



## DOHA GOLF CLUB

### DESERT DRAMA, CHAMPIONSHIP THEATRE

**I**f golf courses had passports, Doha Golf Club's would be bursting with stamps. For nearly three decades, this striking slice of desert golf has been the stage for the Commercial Bank Qatar Masters, welcoming the world's best to Qatar with equal measures of sunshine, swagger and sneaky difficulty.

Designed by legendary architect Peter Harradine, the man widely credited with pioneering championship desert golf in the Middle East, Doha Golf Club opened in 1996

and instantly became the region's original tournament showstopper. Long before "destination golf" became a buzz phrase, Harradine was out here shaping fairways through rolling dunes, framing greens with rugged waste areas, and daring players to flirt with disaster in the name of birdies.

From the back tees, Doha Golf Club is no pushover. Wide-looking fairways tighten precisely where you want to open your shoulders. Greens are large, undulating and beautifully exposed to the ever-present Gulf

breeze, which has a nasty habit of turning a gentle wedge into a full-blown guessing game. Add strategically placed bunkers, desert scrub waiting hungrily offline, and you have a layout that rewards bold shot-making but punishes even the slightest lapse in concentration.

What really gives Doha its personality, though, is the wind. Some days it whispers. Other days it howls. When it does, even tour pros start rethinking club choices, trajectories and life decisions. It is part links golf, part desert survival test, and fully brilliant theatre.