

GOLF TRAVEL

高爾夫旅遊



GOLFING IN FRANCE

Mission Hills' Reciprocal Golf Club Introduction (1)

到法國打球去 —— 觀瀾湖國際互惠球會介紹 (1)

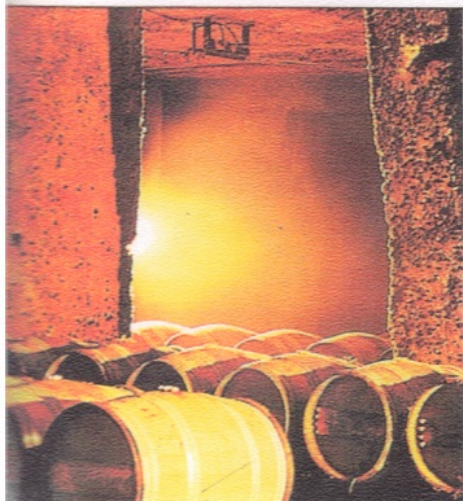




Golf lovers are travelling more than ever. In recognition of this trend, Mission Hills Golf Club signed an agreement last year with Lake Hills in Korea and Hartl Golf Resort in Germany. This alliance offers privileges to Mission Hills' members to enjoy reciprocal benefits with these prestigious golf clubs. This year, Mission Hills Golf Club will form additional alliances with more overseas golf clubs. The unique golf heritage and various golfing conditions of each country and golf club will expand members' golf experience. In this issue, we will introduce the golfing tour to France and Paris International Golf Club.

熱愛高爾夫的人已經越來越不滿足只在家門口打球了。北方的球友會在冬天來南方打球，國內的球友也越來越多地去了境外的球場體驗。在旅遊中享受高爾夫，令旅遊和打球都樂趣倍增。

而以180洞規模，匯聚了五大洲球場風格的觀瀾湖也吸引著越來越多的國外高爾夫旅遊愛好者。2004年，球會同韓國的Lake Hills和德國的Hartl Golf Resort球會達成了互惠協定。2005年，球會亦將選擇風情各異、人文與高爾夫歷史同樣悠久的世界各地頂級球會簽訂互惠協議，期望為會員去境外打球提供便利。本期，我們為您介紹法國高爾夫旅遊和它的Paris International Golf Club。



GOLFING IN FRANCE-- First Class Golf and (vie de château)

The history of golf in France goes back more than a century. France's first course, which was also the first for continental Europe, opened in Pau in 1856.

Since then, France has built a reputation for being the top destination in continental Europe, with 550 courses designed by prominent architects such as Robert Trent Jones Snr. & Jnr., Pete Dye, Jack Nicklaus, Tom Simpson, Gary Player, Robert Von Hagge, and Harry Colt. Four of those courses have been ranked among the top ten in Europe by Golf Magazine USA. France hosts several professional tournaments, including the French Open, the fifth tournament of the European PGA Tour, and the Evian Masters, second in Europe after the British Open for the International Ladies Tour. (Annika Sorenstam and Michelle Wie played in the 2004 tournament.)

A golf course is never more than 30 minutes away from anyone, anywhere, in France. Players have their pick of some choice courses in Ducasse and Mouton-Rothschild country: there are courses along the coast, pure links, mountain courses, target golf American-style or traditional golf, as the British prefer. In short, any golfer can find

a course that suits them on fairways in France.

France has only 350,000 registered golfers, which means there's plenty of room on the courses. There is no need to add two additional players if the preference is to play with one other person. In the same vein, players can choose to walk the course instead of using a buggy.

In busy periods, departures are scheduled every 10 and, if players tee off during the week, four golfers can play 18 holes in the morning in less than four hours, have lunch in the clubhouse and leave again for 18 holes in the afternoon—an ideal situation for dedicated golfers.

France is incomparable in the golfing arena when one considers the gastronomic environment that surrounds the sport. Here, a pit stop at the ninth hole for a hamburger is out of the question. The French play quickly but enjoy food at great leisure. Meals served in golf clubs are of the highest standard. Obviously, French food is available wherever you play, and more so when you choose to stay in one of the numerous Châteaux Golf and Country Clubs. Unlike clubs elsewhere, these are authentic castles that sometimes date back several centuries. Now transformed into luxury hotels, they have individual golf courses. Players can take a drive at the foot of a majestic castle and relax in the four-star

comfort of refurbished rooms, before enjoying the delicacy of fried foie gras with champagne, followed by crayfish à la provençale and then a crème brûlée glazed with brown sugar. Guests can wind down the evening with a cognac and cigar in the private salon of the castle before embarking on another day of golf.

Wine is another attractive element of the golfing experience in France. Although Bordeaux and Bourgogne are perhaps the most well-known of the wine regions of France, you can taste exceptional vintages (grands crus classés) everywhere in the country. The nec plus ultra is to combine golf with wine-tasting visits. Play the Médoc Château golf course in the morning.. (It was the venue of the 1999 French Open, and each hole is named after one of the renowned Médoc wines...wouldn't it be exciting to tee off at the Chateau Margaux?) Spend the afternoon visiting the medieval village of Saint-Émilion, before being greeted by the owner of Château Angelus for a private tasting, followed by dinner at the Plaisance Hotel, rated one star by Michelin. This would be a typical day for a golfer who enjoys both gourmet cuisine and great Bordeaux wines.

France is renowned as an ideal holiday destination even for those who don't golf. There are castles, cathedrals, museums and villages waiting to be explored and the latest trends in fashion, perfume and jewellery can be found here.

France is incomparable in the golfing arena when one considers the environment that surrounds the sport's commencing with gastronomy.

