

Elite GOLF

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Traveller

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The Delights of Bali

Golf on the Island of the Gods
在眾神之島 — 峇里享受揮桿之樂

Set Sail on a Caribbean Golfing Adventure 加勒比海高球探勝

Mission Accomplished

Mission Hills take the No.1 spot
觀瀾湖 — 世界最大高球會

Italian Fine Wines
意大利名釀

Luxury Spas in Bintan
民丹島上的豪華香薰水療

Plus: Porsche · Paris · Pro Tips · Products 附加：保時捷 · 巴黎 — 高球時光 · 職業球手心得 · 產品新知

Golf-time in Paris

Richard Castka visits the city of romance with Cathay Pacific's Ultimate Golf Series and falls in love with the stunning courses that surround the French capital

李察·卡斯卡與國泰航空終極高爾夫之旅一同遠赴法國的浪漫之都，並探訪了巴黎周遭一些令人戀棧的絕佳球場。

「浪漫之都」 的高球時光



Paris is and always will be a top choice destination for the discerning traveller, so the opportunity to visit the city on a golfing holiday was much too good to turn down.

Paris is a city rich in culture and history, and is a living architectural wonder. To many, a week in Paris is a week in paradise — fine hotels, sumptuous cuisine and an endless supply of outstanding wines.

It's never really been a secret but Paris is also home to some of Europe's finest golf courses. Golf tourism has grown steadily over the past few years, and the infrastructure that supports the travelling golfer has become much better organised.

Arriving at Charles de Gaulle International Airport I was met off the plane by my guide, having spent a comfortable night in the well-appointed business class section of a Cathay Pacific 747. Immigration and passport control went like clockwork and as soon as my golf clubs arrived in the baggage hall we set off for Chantilly Golf Club, a mere 30-minute drive from the airport.

A number of golf clubs in the Paris area date back to the 1800s, and closely resemble the famed Surrey layouts of Wentworth and Sunningdale. Chantilly is just such a club, with fairways lined with oaks and pines that give each and every hole a wonderful sense of isolation.

With just 350,000 domestic golfers the dreaded five-hour round is unheard of in France, as most courses see only a handful of golfers treading the fairways, particularly on weekdays. In August, when the French head for the beach, the courses are even less populated.

Part of the plan to go directly to the golf club from the airport was to avoid the awful traffic that pours into Paris each morning during the rush hour. It worked. When we headed into the city after a thoroughly enjoyable and challenging round at Chantilly, the roads were remarkably clear.

We spent two nights in a small hotel overlooking the River Seine, and then



Watching the world go by from the balcony of your Paris hotel room is the perfect way to begin the day
 在酒店房間的露台上靜觀凡登廣場上的如鯽遊人



The Louvre is located close to major hotels
 羅浮宮附近有不少酒店供遊客選擇



巴

巴黎是遊客必遊之地，能有機會在這裡享受一個高爾夫假期，實在是一件賞心樂事，令人無法抗拒。

巴黎擁有豐富的文化及歷史遺產，更是一個薈萃不同建築風格的藝術寶藏。對大部分人來說，在這裡度假猶如置身天堂，享受一星期的奢侈生活，下榻於一流的酒店，品嚐源源不絕的美酒佳餚。

眾所周知，巴黎擁有不少歐洲最頂級高球場，高球旅遊業的發展可謂穩步上揚，支援旅客的高球配套設施更是日趨完善。

乘搭國泰747客機，在商務客艙裡度過了一個舒適的晚上，怡然在戴高樂機場下

機，迅速辦妥入境手續，在行李提取大堂取回球桿後，便從機場乘車前往香特莉(Chantilly)球會，車程僅需時30分鐘。

不少巴黎附近的球會均建於於十九世紀，與Wentworth及Sunningdale球會所採用的著名薩里式(Surrey)設計非常近似。香特莉(Chantilly)也是其中之一，聳立於球道兩旁的橡樹及松樹，在球洞間築起了一道道理想的屏障。

對於這個只有350,000高球人口的國家來說，花上5小時才打完18洞實在是一件駭人聽聞的事。大多數球場上，球手的數目可謂寥寥無幾，周一至周五更是不在話下。八月時分，法國人紛紛湧至海灘度假，令高球場更覺冷清。

The par-four 18th at Paris International
巴黎國際鄉村俱樂部球場的18洞四標準桿之果嶺



Hole one at Le Golf National
Le Golf National第一洞果嶺



decided to spoil ourselves with a further two nights in the Park Hyatt Hotel, which sits on the ultra posh Place Vendome, about 200 metres from the Ritz.

This really is the heart of Paris. Sidewalk cafes provide an ideal resting place for the increasing number of visitors who come to check out the clues of the De Vinci Code, while gleaming storefronts bearing the top names from the world of couture, jewellery and horology tempt you inside to invest serious cash on the lavish goods on offer.

Our feast of golf continued at the magnificent Paris International Country Club course, designed by none other than Jack Nicklaus, followed by a stunning round at the St Germain Golf Club, the setting for nine French Opens.

For our last game, we visited the current home of the Open, Le Golf National, which for a public course is truly outstanding and confirmed the consistently high quality of golf on offer.

Our final afternoon was spent in high style sampling the bubbles at Moet et Chandon's vineyard at Epernay — the perfect way to round off a trip to the city of lights, romance, fine foods and fantastic golf. [EGT]

下機後直接前往球場，箇中原因是避免在早上交通最繁忙的時段進入巴黎，結果相當奏效；在香特莉(Chantilly)一演身手後，我們隨即折返巴黎，沿途道路均異常暢順。

我們在塞納河畔一間小規模的酒店下榻了兩晚。之後我們決定再放肆一下，在這家位於華麗的凡登廣場(Place Vendome)上，離麗斯酒店(Ritz)僅200米的公園凱悅酒店(Park Hyatt Hotel)中多留兩晚。

這裡位處巴黎市中心，路旁的咖啡座正好為那些前來探索《達文西密碼》書內情節的遊客，提供了一個理想的休憩地點；世界級名店內陳列了各式令人眩目的時裝及鐘錶珠寶等昂貴奢侈品，教人無法抗拒。

我們繼續上路，抵達著名的巴黎國際鄉村俱樂部(Paris International Country)，由積尼高斯(Jack Nicklaus)設計的球場實在無出其右；隨後，更在曾經九次舉辦法國公開賽的聖日門球會(St Germain Golf Club)一展身手。

最後，我們到訪現時法國公開賽的場地——Le Golf National，在這個堪稱最高質素的公眾球場上，打完旅程中最後的18洞。

旅程的最後一個下午，我們特別造訪 Epernay 的 Moet et Chandon's 葡萄園，品嚐了最出色的香檳佳釀，以最優雅、最完美的方式，向這個五光十色、浪漫醉人、美酒佳餚不絕，以及擁有一流高球的城市揮手道別。 [EGT]



The Eiffel Tower awaits
艾菲爾鐵塔夜色璀璨迷人