

tried &
tested



BY
TAN JU KUANG



WEDGE INNOVATION

The new Titleist Vokey Design SM 6 wedges profess three new technologies that put them in the cutting edge of the game's scoring clubs. The Spin Milled wedges feature Titleist's ground-breaking Progressive Centre of Gravity (CG) technology whereby the impact position of each loft is aligned with the CG for better distance and trajectory control.

The lower-lofted clubs (46 to 52 degrees) have lower CG positions, which move up the clubface the more lofted the wedges go – with the higher lofted clubs (58 to 62 degrees) featuring high CG positions for tighter distance dispersion.

The SM6 sole grinds – five available L, M, S, F and K – have been tweaked to offer golfers of all skill levels improved shot versatility for their swing type, course conditions and shot making preference.

And thirdly, the wedges have the

new, proprietary Spin Milled TX4 grooves and face texture to deliver more spin (up to 200rpm more spin on average) with more consistency. The machine-milled, parallel face texture of the new grooves creates a sharper, more consistent edge. The grooves are deeper for the 46 to 54 degree lofts, and shallower in the 56 to 62 degree ones in order to optimise ball-to-edge contact, produce more spin and control around the greens.

The Vokey SM6 wedges are available in 46 to 62 degree lofts, and in three finishes – tour Chrome, Steel Gray and Jet Black (raw).

SWING FREE FOR GREATER POWER

If colour and a sense of playfulness is your thing, and you don't want to compromise performance for them, then you can bring it on the course by wearing FootJoy's new line of shoes – FreeStyle.

While the name hints at the line's stylish accent of design, it really refers to the delivery of traction, mobility and comfort in letting golfers generate greater power through increased freedom of movement.

FootJoy testing revealed that there are some golfers who benefit more from the ability to roll their feet uninhibited throughout the swing, and the FreeStyle is designed to help these type of players increase power. Of course, gripping ability is still there, and the shoes boast the new F.R.O.G.S. outsole technology with its increase ground contact points for greater traction.

F.R.O.G.S. Technology incorporates a super-flexible new SoftMax™ translucent outsole that

offers both a softer feel and extra grip, while a new FTF™ 3.0 midsole compound is the brand's softest and most comfortable yet.

The Softspikes Tour Lock™ system and new translucent Pulsar cleats deliver exceptional low-profile grip with a dynamic, frog-like flex. Inside, the InnerSok™ system provides an Achilles pad for better support and comfort in the heel, and the Tongue-Lok™ instep grip provides slip-resistant fit under the tongue.

The L4 BOA Lacing System option offers quick-twist tightening for an ultimate fit and there is also a one-year waterproof warranty.

The FreeStyle comes in five different colour choices including White/Grey/Charcoal, Black/White/Grey/Navy/Orange/Lime (BOA), Grey/Navy/Berry (BOA), and Black/Lime/Grey (BOA).



PINNACLE OF PERFORMANCE

The ever-popular Pinnacle golf balls return in two new renditions with re-engineered technologies offering greater distance and better feel. The Pinnacle Rush ball has a high-energy core to deliver higher initial velocity for greater distance and an advanced icosahedral dimple design for a more penetrating flight. The focus here is on distance with its low compression core and firm cover.

In comparison, the Pinnacle Soft combines a high-energy, low-compression core with a very soft ionomer cover to provide extremely soft feel with low-spin distance.

All Pinnacle balls are designed, tested and manufactured by Acushnet Company, the maker of the popular ProV1 range. "Pinnacle Rush is either longer, or longer and softer, than other top selling distance competitors," says Michael Mahoney, Director, Golf Ball Product Management. "Pinnacle Soft is longer and softer than the leading competitive products positioned as extremely soft or low compression."

Pinnacle Rush balls are available in White or Optic Yellow, and the Pinnacle Soft balls are available in White.

FLIGHT OPTIMISATION

If enjoying your golf game is your key concern, then the new Honma Beres 05 range of drivers, fairway woods and irons have been designed with you in mind. The premium Japanese brand launched three 05 lines this year including the S/IS-05 and U-05 series in January and the E/IE-05 series in February. The three different lines segment players looking for different characteristics in their clubs.

The S series of drivers have a centre of gravity design that optimises launch velocity of the ball, amount of spin and launch angle to make it the longest flight performance in the Beres family.

S fairway woods have a new innovative cup-face, new head design and centre of gravity flow through in each clubhead. And the S irons have large clubheads with a new face for greater flight distance.

The E drivers are made of titanium 811 alloy and have thin crowns that facilitate a lower and more deeply set centre of gravity. This thin-crown design is also found in the E fairway woods together with an optimising centre of gravity position.

The E irons have a new face structure to reduce distance lost on mishits, while the new sole has a thicker bottom and leading edge to help launch the ball higher. Weight is distributed towards the heel to make it easier to square the club for straighter shots.

The Honma U-05 range of utilities completes the offerings. Higher trajectory is the main focus in these clubs, and the 7g tungsten weights in the soles help achieve this. The sole is slightly rounded to make it easier to hit through the turf, and the "linear leading edge" makes it easy to align the club towards your target.

The new ARMQR graphite shaft comes with the Beres 05 clubs. These eight-axis shafts are made with TORAYCA® T1100G carbon fibre, a new material from Toray Industries, Inc., and was developed for aerospace applications.

It brings together strength and elasticity to help the club's stability and reduce the toe-down effect through the swing.

