

The Spear's 500 Travel Guide 2019

Terre Blanche – PCL Generated



THE
SPEAR'S 500
TRAVEL GUIDE 2019

PHOTOGRAPH BY HAWAII

The indispensable HNW guide to the very best luxury hotels,
resorts, private islands, holiday rentals, and tour operators in the world

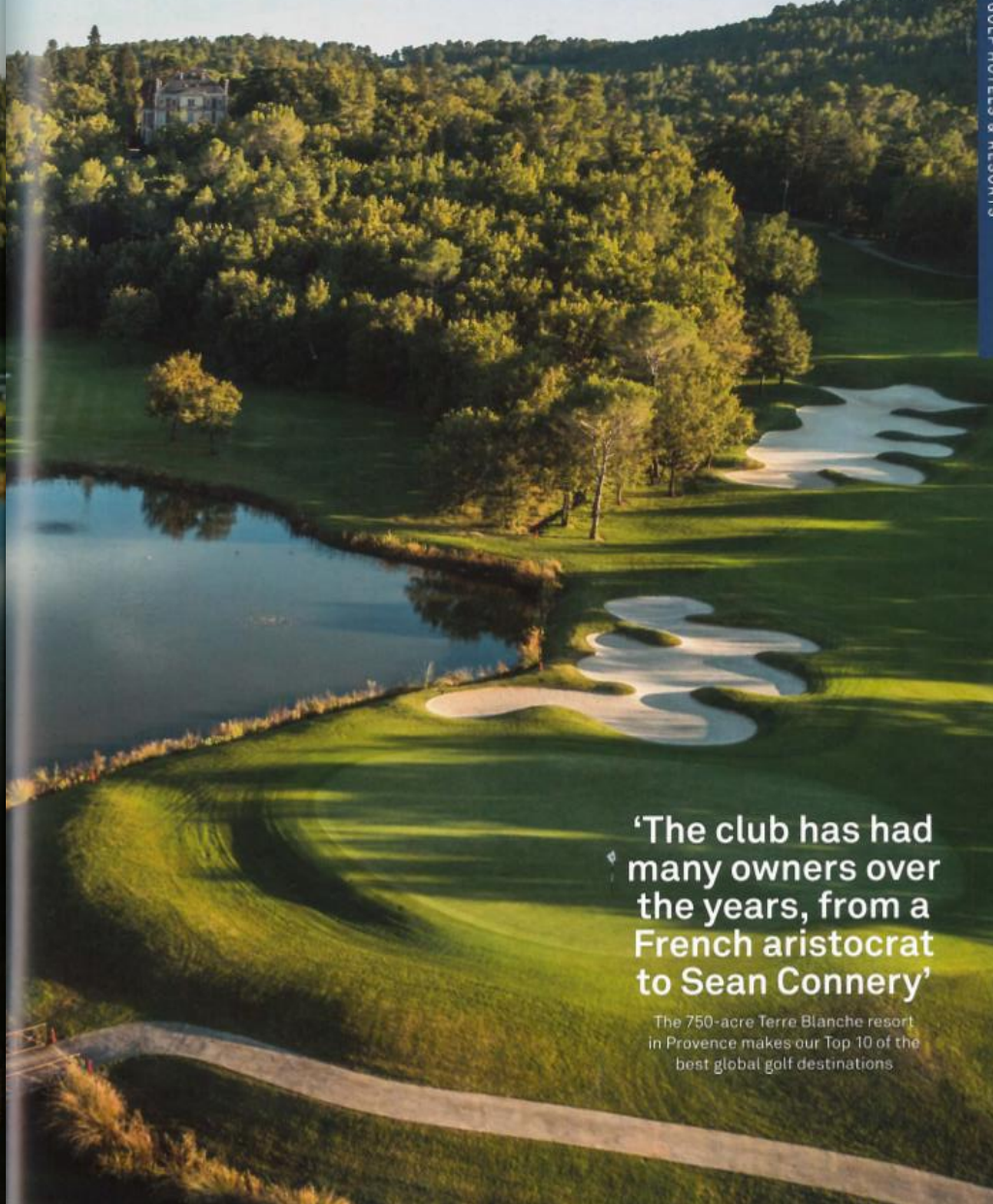
ROCCO FORTE • ELIZABETH HURLEY • ANDREW MARR

SPEAR'S

GOLF HOTELS & RESORTS TOP TEN

- Constance Lemuria *Seychelles*
- Eden Roc Cap Cana *Dominican Republic*
- Fancourt *South Africa*
- The Gleneagles Hotel *Perthshire, Scotland*
- Four Seasons Resort *Honolulu, Hawaii*
- The Kildare Hotel at the K Club *Republic of Ireland*
- Mission Hills *Shenzhen, China*
- Monte Rei Golf and Country Club *Portugal*
- Pebble Beach *California, USA*
- Terre Blanche *Provence, France*

TERRE BLANCHE COURTESY



'The club has had many owners over the years, from a French aristocrat to Sean Connery'

The 750-acre Terre Blanche resort in Provence makes our Top 10 of the best global golf destinations

GOLF HOTELS & RESORTS

Constance Lemuria Seychelles

constancehotels.com
+44 903 928 7830

The sole 18-hole course among the 115 islands of the Seychelles is on the eight-mile long island of Praslin. It's also one of the most beautiful in the world. Some holes sit amid thick jungle vegetation, and others have sea views, but the most spectacular is the 15th: a short par 3 dropping a precipitous 54 yards from tee to green. After sinking your putt, you have the option of removing your spikes (if you bothered to put them on in the first place) and taking a stroll down to Anse Georgette – almost the Platonic ideal of a white-sand desert island beach – where hotel staff deliver chilled glasses of sauvignon blanc from golf-playing South African oenologist David Frost. This may mean your break in play lasts longer than planned.

The Gleneagles Hotel Perthshire, Scotland

gleneagles.com
01764 662 291

In 2015, Scotland's grande dame of destination hotels was acquired by Ennismore (currently rolling out the hip Hoxton hotel brand globally). New owner Sharan Pasricha has repositioned the historic hotel as a 'glorious playground', and its multi-million-pound makeover is as subtle as it is stylish, combining opulent and creative elements. Aside from three championship golf courses, activities on offer include falconry, off-road driving, tennis, (where nearby neighbour Andy Murray is sometimes spotted), gun dog training, an equestrian school conceived by Mark Phillips, and a clay pigeon shooting school set up by Formula 1 legend Jackie Stewart. There's also an award-winning spa, as well as the only restaurant in Scotland with two Michelin stars.

Eden Roc Cap Cana Dominican Republic

edenroccapcana.com
+1 809 469 7469

If you could play one shot on the Jack Nicklaus designed course at Punta Espada Golf Club, it would have to be from the 13th tee. The testing par 3 skirts a spectacular, rugged section of the Dominican coast where the Caribbean Sea meets the Atlantic Ocean. From the longest tees, it measures 250 yards, forcing birdie-hunters to trust themselves enough to send the ball soaring above the waves – before, hopefully, seeing it come to rest on the green. For the less brave, there is the lower-risk option of taking a more conservative flight path and laying up short. But by the time you reach the 13th you may have gained a more gung-ho attitude to losing balls in the briny. Eight holes on this par-72 course run beside the sea – and all are spectacular.

Four Seasons Resort Lanai, Hawaii

fourseasons.com/lanai
+1 800 821 4666

Software billionaire Larry Ellison bought this entire island in 2012, including two Four Seasons hotels – one of which has been entirely re-modelled. Only the concrete shell of the original Lanai Four Seasons remains, with Ellison reportedly heavily involved in the rebuilding work, even instructing designer Todd Avery Lenahan and a crew of hundreds to re-do the lobby from scratch four times, as the ocean view was not framed correctly. The golf is as striking as the resort itself. The 17th includes a spectacular 200ft drop from tee to green, while the 12th provides spellbinding ocean views from a cliff 150ft above the sea. In fact, it's so picturesque that Bill and Melinda Gates chose it as the location for their wedding.

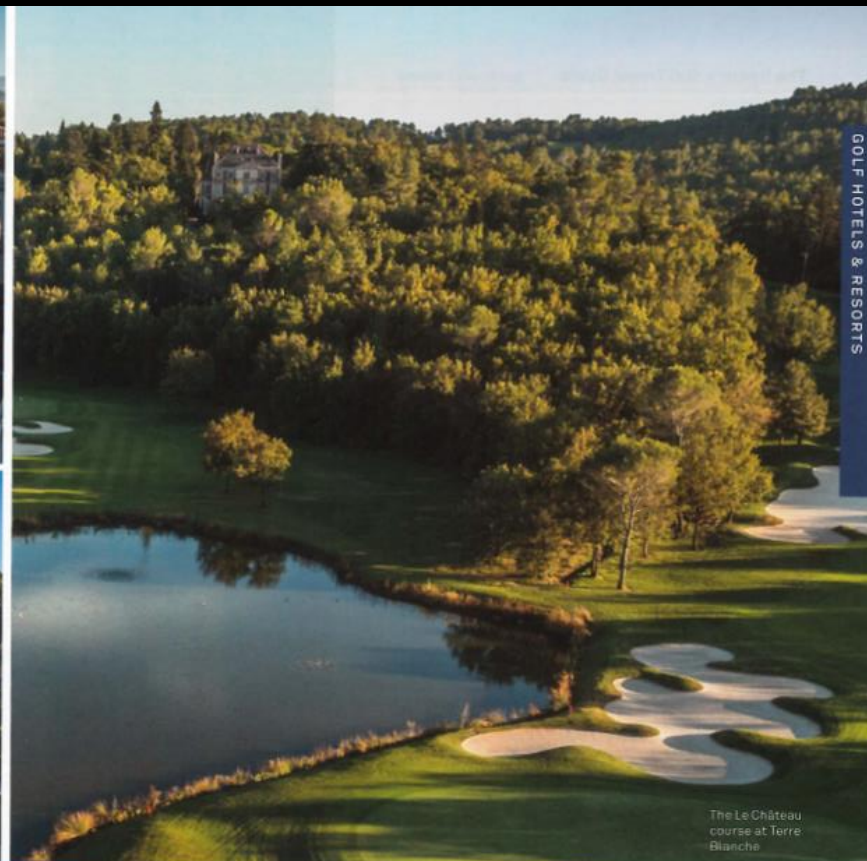
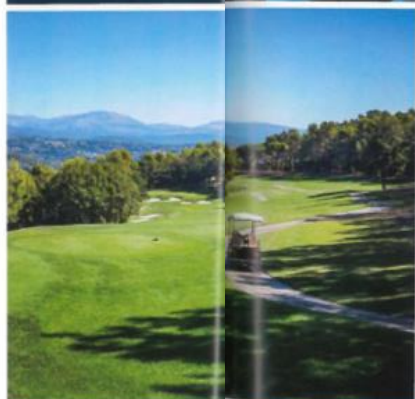
Fancourt South Africa

fancourt.co.za
+27 44 804 0000

The three Gary Player-designed courses here all rank among Golf Digest's top 15 courses in South Africa. There are two parkland courses, the Outeniqua and the slightly easier Montagu, but the jewel in the crown is the Links course. The former airfield at the foot of the Outeniqua mountain range has been transformed into one of the most spectacular courses in the world, balancing the needs of top-level tournament play (the Presidents Cup, SA Open and Volvo Golf Champions European Tour have all been hosted here) with environmental considerations. Its status as 'Certified Audubon Cooperation Sanctuary' reflects the site's high standards of habitat management, water conservation and chemical use reduction.

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Aside from golf,
activities include
falconry, tennis,
off-roading, gun
dog training and
clay pigeon shoots

Gleneagles Hotel
Scotland



The Le Château
course at Terre
Blanche





Monte Rei Golf and Country Club Portugal

monte-rei.com
+351 281 950 950

Monte Rei is an exclusive resort in the East Algarve. It's truly a golfing paradise, with its award-winning Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course ranked first in Portugal.

The resort occupies a private estate spanning over 1,000 acres of unspoiled countryside, with dramatic views of the Serra do Caldeirão mountains and Atlantic Ocean. With natural beauty and fabulous weather all year round, the region is unspoiled, maintaining its cultural and historical legacy.

Monte Rei attracts discerning golfers looking for a high-quality golf experience; this is a place for the golf connoisseur. But it's all in the delivery. As you might expect from one of Europe's leading golf and lifestyle resorts, staff provide the highest levels of hospitality and exceptionally personalised standards of service, making for a stress-free and invigorating stay.

Accommodation (from one- to four-bedroom villas) is inspired by classic Portuguese architecture, while new clubhouse residences (opening in 2019) comprise two and

three-bedroom apartments in a more contemporary style.

Aside from the golf course itself, there is a fantastic driving range, short-game practice facilities, and a great team of golf pros, offering private lessons, family lessons and group clinics. The resort also boasts a heated swimming pool, gym, tennis courts, and a wellness facility, exclusively for guests.

There are several restaurants onsite, including the fine dining proposition Vistas – overseen by new executive chef, Rui Silvestre. The youngest chef in Portugal to earn a Michelin star, Rui is noted for his knowledge of the Algarve, ensuring all ingredients are of the highest quality and sourcing fresh seafood from the local suppliers.

The hotel's onsite concierge is also on hand to arrange activities, such as trips to local beaches, historic towns and wineries, boat trips, horse-riding, and bike tours.

The resort is particularly special due to its surrounding area. Monte Rei is situated amid large stretches of natural Algarve countryside and

fragrant orange groves. Nearby beaches are of great beauty and renowned for their golden sand dunes and calm and mild water.

Meanwhile, the Ria Formosa Natural Park and National Forest of Vila Real de Santo Antonio offer the ideal backdrop for long walks and leisurely bicycle rides. The delightful local town of Tavira, with its truly eye-catching Roman architecture, along with the scenic fishing port of Vila Real de Santo António, are excellent examples of the region's heritage and culture, offering a selection of shopping, bars and restaurants, serving local produce and fresh fish.

While already impressive, the resort continues to improve, with work on a second Jack Nicklaus Signature golf course beginning in 2019. A significant investment is also being made into superb new infrastructure and resort services – including an all-suite boutique hotel, spa and Beach Club set on an enviable ocean-fronting plot. For those looking to invest, real estate options are also available.

Terre Blanche Provence, France

terre-blanche.com
+33 4 94 39 90 00

A **Michelin-starred** restaurant, Le Faventia, is just one of the ways in which Terre Blanche distinguishes itself among *premier cru* golfing destinations – offering a menu of French classics with unexpected foreign accents from Chef Philippe Jourdin. But this Provençal gem is not just about food. Its history has seen various proprietors come and go – from a French aristocrat to Sean Connery – and a certain understated élan remains evident in its aesthetic under current owner Dietmar Hopp. The 750-acre resort is GEO-certified, thanks to an ecologically-sensitive approach to local flora and fauna in building and maintaining its championship golf courses (added by Hopp in the 1990s) – including the 18-hole courses Le Château and Le Riou.

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Terre Blanche
Provence, France