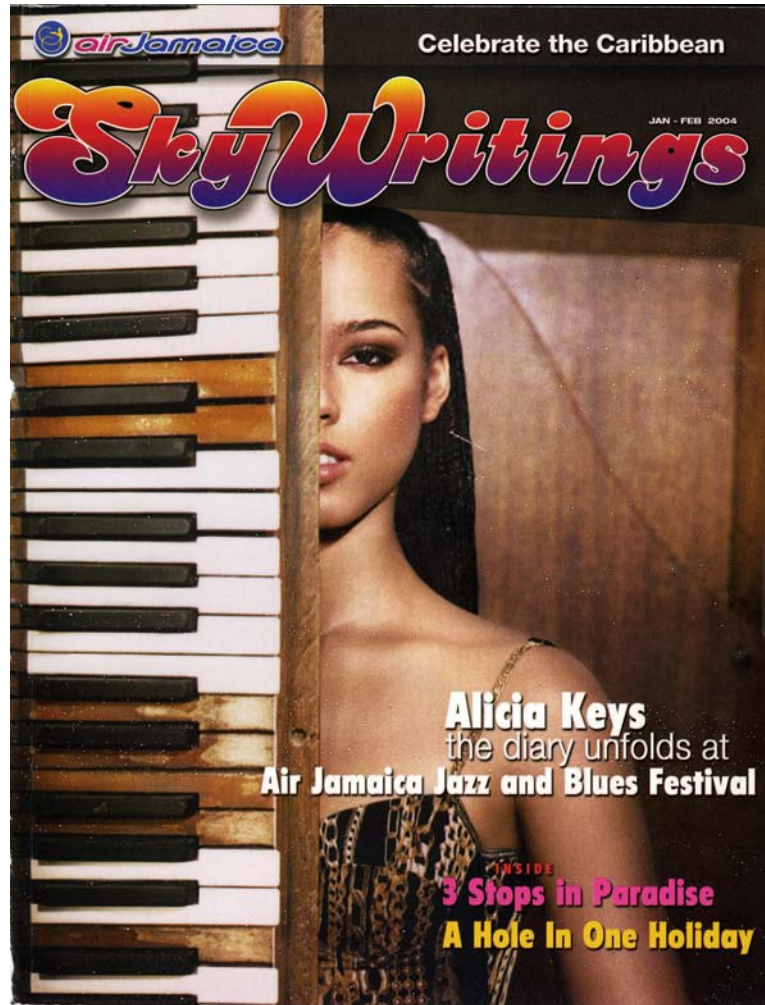


## Air Jamaica Sky Writings Jan - Feb, 2004







During the opening of his White Witch golf course in Montego Bay, Jamaica, architect Robert Von Hagge was asked which of the 18 holes was his signature hole. He replied, "all 18 of them".

In many ways Von Hagge's claim could be true of all the golf courses around Montego Bay. There are so many "signature holes" it's difficult to say which is the best. That's why golfers who visit Jamaica must bring their golf clubs. Playing the four courses that I did and you will agree with superstar sports agent Donald Dell's assessment, "This is a little piece of heaven on earth." All of the courses are associated with a specific resort, but they are all open to the public for an additional fee. You'll find that each golf course has its own distinctive style. Still they are all upscale and worth the money.

Located behind the famous Rose Hall mansion and using the nickname after Annie Palmer, the famous legendary resident, the White Witch Golf Course is considered by many to be the crown jewel of Jamaican golf courses. Opened in 2000, this Ritz-Carlton Rose Hall Resort golf course has quickly become a favourite and have already featured in **Golf** and **Golf Digest** magazines.

Playing the course it's easy to see why. Hitting you hard right from the start, both nines begin with very demanding par fives and feature the glorious Caribbean ocean as the spectacular backdrop to the elevated first tee. On the other hand, to begin the back nine, you'll need to hit a shot of more than 200 yards to reach the fairway from the back tee. In addition, both nines offer spectacular par threes. The downhill 8th and the 13th both have ponds guarding the front of the green. The view from the 17th tee, with the Caribbean ocean in the background, is worth the difficulties that you'll find if you miss the green. Sand plays an important part of the 5th hole. A



(left) The Ritz-Carlton's White Witch Golf Course. (right) Ritz-Carlton Rose Hall Resort Golf Course.



As the former home of an LPGA Jamaican Classic and the Johnny Walker World Golf tournaments, the Tryall Resort Golf Course is probably the best known golf course in Jamaica.

large trap creates the corner of the dogleg and collars the green making for a picturesque hole of lasting memories.

Saying that Jamaica is laid back is an understatement. The most popular phrase of the island, "No problem mon"! This is their way of saying "relax, we'll take care of you". In this congenial way Jamaicans provide a spectacular service. By the end of your stay you will get accustomed to this lifestyle and realize that maybe Jamaicans have the right idea. That said, although they aren't mandatory when playing, caddies are really worth the additional expense. Most are very experienced and their knowledge of golf, the course, local history, and the greens will help you enjoy your round. All the people at the golf courses, caddies included, are very friendly and go out of their way to make your visit special.

The superior service continues when you are greeted at the clubhouse of the Half Moon Bay Golf Course. Opened in 1961, this is a traditional Robert Trent Jones Sr. design golf course that is mature and well manicured in a tropical style. As with any of his designs, runway tees and traps are key elements. Half Moon has over 100 sand traps around the landing areas and guarding the green



**The Half Moon Club Golf Course**

Rose Hall, Jamaica  
Phone: 876.953.2615  
Price: \$130 - \$175  
Cart: \$30  
Caddie: \$15 (plus tip)

**The Tryall Club Golf Course**

Sandy Bay, Trelawny, Jamaica  
Phone: 876.956.5660  
Price: \$80 - \$150  
Cart: \$27  
Caddie: \$15 (plus tip)

**The White Witch Golf Course**

**The Ritz-Carlton Rose Hall Resort**

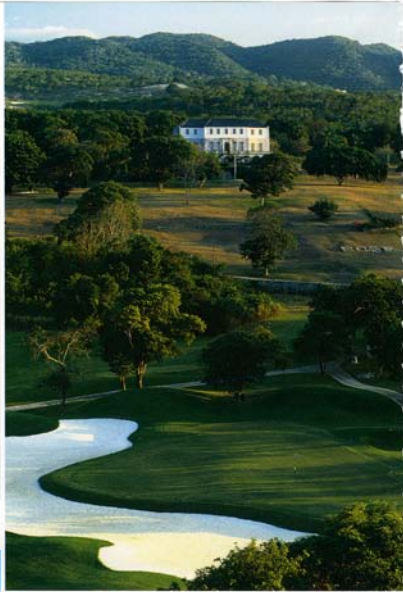
Rose Hall, Jamaica  
Phone: 876.518.0174  
Price: \$125 - \$225

All rates include green fees, cart fees, golf concierge (caddie) fees, and complimentary range balls.

**Cinnamon Hill Golf Course**

**Wyndham Rose Hall Resort & Country Club**

Rose Hall, Jamaica  
Phone: 876.953.2650  
Price: \$85 - \$130

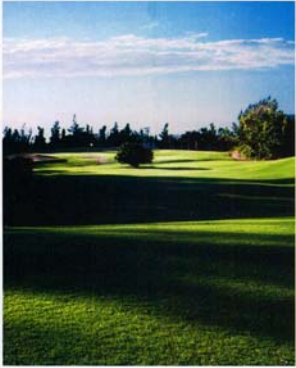


*As one of the largest former sugar plantations on the island, Rose Hall is also the location for another superb golf course—Cinnamon Hill.*

to catch wayward shots. At over 7,100 yards from the tips, it is the longest course on the island.

As the former home of an LPGA Jamaican Classic and the Johnny Walker World Golf tournaments, the Tryall Club golf course is probably the best known golf course in Jamaica. Designed by Texan, Ralph Plummer, the course has nine holes at sea level and nine holes up into the mountains. Play this course from the back tees to get the best views. At 6,772 yards from the tips, playing from the back tees is worth the extra yardage. A perfect example of this is the back tee at the 15th hole. Cut into the hillside, the view from the tee box of the Caribbean ocean is worth the difficulties of the extra 30 yards that adds to the golf hole.

I played the members' layout. This has you playing the first six holes near the ocean. The next nine holes wind up and down the mountains before finishing up back at sea level. The 7th hole is a



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golf hole you want to play from the back tee just for the view according to head golf pro, Nelson Long. Nicknamed the "Water Wheel" hole, at 434 yards from the back tee making this a very demanding uphill par four. From the back tee you'll hit your drive through large stone pillars. These pillars held up the aqueduct that brought water from the Flint River located two miles into the mountains to the mill. The water transported in this aqueduct was used to power the old sugar mill plantation that once occupied the land that is now the Tryall Club.

As one of the largest former sugar plantations on the island, Rose Hall is also the location for another superb golf course—Cinnamon Hill. Associated with the Wyndham Rose Hall Resort & Country Club, this course was originally designed by Henry O. Smedley of Canada. In 2001 (after seeing his wonderful work on the White Witch golf course located on the other side of the mansion) Robert Von Hagge was brought in to redesign and upgrade the course. When complete, the course was so different they changed the name to Cinnamon Hill. Using Bermuda grass for the fairways, this golf course is a perfect example of the contrasting styles of Jamaican golf. On one hand the holes that play right along the water are flat and open, taking full advantage of the trade winds off the Caribbean, whereas holes that wind up into the mountains are tree lined and very tight.

The course is built around the front of a beautiful mansion. It's the backdrop to the beautiful par three 2nd hole. During the upgrade process, Von Hagge took a big chance. He converted one of the most spectacular golf holes in the world—a beautiful par four that played along the coast to a peninsula green in the Caribbean called Chinaman's Reef—into a wonderful three-hole combination to end the front nine that will leave you breathless.

The back nine is all up in the mountains. Rarely will you get a flat lie. As you play the gently rolling downhill 14th hole, to the left fairway is the Jamaican home of the late famed country singer Johnny Cash and his wife June

Carter-Cash. The next hole is a beautiful downhill par three over a ravine that features a waterfall as a backdrop behind and to the left of the green. If this looks familiar, it's the waterfall used in the James Bond movie "Live and Let Die". Behind the green of the double dogleg, 17th hole, are the original pillars from where the sugarcane mill used to be located.

At the end of your round, many resorts continue an old English tradition of serving tea at 4:00 p.m. every afternoon. The tea includes finger sandwiches, cakes and the famous Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee. After spending the day on the golf course or beach, it is a wonderful treat to tide you over until dinner.



**A GUIDE TO GOLF  
ADVERTORIAL**

The centerpiece of the golf scene is **SUPERCLUBS GOLF CLUB – RUNAWAY BAY**, on Jamaica's North Coast, with its par 72, 18-hole PGA quality course. Designed by British Commander John Harris, the course features long rolling fairways, panoramic sea views and large flat greens protected by grassy mounds and sand bunkers. Measuring over 12,000 yards, the course has been home to many championship events, like the **Jamaica Open** and the **Ryder Cup**, and it holds an unbroken record of 62, set in 1982, by Jamaican international tour player, Seymour Rose. The facility is complimentary for some SuperClubs guests, but it is also available to non-guests, at a fixed fee. 1 800 GO SUPER (467-8737) or visit [superclubs.com](http://superclubs.com)



**CINNAMON HILL OCEAN COURSE AT WYNDHAM ROSE HALL**  
Winding down the mountains to the beaches at Jamaica's historic Rose Hall Plantation is a captivating oasis of golf. On 400 acres, this 18-hole par 71 course boasts multiple tees, dramatic hilltop views, historic sites, natural inland stone walls and a scenic field sprawling through mountains and valleys out to the coast and along the beaches. Since its redesign in April 2001, the course has rapidly become the favorite of the Montego Bay area, listed by Barron's as one of the Caribbean's top three courses. It's fun for every level golfer! Come play Cinnamon Hill Ocean Course.... And bring your camera! 1-800-WYNDHAM, (876) 953 2650



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**SUPERCLUBS GOLF CLUB—MONTEGO BAY, AT IRONSHORE.**  
SuperClubs took over the management of this par 72, 18-hole championship course, formerly known as Ironshore Golf & Country Club. Ironshore services guests at Breezes Montego Bay as well as Grand Lido Braco guests. In addition, Starfish guests get complimentary green fees at Ironshore. Ironshore's Clubhouse has undergone renovations and now includes a Pro Shop, equipment storage area, bar, showers and locker rooms. SuperClubs Resorts also boast their own nine-hole, par 36 executive course in Trelawny. Guests at the AAA Four Diamond Grand Lido Braco enjoy unlimited complimentary access. 1 800 GO SUPER (467-8737) or visit [superclubs.com](http://superclubs.com)

