

## LA RESERVA CLUB

Sotogrande, Costa del Sol

La Reserva Club has blossomed into an immersive community of luxury living since opening in 2003. Some €50m has been spent developing the golf course, crafting an avant garde 2.5-hectare 'lagoon' for swimming and watersports, and creating the infrastructure for countless multi-million euro properties dotted across the estate.

The course itself continues to grow from strength to strength. The Cabell B Robinson design is an intimidating 7,400 metres (more than 8,000 yards!) long and now features lethally quick greens after a recent renovation.

As it winds through two intersecting valleys, the layout offers a fair challenge – and, much like its big brother Valderrama, gives you every opportunity to keep a score going, so long as you are accomplished with the driver and can control your spin approaching those lightening, undulating putting surfaces.

The Ladies' European Tour stopped off at the golf course this season. If La Reserva continues to surge up the rankings, no doubt the mens' tour will duly follow suit...

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## SON GUAL

Palma, Mallorca

Located less than 15 minutes from Palma airport, Son Gual is the dream-made-reality of German businessman Adam Pamer, who was reportedly so fed up with long rounds on other golf courses on the island that he decided to build his own. Some €30m and five years later, his vision opened for play in 2012.

Such a sizeable budget gave architect Thomas Himmel the resources to fulfil plenty of daring design elements that would be beyond most resort courses, including an island green, a 1.2km man-made river, a vineyard, and the planting of acres of wild flowers between fairways.

The course itself flows in two loops, with seven large lakes puncturing the fairways at regular intervals to provide plenty of thrills and spills. But the water, nor the massive clover leaf-shaped bunkers – of which there are 66 – act as the main line of defence. It's the



treacherous false fronts to the greens that will beat up your scorecard.

Highlights are many, but it's the par-five 18th, which demands twice traversing water, that will provide the talking point over a post-round in the clubhouse.

SON-GUAL.COM

## LUMINE GOLF & BEACH CLUB

Tarragona, Catalonia

Located just around the corner from PortAventura, Lumine offers its own form of amusement park across three Greg Norman-designed courses and a huge beach club.

The Lakes is a links-style course that features several water hazards that wind around wetlands, while the Hills courses runs through pine trees and offers spectacular views of the Balearic Sea.

Completing the golf offering is the 9-hole Ruins Course, another Norman design, which is laid out among Roman archaeological remains – and though half the holes, is equally

the measure of the two fully fledged tracks. It's the perfect end to any multi-day holiday, with the airport beckoning in the afternoon.

LUMINE.COM

## ALCANADA

Alcúdia, Mallorca

One look at the natural beauty of the Robert Trent Jones Jr-designed Alcanada is enough to see why more and more golfers are making the trip to Mallorca for their next holiday.

Situated on the tip of Alcudia bay in the north of the island, most of this 7,108-yard course takes advantage of its stunning waterfront location. All but one of the 18 holes offer views of the sea, but teeing off from the par-five seventh, eleventh and thirteenth holes – tee shots soaring towards the Balearic – is reminder enough why we play this game.

When the wind is up this course can break your heart, but the stern test provides a wealth of excitement for the memory bank. ■

GOLF-ALCANADA.COM



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