



BY BENNY TEO

tried & tested

TITLEIST VOKEY DESIGNED SM7 WEDGES

Previously, when Titleist launched the SM6 wedges, they introduced a new progressive centre of gravity design that Bob Vokey created using the curves at the back of each club to regulate balance point of each loft and its desired effects.

This means a lower centre of gravity in lower-lofted clubs for increased ball speed and penetrating ball flight and vice-versa for the higher lofts to get more spin and lowered flight for

more green side control.

Now, with the SM7, that effect is even more pronounced with the centre of gravity moved even higher in high-lofted wedges and lower the other way around.

Apart from that, there is also a new "D" grind that accompanies the usual five, namely F, S, M, K and L.

This new grind is noted to be its most versatile with a high bounce and, owing to its crescent shape, also affords more shot-

making versatility.

Pick a few targets around the greens and try various shots with a 60-degree D-grind wedge.

Bump it, float it up, lob it from the bunker, you will realise that the club feels right each time it is set up to the ball. What is left then, is simply to execute the shot.

• The new SM7 wedges are available in three finishes (Tour Chrome, Brushed Steel and Jet Black).



TAYLORMADE M3, M4 IRONS

TaylorMade has always been known for their drivers and woods but the new M3 and M4 irons are certainly not an afterthought. One look and you can tell that these two clubs have technology aplenty stacked into them but really, the key here is something they call RIBCOR.

Created as an internal support using two ribs on the outer portions of the heel and toe so that the club face can flex as much as possible during impact, it seeks to reduce energy lost from shots not directly hit at the sweet spot located at or near the centre of the club face.

Hit it off the top, towards the heel and near the toe, and though the flyers, pulls and slices may still come, there is a perceptible difference to the reduced vibration upon impact.

This is especially prominent on the M4 where a multi-material damping badge is attached to the back of the club

head to absorb more shock.

The result, especially for someone who lacks the patience for warming up at the range, could mean a few less strokes in the first couple of holes during play.

• For Asian specs, the new M3 irons will be offered in 4-P, and come equipped with the MCC KuroKage TM6 graphite shaft (S, R) or N.S. Pro930 JP steel shaft (S, R).

• For Global specs, M3 irons will be offered in 4-P as well. Players will have a choice of True Temper's XP100 steel shaft (S300, R300) or MCC Tensei graphite shaft (80S / 70R) in addition to numerous additional custom shaft options.



FOOTJOY TOUR-S SHOES

FootJoy may be one of golf's favourite shoe brands but the \$330 price tag on its new Tour-S shoes is hard to swallow. Nevertheless, this is one for the serious golfer with performance attributes to justify the cost.

Slip into a pair and immediately, it feels secure, safe enough to handle the twists and turns of the impending 70 or so golf swings.

A lot of tech has been thrown into the Tour-S and they mainly consist of heel and forefoot pods, a TPU strap, and a fibreglass midsole to keep the foot feeling like it's enclosed in a tank in the middle of an artillery bombardment.

This 'tank' comes with all around cushioning too so it's snug and comfortable throughout while the body is weathering the metaphorical storm out on the golf course.

• Made using Pittards Pure Performance Luxury leather, the FJ Tour-S comes with one-year waterproof warranty.

TITLEIST TOUR SOFT GOLF BALL

• Largest Titleist core ever for distance and speed off the clubface.

• Unique 4CE Grafted cover made with four different materials using TCU process technology.

• Spherically-tiled 342 cuboctahedron dimple design for penetrating trajectory and consistent ball flight.

• Softest ball in its class.



watch it

WOMEN'S GOLF MONTH

The month of February hails two important weeks for women golfers not just in Singapore but across the region and the world as well. Two major events happening back-to-back will see the region's top amateurs and then the world's top professionals come alive on Sentosa Golf Club's New Tanjong Course.

Happening this week from February 21-24 is the first-ever Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific Championship (WAAP), which will see 83 players from 18 countries vie to become the maiden WAAP champion, including local golfers Callista Chen and Shannon Tan.

The winner will earn a place in the field for two Major championships – the 2018 ANA Inspirational and Ricoh Women's British Open – as well as

a spot at the HSBC Women's World Championship (HWWC) to be held the week after from March 1-4.

The HWWC, renamed after a decade of being called the HSBC Women's Champions, has now evolved to better reflect its standing as 'Asia's Major', according to Tricia Weener, global head of marketing commercial banking & sponsorship at HSBC.

This pre-eminent winners-only female event will see reigning champion and seven-time Major winner Inbee Park return to defend her title against the toughest field in female professional golf.

• Tickets for the HSBC Women's World Championship 2018 are available for sale now at <https://www.hsbcgolf.com/womensgrinds>.

HONDA LPGA PRO-AM

This week, two lucky golfers were selected to participate at the Honda LPGA Thailand Pro-Am. In a draw conducted on Jan 31 with William Low, the Tourism Authority of Thailand's marketing manager, Cheong Jiong Chian and Soh Chee Leong were picked from a pool of many participants as winners.

The qualification of this draw dictates that participants must have travelled to Thailand for a golfing trip between November 20, 2017 and January 31, 2018.

Cheong had travelled as

recently as January 26-28 for the SPH Golf Card's inaugural trip to Bangkok and Hua Hin and was delighted to have won yet another trip to the land of a thousand smiles.

Both men had won a return economy class air ticket on Thai Airways International, three nights' accommodation in Pattaya, a Pro-Am slot at the Honda LPGA Thailand and entry pass into the main event happening this weekend at Siam Country Club, courtesy of the Tourism Authority of Thailand.



Kajornet Apichartkul, Director, Singapore & the Philippines Tourism Authority of Thailand, flanked by both winners.