

GOLF FUN

Portugal 2018 - Vilamoura



Sat 20th Oct – Sat 27th Oct 2018
Minimum HCP Swiss PR

Included¹:

- 7 nights bed and breakfast at 4 star Vila Gale Marina Hotel
- **Early Bird Discount** – Book and pay in full before May 15th and receive a approx **10% discount**
- 1 * (18 holes) Val de Lobo Royal
- 1 * (18 holes) Quinta de Lago South
- 1 * (18 holes) Laguna
- 1 * (18 holes) Vila Sol
- Transport between airport and hotel and to/from all golf courses¹

Price:	Gold Member**	Normal Member
Golfer - Standard Double Room (based on 2 sharing)	1051.- EUR	1164.- EUR
Reserve & Pay before May 15th 2018	958.- EUR	1061.- EUR
Non Golfer - Standard Double Room (based on 2 sharing)		564.- EUR
Reserve & Pay before May 15th 2018		499.- EUR
Golfer - Sea View Double Room (based on 2 sharing)	1251.- EUR	1364.- EUR
Reserve & Pay before May 15th 2018	1158.- EUR	1261.- EUR
Non Golfer - Sea View Double Room (based on 2 sharing)		764.- EUR
Reserve & Pay before May 15th 2018		699.- EUR
Single Supplement (golfer)	140.- EUR	140.- EUR

Optional extras (not included in price):

- 1 * (18 holes) Old Course 22.10.2018 137.- EUR plus transport
- 1 * (18 holes) O'Conner Course 25.10.2018 141.- EUR plus transport

¹Flights to Faro not included. Multiple flight options exist, either direct (Swiss, Edelweiss, Air Berlin from ZH or EasyJet from Basel) or indirect. Once everyone has booked their flights, we will organize the airport to hotel transfers accordingly and this may incur a small surcharge depending on flight times.

Vila Gale Marina Hotel



Just a few metres away from Marina Beach and facing the Vilamoura Marina, this 4-star hotel offers rooms with satellite TV and balconies. Facilities include an indoor and outdoor pool, hot tubs, a health club and free wifi. Its location provides quick access to the facilities in the town and the property was remodelled in 2003.



The guest rooms have wooden floors and are decorated with warm colours and wooden furniture. All rooms have Cable T.V. All rooms have a balcony, some with panoramic pool and marina ("Sea View Single/Double Rooms") views.



A gym, indoor pool and Jacuzzi are all at guests disposal during their stay. Guests can sample refined dishes, either buffet-style or à la carte, at Restaurant Galeão. Portuguese specialities and international meals are served. Casa de Santa Vitória Alentejo wines are available with lunch and dinner. The pool bar serves a wide variety of drinks also.

Val do Lobo Golf Club – Royal Course



Vale do Lobo is the Algarve's most senior golf resort, founded in 1962 and it is currently the largest luxury resort in Portugal. Much has happened at the Vale since Sir Henry Cotton laid out the first course at Vale do Lobo in the early 60s. Cotton's original layout has been split in half to form two new courses, the Royal and the Ocean and many houses have sprung up around the course, creating some rather long walks between greens and tees.

The Royal course is widely regarded as the better of Vale do Lobo's two layouts. American architect Rocky Roquemore laid out the nine new holes in the late 90s, which are routed over gently undulating ground further inland. Thirteen holes from the Royal course are combined with five holes from the Ocean course to form the composite layout, which was used to stage the Portuguese Open in 2003. It will therefore come as no surprise that the Royal course is a supremely challenging test of golf.

Undoubtedly the star of the Royal course is the par three 16th. This cliff top signature hole measures 224 yards from the back tees. This is probably the most photographed hole in Portuguese golf and the view from the back tee which is perched on the edge of the cliff is one of our all-time favourites. This is a stunning hole without a shadow of doubt and it makes the pricey greenfee worthwhile.



Quinta do Lago (South)



Quinta do Lago is the dream which entrepreneur Andre Jordan realised in the early 1970s. This 2,000-acre luxury residential development was perhaps a bit ahead of its time, but now the "Manor estate by the lake" (to which Quinta do Lago roughly translates) is well and truly established.

Located fifteen minutes northwest of Faro airport, American architect William Mitchell raised the bar in terms of golf course architecture here at Quinta do Lago by importing American standard greens, tees and bunkers. The original and best course is now called the South and it opened for play in 1974.

The Quinta do Lago South course is certainly the most famous in the area and it has played host to the Portuguese Open on no fewer than seven occasions with Mark McNulty and Colin Montgomerie being former title holders. Given its championship pedigree, this is also a course which will be enjoyed by the average handicap golfer. The fairways are relatively generous and the predominantly sandy but undulating ground flatters medium hitters.

With umbrella pine-lined fairways, bold bunkering and a splash of water features, the South course at Quinta do Lago is certainly an eye-catching layout and one which will appeal to discerning golfers.



Laguna Golf Club



Designed by the late American architect Joseph Lee in 1990, the Vilamoura Laguna course was formerly known as the 27-hole Vilamoura III layout. Nine holes went over to create the Millennium course and so the Laguna course now stands on its own two feet as a pure 18-hole golf course.



The Laguna course is laid out over flat, low-lying ground and this well bunkered layout with a strong links-like feel is very different in style to the other Vilamoura courses. With plenty of lateral water and few trees, this 6,111-metre, exposed course can play tough to get when the wind is up. The Laguna shares a clubhouse with its half sister the Millennium course, so the two layouts represent a possible but potentially exhausting 36-hole opportunity.



Vila Sol Golf Club



Players of all abilities will find Vila Sol a wonderful challenge. The fairways are always beautifully maintained and manicured and the many sand and water hazards are expertly placed to catch the ill-thought-out or poorly executed shot. The greens are true and generally very quick. From the very start, Vila Sol provides a perfect indication of the tests to come as the layout opens with three par fours, all in excess of 380 metres. The third of these is the SI1 and plays uphill to a dogleg left and then on again to a left-to-right sloping green protected by a steep bank and trees all around, including the front left side of the green. A par here will be a very good score. Other notable holes on Vila Sol's front nine are the 6th, 7th and 8th. The 6th is a long downhill par five with a large lake protecting the left half of the fairway. The uphill approach is to a small, well bunkered green. The 7th is a long, downhill par three back over the lake to a large, sloping green. Over-clubbing here is common, leaving a testing, fast putt back towards the lake. Finally, the 8th is a classic park-like par five, gently doglegging right with a narrow stream running in front of the green and back down the left of the fairway. The back nine at Vila Sol is slightly shorter but no less tough due to the narrowness of the fairways, the superbly placed hazards and the small, testing greens. The pick of the Vila Sol back nine holes are the 10th, 13th, 14th, 17th and 18th. The 10th is a cracking par four, slightly downhill and playing to a large, well bunkered green. The 13th, on paper an innocuous-sounding par three, is in reality a tough challenge as it plays across a valley to a large, sloping green that makes club selection vital and can still leave a difficult and long first putt. The 14th is a straight par five, playing uphill from the tee. Only the longest of drives will avoid a blind second shot over the brow of the hill. Check your distances carefully because two lakes protect the green front and left. The 17th is a perfect 'risk and reward' hole. It's a short par four that plays downhill to the narrowest of fairways. The sensible shot will be a mid-iron from the tee leaving a short iron approach, though a good straight drive could well find the putting surface or, at worst, a short chip. As befits a course of this class, the 18th is a wonderful par four finale. Vila Sol played host to the Portuguese Open in 1992 and 1993 and it's undeniably an excellent course that challenges and rewards at every turn. Donald Steel added nine new holes in 2000 and this loop, called the Prestige, is also worth playing.

O'Conner Course (Oceanico)



Part of the Amendoeira Golf Resort, which is located in the central Algarve district of Silves, the O'Connor course is a perfect complement to its highly rated sibling, the Faldo course. The pair of 18-hole championship layouts are supplemented by a floodlit 9-hole par three track and a couple of practice chipping and putting areas - all that you might expect at a high-end modern golf complex.



Water, in the shape of ponds, creeks and wetland areas, comes into play at many of the holes, particularly on the front nine, so golfers of a nervous disposition are advised to stock up on golf balls before taking on this tough little cookie. Par threes at the 3rd and 6th are feature holes on the outward half, with pushed shots on either hole resulting in a wet golf ball. The inward half presents a number of memorable holes, though the first of these at the par four 10th might be remembered for the wrong reasons because the acute angle of the right dogleg on this par four might be regarded as a little too severe by many. The 374-metre 18th hole also doglegs towards the target, but a little more gently this time, as the fairway rises slowly towards the two-tiered home green.

Old Golf Course (Oceanico)



A gem in this Portuguese golfing Utopia is the Old course - now operated by *Oceânico Golf* who own one of Europe's biggest portfolios of courses - and it's the second oldest course in the Algarve, designed by Frank Pennink. The Old opened for play in 1969 and has undeniably remained one of Portugal's and Europe's finest courses ever since. Pennink wanted to build a course in the Algarve that would remind the rapidly growing number of British travellers of the great inland courses back home, something he has admirably succeeded in achieving. To ensure the Vilamoura Old course maintained this enviable position, in 1997 *Hawtree & Sons* managed a significant amount of upgrading and remodelling, which also included the installation of a sophisticated new irrigation system.

As with so many of the best courses, there was little need to perform major earthwork feats to develop *Oceânico Old*, just a simple, sympathetic use of the existing natural contouring, terrain and vegetation. The tees are always beautifully kept; the fairways are wonderfully crafted and tree-lined, making straight driving crucial; the greens small, especially on the par three holes, and the hazards perfectly placed to catch the errant stroke.

Rather unusually, the course par is set at 73; however, the course layout was changed by swapping the 5th and 18th holes around, reducing the number of par fives on the back nine to three. Every hole will stay with the player after a round, such is the majesty of *Oceânico Old*. Almost lulling players into a false sense of security, the first four holes are relatively straightforward - as long as your drive finds the fairway. The 5th is a cracking short hole over a lake to a small, sloping green. The rest of the front nine call for total concentration, and careful shot and club selection. The par five 6th may offer up a birdie from the daily tees but only to the best of drives and long iron or fairway wood approaches to a sloping, well-guarded green. Undoubtedly the pick of the front nine and probably of the entire round is the SI 18th hole. Playing 400-plus metres from the Medal tee, the hole slopes down hill to a fairway bunker, doglegs gently to the right and then rises back up to a narrow green well protected by trees all around. A par here is a rare and wonderful event.

Things don't get any easier on the back nine. The 10th, 11th and 12th holes test the golfer's range of shots and accuracy off the tee. Watch out for the collection of fairway bunkers on the 12th: they are large, deep and perfectly placed to catch a player's second shot on this 480-metre par five. The 16th is the last of the par fives and at more than 500 metres, it will call for three excellent shots to a narrow green protected by three large bunkers.