill from an elevated tee with water on the left, all framed by the Atlantic Ocean, yes I'll give you the front nine and raise you one more, just like a poker player.

Water features on seven of the holes on the back nine with a semi island green at the par 3, 14th hole, but as I miss another birdie putt on the 18th – I am not too bothered as I birdied 8, 9, 10 and 13 – I take a deep breath and savour the moment as I look out to the Atlantic Ocean.

I have to admit I am not a fan of golf course architect Dave Thomas but he deserves every accolade that comes his way for this design, it is a wonderful course and one that you will want to play again and again, this has truly been the crescendo to a wonderful few days golf.



Above: Rock formation on the 13th fairway.
Right: Pond and waterfall at the 16th hole

VIDEO

JOURNEY PLANNER

WHERE TO STAY

Hotel Jardin Tropical

W: jardin-tropical.com/en/
T: +34 922 746 000

Hotel Suite Villa Maria

W: hotelsuitevillamaria.es/en/
T: +34 922 168 584

Las Madrigueras Golf Resort & Spa

W: hotellasmadrigueras.com/en/
T: +34 922 777 818

Ritz-Carlton, Abama

W: ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/spain/abama
T: +34 922 126 000

Iberostar Anthelia

W: iberostar.com/en/hotels/tenerife/iberostar-anthelia
T: 0800 028 0422

Sheraton La Caleta Resort & Spa

W: sheratonlacaleta.com/en
T: +34 922 162 000

WHERE TO PLAY

Golf Costa Adeje

W: golfcostaadeje.com
T: +34 922 71 00 00

La Tecina on La Gomera

W: jardin-tecina.com
T: +34 922 14 58 50

Abama Golf

W: abamagolf.com
T: +34 922 58 96 23



19 CLEVELAND
LAUNCHER HB DRIVER



21 MIZUNO MP-18
FLI-HI IRONS



23 MIZUNO
MP-18 BLADES

REVIEW



25 MACGREGOR
RESPONSE DT
PUTTER



27 MACGREGOR 9"
STAND BAG



28 MACGREGOR
TRAVEL BAG

VIEW.COM

Irons to touch your soul

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



#NOTHINGFEELSLIKEAMIZUNO

NOT YOUR AVERAGE DRIVER

The Cleveland Launcher driver is aimed at golf's biggest market, "The Average Golfer" James Mason puts it to the test and finds out its performance is much better than that

I had heard a lot of good things about Cleveland's Launcher HB driver and I jumped at the chance at taking one on my recent press trip to Tenerife.

TECHNOLOGY

Cleveland has aimed this driver at the average golfer and has incorporated as much technology as they could to help that group of golfers. The first part of this process was to introduce a cup face which increases the COR across the face. The benefits of that are a larger sweet spot, added ball speed which means more distance and a consistent ball speed across the face which gives you more forgiveness. →



Cleveland's HiBore crown has been reinvented and moves the centre of gravity (COG) low and deep in the club head which gives the club a high launch low-spinning ball off the face. The HiBore crown works with Cleveland's Flex-Fin technology so the structure of the club head compresses at impact and as it decompresses the ball launches off the face of the club with increased ball speed even on heel and toe miss-hit shots.

There is no adjustability

with this driver, Cleveland have designed an ultra-lightweight hosel with one setting and have moved the weight saved in that area low and deep in the club again helping with your launch angle and forgiveness.

CLUB TESTED

Cleveland Launcher HB Driver

LOFT 10.5°

SHAFT Miyazaki C Kua

FLEX Stiff

RRP £279.00 / €318.95/ \$299.99

VIDEO REVIEW [▶](#)

CONCLUSION

I know this club is aimed at the average golfer and I have a relatively faster swing speed than this club is aimed at, having said that I loved playing with it, it's a real grip it and rip it club and you don't have to worry about any adjustments to the lie or loft and as much as I enjoy adjusting a club to suit what I am looking for, I loved the simplicity of this driver.

What I also enjoyed was the sound at impact and

the high launch angle, but what I liked about the high launch, it wasn't some flimsy lob, it had real penetration behind it and with the high ball speeds off the face it certainly didn't lack distance.

If you are looking for a simple no nonsense driver that gives you a great launch angle, distance and forgiveness at a fantastic price point, then I would make sure you put the Launcher HB on your testing list before you make your final decision.



From Left to right: Three angles of Cleveland's Launcher HB Driver. Far left: The Flex Fin Technology. Middle: The low CG. Below: The Cup Face

PLAYING THE LONG GAME

Lee Trevino once said "Not even God can hit a one-iron" There may not be a 1-iron in the new Mizuno MP-18 MMC Fli-Hi range but the R&D guys have certainly made it a lot easier to hit those longer irons and not just for God!



I still have my old Mizuno TP11 1-iron and 2-iron, I use the 2-iron but I haven't hit the 1-iron for years. I was looking forward to playing Mizuno's new Fli-Hi MP-18 irons and seeing how far technology in long irons had moved on.

TECHNOLOGY

As the name would suggest these clubs are all about getting your longer irons up in the air but without losing that penetration; this is achieved by using a lightweight Maraging steel face working with a 20g Tungsten weight in the toe and an internal pocket, all of which contributes to giving the club its stability and forgiveness and enhanced ball speeds →



Top: Showing the 20g Tungsten weight on the toe.

Above: Classic blade designed face.

Right: Sole design and cavity back finish

The Fli-Hi runs from 2-5 in Europe and 2-6 in the US and are in keeping with the whole MP-18 ethos with a blade designed face and skilled craftsmen putting their finishing grinds and touches to every iron head, even the top line is only 1mm thicker than the muscle back option.

For those who have trouble with turf interaction and the snagging of their longer irons, the sole design is perfect helping you get a crisper strike.

CONCLUSION

Like the rest of the MP-18 family the look and feel of these irons are perfect and being able to mix and match will help you blend the perfect set for your game.

Unlike my TP-11 2-iron the Fli-Hi has a chunky sole, but I understood the technology behind that and the need for it to be designed that way, but the face design and top line are not affected by this.

The rest of the set that I tested

CLUB TESTED

Mizuno MP-18 MMC FLI-HI

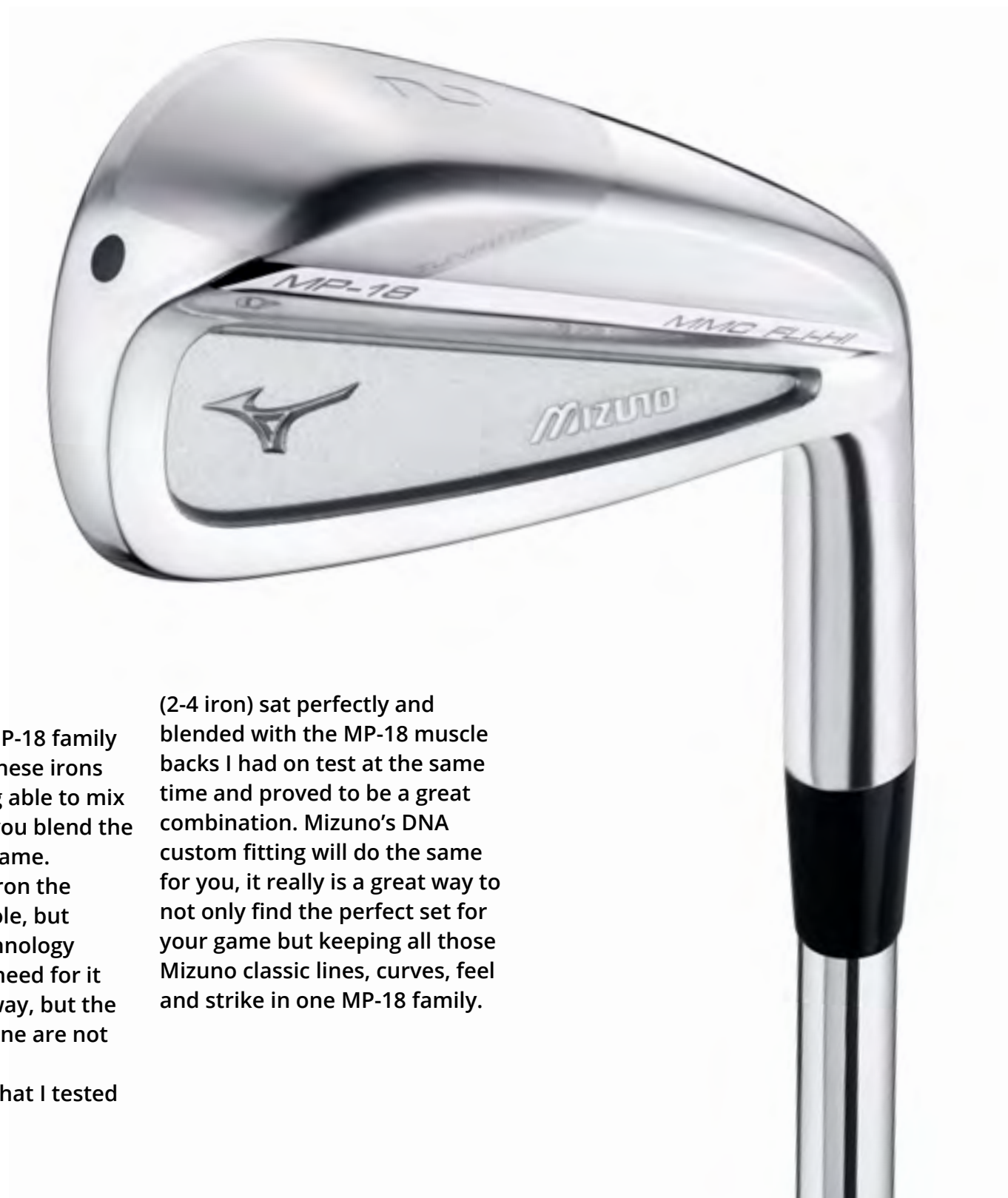
CLUBS TESTED 2, 3, & 4 Irons

SHAFT KBS Tour C-Taper lite

FLEX Stiff

RRP £149.00 / €170.00 / \$149.99

VIDEO REVIEW [▶](#)



(2-4 iron) sat perfectly and blended with the MP-18 muscle backs I had on test at the same time and proved to be a great combination. Mizuno's DNA custom fitting will do the same for you, it really is a great way to not only find the perfect set for your game but keeping all those Mizuno classic lines, curves, feel and strike in one MP-18 family.

TIME BANDITS

Mizuno take a step back in time with their new MP-18 blade. The classic design has been transported to the 21st century unlike James Mason who tested them!

Having tested the MP-18 SC I was really looking forward to getting my hands on the MP-18 blades, just the look of it sends goose bumps down my spine and memories of my TP-11s come flooding back, but unlike today forgiveness in a blade was unheard of and a miss hit shot would jar your whole being!

TECHNOLOGY

Crafted from 1025 E Pure Select mild carbon steel billets Mizuno have evolved the Grain Flow forging process so they are able to capture more High Density (HD) grains thus in turn enhancing the feel and strike at impact.

The set has a gradual progression with the short irons having a smaller blade than the higher irons, which incorporates an ultra thin cambered top line and low heel profile.

Mass has been moved low in the club and out to the toe and heel to give the MP-18 →

Below and above:
Various angles of
Mizunos classic
designed MP-18 blade



blade its forgiveness while keeping those classic flowing lines and curves. Like the rest of the MP-18 family you can mix and match to build a set that is perfect for you with the knowledge that they will all flow together

CONCLUSION

As most of you know I grew up playing with the TP-9s and 11s, they were classic blades, crisp and sharp with flowing lines and I still have my TP11s to this day. What those irons didn't give you was the forgiveness of today's Mizuno.

With the MP-18 you are given all the classic shaping you could desire, they look fantastic at address the way the club sits behind the ball the thin top line, the skill and attention to detail that the master craftsman have used over the years, but like a classic car under the hood is all the forgiveness to give you that crisp clean strike, that pure sound at impact.

I loved every minute of hitting these, that feel as the ball compresses on the face, the sound as it fizzes off the blade, you certainly need to put these on your testing list and I would recommend Mizuno's DNA fitting so you can get the perfect blend of set to suit your game.

CLUB TESTED

Mizuno MP-18 Blade

SET TESTED 5-PW

SHAFT True Temper Dynamic Gold

FLEX S300

RRP 4-PW £945.00 / €1325.00 / \$1049.00

VIDEO REVIEW [▶](#)





The green monster



Above: Close up of MacGregor's ARC milled putter face. Left: The Response DT putters three alignment aids.

James Mason finds price isn't always the best indicator of quality

Having recently been impressed with MacGregor's wedge system on a recent testing trip I was looking forward to putting one of their putters through its paces, especially after feeling the weight of it on some practice swings when I took it out of the box it was delivered in. →



Left: Sole view of the putter.
Middle: There are two grip options, this is the standard grip.
Bottom: Showing the face and alignment aids



CLUB TESTED

Macgregor DT Response Putter

SHAFT Macgregor lightweight steel

RRP Standard grip

£44.99 / €51.50 / \$63.00

Jumbo grip

£49.99 / €57.50 / \$70.00

VIDEO REVIEW [▶](#)



TECHNOLOGY

The obvious place to start is the weight, like most people the first thing you do when you pick up a putter is a few imaginary practice putts and I just loved the weight, the head is quite heavy and felt perfectly balanced.

MacGregor use ARC technology on their face milling and this helps improve roll and distance control. The putter has a black nickel finish with contrasting white alignment aids for easy ball alignment, two sit on the putters fins and one on the top line.

There are two grip options to choose from there is a premium traditional grip or a 3.0 parallel grip for those who prefer the new thicker type putting grips.

CONCLUSIONS

I really enjoyed playing with this putter in Tenerife, the greens were quite fast and I felt the putter was perfectly balanced and I really loved the weight and how the putter sat behind the ball. The shaft is designed to move towards your body putting you over the golf ball and in ideal position.

The white alignment aids really jumped out of the black nickel finish and this is the one part of the graphics that I felt really helped.

Your putter is the most used club in your bag along with your wedges and there are some wonderful putters out there at the premium end of the market, but if you are just getting into the game or you are on a budget I would recommend you put the Macgregor Response DT on your testing list, it certainly is great value for money.

Stand and deliver



Left and below left: Showing the various colour options. Top Right: Grab handle and some of the many pockets. Below Right: The 7-way club divider.



I also tested Macgregors 9" stand bag on my press trip to Tenerife and as soon as I took it out of the box I was impress with how light it was, the good news was this wasn't to the detriment of the options it offered.

In total there are eight pockets and it was good to see that the large side pocket hadn't disappeared like on some other brands as I always use this for my waterproofs, hats etc. The ball pocket is easily accessible and the drinks bottle pocket is a must on any bag now as hydration is so important, especially during the summer months.

I know some people hate bags that have 14-club dividers and the good news is that Macgregor have gone with a 7-way divider

with three of them being full length. This is all topped off with a rain hood, umbrella holder and padded crossbow dual straps and thick back pad.

CONCLUSION

This bag is perfect for carrying but can easily be used on a cart. The lightweight design means it is also great for golf trips when you are counting every pound to keep inside the airlines weight limit. I also found it easy to handle with the grab handle at the top and a loop to hold at the base. If you are looking for a great looking lightweight bag with plenty of pockets, then make sure you check out the Tourney stand bag before you make your final decision.

FEATURES AT A GLANCE

- 9" top cuff
- 7-way top with colour-coordinated air mesh cushioned fabric and integrated grab handle
- 3 full length dividers
- Lightweight high-mount automatic stand system for added stability
- Moulded angle base designed for greater bag stability
- Crossbow dual padded shoulder straps and thick hip pad for maximum balance and comfort
- 6 strategically placed pockets including: fur-lined valuable pocket, clothing pocket and ball pocket
- 2 open pockets: 1 water bottle pocket and 1 scorecard holder
- Towel clip
- Rain hood
- Umbrella loop

RRP £69.99 / €80 / \$98.00



Call Of Duty

Golf clubs, check. Golf Shoes, check. Golf Balls, check. Tripod, check. James Mason finds Macgregors travel bag comes in handy for more than just golf equipment

Priorities when picking a golf club travel bag for me are protection for my clubs and my ability to manoeuvre the travel bag in one hand and my suitcase with the other. I then consider the weight and the amount of pockets available to take golf shoes and rain gear – strange how some of us Brits think about the rain even when we are heading to somewhere hot!!

CONCLUSION

I could not have been happier with the padding round the heads of my golf clubs; it was not only on the top and bottom but on all sides offering protection from the majority of hazards along with two large rubber studs protecting the base of the bag. I was also impressed with the in-line skate wheels, which were quite large helping with manoeuvrability.

The shoe pocket is large and if you really trust the airport bag handlers you can get your rain gear in the other pocket with plenty of room to add two-dozen golf balls. I also like the way the front panel worked having two zips so the panel folded down – like peeling a banana – and made getting my golf bag in a lot easier than having one zip down the middle, it also helped when closed with being able to secure the zips together with a padlock.

The best part of all this is the price point; the golf club protection, easy access, two large accessory pockets offer fantastic value for money.

FEATURES AT A GLANCE

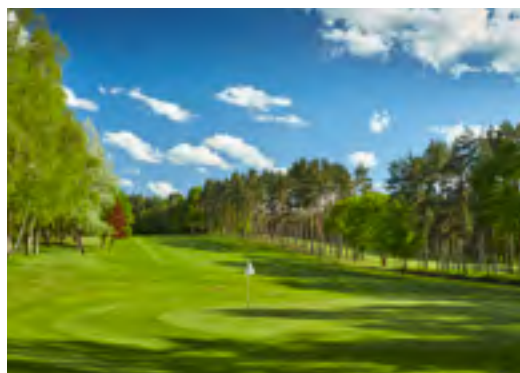
- Deluxe travel cover with tough nylon fabric for maximum protection
- Additional padding around the top to protect the club heads during transportation
- Holds up to 49" driver
- Dual side zip and side zip storage pockets
- Durable in-line skate wheels
- Easy-loading cover

RRP £49.99 / €57.00 / \$70.00





31 FOXHILLS RESORT GOLF



REVIEW



31 FOXHILLS RESORT SPA



VIEW.COM

STAY, PLAY & SPA

No hounding this Fox

Spa break, golf break, boot camp
or just taking time out Foxhills
Resort in Surrey has everything you
need and much more





The nine hole course
with the Manor House
in the background

THE PERFECT DOUBLE ACT

LONGCROSS COURSE

Its feels like its been a long winter but I can't wait to get back on the course, the sky looks dark and ominous and I know the course is very wet but its my first outing of the year. I am standing on the first tee of the Longcross course at Foxhills Resort in Surrey looking down at the first fairway as it weaves its way through the red pines from this slightly elevated tee. I feel like a man who has just found an oasis in a desert after days of searching for water – yes it certainly has been a long winter.

The hole slightly doglegs to the right but the fairway has a slight reverse camber to it. I slightly hook my ball, which rolls into the semi

rough but my 6-iron second shot finds the green and I make a two-putt par.

It's the perfect opening hole, not to difficult but it also gives you a taste of what is to come, it's a tight tree lined course and accuracy more than length is what you need here.

The second is a slightly blind shot but the closer to the trees you aim on the right the more of this dogleg right you can cut off, leaving you a little wedge in. The first of the par threes arrives at the forth hole and sits in a little amphitheater of tall pines, the green is not very deep at only 26-yards, but with the contouring, position it is all important.

→

ME TIME

*Charles James
Fox who it turns
out was involved
in heavy drinking
and gambling*

THE ORACLE

I have three words for you... Foxhills Resort Spa, well actually I have to write more than just three words but these are the important ones to remember.

As we drive up a quiet country lane I spot the Foxhills sign and cannot contain my eagerness to get out of the car to see what they have to offer, not least because Foxhills first took its name from the 18th Century politician Charles James Fox who it turns out was involved in heavy drinking and gambling, there maybe no casino as yet, but I am looking forward to more than a few mojito's!

I have a few hours until my spa appointment, which gives me plenty of time to explore this 400-acre estate. Not only do they have two 18 hole golf courses and a 9-hole beginners course, they also have tennis courts, a youth club, cycling trail, gym, sauna, indoor and outdoor Jacuzzis and swimming pools which are located in the health spa. Whether you're here with family or friends there are plenty of activities to keep everyone

→

One of Foxhill Resort
swimming pools





Above: Tall pines surround the 1st green. Below: Looking back up the tight fairway on the Longcross 2nd hole.

Small greens are a feature of this course with only three being deeper than 30-yards, the ninth hole is only 18-yards deep, and I make a chip and a putt par, to bring to a close a wonderful stretch of holes.

I make a stop at the half way hut, the coffee and sausage bap are the perfect combination to start my back nine and at just 324-yards and that extra bit of sustenance inside you the 10th offers a great birdie opportunity which I duly take. The 11th brings up the first par 3 and like the front nine both the short holes are tough propositions, measuring over 220-yards from their elevated tees.

The 14th hole is the Longcross's signature hole and was voted by BBC 5 Live listeners – which I am one of – as one of the greatest holes that they had ever played. It is played from an elevated tee and measures 536-yards, its at this point my →



entertained. Speaking of the health spa it's time for me to make my way over to the health and spa building for my 12.30 appointment. I suggest you arrive 10-15 minutes early to give yourself plenty of time to collect what you need and hit the changing rooms without encroaching on your spa treatment time, because once it starts you're never going to want it to end!

As I sit in my comfy black robe sipping on refreshing cold water with a hint of orange – which can be found in all areas of the Foxhill spa - I am greeted by my masseuse Carrie aka the oracle of facials. The service Carrie provides sets this spa apart from the rest. Before Carrie started my treatment we had a consultation during which she asked what I hoped to benefit from my facial, at Foxhills health spa they like to personalise their treatments, which makes sense as everyone is different in their wants and needs.

After my mini rant/moan about my skin Carrie suggested a course of treatments that would bring life and vitality back to my face. I lay down on the warm comfortable treatment bed and a calm

relaxed feeling came over me knowing I was in safe hands.

After taking a few deep breaths my facial began, Carrie started with a few oils, then exfoliating scrubs and creams from the Elemis range, which she gently massaged into my face. Carrie used three facial masks and after every single one my skin felt smoother and smoother.

It doesn't stop there; not only am I →



Top and above: The fully equipped gym

heart slightly sinks, not because I don't think it's a great hole, it certainly lives up to its billing, but I know in the summer months the flowers will be in full bloom and the sky will be blue and most importantly my ball will not plug so I would get plenty of roll, which you will need if you want to have a go at this in two.

As I miss my birdie putt on the double green 18th hole that is shared with the Bernard Hunt courses 18th green, I look back down the fairway longingly. It's been a wonderful afternoons golf, in a beautiful setting and FW Hewtree has done a fantastic job and I can't wait to get back here in the summer. The green staff have been working overtime during the winter months and I know once we hit May and June Longcross will be in full bloom and what a joy it will be to play then.

BERNARD HUNT COURSE

After a hearty breakfast and a warm up on the range I make my way to the first tee on the Bernard Hunt Course. The course was →



Top and above: Two views of the wonderful 14th hole on the Longcross course from behind the green and looking down the fairway.
Left: Looking back down the Longcross 18th hole

“I look back down the fairway longingly. It’s been a wonderful afternoons golf, in a beautiful setting and FW Hewtree has done a wonderful job”

Below: The outdoor Jacuzzi



having the most amazing facial, but whilst letting the face masks work their magic Carrie gives me a scalp, neck and shoulder massage and oh my do I need it!!!

Sadly my time was up but I am feeling far too content and relaxed to be sad... Maybe later. One of the reasons why Carrie will be known as the oracle of facials is before leaving she went through a treatment plan and what I needed to use to keep my face from looking lifeless again.

As I sit here typing that sentence I decide to run to the mirror and take another look at my face... to be honest my face has never looked better, I cannot recommend enough that you make an appointment with the oracle!

Now it's time to head to my room and as I open the door, oh my what a room it is... I walk through the door and I am ecstatic that this huge room is for little ol' me. I have a comfy king sized bed, a desk which is where I will be sitting later to finish off this feature – the things I do for you guys – plasma TV, sofa area, mini bar and a beautifully tiled shower/bathroom.

I put my bags down and realize I also have a Chaise lounge which I will no doubt be taking selfies on later!

I'm finally dressed and ready to get my munch on. We are dining in the Manor Restaurant tonight which offers an a la carte menu or a tasting menu which is the option we have decided to sample. You have a choice of a six or seven course tasting menu and for those that know me of course I went for the seven.

The evening started with an Amuse Bouche, followed by Ginea Fowl – which I at first refused to try – I'm kind of fussy but I am so glad I was persuaded to expand my palate; the shallots complemented the dish exquisitely.

Next up was the Salmon Mi Cuit which was seared to perfection so far so mouth wateringly good then finally the course I have been waiting for, the Beef steak that left me wanting more. For those who are not keen on raw steak and for the rest that are, they've got both of you covered here, just the right amount of pink and juices whilst not feeling like you have a raw animal in your mouth, it definitely →



originally named the Chertsey course and like the Longcross was designed by FW Hewtree but was renamed after their long serving professional and European Tour player Bernard Hunt.

The starter informs me that this course is longer but more forgiving with wider fairways and fewer trees. You wouldn't think that → as I play the first two holes as both are very reminiscent of the Longcross course with pine trees lining the fairways. It's when I get to the third hole that the course opens out you can start to breathe. For me the front nine comes back to life around the 6th hole which according to Today's Golfer is "One of the best fairways in golf" while I wouldn't of gone that far it does start a run of great holes, which includes a tough par 5, 7th and the beautiful par 3, 8th hole that is played from an elevated tee followed by the short par 4, 9th which at 308 yards the longer hitters out there may fancy their chances, but with the raised green it's a tall order from the back tee.

Like the Longcross course there is another mouth-watering sustenance sustaining halfway hut and yet another sausage and brown sauce bap passes my lips! The 10th is a stunning start to the back nine played from an elevated tee down to a fairway that doglegs to the right; you have to play your second shot uphill to a

Above: The 2nd green on the Bernard Hunt course. Below: The 6th named the best fairway in golf by Today's Golfer



"I am now tucking into my Tiramisu which I can only describe as a small piece of heaven in a cup"

is the dish of the night for me.

We then tuck into our cheeseboard with a delectable red wine –I must mention the wine option on the menu, because the chef has recommended a wine to complement each course. Now for pre dessert, which should be a thing in all restaurants, you cannot have enough of a sweet thing, so I am now tucking into my Tiramisu which I can only describe as a small piece of heaven in a cup.

Last but by no means least the finale, poached pear – well a girl has to get her five a day in somehow – served with hazelnut sorbet mmmmmm. Everything was absolutely scrumptious. Hats off to the chef and the team in the manor restaurant, they were always on hand when my margarita was running low, It's been a tough day but someone's got to do it, now it's off to bed I go.

The birds are singing – not sure why they are so chirpy, the clocks have gone back and I have lost an hours sleep!! –I throw on the closest thing to me and head down to breakfast. Foxhills provide a buffet style spread with fresh fruits, pastries and cold meats, there is also the option to order from the breakfast menu or you can have both, which leaves me spoilt for choice.

I decided to go for the full English, as I had one too many cocktails last night – I think Charles James Fox would have been proud of my efforts! Yet again the food was exquisite and as I sit here enjoying a slice of bacon, I ponder the thought "do I have to leave"

If you are flying in from Heathrow or Gatwick, Foxhills is no more than a 40-minute drive. If you live in England you have no excuse, I would highly recommend visiting Foxhills Resort for an enjoyable yet relaxing stay.

“Sitting in the bar with a beer reflecting on the courses I really do believe they complement each other perfectly”

green that is surrounded by pines. I walk off the green thinking what a fantastic golf hole and at 445-yards from the tips I believe it's the toughest hole on the course.

The 10th to the 12th are reminiscent of the Longcross course as you are back amongst the pines. The course then goes back into the open until the 17th and 18th where it heads back into the pines and a very tough finishing hole that doglegs left from an elevated tee and at 446 yards position is all important, as you need to be coming into the green from the right side of the fairway so you are not blocked out by the tall trees to the left of the dance floor.

Sitting in the bar with a beer reflecting on both courses I really do believe they complement each other perfectly, that said I consider the best course to be the Longcross. The Bernard Hunt offers some great views and forgiveness with its wider fairways but the Longcross will test every part of your game.



Right: The 14th on the Bernard Hunt course



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GREG NORMAN COLLECTION

APPAREL

REVIEW



40 OSCAR JACOBSON SS18



43 STUBURT GOLF SHOES



GREGNORMAN

PERFORMANCE BY DESIGN



Sharking it

Tenerife in November, what better place to test the Greg Norman SS18 Collection

Golf apparel has moved on so much over the last couple of years from the polo and trousers you purchased from high street stores. Now the research and development into the material alone helps golfers to swing freely and unrestricted while protecting them from the elements at the same time.

It is mid November and I am taking samples of the Greg Norman Collection SS18 to Tenerife on a four day golf trip.

TECHNOLOGY

The Greg Norman Collection uses two new technologies in this range PLAY DRY® and ML75.

Play dry is a moisture management system, this technology helps wick away moisture from the skin -- it is transported to the garment's outer layer, which then evaporates into the air, helping you stay cool, dry and comfortable.

ML75 is a proprietary fabric technology used in some of the Greg Norman Collection polos making them 30% lighter than your average golf shirt. The material is also able to stretch with the body during your swing and has a natural UPF giving you protection from the sun's harmful rays. →





**PERFORMANCE MICRO
PIQUE POLO KX04**
£24.99 \$45.00 €28.50



VEENECK MERINO SWEATER
£44.99 \$89.00 €52.00



GREG NORMAN CAP
£14.99 \$20.99 €17.99



**PERFORMANCE MICRO
JACQUARD POLO - KX32**
£34.99 \$65.00 €40.00



MEN'S MERINO SWEATERS
£59.99 \$89.00 €70.00



CLASSIC PRO-FIT SHORTS - H800
£34.99 \$59.95 €40.00



CLASSIC PRO-FIT TROUSERS - P700
£39.99 \$79.95 €45.99



MERINO SLIPOVER
£39.99 \$79.95 €45.99

CONCLUSION

As you can imagine the weather in Tenerife in November is changeable and like most quality golf apparel on the market now the lightweight material actually first comes into play off the golf course as it means you can pack several outfits that are interchangeable and stay safely inside the airlines weight requirements.

You can feel the quality of the material as soon as you pick each garment up but it's when you are playing you can feel the benefits of the Play Dry and ML75 technologies - depending which polo range you are wearing at the time - keeping you cool and moving with your body while you swing the club, even when you go

after a driver there is no hindrance from your polo or jumper.

It's also the little touches you notice as a golfer, the slits on the bottom of the trousers so they sit over your golf shoes perfectly. The little pocket in the right hand side on both the shorts and trousers to hold your ball marker so it doesn't get lost among your tees etc. The feel of the material against your skin, you know you are wearing a quality golf garment. The Shark has made his name around the world playing great golf, designing some amazing courses and now bringing that knowledge of what golfers want and quality material together. I would recommend you check out this year's new range of apparel.

The style council

James Mason finds out that Oscar Jacobson can not only protect you from the elements but make you look good while doing so



TECHNOLOGY

The first new technology that Oscar Jacobson have introduced for their SS18 collection is the Ice Cotton in the Darcy and Decker line of polo shirts. This robust innovative yarn is durable and has no synthetic fibers making it cool to the touch and helps the material breathe. You will certainly be thankful for this advanced spinning technique on those hot summer days.

In the Waldorf range of premium jumpers Oscar Jacobson are using a luxurious hand-selected Giza 86 long-staple Egyptian cotton that is spun by Filmar in its Northern Italy factory and benefits from a mélange dye program whereby individual yarns are dyed and combined to create colour, rather than actually dying the garment. The end product is a modern half-zip top that is soft to the touch topped off with elasticated hems and cuffs giving you a perfect fit.

Oscar Jacobson have extended their Merino collection and now features the Wyatt and Heron range using Cashwool® 100% Extrafine merino wool and includes a classic V-neck design and quarter-zip. They have also introduced a quarter-zip sleeveless vest named Lleyton. The Extrafine Cashwool® from Zegna Baruffa is a stylish soft high-performing yarn that was born out of intensive research in the late 1970s to find a yarn combining aesthetic beauty with top-quality performance.

→



HOFF COURSE VEST BLUE
RRP £70 \$98.50 €80

Top and right:
The Hoff course vest that I use all year round to keep my back muscles warm. Left and below:
The Waldorf Pin Half Zip, which uses premium Egyptian cotton



WALDORF PIN HALF ZIP GREEN
RRP £80 \$112.50 €92



ACE COURSE POLO
RRP £55 \$78 €63



ACE COURSE POLO
RRP £55 \$78 €63



CASPER POLO
RRP £55 \$78 €63



DECLAN SHORTS
RRP £60 \$84.99 €68.99

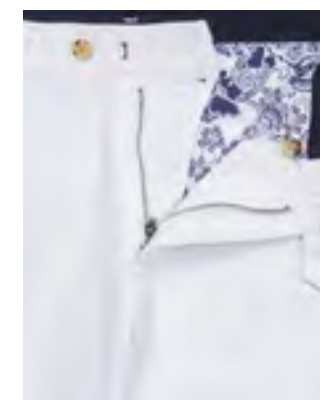
Three outfits that you can mix and match giving you several options on and off the golf course



DONOVAN COURSE JACKET
RRP £100 \$140.99 €114.50



HERON PIN HALF ZIP
RRP £99 \$139.99 €113



LAURENT ULTIMATE GOLF TROUSERS NAVY
RRP £75 \$105.99 €85.99



LAURENT ULTIMATE GOLF TROUSERS GREY
RRP £75 \$105.99 €85.99

CONCLUSION

The designers at Oscar Jacobson never cease to amaze me with their skills. Being able to produce quality apparel that doesn't just look great on the course but is also fit for purpose is no mean feat. I would like to think that yesterday when I walk straight from the 18th green and into the restaurant at Foxhills Resort I was the best dressed fella there – which by the way has nothing to do with my dress sense but the designers back in their Swedish offices.

The weather during this weekend of testing has been overcast and changeable, but with three layers – a Ace or Caspar polo, Waldorf or Heron half-zip and Hoff Course vest or Donovan Course Jacket my body

temperature has been perfect, keeping my muscles warm in turn helping me to swing the golf club at my normal speed with no restrictions or hindrance due to the material and design that goes into each garment.

No matter the playing conditions from overcast dull and damp to sun kissed fairway, the technology used in the new SS18 Oscar Jacobson collection will keep you protected. Add in the lightweight materials used in the designs and you can pack multiple mix and match outfits on any golf trip and easily stay inside the airlines weight restrictions, helping you look and feel cool on the course, in a restaurant and not forgetting those nightclub excursions on golf tours!



OSCAR JACOBSON



Top: The new eVent
Endurance.
Below: Stuburt's
spikeless Urban
Fashion golf shoe

TECHNOLOGY

ENDURANCE SPORT

EVENT SPIKED

This is Stuburt's spiked shoe option and comes with eVent waterproof technology for protection from the elements together with a 1-year waterproof warranty.

The shoe features a microfibre comfort upper and a lightweight EVA foam midsole for longer lasting cushioning and is fitted with Stuburt's eVent bootie membrane system and cushioned insole for extreme comfort.

The shoe is topped off with the SoftSpike Pin system that gives stability and traction.

URBAN FASHION

This contemporary soft spike shoe features a soft microfiber upper, which mirrors the contours of your foot shape for comfort during your round of golf.

The padded collar, tongue, cushioned insole and a lightweight EVA midsole help give you extra comfort as you make your way around the course.

The spike less system is made up of a high-grip rubber outer sole for traction and comfort. →

Get A Grip

Most golf courses have taken a battering this winter with non stop rain compounded by snow, so what better time to put Stuburt's new range of golf shoes to the test.





CONCLUSION URBAN FASHION SPIKELESS

Today was the turn of the spike less Urban Fashion golf shoe and truth be told; with how damp the course is I have to confess I felt a slight bit of trepidation. I stand over my tee shot on the Bernard Hunt course at Foxhills and hit driver, I think my mind has got the better of me and push my tee shot out to the right, but the shoes were not to blame they were perfect and by the time I reached the 3rd tee the apprehension had gone and I was back in the rhythm of my normal golf swing.

By the time I reach the 18th green I have to pause; I am truly impressed with the Urban Fashion shoes, the grip,

traction and stability in what can only be describe as a very wet Foxhills were beyond the call of duty, add to that the comfort and a straight from the box to the tee test my feet couldn't feel any better, drier and more importantly no blisters.

The design of both shoes are great and as you can see both performed wonderfully in some very trying conditions, all that you need to decide is do you want to go with a spike or a spikeless shoe? As for performance, the guys at Stuburt have got you covered no matter what shoe you decide to go with.

CONCLUSION ENDURANCE SPORT EVENT SPIKED

Well if there was ever a day to test a golf shoes 100% waterproof claim it was certainly today as I was playing the Longcross course at Foxhills Resort. Like most courses it has taken a battering this winter and just a week after England was hit by the Beast from the East, I have to say it has drained better than I expected; that said it is still very wet and muddy underfoot.

I have taken the shoes straight out of the box and put them on to play, my one concern was the message attached to the sole saying to tighten the studs as they are only hand tightened at the factory. I have no problem with securing my spikes but a wrench in the box to do so would have been nice.

I love the styling of the eVent Endurance spiked shoe, its very

contemporary but that would be no good to me should they start shredding my heels halfway through the round.

Thanks to the technology that Stuburt have used these babies were the perfect fit and not only were they comfortable, but not once did they slip in the wet conditions I was playing in; godsend when you are trying to get every extra yard out of your driver when the ball is plugging in the fairway.

The traction and stability of the shoe was excellent and although they turned from a beautiful perfect white shoe to a somewhat very dirty muddy brown, I couldn't fault the performance. So if you are in the market for a spiked shoe this summer I would highly recommend the eVent Endurance, they look great and perform even better.



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