

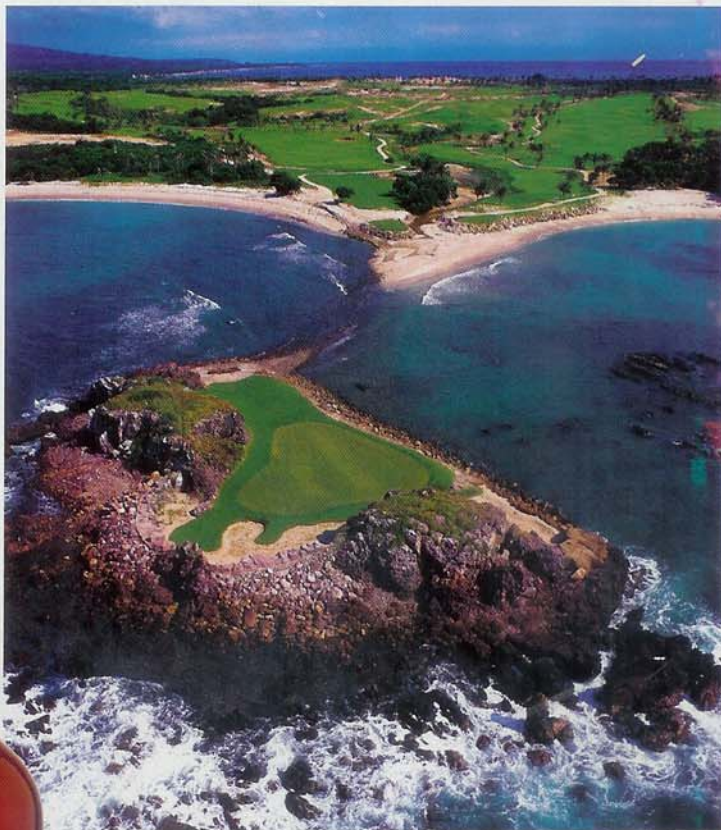


Frickin' Laser Beams

ONE DAY FRICTION will wear out the universe, so it's no wonder it'll do a number on your vinyl. Even the best needles still rub against the grooves each time you spin *Giant Steps*. That is, unless you spin it inside an ELP Laser Turntable (from \$15,000, laserturntable.com), the world's first no-touch record player. Five lasers scan the surface of the disc to read those tiny grooves and generate exceedingly accurate, friction-free sound. Plus you can skip tracks, fast-forward and rewind.

Missing Link

THE JACK NICKLAUS Signature Course at the Four Seasons in Punta Mita, Mexico is among the best in the world. The Golden Bear's anointed acres feature 19 sea-sprayed holes. Eight are played ocean-side, and the 19th is not the clubhouse bar but the Tail of the Whale (pictured), a natural island par three, accessible only during low tide—or when you're feeling intrepid, drunk or just Melvillian enough to sail one of the amphibious golf carts clear across the channel. Of course, you could do worse than staying at the Four Seasons (from \$325 a night, fourseasons.com), but to really outdo yourself, rent a fully staffed and appointed luxury villa on the peninsula for a week (from \$2,900 a night, punta-mita-properties.com). With open-air living quarters, Zenlike views, Edenic courtyards and sexy modern pools, the accommodations may have you and your companion requesting the later tee times.



Foam Home

IN RECENT YEARS wine has crept onto the Thanksgiving table, but in the interest of tradition we suggest serving beer with your fowl-centric feast. Brewery Ommegang of Cooperstown, New York crafts some of the world's most sublime ales (\$6 to \$7 for a 25-ounce bottle, ommegang.com), and three of its Belgian-style offerings pair beautifully with the holiday's rich foods: the original Ommegang Abbey, the Three Philosophers Quadrupel and the Hennepin Farmhouse Saison. With an alcohol content of about eight percent each, they'll help you forget every familial insult slung or received.