

History beckons

From four of the world's oldest golf courses, in Bangalore, Perth, Sicily and Winnipeg – to some of the world most contemporary and prestigious hotels, *Upward Curve* travels far and wide to discover the best cities in which to play and stay

SICILY

Verdura Resort, home to the European Tour's 2018 Rocco Forte Open, features two 18-hole championship golf courses and a nine-hole par-3 course. All designed by Kyle Phillips (of Kingsbarns Links fame), the world-class courses offer sweeping views of the Mediterranean Sea, within an amphitheatre of spectacular Sicilian mountains.

The undulating East Course plummets and swoops across glorious links terrain, with a penultimate hole that rises gently into the foot of a Sicilian hillside. It finishes with a fabulous par four,

crashing from an elevated tee along the craggy coastline.

Meanwhile, the beachside holes are the main attraction on the stunning West Course. The sparkling azure ocean first comes into view at the 8th and 9th, before returning for a four-hole encore at the 15th. It's these final four holes, with their uninterrupted views, that steal the show. The 16th and 18th are beautiful two-shotters, while the 15th and 17th are dominated by watery backdrops.

It's essential to play all three courses at Rocco Forte's Verdura Resort, 110 kilometres south west of Palermo, and there is

no better place to stay than at the spectacular resort itself.

Designed by Olga Polizzi and Flavio Albanese, the 203 rooms and 47 suites are characterised by contemporary style, comfort and privacy. Each suite is unique, with design motifs inspired by antique Sicilian maiolica tilework and courtyards planted with fragrant orange trees.

There is a 60-metre infinity pool, six clay tennis courts, a world-class spa, four restaurants

Below: Roccoforte Hotels' Verdura Resort presents two 18-hole Championship on Sicily's Mediterranean coast

and five bars – for when the days is done and the spikes are off.

Verdura Resort

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BANGALORE

The oldest golf course outside of the UK was established on a summer evening in 1876 on land was previously utilised by an army regiment as a training range. In 2000, the historic track was extended from 12 holes to a 6,118-yard Par 70, 18-hole course.

Phil Ryan restructured and landscaped the new course which had the distinction of being one of the few in India that pioneered the use of recycled effluent water for irrigation of trees, fairways and greens.

The brief was to accommodate a 18 hole course in a 60 acre plot – which makes for a premium on accuracy – without removing any of the wonderful trees that create great cover from the hot Indian sun. ➤

Right (top): One of Joondalup Resort's three courses is sculpted out of a quarry gorge
Right (bottom): The famous club house at St Charles Country Club in Winnipeg
Below: Bangalore Golf Club is the oldest course outside of the British Isles

Along with Bangalore Club, the golf club is one of the oldest and most prestigious social clubs in Bangalore, with more than 2000 elite members.

Overlooking the century-old Bangalore Club, the ITC Gardenia hotel is ideally situated in the centre of Bengaluru's most elite neighbourhood. Equipped with 292 luxury rooms and suites, the hotel offers the discerning business traveller an indulgent confluence of the city's unhurried past and its dynamic present. In close proximity to key business districts and the IT hub.

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PERTH

Few golf courses anywhere in the world offer the dramatic contrasts, the scenic beauty and the sheer golfing challenge of Joondalup Resort's three nine-hole Championship courses (Lake, Dune and Quarry). Thirty minutes north of Perth, 'the place of shining waters' is one of only a handful of projects crafted by the internationally renowned American designer Robert Trent Jones Jr in Australia.

Whichever combination played, Joondalup presents a tough, uncompromising lay-out, featuring great variation in setting and style. The 27 holes sweep across dense Australian bushland, cuts through steep limestone quarries and skirts picturesque lakes to offer surprises and challenges at almost every turn.

One minute you are playing an approach shot beneath a 30-metre limestone cliff, the next you are adapting to the fresh ocean breeze on an undulating links style fairway.

There are two memorable par-3 holes on the Quarry/Dune composite course, with the



Quarry's 137-yard 3rd carrying across the abandoned quarry gorge itself. The Dune's 130-yard 7th plays to an elevated three-tiered green with bunkers front left and back right.

After the undulations of Joondalup, COMO's world-renowned Shambhala wellness therapies will be a welcome treat. The Treasury is a 48-room contemporary luxury hotel occupying 19th century state buildings with ample facilities for all needs.

Joondalup Resort
joondalupresort.com.au
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COMO The Treasury
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WINNIPEG

The St Charles Country Club has been deeply connected with the social fabric of Winnipeg since 1904. Its 27 holes present a remarkable oasis in the city, with the historic club finding the

perfect balance between keeping to tradition and keeping current.

Donald Ross and Alister MacKenzie (Augusta, Pinehurst No.2, Cypress Point, Oakland Hills) designed two of the three nine-hole courses among the parkland setting near the Assiniboine River, with varying fairway widths and devilishly bold greens. One of only two courses in Manitoba to host the Canadian Open, St Charles also hosted the 2010 Women's Open.

Located in downtown Winnipeg is The Forks boutique hotel. With treatments and services at its newly renovated Riverstone Spa and fine cuisine at SMITH, a new culinary experience built on craftsmanship and a dedication to the finer points, Winnipeg makes for the perfect stay and play.

St Charles Country Club
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