

TOP 100 RESORTS

Continental Europe



Quinta da Marinha

This large resort is on the outskirts of the well-heeled coastal town of Cascais, 40 minutes west of Lisbon. You can also get into Portugal's capital – a favourite with hipsters these days – on a train that edges along the coast to the city. The course here is pleasant with some cliff-edge holes but the biggest attraction is one of Portugal's biggest and best hotels and all its attendant amenities. Ideal for families as well as couples and groups – and for playing next-door Oitavos Dunes and Penha Longa.



Sporting Club

Berlin is of course a fabulous city to explore and this is the perfect base from which to do that while playing some Top 100-calibre golf. Located on the edge of Scharmützelsee Lake, the city centre is an hour away. There are 63 holes here, by Nick Faldo and Arnold Palmer among others, The Faldo being a Continental Top 100 stalwart. The A-ROSA Scharmützelsee is a huge wellness resort with a vast array of high-calibre amenities.

SPOTLIGHT ON... City breaks

Why not plan a Top 100-calibre break in 2018 that also allows you to explore one of mainland Europe's great cities?

- 1 Terre Blanche, France
- 2 Regnum Carya, Turkey
- 3 PGA Catalunya, Spain
- 4 Verdura, Italy
- 5 Gloria, Turkey
- 6 Costa Navarino, Greece
- 7 Antalya GC, Turkey
- 8 Golf du Medoc, France
- 9 Quinta do Lago, Portugal
- 10 La Manga, Spain
- 11 Penha Longa, Portugal
- 12 Lykia Links, Turkey
- 13 Montgomerie Maxx, Turkey
- 14 Praia D'El Rey, Portugal
- 15 San Lorenzo, Portugal
- 16 Royal Obidos, Portugal
- 17 Finca Cortesin, Spain
- 18 Oitavos Dunes, Portugal
- 19 Real Club El Prat, Spain
- 20 Troia, Portugal
- 21 Cornelia, Turkey
- 22 El Saler, Spain
- 23 Golf National, France
- 24 Pine Cliffs, Portugal
- 25 Le Touquet, France
- 26 Salobre, Canaries
- 27 Sueno, Turkey
- 28 Montecastillo, Spain
- 29 Evian, France
- 30 Quinta Da Marinha, Portugal
- 31 Quinta da Ria, Portugal
- 32 Amendoeira, Portugal
- 33 Aphrodite Hills, Cyprus
- 34 Penina, Portugal
- 35 Buenavista, Canaries
- 36 Korineum, Cyprus
- 37 Abama, Canaries
- 38 San Roque, Spain
- 39 Robinson Nobilis, Turkey
- 40 Pula, Mallorca
- 41 Arabella, Majorca
- 42 La Cala, Spain
- 43 Titanic, Turkey
- 44 Desert Springs, Spain
- 45 Sporting Club Berlin, Germany



Vidago Palace

There is an historic woodland-parkland course that has been successfully renovated, as well as one of the most characterful and classy hotels in this Top 100. Think Gleneagles or Stoke Park, transplanted to Portugal (and with obviously better weather). Combined with the myriad capital attractions of Porto, as well as the wine of the Douro Valley, this is a connoisseur's delight.

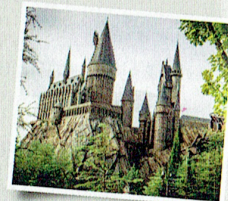
DID YOU KNOW?

FACT 1: Visiting Grecy in August gets you the best chance of playing Paris' private courses – Chantilly, Fontainebleau et al – that dominate our Top 100. The members are all on holiday then!

FACT 2: The truly spectacular Livraria Lello bookshop in Porto is rumoured to be what inspired JK Rowling to create Hogwarts.

FACT 3: It might seem incongruous, but it is the formerly oppressed eastern side of Berlin that is now where the coolest bars, restaurants and shops are in the vibrant city.

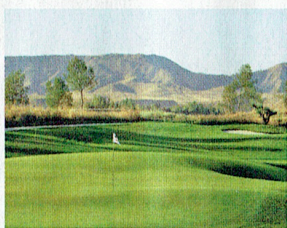
FACT 4: Sintra north of Cascais to the west of Lisbon is one of the most beautiful and historic sites in western Europe.





Bogogno

Fly to Malpensa airport west of Milan – bursting with fashion, food and football appeal – and you are just 25 minutes from Bogogno. Here, there are two very consistent 18-holers, by Robert von Hagge. They are built around a well-appointed hotel, which has a large pool, children's playground, tennis courts, a football pitch and fabulous terrace restaurant. A touch of class.



El Encin

There is a Robert von Hagge course here that has hosted the European Tour. As well as the classical Von Hagge baroque sculpting on the course there are sports facilities galore as well as a well-appointed 39-room hotel on site. All that makes it a slick base for a golf break to Spain's capital Madrid.



Crecy

Crecy has two Arnold Palmer designs on site – American-style courses that are much better than you might imagine – as well as charming accommodation within centuries-old, renovated buildings. The food is world class. Central Paris is 20 minutes away, Disneyland Paris is five minutes.

➤ **46 Bogogno, Italy**

47 Moliets, France

48 Donnafugata, Sicily

➤ **49 Vidago Palace, Portugal**

50 Argentario, Italy

51 Emporda, Spain

52 Monte Rei, Portugal

53 Thracian Cliffs, Bulgaria

54 Vila Sol, Portugal

55 La Quinta, Spain

56 Penati, Slovakia

57 Lubker, Denmark

58 Las Colinas, Spain

59 Campo Real, Portugal

60 Château des Vigiers, France

61 Anfi Tauro, Canaries

62 Castelconturbia, Italy

63 Kusadasi, Turkey

64 Lighthouse, Bulgaria

65 Budersand, Germany

66 Chateau Augerville, France

67 Vale do Lobo, Portugal

68 Boavista, Portugal

69 Barseback, Sweden

70 Bad Ragaz, Switzerland

71 Barcelona Golf, Spain

72 Barbaroux, France

73 Palheiro, Madeira

74 Saint Andreol, France

75 Son Antem, Majorca

76 Chateau de Taulane, France

77 Las Americas, Canaries

78 Black Sea Rama, Bulgaria

79 Grado, Italy

80 Dolce Fregate, France

81 Almenara, Spain

82 Is Molas, Italy

83 La Gomera, Canaries

➤ **84 El Encin, Spain**

85 Poggio Dei Medici, Italy

86 Kempferhof, France

87 Himmerland, Denmark

88 Palazzo Arzaga, Italy

89 Kaya Eagles, Turkey

➤ **90 Crecy, France**

91 Royal Zoute, Belgium

92 Peralada, Spain

93 Konopiste, Czech Republic

94 Linna, Finland

95 Biella, Italy

96 Diamond CC, Austria

97 Aroeira, Portugal

98 Sand, Sweden

99 Bom Sucesso, Portugal

100 Estonian G&CC, Estonia



Chris Bertram

When we compiled our first – indeed the first anyone had put together – Top 100 ranking of the best golf resorts in Continental Europe last year, the geographical diversity did not surprise me. We are, I think, past the stage of our eyebrows being raised at the sight of a country other than Britain, Portugal or Spain having representation in Top 100 lists.

It did however surprise me a little that there were so many close to capital cities. When we ranked the best golf resorts in Britain and Ireland last year, there was a good sprinkling in cities, notably on the outskirts of Dublin and London. Yet on the Continent, we tend to think of golf resorts as sitting on the Algarve or Costa del Sol etc. While nearby Faro and Malaga are of course sizeable cities, they are not country capitals. I've picked out six here, but there could have been many others. In Lisbon, there is also Aroeira to the south, Penha Longa and Oitavos in Cascais, and Praia D'El Rey, Bom Sucesso and Royal Obidos to the north. North of Barcelona – albeit closer to Girona – is the fabulous PGA Catalunya, and also the lower-profile Barcelona Golf.

PGA National on the outskirts of Malmo and The Scandinavian half an hour from Copenhagen didn't make the list as they are golf-centric, thus losing marks for their lack of non-golf amenities, but rest assured they are superb complexes with magnificent accommodation.

Royal Zoute is also of that ilk although it did make the list and is a wonderful base for a trip to easy-to-love Brussels. Estonian G&CC squeezed in and is well placed for a long weekend that you won't forget in Tallinn. And Paris has a second option with the next Ryder Cup venue Golf National having accommodation overlooking the 18th. It would be a great autumn option after the matches.

■ Chris Bertram has played and stayed at 68 of the Top 100 Resorts in Continental Europe

