

wishlist

Avid golfers take every opportunity to play on the world's newest courses. **ABTA Golf's team** highlights courses that have recently opened and those eagerly awaited...

LAGUNA LANG CO, VIETNAM

Vietnam is one of the world's fastest-growing golf destinations and this Nick Faldo championship track, opening in 2012, is part of a Banyan Tree development near Hue. The designer promises a genuine shot-maker's course routed through sand dunes, trees and exposed rock formations. With the revamped Dalat Palace, prestigious Danang GC and a new Song Ghia course near Haiphong, plus an upcoming Greg Norman course in Saigon, the country is really on a roll. www.nickfaldo.com

PGA NATIONAL, RUSSIA

European Golf Design's latest project opens in Russia's exclusive Zavidovo Resort, famous for being an official residence of the President, 80 miles north-west of Moscow, in July 2012. The 18-hole, 7,400-yard PGA National Russia will feature wide fairways, undulating greens and heather clad bunkers. A further nine-hole academy course next to a PGA Golf Academy is also planned at a later stage, alongside a club house with around 10 luxury suites. Work on the course is being carried out by St Andrews-based Braemar Golf. www.braemargolf.co.uk/projects/zavidovo



FLOATING COURSE, MALDIVES

Troon Golf is the technical adviser on a possible \$500m (£318m) project near the international airport on Male Atoll scheduled for completion in 2015. The Maldives government is looking to build five floating islands to incorporate hotels, a convention centre and a floating golf course, with two or three holes per island. Desalination plants and 'floating solar blanket fields' will both feature, but the real wow factor could be the underwater tunnels through which players will walk or drive between holes.



THE COLT, ENGLAND

England's North East offers a new challenge with an old twist after The Colt course opened in May at Close House hotel, near Newcastle. Golf star Lee Westwood opened the course, the resort's second — named after legendary designer Harry Colt and designed in a 1930/40s style. A second established course, The Filly, offers a further challenge. One night breaks and two rounds of golf cost from around £250 per person. www.closehouse.co.uk

ONYRIA PALMARES BEACH & GOLF RESORT, PORTUGAL

Robert Trent Jones Jr opened his new 27-hole layout above the Bay of Lagos in Portugal's western Algarve to universally rave reviews in June 2011. The three nine-hole loops take in pine tree-lined fairways, lakes and seaside dunes. In the designer's own words: "It's a kind of soft, much warmer Scotland." Close to other good courses at Pestana and Amendoeira, Onyria Palmares is helping to move the Algarve's centre of golfing gravity further west. www.onyriapalmares.com ►



The Colt golf course



Borgo Gardens, La Bagnaia

LA BAGNAIA, ITALY

Eight miles from Siena in Tuscany, the back nine of this superb Robert Trent Jones II course opened in September 2011, completing an 18-hole masterpiece. Complementing an existing 72-room, five-star hotel, extraordinarily luxurious natural hot water spa and equestrian facilities, the landscaping will take a year or two to mellow but, tee to green, the track is already first rate. The new clubhouse, with a terrace overlooking the rolling 321-acre estate, offers excellent Tuscan cuisine. www.borgolabagnaia.com

THE WAVE, OMAN

Officially due to open in December 2011, this new links-style course and academy by Greg Norman forms part of a £600m leisure and residential beachfront development that will eventually have five-star hotels, restaurants, retail shops and a 400-berth marina. Based on US PGA standards, the 18 holes blend seamlessly with the natural landscape and have the ocean and Al Hajar mountains as a backdrop. Located in the new heart of Muscat, the course will feature several holes lying directly next to the sea. www.thewavemuscat.com

TRUMP INTERNATIONAL GOLF LINKS, SCOTLAND

American billionaire Donald Trump's new course, set among imposing dunes on the Aberdeenshire coast and designed by Dr Martin Hawtree, is due to be completed in July 2012. The classical par-72 Scottish links course, just over 7,400 yards long, will have all 18 tees shaped to blend with the existing vegetation, with dramatic sea views from nearly every hole. A second course is planned, plus a hotel and residential and holiday homes. www.trumpgolfscotland.com



OUED FES, FES, MOROCCO

Due to open in spring 2012, this 18-hole, par-72 golf course in the historic city of Fes, 7.5 miles from the airport, is being designed by highly respected English architect Jonathan Gaunt. It will feature woodland, wetland and grassland with some water channels that flood when levels rise in winter and become wetland/marshland during the drier seasons. The result will be a lush green oasis. Also under construction are golf villas, apartments and three hotels.
www.gaunt-golf-design.com



COSTA NAVARINO, GREECE

A second signature golf course has opened at this stunning resort in the south-west Peloponnese. The Bay Course, designed by legendary architect Robert Trent Jones Jr, is an 18-hole, par-71 layout offering panoramic sea and mountain views. Along with the established Dunes Course, designed by Bernhard Langer and located just a few minutes away, the resort offers an exciting challenge for golfers of all levels with two five-star Starwood-managed hotels.
www.costanavarino.com



ASSOUFID, MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

Rocco Forte's new property in Marrakech, now scheduled to open in 2013, will be located amid a 556-acre olive grove against a backdrop of the Atlas Mountains. The resort will boast an 18-hole championship golf course and golf academy, as well as a 35-metre swimming pool, spa, a walled garden and a rooftop bar. Just 15 minutes' drive south-west of the city walls, the hotel will consist of three separate 'palazzos', containing 96 suites.
www.roccofortehotels.com ■



Assoufid, Marrakech