

Masters Preview Issue

Your Insider Ticket to Augusta p.111

THE LAST
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By Alan Shipnuck

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TRIPS



Scrub pine and the Atlantic Ocean await you at the first green at Oitavos Dunes.

Two Cents from Travelin' Joe

Portugal's New Playground

Cascais, Portugal

6,303 yards, par 71; **Green fees:** \$220;
011351-214-860600, Quintadamarinha-oitavosgolfe.pt

EUROPEANS have long flocked to Portugal's Algarve Region for the superior beaches and golf, but thanks to a rash of new courses, there's now a reason for golfers to put on the brakes in the capital city of Lisbon, four hours drive north of the tourist region.

The top dog among the new courses hugging the Atlantic Ocean is Oitavos Dunes. Situated 30 minutes west of downtown Lisbon, Oitavos features an inspired routing by Arthur Hills and his senior associate Drew Rogers that takes you through

three distinct landscapes, ranging from forests of umbrella pines to heaving, scrub-covered dunes to open coastal transition areas. Tumbling terrain, varying fairway widths and constant breezes demand an extra measure of ball control, but by the middle of the round, you're so enamored with the vistas and climate and Old World charm that score becomes irrelevant. At round's end, treat yourself to homegrown wines from the vineyards of the Champalimaud family, the owners of Oitavos. A new on-property hotel is slated for 2009.

