

# TRAVEL + LEISURE

## THE HOTELS ISSUE

*Where the World Checks In Next*

# Shorter & Sweeter

Nine-hole golf courses are the latest draw for players seeking vacations that blend sports and relaxation. **By Jillian Dara**

THE PAST FEW YEARS have seen a surge in interest in golf travel, as players look to hit the links in some of the world's most picturesque places. What they aren't doing, though, is sacrificing family time and poolside relaxation in order to spend hours on the course. "We've seen a strong appetite among our guests for more flexible play," says Pedro De La Vega, the manager of Mandarin Golf Club on Mexico's Riviera Nayarit. Given that a typical 18-hole round can take upwards of five hours, resorts are increasingly adding nine-hole courses to make games speedier. "It's world-class golf without sacrificing the entire day," De La Vega explains. "It's quality over quantity." Here are some recent nine-hole additions worth swinging for.



*Lining up a shot at Hawaii Prince Golf Club, on Oahu.*

## HONOLULU, HAWAII

The Quick Shot Golf addition to the Hawaii Prince Golf Club at the **Prince Waikiki** (*doubles from \$279*) was designed by Arnold Palmer and Ed Seay to deliver "a more approachable game," says Daniel Abergas, an operations manager at the resort. The property also has Quick Shot Lessons, which pair players with instructors for on-course teaching that can help dial in technique.

## RIVIERA NAYARIT, MEXICO

Last March, the Mandarin Golf Club opened a par-3 course designed by Greg Norman, accessible to guests of **One&Only Mandarin** (*doubles from \$700*) and the **Rosewood Mandarin** (*doubles from \$966*). Every hole draws inspiration from famous places to play worldwide, including Pebble Beach Golf Links in California.

## MIJAS, SPAIN

Situated on the Costa del Sol, **La Cala Resort** (*doubles from \$369*) now has a Short Course to complement its three existing 18-hole choices. The elevated tees have tremendous views of the Mediterranean Sea, and the nine-hole course is often used by the property's well-regarded Golf Academy for lessons and practice rounds.

## WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Located at the **Williamsburg Inn** (*doubles from \$390*), the Shoe is a Rees Jones–designed addition to the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club that will appeal to beginners and experienced players alike, with a variety of tee boxes that allow for longer (or shorter) distances and a lack of intimidating bunkers and water hazards to hit over.

## QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND

Greg Turner designed the nine-hole course at **Gibbston Valley Lodge & Spa** (*doubles from \$374*), part of a \$450-million development on the South Island that offers, in addition to golf, just about every amenity you could imagine. The course has several par-4 holes as well as other interesting features, like double greens.