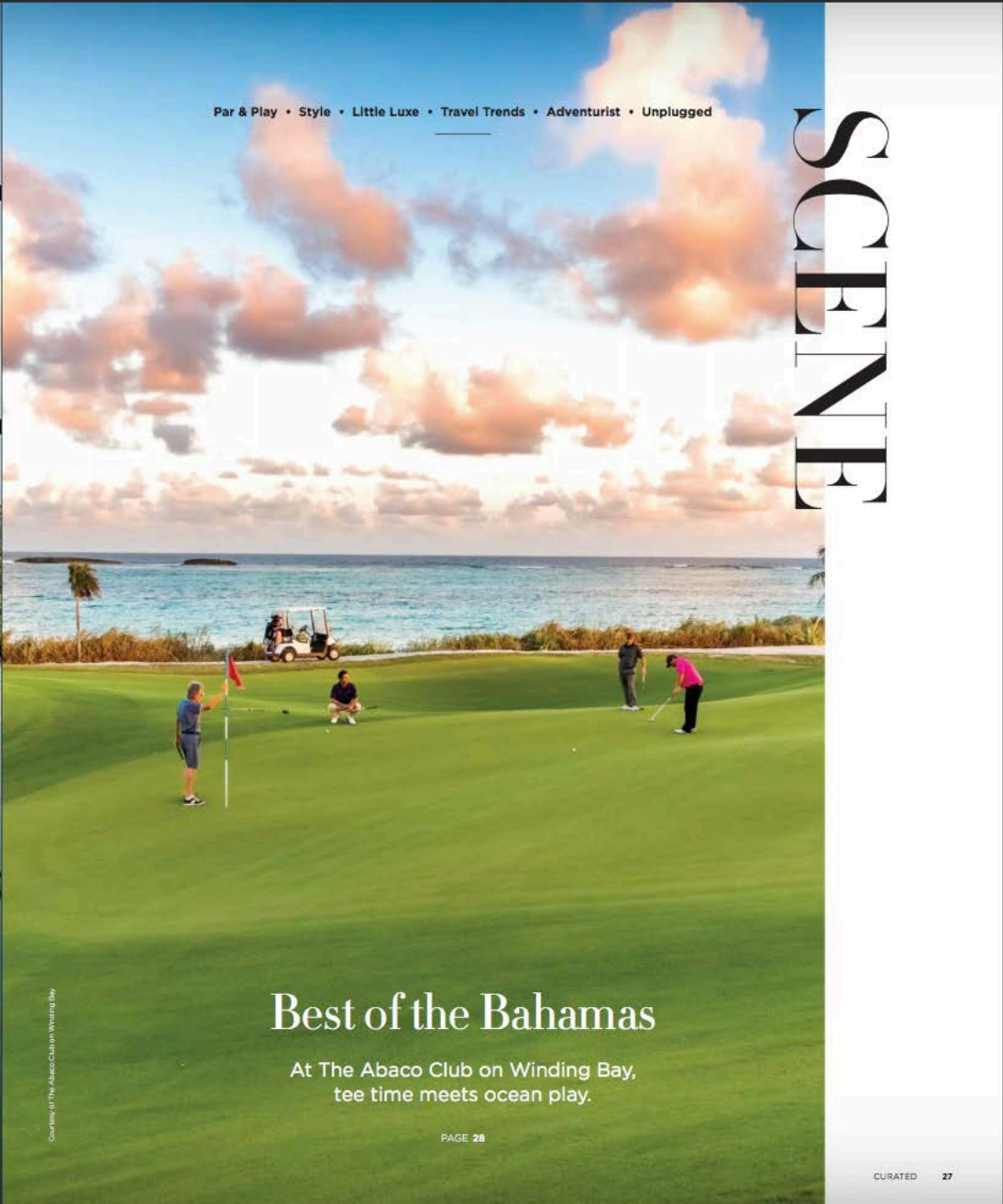


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# SCENE



## Best of the Bahamas

At The Abaco Club on Winding Bay,  
tee time meets ocean play.

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#### Island Hop

Bone fishing, sailing, paddle boarding, golf, and spa treatments are all in a day's play at The Abaco Club on Winding Bay.

— [esclusiveresorts.com/abaco-bahamas](http://esclusiveresorts.com/abaco-bahamas)

## Curated Conversation

Professional golfer **Darren Clarke** claims The Abaco Club on Winding Bay as his island getaway.

WRITTEN BY ERIN LENTZ

Irish golfer Darren Clarke may be best known for his birdies and gregarious personality, yet this 2015 European Ryder Cup captain also has a serious affinity for ocean play. In 2012, he married his wife Alison at the Abaco Club on Winding Bay, and continues to escape to his Caribbean second home most any chance he can. An avid angler, here Clarke reveals his penchant for island life.

— Above: Darren Clarke got married at The Abaco Club, and when not on tour, he tackles the resort's top-rated course.

— Below From Left: Bone fishing on Abaco island is Clarke's favorite escape; Clarke tackles the club's lauded course, which hugs Winding Bay.



“  
YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO ACCEPT THE BAD SHOTS AND MOVE ON, AND THAT'S SOMETHING THAT CARRIES OVER INTO LIFE.”

#### THE ABACO CLUB HAS BECOME YOUR SECOND HOME, AND A GO-TO BETWEEN TOURS. WHAT DO YOU MOST ENJOY ABOUT ESCAPING TO THE BAHAMAS?

The Abaco Club has everything I want. You won't find better golf, beaches, or fishing anywhere. What more could you possibly want when having downtime? It's so relaxing. I'd recommend it to anyone, and I'm sure they'll fall in love with it, just like I have.

#### WE HEAR YOU ARE QUITE THE ANGLER! WHAT IS YOUR TOP FISHING MOMENT AT ABACO?

Every time you're out on the boat it's incredible. The fishing really is the best of the best, even when you're not doing so well! A couple years back, I caught a 38-pound Permit, which was something I won't forget. It took more than an hour to land—a real thrill.

#### AS A BRITISH OPEN AND EUROPEAN RYDER CHAMPION, WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE YOUR GOLF LEGACY TO BE?

The game of golf has been very good to me and given me some incredible memories. I suppose I'll be remembered for winning the Claret Jug in 2011 and that's something that can't be taken away from me. To have my name on the trophy is something I'd dreamt about for as long as I can remember, and I achieved it.

#### WHAT IS MOST NOTABLE ABOUT THE SCOTTISH-STYLE COURSE AND NEW PRACTICE RANGE AT THE ABACO CLUB?

The facilities are just magnificent, and recently hosted the Web.com Tour's Great Abaco Classic at the start of the year, which tells you everything about them. A course set against wonderful views.

#### WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR BIGGEST LIFE LESSON FROM THE SPORT OF GOLF?

It's an easy one to say and can be a tough one to follow, but acceptance is a big one. You have to learn to accept the bad shots and move on, and that's something that carries over into life, certainly.

#### BEING AN AVID TRAVELER, WHAT'S YOUR BUCKET LIST TRIP, AND WHY?

I have been all over the world playing golf over the past 25 to 30 years. There's nowhere I feel I have to tick off. As the years go on, you get a clear idea of what you like, and there's nowhere I'd rather be than Abaco.