

THE RADAR GOLF

BY ANN COCHRAN



The legendary Golf Club Ugolino in Florence

LINK LUXURIES

Give your golfer what they never knew they always wanted

You're not proud of it, but you've done it: bought your favorite player a cutesy set of club cozies or golf-themed dart board. This winter, get serious. Instead of knickknacks offer up an indulgent treat or a once-in-a-lifetime experience. They'll love it, and you'll still respect yourself in the morning.

PATIO PRACTICE Does dear old Dad have short shot deficiencies? If the lucky devil has at least 500 spare square feet lying around he qualifies for the mother of all golf gifts: a private putting green. TourTurf by FieldTurf has designed and built custom putt places outside private homes across the country. Imitation being the best form of flattery, there's no shame in your golfer asking the designer to study a favorite green to be mimicked. \$20 per square foot, installed. 877.710.8873, www.tourturf.com.

PUTT PILATES If it's good enough for Tiger Woods, golf-specific Pilates is good enough for your favorite green machine. For \$700 you can book 10 private sessions at your loved one's crib or club—or the peaceful Orchid Pagoda in Fairfax. Owner Sarah Christensen created the program after she witnessed Pilates giving her golfing clients increased flexibility and balance, allowing them to hit the ball farther and straighter. Christensen certifies instructors who go on to teach her program in resorts and clubs nationwide and also offers a DVD: *Hole-in-One Pilates*. 8626 Lee Hwy., Fairfax, 703.207.9120, www.pilatesforgolf.com.

CIAO, ITALIA Surprise! You can put a Euro trip under the tree for your golf addict without damning your dear to tweeds and mediocre vittles.

Surrounded by gardens and woodland in the Fiesole hills of Florence, Villa San Michele is a former Franciscan monastery built in the 15th-century, with a facade that has been attributed to Michelangelo. A long list of starry guests have lived large in its antique-rich rooms, including Gwyneth Paltrow and Sting. Orient Express Hotels Group, the villa's parent company, customizes itineraries that feature four days and three nights of golfing, gastronomy, shopping and museums, as well as play time at Tuscany's leading courses: Golf Club Ugolino, the oldest and most prestigious; Le Pavoniere Golf and Country Club, designed by Arnold Palmer on land the Medici dukes used as a hunting reserve; and Poggio de Medici Golf Club, an 18-hole course and resort. Cooking classes, Prada and Gucci outlet shopping and other activities are planned for non-golfers. Similar golf excursions are also available through the famed Cipriani in Venice, also an Orient Express property. *Approximately \$6,000 for 2, depending on activities.* 800.237.1236, www.villasanmichele.com.

CROC MOCS Golfers' toes don't dream of Jimmy Choo. They crave Unutzer. For \$1500, you can wrap up a pair of their super-chic genuine crocodile golf shoes with their ruddy color, shiny look and pure white soles. The rubberized spike sole is perfect for the grass, but can be worn in town as well. For the traditionalist, Walter Genuin's golf shoes, for men and women, are still handcrafted on the bench in Italy. Genuin offers a range of styles and prices, but the great ones are in the \$400–\$500 range and are built to last longer than some golf clubs. *Unutzer shoes at www.ladygolf.com. Walter Genuin shoes available at Bella Vestiti, 10259 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda, 301.897.2777.* ■