

ShortList

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EVERY THURSDAY

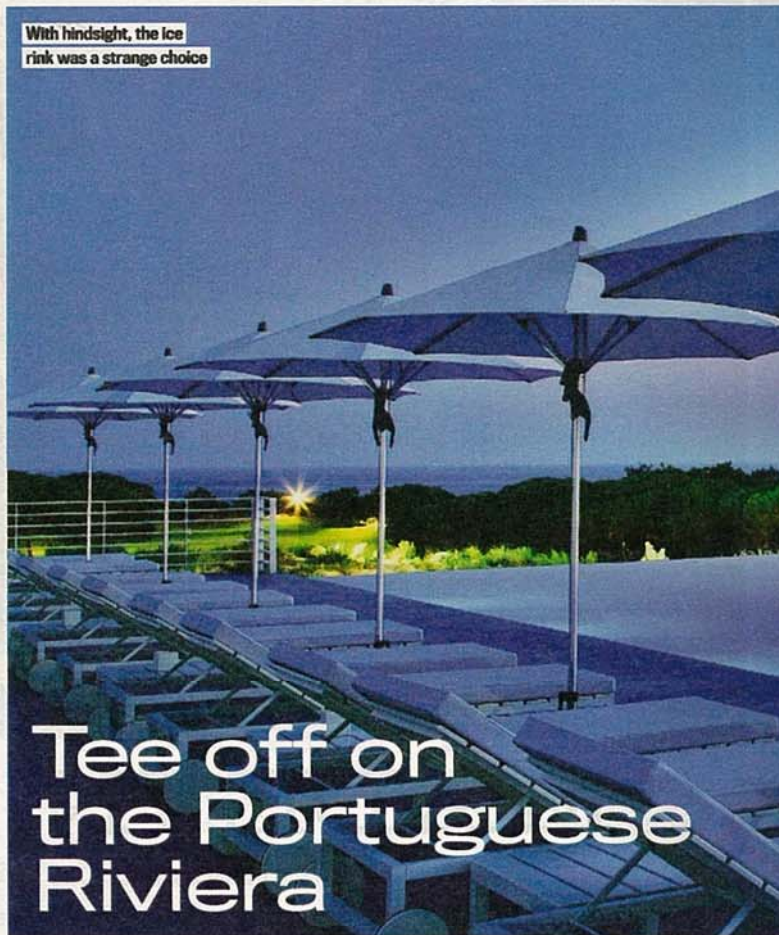


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SHORTLIST TRAVEL

With hindsight, the ice rink was a strange choice



Tee off on the Portuguese Riviera

As we watched the windswept grimacing professionals attempting to play golf in darkest, wettest Wales we couldn't help but think there *must* be a better way...

And we're here to tell you that there is, friends: the newly-opened Oitavos golf-spa-beach resort set within the Sintra-Cascais National Park in Portugal.

The Portuguese Riviera has long been the playground for golfers who enjoy having the sun on their back as they tee off. And there is no finer spot than Cascais – the upmarket resort just west of Lisbon that boasts an embarrassment of yachts, premier golf courses and five-star hotels.

WHAT IT'S LIKE

The Oitavos began as just a golf course – albeit a rather remarkable one. It's been ranked 88th in *Golf Magazine's* Top 100 Courses in the World and No1 in Portugal. With its ocean breezes and fast-playing conditions, the green is well known to be a challenge for even the most seasoned of golfers.

Set amongst the sand dunes and pine trees, the contemporary five-star

hotel blends easily into its surroundings. All rooms in the hotel come with a private balcony giving jaw-dropping vistas of the ocean or golf course.

The design focus of the metal-and-glass structure is on clean and minimalist lines and maximising those views with floor-to-ceiling windows everywhere you turn.

You can also make use of any of the 10 treatment rooms in the spa. But if your thirst for sport hasn't been suitably quenched then you have the choice of a squash court, equestrian centre and wind-surfing to further get your pulse racing.

And as you'd expect from a businessman's idea of heaven, the Oitavos provides first-rate conference facilities – it'll certainly beat Bognor for your team's next away day if you're feeling more than a little generous and in need of improving your backswing.

NEED TO KNOW

- Rooms start at £217 per night.
- For more information visit theoitavos.com.

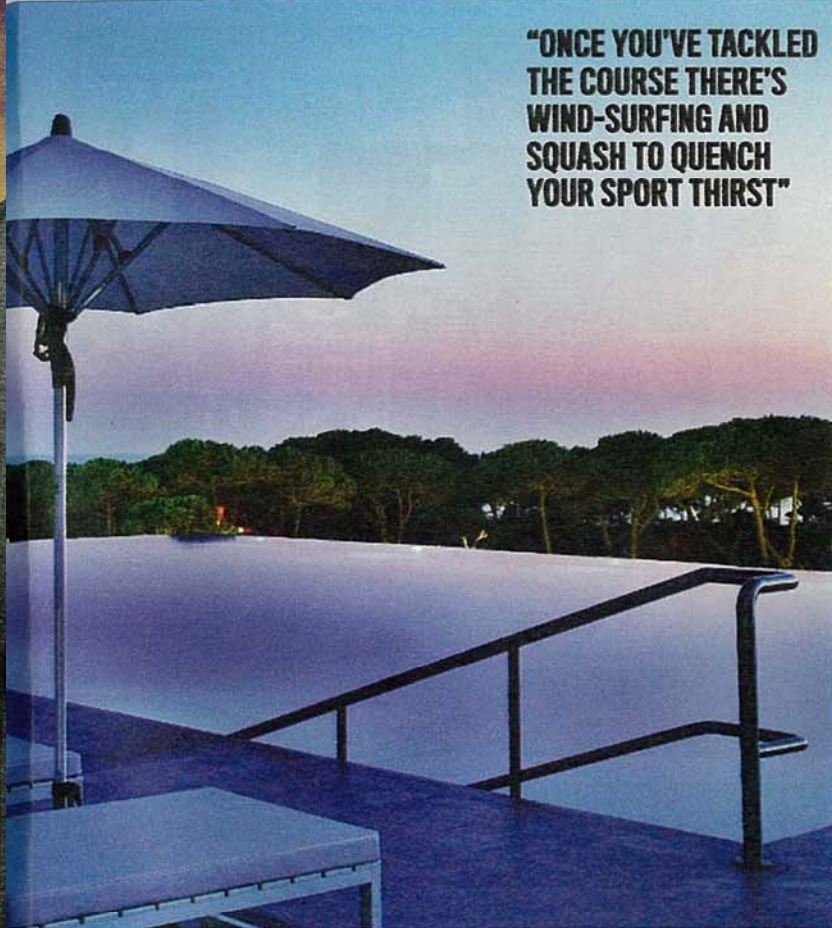
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Topping up the tan

"ONCE YOU'VE TACKLED THE COURSE THERE'S WIND-SURFING AND SQUASH TO QUENCH YOUR SPORT THIRST"



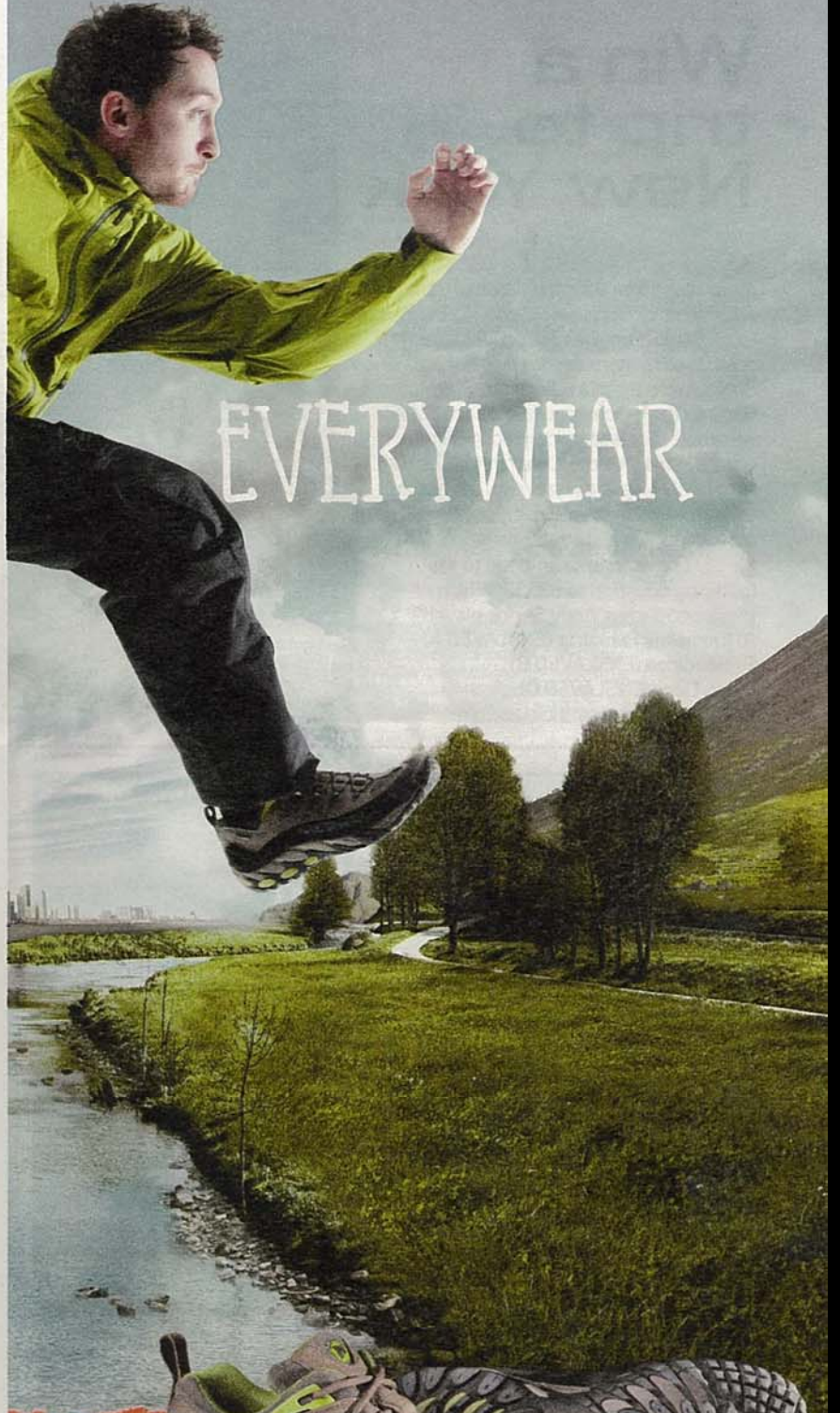
"Coat-stand? Hat-stand? Literally no idea, love"



Gary didn't want to do a triple somersault from the roof, but a bet was a bet



WORDS: TOM OLIVER



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Let's Get Outside