

play **it**



BY
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tried &
tested



LOCH PALM AND RED MOUNTAIN

Loch Palm Golf Club (left) and Red Mountain Golf Club (below).

Two sibling courses belonging to MBK Golf properties sited beside each other in Phuket offer distinctive golfing adventures that will surely excite the golf lover.

The elder of the two, Loch Palm Golf Club was designed in 1996 by Dr. Sukitti Klangwisai around Crystal Lake, which provides a central theme and the source of challenging water hazard, to an otherwise benign golf course.

At 6,422 yards, it is one of the shorter courses around. However, due to its length, or lack thereof, the water hazards on the front nine become especially tough to negotiate.

The loch (lake in Gaelic) casually cuts across many fairways making tee shots and approaches something to ponder a little more. The short second hole is one such example. A par-five with a significant amount of bunkers makes threading this hole a dangerous affair.

The back nine has some tighter and more undulating holes, starting with the short but testing downhill par-four, 10th hole. Playing more difficult, the back nine also offers some amazing



views from various elevated points on the course.

The 14th, which is a par-three, is perhaps its finest hole. Playing the hole, a sense of fear cannot be avoided on this downhill teeshot to a two-tiered green 30 metres down and surrounded on three sides by water. Club and shot selection here are key.

One good thing here that is uncommon in resort golf courses is that golf carts are optional and one may choose to enjoy walking

this beautiful golf course together with well-informed caddies ready to offer advice or assistance whenever needed.

RED MOUNTAIN

Arguably the best golf course in Phuket, Red Mountain Golf Club is a unique combination of modern design, interesting site and challenging play. At 6,781 yards, it is also short but hazarously difficult.

Formerly a tin mine, Red Mountain is designed by Jonathon Mark Morrow, who also revised Dr Klangwisai's course next door in 2007, and works its way through the mountains, forests, lakes and cliffs so every hole feels secluded and apart from the other.

Golfers face the full range of nature's hazards; wind, water, slopes and elevation changes. This is the highest golf course on Phuket Island and dramatic views are seen at many points on the golf course.

TAYLORMADE M5, M6

How time flies. We are already into the fourth generation of the M-Series metal woods with the recent launch of the new TaylorMade M5 and M6. A pioneer in fast driver and woods technology, the engineers at TaylorMade have made the face even thinner, past the USGA COR limits, but then brought it back to within boundary by injecting speed resin through two visible ports in the face.

Coupled with the new Twist Face technology introduced in the previous M3, M4 models, this new range promises to be faster, slicker and longer.

• Distributed by MST Golf, the TaylorMade M5 and M6 driver and woods will be available at leading golf stores islandwide beginning first week of February.



TITLEIST PRO V1 AND PRO V1X

The biggest takeaway of the new Titleist Pro V1 and Pro V1x is that both balls are now faster and longer. The second difference is that now, choosing between the two is no longer just about speed but also trajectory.

The difference between the two has narrowed such that someone who previously uses a Pro V1x may now gain more penetrating distance with the Pro V1 but at the same time, experience improved softness and spin around the greens.

"I'm getting all the ball speed I had with the prior generation Pro V1x and more. Plus, the new Pro V1 feels softer to me around the green," said Charles

Howell III after winning the RSM Classic for his first PGA Tour victory in 11 years with it.

In terms of tech, the urethane cover, ionomeric casing and single (Pro V1) or dual (Pro V1x) core are similar to the 2017 models except that the outer urethane is now 17 per cent thinner, the ionomeric layer beneath is thicker (by 14 and 11 per cent respectively) and the inner core is stiffer than before while maintaining their soft centre. This change in composition is key to the new models.

• Available beginning January 28 with new high optic yellow models available from March 15.



ADIDAS GOLF TOUR360 XT, XT SL AND XT SL BOA



Launched in an innovating way by 2018 SMBC Singapore Open champion Sergio Garcia at the tip of The Pyramid halfway house at Sentosa's Tanjong course, the country was introduced to the new Tour360 XT in one big social media push as guests frantically posted pictures and videos of Sergio mixing cocktails and chipping from the highest teebox in Sentosa.

Yet, there is good reason for this fanfare. This latest version of the brand's performance shoe is lighter, has eight spikes (two fewer than before) with the new X-Traxion lugs spread out across the bottom for greater flexibility and stability even on uneven lies.

Also launched are the model's first spikeless (XT SL) version as well as spikeless with BOA closure system. The X-shaped "X-Torsion System" connects the heel and forefoot to provide stability and traction even without spikes, holding the foot in place throughout a fast-paced golf swing.



• Comes in medium and wide options for the XT and XT SL, and wide only for BOA version. Available from February 1 at adidas Golf Takashimaya, Isetan Scotts and adidas.com.sg.