



TUITION BREAKS TOP THE BILL AT LA MANGA

Hailed by top instructor David Leadbetter as a teaching facility to rival anything in the world, La Manga Club's new Leadbetter Golf Academy is helping to usher in a new era at the luxury destination resort and golfers can take advantage of outstanding value on tuition breaks this summer.

The bespoke academy is the centrepiece of the Spanish resort's €1m redevelopment of its teaching and practice centre, and guests can choose from a range of courses – with five-night packages including entry to the 'Total Golf School' starting from €527 per person.

Golfers of all abilities and ages can combine a stay at the luxury Hotel La Manga Club Principe Felipe or four-star Las Lomas Village apartments and townhouses with a five-star experience at the academy – described by Leadbetter as "comparable with anything I have seen worldwide" and the only one of its kind in mainland Spain.

The four-day school offers 12

hours' expert tuition and analysis on all parts of the game; from swing technique and short-game secrets to improving a player's mental approach, pre-shot preparation and practice methods.

All prices, based on two people sharing a room, also include complimentary access to the fitness centre, indoor pool and steam rooms at Spa La Manga Club, with five nights' bed and breakfast accommodation in the hotel available from €663 per person.

There's plenty to keep the younger members of the family entertained as well, with special golf tuition packages for children starting from €99 for a four-hour under-nine academy, with further six-hour teaching options for youngsters in the U15 and U17 age groups.

La Manga's outstanding sports and leisure facilities include three 18-hole championship courses – the North, West and



much-revered South – helping establish itself as Spain's flagship resort and a firm favourite with European golfers since opening in 1972.

In addition to golf, La Manga boasts unrivalled facilities as a sports and leisure destination, including a 28-court tennis centre and a 2,000sqm spa and fitness centre. It also offers the choice of a five-star hotel, four-star serviced apartments and townhouses, and more than 20 bars and restaurants.

To book a break, call 00 34 968 17 5577, email reservas@lamangaclub.com or visit www.lamangaclub.com.

Polish up your putting in Poland

Golf may well be in its infancy in Poland, but when it comes to the country's diverse offering of world-class golf courses already in place, there is undoubtedly a new kid on the eastern block.



Sierra Golf Club is one of Poland's top tracks

In particular, the stunning northern regions of Warminsko-Mazurskie, Pomorskie and Zachodniopomorskie provide golfers looking to experience somewhere new with an abundance of well-presented courses, offering a variety of challenges for all abilities.

This, alongside a first-class accommodation offering consisting of on-site cottages and modern hotels, as well as vibrant cities, spectacular countryside, a wide range of cultural and leisure attractions, and regular daily flights from UK airports, make Poland a truly attractive proposition for golfers looking to shake things up. With over 25 golf courses to choose from, there are no shortage of venues to play, and with affordable green fees, and no six-hour rounds to endure, they represent great value when compared to other mainstream European destinations.

Among the must-visit courses to put on any Polish golfing itinerary include Sand Valley Golf & Country Club, which is located in the Warminsko-Mazurskie region, some 60 miles from Gdansk. Opened in 2009, this 18-hole championship course features wide rolling fairways, undulating greens, and sandy waste areas that make for an exciting and challenging round.

Another to put on the list is the Gary Player designed Modry Las, which is ranked inside the Europe's top 100 courses. Regarded as one of the most beautiful courses in Europe, and host to a number of Polish PGA tournaments, the 18-hole championship course winds along the lake's edges, stretches around ponds and, with Player's strategically-placed signature bunkers, really challenges all golfers to play their best.

Bogdan Becla, acting director from the Polish National Tourist Office, commented: "We are extremely proud of the quality of our golf courses in Poland, and we are intent of spreading the message to avid golf travellers that our doors are open for them to come and experience a golf holiday that delivers both on and off the course."

For more information on golf holidays to Poland, visit www.poland.travel or www.golfinpoland.com.

World Expo puts the golfing spotlight on Northern Italy

Golfers visiting the World Expo in Milan this summer have the perfect excuse to combine a trip to the globally-renowned exhibition with a golf break to this stunning part of northern Italy.

The World Expo, which runs in Milan from May until the end of October, brings over 140 countries together to showcase their nation's cultural, scientific and socio-economic influence. The theme for this year's Expo is Feeding the Planet, and Energy For Life, with a principal focus on the right to healthy, secure and sufficient food.

Covering an area of one million square metres, Expo 2015 will also showcase each nation's gastronomic traditions, with food and wine tastings being one of main attractions for visitors.

Outside the exhibition area, located in Rho, a few kilometres west of centre Milan, the entire city will play an active role in the celebrations, with thousands of cultural events organised throughout the city, such as the largest ever exhibition of Leonardo da Vinci's works.

Once they have visited the Expo,

golfers are minutes away from some of Northern Italy's finest golf courses. Traditionally regarded as the hotbed of Italian golf, there is plenty to like about playing in the north of Italy, with its gentle climate, quality courses and ease of accessibility from the UK.

More than a third of Italy's courses can be found in the regions of Lombardy and Piedmont, while great golf is also available in Valle d'Aosta and on the north west coast in the Liguria area.

And, as you would expect from an area that includes the spectacular Italian Lakes, the standard of golf courses more than matches the rich history and culture to be found off the fairways.

Lombardy's courses have hosted 36 out of 66 editions of the Italian Open, and it's easy to see why with its range of excellent venues that will satisfy the appetites of all standards of golfers. Among them and set in the Como hills, Villa d'Este is a woodland gem that regularly ranks among the best courses in the country, while Monticello is regarded as one of the great classic venues which has staged the Italian



The site of the World Expo in Milan



Franciacorta Golf Club

Open seven times.

Menaggio and Cadenabbia is the second oldest in Italy, having celebrated its centenary in 2007, and golfers will revel in the golf on offer around Lake Garda, including Gardagolf, Colombaro and the luxurious Palazzo Arzaga resort.

Just as impressive is Piedmont, with more than 40 clubs, including five of the top ten in Italy, located

across the whole of the region. Designed by Robert von Hagge, the two 18-hole courses at Bogogno are typical of the highly-regarded designer, and are not to be missed, while Biella Le Betulle has been voted the best course in Italy by the Italian edition of Golf Digest for ten years in a row. Castelconturbia offers three impressive nine-hole layouts created by Robert Trent

Jones Snr while Royal Park, on the outskirts of Turin, has hosted the Italian Open.

Heading east, consider a golf weekend in Franciacorta, the wine region, famous for its white sparkling wine, as well as at the beautiful Lake Garda, where a few rounds of golf can be combined with a visit to an Amarone-producing vineyard. Alternatively, continuing further east, north of Venice, there's an interesting golf break combining golf and visits to local coffee and grappa producers.

To check out the complete range of golf packages to northern Italy, visit www.golfholidayitaly.com, where a special e-brochure featuring World Expo Golf Packages can be downloaded.