

PORTUGAL

exception but, generally speaking, green fees in the east won't leave a gaping hole in your pocket.

The East's other bright stars are Quinta do Vale, a thrilling Seve Ballesteros layout with a great mix of holes, while a good solid golf day out can be had at the two contrasting coastal Quinta da Ria and Cima courses plotted within Ria Formosa Natural Park. Ria was designed by Rocky Roquemore and provides momentous sea views, while careful strategy is essential to get around neighbouring Cima which scarily finishes with an intimidating Stroke Index-1 par-4 finale. Conditioning here is invariably excellent.

Do it yourself...

Madeira Golf Retreat (Nov 25-Dec 2) – A fun week at the elegant five-star Casa Velha do Palheiro involving golf (Santa Serra, Porto Santo and unlimited at Palheiro) and holistic workshops (a programme of morning workshops with qualified instructors on yoga, tai chi, simple breathing exercises and mindfulness), excursions and fine dining. Costs £1,985pp (golfers & non-golfers) excluding airfares. To book call **07905 141316** or email info@linksland.com

MADEIRA

Madeira was named Europe's leading island destination in the 2019 World Travel Awards for the fourth successive year, reinforcing its growing reputation as an ideal year-round golfing destination.

The archipelago stranded in the mid-Atlantic is becoming used to winning such plaudits and the latest award comes hot on the heels of figures showing a year-on-year growth in the number of golf rounds purchased and an increase in overall visitor numbers and Madeira's tourism revenue.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Madeira is a real paradise island with its three stunning, yet different, courses backed up by an amazingly mild climate, glorious coastal vistas, outstanding gastronomy and wines, excellent water sports, world-renowned gardens and parks, a lively and historic capital in Funchal and a nature reserve covering two thirds of the main island.

The par-72, 6,656-yard course at Palheiro – designed by Cabell Robinson – is situated within the magnificent Palheiro Estate, which is more than 200 years old. At nearly 1,640ft above sea level, the location enjoys dramatic views of Madeira's

Do it yourself...

Seven nights' B&B in a sea view apartment at Palheiro Village with unlimited green fees at Palheiro, daily courtesy bus to Funchal and Palheiro Nature Estate, use of heated outdoor pool, 10 % discount at both the Casa Velha do Palheiro and Palheiro Golf clubhouse restaurants, special deals available for club and buggy rental, and car hire, costs from €778pp (until Nov 2020). To book call **00351 291 790 030** or email reservations.palheirovillage@palheiroestate.com

mountainous skyline and Atlantic, as well as – nestling below, just 10 minutes away – Funchal.

The original course at Santo da Serra, dating from 1937, was redesigned in 1991 by Robert Trent Jones, who created a new and spectacular 27-hole complex. The 3rd and 4th of the Machico course are regarded as the signature holes, sitting on cliffs more than 2,200ft above sea level, providing views of the bay of Machico, where Portuguese navigators first landed in 1419.

The 27-hole, Severiano Ballesteros-designed Port Santo layout is a short plane hop away. The par-72, 7,036-yard course, which opened in 2004, comprises two distinct nines – a US-style layout stretch is dotted with lakes, requiring a long and precise game, while the others are draped on cliffs above a stunning sandy beach.

Porto Santo



Santo da Serra



Palheiro

