

# The Roundup: Lifestyle



## PLAY WHERE THE PLAYERS PLAY

With a four-round/three-night summer package, you can follow in the footsteps of the greatest golfers in the world at **Sawgrass Golf Resort & Spa** in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., home of The Players Championship. The offer is being made for stays between June 9 and August 21, and includes two rounds on the famed Stadium Course (test your skills on the famed island green at No. 17), two rounds on Dye's Valley Course, a one-hour lesson at The TOUR Academy and use of a personal forecaddie, to fully emulate a Tour player's experience. \$985. (888) 421-8555; [pgatourexperiences.com](http://pgatourexperiences.com)



## COLD and CLEAN

Water bottles have taken a hit in the past 18 months. News of the hormone disrupting chemical Bisphenol-A leaching from the once popular hard plastic bottles caused an industry to change almost overnight...and now we all stand to benefit. The new **ThinkSport Water Bottle** is made of stainless steel so there are no chemicals present and it won't absorb any flavors from whatever you pour inside. And on the golf course, throw in a few ice cubes and the double-walled bottles will keep your morning Bloody Mary cold well past the turn this summer. \$16. [thinksportbottles.com](http://thinksportbottles.com)



## PAR WITH A GAR

BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER

**Before:** First things first. Before you leave the house, don't forget the cigars. It's easy enough to do, unless you already have a **Cigar Caddy 5-Stick** in your bag. Capable of holding up to five Churchills, the 5-Stick is crushproof and it will keep your sticks fresh for weeks. \$25. [cigarcaddy.com](http://cigarcaddy.com)

**During:** Somewhere after the first green and before the fifth tee is the ideal spot to pull out your first cigar of the day. For a mid-round smoke, stick with something rich but smooth. Infused with cognac, the limited **Gurkha Grand Reserve** has a hint of spice in the draw and a crisp finish that's perfect when you still have some putts to make. And thanks to a distribution deal with Classic Sports Brands, starting in June Gurkha cigars will be available for sale at courses around the country. \$364/box of 30. [gurkhacigars.com](http://gurkhacigars.com)

**After:** On the clubhouse patio after a round, nothing goes better with a neat single malt (something peaty for me, please) than a **Romeo y Julieta Habana Reserve**. A smooth, full bodied, classic smoke, the Romeo y Julieta is built with a Nicaraguan wrap and binder and Honduran/Nicaraguan filler. Offer one to a friend and he'll pay his bets that much faster. [ryjhabanareserveoffer.com](http://ryjhabanareserveoffer.com)



## THE TG ENDORSEMENT: SHOES

In the past five years, golf shoe technology and comfort have caught up with style, and now even social consciousness and personalization are available underfoot. Here, we assemble three shoes for three different golfers. All you have to do is pick the one that fits.

### The Greenie: Hi-Tec Enviro

Known for lightweight, long-lasting hiking boots, Hi-Tec has recently begun using its weight and comfort know-how in golf shoes. With the **Enviro**—made from 99-percent eco-friendly materials—the British company is also giving you a chance to earn some green goodwill, which we hope translates into more gimmies. \$130. [hi-tec.com](http://hi-tec.com)



### The Inimitable: Footjoy MyJoys

Want the recipe for getting the most unique shoes on your feet? Start by selecting from one of six different **FootJoy** styles (including DryJoy, Contour and LoPro models); add in the base, saddle and accent colors of your choosing; customize the heel of each shoe independently with a monogram or logo; and top it all off with a shoe lace color to match. Collegiate, NFL and MLB pre-set styles also available. Prep time: 15 minutes. \$130-\$185. [footjoy.com/myjoys](http://footjoy.com/myjoys)

### The Comforter: ECCO World Class Ltd. Edition

**ECCO's World Class Ltd. Edition** is a top-of-the line shoe offering limited-production colors and patterns. A Gore-Tex membrane offers complete water resistance, while stylistically the shoe features elegant leather uppers. The sole incorporates a super-light cushioning midsole, a removable vegetable-tanned leather insole with the ECCO Comfort Fiber System that increases air circulation for the perfect inner climate. Leather welt construction on the outsole provides a true gentleman's look. \$430. [eccousa.com](http://eccousa.com)



## SPIRIT OF THE GAME

# DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE



**Liz Rogers**, a 12-year member of **Bentwater Yacht & Country Club** in Montgomery scored big on the Club's **Weiskopf Course** on April 28 with two holes-in-one in the same round. With 25-mile-per-hour winds whipping, the 77-year-old, self-proclaimed "hacker and duffer" used a 2-hybrid to sink the first hole-in-one, a 112-yard par-three, No.14. Twenty minutes later, her knees "feeling like rubber" and still reeling from the shock of her amazing accomplishment, she used her driver to score her second hole-in-one of the day on No. 17, a 122 yard par-3. "The wind was so bad that day," she said, "we thought about quitting after hole 11. I'm really glad we didn't!"

# The Roundup: Gear

## Hybrid Heaven

Adams Golf, the Plano-based club manufacturer, has been one of the leading hybrid builders since golfers first discovered there was a more forgiving option to having a 3- or 4-iron in the bag. The new **Idea Tech a4** has 18-percent more MOI than previous Adams hybrids and it comes with interchangeable sole weights. The weight adjustment feature and the incorporation of more advanced metals, like the Maraging steel face, make the a4 the perfect hybrid line for better players, possibly the last group of golfers still hesitant to make the switch despite the number of Tour pros who have now followed the amateurs on this one. \$170. [adamsgolf.com](http://adamsgolf.com)



## Treat Yourself



Beauty may be in the eye of the beholder, but **Miura Golf's** new Series 1957 putters are the most beautiful golf clubs we've ever seen. Japanese manufacturer Miura Golf has been making high-quality forged irons for 43 years. The 2009 putter models—whose Series 1957 moniker pays homage to the company's roots and longevity—are the KM 350, a classic blade (pictured), and the MP 005 and MP 006 which both offer a more contemporary design. Miura putters are all handmade and undergo the same forging process as the renowned irons. Each putter also features a milled face that reduces skid while providing precise distance control. An oiled-chrome finish and soft profile make this putter a classic beauty. \$390. [miuragolf.com](http://miuragolf.com)

## Reach for the Stars

Henrik Stenson's victory at the 2009 Players Championship not only marked the first official PGA Tour victory for **Srixon's new Z-STAR** balls, but five of the top-10 finishers at the event also played Z-STAR balls, including Stenson, Brian Davis, Jim Furyk, Tim Clark and Vijay Singh. The Srixon Z-STAR (Spin, Trajectory, Acceleration and Resilience = STAR) performance balls come in two models. The Z-STAR is slightly softer with emphasis placed on feel, while the Z-STAR X (pictured) is geared for more aggressive bomb-and-gouge players. This ball is long off the tee due to the large diameter dimple design that stabilizes the ball through flight. \$\$/dozen TK. [srixon.com](http://srixon.com)



## MOVEABLE FEAST

The new **TaylorMade R9** driver follows in the footsteps of the r7 quad, and then takes one giant swing forward. Incorporating the concept of movable weight technology that was all the rage in the r7, the R9 goes farther by allowing each individual player to change the face angle, loft and lie to affect side-to-side flight by up to 40 yards. Happy PGA Tour campers who have played the R9 this year include Sergio Garcia, Justin Rose, Retief Goosen and a host of others. Our tester's experience: The club was easy to adjust (do it on the range, not on the tee) and added 15-20 yards when the ideal settings were found for the course, the conditions and, um, his swing flaws. \$399. [taylormadegolf.com](http://taylormadegolf.com)



## FEAST ON THIS

Nike's new **SQ DYMO Str8-Fit** driver could not make it any easier to affect the intended change on your ball flight that you've been craving. Hitting a cut or fixing a slice no longer takes hours of practice on the range. Instead, just use the club's torque wrench and click the club head into one of the eight ball flight positions on the shaft and step to the tee. TG's tester found that distance from each loft angle was still longer than he regularly hit his old driver and even with his typically too-fast overswing, the club performed with fewer mis-hits. Nikes says that is due to the new folded round geometry, which repositions square mass into a round format allowing golfers to swing away. That's a lot of words though. We prefer, just click it, grip it and rip it. \$400. [nikegolf.com](http://nikegolf.com)

