

BULGARIA

IAGTO Undiscovered Golf Destination of the Year

Attracting top-class designers



The stunning Thracian Cliffs course, which opened last year

BULGARIA, as a country, is a mosaic of rich historic and cultural traditions, culinary delights, recreational pursuits and natural beauties.

It has earned an international reputation among 'foodies' for its world famous yoghurt and red wines, among the seekers of le joie de vivre for its Rose valley, numerous sea, ski and Spa resorts and among the connoisseurs of historical heritage for its ancient treasures and remains of old civilizations.

The Award for undiscovered golf destination is a crowning moment for the country which made its first steps in golf in the beginning of the new Millennium.

The Bulgarian Golf Association was established in 2001. Two years later the construction of St Sofia Golf Club

& Spa began, the first 18-hole golf course in Bulgaria.

In 2008 three new golf courses were opened – BlackSeaRama, Lighthouse Golf Resort and Pirin Golf & Country Club. In 2011 the two newest projects were completed – Pravets Golf Club and Thracian Cliffs Golf & Beach resort. After their opening Bulgaria could deservedly be called a signature golf destination as all six bear the signatures of world renowned golf designers – the likes of Gary Player, Paul McGinley, Ian Woosnam, Peter Harradine.

Two major golf destinations could be defined in Bulgaria – the Cape Kaliakra Golf Destination embraces three golf courses by the Black Sea coast and the Sofia destination consists of three first class courses.

Cape Kaliakra is located some 50km away from Varna and only one and a half hours flight from Vienna and Prague.

Thracian Cliffs Golf & Beach Resort is the jewel of Gary Player's portfolio for 2011.

The 18-hole Signature Golf Course forms the core of the resort. From every hole there is a stunning view of the Black Sea coast. The sixth hole sits on top of the cliff with the green set some 40 metres below.

Another challenge is the seventh where the tee is perched on a small island in the sea. Thracian Cliffs is the only Bulgarian golf resort which has its own beaches. The guests could also relax at the elegant Thracian SPA, and to enjoy therapies with high class cosmetics and typically Bulgarian products like yoghurt, honey, mud and wine.

BlackSeaRama is a classic links golf course with remarkable views of the sea. It offers the very best of Gary Player's style, said the US Masters champion Angel Cabrera after he played the course. The residential area consists of one or two-storey villas with 5-star hotel services.

Own labels of wine are produced from the vineyards grown aside the fairways. BlackSeaRama golf course was named by 'Best new course in the world' two years ago by Golf Inc.

Lighthouse Golf & Spa Resort offers a five-star hotel, an 18-holer designed by Ian Woosnam, golf academy, 3000sqm Spa & Wellness Center and variety of bars and restaurants.

In addition to the world-class accommodation and recreation is the beautiful golf course. Challenging, yet generous, the Lighthouse offers beginners as well as the experienced player a chance to test their golf skills and to please their senses.

In the vicinity of the capital of Bulgaria there are three golf courses forming the Sofia Golf Destination. St Sofia Golf Club & SPA is the closest golf club to Sofia – only 20 minutes from downtown.

This is the first certified course in Bulgaria with an official rating by the EGA.

It has recently been redesigned by Paul McGinley. The complex is a favourite location for corporate events and parties. The SPA centre is using mineral water, which in this area is in abundance.



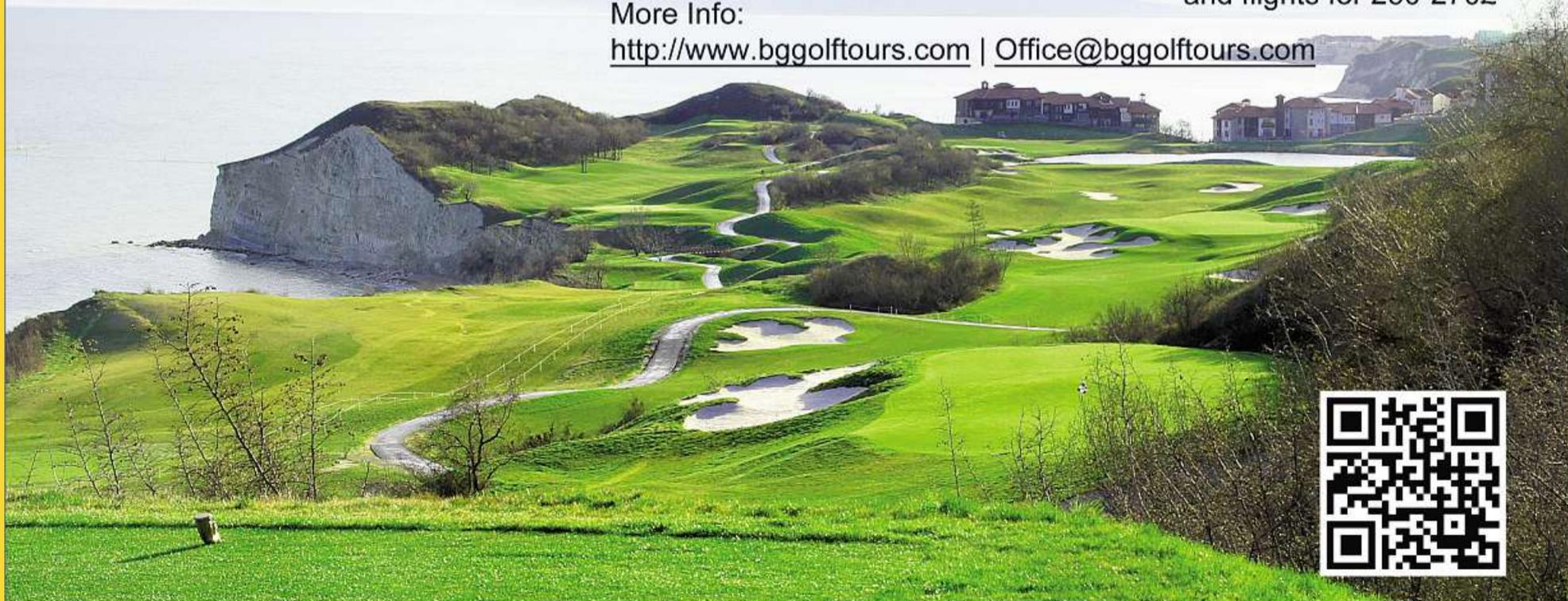
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