

2013 Golf Forecast
WE DARE TO MAKE OUR
ANNUAL BOLD PREDICTIONS

**4 cold, frothy
beertails**

Caribbean Update
Need a beach getaway? We tell
you all that's new in the islands.

PRIVATE Clubs

A C C E S S T H E L U X E L I F E

WINTER 2013

WHY
GO
NOW

Asia

Burma's
tantalizing time warp

China's
up-and-coming
Yunnan province

Hanoi's
burgeoning food scene

Abu Dhabi's
emerging cultural allure

Cambodia's
rise on the style meter

PLUS: other destinations
and new hotels, restaurants,
bars, and shops



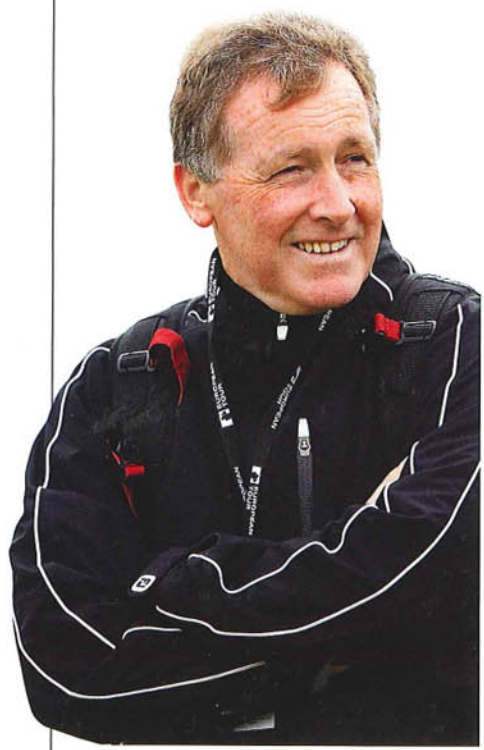
{ BMW's chic new electric car | Secrets to the top pros' tennis serves | Jazzed-Up San Francisco

Bye-fur-KAY-shun

Golf's Latest Lingo

To your golf lexicon, already larded with insider language (gimme, three-jack, big dog, shank), add this \$10 word: **bifurcation**. It refers to the prospect of the game adopting two sets of rules: one for the pros and one for everyone else. Sounds simple enough. But the idea has sparked heated debates over a range of topics, from the debate over the legality of long putters on Tour to the growing calls for the use of limited-flight golf balls, the better to rein in big-hitting pros. *Bye-fur-KAY-shun*. You might as well master the pronunciation. You'll be hearing it a lot this year.

Prediction: For all the momentum behind bifurcation, golf is a game bound by tradition, and tradition will ultimately hold sway, says Hack: "As mysterious as the rules of golf are, the last thing the game needs are two sets of rules. The beauty of golf is that one set of rules governs all. A hazard for Tiger is the same as a hazard for you and me." Expect the griping to swell this year over rules and equipment, but don't expect the old guard to give way.



The New Guru?

He's the golf world's Yoda, a soft-spoken sage with a famous student, preaching his teachings from a quiet locale. For most of his career, **Michael Bannon**, Rory McIlroy's longtime swing coach, has worked at sleepy Bangor Golf Club in Northern Ireland, far removed from the media spotlight. This year, though, Bannon emerges from seclusion to hit the road as McIlroy's full-time traveling

instructor. Sure, his first allegiance is to Rory, but now he'll be out in the public eye. Given the results Bannon has shown, he's bound to be a sought-after commodity on a Tour where everyone is always looking for an edge.

Prediction: "At the outset, I'm sure Bannon will do his best to remain under the radar, and the McIlroy camp will want to keep him close," Bastable says. "But that's going to be hard once he's out there day to day. Guys are going to see him on the road and on the range, and they're going to want to know his secrets. Don't be surprised if Bannon starts working his magic on some other big names, too."

The Next Course You'll Want to Play

Golf in Nicaragua? "Right," we hear you saying. "More people play golf on the moon." That's about to change with the emergence of **Mukul Luxury Resort & Spa**, set to open in February with an attention-grabbing 18-hole course. Its designer, David McLay Kidd, is a kilt-wearing Scotsman, best known for Bandon Dunes, his wind-buffed links in southwest Oregon. At Mukul, he'll show his skills in more balmy conditions, with a layout that spills through tropical forests and along ocean bluffs before finishing on a white-sand beach. Mukul is the Mayan word for "secret." It won't remain that way for long.

