

26-27 NOVEMBER 2016 | THE BUSINESS TIMES WEEKEND

# Swing

by **sphgolf**

## Laguna BINTAN'S

HOLES JUST TAKE THE BREATH AWAY

BY **GODFREY ROBERT**

**RADIO DJs**

GO GAGA OVER  
NEW SPH GOLF CARD

**ROHIT BRIJNATH**

GOLF PROS LIKE FALDO PROVE  
THAT SWEAT EQUALS MAGIC



OYSTER PERPETUAL  
YACHT-MASTER 40



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WATCH FEATURED SUBJECT TO STOCK AVAILABILITY



BY  
GODFREY ROBERT

# BINTAN BECKONS, SO ENJOY THE ENTICING EXPERIENCE

THIS LAGUNA LAYOUT HAS THE ENDORSEMENT OF  
HIGHLY-ACCLAIMED SIX-TIME MAJOR WINNER SIR NICK

Dark clouds were looming, a drizzle could be felt and darkness was arriving. Suddenly, for those flights that began from the first to fifth tees, the normal 15-minute per hole round was spontaneously rushed to 10-minute rounds.



THEN...

It was a well-arranged corporate event with prizes galore at stake.

But for these 20 golfers, scores did not matter but completing the fabulous holes was a must.

And among those holes was the teasing signature par-three 17th hole that's a golfer's dream.

Here, the golfers are challenged to play directly over spectacular rock formations from a tee box perched over the sea.

With howling winds and an undulating green, bogey here is a good score.

But that's besides the point. Just playing the hole is a "good score".

Thus the rush. Therefore the push. And at the tee you feel a gush.

One of effusive and exaggerated enthusiasm. Including injections of huge doses of excitement.

My flightmates and I – despite differing scores of par, bogey, double-bogey and a double-par on the par-three 165 metre-hole playing against the wind – were in ecstasy land after re-veiling on the fascinating hole.

Laguna Golf Bintan is that, and so much more. It is a Greg Norman course, first opened in June 1998, set within 60 hectares of tropical paradise.

And now with Sir Nick Faldo, a six-time Major winner, having endorsed the course, it stands as among the best in the region, what with it receiving the "Best Renovated Course for 2016" award from Asian Golf.

Laguna Golf Bintan unveiled its upgraded oceanfront course on Nov 3 at its grand re-opening event, graced by Laguna Golf ambassador Faldo. Attended by 110 invited guests and regional golf media, the event comprised a series of activities including an exclusive golf clinic by Faldo and an 18-hole gourmet golf tournament



AND NOW

The dramatic transformation of Hole 16.

with special Cassia Bintan hole-in-one prize.

Laguna Golf Bintan – only a 45-minute ferry ride from Tanah Merah – features awe-inspiring beachfront holes on both the front and back nines, while playing through tranquil lagoons, lush jungle and Bintan's famous rugged rocks.

After a gentle start on the par-four first hole, holes 2 through 4 play around Laguna Bintan's 3km private beach, sporting magnificent views of the South China Sea.

The course then wraps around the tranquil lagoons of holes 6 to 8, before challenging golfers with a winding uphill par-four ninth hole played towards the clubhouse.

Holes 10 to 15 play through lush jungle and Bintan's famous rugged rocks. Holes 16 and 17 are among the highlights of the course. The long par-four hole 16 plays through the jungle and back towards the sea.

The breathtaking course offers the

ultimate golfing experience. Now more strategically and visually interesting, Laguna Golf Bintan marks another accomplishment for the celebrated Banyan Tree Group.

The highly-acclaimed Faldo said, "I've been a big fan of the Banyan Tree brand and visited Banyan Tree Phuket Resort 25 years ago. After designing the Laguna Lang Co course in Danang, Vietnam, I am proud to be the ambassador of the Laguna Golf Brand.

"It is my first time here in Laguna Bintan and I'm blown away by the natural beauty of this resort."

Banyan Tree senior vice-president Ravi Chandran said: "The extensive upgrade over the past 12 months brings the course to a higher level complementing Banyan Tree and Angsana resorts in Laguna Bintan.

"The course layout is remarkably strong in terms of design and playability. This relaunch marks the completion of its Phase One plans.

"Natural surroundings were ac-

centuated with all greens rebuilt and landscapes replanted.

"New golf carts were added and the clubhouse was improved. The Phase Two will focus on enhancing the golf course conditions such as fairway grasses and operational touches."

The grand re-opening ceremony, marked by a "royal" hospitality, also featured the launching of the SPH Golf Card, honouring Sir Nick as its first premier member.

The Indonesian villa design clubhouse offers a host of luxury facilities, including a well-stocked pro shop and international dining option.

The extensive practice facilities includes comprehensive short game areas. All in all, it's an enticing experience not to be missed.

## PROMOTION

Enjoy complimentary golf and spa for two when you book your stay at Banyan Tree Bintan or Angsana Bintan at best available rate from now to Dec 7.

Valid for stays till March 31 next year. Enjoy up to 50 per cent savings with this package.

Stay. Golf. Spa. package includes daily breakfast for two, return transfer by car between Bintan ferry terminal and the resort, complimentary 1 x 60-minute spa treatment for two and complimentary 1 x 18-hole golf round for two.

For reservations, call +62-770-693-100 or e-mail [reservations-bintan@banyantree.com](mailto:reservations-bintan@banyantree.com)

For reservations at Angsana Bintan, call +62-770-693-111 or e-mail [reservations-bintan@angsana.com](mailto:reservations-bintan@angsana.com)

photo courtesy of Laguna Golf