



CUP O' JOE

HIT THE ROAD, JACQUES

If you want to play a former Olympics venue, Paris awaits. **The Compiègne Golf Club**, 22 miles north of Charles de Gaulle Airport, accepts visitors (green fees start at \$46). Home to golf's appearance in the 1900 Games, this charming, 6,071-yard layout has small greens and lovely, leafy surroundings: the Forest of Compiègne.

VINTAGE "PORT"

With so many golfers heading to Scotland and Ireland this summer, I asked **Graeme McDowell** for the most underrated course in his native Northern Ireland that accepts visitors. "Portstewart," said the Ulsterman. "Royal Portrush gets all the spotlight, but that front nine on Portstewart's Strand course is incredible."

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

The dominant language in the Canadian province of Quebec is French, but value is the same in any language. The Ultimate Charlevoix Golf Package at **Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu** includes a room (with breakfast buffet for two at Le Bellerive) and unlimited same-day golf, cart and practice balls on a wooded, 27-hole, lakeside layout originally crafted by Herbert Strong. Starting at \$399/night. fairmont.com/richelieu-charlevoix

Making Dad Proud

Rees Jones has reimagined his father's Playa Grande in the Dominican Republic. Behold a perfect golf-resort experience.



Much like the course, the views at Playa Grande will suit all comers.

HOT TRACKS

Playa Grande
Rio San Juan,
Dominican Republic
7,259 yards, par 72
Architect:
Rees Jones, 2015
playagrande.com

In 1971, Pete Dye and a crew of laborers took sledgehammers and pickaxes to coral rock and created Casa de Campo's Teeth of the Dog. Ever since, there's been no shortage of reasons to trek to the Dominican Republic for an exceptional golf vacation—and here's one more.

Along Hispaniola island's northeast shore, architect Rees Jones has recrafted a modern marvel called Playa Grande.

Opened in November 2015, Playa Grande is the centerpiece of a Dolphin Capital-developed resort and community that also features the striking, cliffside Amanera hotel. This is the first golf property for luxury-branded Aman Resorts.

Jones and senior designer Bryce Swanson had a head start: a preexisting 1997 layout created by Jones's father, Robert Trent Jones, Sr., that never quite realized its potential. Following the renovation, consider it realized.

The seaside layout is draped atop headlands (much like Pebble Beach), with 10 cliff-top holes edging the Atlantic. The oceanside drama commences early, at the 245-yard, par-3 third, and things get outright thrilling on the 190-yard, par-3

seventh and the 450-yard, par-4 ninth, both of which demand carries over water. Significant routing changes occurred on the back nine, which now closes with five consecutive seaside beauties. Still, the course is playable for all, thanks to softly contoured green surrounds, many run-up opportunities into the low-profile greens and bailout areas galore.

Playa Grande embodies a perfect resort-golf experience. Better players can do battle with length, strategic bunkering and shot-making demands, while wide fairways and layup options cushion the blow for higher handicaps. (The views are for everyone.) Rees, your father would have loved what you've done with the place.