

HK Golfer

Asian Travel: New courses at Anvaya Cove and The Bluffs, Ho Tram



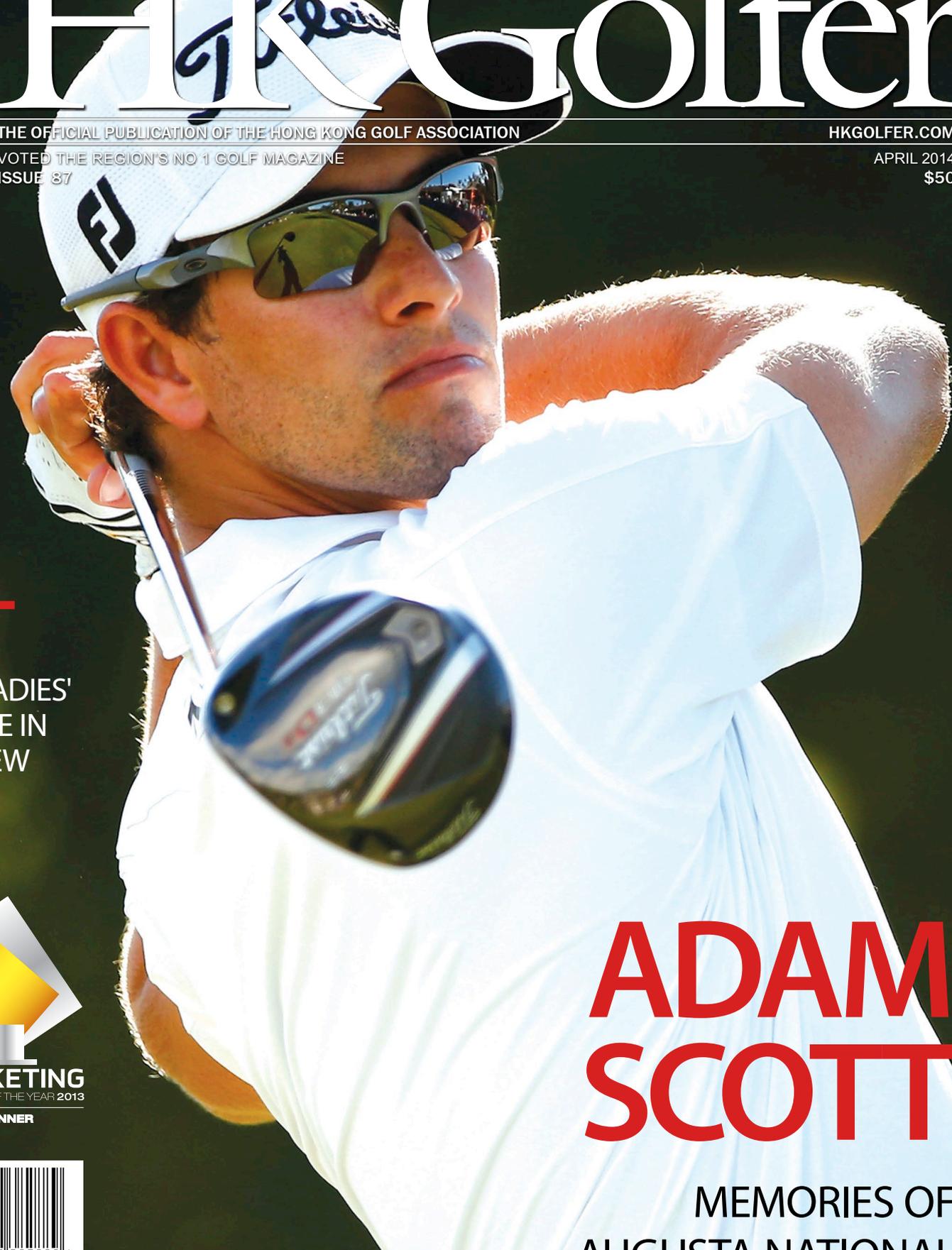
# HK Golfer

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# THE BLUFFS WELCOMES FIRST GOLFERS

GREG NORMAN'S HIGHLY ANTICIPATED SECOND VIETNAM DESIGN OPENS FOR PREVIEW PLAY.



The mighty 615-yard par-5 10th at The Bluffs, Ho Tram

One of the most anticipated new courses in Asia called its first golfers to the tee last month, when The Bluffs, Ho Tram opened for preview play along Vietnam's south-central coast.

Designed by two-time major champion Greg Norman, who spent an astounding 331 consecutive weeks atop the world golf rankings, The Bluffs trades on geographical traits that are more akin to the classic links of the British Isles than tropical Southeast Asia.

"This is one of only two pieces of land of this quality and character that I have ever been given to work with, the other being Doonbeg in the south of Ireland," said Norman, who also conceived the award-winning (and *HK Golfer* favourite) Dunes Course at Danang Golf Club, on Vietnam's central coast.

Routed over and around towering seaside sand dunes 120km southeast of Ho Chi Minh City, The Bluffs is being billed as one of the few championship-calibre links courses with significant elevation changes, making for a golf experience as much a feast for the eyes as it is a challenge to tame.

While the highest point of the rugged, windswept property is 50m above sea level, on the 15th green, one of the most spectacular spots comes earlier in the round, on the fourth tee.

From there, players are presented with a 360-degree view -- of the course, of the surrounding national forest that's a haven for wildlife, of the expansive shoreline and of the The Grand Ho Tram Strip, which opened in July 2013 as Vietnam's first international luxury casino resort.

During the preview phase, golfers are invited to play the course for US\$100, half of what the greens fee is likely to be come grand opening time later this year.

"This course has all the elements necessary to be ranked among the best in the world," said Ben Styles, the club's general manager. "It's golf in its purest, most beautiful form, in a setting that has no rival."

When finished, The Bluffs will include an elegant, 2,300sqm clubhouse housing an array of dining outlets and a PGA-staffed driving range with more than 3,000sqm of practice and training facilities. Membership opportunities will be rolled out in May.

The course is among several components of The Grand Ho Tram Strip's first stage of development. The ambitious project already features a 541-room upscale hotel, six restaurants and bars, a spa, nightclub, convention center and casino with 90 gaming tables and 600 slot machines.

For more information visit [bluffshotram.com](http://bluffshotram.com)