

**GOLF  
WORLD**

**TOP**

**100**

**RESORTS  
CONTINENTAL  
EUROPE**

COSTA NAVARINO'S  
INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC  
ACADEMY GOLF COURSE

THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE  
RANKINGS IN THE GAME

**EUROPE'S BEST RESORTS**

Don't book your next golf break to the continent until you've  
read our informed and comprehensive guide



# WELCOME



La Reserva Club, part of Sotogrande

**W**hat makes a good golf resort? You'd like to think I had a vague idea given I put these 68 pages together, wouldn't you? Well, the categories, and weighting of them, tells you what I think, and especially that I don't want a replica of the continental Courses Top 100 or anything with a dormy house.

I want to reward resorts that excel with accommodation. I want to identify the resorts that have the wow factor in terms of setting. And I want to recognise the resorts that have more than just golf, because many of us travel with non-golfers.

You may not agree with those categories, or that they each have 20 percent of the marks, but I'll fight my corner on them.

I am less sure, though, of the precise value of second, third and fourth courses. We recognise them in this ranking, as we always have, but in all honesty the 'extra' courses are probably a little under-valued – possibly because of my uncertainty over how much our readers like having more than one course to play without leaving the resort. And also, what is better, a Top 100-ranked course that is an 8/10 or two 6/10 courses? Are two 7/10 courses more appealing than one 9/10 and a 6/10?

My feeling is the 'extra' courses really appeal to golfers, but I'd be very interested to hear your views – as indeed I would be with the list as a whole.

## How the list was compiled

Little has changed in terms of process from 2020. I have been to 90 of the 100 and combined that knowledge with views past and present of my panel: Kevin Brown, Dirk Schaeffer, Joerg Beringer, Olle Dahlgren, Borje and Gunnel Laurinsson. Also, this time I asked the three leading golf holiday operators to assess the list: Golfbreaks, notably David Ford; Your Golf Travel, led by Oliver Gunning; and Golf Escapes' Jon Ruben. I sincerely thank them for their input, an indicator of its value being that a resort came into the 100 because of it.

## The criteria we used

We assessed each resort using the same criteria as the 2020 ranking.

## Course/s (marked out of 40)

We followed our Top 100 Courses ranking as an initial guide then assessed from there. Extra marks awarded for resorts with more than one course, which means you never having to leave the resort for variety.

## Accommodation (out of 20)

Needs little explanation, but... the range and quantity of accommodation on offer was looked on favourably, rather than just 10 incredible rooms.

## Setting (out of 20)

Simply, higher marks for a beachside, cliff-

edge or lakeside location. Peaceful countryside gets 15s and 16s, the 'wow' factor get 17s and above. Also, marks taken off if a shuttle is ever required.

## Non-golf amenities (out of 20)

The facilities that make a resort appealing to golfers who want to do more than play the game, as well as non-golfers who may be travelling with them.

## Finally, what is a resort?

I always state this, because it is important. The course and accommodation have to be part of the same company or group, and have to be on site or within a short transfer. On the occasions where the courses in a resort are spread out a little, the resort receives slightly lower marks in the 'Setting' category.

OK, boring bit over. But I hope lots of you read this, just so you know why resorts you like aren't in (likely because we don't consider them a resort) and also why we use the criteria we do. You'll find a consistency to the list compared to 2020 – as the Up and Down arrows illustrate – but also key moves, not least in the top 20.

I hope the list makes for interesting reading and, more than anything, it inspires and informs your next golf holiday.

**Chris Bertram, Top 100 Editor**



# 1

## COSTA NAVARINO ↑

MESSINIA, GREECE

Courses **37** Accommodation **19**  
Amenities **18** Setting **17** **TOTAL 91**  
**Getting there** Athens is two hours' drive away,  
Kalamata is 30 minutes.

Two years ago we said that the addition  
of not one but two new courses at Costa  
Navarino would likely make it an  
irresistible No.1, and so it has proven.

The Greek destination has made steady  
progress up our Continental Resorts Top

100 to the point, in 2020, when we moved  
it behind only Terre Blanche.

The opening of The International  
Olympic Academy Golf Course and the  
Hills, both by Jose Maria Olazabal, gives  
Costa Navarino 72 holes of high-class golf  
to add to its immense accommodation and  
comprehensive amenities.

A Greek destination being No.1 in  
continental Europe would have seemed  
unlikely 15 years ago, but it is now a reality  
– and one that feels unlikely to change.

Costa Navarino is remote in a golf sense,  
with no other courses around to add to  
your trip there. But with four quality  
courses, it is like its own mini destination  
– and the finest on the continent.

The brand-new W Costa Navarino.

The Dunes course is a mix of  
beautiful and exacting holes.





# FROM ONE MAN'S DREAM TO EUROPE'S NO.1

How the Greek destination rose to the top of our ranking

Costa Navarino sits on Greece's southern Peloponnese coastline. It is hardly an area synonymous with golf and it would have remained that way had it not been for the vision of one man.

Vassilis Constantakopoulos' working life began as a deckhand and ended with him owning a shipping company and developing the vision for Costa Navarino, with the aim to introduce his homeland Messinia to the world.

Known simply as 'The Captain', Constantakopoulos resolved to harness the beauty of the Messinia area by developing a world-class tourism destination.

His dream became reality 12 years ago, his multi-million euro investment producing two golf courses, the Dunes and the Bay, a destination comprising different resort areas with three luxury hotels – and a fourth to come next year – plus sports and leisure activities.

An array of memorable restaurants – where the gyros in the street café that is impossible to ignore at lunch competes with fine dining Mediterranean cuisine in the evening for your favourite dining spot of the week – might well have topped Costa Navarino's seemingly endless list of appealing aspects.

It was instantly one of the continent's most desirable destinations, able to satisfy the requirements of families and couples with little or no interest in the game of golf

The Hills is a more rugged experience than fellow newcomer The Olympic Academy Golf Course.



Voidokilia Beach.



The Romanos is a Luxury Collection Resort.



as comprehensively as it could those of visiting golf groups.

The Dunes has been a regular entry in our Continental European Courses Top 100. It is a short stroll from the heart of the resort and was designed by Ross McMurray, of European Golf Design, in association with Bernhard Langer.

Large, undulating greens and steep-faced pot bunkers characterise the holes closest to the sea and as you move inland, there is a softer feel to a landscape populated by olive and citrus groves.

The 6,800 mature olive trees that were replanted – some more than 1,000 years old – across the destination's three sites, along with the orange groves, frame the undulating hillside and give the Dunes a seasoned feel.

The Bay course – by Robert Trent Jones Jnr – followed a year later. It is 15 minutes' drive from the first resort in the second resort area, Navarino Bay, and boasts views of the water, from which it takes its name, on all but three holes. It is this aesthetic value that made it No.9 in our Continental Europe X Factor Top 100.

Olazabal's new designs sit more than 200m higher up than the originals, on a plateau – the Navarino Hills – with expansive sea views. The International Olympic Academy Golf Course still has a seaside feel thanks to the panorama across Navarino Bay, but Hills is the destination's first fully inland course. They are both notably longer than Dunes and Bay; The International Olympic Academy Golf Course can stretch to 7,100 yards off tournament tees, the Hills is a meaty 6,800.

The two new courses overlook the villages of Kinigos and Pylos and the Bay of Navarino, famous for its historic sea battle in 1827. They sit on hilly terrain from as low as 150m above sea level to the highest point at 230m.

Navarino Hills offers a mixture of extraordinary sea views and mountain and valley vistas. The International Olympic Academy Golf Course has sea views with the X Factor, while the Hills plays through a valley oozing nature.

The International Olympic Academy Golf Course plays around the western part of the Navarino Hills property and more

than half its holes are laid out along the ridge of the hill that overlooks the bay. The front nine circles the southern portion on softly undulated terrain and leads through old olive groves in typical Greek landscape. The back nine then plays along the edge of the cliff and provides awesome sea views.

Wind can naturally often be a factor given its coastal location, but there is width off the tee to make it playable for all.

The Hills lies on the east of Navarino Hills and journeys past ancient olive trees, rock walls and ravines carved into the Kinigos hills. Only once, on the 4th tee, do you catch a glimpse of the sea, but instead the aesthetic appeal comes from views of unspoiled mountains, valleys and rock formations. Its strength is its balance of strong and strategic holes, as well as its variety; there are dog-legs, uphill and downhill holes, long par 5s, sporty par 4s and exacting short holes.

They will each be contenders for 2023's Continental European Top 100 Courses ranking, when deciding simply the order of the quartet at Costa Navarino will be a tough task in itself.

The Bay Course, in Navarino Bay, is a feast for the eyes.

# MY LOVE FOR COSTA NAVARINO

By Jose Maria Olazabal



Two-time Masters champion Olazabal created the new The Olympic Academy Golf Course and The Hills Course at Navarino Bay.

I first went to Costa Navarino around six years ago, when they were looking for a designer for the two new courses planned at Navarino Hills. My team and I all absolutely love the region and we put in our very best effort to win the design job.

My first impressions when I saw the site were simply WOW. The property is spectacular, the views are breathtaking and the characteristics of the site are wonderful for golf. It surely ranks among the most beautiful properties we have ever had the chance to work on.

The views are absolutely stunning, not just across the historic Bay of Navarino but also towards the mountains in the background. This sets the tone for the whole site and gives it a very strong character amidst the garrigue vegetation, which is typical for the Mediterranean. Costa Navarino found an absolute jewel with this property.

I am privileged to have played many of the great golf courses around the world. Courses such as Augusta, the Old Course,

Valderrama, Loch Lomond and many others certainly leave an impression on you and influence you.

I am a fan of the classics and am probably more of a traditionalist, but for the new designs we have undertaken, it is the land itself that gives you the inspiration.

What is important is how the property sits in its surroundings, what features stand out and how we can model the golf course harmoniously into the terrain so that it feels like a natural fit. Over the past five years, we have worked hard to shape two courses that not only respect the stunning surroundings but that also fit as naturally as possible into the terrain.

Golfers will find the Olympic course to be more polished in style and full of spectacular views across the Bay of Navarino, while the Hills course offers more of a rural feel, where we take you out through the gently rolling hills.

The Olympic course has stunning views over Navarino Bay and is the longer and tougher of the two courses. It's more

compact and, in style, a bit posher than the Hills. The Hills has a more rural feel and takes you into the outback where you can enjoy a stroll in beautiful nature.

Costa Navarino is already well known around the world but the two new courses will lift it from the status of a golf resort to being a full-on golf destination.

With the new courses and the existing ones, Costa Navarino has developed into a spectacular golf destination, and I invite everyone to go and experience it.

We are spoiled as golfers because there are so many great places to go, but I have said it before and will be happy to repeat it: Costa Navarino is one of the most beautiful places I have ever been to.

It is more than just the golf offering there, it is the whole experience that is exceptional – from the nature, the culture and the people with their amazing hospitality, to the food, the beach and so many activities to choose from.

Don't be surprised if you see me at Costa Navarino from time to time in the future.



# 2

## TERRE BLANCHE

↓1  
FAYENCE, FRANCE

Courses **34** Accommodation **19**  
Amenities **19** Setting **18** **TOTAL 90**  
Getting there Nice airport is 35 minutes away.

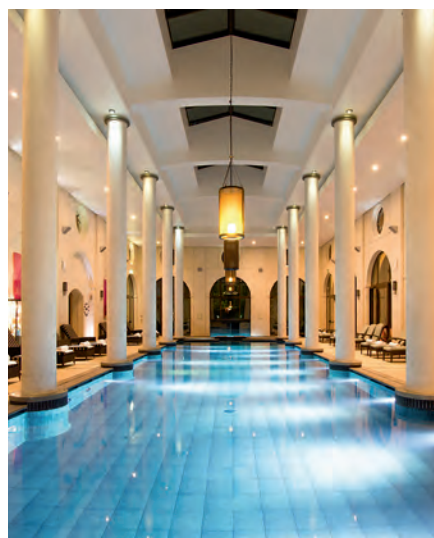
Terre Blanche has been our only No.1 since we started ranking resorts eight years ago, so it was going to take something significant to happen to topple it from the top.

Costa Navarino's opening of two new courses to give them four is just that. As it happens, the improved golf that has taken place at our No.3 entry over the page has made the top three a very competitive and tightly-packed trio.

They feel a little set apart from the rest, which is saying something given the world-class quality of the rest of the top 10.

Why has Terre Blanche been so revered by us for so long? It is an elegant resort with two courses – one in our Continental top 25 – with exquisite village-style accommodation and a wealth of amenities for couples, families and groups to enjoy. It enjoys a classic woodland Provencal setting.

A long-time worthy No.1 now becomes the strongest of No.2s.



Opulence permeates every aspect of Terre Blanche.



GOLF  
WORLD  
**TOP**  
**100**



# INTRIGUE ON THE COTE D'AZUR

The fascinating tales behind Terre Blanche

The backstory to one of the world's great golf resorts sounds deliciously like the script for a James Bond film; high-stakes card games, a billionaire entrepreneur, the Cote d'Azur, a French aristocrat imprisoned by Russians... and Sean Connery.

The Terre Blanche story begins in the late 18th century when the estate was acquired by Charles Bouge – the aforementioned aristocrat who was an imperial colonel in the Napoleonic armies and who was taken prisoner by the Russians. It remained in his family for two centuries, until 1979, when Camille Bouge, the then-mayor of the nearby town of Tourrettes, sold the property to Connery.

Legend has it that the most revered 007 won the estate in a game of cards. Connery fell in love with the forest hillside, which is close to where his second wife, Micheline, is from.

The actor began clearing some of the trees required to create the luxury golf resort he had secured planning permission for, but 20 years after acquiring the estate it was sold (via a developer) to billionaire entrepreneur Dietmar Hopp. The founder of software giant SAP and a very keen golfer, had the extraordinary wealth needed to develop the land. The result is one of the world's finest golf resorts.

It is an all-round destination, with the

accommodation and facilities as impressive as the golf. The ambience is one of relaxation, opulence and impeccable service. By way of illustration, cars are not permitted further than the hotel car park, so you hail a buggy to get down to the golf clubhouse.

Hopp handed the task of routing both courses – the Chateau and the Riou – through the hundreds of hectares of hilly forest to the west of Nice to Dave Thomas. The Chateau is the star attraction, routed on often steeply undulating terrain covered in mature trees and shrubs that offer visual pleasure as well as a fragrant aspect to a round.

Expect vast bunkers of white sand, ravines, huge greens, and water features (man-made and natural). Expect a tranquility to your round that makes this 'Millionaire's golf' despite being a thriving resort. Expect flawless conditioning. Expect slick, flawless greens and tees that are as smooth and flat as a marble worktop. And expect a course that consistently asks questions, whether in avoiding drive bunkers and trees off the tee or in holding tiny greens.

The Chateau gets its name from the par-5 6th that begins with a drive towards the castle (the centuries-old Bouge family home) as it peeps out of the ancient oak and pine trees. It concludes with the golfer deciding

which of two possible routes they will take to cross the lake.

That is in the Chateau's open phase. The front nine starts and ends in woodland with accompanying picture-postcard views beyond the trees. It feels as if you are in Canada. The scenes are enhanced by the numerous elevated tee shots.

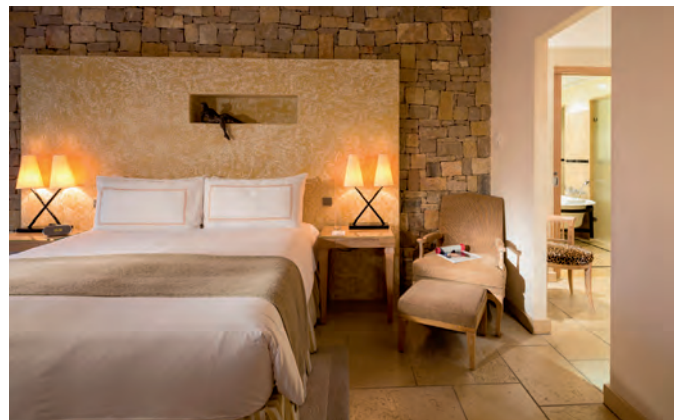
The terrific 10th is played from left to right round the corner of the lake, where only the brave will not have a long club for their approach. It sets up the magnificent 11th and sporty downhill, dog-leg 12th that starts the back nine so magnificently.

Coming home, the best of the par 3s is the last of them. The 16th is played downhill between towering pines over a 'barranca' to a small green framed by a stone wall. It's another spot that screams 'Canada', and is 161 yards of exquisite golf. The expected strong finish arrives with a muscular, uphill par 4 of 450 yards off the tips. It's fairway slopes right to left and it is so easy to find yourself stymied by tree trunks on the low side as you try to thread your approach through what appears a narrow gap between the tall trees round the green – even if you're right in the middle of the fairway.

An exacting climax, but one imagines 007 would have found a way to produce a happy ending and soon after be sipping champagne on the secluded terrace of the chic clubhouse.



Le Chateau headlines two world-class options at Terre Blanche.



Guests have a choice of 115 luxury suites and villas.



The resort is set in the heart of nature and designed as a Provencal village.



Terre Blanche was designed to respect and complement its environment.



# 3

## VERDURA

🇮🇹 SICILY, ITALY

↑4

Courses **34** Accommodation **19**  
Amenities **18** Setting **19** **TOTAL 90**  
**Getting there** Palermo is 50 minutes away.

There are not too many big moves from the 2020 list, but moving four places in the top 10 is a significant one. It's also very easy to explain.

In 2020, Verdura was dealing with a freak storm that ravaged its golf courses, and we placed it seventh as we were simply guessing about what the golf would be like there in 2021 as Kyle Phillips reworked the 36 holes.

Well, now we know. In our inaugural Italy Courses ranking (issue 428), the East was No.1 and the West was No.5. The East is now better than either of the original courses and a certainty for a prominent slot in next year's Continental Courses Top 100.

Off the course, the quality has been constant.

The 168-room Sir Rocco Forte hotel is laid out as a succession of one-storey buildings along a path that follows the coastline and you reach it – and the rest of the resort – via your retro bicycle.

The food is peerless. The active can enjoy beach volleyball, fencing and football with stars such as ex-Juventus striker David Trezeguet. Or yoga, aquatic bodywork, trekking, Pilates and a gym inspired by Sir Rocco himself.

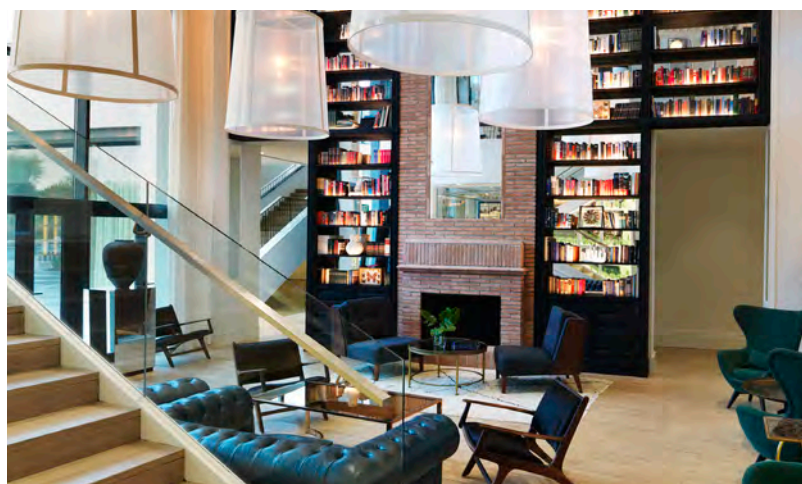
The more indolent can laze by the infinity pool or be pampered in the spa. The icing on the cake is the achingly beautiful white-sand beach just yards from the heart of the resort.

A return to the top three for this heavenly Sicilian seaside resort feels very appropriate.

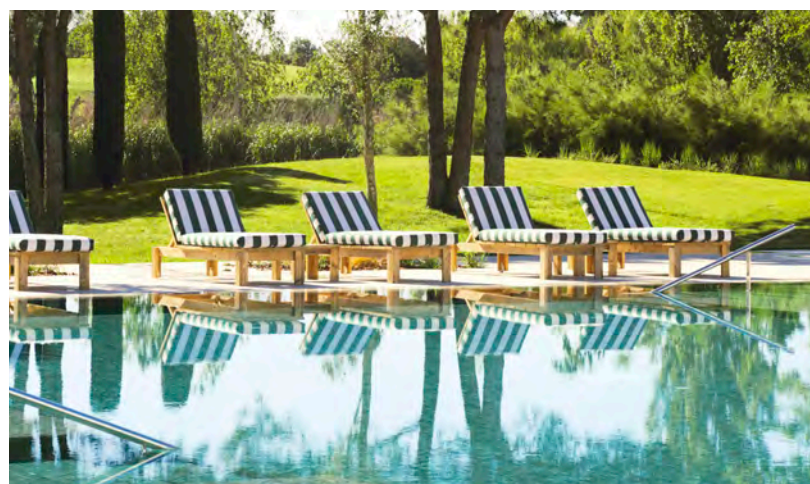




The Stadium course is surely a future Ryder Cup host.



Expect chic interiors at the Camiral...



... and an attractive main pool for winding down.

# 4

NO.1 IN SPAIN ↓1

## PGA CATALUNYA

 GIRONA, SPAIN

Courses **34** Accommodation **19**  
Amenities **17** Setting **18** **TOTAL 88**  
Getting there Girona airport 15 minutes away.

This is a brilliant option for groups or couples who want to play plenty of strong golf. PGA Catalunya is Spain's top-ranked resort by virtue of having a strong No.1 course backed up by solid No.2.

Add in two hotels which cater for different budgets – the high-end Camiral plus the less flashy, but eminently desirable Lavida – and you have an extremely well-rounded golf resort.

Where PGA Catalunya misses out, comparative to some other elite resorts, is in the 'Setting' mark, simply because it doesn't have water's edge views at any point. Against which, this truly is a fully-contained resort, so once through the gate, you never need to leave. That, to many, is a real bonus, and we understand why: PGA Catalunya might be the most stress-free of all the multi-course top 10.

The Stadium course is ranked in the top 25 in Europe and if you were a betting golfer, you'd say that a round on it would mean you have played a course that will one day host the Ryder Cup. It could have done so already or even next year, but it feels inevitable it will be hosted here eventually.

It is a test of all aspects of your game, with an underrated mix of exacting holes and risk-reward ones. You'll also find it in phenomenally good condition.

The Tour does not let the side down and your rounds on it will not feel like a big drop in standard. The practice facilities, if that is your thing, are absolutely world class.

The Camiral is a handsome, alluring hotel, combining chic interior design with comfort and functionality.

In summary, a break at this resort on the outskirts of Girona will not disappoint.



## 5 CARYA <sup>↓1</sup> BELEK, TURKEY

Courses **35** Accommodation **18**  
Amenities **19** Setting **16** **TOTAL 88**  
Getting there Antalya is 30 minutes away.

Carya only falls a place because Verdura has returned to normal. This is Belek's clear No.1 resort – and that is no mean feat.

The golf on offer is exceptionally good; two courses that have become fixtures in our Continental Top 100 in the shape of Carya – which is just yards from the hotel – and The National, a short shuttle away.

Then add to the courses the fact you have one of the best hotels in the list by virtue of its modern design, luxurious comfort, and most of all its amenities.

Take your pick from myriad restaurants, a mini water park and numerous pools, a bowling alley, an array of other sports and fabulous add-ons, such as afternoon tea in the most gorgeous little café.

The 'Setting' mark would be higher but for The National being that shuttle ride away – it really isn't a hardship, but we know for some that leaving the resort is understandably a small drawback.

The weather isn't a factor in our assessment in this ranking, but for a year-round destination, Belek's climate makes Carya pretty tough to beat.



## 6 <sup>↓1</sup> QUINTA DO LAGO ALMANCIL, PORTUGAL

Courses **36** Accommodation **16**  
Amenities **16** Setting **18** **TOTAL 86**  
Getting there Faro airport is 20 minutes away.

Like Carya, QdL only falls a spot because of the rise of Verdura following its revamp. It's all about the golf here, with three strong 18-hole courses that top pretty much anything in the list.

The Magnolia Hotel is a cute, intimate hotel in the heart of the resort, which is

more like a village than a golf resort.

QdL do not own the other hotels in the resort but they do own a brand-new sports campus with tennis, cycling, padel and football, plus a selection of six restaurants that might be the best in the 100... which is saying something!



## MY AFFECTION FOR QUINTA DO LAGO

By Colin Montgomerie

GOLF  
WORLD  
TOP  
100

Quinta do Lago is just a lovely spot and it will hold a place in my heart forever.

I was back there earlier this year for the launch of a new property development, One Green Way. Myself, Jose Maria Olazabal, Miguel Angel Jimenez and many others played in a three-day Pro-Am to launch this new luxury development at Quinta do Lago.

Returning to the resort brought back some great memories.

Quinta do Lago was the start of my European Tour successes. I had my first win there, back in 1989. I had given myself two years as a professional to see if I could win – if not, I might as well have given up and done something else and got some security in my life.

It was November 1989, so it was nearing the end of my two-year cycle because I'd started in 1988! Anyway, I managed to win so I kept on going!

I remember it so well, even now, more than 30 years on. I led by four going into the last round. It was on the South course. We called it the B&C course at the time, as opposed to the A and D, which was the North course. Now the B&C is the South course and it's probably what many people think is the best of the three very good courses they have there.

Anyway, I started four ahead, I birdied three out of the first four holes and sort of kept going. I felt very relaxed then and I managed to shoot 63, nine under par, and I think I won by 11!

I was delighted to hear from the general manager of the club when I was back there for One Green Way's launch earlier this year that the course record on the South course still stands to this day. So that's nice, my God, what, 33 years later?

But your first win, you always remember your first win on the European Tour, or the Volvo Tour as it was back then.

It was always a fantastic place for a tournament and certainly still is. A leading resort in the world, obviously, with the courses, the hotels, the restaurants. The whole facility is first-class, five star in every way.

The North is very playable and you'd probably say the South course is, I hate to say the "tournament course" as such, but it is probably a bit tougher.

So for amateurs the opportunity to play the North course, which is very well designed, is a wise choice. I think it was renovated completely – it was two years off the cycle and it's come back I would say better than ever. Certainly everyone seems to enjoy it and find it 'playable'.

With the Laranjal, which is a very strong 'third' course; they have three really good courses on the same site and it is all very impressive indeed.

The Algarve generally is wonderful, I love it there – fantastic weather and you see the planes coming in with all the golf clubs on board... it's pretty impressive. Two and a half hours from Britain, it's all so easy. So, yeah, I can see why so many golfers see it as a very easy and wise choice.

• One Green Way has 89 luxury residences, from €2.7m up to €9m for a six-bedroom residence. Offering exceptional private access with all the conveniences of the condominium lifestyle, the three types of residence are Panorama, Garden and Horizon. Each has its own entrance, lift, basement, and parking spaces. Panorama and Garden Residences offer a level of bespoke distinction. Visit [onegreenway.pt](http://onegreenway.pt)



One Green Way's villas boast spectacular views over the North course.



# 7 FINCA CORTESIN

CASARES, SPAIN

Course **29** Accommodation **20**  
Amenities **18** Setting **18** **TOTAL 85**  
**Getting there** Fly into Gibraltar or Malaga.

4

A notable rise into the top 10 for this Andalusian paradise, which has only multi-course resorts above it in the list – and which sits above many world-class resorts with more than one course.

Finca has ‘just’ 18 Cabell Robinson-designed holes, but they’re good enough to host the Solheim Cup next year and are manicured to a level surpassed by no other resort in this Top 100.

However, even a golf course good enough to be a fixture in our Continental

Top 100 is arguably overshadowed by the rest of the resort.

The hotel is simply exquisite and is the favourite accommodation of several on the panel. There are amenities ranging from a spa to swimming pools to racquet sports, to restaurants and a Beach Club. The setting, whether in the tranquility of the hills or at that Beach Club, is utterly wonderful. Added to all of this is a level of service that well might be the best in the entire 100.

## THE ENCHANTED HOUSE

Chris Bertram  
attempts to capture  
the unique allure of  
this Andalusian resort

Finca Cortesin is the finest single-course golf resort in continental Europe. There are only a handful of resorts in the world with one course that come even close to it. In Europe as a whole, only Adare Manor in Ireland is in its class.

If we disregarded second and third courses and resorts and ranked only one course as part of our assessment, it would be hard to imagine Finca would not be No.1.

It’s just a lovely, lovely place to be. Sweep through the whitewashed archway entrance, lined by myriad colourful flowers and bushes, and you are guaranteeing a stay of peerless opulence and refinement.

Part of its ability to charm, relax and invigorate is undoubtedly its size. Finca is tiny compared to the other resorts in the top five. Some have hotels with hundreds of rooms and are spread out over a huge area.

Finca is different. There are barely 70 suites here and the distance between your room, the 1st tee, the restaurants and the other facilities must be little more than 600 yards in total.

It gives it an intimacy like nowhere else. Whereas at other resorts a shuttle or a buggy are needed to get around, here you stroll along cobbled paths lined by an array of flora that would turn heads at the

Chelsea Flower Show and the Royal Botanical Gardens.

It sounds like a small aspect, but I think it makes a significant difference. I find it impossible to believe guests stay at Finca without feeling serene and losing all the tension from their mind and body.

The only time you don’t wander along the paths is when you go to the 6,000sq m Beach Club, located less than a mile from

the hotel. Here, you choose between sun loungers on teak wooden flooring or sun loungers on golden sand, in between dips in the 35m infinity pool.

The buildings themselves are gorgeous, but they hide a secret; I made the mistake of thinking Finca was a hotel created out of an ancient former grand family home, but the reality is it was all built this century. While the buildings are young, the materials are





The resort benefits from a rare intimacy.



Relaxation and rejuvenation feature very strongly.



Away from the 18 holes, you'll unwind in very tasteful style.

not, being brought in to give Finca a very palatial, pedigree feel. It worked. There is an avant-garde style following traditional Andalusian architecture.

The hotel is formed around two main courtyards surrounded by 23,000sq m of manicured gardens. Strolling around those gardens and through the hotel is a joy in itself; it is, as you might imagine, an Instagrammer's delight.

The kaleidoscope of colours continues on the course, where Cabell Robinson's design is enhanced by the landscaping of the revered Gerald Huggan. There are 20 varieties of flora as well as typical Mediterranean trees lining the fairways.

Robinson masterfully routed Finca over challenging, undulating terrain, using the rises and falls to his advantage, with a number of captivating tee shots and approaches.

Finca's legendary conditioning went to the next level when it became the first course in Spain to feature a new, environmentally-friendly type of Bermuda grass on all its putting surfaces. They are absolutely pure. This is a course that is Solheim Cup-ready all year round.

Before you play, you will want to hit a few balls on the memorable range, which

slopes notably downhill to give you a nice, flattering carry and ball flight before you tee off. Oh, and the service at the clubhouse is at least the match of that in the hotel.

Away from golf, you can be pampered in a spa as luxurious as you'd expect. The 2,200sq m haven boasts individual areas for facial and body treatments, massages, and thermal baths, plus Spain's first snow cave.

You might, on occasion, feel inclined to do nothing more than enjoy the comfort of your room. The 'Junior' suites are spacious (52sq m), high-ceilinged affairs with a huge bathroom with a bathtub, walk-in shower and private patio or terrace. The bed is as large as it is comfortable.

If you want non-stop action, there are four swimming pools as well as tennis and padel tennis courts on site, plus sailing, fishing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, swimming, horse riding, trekking and mountain biking. Even skiing in the Sierra Nevada can be arranged.

There is a Yoga & Meditation Centre on a hill with views of the Mediterranean too, while gym-goers are extremely well catered for, with a large room equipped with Technogym machines and blessed with stress-relieving views of the gardens. It's fair to say you will train better here

than you do at home. And that's just as well, because you will also eat exceptionally well.

El Jardín de Lutz is an al fresco restaurant, where breakfast – a mix of tapas-style options and more substantial dishes – and dinner are enjoyed on a terrace featuring ancient olive trees.

REI is the hotel's signature restaurant, renowned for its traditional Asian dishes and fusions of Asian and Mediterranean influences. You can watch the renowned chef Luis Olarra artfully and expertly prepare your dishes in the kitchen.

Don Giovanni is a wonderful Italian restaurant with a wine list to match, and don't rule out The Blue Bar, in the hotel lounge and on a beautiful terrace outside. Its tapas menu is superb.

The clubhouse's restaurant terrace overlooks the range and is the perfect place after your round. You'll enjoy a cold beer and a club sandwich here.

And on those rare days when you're not playing golf, the place for lunch is the Beach Club, where a sharing paella is essential. From a table overlooking the Med and with a crisp white wine in hand, it is one of the many all-world experiences at this most idyllic bolt hole.



## METAL PROTECTORS

The best options to keep your clubs safe on the flight

### OGIO Travel Cover Max £250

- Fits all golf bags, including Tour Staff bags.
- 360° reinforced foam padding for premium club protection.



### TaylorMade Performance Travel Cover £129.99

- 360° top and side padding for maximum club protection.
- Durable, skid-resistant PVC base material for added strength.



### Titleist Players Travel Cover £180

- Two internal zipped pouches and premium skate wheels.
- Premium hardware and external valuables pocket.



### Mizuno Travel Cover £250

- Provides space for a full cart bag or smaller.
- Internal club overwrap and padding for maximum club protection.



### Ping Rolling Travel Cover £275

- Fits carry bags to full-size cart bags.
- Sturdy frame and thick cushioning, easy to manoeuvre.



GOLF  
WORLD  
**TOP**  
**100**

# ↓2 8 PRAIA D'EL REY OBIDOS, PORTUGAL

Courses **37** Accommodation **15**  
Amenities **15** Setting **18** **TOTAL 85**  
Getting there Lisbon airport an hour away.

In every Top 100 there is always an entry we look at and think 'that is so unlucky to be there'. This is it. PDR falls two places, but only because of Verdura's rise and even more affection for Finca Cortesin's elegance.

Yet PDR could sit anywhere between eighth and second. If you want more than one elite-level course, this is the best option in the entire list; West Cliffs is top 15 in the continent, Praia D'El Rey top 30. Nowhere else can match that.

It loses a mark in 'Setting' for West Cliffs being 10 minutes away, though some say that's unfair as it all sits in a breathtaking Atlantic location. Its hotel may not dazzle as those above it, but a recent upgrade makes it a delightful base. We absolutely love it here.





## PACKING A PUNCH

Five bags that are perfect for your next break abroad

### Ping Rolling Duffel Bag £195

- Sturdy, sleek and stylish with a durable shell.
- Manoeuvres easily with a telescopic handle.



### TaylorMade Performance Rolling Carry On Bag £109.99

- Large U-shaped opening provides easy access to contents.
- Smooth-rolling wheels provide near effortless mobility.



### OGIO Rig 9800 £270

- Large main compartment with adjustable dividers.
- Heavy duty oversized wheels with extra clearance.



### FootJoy Travel Duffel £65

- Large main compartment and crossover padded shoulder strap.
- Interior and exterior zipper pocket.



### Mizuno Onboarder £155

- Fits current British Airways hand luggage dimensions.
- Optimal movement through four multi-directional wheels.



## 10 1 DOM PEDRO VILAMOURA, PORTUGAL

Courses **37** Accommodation **15**  
Amenities **15** Setting **16** **TOTAL 83**  
**Getting there** Faro is 30 minutes away.

Nowhere on the continent offers more golf, with five courses to choose from – the fabled Old, the redeveloped Laguna, European Tour-hosting Victoria, the Pennink/Trent Jones Jnr-designed Pinhal, and the open Millennium. They all require a short drive to get to them, so a mark is lost in 'Setting'... but they are short hops. Add in three hotels next to Vilamoura's gorgeous marina – Vilamoura, Portobelo and Marina – and you have 90 holes and a lot of rooms. The elevated status of the renovated Laguna course makes this an even more attractive option.



## 9 1 GLORIA BELEK, TURKEY

Courses **33** Accommodation **18**  
Amenities **19** Setting **15** **TOTAL 85**  
**Getting there** Antalya airport is 30 mins away.

Three super courses and three world-class hotels make Gloria an outstanding choice for all. Couples especially love the Serenity and Verde hotels, while groups and families relish the Golf hotel, complete with its own water park, among many facilities. The ultimate 'never leave the resort' option...

## 11 1 GOLF DU MEDOC BORDEAUX, FRANCE

Courses **35** Accommodation **17**  
Amenities **14** Setting **17** **TOTAL 83**  
**Getting there** Bordeaux airport is 25 mins away.

Bill Coore designed the No.1 course, a staple in our continental top 25. His associate, Rod Whitman, added the second, the Vignes, also in our continental 100. The heathland-woodlands headline this golf-dominated resort because, while the neat hotel has a spa, there aren't many other amenities.



## 12 ANTALYA NO CHANGE BELEK, TURKEY

Courses **33** Accommodation **17**  
Amenities **17** Setting **16** **TOTAL 83**  
**Getting there** Antalya airport is 30 mins away.

Also now known as PGA National Turkey, you get the course where Tiger first played in Turkey – the awesome Sultan – plus a very, very good (and playable) second, the Pasha. Conditioning is magnificent. They are just 100 yards from two hotels – the Sirene and the high-end Kempinski.







La Cala has 54 holes on site.



The pool sits as the centrepiece of the hotel.



The clubhouse terrace is perfect for a post-round drink.

# 13

NO  
CHANGE

54-HOLE  
RESORT

## LACALA

 MARBELLA, SPAIN

Courses **32** Accommodation **17**  
Amenities **17** Setting **17** **TOTAL 83**  
Getting there Malaga is 30 minutes away.

La Cala made a huge jump in the 2020 list as we recognised the progress made at this Andalusian resort over the past few years. This time, no change, as we stand by our assertion two years ago that this is one of the leading resorts on the continent.

Few are as comprehensive in terms of courses, with 54 very evenly-balanced holes at La Cala: America, Europa, and Asia. All have been renovated in the last four years, giving the golf a fresh look that so many resorts would be wise to follow.

The third of the courses to open at this Andalusian 'super resort' might be its No.1.

Europa was designed by Cabell Robinson and has arguably its best nine – its second half – and arguably the best hole of the 54,

the intriguing and exacting two-shot 4th. But others will think America is the best and no-one will view the Asia as anything other than an excellent 'third'. It's worth pointing out that all three courses are on site, which helps its 'Setting' mark.

The rest of its setting are undulating hills, 15 minutes from the bustle of the coast.

There is a spa that is better than most in this ranking, as well as tennis and football. The large swimming pool will appeal to many and, thanks to the climate, you can be lazing around it for as many as eight months of the year.

Another key attraction are La Cala's restaurants; La Bodega's tapas is our favourite in a very competitive field.



**14** ▲10  
HIGH  
RISER

## PENHA LONGA

 SINTRA, PORTUGAL

Courses **27** Accommodation **19**  
Amenities **19** Setting **18** **TOTAL 83**  
**Getting there** Lisbon airport is 40 minutes away.

A significant leap into its highest position in our ranking – and there is every chance its journey will not end here. Penha Longa is a magnificent resort that ticks every box, as the marks above illustrate. It is one of the list's most rounded resorts, with no weakness.

It has a course established in the continental Top 100 as well as nine extra holes that aren't quite the same calibre, but are still absolutely worth playing. The Robert Trent Jones Jr Atlantic course is full of drama and spectacular shots. Kyle Phillips did much of the work when he was in the RTJ stable, and that ensured this undulating property was used to its maximum.

So there are heroic downhill drives, dramatic shots over gullies and pleasing approaches to infinity greens, yet remarkably very few tedious uphill slogs. A masterful routing by one of the modern greats.

That is barely half the story, though. Off the course, it is in a class of only about five others. Very few resorts come close to the appeal and class of Penha Longa's hotel.

It mixes classic architecture with modern interior design and luxury comforts. It is pleasingly spacious, yet somehow everything feels well-connected. You're never more than a couple of minutes' stroll from your chosen restaurant or activity.

Talking of food, it is simply immense. The breakfast starts things off in style and for lunch you will want to head to Arola, above the golf reception, for some delicious fish or the best steak sandwich you'll ever eat. It has a terrace with a view of the 1st and 18th.

At night, Lab by Sergi Arola is a Michelin-starred restaurant with three different tasting menus and 550 wines. You can start with a brilliant culinary tour of Portugal, conducted superbly by your hosts.

The active among you will love the gym, tennis courts, football pitch and volleyball. There is also an adventure playground, even if that is possibly aimed more at your kids than you. They have their own outdoor playground including mini golf as well as an indoor kids' club with soft play area. In the summer, there's a bouncy castle to keep them occupied as you enjoy a leisurely breakfast.

Penha Longa think of everything.



The Atlantic course was skilfully designed and routed to give maximum thrills.

The sunbeds of the main pool have a view of the golf course, while the suites are all beautifully presented.



# 15

↑5  
SEA  
VIEWS

## OITAVOS DUNES

 CASCAIS,  
PORTUGAL

Courses **30** Accommodation **18**  
Amenities **16** Setting **18** **TOTAL 82**  
**Getting there** Lisbon airport is 40 minutes away.

You might well not need to read any words about Oitavos before booking a trip to this resort on the edge of the Atlantic; there's every chance this image has convinced you it should be the destination for your next break. It would be a wise choice.


Oitavos sits on the outskirts of the desirable seaside town of Cascais, whose myriad bars and restaurants are a bonus of a golf holiday here. It also overlooks the Atlantic Ocean, which is the backdrop to many holes on this Top 100-ranked course.

Add in a hotel that's assuredly the most minimalist and chic in this list, plus various sports plus horse riding, and you've got all the ingredients for a memorable break.



## 16 LETOUQUET

NO CHANGE

 LE TOUQUET, FRANCE

Courses **34** Accommodation **17**  
Amenities **13** Setting **18** **TOTAL 82**  
**Getting there** An hour's drive south of Calais.

Like Golf du Medoc, this is a French resort for the connoisseur – with the advantage that you can drive here with your own clubs. Recent investment on and off the course has paid dividends, with Frank Pont's restoration of Harry Colt's seaside classic La Mer (there is another 18-holer too) and a welcome upgrade of the charming Le Manoir hotel.



## 17 SOTOGRANDE

↑10

 SOTOGRANDE, SPAIN

Courses **31** Accommodation **19**  
Amenities **17** Setting **15** **TOTAL 82**  
**Getting there** Malaga airport 70 mins away.

Add Top 100-ranked course La Reserva to the loops of nine at Almenara, plus its on-site refurbished hotel, SO / Sotogrande, and you have this notable rise. Loses out for the 15-minute drive between the two. But if anything we might be under-rating Almenara's renovated golf mildly: No.17 may well not be Sotogrande's high point.



## 18 LA MANGA CLUB

↓3

 MURCIA, SPAIN


Courses **32** Accommodation **15**  
Amenities **19** Setting **16** **TOTAL 82**  
**Getting there** Murcia airport is 35 mins away.

La Manga just doesn't generate the affection it used to, with some even suggesting that golf is a way down its priority list. With investment and direction, it could be top 10 again. As it is, three courses of a good standard are backed up by extensive amenities and accommodation in the form of the hotel and really nice townhouses.



## 19 ELSALER

↓1

 VALENCIA, SPAIN


Course **31** Accommodation **17**  
Amenities **16** Setting **18** **TOTAL 82**  
**Getting there** Valencia airport is 20 mins away.

Top 100 class course? Check. Seaside setting? Check? Modern, comfortable hotel? Check. Amenities? Not so much... but for the discerning golfer, this is heavenly. Javier Arana's celebrated design is a mix of Mediterranean-side holes and clever inland ones. The Parador hotel overlooks the 9th and 18th greens.



## 20 TROIA

↓3

 LISBON, PORTUGAL


Course **31** Accommodation **17**  
Amenities **16** Setting **18** **TOTAL 82**  
**Getting there** Lisbon airport is 80 mins away.

The Robert Trent Jones Snr design is one of Europe's finest, winding between pines as it moves to, alongside and from the sea. The turf is now more consistently good and it's a lovely place to play the game. Hotel and apartments are good. 'Setting' would score higher but for the short journey along the peninsula between the course and lodging.



## 21 CORNELIA

↑2

 BELEK, TURKEY

Courses **28** Accommodation **19**  
Amenities **18** Setting **17** **TOTAL 82**  
**Getting there** Antalya is 30 mins away.

Another Belek entry so early in the ranking? Correct – and, honestly, not a single one is over-rated. Belek just does golf resorts *very* well. Cornelia has three Nick Faldo-designed loops of nine that are Continental Top 100 calibre, then add in luxury on-site accommodation and lots of amenities. A superb all-round package.



# 24

## MONTE REI

↑1

🇵🇹 TAVIRA, PORTUGAL

Courses **31** Accommodation **18**  
Amenities **14** Setting **18** **TOTAL 81**  
**Getting there** Faro airport is 50 mins away.

These two pages illustrate the strength of continental resorts; all are exceptionally good and there are different emphases, meaning every taste is catered for. Monte Rei's standout is its course, which is a top-15 fixture in our continental ranking. The Jack Nicklaus design is immaculately presented and a real bucket-lister. There are also now 142 rooms on site and with a notably good restaurant, this is a desirable, glamorous destination.



# 26

## AMENDOEIRA

↑2

🇵🇹 ALCANTARILHA, PORTUGAL

Courses **32** Accommodation **17**  
Amenities **15** Setting **17** **TOTAL 81**  
**Getting there** Faro airport is 30 mins away.

The highest place this Algarve resort has enjoyed in our Resorts ranking to date. Sitting in the hills above the lovely town of Armacao de Pera, there are two fine, contrasting courses, the exacting Faldo and the delightful O'Connor. There are apartments and luxury villas to stay in and amenities such as a gym, restaurant and children's playground.



## 22 MONTGOMERIE MAXX ROYAL

↓4

🇹🇷 BELEK, TURKEY

Course **27** Accommodation **19**  
Amenities **18** Setting **17** **TOTAL 81**  
**Getting there** Antalya airport is 30 mins away.

Just look at the marks to understand the strengths of 'Monty Maxx'. The hotel is one of Belek's most dazzling – in a very competitive field. It has lots of amenities too, as per its neighbours. The course is a European Tour host and is a continental Top 100 contender.



## 23 VILLA PADIERNA

↓1

🇪🇸 MARBELLA, SPAIN

Courses **28** Accommodation **19**  
Amenities **18** Setting **16** **TOTAL 81**  
**Getting there** Malaga is an hour away.

Made a big splash in the 2020 list and our assessment is confirmed two years on. This resort, down the coast from Marbella, has three courses, Flamingos and Alferini plus the shorter Tramos. So, a lot of golf – but the hotel overshadows it. It's achingly beautiful and one of the best in this 100.



## 25 EVIAN

↑1

🇫🇷 GENEVA, FRANCE

Course **27** Accommodation **18**  
Amenities **17** Setting **19** **TOTAL 81**  
**Getting there** Geneva airport is 30 mins away.

Its setting gets Evian off to a good start, sitting in hills overlooking Lake Geneva. Then you can add in a course that hosts a Major championship every year and boasts terrific practice facilities. There is a choice of hotels, all of which are fabulous, and amenities to keep non-golfers entertained.



## 27 SALOBRE

↑2

🇪🇸 GRAN CANARIA, SPAIN

Courses **28** Accommodation **18**  
Amenities **17** Setting **18** **TOTAL 81**  
**Getting there** G Canaria airport 25 mins away.

A second successive top-30 slot for this Gran Canarian resort, which features two courses in a desert-style setting. Both are a mix of the spectacular and the exacting. The New is a Continental Top 200 entry. There is an excellent hotel set into the hillside with views of the golf. Good all-round facilities.



## 28 VIDAGO PALACE

↑4

🇵🇹 PORTO, PORTUGAL

Course **26** Accommodation **19**  
Amenities **18** Setting **18** **TOTAL 81**  
**Getting there** Porto airport is 80 minutes away.

One of the most desirable hotels in the list helps this Porto resort into the top 30 for the first time. It is charming and classy – as a result of being a grand old building – but also luxurious and cosy. This mini Gleneagles has a course that mixes historic woodland and modern parkland.



## 29 SUENO

↑2

🇹🇷 BELEK, TURKEY

Courses **29** Accommodation **18**  
Amenities **17** Setting **17** **TOTAL 81**  
**Getting there** Antalya is 30 minutes away.

Yet another Belek resort in the top 30 – and this one wholly deserves its nudge up. It has two courses of very similar standard, the Pines and the Dunes, the latter being probably mildly the better. You'd be happy playing them all week. The hotel and its amenities are as good as you'd expect.





### 30 ROYAL OBIDOS NO CHANGE

OBIDOS, PORTUGAL

Course **29** Accommodation **18**  
Amenities **17** Setting **17** **TOTAL 81**  
**Getting there** Lisbon airport is an hour away.

The Seve Ballesteros-designed course is the principal attraction of Royal Obidos, but there is also a fine setting on the Silver Coast, north-west of Lisbon, as well as a modern hotel. The Top 100-ranked course is key, but it's the all-round appeal that ensures this relatively new resort stays inside the top 30 of this list.



### 31 BUDERSAND ▲3

SYLT, GERMANY

Course **31** Accommodation **17**  
Amenities **18** Setting **15** **TOTAL 81**  
**Getting there** Fly to Sylt airport from Germany, or get to the island via ferry/Sylt Shuttle.

A nudge up the list for a resort with something a bit different; a proper links. The modern seaside course is in the top 30 of our Courses list. There's also a minimalist hotel and although not lots of non-golf facilities, it's a connoisseur's dream.



### 32 ARABELLA ▲1

MAJORCA, SPAIN

Courses **30** Accommodation **18**  
Amenities **17** Setting **16** **TOTAL 81**  
**Getting there** Palma airport is 20 minutes away.

Three 18-hole courses mean you never have to leave the resort in order to get lots of variety. They aren't Top 100-calibre, but neither are there any that let the side down. Two super hotels with good amenities mean Arabella has much to commend it as a stress-free option.



## ▲1 39 PALMARES

PORTIMAO, PORTUGAL

Course **30** Accommodation **17**  
Amenities **15** Setting **18** **TOTAL 80**  
**Getting there** Faro is 30 minutes away.

Much has changed here since we first produced a Top 100 Resorts list. It wasn't even in that ranking as it did not have a hotel then, and also since then the three loops of nine have been redesigned by Robert Trent Jones Jnr. The result is a resort that has 'only' 27 holes and a small-ish hotel with relatively few amenities in the top 40. That tells you how highly we rate the three nines and hotel.



### 37 AROEIRA ▲5

LISBON, PORTUGAL

Courses **31** Accommodation **18**  
Amenities **15** Setting **17** **TOTAL 81**  
**Getting there** Lisbon airport is 50 minutes away.

What a strong section of the list this is. Here's Aroeira, once 'just' two terrific pine-framed courses – one in the continental Top 100, one a contender for it – but now with a delightful new hotel that opened in 2019. It's stylish and chic and although there aren't loads of amenities, the golf will satisfy you.



### 38 BOGOGNO ▲5

MILAN, ITALY

Courses **31** Accommodation **16**  
Amenities **17** Setting **17** **TOTAL 81**  
**Getting there** Milan Malpensa is 50 mins away.

Close to Milan Malpensa airport yet in tranquil, rolling Lombardy countryside, this is a high-class option in every way. There are two Robert von Hagge courses that are pretty much equal in quality – Top 100 contenders – plus an excellent hotel and a really good selection of non-golf amenities.



### 33 EMPORDA ▲2

MAJORCA, SPAIN

Courses **31** Accommodation **17**  
Amenities **16** Setting **17** **TOTAL 81**  
**Getting there** Fly to Girona or Barcelona.

A big jump up the list two years ago for this resort near Girona after significant investment on and off the course. That means you'll find the evenly-matched Links and Forest courses in excellent condition and the hotel refurbished. A very good resort of top-30 calibre.



### 34 QUINTA DA MARINHA ▲2

CASCAIS, PORTUGAL

Course **26** Accommodation **19**  
Amenities **18** Setting **18** **TOTAL 81**  
**Getting there** Lisbon is 45 minutes away.

One for a family holiday or couples, because it has one of Portugal's biggest and best hotels. If one or two in a family want somewhere where the rest won't be bored at when they're playing golf, this is ideal. The course is nice, with some water-dominated holes with a real wow factor.

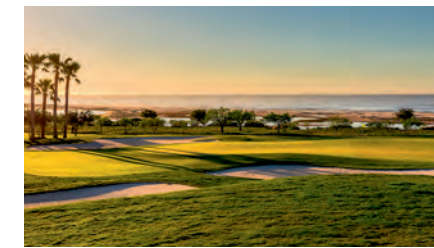


### 35 PENINA ▲2

PORTIMAO, PORTUGAL

Courses **28** Accommodation **19**  
Amenities **17** Setting **17** **TOTAL 81**  
**Getting there** Faro is 45 minutes away.

Penina being 35th shows you how good resorts are on the continent. If it was top 20 you would not blink when you went there, you'd think it fully justified. The Algarve's original course, set among mature woodland, is more than backed up by a fantastic, large hotel where non-golfers will be very happy.



### 36 QUINTA DA RIA ▲3

TAVIRA, PORTUGAL

Courses **30** Accommodation **17**  
Amenities **16** Setting **18** **TOTAL 81**  
**Getting there** Faro is 25 minutes away.

We've promoted this eastern Algarve resort from our first Top 100 and maintain that it's really, really good. Two contrasting courses – the technically proficient Cima among woodland and the scenic, Med-side Ria – sit next to a nice but unfussy hotel. Perfect for a golf break where peak relaxation is key.



### 40 APHRODITE HILLS ▼2

PAPHOS, CYPRUS

Course **26** Accommodation **18**  
Amenities **18** Setting **18** **TOTAL 80**  
**Getting there** Paphos is 20 minutes away.

Just clings on to a top-40 slot as others have improved and risen... but it remains a brilliant option. There's a course of breathtaking views, dramatic holes and even exhilarating buggy drives, plus a hotel that's popular with non-golfing families, which says it all. Look at its rounded marks.



# IS THIS EUROPE'S NEXT GREAT GOLF RESORT?

Chris Bertram returned from Umbria believing Antognolla is poised to make a huge impact in golf travel, and beyond

**A**ntognolla. Remember the name. It's my feeling that you won't need to try very hard though, because you will be hearing a LOT about this resort in the coming years.

At the moment, it is 'just' a golf course, one good enough to be No.13 in our Italy ranking and likely to be in the 'Next 100' at least of future continental European lists.

What is more certain is that it will be in the next Continental Resorts ranking. How can we be so sure? Because by the time the next ranking is compiled, Antognolla will have accommodation on site.

The course is good enough to mean that the addition of a nice, modern hotel with a selection of amenities would gain it entry in the 80s or 90s in that list.



Antognolla isn't going to do that though. Antognolla is going to enter somewhere in the top 50. How can we be so sure? Because the accommodation is being created within an ancient castle on top of a hill, and will overlook the course and surrounding countryside. This is not going to be a standard golf hotel.

Our prediction is that it will fairly quickly become a magnet for influencers far outside the world of golf. Antognolla will be ALL over Instagram within a couple of years.

The fact it is in Umbria won't do it any harm, either. It remains one of Italy's best-kept secrets, but do not be surprised if it became a 'go to' destination in the same way Puglia did in the past decade.

Unlike Puglia, it is landlocked but it boasts outstanding natural beauty and oozes charm. Perugia is just 20 minutes away from Antognolla. It is Umbria's largest and most cosmopolitan city and is steeped in history and culture. It is what many of us want from a long weekend in Italy; striking, centuries-old architecture, early-evening 'aperitivo' in elegant and characterful piazzas, coffee and pastries at cute cafés on narrow, cobbled streets, and a vibe that demands you stop and smell the roses.

From a base here you can take a day trip to the World Heritage site, Assisi, the birthplace of Saint Francis, Italy's patron saint. Or head to Gubbio, one of Umbria's oldest towns, whose Gothic towers, 14th-century turrets and distinct rooftops have been painstakingly well preserved. Lago Trasimeno is Italy's fourth-largest lake and a perfect spot to unwind on a day trip that should also include the castle-topped medieval towns of Castiglione del Lago and Passignano.

There is every chance you head to Antognolla in a couple of years' time and don't venture very far from the resort, and that would be understandable.

I'm guessing at how good it will be but I find it hard to imagine that a conversion of a hilltop castle that dates back at least to the



A Robert Trent Jones Jnr course lies at the heart of Antognolla.

12th century isn't going to be utterly spectacular. It is going to combine historic, authentic Umbria with modern opulence and sumptuous comfort.

The castle – soon to be the hotel – lies at the heart of a 500-hectare estate and overlooks the Robert Trent Jones Jnr course. The course may end up being overshadowed by the hotel – frankly, it's my prediction that few courses wouldn't be – but don't think for a second it will let the side down.

It rises and falls over undulating terrain, meaning no two holes are the same. Sometimes you are firing down a hill from an elevated tee, sometimes you are playing alongside a beautiful water hazard or cliffs at the floor of a valley, sometimes you are firing across a ravine to a fairway or green. It rewards the shot-maker, but is playable for all. Good players will relish the challenge, higher handicappers will adore the setting among the forest-covered hills and the thrilling holes.

One hole doesn't currently work, even if its aesthetic value – an epic infinity green – means you can understand why it was created. It'll be redesigned for next year, and will be a cracker.

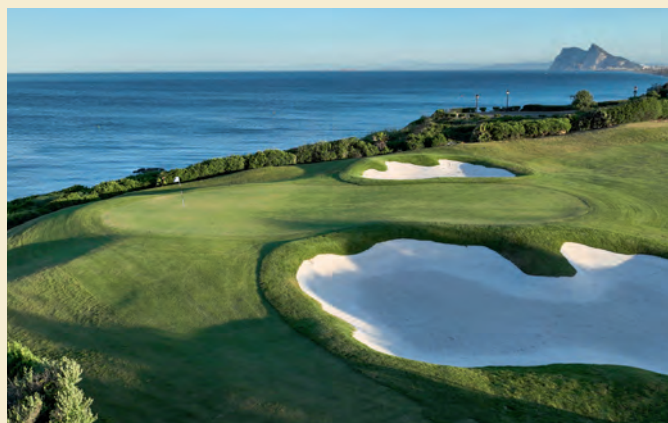
You can expect a course that is wonderfully presented when you go, too. Its large, undulating greens and bunkers were subject to huge investment in 2018, with new irrigation and drainage systems also installed. "I can say without reservation that the greens are some of the finest you'll see here in Italy and the views from the course are simply spectacular," said Gary Player after he paid a visit.

A new driving range and 7.5km of buggy paths were completed in 2019. It is walkable, but many will prefer a buggy. At times I was grateful for it when I played, but when I return in 2024 to assess the hotel (I know, it's a tough job!), I will try walking the course.

By then, I am anticipating a queue of Insta influencers fighting for a slice of Antognolla. Remember where you heard about it first...

## TWO MORE TO COME INTO THE 2024 LIST?

These Spanish and Bulgarian resorts will be contenders next time...



### La Hacienda Alcaidesa Links

Formerly known as Alcaidesa, this resort in Andalucia has signed a deal with Fairmont Hotel & Residences to open a hotel and villa complex. There will be a soft launch in the next 12 months and it will be fully open by Easter, 2024. The 323-room hotel and villas will complete the multi-million pound investment in the resort, with La Hacienda's redesigned Links course having reopened this summer.

### Okol Lake Park

This resort, 20 miles south-east of Sofia, will feature a championship course designed by Robin Hiseman, of European Golf Design, and managed by IMG, as well as a five-star, 149-room Pullman hotel and branded residences managed by Accor. There will be a luxury spa, extensive event facilities and an array of residential opportunities. It's also 15 miles from Borovets, one of Bulgaria's largest ski resorts. "The scenery and the magnificent panoramic views are the course's most spectacular features," says Hiseman.







## 41 CASTELFALFI ▲8

🇮🇹 FLORENCE, ITALY

Courses 25 Accommodation 18  
Amenities 18 Setting 19 **TOTAL 80**  
**Getting there** Fly to Florence or Pisa.

Entered the top 50 for the first time in 2020 and keeps on climbing, the panel impressed by the entertaining and scenic course, the extra nine holes, and especially the two accommodation options. Plenty of other amenities in a resort within an authentic Tuscan village. Exceptional for couples.



## 43 CHATEAUDES VIGIERS ▲3

🇫🇷 BORDEAUX, FRANCE

Courses 27 Accommodation 18  
Amenities 17 Setting 17 **TOTAL 79**  
**Getting there** Bordeaux 50 mins, Bergerac 15.

One of the most convenient and classy breaks in the list. Fly to tiny Bergerac airport and you can be on the 1st tee/restaurant terrace within the hour! The hotel is based in a lovely chateau, there are three distinct loops of nine, a refurbished spa and pool... and predictably good food.



## 44 ABAMA ▲7

🇪🇸 TENERIFE, SPAIN

Course 26 Accommodation 18  
Amenities 17 Setting 18 **TOTAL 79**  
**Getting there** Tenerife South is 40 minutes away.

Notable rise for this Tenerife resort, which the tour operators always get excellent feedback on. Just one course, but it is immaculately presented, exacting but fun, and has Atlantic views. The luxury hotel is special, set in a burnt-orange Moorish building and with plenty of amenities.



## 45 SAN DOMENICO ▲7

🇮🇹 PUGLIA, ITALY

Course 25 Accommodation 19  
Amenities 17 Setting 18 **TOTAL 79**  
**Getting there** Fly to Bari or Brindisi.

A course by European Golf Design that has lovely views of the Adriatic, but the biggest star of this Puglia utopia is the accommodation; Masseria San Domenico, Masseria Cimino and Borgo Egnazia – whitewashed buildings and luxury. One of the best couples breaks in the 100.



## 46 LAS COLINAS ▼5

🇪🇸 ALICANE, SPAIN

Course 28 Accommodation 18  
Amenities 16 Setting 17 **TOTAL 79**  
**Getting there** Alicante is 30 minutes away.

It's very easy to describe what Las Colinas offers: a Top 100-ranked course that is playable for all levels of golfer; really, really impressive apartments, many with their own pool; top-class restaurants; not lots in the way of non-golf amenities. For a golf and pool break in style, it's a brilliant option.



## 47 ROYAL BLEED ▲8

🇸🇮 BLEED, SLOVENIA

Course 31 Accommodation 17  
Amenities 12 Setting 19 **TOTAL 79**  
**Getting there** Fly to Ljubljana or Trieste.

A rise into this top 50 for the first time for this Slovenian paradise, on the edge of the picture-postcard town of Bled. The course is a fixture in the top 50 of our continental courses list and its clubhouse rooms are simply gorgeous. A spa and pool lead the facilities. The setting is exquisite.



## 42 LA BAGNAIA ▲3

🇮🇹 SIENA, ITALY

Course 26 Accommodation 19  
Amenities 16 Setting 18 **TOTAL 79**  
**Getting there** Pisa 50 mins, Rome 90.

If you enjoy characterful accommodation, you will love it here. The hotel sits within a series of beautiful ancient buildings, with handsome walls and beams that are older than the USA. There's a great pool area and terrific food, and then, of course, there is a Robert Trent Jones Jnr-designed course that rises and falls over tumbling Tuscan terrain.



## 48 PGA SWEDEN NATIONAL ▼4

🇸🇪 MALMO, SWEDEN

Courses 32 Accommodation 17  
Amenities 13 Setting 17 **TOTAL 79**  
**Getting there** Malmo airport is 30 minutes away.

Two courses, one that is established in the continental Top 100 and another that has been in it – so the strength of this resort is clear; its golf. The rooms on the first floor of the clubhouse are really, really nice. Only a lack of amenities stops it from being top 20. If they aren't a draw for you, you'll love it.



## 49 MONTECASTILLO ▲1

🇪🇸 JEREZ, SPAIN

Course 26 Accommodation 18  
Amenities 18 Setting 17 **TOTAL 79**  
**Getting there** Fly to Jerez or Seville (one hour).

A name with lots of European Tour heritage and glamour, the circuit having stopped here numerous times down the years. This Jerez-based resort is a good all-rounder; add the five-star Barcelo hotel and a Jack Nicklaus-designed course to year-round sun and you have a very appealing option indeed.



## 50 PINE CLIFFS ▲7

🇵🇹 VILAMOURA, PORTUGAL

Course 22 Accommodation 19  
Amenities 20 Setting 18 **TOTAL 79**  
**Getting there** Faro airport is 40 minutes away.

Jumps into the top 50 with the panel blown away by the non-golf amenities and range of accommodation. There are only nine holes, though, so it's not one if you want tonnes of golf – although the clifftop phase is special! Hotel and villas are sublime and there are endless amenities, so this is family heaven.



## 51 KORINEUM ▼3

🇨🇾 KYRENIA, NORTHERN CYPRUS

Course 24 Accommodation 18  
Amenities 17 Setting 19 **TOTAL 78**  
**Getting there** Fly to Paphos or, preferably, Ercan.

The best-value golf resort in the Top 100? It doesn't affect our ranking, but we doubt anywhere offers a better quality-cost ratio. Situated in the northern part of Cyprus, the course rumbles over undulating terrain and has splendid views. There is a pleasant all-inclusive hotel and spectacular beach club.



## 52 LOFOTEN LINKS ▲1

🇳🇴 LOFOTEN ISLANDS, NORWAY

Course 32 Accommodation 16  
Amenities 10 Setting 20 **TOTAL 78**  
**Getting there** Fly to Oslo-Bodo-Svolvaer.

The marks tell the story here, and if you aren't aware of the course already we'd be surprised. It's our No.1 X Factor course on the continent and has a setting that can't be beaten the world over. Limited but lovely chalet accommodation. Amenities limited to horse riding and boating. The golf, though...



## 53 ARGENTARIO ▲1

🇮🇹 ORBETELLO, ITALY

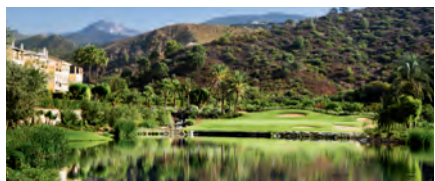
Course 24 Accommodation 19  
Amenities 17 Setting 18 **TOTAL 78**  
**Getting there** Rome Fiumicino is an hour away.

Probably the most eco-friendly course in the list, laid down sympathetically in the Tuscan countryside and maintained very naturally. In contrast, the designer hotel is incredibly stylish. A spa, indoor pool, outdoor pools, gym and tennis make for a very couple-friendly experience.

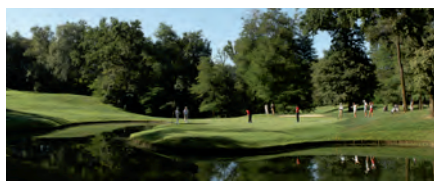




**54 LA FINCA**  VALENCIA, SPAIN   
Courses **26** Accommodation **18**  
Amenities **18** Setting **16** **TOTAL 78**  
**Getting there** Alicante airport is 45 minutes away.  
Three 18-hole courses, including one in our Spain Top 70, but they are a bit spread out so a mark is lost from 'Setting', which means a little drop. A five-star hotel, though. It might be low-profile by Spain's standards, but it is very good!



**58 LA QUINTA**  MARBELLA, SPAIN   
Courses **28** Accommodation **17**  
Amenities **16** Setting **16** **TOTAL 77**  
**Getting there** Malaga airport is 40 minutes away.  
Deserves this rise and would seamlessly fit into the top 50. There are three fun and entertaining loops of nine, plus a large, well-equipped hotel to chill out in after your golf.



**61 CASTELCONTURBIA**  MILAN, ITALY   
Courses **29** Accommodation **16**  
Amenities **15** Setting **17** **TOTAL 77**  
**Getting there** Milan Malpensa is 30 mins away.  
Three loops of nine in mature woodland by Robert Trent Jones Snr that have regularly been in the continental Top 100. They are evenly balanced, so there's plenty of golf, plus a charming on-site hotel.

**64 PALAZZO ARZAGA**  GARDA, ITALY   
Courses **26** Accommodation **18**  
Amenities **16** Setting **16** **Total 76**  
**Getting there** Milan-Bergamo is 50 mins, Malpensa two hours.  
The 27 holes of golf is by Nicklaus Design and Gary Player and winds around the 'palace' that houses the hotel. Wonderful accommodation, if you value charm and character. A top-class, low-profile option in a beautifully tranquil setting.



**55 LIGHTHOUSE**  CAPE KALIAKRA, BULGARIA   
Course **25** Accommodation **18**  
Amenities **17** Setting **18** **TOTAL 78**  
**Getting there** Varna airport is an hour away.  
If you want a hotel to stay in when visiting the Cape Kaliakra trio – and we recommend that trip! – this is the option. The hotel is really good; spacious, superb pools and a great location. A pleasant course with some real highs, literally.



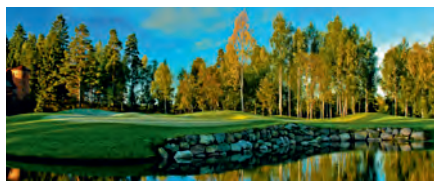
**59 SAN ROQUE**  SOTOGRANDE, SPAIN   
Courses **31** Accommodation **17**  
Amenities **12** Setting **17** **TOTAL 77**  
**Getting there** Malaga airport is 30 minutes away.  
The courses have just had a necessary refurb at great cost and we look forward to assessing them fully – we expect big things. Limited but delightful accommodation and amenities on site.





**62 HOTEL DU BARRIERE**  DEAUVILLE, FRANCE   
Courses **25** Accommodation **17**  
Amenities **17** Setting **17** **TOTAL 76**  
**Getting there** Ferry to Le Havre/tunnel to Calais.  
Three nine-hole courses by Tom Simpson get this Deauville resort off to a flying start and has a pedigree matched by nothing else in the list. The hotel has an outdoor heated pool plus gym, sauna and Turkish bath.



**57 PULA**  MAJORCA, SPAIN   
Course **25** Accommodation **18**  
Amenities **17** Setting **17** **TOTAL 77**  
**Getting there** Palma airport is 45 minutes away.  
A Jose Maria Olazabal-renovated course that has hosted a number of European Tour events, plus a hotel set within an ancient castle. A heated pool, Jacuzzi and spa lead the off-course amenities at a spot that is perfect for a relaxing holiday.



**60 LINNA**  VANAJANLINNANTIE, FINLAND   
Course **29** Accommodation **17**  
Amenities **14** Setting **17** **TOTAL 77**  
**Getting there** Helsinki airport is an hour away.  
A course that has been a fixture in our Courses Top 100 since it began. Set down by European Golf Design, it winds between pines on undulating land. Hotel next door makes this a tranquil break.



**63 VILA SOL**  VILAMOURA, PORTUGAL   
Courses **26** Accommodation **17**  
Amenities **16** Setting **17** **TOTAL 76**  
**Getting there** Faro airport is 40 minutes away.  
Not so much love for this Algarve resort from the panel this time, with the condition of the course flagged up. The loops of nine are good, though, and the hotel remains a key attraction.



**65 KUSADASI**  AYDIN, TURKEY   
Course **25** Accommodation **18**  
Amenities **17** Setting **16** **TOTAL 76**  
**Getting there** Izmir is less than an hour away.  
Splendid views of the Aegean Sea from the two-tier course that sits among two lakes, olive and carob trees. A 400-room Wyndham hotel with lots of amenities, including six pools and an aqua park.



**56**

**TITANIC RE-ENTRY**  
 **BELEK, TURKEY**  
Course **24** Accommodation **18**  
Amenities **18** Setting **17** **Total 77**  
**Getting there** Antalya is 30 minutes away.

A re-entry, after we left it out in 2020 as EGD were renovating the course, now known as Cullinan Links. It's the Belek resort that gets closest to the sea (outside Lykia) and the hotel is immense. A wonderful option for families, couples and groups.

**GOLF WORLD**  
**TOP**  
**100**





**66 THRACIAN CLIFFS**  CAPE KALIAKRA, BULGARIA   
Course **30** Accommodation **15**  
Amenities **12** Setting **19** **TOTAL 76**  
**Getting there** Varna airport 60 minutes away.  
A course so spectacular it was No.2 in our continental X Factor list, largely on account of its setting. When the villa accommodation and limited amenities are joined by a hotel, Thracian will be top 25.



**67 DREAMLAND**  BAKU, AZERBAIJAN   
Course **27** Accommodation **18**  
Amenities **15** Setting **16** **TOTAL 76**  
**Getting there** Baku airport is 20 minutes away.  
Cynthia Dye's excellent design, on the outskirts of Baku, is in wonderful condition and has an excellent hotel right next to it. Baku is a cool city and this is a brilliant golf break with a difference.



**68 ROBINSON NOBILIS**  BELEK, TURKEY   
Course **25** Accommodation **18**  
Amenities **17** Setting **16** **TOTAL 76**  
**Getting there** Antalya airport is 30 mins away.  
The Belek entries keep coming and you might be tired of the explanations, because this is another perfectly good golf course with a luxury hotel and lots of amenities. Belek just does resorts well!





**69 ANFITAURO** ▲3  
**GRAN CANARIA, SPAIN**  
 Course **27** Accommodation **17**  
 Amenities **14** Setting **18** **TOTAL 76**  
**Getting there** Gran Canaria airport is 30 mins.  
 Prominent in our continental X Factor Top 100, Anfi's course mixes breathtaking views with exacting holes. The Atlantic backdrop to the whole resort is a bonus and the accommodation is very solid.



**70 BARSEBACK** ▲1  
**MALMO, SWEDEN**  
 Courses **31** Accommodation **16**  
 Amenities **10** Setting **18** **Total 75**  
**Getting there** Fly to Malmo and drive up the coast. Fly to Copenhagen and drive to Sweden.  
 Only a lack of amenities holds Barseback back. There are two courses – including a Solheim Cup host – and an extra nine holes, plus 36 distinctive rooms.



**71 LUBKER** ▼1  
**AARHUS, DENMARK**  
 Courses **29** Accommodation **17**  
 Amenities **12** Setting **17** **Total 75**  
**Getting there** Aarhus is 20 minutes away.  
 Robert Trent Jones Jnr set down 27 holes, and two of the nines are fixtures in our continental 100. You stay in luxury houses and apartments. A spa and wellness centre are the main amenities. Golffy, but good.



**72 DIAMOND** ▼2  
**ATZENBRUGG, AUSTRIA**  
 Course **26** Accommodation **17**  
 Amenities **14** Setting **18** **Total 75**  
**Getting there** Vienna airport is an hour away.  
 A thrill-a-minute course that is prominent in our Austria ranking and a continental Top 100 contender, backed up by high-end clubhouse and apartment accommodation. Scenery a delight.



**73 PALHEIRO** ▲6  
**MADEIRA, PORTUGAL**  
 Course **25** Accommodation **18**  
 Amenities **14** Setting **18** **Total 75**  
**Getting there** Madeira airport is 30 minutes away.  
 Elegant resort on temperate Madeira. It combines an interesting course lined by bushes and trees bursting with colour, with an easy-to-love hotel with lots of nice touches. Plus, Atlantic views from its hilltop location on the island.



**74 PIRIN** NO CHANGE  
**RAZLOG, BULGARIA**  
 Course **25** Accommodation **17**  
 Amenities **15** Setting **17** **Total 74**  
**Getting there** Under two hours from Sofia.  
 Lots of accommodation options at this Bulgarian resort, which is a ski destination in winter. The golf – one by Ian Woosnam and a second course laid out with a pine and mountain backdrop.



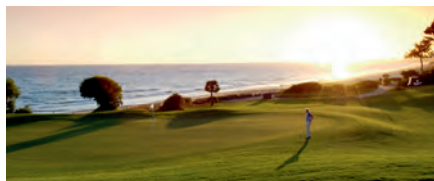
**75 DESERT SPRINGS** NO CHANGE  
**ALMANZORA, SPAIN**  
 Course **25** Accommodation **17**  
 Amenities **15** Setting **17** **Total 74**  
**Getting there** Murcia airport is 80 minutes away.  
 A La Manga-esque town with an incredible year-round climate. Stay in apartments and townhouses or villas with their own pool. The Indiana course is classic green-and-orange, desert-style golf.



**76 CAMPO REAL** NO CHANGE  
**LISBON, PORTUGAL**  
 Course **24** Accommodation **17**  
 Amenities **16** Setting **17** **Total 74**  
**Getting there** Lisbon airport is 30 minutes away.  
 A very fine all-rounder, especially good for families. A 151-room hotel with indoor and outdoor pools, a large spa, equestrian centre, kids' club and tennis courts. Donald Steel-designed course.



**77 PENATI** ▲1  
**BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA**  
 Courses **30** Accommodation **15**  
 Amenities **11** Setting **18** **Total 74**  
**Getting there** Bratislava 1 hour.  
 Two excellent, contrasting courses – the nuanced Heritage by Jonathan Davison and the all-action Legend by Nicklaus Design – in wonderful, woodland isolation. Relatively limited accommodation and amenities. Absolutely outstanding value.



**78 VALE DO LOBO** ▼1  
**VILAMOURA, PORTUGAL**  
 Courses **27** Accommodation **17**  
 Amenities **12** Setting **18** **Total 74**  
**Getting there** Faro airport is 40 minutes away.  
 You might be wondering why it is so low, and the answer is the golf club 'only' has apartment accommodation. With a hotel it'd be top 30. The two courses – Ocean and Royal – have some awesome holes.



**79** ▲1 SPA BREAK  
**PERALADA**  
**GIRONA, SPAIN**

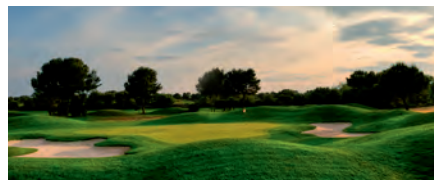
Course **24** Accommodation **17**  
 Amenities **16** Setting **17** **TOTAL 74**  
**Getting there** Girona 30 minutes away.  
 A neat course with some excellent holes is allied to a really swish, stylish hotel with a Wine Spa (no, really) and excellent food.



**80 CHATEAU D'AUGERVILLE** ▲1  
**NEMOURS, FRANCE**  
 Course **24** Accommodation **18**  
 Amenities **15** Setting **16** **Total 73**  
**Getting there** Paris Charles de Gaulle is 80 mins.  
 Woodland course by Olivier Dongradi has the l'Essonne river dominating the finishing hole in front of a chateau with 40 beautiful rooms. One for the connoisseur seeking the refined things in life.



**81 BAD RAGAZ** ▲1  
**ZURICH, SWITZERLAND**  
 Course **21** Accommodation **18**  
 Amenities **17** Setting **17** **Total 73**  
**Getting there** Zurich airport is an hour away.  
 The parkland course, by Donald Harradine, is in our Swiss ranking, but here the hotel and amenities are king; a revered wellness hotel, fabulous food, luxury rooms, and even a casino.



**82 SON ANTEM** ▲1  
**MAJORCA, SPAIN**  
 Courses **25** Accommodation **17**  
 Amenities **16** Setting **15** **Total 73**  
**Getting there** Palma airport is 30 minutes away.  
 There are two courses here, giving variety if not amazing highs. But 36 holes nonetheless, then so much accommodation (a hotel and villas) and amenities, led by a large spa, pools and tennis courts.



**83 KYTAJA** ▲8  
**HYVINKAA, FINLAND**  
 Courses **30** Accommodation **16**  
 Amenities **9** Setting **18** **Total 73**  
**Getting there** Helsinki airport is 35 minutes.  
 If you are not too bothered about non-golf amenities, Kytaja is brilliant. Two courses – one in the continental 100, one just outside it – plus truly epic villa accommodation. All in an absolutely beautiful setting.



**84 VILLAITANA** NEW ENTRY  
**ALICANTE, SPAIN**  
 Courses **25** Accommodation **17**  
 Amenities **16** Setting **15** **TOTAL 73**  
**Getting there** Alicante airport is 35 minutes.  
 New entry for this Alicante resort, and it feels like it will not be in the 80s for long. Nicklaus Design helped shaped the two courses and there are also four and five-star hotels, plus pools and other sports.



**85 ST ENDREOL** ▼1  
**FREJUS, FRANCE**  
 Course **24** Accommodation **17**  
 Amenities **15** Setting **17** **TOTAL 73**  
**Getting there** Fly to Nice, Toulon or Marseille.  
 A superb option for couples (including non-golfers) as the 50-room hotel offers great pampering. Options include treatments, aquatic cycle, saunas, Turkish bath, fitness room and whirlpool bath...





## 86 BARCELONA

🇪🇸 BARCELONA, SPAIN

Courses 24 Accommodation 17

Amenities 16 Setting 16 **Total 73**

**Getting there** Barcelona is 20 minutes away.

The Masia course, by Jose Maria Olazabal, is backed up by a shorter nine at this resort 20 minutes from the city, which is surrounded by vineyards. The hotel is known for its food, spa, gym and pool.



## 87 BARBAROUX

🇫🇷 BRIGNOLES, FRANCE

Course 24 Accommodation 17

Amenities 16 Setting 16 **Total 73**

**Getting there** Fly to Toulon, Marseille or Nice.

Barbaroux is headlined by a Pete Dye and P.B. Dye course among aromatic pine, oak, rosemary and lavender. Expect typical Dye fireworks. The 52-room Hotel Mercure does not let the side down.



## 88 SALGADOS

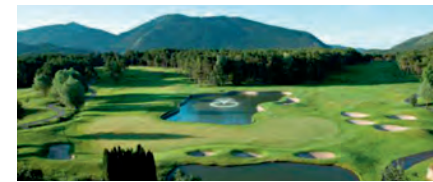
🇵🇹 ALBUFEIRA, PORTUGAL

Course 23 Accommodation 17

Amenities 14 Setting 19 **Total 73**

**Getting there** Faro is 20 minutes away.

Wonderful setting next to Salgados Beach and a nature reserve. Lagoas villas, five-star beach hotel Salgados Palace and Palm Village apartments as accommodation options. A scenic, playable course.



## 89 CHATEAU DE TAULANE

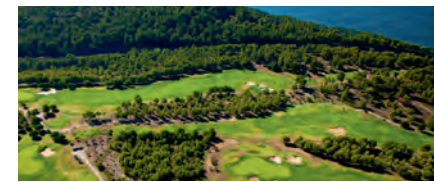
🇫🇷 GRASSE, FRANCE

Course 24 Accommodation 18

Amenities 15 Setting 16 **Total 73**

**Getting there** Nice is 40 minutes away.

A four-star hotel set within an ancient castle, with cosy 20 rooms, an indoor pool, sauna, steam bath and Jacuzzi. Its Gary Player course flits between woodland and open parkland.



## 90 DOLCE FREGATE

🇫🇷 NICE, FRANCE

Course 23 Accommodation 18

Amenities 16 Setting 16 **Total 73**

**Getting there** Nice is 50 minutes away.

Ron Fream designed 18 holes here and added another nine as a fun complement. Expect Mediterranean and Provence countryside views and four-star accommodation with exceptional dining.



## 91 ZALA SPRINGS

🇭🇺 KESZTHELY, HUNGARY

Course 24 Accommodation 16

Amenities 15 Setting 17 **Total 72**

**Getting there** Budapest is two hours away.

Add a Robert Trent Jones Jnr course to 32 swish, modern 'design suites' in the hotel, plus an incredible new spa & wellness centre, and you have a Hungarian resort that is only going one way in this list; up.

↑2  
TOP 100  
COURSE

94

## MODRY LAS

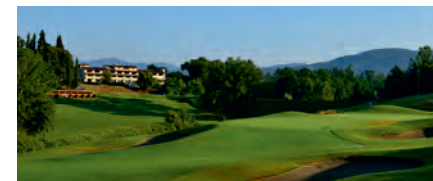
🇵🇱 CHOSZCZNO, POLAND

Course 27 Accommodation 15

Amenities 12 Setting 17 **TOTAL 71**

**Getting there** Fly to Szczecin, Berlin or Poznan.

The Top 100-ranked course, by Gary Player's firm, is the star here, but don't ignore the delightful cottage accommodation tucked among the woods with course views. We loved them, and they make Modry Las one of the 100's most tranquil breaks – not to mention one of the best value. If you want to get away from it all, this Polish bolthole is for you.



## 92 POGGIO DEI MEDICI

🇮🇹 FLORENCE, ITALY

Course 24 Accommodation 17

Amenities 15 Setting 16 **Total 72**

**Getting there** Bologna and Pisa 50 mins away.

A course set down in the undulating Tuscan terrain of the Mugello valley, added to a 70-room UNA hotel within a restored farmhouse. A fitness and wellness centre, pool and Jacuzzi lead the facilities.



## 93 MORGADO

🇵🇹 PORTIMAO, PORTUGAL

Courses 26 Accommodation 15

Amenities 13 Setting 17 **Total 71**

**Getting there** Faro is 40 minutes away.

Two courses at this Algarve resort you might not know too much about. Set in hills above Portimao, the Morgado is backed up by the Alamos, with some very neat apartments to stay in.



## 95 BLACK SEA RAMA

🇬🇪 CAPE KALIAKRA, BULGARIA

Course 26 Accommodation 16

Amenities 11 Setting 18 **Total 71**

**Getting there** Fly to Varna, 30 minutes away.

Very nice villa accommodation soon to be added to by a 20-room boutique hotel. A continental Top 100 course with Cape Kaliakra backdrops and amenities such as tennis and cycling.



## 96 GRADO

🇮🇹 MONFALCONE, ITALY

Course 23 Accommodation 15

Amenities 15 Setting 18 **Total 71**

**Getting there** Venice is 80 minutes, Trieste 40.

A brilliant family option, with tonnes of activities in this continental-style holiday park, in addition to a course that feels like it's set down in the Everglades. Cabin or apartment accommodation. We absolutely loved it.



## 97 KAYA EAGLES

🇹🇷 BELEK, TURKEY

Course 22 Accommodation 17

Amenities 16 Setting 16 **Total 71**

**Getting there** Antalya airport is 40 minutes away.

The course, by David Jones, who designed some of the best in Belek, is very solid and is complemented by another typically opulent and well-equipped hotel. It's an exceptionally good No.97!



## 98 TECINA

🇪🇸 LA GOMERA, SPAIN

Course 24 Accommodation 15

Amenities 12 Setting 19 **Total 70**

**Getting there** Ferry or fly to La Gomera.

The image tells the story really. This is one of the most scenic resorts in the list, set down on the edge of the Atlantic. Spectacular holes on the course, while Le Jardin hotel is pretty and comfortable.



## 99 HIMMERLAND

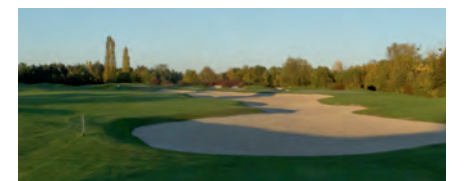
🇩🇰 AALBORG, DENMARK

Courses 27 Accommodation 15

Amenities 12 Setting 16 **Total 70**

**Getting there** Aalborg is 45 minutes away.

Now a regular stop on the European Tour, Himmerland has the Backtee course as well as the Garia, routed through woodland and parkland. A modern hotel has a spa and wellness centre attached.



## 100 KEMPFERHOF

🇫🇷 ALSACE, FRANCE

Course 27 Accommodation 15

Amenities 12 Setting 16 **Total 70**

**Getting there** Strasbourg airport 20 mins away.

Headlined by a Robert von Hagge course that is always a contender for the courses Top 100. The 16 classy suites let you stay on site and if you don't need amenities, this is a strong option for you.



# FIND YOUR PERFECT RESORT

We identify the top 10 resorts in eight different categories...



Courses	Individual course	Setting	Accommodation
1 🇵🇹 <b>Praia D'El Rey</b>	1 🇳🇴 <b>Lofoten</b>	1 🇳🇴 <b>Lofoten</b>	1 🇪🇸 <b>Finca Cortesin</b>
2 🇬🇷 <b>Costa Navarino</b>	2 🇵🇹 <b>Monte Rei</b>	2 🇮🇹 <b>Verdura</b>	2 🇬🇷 <b>Costa Navarino</b>
3 🇵🇹 <b>Dom Pedro</b>	3 🇵🇹 <b>Troia</b>	3 🇷🇴 <b>Thracian Cliffs</b>	3 🇫🇷 <b>Terre Blanche</b>
4 🇵🇹 <b>Quinta do Lago</b>	4 🇪🇸 <b>El Saler</b>	4 🇪🇸 <b>Tecina</b>	4 🇵🇹 <b>Penha Longa</b>
5 🇹🇷 <b>Carya</b>	5 🇷🇺 <b>Royal Bled</b>	5 🇷🇺 <b>Royal Bled</b>	5 🇪🇸 <b>Villa Padierna</b>
6 🇫🇷 <b>Golf du Medoc</b>	6 🇩🇪 <b>Budersand</b>	6 🇫🇷 <b>Evian</b>	6 🇮🇹 <b>San Domenico</b>
7 🇮🇹 <b>Verdura</b>	7 🇷🇴 <b>Thracian Cliffs</b>	7 🇵🇹 <b>Praia D'El Rey</b>	7 🇮🇹 <b>Verdura</b>
8 🇫🇷 <b>Le Touquet</b>	8 🇵🇹 <b>Oitavos Dunes</b>	8 🇹🇷 <b>Korineum</b>	8 🇵🇹 <b>Vidago Palace</b>
9 🇪🇸 <b>PGA Catalunya</b>	9 🇵🇹 <b>Palmares</b>	9 🇮🇹 <b>Castelfalfi</b>	9 🇪🇸 <b>PGA Catalunya</b>
10 🇹🇷 <b>Antalya</b>	10 🇪🇸 <b>Finca Cortesin</b>	10 🇰🇾 <b>Kytaja</b>	10 🇪🇸 <b>Sotogrande</b>
Non-golf amenities	Best for value	Best for families	Best for couples
1 🇵🇹 <b>Pine Cliffs</b>	1 🇹🇷 <b>Korineum</b>	1 🇵🇹 <b>Pine Cliffs</b>	1 🇪🇸 <b>Finca Cortesin</b>
2 🇹🇷 <b>Gloria</b>	2 🇮🇹 <b>Modry Las</b>	2 🇹🇷 <b>Gloria</b>	2 🇮🇹 <b>San Domenico</b>
3 🇹🇷 <b>Carya</b>	3 🇷🇺 <b>Penati</b>	3 🇵🇹 <b>Penha Longa</b>	3 🇪🇸 <b>Villa Padierna</b>
4 🇵🇹 <b>Penha Longa</b>	4 🇷🇴 <b>Pirin</b>	4 🇬🇷 <b>Costa Navarino</b>	4 🇵🇹 <b>Penha Longa</b>
5 🇫🇷 <b>Terre Blanche</b>	5 🇮🇹 <b>Grado</b>	5 🇹🇷 <b>Carya</b>	5 🇵🇹 <b>Vidago Palace</b>
6 🇪🇸 <b>La Manga</b>	6 🇵🇹 <b>Aroeira</b>	6 🇫🇷 <b>Terre Blanche</b>	6 🇮🇹 <b>Verdura</b>
7 🇬🇷 <b>Costa Navarino</b>	7 🇷🇺 <b>Lighthouse</b>	7 🇵🇹 <b>Penina</b>	7 🇫🇷 <b>Terre Blanche</b>
8 🇮🇹 <b>Verdura</b>	8 🇵🇹 <b>Morgado</b>	8 🇪🇸 <b>PGA Catalunya</b>	8 🇬🇷 <b>Costa Navarino</b>
9 🇪🇸 <b>Finca Cortesin</b>	9 🇮🇹 <b>Zala Springs</b>	9 🇵🇹 <b>Quinta da Marinha</b>	9 🇷🇺 <b>Royal Bled</b>
10 🇹🇷 <b>Cornelia</b>	10 🇷🇺 <b>Dreamland</b>	10 🇮🇹 <b>Aphrodite Hills</b>	10 🇪🇸 <b>Sotogrande</b>