

MANSSION GLOBAL

Prodigious Golfer Lexi Thompson Still Has to Remind Herself It's 'OK to Take a Day Off'

The 11-time LPGA Tour winner, who bought her first home at 19 years old, recently moved to an athlete-favored community in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida



You would be hard-pressed to find too many 19-year-olds who bought their own home in one of the wealthiest golf-centric enclaves in the U.S. Then again, you'd be equally challenged to find a Palm Beach home buyer with the credentials of pro golfer Lexi Thompson.

When Thompson made her U.S. Women's Open debut in 2007 at age 12, she became the youngest golfer to qualify for the major. She officially turned professional in 2010 at the age of 15 before setting a record at the time as the youngest winner of an LPGA event at 16 (claiming the Navistar LPGA Classic). She became the second-youngest winner of a Ladies European Tour event that same year at the Dubai Ladies Masters. Thompson won her only LPGA major championship at the 2014 Kraft Nabisco Championship at 19 years old as the second-youngest LPGA Tour pro to manage that achievement.

Now semiretired at 30 years old, her career racked up 11 LPGA Tour wins and seven appearances on the U.S. team for the Solheim Cup (the women's equivalent of the Ryder Cup).

It has been more than a decade after she bought that first Florida home in Delray Beach, and Thompson will now transfer training for her more selective golf career to Panther National. The elite real estate community hides some 12 miles away from the main hustle of Palm Beach Gardens and wraps around a golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus and Justin Thomas.

Panther National is also the home base of 2023 FedEx Cup Champion Viktor Hovland and last year's PGA Championship and Open Championship winner Xander Schauffele.

As Thompson plans her wedding and exercises her well-earned right to pick and choose which tournaments she plays en route to her spot in the World Golf Hall of Fame, she sat down to discuss her slow transition away from the game that defined her life until now and the new Florida lifestyle she's embraced.

Mansion Global: You were in the real estate market looking for your own home at an age when most kids are still living in college dorms. All these years later, what's become the favorite part of your home—your sanctuary?

Lexi Thompson: I have a business room, and it's all set up with my trophies. I have my Solheim Cup bags and shoes all lined up against the wall. I have a few of my caddie bibs that I've worn at tournaments, so I've quite the little space that I'm very proud of now. That's also a good spot for focusing and reflecting in there. Other than that, I like my gym. I set that up in my garage, and it's important because I need to spend a lot of time in there.

From South Florida to the Phoenix, there are several regions of the country that draw professional golfers, their residences and their home courses. Why did you choose a new development such as Panther National?

The golf course was a huge factor. Now it's such an honor just to have my name affiliated with this golf course because it isn't a typical Florida course. It feels like a links-style course, but in Florida, with all of its crazy hills. It's always a challenge, especially when it gets windy out here.

Is Panther National your primary spot in South Florida to keep your game in shape?

Yes. Once I stepped foot out here and saw the practice facility and how nice everybody was, it was a no-brainer. I can work on all my yardages, and they have a par-3 course where I can go and practice all of my wedges. There's always something that I can improve on because there's no limitations here, practice-wise.

Do your fellow members know they have yet another future hall of famer in their midst?

Maybe, but I keep to myself....Nobody really comes up to me. I don't think they really know who I am. I'm good with that.

You mention you're going to be in your home more often now that you're changing your lifestyle. What's the biggest adjustment as you find yourself in your own space?

You know, it's nice. This is my 15th year on the LPGA Tour. That's been my whole life ever since I was 10, 11 years old. It's nice to be able to have a life balance—planning a wedding and just having more of that family-and-friends time I need.

How are you achieving that work-life balance?

I think the need for balance and the value of it is something that I learned through the years, but it's still something that I'm trying to figure out because all I know is training and practicing. I have to tell myself sometimes it's OK to take a day off or go on a vacation and not feel bad. I still have to kind of put that in my mind and be OK with it.

Other than that, I'm not jumping into too many big life decisions. I want to settle down, to have kids, and it's now all about being able to have the time at home, being around my family and the close people around me. That's what matters most to me, and I'm realizing that's what always mattered to me.