



CENTURION
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Prime Property

Life on the Fairway

Stylish new golf developments are appearing this year, while older sporting destinations are launching fresh schemes to attract holiday-home buyers.

Peter Swain tees up some of the best residential projects worldwide



The Alcedo Villas
at Ombria, in
Portugal's Algarve

PORTUGAL & SPAIN

The brand-new Dunas course on the Comporta shoreline, an hour's drive south of Lisbon, has just opened to rave reviews. "Golfers yearn to play beautiful, natural, uncontrived courses," says Scottish designer David McLay Kidd. "That's why links golf is golf at its best – and Dunas is true links golf, unique in Portugal."

To complement this and a second course crafted by Sergio García, Portugal's largest developer Vanguard Properties is launching Terras da Comporta (comporta.com).

Midway between Melides and Comporta, in a region otherwise known as the Hamptons of Portugal,

700 new home sites set around 36 holes of championship golf is an enticing prospect.

Memorandums of Understanding with two international five-star hotel groups have been signed, with a new wellness centre, restaurants, a fresh market, kids' club, an international school and a medical clinic planned, together with tennis and padel courts, horse-riding and cycle trails. Further details of the precise residential offering in this exciting new community will be announced this summer.

Down in the Algarve, seven kilometres from the market town of Loulé, Ombria (ombria.com) is keen to showcase its sustainability credentials, with



A four-bedroom Beach Hill villa at Al Zorah City, Dubai; *below right*: a Las Acacias villa at La Manga, in southeastern Spain

geothermal and solar energy, EV charging and careful water management all part of the equation. Two home offerings around the 18-hole course catch the eye, the first of which is the branded residences at the Viceroy, giving buyers full access to all the hotel's luxury amenities.

The 12 bespoke Alcedo Villas, featuring bioclimatic architecture, are a more independent option. Construction of these three- to seven-bedroom contemporary detached homes, with living areas between 387 and 569 square metres, has already begun, featuring heated pools, roof terraces and large gardens.

Over on Tenerife, Abama (abamahotelresort.com) has just released four new custom sites with spectacular ocean views and all the services and facilities of the all-year-round resort, including Dave Thomas's classic course, a 7-iron away. Owners can use their own design and architecture teams, or Abama can oversee the entire process.

Spain continues to be the most popular destination for northern European golfers wanting a place in the sun. Near Girona, north of Barcelona, PGA Catalunya has become Camiral Golf & Wellness (camiral.com), but the ownership is the same and the Stadium course is still as good as any in Spain. The pick of the new homes available here is the remarkable and very original La Selva 25, a large ovoid-shaped three-bedroom villa built around a central courtyard that takes inspiration from the sun to frame the surrounding landscape.

Farther south in Murcia, La Manga's (lamangaclub.com) three courses, Grand Hyatt hotel as well as outstanding tennis and football facilities make up a reasonably priced, high-calibre sporting package. Recently launched, 18 of the 29 Las Acacias custom plots close to the Las Orquídeas community, a seven-minute walk from the centre of the resort, remain for sale. "Properties at La Manga are always popular with British buyers, attracted by the incredible fitness facilities, ease of access, year-round 19°C average temperatures and brilliant communities," reports Robert Green of Sphere Estates (sphereestates.com).

DUBAI

Discovery Land has a portfolio of exclusive developments across 35 destinations in the USA, Latin America, Europe and the Caribbean, most set around private golf courses, but Discovery Dunes (discoverylandco.com) is its first project in the Middle East. Construction has started on the 245ha masterplan featuring generous plots and Luxury Developer Residences crafted by the likes of Olson Kundig, Killa Design and Champalimaud Design.

The Tom Fazio course should be ready in Q4 2025 and, until then, buyers have access to the private members' club Discovery Downtown on the 23rd floor of the Dubai Edition hotel.



PHOTOS FROM TOP: © AL ZORAH, © LA MANGA

About 340 carefully designed homes are envisaged although owners will have the option of combining multiple estates to create larger residences and family compounds.

“We’ll strive to create an environment for families who want to foster connections and memories and, above all, fun,” suggests chairman, Mike Meldman. The company’s global track record in creating private members-only clubs with incomparable hospitality and sporting amenities suggests this will soon be one of the region’s premier communities.

Up the coast in the emirate of Ajman, still only 25 minutes from Dubai Airport, the 18-hole Nicklaus Design championship course at Al Zorah (*alzorahcity.com*) is ranked by *Golf Digest* as one of the 10 best in the region. On the beach, close to the Oberoi Beach Resort, the new Beach Hills Villas are four-bedroom homes on large plots



enjoying clear sea views, a three-minute drive from the golf course.

When compared with equivalent property in downtown Dubai, where prices have risen by 33 per cent since 2020, according to Christie’s International, these villas represent good value.

THE CARIBBEAN

Islands in the West Indies are perennially popular golfing destinations. Sean Connery was a famously keen player with a home at Lyford Cay, but his preferred course was Donald Steel and Tom Mackenzie’s Abaco Club (*theabacoclub.com*), also in the Bahamas. Described as a “tropical links”, this private, international sporting club and residential community on Great Abaco Island started life under Peter de Savary and is now with golfing connoisseur Southworth.

The latest phase, currently under construction, is the Cays Residences, two- to seven-bedroom apartments and villas with with uninterrupted views of Winding Bay and Sugar Cay. But buyers wanting a ready-made villa to walk straight into should also look at Abaco’s The Tennessean, a palatial colonial-style eight-bedroom mansion set on landscaped gardens with a pool and direct beach access, where James Bond himself would feel quite at home.

Based in Barbados, Chris Parra of One Caribbean Estates (*onecaribbeanestates.com*) always has a good selection of high-end one-off golfing properties – of which the spacious new three-bedroom Patio Villas at the Mandarin Oriental on Canouan is a good example. On a hill with fine sea views, they feature a palette of natural stone, wood and fabric hues with owners enjoying MO hotel amenities including the spa, restaurants offering international cuisine and, of course, a world-class golf course.

For their security, exclusivity and lush locations, fairway-side homes, even without the sporting benefits, continue to be much-prized assets in many property portfolios.



Above: the three-bedroom La Selva 25 at Camiral Golf & Wellness, set outside Girona; top right: the Tennessean villa at the Abaco Club in the Bahamas

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