

The Starter

“For once, the client wanted a course that would be fun for average players.”

Jebel Sifah

Oman's new 9-hole course is aimed at the “back bone of the golf industry”

Ocean vistas invariably draw the eye when PR folk peddle the first images of a new course, especially one that is genuinely linked to the sea. Needless to say, the sweeping Gulf of Oman views from the Middle East's newest course are special but this incredible mountain scape at Jebel Sifah GC is a spectacular diversion. The 9-hole epicentre of a yacht-dotted residential/resort community by the same name, Sifah GC has opened to rave reviews 65km south east of Muscat. Managed by Troon International, the par 36, 2843 yard desert-links was designed by Harradine Golf whose principal architect Peter Harradine is the antithesis of many of today's contemporary course designers. Wide fairways, large greens and the absence of “useless” fairway bunkers promise aesthetically pleasing, resort-style golf where the natural topography has been cleverly enhanced to offer strategic challenge. Visit the 'Courses' tab at GolfDigestMe.com for more. —KENT GRAY