

GOLF VACATIONS

SINGAPORE EDITION VOLUME 43



**'CZECH' OUT
PRAGUE**

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GOLF IN THE UK**

SEVE'S SHIRE

**MOTOWN IN CHINA -
ENHANCE ANTING
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**GOLF'S LATEST
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**Tamarina
Golf Club
Mauritius Delight**

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The Mountain

The great American writer Mark Twain once wrote that “Golf is a good walk spoiled”, words that we cannot agree with. However in 1896, on first seeing the beautiful Indian Ocean island of Mauritius, Twain also effused, “you gather the idea that Mauritius was made first and then heaven, and that heaven was copied after Mauritius.” Little did he realise that both phrases would come together as a sort of comedic coincidence befitting the status of one of the world’s literary greats.

A scenic view of a golf course. In the foreground, there are tall, golden-brown grasses. The middle ground shows a well-maintained green golf course with a large, dark tree on the right side. In the background, a prominent, jagged mountain peak rises against a blue sky with light clouds. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

The River

By **Tony Smart**



Two centuries after Twain's double proclamations, six stunningly beautiful championship golf courses can be found in Mauritius' east, south and west coast, with another half-dozen on its way over the next three to four years. The latest addition is the delightful Tamarina Golf Estate and Beach Club, a Rodney Wright design that measures a whopping 7,512 yards, par 72 from the back tees.

While the east and south are where most courses are sited, the Tamarina found itself a wonderful plot of volcanic land along the southwest coast and bears the mark of being the first with a residential community. A pioneer under the country's Integrated Resort Scheme (IRS), foreigners can now buy property here with full residency rights. They will likely be followed by a similar development in the east called the Anahita – estate with Ernie Els-design course – slated to open in December 2007.

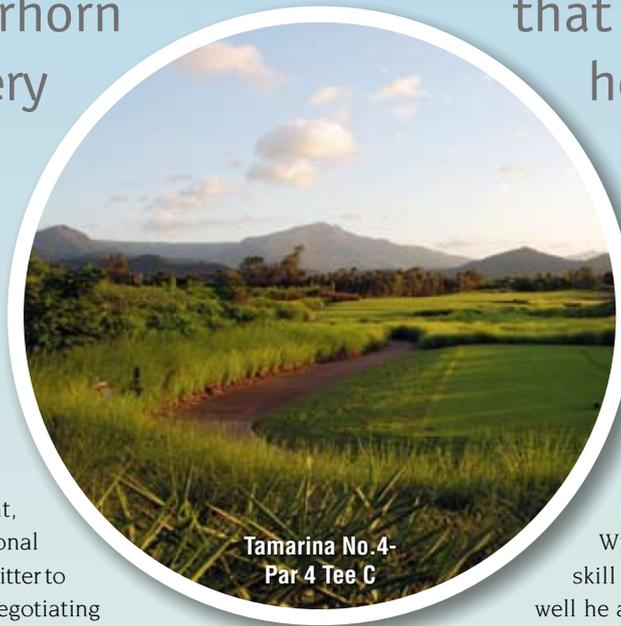
Tamarina may have opened for play only at the end of last year but given its mature surrounds, the course already has the makings of a great golf tract. Carved into the rugged savannah land between mountain and sea, the course lies at the foot of the menacing Mount Rempart, a fixture that resembles a mini-Matterhorn that can be seen from almost every hole location.

Framed by Mountain and River

With fairways framed by seas of native grasses including purple pampas, lemongrass, red grass, citronelle and vetiver, the layout is spectacularly beautiful. This is most evident in the signature 13th hole, a 176-metre (all hole measurements from blue tees) par 3 that drops over 100 feet from tee to green. With great views from the tee of Tamarin Bay and the River Rempart wrapping itself around the left, plus deep bunkers left and back of the target, this is a great photogenic hole that also poses a serious challenge.



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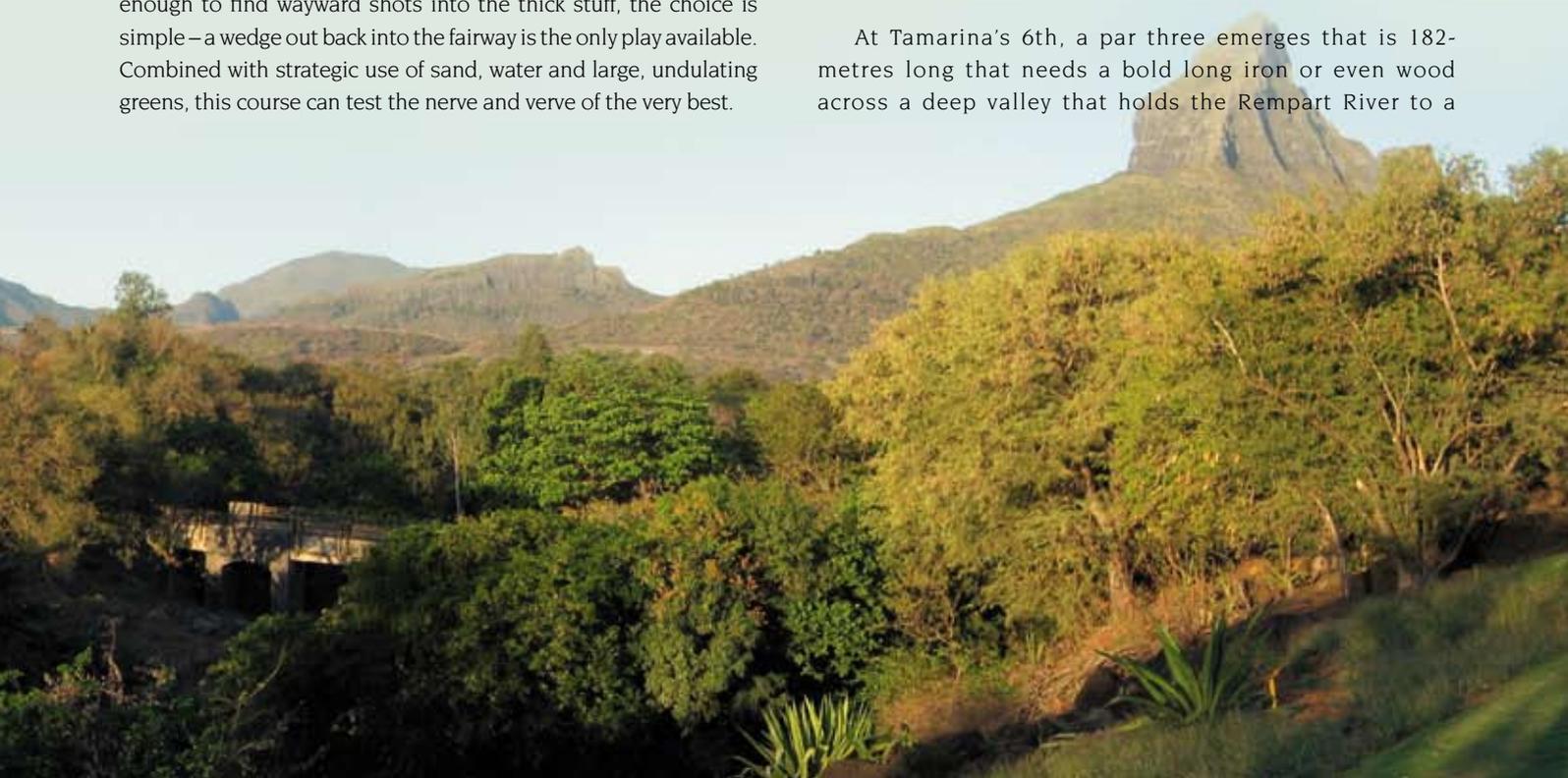
Backing up to the 526-metre par five 3rd bears a majestic view of Mount Rempart in its background and two foreboding creeks across the fairway in the front. The intent, of course, being to force an exceptional teeshot and yet cause the truly long-hitter to re-consider his options. Even after negotiating both creeks, the fairway narrows significantly with two deep fairway bunkers plus brutal rough makes the approach much more than simply ho-hum.

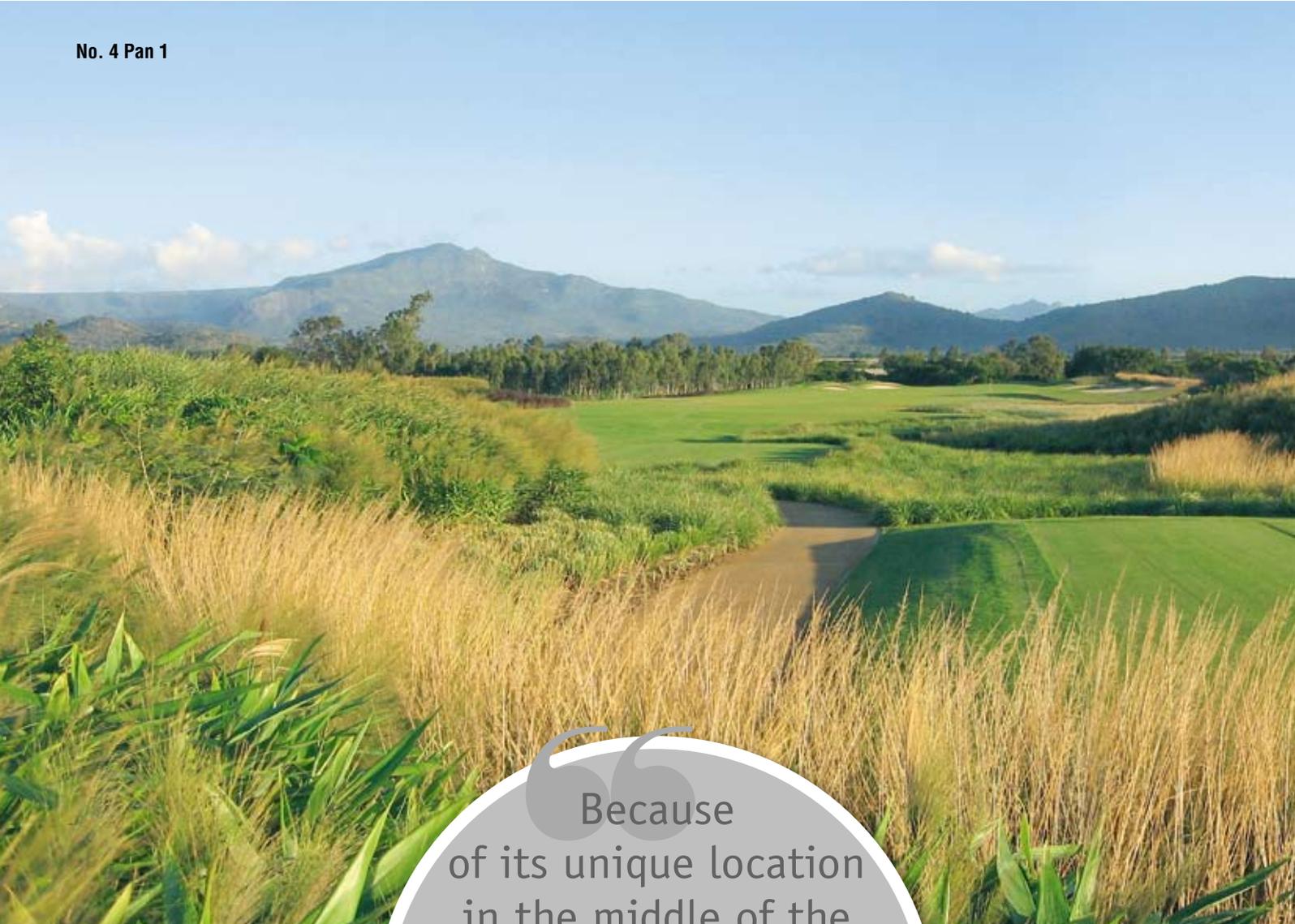
The rough here at Tamarina is thick and plush. For those lucky enough to find wayward shots into the thick stuff, the choice is simple – a wedge out back into the fairway is the only play available. Combined with strategic use of sand, water and large, undulating greens, this course can test the nerve and verve of the very best.

The 5th, another par five measuring 510 metres, is also a tremendous hole, as are all par fives here at Tamarina. One of several risk/reward holes created by Wright that tests not only a golfer's skill and judgement, it also tests how well he actually knows his game and ability.

The risk/reward here comes in the second shot for, having safely carried the Rempart River and its banks with a well-struck drive, an attempt to make the green in two requires a carry of more than 200 metres over thick rough and three deep bunkers guarding in front.

At Tamarina's 6th, a par three emerges that is 182-metres long that needs a bold long iron or even wood across a deep valley that holds the Rempart River to a





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well-bunkered green. This is quickly followed by a 426-metre four par that is deemed the toughest challenge on the course. A ruggedly beautiful hole that plays straight back up to the Rempart Mountain with the Rempart River running all along the right side of the fairway, this is a hole that is as pretty as it is tough.

The par 5 11th is a 496-metre beauty that is named 'Snake Eyes'. From the tee, there is a choice of two fairways to shoot to; the shorter route is safer but reduces the 'two-on' option to nil. Taking the riskier option is why the hole was thus named: It requires a drive that flies 242 metres to carry a pair of deep bunkers (the Snake Eyes) down the right hand side of the hole. No doubt a long carry but alas, from the elevated tee, the carry seems less menacing than believed.

These are just some of the holes that make Tamarina a great and challenging course, one more than capable of holding a big professional tournament.

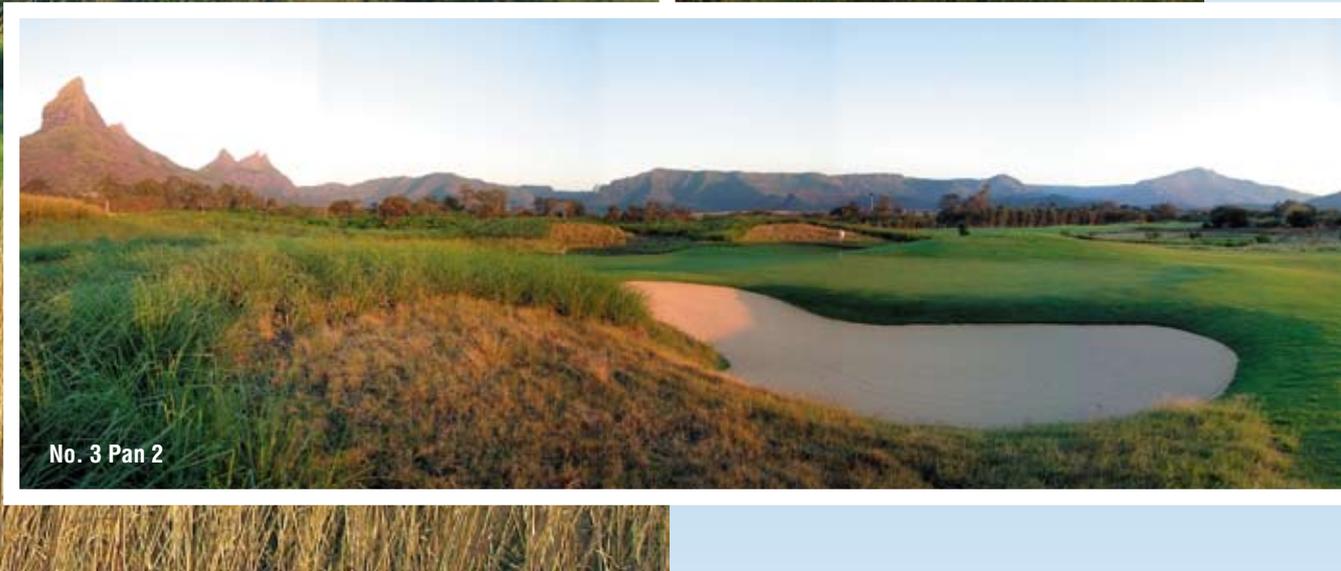
And because of its unique location in the middle of the Indian Ocean, it could possibly host anything from the European Tour, the Asian Tour or the Sunshine Tour.

Living in Tamarina

For the present, the Estate has to finish building all 119 of its villas, each with its own private swimming pool and all of which have already been sold. They are also building the Beach Club, scheduled to open in December 2007, located on the sandy beach of Tamarin Bay with swimming pool, restaurant and bar.



Tamarina No. 6 - Par 3-2



No. 3 Par 2

“We are also planning to open up a spa, gymnasium, tennis courts and a helipad in Phase Two of the development,” reveals the Estate’s gracious golf director O’Brian Barber. “And we’re hoping to create a rental pool system soon so that we can rent out some of the villas to people on golf holidays when the villa owners are not in residence.”

There is also talk of a possible boutique hotel on the Estate though it is likely to be several years before that materialises. For now, Tamarina has excellent links with six luxury beach hotels (including Hilton, Sofitel and Taj Exotica) in the nearby Flic En Flac town, as well as golf links with Le Paradis Hotel & Golf Club at Le Morne, a 30-minute drive south and the Golf du Chateau course at Bel Ombre, some 40 minutes drive from Tamarina.

Other existing facilities at Tamarina include an excellent practice range with chipping and putting greens, a wonderful clubhouse with luxurious changing rooms, a magnificent veranda

that looks out across the golf course, the Rempart river and the surrounding mountains, and a first-class restaurant that serves great food at very fair prices.

For the moment the future looks very rosy indeed for golf at Tamarina and, though all the villas are sold and the golf club membership is closed at present, anyone can play here for a fee. Current rates are 4,180 Mauritian Rupees (approximately US\$140) for 18-holes, plus 1,680 MRps (approximately US\$56) for a buggy for two players. Guests at the Paradis Hotel & Golf Club and at the Heritage Golf Resort & Spa and Le Telfair Golf Resort & Spa (the two resorts to which Golf du Chateau is attached) enjoy a greatly reduced green fee of MRps 2,100 (approx. US\$70) though they still pay roughly the same for a buggy. 📍

For further information about the Tamarina Golf Estate and Beach Club please see their website at www.tamarinagolf.mu.