

A touch of class

Argentario

An exquisite resort set in an unexplored corner of Tuscany.

THE BACK STORY

Argentario Golf Resort & Spa is located in the heart of the beautiful Maremma in Southern Tuscany. It is only 90 minutes north of Italy's capital yet is achingly remote, sitting like an island among forested hills that climb high above the neat, eco-friendly resort. It is edged by the Tyrrhenian Sea, the Orbetello Lagoon – a WWF-managed nature reserve – as well as vineyards and pristine sandy and rocky beaches. The boutique hotel at the centre of the resort is the epitome of opulence.

WHAT TO EXPECT

The course was designed by former Tour player Baldovino Dassù and architect David Mezzacane and in keeping with the environmentally-friendly nature of the resort, the course has been set down on natural terrain so has plenty of idiosyncrasies and character. The 16th green – tiered and hard to a centuries-old tree – is one of the funkiest you'll ever three putt on.

WHERE YOU STAY

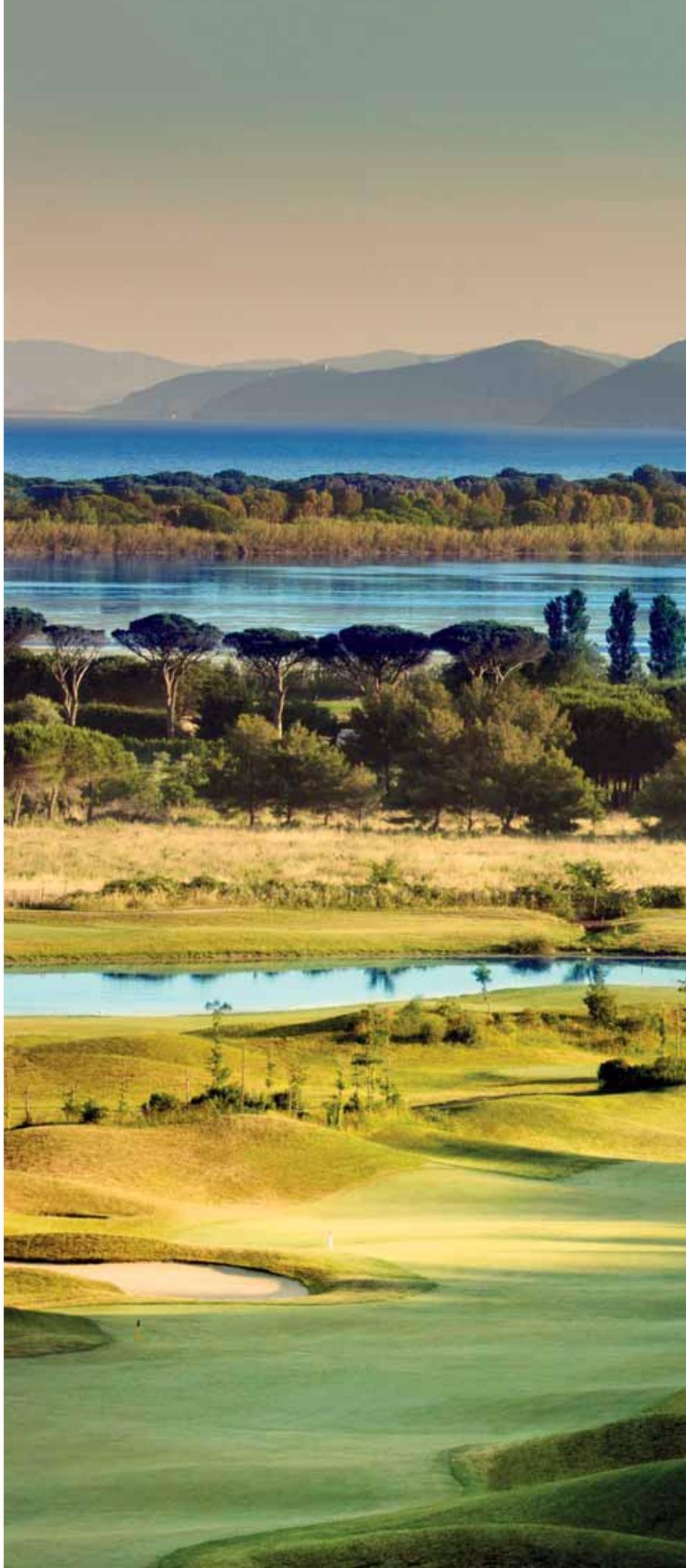
The hotel has 73 design rooms and is the only golf resort in the Design Hotel group. It mixes breathtaking style with state-of-the-art facilities to offer a preposterously decadent Tuscan retreat. Facilities include a heated indoor pool, an elegant outdoor pool area, gym, tennis and a huge spa. Dama Dama restaurant serves authentic Tuscan cuisine with many ingredients grown on site.

OFF THE COURSE

On Monte Argentario you have tiny-but-adorable Porto Ercole – perfect for an Aperol Spritz at sunset then a pizza in one of the handful of restaurants – and slightly bigger Porto Santo Stefano, with a stately castle and captivating narrow streets to browse. In two hours you can soak up the iconic sights of Florence, while UNESCO World Heritage site Siena and the incredible skyline of towers at San Gimignano are even closer. All five are an Instagrammer's utopia.

GETTING THERE

Rome Fiumicino is 90 minutes away. Ciampino is south of the city so is an extra 30 minutes' drive.



↓ **Argentario is
one of the Top
100 golf resorts
in Continental
Europe.**

Want more?

In addition to the hotel, villas on the course are available for sale or holiday rental at Argentario Golf Residences.

For further details...

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main hall and is draped over undulating parkland. All the holes are named, and give an idea of what to expect from the course, with titles such as Rig & Fur, The Pond, Garden Wall, The Bridge and The Copse.

And while the second-longest hole is only 265 yards, narrow tree-lined fairways, streams and ponds add sufficient challenge. The scenic but card-wrecking 116-yard 7th – one of four cute 3s – is the perfect example of that. The 523-yard ‘Sleeters, the 4th, is the ‘big’ hole on the course, whose greens have been constructed to USGA specification.

+ Golf & wine How to indulge your two passions.

1. Dordogne The obvious choice. Golf du Medoc is surrounded by famous vineyards but so is Chateau des Vigiers, which also offers majestic accommodation and three loops of nine (including one named Vignes). Tom Doak’s Saint Emilionnais is nearby too (see right).

2. Porto The Douro Valley naturally provides the wine-tasting aspect, but in Vidago Palace – think of a

Portuguese Gleneagles – and linky Estela, the golf is equally as impressive.

3. Tuscany A bit like the Dordogne, you can take your pick here... but we like the Castelfalfi resort, who even make their own produce.

4. Seville Explore the home of sherry (Jerez) and play golf at the Jack Nicklaus-designed Montecastillo as well as Jose Maria Olazabal’s Seville GC.



Where we got to last month

Six of our favourite courses that were #PlayedNCG in the past four weeks.



1

Ilkley

The first seven holes are all alongside the River Wharfe – in fact the par-3 3rd is playing on an island in the middle of the river. Dr Alister MacKenzie and Harry Colt have both influenced its design. **Dan Murphy**



2

Argentario

Monte Argentario is a forgotten corner of Tuscany but this resort will become very well known. The hotel is super-chic and the course is often scenic and always interesting.

Harriet Shephard



3

Pevero

This Robert Trent Jones design sits on the well-heeled Costa Smeralda in Sardinia. It enjoys a breathtaking location and mixes all-world holes with less dramatic ones. **Chris Bertram**



4

Scarborough South Cliff

Designed by the great Dr Alister MacKenzie, it is best described as a parkland/links hybrid. The first three and final eight are inland, the rest are clifftop. **Steve Carroll**



5

Cleeve Hill

The landscape is almost lunar. Everything is on a grand scale. At first glance, the golf course is entirely lacking in definition, but Cleeve gradually reveals its charms. Clever holes around every corner. **Dan Murphy**



6

Saint Emilionnais

This Tom Doak had me captivated after the first three holes... just so much fun on two sporty two-shotters and a cute par 3. Bouncy in the summer, it is already a classic of mainland Europe. **Chris Bertram**