

For the love of the game

"The couple that plays together stays together"—so say the psychologists who have noticed a link between leisure time and relationship happiness. In the spirit of fun and a little fiery competition (let the sparks fly!), here are three splendid destinations for a golf honeymoon

By Wing Sze Tang



FINCA CORTESIN, SPAIN

WHERE TO PLAY: Come fall, some of the world's best pro women golfers will head to Costa del Sol-nicknamed "Costa del Golf" for its abundant golf courses, which number more than 70. Here, the luxury resort Finca Cortesin will host the next edition of the Solheim Cup on its 18-hole championship course. The layout promises challenges for even the most skillful, as well as leisurely fun for dabblers just wanting to soak up the sun and dramatic Estepona mountain vistas. Naturally, the Mediterranean weather is lovely-and playableyear-round.

WHERE TO STAY: The golf course shares a sprawling 532-acre estate with Finca Cortesin's elegant five-star hotel, noted for its Andalusian pueblos blancos architecture, 67 suites with palatial proportions, and traditional-meets-playful decor with pops of colour and bold prints. The sublime spa awaits, with its indoor saltwater pool, saunas and Turkish baths, so you can hide away here in newly wedded bliss. Or head off to roam the resort-city charms of Marbella or Málaga, both within easy day-tripping distance.



TOSCANA RESORT CASTELFALFI, ITALY

WHERE TO PLAY: It's hard to imagine a more romantic setting than these rolling hills in Tuscany, home to sweeping vineyards, olive groves, an actual medieval castle-oh, and also the region's largest championship golf course (and one of Italy's most challenging). At Toscana Resort Castelfalfi, a renowned family-owned property, you can test your talents on 27 holes-split between the steeply sloped Mountain Course and the more friendly, open Lake Course—if you're not entirely enamoured and distracted by the magical views. WHERE TO STAY: Castelfalfi's heritage dates back to the early 1900s, but the resort has just undergone a multimillion-dollar revamp. Traditional Tuscan-style rooms are still bookable in what was once a historic tobacco warehouse, alongside modern accommodations in the main building that wouldn't look out of place in a boutique city hotel. If you'd like to pretend that you're holidaying at your own Tuscan villa, complete with arched brick pillars, you can also rent one on these



WHERE TO PLAY: Want to take a swing through tropical Mayan jungle or mangrove wetlands, or along freshwater canals and the Caribbean coastline? Find all of the above at El Camaleón—fittingly, Spanish for "the chameleon." Designed by Greg Norman, one of the sport's legends, the 18-hole championship golf course winds through wildly different settings, with a cavernous cenote (sinkhole) and freshwater canals. El Camaleón also has the distinction of being the first PGA Tour golf course in Latin America.

WHERE TO STAY: Multiple luxury resorts are located within El Camaleón's scenic surrounds, but Rosewood Mayakoba is especially honeymoon-worthy. It offers an idyllic beachfront perch, a relatively smaller number of suites-just 129-for privacy-seeking sweethearts, and its signature take on ultra-luxury (which regularly rakes in "best resort" awards). Make time for Sense, the Rosewood spa set around a sacred water well, or the resort's newest romantic enclave: La Isla Secreta, a private speakeasy-style lounge reserved just for guests, which serves up craft cocktails amid the mangrove jungle.

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grounds. The spa is currently under reno, but honey-

mooners can arrange for in-room pampering.





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