



ADVENTURES IN GOLF

Spring/Summer 2011

New Offerings

US Destinations

For over 30 years, Adventures In Golf has arranged customized golfing vacations to Britain, Ireland and Western Europe, offering unmatched access to revered courses, including **premium access to St. Andrews Old Course tee times**. Throughout these thirty years, we have become the **preferred tour company** for travelers who appreciate **superb service** as much as **exceptional golf**. But, as many of our clients know – magnificent and historic golf courses are not limited to **Scotland – the original birthplace of golf**. These defining attributes of great courses extend to other members of the **British Commonwealth** and not surprisingly right here in the **United States!**

For over eighteen years, the prestigious **Links Cup Amateur Invitational** has enabled us to form relationships with many of the highly-requested golf destinations within the United States such as **Sea Island, Kiawah Island, The Broadmoor, & Whistling Straights**. We are now proud to offer these destinations to all of our clients. And, our pricing will be as competitive or even lower than what you would pay by calling the resorts direct. Plus, you will receive our staff’s expertise on the best courses, accommodations, sightseeing, and dining each of these locations has to offer. Additionally, we have key contacts within each resort to ensure all of your needs and desires are met ... to the level you have come to expect on any trip taken with **Adventures In Golf**. *Contact us today to receive additional information on these resorts, as well as a few additional venues soon to be added to our US Portfolio.*

Luxury Fishing

Some of you are probably asking yourself why does **Adventures In Golf** have an article **dedicated to fishing**? Some of you know exactly why. More often than not, most our readers do not play golf 365 days each year. For the ones that do, we have taken our hats off to you! For many of you, there is fishing on the schedule during your non-golf days ... whether it’s for **trout, salmon, char, grayling**, or other beautiful aquatic species. Over the years, we have been continually asked to coordinate fishing in addition to golf. While this works well on a golf-excursion to Ireland, Scotland, or England as there are always fishing beats near many of the world-ranked golf courses. However, the truth of the matter is the fishing there does not compare to **Alaska** or **New Zealand**. In a recent newsletter article, our company’s founder, **Ken Hamill**,



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recounted one of his golf/fishing trips to **New Zealand**. He has since returned to the country on numerous occasions (without his 'sticks') just to fish more remote waters for mammal-sized **browns** and **rainbows**. Please watch for our **Autumn Newsletter**, as it will have an entire article dedicated to Ken's more recent **Adventures In Fishing** on the rivers and tributaries of **New Zealand**. For now, we want to focus on our new partnership with **Sarah Fullhart** and the **Mission Creek Lodge**, in **Alaska**.

Sarah and her husband **Guy** own and operate **Mission Creek Lodge**, which is located on **Lake Aleknagik** in the heart of the world famous **Bristol Bay** region of Southwest Alaska. This area offers unsurpassed trophy fishing for all five species of **Pacific salmon, rainbow trout, arctic char, arctic grayling** and **Dolly Varden** in a spectacular wilderness setting. The modern facility is ideal for small corporate meetings, business entertaining, or the highlight of any **Alaskan fishing vacation**. The well-traveled angler will recognize the extras that make a stay at **Mission Creek Lodge** a trip of a lifetime. **All-inclusive** packages include **deluxe accommodations, sumptuous dining, unsurpassed trophy fishing, daily fly-outs, professional guides, flexible fishing program, fishing gear, on-site sauna & hot tub, & spa treatments**. Surprisingly, the **fishing season** at Mission Creek runs from **June through September** so your travel dates can be flexible. Of course, if you are specifically seeking a certain species of fish certain times are better than others. We would be remiss not to mention the Fullhart's can also offer golfing and fishing adventures to other destinations such as the **Mayan Riviera, Costa Rica**, and even **Central Oregon**, which offers some enjoyable golf and fantastic fishing for trout and steel-head. *Whether you are an experienced angler or a first-timer, do not hesitate to contact us for your next fishing trip to Alaska, New Zealand, or any other destinations around the globe. You will receive the same unparalleled service you've come to expect with Adventures In Golf.*

News Update



The world-ranked championship course at **Royal Troon** will serve as host venue to the **British Amateur Championship** next year. And, the 2009 British Open Championship venue, **Turnberry Ailsa**, where **Tom Watson** almost captured his sixth Claret Jug, will also host the **British Senior Open** in 2012.

The ever-popular **Muirfield** is increasing their visitor capacity by 33% through allowing 4-balls off 1st & 10th tees in 2012. Despite the increased visitor tee times, we still strongly urge anyone interested to **contact us as early as possible as this course historically sells out 14 months in advance!** The four-star country house hotel, Greywalls, continues to offer limited access to the course, but they too sell out quickly.

Many of our clients have experienced a thrill-ride onboard the **Kintyre Express**, en route to playing **Machrihanish, Machrihanish Dunes, Machrie**, and even **Royal Portrush** and **Portstewart** in Northern Ireland. The company has been sold recently but is still available for private charter, as well as providing a regular ferry service to the above destinations from its base in Troon.

In 1786, ten years after the U.S. Declaration of Independence, and three years before the French Revolution, eleven local golfers met at the Golf Inn in Crail, near St. Andrews, and passed a resolution to form themselves into **The Crail Golfing Society**. The original course was replaced in 1895 by **Balcomie Links**, laid out by **Old Tom Morris**, and a second course – **Craighead Links** – was added in 1997. Crail is the 7th **oldest golf club in the world** and the oldest to have a complete set of meeting minutes dating from its formation to the present day. Happy 225th Anniversary!

Thinking of making a trip in 2012 that will include the Old Course at St. Andrews? With this season just barely underway next year may seem a long way off, but it's not as distant as you may think! As is customary, Adventures In Golf will receive a substantial allocation of tee times in early Autumn for the 2012 season. With the economy seeming to be trending the right direction, we anticipate a busy 2012. As a guide, our entire 2011 allocation was completely sold out by the end of January.

Bottom line – planning early is essential, so please contact us to start discussing your trip.

Virtuoso – we are proud to announce our recent partnership with Virtuoso as their **preferred golf supplier**. For those of you who are not familiar with Virtuoso, they are the leading travel network made up of more than **6,000 travel advisors** associated with over **300 agencies** in **22 countries** within North and South America, the Caribbean, Australia and New Zealand. Since Virtuoso **only accepts 20% of all applicants** into their network, you can imagine how proud we are of this new relationship. We will be featuring more on this new relationship in our next newsletter issue, so please stay tuned.

KENT, ENGLAND: A True Golf Paradise

Despite **three Open Championship courses** and several other fine links within its boundaries, **County Kent in Southeast England** is a relatively unknown mecca of the game. The **Open Championship** will return to Kent's crown jewel, **Royal St George's** in 2011. **Fourteen times the host of The Open, Royal St George's** was the first course outside of Scotland to host the championship, back in 1894! Notable champions at Royal St George's include **Harry Vardon**, **Walter Hagen** twice, **Sandy Lyle** and more recently **Greg Norman**. The course historically proves to be a stern test to even the best of golfers as only three Open winners at St George's have scored under par after 72 holes! Recent changes, including additional length and a reduction in par to 70, will demand that the competitors be in top form to have any chance of hoisting the **Claret Jug**.

We all look forward to the playing of the **140th Open at St George's** is truly amongst the warmest of hosts. However, although the spotlight will be shining on RSG this summer, if you dig a little deeper you will find England's oldest county to be home to several more "Must Plays". Kent, after all, is also often referred to as "**The Royal Golf Coast**". **Royal Cinque Ports** (1909, 1920) and **Prince's** (1932) have also hosted the Open and both have added to the area's rich golf history. The great **J. H. Taylor** won the Claret Jug at Royal Cinque Ports in 1909, while **Gene Sarazen** set a scoring record en route to winning at Prince's.

Although **Royal Cinque Ports** has not hosted the Open since 1920, the club continues to host prestigious events, and has recently been selected to host the **2013 British Amateur Championship**. Recent Masters Champion **Charl Schwartzel** graced the links at Cinque Ports in 2002 for the playing of the **Brabazon Trophy** en route to a championship

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A QUICK Q & A WITH ... Mark Parsinen, Owner, Castle Stuart Golf Links

For most Adventures In Golf clients, past visits to the Highlands of Scotland have typically included rounds at Royal Dornoch, which would arguably have played host to at least one British Open had it not been for its relative remoteness, and Nairn, venue of the 1999 Walker Cup.

Since 2009 another course – Castle Stuart Golf Links – has joined this illustrious pair. A layout received so positively in such a short period of time that Golf Digest named it “Overseas Destination of the Year” in its best new courses listing of 2010, and which welcomes the Scottish Open in July this year.

Mark Parsinen, a native of California and adopted Scot, talks to us about the course and some of the guiding principles and ambitions behind it.



Q: You co-created the highly-acclaimed Kingsbarns Golf Links near St Andrews back in 2000. What drew you to the Highlands for your second course development in Scotland?

A: I've been playing golf in the Highlands for 40 years and have always found it as attractive a place to visit as St Andrews, but for different reasons. Highlands golf is fantastic with Royal Dornoch and Nairn the two that have always been favorites of mine. I've been a member of Royal Dornoch since my Kingsbarns days and the issue of where to try to do an encore was easy. The Highlands has a lot to offer: a fantastic climate; Inverness itself with its river setting, wonderful restaurants (Rocpool is my

favorite restaurant anywhere in the world), and its intimate human scale; the world-class fishing and shooting; and last but not least, the whisky trail. But deciding to come to the Highlands did ultimately depend on finding a site near Inverness and its airport with all the topographical, soils, and visual attributes to do a worthy encore to Kingsbarns. Lucky for me to have found such a site for Castle Stuart Golf Links.

Q: What would you say are the main characteristics of Castle Stuart Golf Links?

A: Links Sea Aspect: The unique topography of the site steps back from the sea up and over an old sea cliff creating a step to an upper level sloped in its own right from east (40m) to west (20m); because of this tiered/sloped aspect, the Moray Firth and well-known landmarks figure prominently on every hole at Castle Stuart; for fifteen holes the sea and landmarks beyond are directly in the golfer's line of play; the other three holes offer vistas of the firth and prominent landmarks although not directly in the line of play; the course is not buried behind a 'barrier dune ridge'. Course Design: Wide fairways afford multiple lines of play; large green complexes are characterised by simple yet dominating



shapes; the run of ball is always a consideration; undulating terrain and angles of play are key elements of course defence; it is a thinking man's golf experience with player length not an unmitigated advantage. Setting Sun Over the Sea: It is most unusual for a links course on the east coast of Scotland to enjoy the warmth of a setting sun shimmering over the sea, but it is a much-appreciated attribute of Castle Stuart given its westward orientation overlooking the Moray Firth.

Q: When visitors play your course what would you hope they get from the whole experience?

A: A memorable experience to be savoured not only in the 'now' but in fond future recollections easily remembered forever. The golf itself would be remembered as intriguing, defined by room to play where an errant shot didn't automatically equal severe punishment but, on the contrary, yielded a compromised situation with seductively interesting opportunities and decisions to be made, i.e.

opportunities for redemption. And the golf would be remembered in the context of some of the most beautiful panoramic surrounds of any golf course anywhere in the world; and those visual feasts wouldn't just be peripheral but would be presented directly in the line of the golf shotmaking perspective. Shots would ultimately be sighted on key landmarks that for many define Inverness and this part of the Highlands and as a result would be indelibly etched in one's memories. One wouldn't just be playing golf. One would be enjoying a visual communion with the Highlands itself.



Q: You and your team have secured the Scottish Open this year, in only the course's 3rd season of operation, which is a fantastic achievement in anyone's book. What are your longer-term ambitions and plans for Castle Stuart?

A: As Turnberry is to Ayrshire and Gleneagles is to Perthshire, we would like Castle Stuart to be for the Highlands – a beacon reaching out to golfers throughout the world – a beacon defined by a recognisable iconic clubhouse-and-hotel 'Art Deco' architecture, wonderful spa-related relaxation amenities, a pleasurable pitch & putt course, a second fun-to-play seaside course, and an enduring ability for the cornerstone links course to make fond memories for all. And if, at some point, Castle Stuart's cornerstone links course came to be regarded highly enough, we would be honoured to be considered worthy of hosting an Open Championship.



Q: Finally, which other courses in Great Britain & Ireland have you found inspiration from, or just enjoyed playing over the years?

A: The Old Course is the singular fountainhead of inspiration for me. I have played it more than 80 times over 40 years and have walked it on Sundays at least 50 times just to contemplate its nuances. It is the course I'd choose if I had one day to live and one course to play. My other favourites would include, for different reasons and in no particular order, Royal Dornoch, Nairn, Turnberry, Royal Birkdale, Sunningdale, Royal Portrush, Royal County Down, Ballybunion, and the European Club.



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record 6 under par performance. The **greens at Cinque Ports are known for being large, and some of the fastest greens in England** as Schwartzel pleasantly attested to after his stellar accomplishment, "What an experience. Fine tight fast running fairways, and consistent greens both true and fast and a wind to test one's skill and judgement to the full."

Used as an **Open Qualifying** venue since 1981, **Prince's** is home to 27 **pristine links holes**. The coastal scenery enjoying views over **Pegwell Bay** combined with lush fairways make the links of Prince's the perfect place to savor a day of golf, as many have confirmed including celebrated golf author **Bernard Darwin**. Although best known for hosting the 1932 Open and its strong ties to its champion Gene Sarazen, Prince's is also proud to be known as **one of the true pioneers of "family oriented" clubs, welcoming ladies and juniors** to tee it up alongside the men at the turn of the century.

Other notable courses in Kent include **Littlestone, Rye** and **Canterbury Golf Club**. **Littlestone**, originally designed in 1899 has seen improvements implemented by **James Braid** and **Alister MacKenzie**, ultimately shaping it one of England's top "hidden gems". **Rye** is another lesser known, but magnificent, links located just down the coast from Littlestone, and a stunning example of **Harry S. Colt's** gifted design talents. You would be hard pressed to find a failed attempt in course design by **Harry S. Colt**, and Rye is just another stunning example of his gifted talents. If you fancy a fine parkland layout then **Canterbury Golf Club**, located in the **scenic countryside of East Kent**, will not disappoint. Also **designed by the renowned Colt in 1927**, Canterbury has seen few changes over the years.

An excursion to **The Royal Golf Coast** offers golfers the unique opportunity to walk in the footsteps of the game's greatest legends and today's stars alike. **For avid golfers and golf historians a visit to Kent is surely a top priority on the "to do" list.**

FINCA CORTESIN: Experience Spain's Costa del Sol in style

Much better known for its year round sun and popular beaches the **Costa del Sol** has warmly welcomed the arrival of the luxury five-star **Finca Cortesin**, a premier golf & spa resort that compliments the natural beauty and splendor of the **Sotogrande** region.

Finca Cortesin Resort is located only a short drive to the area's world famous golf courses, such as **Valderrama, Sotogrande Old, La Reserva**, and **Alcaidesa**, making it the perfect "hub" for any Costa de Sol golf excursion. However, be sure to stay on the resort grounds for at least one round on the resort's stunning hillside layout, designed by the world-renowned golf architect **Cabell B. Robinson**. We contacted our good friend Cabell for a brief synopsis of his experience during the design and construction of this scenic layout – see the final paragraph titled "**Comments from Cabell**". As host to the **Volvo World Match Play** in 2011 the championship course affords great golf and panoramic vistas, while for those visitors looking to fine-tune their game in a laid-back Mediterranean environment, the state of the art **Jack Nicklaus Golf Academy** located on the resort grounds does not disappoint.



The award-winning, exquisite 67-room hotel has drawn the attention of travelers and critics alike. Finca Cortesin has certainly lived up to its' lofty expectations as accolades in **Condé Nast Traveler Magazine**, and other top travel publications will attest. Hotel décor and design is predominately laid out in a **traditional Andalusian and Moroccan style**. High ceilings in the hotel's public areas offer a deep sense of space, and allow for full enjoyment of the **manicured gardens** and the **Mediterranean Sea** beyond. Several different rooming options are available at Finca Cortesin, with the **Pool Suites** topping the list. These **distinctive suites are equipped with personal pools located on the suite's private balcony** – offering the perfect place to unwind and enjoy the sunset after an epic day on the links! Each room type is tastefully decorated with local flair, and the spacious bathrooms with buff **limestone floors** are illuminated with natural light.

Finca Cortesin is home to **two exceptional restaurants: El Jardin de Victor**, which serves traditional Spanish food in casual environment while **Restaurant Schilo** offers guests with the finest dining in all of southern Spain. **Highly acclaimed two-star chef Schilo Van Coevorden** skillfully combines the flavours of several regions along with top wines to make dining at Schilo a unique and unforgettable experience. The toughest of food critics would be hard-pressed to find even the smallest fault with **Finca's extraordinary culinary mastery**.

For golfers and non-golfers alike, Finca Cortesin offers a wide-range of activities and sightseeing options. Located only minutes away from the **white beaches of Marbella**, water activities such as **water skiing, scuba diving, sailing, and swimming** are all possible. Sun worshippers may opt to simply park themselves on the scenic seashore and dream away. Finca is also home to **two outdoor swimming pools**, and also an **indoor saltwater pool** located at the **hotel's world-class spa!** If **shopping** is your preferred pastime, not to worry as the resort's Galleria will be sure to satisfy. For those of you looking to experience the rich culture and history of the Costa del Sol, a ride to **Granada, Seville or Gibraltar** will be well warranted.



Comments from Cabell

*“Cortesin was always conceived as a core golf course, with all the real estate on the exterior and generally above it. It is not your typically over-built course. **At 6800 meters it is quite long from the tips, the longest on the coast I believe.** The site was fairly difficult so in order to create playable golf holes there are several long and uphill cart paths to elevated championship tees. In fact, and unusual for the tour, there are three or four areas where players and caddies are transported up to the back tees.*

*The site was divided one-third and two-thirds by a reasonably important road. It was agreed to tunnel beneath it in two places (clubhouse to 1 tee and 6 to 7). Large expensive tunnels rendered the road virtually unnoticeable. **Extensive landscaping, over 6 million dollars throughout the entire course,** helped as well. Many of the remaining 12 holes were built on side hills, which required*

considerable earthmoving. Unstable soils required shoring up in some areas to prevent and/or correct landslides. Other than that, it was a cakewalk.

*In designing the course I was more concerned about how the average player would handle it, so with **5 sets of tees the course plays down to under 4800 meters.** Equally important, there are a number of holes where the forward tees, men and women, are **located so as to avoid the forced carries required of the longer hitters.** The course proved to be a good examination last year during the [Matchplay] championship, and the visitors I have spoken with seemingly enjoyed it.”*





ADVENTURES IN GOLF

The Ultimate Golfing Experience

Since 1977, Adventures In Golf has customized golfing itineraries for thousands of parties, large and small, with each program carefully designed to maximize the enjoyment of your dream trip – to Britain, Ireland, or other destinations.

Our key staff, with over 130 years of combined travel experience and offices in the United States, England, & Scotland, offer peerless service and in-depth knowledge of these historic countries and their golf courses. Additionally, we work closely with our hotel, transport and golf partners to make certain you receive an exceptional vacationing experience. You state your objectives - we ensure they are met.

We are one of the few tour operators who can offer unparalleled access to St Andrews Old Course (as well as to many other famous courses, such as Ballybunion, Royal County Down, Old Head and Royal Troon). To further enhance your St Andrews experience, a member of our Scottish staff will meet you at the Old Course with your personal caddy, and our local staff will be ready to assist you throughout your stay.

As your advisor, we will guide you through each stage of your trip. Determining the most appropriate accommodations, formulating the best transportation options and, best of all, securing tee times on the famous courses and hidden gems of your choice! As you might expect, we also assist you in the finer details, such as dinner reservations, sightseeing, fishing, shopping, and any other guidance you may need, making your experience that much more memorable.

This formula has produced an ever-increasing list of satisfied customers, as commendations in Passport, Forbes, Sky, and Connoisseur Magazines bear testimony. Additionally, as the only Golf Destination Specialist of Andrew Harper Travel, and now a Virtuoso supplier we extend our service to a still wider audience.

By the way when you call our office, you will be answered by one of our staff. For we believe, in this business, there is no substitute for the personal touch.

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