

# TRUE LINKS IN PORTUGAL

One of the most talked about new developments in Europe – and already regarded as one of the leading golf courses in Portugal – Oitavos Dunes is a genuine links experience with a tournament pedigree



## OITAVOS DUNES

But the golf course is the main attraction. Designed by world-renowned American architect Arthur Hills, the course wholly embraces its surroundings and was created to enhance the natural beauty of what is one of the most remarkable stretches of the Estoril Coast. As with all links golf, the wind off the sea is a constant factor (in this climate that's a *warm* breeze). The course is playable for all levels, a series of tee options enabling golfers to modify length to suit their ability. The setting, as these images reveal, is quite dramatic with magnificent ocean views against a backdrop of the Sintra Mountains, Cabo da Roca and one of the most recognizable lighthouses in Portugal.

"We disturbed little of the environment as we routed the golf course in harmony with nature," says Arthur Hills says. "Owner Miguel Champalimaud blessed us with one of the finest pieces of golfing heaven anywhere in continental Europe."

The front nine winds its way through groves of umbrella pines and sand dunes formed by nature over the last 100 years, as the Atlantic Ocean looms with vistas from every hole. Golfers encounter the toughest hole early. It's the 434 metre, into the wind, par four 5th. The prevailing wind from the north provides a real challenge as you look to every club in your bag, while navigating the outward nine.

As you turn home, the wind will favour you on most holes. Two of the world's best par threes – back-to-back at the 14th and 15th – can dash your hopes of a good score as trouble awaits. Many consider the 153 metre 14th to be the signature hole. Played over a sandy baranka and to a smallish green, this par three jewel will test even the surest of shot makers. The 18th is regarded as one of the best finishing holes in Europe and has become legendary on the European Tour.

Tee times are set at wide intervals so the pace of play is a delight, offering a private club experience. The innovative clubhouse is a special place for golfers to gather. The Club boutique offers the latest in equipment and apparel with attentive professional and personal services. Contemporary in style and design, it features outdoor decks and large areas of glass showcasing the special views of the tranquil and spectacular surrounding scenery of Oitavos Dunes, the Sintra mountains, Atlantic Ocean and the Portuguese sunset over the Estoril Coast.

The Verbasco restaurant offers diners the choice of sheltered veranda dining or the elegant indoor setting. Because of the superb quality of the food and service of the staff, Verbasco has been referred to as one of Portugal's well-kept secrets. The menu reflects its surroundings serving traditional cuisine using organic ingredients with a contemporary edge.

You heard it here first.



**OITAVOS DUNES**  
QUINTA DA MARINHA  
*Original*

It is convenient to book tee times either by writing, calling or emailing Oitavos Dunes, Quinta da Marinha Original, Casa 25, 2750-004 Cascais, Portugal

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Email: [info@oitavosdunes.pt](mailto:info@oitavosdunes.pt)

or log on to the website [www.oitavosdunes.pt](http://www.oitavosdunes.pt)

All golfers will receive a warm and gracious welcome.

**M**any golfers believe the purest expression of the game is embodied in the unmistakable character of links golf: natural sand dunes, springy turf, sea grasses and the ever-present company of the sea breeze. Great Britain and Ireland are blessed with some of the finest examples of links golf, with an abundance of famous (and a greater number of not so famous) courses attracting golfers from all corners of the world to experience the unique challenge of golf 'in the raw'.

In the shape of the magnificent Oitavos Dunes, that same links experience can now be enjoyed year-round in Portugal – one of the most talked about new developments in Europe, where magnificent championship-standard golf is played in the company of warm sea breezes, wall-to-wall sunshine and a view of the ocean from all 18 holes.

Upon opening in 2001, the focal point of Quinta da Marinha Original was the golf course – originally known as Oitavos Golfe – which was designed to surround a 5-star hotel (currently under development). But early reviews quickly made it clear that the course was being internationally recognised as a true and unique links experience, and so the decision was taken to change the name to Oitavos Dunes, more accurately reflecting the nature of the course. Less

than three hours' flying time from the UK, and just 30 minutes' by car from Lisbon, the highly-acclaimed Oitavos Dunes is now set to become one of the most popular destinations in Portugal.

Testament to the quality of the course is the fact that in its short history it has staged fully-fledged events in all five of the main professional tours – the European Tour, Seniors Tour, Ladies European Tour, Challenge and EuroPro tours all enjoying the facilities Oitavos Dunes has to offer. Oitavos Dunes is the home of the Portuguese Open, and will be through 2009.

"Oitavos Dunes compares to the best we play," says two-time Portuguese Open winner Paul Broadhurst. And three-time Ryder Cup player Paul McGinley added, "I think this has the potential to be the best golf course in Europe."

It is of note that the 2007 Portuguese Open champion was Pablo Martin, the first and only amateur ever to have won a European Tour event.

And not only for the golf is Oitavos Dunes an ideal holiday destination. Close by is the quaint seaside village of Cascais, with unforgettable restaurants, nightlife, shopping on the cobblestone streets, and a wide range of luxury to family style hotels. The Estoril Coast is Europe's most alluring coastline on the Atlantic Ocean offering magnificent views, world-class fishing, surfing and windsailing.