

Club class

Whether business on the fairway or blue skies to get away – the discerning traveller will feel at home on first-rate fairways in Auckland, Paris, Seattle and Ras Al Khaimah



PARIS

France will host the Ryder Cup for the very first time in 2018 – only the second time the prestigious tournament has been hosted outside of Britain and America. Europe and the U.S. will do battle

at Le Golf National's L'Albatross Course – one of the most dramatic tracks in the world.

The venue is no stranger to the limelight, having hosted the French Open since 1991, but this biannual showpiece will catapult

it to the very top of the golfing tree. The 7,316-yard links-style course opens up with a blind drive and a back-and-forth over water, and ends with a flourish. Playing with maturity far beyond its years, cunning traps keep the very best guessing and everybody else suitably challenged. There are no short par 4s, but with risk and reward holes aplenty, this course will always create incredible drama.

Two Michelin-Star Restaurant, le Meurice Alain Ducasse, at Le

Above: Dinner with a view at Le Meurice's Guillaume de Laubier
Below: Le Golf National is set to host the Ryder Cup this year

Meurice would make for a suitable post-round dining experience. Indeed, the Louis XVI designed hotel inspired none other than Salvador Dalí – a regular visitor to its grand apartments.

Le Golf National

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golf-national.com

Le Meurice

+33 1 44 58 10 10

dorchestercollection.com

AUCKLAND

Carved into distinctive North Island bush, Titirangi Golf Club is the only Dr. Alister MacKenzie-designed course in New Zealand. The British designer – of Augusta National, Cypress Point and Royal Melbourne fame – travelled to Auckland in 1926 and left a magnificent footprint for the golfing purist, just 20 minutes from the heart of the city.

At 6,016 metres, the course is considered short by modern standards, but what it lacks in length, it makes up in technical challenge – with no two rounds ➤



Below right: The Waldorf Astoria Ras Al Khaimah
Below: The 10th at Titirangi

the same. Throw in unpredictable weather conditions and intimidating bunkers, yet generous fairways – the course demands an accurate approach to the green.

Australian golfer Peter Thomson considered the 187-metre 14th to be one of Dr. MacKenzie's best holes anywhere.

Course Director, Doug White, said: "There's never a hole where you can stand up there and basically freewheel your way through, you've always got to be alert. That's the beauty of good architecture: each time you play it's going to feel different and you will feel you have learnt something new."

Upscale brand Langham Hospitality Group has reopened the Auckland Langham as the first luxury Cordis Hotel in the Pacific region – 'devoted to your well-being'. At the heart of the city, Cordis puts the city's fashionable boutiques, galleries and museums within touching distance – when the clubs need a rest.

Titirangi Golf Club

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titirangigolf.co.nz
Cordis Hotel
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cordishotels.com/en/auckland

SEATTLE

Located near Tacoma in Pierce County, Washington, Chambers Bay is one of the finest public courses in America and the first course in the Northwest to welcome the U.S. Open Championship. Jordan Spieth won his first U.S. Open and consecutive Majors at the 2015 tournament, where the much-maligned fine fescue grass greens are being replaced by poa annua. Prior to the tournament, the Linkland course received more water than usual to combat above-average temperatures which led to a shift in mowing height and bumpy greens.

Regardless, The Robert Trent Jones Jr. course offers a special challenge, flanking the Pacific Ocean with stunning vistas.

Forty miles north on Puget Sound, Seattle is a thriving metropolis surrounded by natural



beauty. The Four Seasons hotel offers five-star luxury downtown where the upscale Goldfinch Tavern pays homage to the city's pioneer days and the spa and infinity pool bar present perfect post-round relaxation opportunities.

Chambers Bay Golf Club

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chambersbaygolf.com
Four Seasons Seattle
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RAS AL KHAIMAH

With an unpolluted skyline, endless white sand beaches and towering mountains, Ras Al Khaimah enjoys a laidback rhythm. Its Al Hamra Championship course meanders around four lagoons that merge with the Arabian Gulf on the

northern tip of the UAE. Some five million cubic meters of sand has been shifted and shaped to create an undulating track for all levels of golfer. With short daylight hours, Al Hamra installed floodlights to create a composite nine-hole course (combination of front and back nine on the Championship Course) for those who want to hit out under the stars.

Adjacent to the course is the charming beachfront resort of Waldorf Astoria. With an award-winning spa and palatial suites of the course (or the sea) and 350-metres of private beach, there is abundant space to relax.

Al Hamra Golf Club

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