



WHERE ON EARTH

VINTAGE GOLF

Peter Swain recommends some enticing destinations allowing visitors to combine a love of golf with a passion for fine wines and even finer whiskies

1. BORDEAUX FRANCE

To play 18 holes at one of Golf du Medoc's two championship courses, just outside Bordeaux, then enjoy a horizontal Margaux tasting (four or more Grands Crus from the same year), followed by a foie gras-themed dinner, is nirvana for golfing wine lovers. Les Chateaux hosted the 1999 French Open, and Les Vignes is a good challenge; nearby Lacanau and Golf de Margaux are fine aperitifs. Some iconic wines are made along the banks of the Gironde estuary: Pomerol, Pauillac, Haut-Brion and St Julien, as well as the imperial Chateau d'Yquem. The hotel will arrange all. www.hotel-golf-du-medoc.com

2. VENETO ITALY

Who doesn't love Prosecco, the sparkling wine whose grapes are grown on the vertiginous slopes above Treviso in the Veneto? There are as many varieties of this dry and extra-dry nectar as there are Champagnes, and the better ones, such as those from Cartizze, are gaining a worldwide reputation. The scenic vineyards are visitor friendly, and perfectly complement the 27 Benetton-funded hilly holes at Asolo, or the easier parkland course at Castelfranco. There's even an enchanting course, Circolo del Golf di Venezia, on the Lido in nearby Venice. www.amazingvenicegolf.com

3. QUEENSTOWN NEW ZEALAND

Known as the 'adventure capital of the world' for its bungee jumping, sky diving, jet boating and skiing, visitors can also hike, fish and most importantly enjoy three championship courses. With a modernist clubhouse, The Hills has hosted the NZ Open; in the mould of Gleneagles, Jack's Point is a hilly gem; and Millbrook could be one of Surrey's finest. All three, and a couple of other nearby tracks, are just 15 minutes from South Island's premier Pinot Noir vineyards in the Gibbston Valley – Mt Difficulty, Amisfield and Bald Hills are all world-class. www.queenstownnz.co.nz

4. KINTYRE & ISLAY SCOTLAND

Single-malt lovers know the Isle of Islay, off the Kintyre Peninsula's west coast, to be the home of Laphroaig, Lagavulin and Ardbeg, as well as the lighter Bruichladdich, and award-winning Bowmore. On Kintyre itself, Springbank is probably the most lauded local whisky, and the perfect post-game tincture after a round at the two sublime Machrihanish courses up the road. The original 1879 track offers one of the best opening holes in golf – 200 yards across the Atlantic – while Machrihanish Dunes, well served by the newly opened Ugadale Hotel, is a rustic jewel. www.machdunes.com