

NEW GEAR FOR 2006 + 18 FAIRWAY WOODS RATED

GOLF WORLD

**HIT YOUR
WEDGES
LIKE A
SCRATCH
PLAYER
BY NICK
FALDO**

JANUARY 2006 £3.50



INSIDE STORIES

Montgomerie

"I've proved I can win alone"



PORTUGAL'S FINEST

While the UK braces itself for a cold snap, the smart golfer will shun these shores and head for the fairways of Portugal in search of guaranteed winter sunshine and dozens of great courses. Here are 10 of the best.

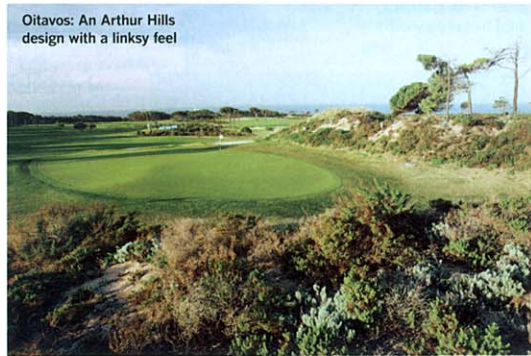
WORDS: RICHARD GREEN

OITAVOS

Contact: 00351-214-860-600, www.quinta-da-marinha.com
Green fees: £50

As golf course settings go, few can match the magnificence of Oitavos. The course nestles among the sand dunes and pine trees of the Sintra-Cascais Natural Park in a picture perfect location that is framed by a backdrop of ocean on one side and mountains on the other. With such off-course attractions to compete against, most courses would struggle to hold the interest of visitors; not so here, though. Don't be fooled by the birth certificate, Oitavos is a course well beyond its four years, with narrow holes trundling through spectacular landscape that treats golfers to a links experience, complete with hard, fast greens, tight fairways and an ever-present sea breeze. One to savour.

Oitavos: An Arthur Hills design with a linksy feel



SPECIAL ISSUE

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

The Major champions, the Rookie, plus the stars YOU voted for