

# O N

# C O U R S E

According to Stanford researchers, working from home has powered a huge boom in golfing — and new properties at super-luxe golf destinations are becoming increasingly desirable as main residences. As the Ryder Cup gets into full swing, we look at the best locations to go from a Teams meeting to tee-off in minutes



## ABAMA RESORT Tenerife, Spain

Abama's award-winning par-72 golf course is one of the best in Spain. Climbing the foothills of the Teide Volcano, this design from world-renowned golf architect Dave Thomas encompasses an ever-changing terrain. Home to 300 species of subtropical plant life (including 25,000 palm trees), 22 lakes, waterfalls and white sand bunkers, it will test the most experienced golfers. Almost all of the holes have views of the Atlantic Ocean and the island of La Gomera (home to another bucket-list course, Tecina).

The resort has recently released a new selection of luxury villas: simple, modern buildings flooded with natural light and with biophilic green roofs and private pools. Meanwhile, the new Los Jardines apartments are some of the most sustainable buildings on the island.

The Ritz-Carlton Abama hotel next door means there's plenty on offer beyond golf. Of ten restaurants, two are Michelin-starred: Japanese restaurant, Kabuki, has one star and serves melt-in-your-mouth sashimi, while the Basque-inspired restaurant, M.B, holds two. There's also an extensive Roman spa, tennis academy, water sports, yoga (including aerial), miles of hiking trails, seven pools, a beach and it's one of the best spots for astro-tourism.

Book it with British Airways Holidays. [ba.com/ritzcarltonabama](https://www.britishairways.com/holidays) Apartments start from €875,000. [abamahotelresort.com](https://www.abamahotelresort.com)

**Par excellence**  
Shadows and tall trees at the challenging Abama Golf Course. Above: an Abama custom villa

Words: Kerry Smith



## ◆ COSTA NAVARINO Messinia, Greece

Few would have predicted any top golfers naming Greece as their favourite place to play – until last year, when Costa Navarino was crowned best-emerging destination at the World Golf Awards, beating the likes of Japan and Saudi Arabia (despite the controversial new Saudi league that took aim at the PGA Tour). This success is down to two new 18-hole golf courses at Navarino Hills, The Hills Course and the International Olympic Academy Golf Course, both designed by two-time Masters champion José María Olazábal. Situated on the southwest corner of the Greek mainland, the courses are part of the 1,000-hectare-plus area of Costa Navarino, which currently includes two other courses (The Dunes and The Bay) and four hotels: The Romanos, a Luxury Collection Resort, The Westin Resort (complete with kids' waterpark), the W Costa Navarino, and Mandarin Oriental Costa Navarino, the group's first property in Greece.

The caramel-coloured villas designed by ten A-list Greek architects and inspired by traditional villages blend peacefully into the

**Fairway to heaven**  
A five-bedroom villa sits in an olive grove.  
Below: The Dunes Course. Left: the rolling hills of Messinia



local ecosystem, surrounded by gnarly millennia-old olive groves. There's an abundance of local vegetables, the extra virgin olive oil is pressed in local groves and wine comes from grapes from Navarino Vineyards. Meanwhile, the views across the Ionian Sea are arguably as addictive as the golf. ◆

Two-bedroom golf-front villas in the Valley Greens neighbourhood start from €1.4m.

[costanavarino.com/navarinoresidences](http://costanavarino.com/navarinoresidences)





◆ **SANDY LANE ESTATE**  
**Barbados**

Barbados may be small, but it's a golfing mecca. The island has six courses, three of which are part of the Sandy Lane Estate. There's the Old Nine, designed back in 1961, the Country Club, which has played host to the prestigious World Cup, and the 72 par, 7,343-yard Green Monkey, very possibly the most-talked about, least-played golf course in the world. Designed by Tom Fazio (possibly the best modern-day golf architect), Green Monkey is carved into an old limestone quarry and it's ultra-exclusive, with green fees of \$405. But Sandy Lane Estate residents can play all three.

Residences for sale include the five-bedroom Windward, set in the heart of the Sandy Lane Estate with golf course views, pool, gym, dining courtyard and a beach cabana. Think conspicuous luxury and oodles of glamour. There's an exclusive beach club for owners, while the next-door neighbour is the Caribbean's most famous hotel, Sandy Lane, and the restaurants of Holetown are just a short drive away. As Chris Parra, CEO of One Caribbean Estates says, "Sandy Lane Estate's reputation as a top destination remains steadfast, resulting in continuous growth in property value, especially post-pandemic."

Book it with British Airways Holidays. [ba.com/sandylane](http://ba.com/sandylane)  
Windward, Sandy Lane is on the market for US\$7.2m. [onecaribbeanestates.com](http://onecaribbeanestates.com)

◆ **LIMASSOL GREENS**  
**Cyprus**

Set within the grounds of a citrus farm that's been worked by the Lanitis family since the 1930s, the Limassol Greens golf and spa resort may be a year from opening, but residential sales have already surpassed €55m.

The resort's design is the brainchild of the global architecture firm HKS, more often known for its super-tall skyscrapers and sweeping canopies. There will be 750 residences, a clubhouse, wellness centre and fitness club, restaurants, as well as pools, outdoor dining spaces and firepits.

The villas, townhouses and apartments are light and airy, with floor-to-ceiling windows and sun terraces. But the masterpiece here is the big-hitting 18-hole green, designed by golf architect, Cabell B Robinson, whose courses frequently appear on the world's best lists. Notable characteristics include Bermuda grass rough that will swallow a ball whole, wide fairways, surging greens and tricky pot bunkers, while holes five and six are set in a natural wetland. ◆ Two-bed apartments start from €500,000. Two-bedroom 180sqm townhouses from €1.1m. [limassolgreens.com](http://limassolgreens.com)



**Green light**  
Penthouse apartment at Limassol Greens. Below: the Clubhouse Terrace. Left, from top: Sandy Lane Estate driveway; the Country Club course



▼ **MONTE REI**  
Algarve, Portugal

Back in 1966, the English golfer Sir Henry Cotton designed the Algarve's first course and began a movement that would give rise to 30 further world-class greens and attract folk from across the globe to Portugal's south coast. Today, the award-winning Jack Nicklaus Signature course at Monte Rei Golf and Country Club consistently ranks as Portugal's best and sits in Europe's top ten.

Near the small town of Vila Nova de Cacela, Monte Rei's residences are in the heart of the 1,000-acre site, moments from the buzzy clubhouse. Work is underway to create a second Jack Nicklaus Signature golf course. Nicklaus says: "The South course will have many similar features, great trees, wonderful topography, beautiful vistas, and has the potential to be another sensational course." The number of new ocean-view villa plots overlooking the South course will be limited to ensure Monte Rei remains one of Europe's lowest-density luxury resorts.

Other activities on hand include tennis courts, a pool, a gym, a spa, birdwatching, sailing, kayaking, surfing and trips to local wineries. There's a shuttle to the beach and the wildlife trails of Ria Formosa Natural Park are ten minutes away. Clubhouse Residences start from €895,000, villa plots from €800,000 and completed villas from €2.5m. [monte-rei.com](http://monte-rei.com)



**Stay and play**

Clockwise from below: Viceroy residence at Ombria; Viceroy hotel; Quinta do Lago clubhouse; One Green Way villa; luxury Monte Rei villa; Jack Nicklaus Signature golf course at Monte Rei



◆ **OMBRIA**  
Algarve, Portugal

Located close to the lively town of Loulé, half an hour's drive north of Faro airport, Ombria is one of the most-anticipated new courses in Portugal. The golf course (vital statistics: par 71; 5,802m) was designed by Jorge Santana da Silva, weaves around ancient rivers and trees and plays to the highest standards when it comes to sustainability: more than 700 holm oaks were planted, the buildings are nearly zero-energy and the resort uses geothermal and solar energy.

There's an exceptional clubhouse debuting soon – with a bar and restaurant, golf shop, swimming pool, sauna and gym – built on the old walls of an existing ruin. This autumn will see the opening of the resort's hotel, Viceroy at Ombria Algarve, which includes 65 residences – some with private pools or Jacuzzi – set among the citrus groves, fig trees and cobblestone streets.

Viceroy-branded residences start from €649,200. [ombria.com](http://ombria.com)

▼ **QUINTA DO LAGO**  
Algarve, Portugal

Set in 2,000 acres of Ria Formosa Natural Park, for five decades Quinta do Lago has been at the forefront of Europe's elite golf and sports destinations. The three acclaimed championship golf courses include the prestigious South Course, eight-time host of the Portuguese Open, which recently benefited from a €7m upgrade, enhancing its status as one of Europe's finest resorts.

As well as the golf, The Campus is a state-of-the-art sports hub with a high-tech Desso Hybrid Grassmaster pitch, top-of-the-range tennis courts, cycling events and a hydrotherapy centre, all attracting professional athletes, footballers and rugby players. The grand villas of One Green Way, which sweeps Quinta do Lago's North Course, are the latest neighbourhood, while across Quinta do Lago there are 15 restaurants and bars, a golf clubhouse and a lake – all just 15 minutes from Faro airport. ✦

One Green Way Residences are available through Quinta do Lago Real Estate, starting from €3,500,000. [quintadolago.com](http://quintadolago.com)





## ◀ SOTOGRANDE Malaga, Spain

On the southern coast of Andalucía, Sotogrande's 20sqkm stretch from the Mediterranean Sea to the foothills of the Sierra Almenara. This is home to four legendary European golf courses – hosts of the Ryder Cup, World Golf Championships, European Tour events and Ladies European Tour events, including the recent Aramco Team Series and the 2023 LIV Golf League.

Real Club Sotogrande – celebrating its 60th anniversary – was the European debut from the American golf architect Robert Trent Jones Sr, and this par 72, 6,224m course is still thrilling today. Nearby, Real Club Valderrama had a starring role in Seve Ballesteros's 1997 Ryder Cup. The La Reserva Club continues the legacy with an 18-hole championship course voted 30th in *Golf World's* 'Top 100 X-Factor Courses' rankings, while Almenara Sotogrande Golf Club,

recently remodelled by the legendary golfer Manuel Piñero, owns a 27-hole course.

Golf aside, Sotogrande is home to a new five-star hotel, SO/ Sotogrande, a bustling marina, numerous restaurants, a beach club, horse riding (including polo), watersports, cycling and fishing – and even a school.

The most recent residential development is the luxury penthouses and apartments of Village Verde, while over at The Seven (arguably one of Europe's most luxurious gated communities) the nine-bedroom villa, NIWA, has just come on the market with an indoor and outdoor pool, wine cellar, gym, spa – and views of the golf, of course.

Book it with British Airways Holidays. [ba.com/somalaga](https://ba.com/somalaga)  
Prices at Village Verde start from €990,000. [sotogrande.com](https://sotogrande.com)

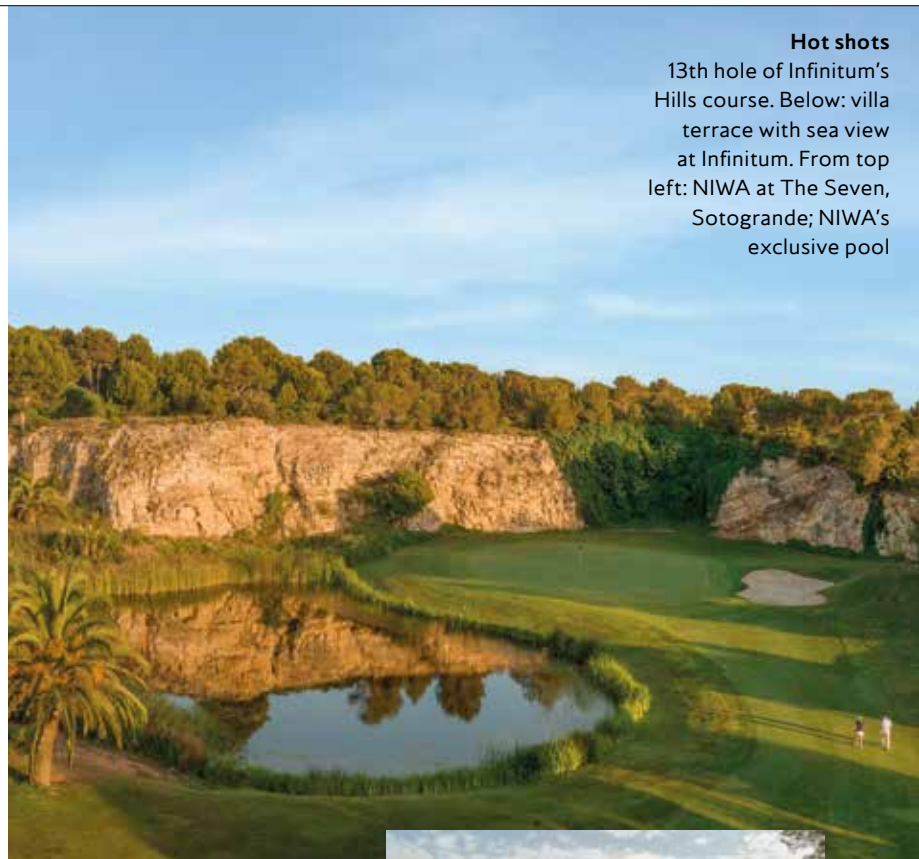


## ▶ INFINITUM Tarragona, Spain

This is an unrivalled golfing experience: 45 holes, three courses, two designed by Australian legend Greg Norman, showcasing his signature style of challenging fairways, undulating greens and strategic bunkers.

Located in the Costa Dorada, an hour and a half by car from Barcelona, Infinitum has rewritten the luxe coastal-living playbook. With nothing between grand residences and the Balearic Sea other than the golf greens, generous gardens and the beach, sea breezes take the edge off the summer heat. There's an award-winning beach club with ten pools, restaurants, two clubhouses and the recently launched Callaway Performance Centre, which includes the ultimate fitting experience for all golfers. Building on its success to date, a second phase of real estate is now on the market, featuring 34 terraced and semi-detached villas, four detached villas and 81 seaside multi-family homes.

Apartments from €430,000, villas from €760,000. [infinitumliving.com](https://infinitumliving.com)



### Hot shots

13th hole of Infinitum's Hills course. Below: villa terrace with sea view at Infinitum. From top left: NIWA at The Seven, Sotogrande; NIWA's exclusive pool

