

# TOP 100 COURSES IN CONTINENTAL EUROPE

01-09-2013

Temática: Desporto

Classe: Desporto

Âmbito: Internacional

Tiragem: 0

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Dimensão: 3553

Imagem: S/Cor

Página (s): 1/10 a 14

# TOP 100 COURSES IN CONTINENTAL EUROPE 2014



## NEW ENTRIES

Five exciting newcomers...  
but which big names miss out?

## THE NEXT 100

Our expanded list of the  
contenders which just missed out

**PLUS: EXCLUSIVE DEALS - THE CHEAPEST WAY TO PLAY THE 100**



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## TOP 100 CONTINENTAL EUROPE

82

**Royal Obidos (NEW ENTRY)**

Lisbon, Portugal



+351 262 965 220, royalobidosgolf.com

Green fee guide: C. Par 72, 7,300

yards. Designer: Seve Ballesteros

A high entry for this new course near Lisbon, which gave us our cover shot.

Kevin Brown, Courses Editor at GW's sister magazine Today's Golfer, was one of the first to play this latest addition to Portugal's portfolio.

"Royal Obidos has its creator Seve Ballesteros' name written all over it," says Kevin. "It oozes excitement and drama, not least by the fact it features

nine lakes, most notably on the stunning par-5 signature 2nd hole complete with an eye-catching S (for Seve)-shaped bunker.

"Make no mistake, the 2nd is a potential early card wrecker. It's played from a spectacular elevated tee in the woods to a slither of a fairway way down below and tightly guarded by water down the left and sand on the right.

"The course – Seve's parting shot before his sad, untimely death – is only

a year-old and was in immaculate condition when we checked it out.

"It should provide a fitting legacy to the Spaniard and in time could well prove one of the best courses not only on the Lisbon Coast and Portugal as a whole, but continental Europe too.

"A memorable round fittingly finishes with a pulsating par 5 while the course is backed-up by a classy clubhouse, outstanding facilities and the kind of service you'd expect at The Grove or a high-end Florida venue."

**EXCLUSIVE DEAL**

Stay at four-star Praia D'El Rey and play Royal Obidos, Bom Sucesso & Praia D'El Rey. Four nights' self-catering & three rounds from €175. Call Golfbreaks.com on 0845 543 6674

**81 Eindhovensche Golf ▲ (82)**

Eindhoven, Holland

+31 402 014 816, eindhovenwegolf.nl

Green fee guide: D. Par 72, 6,805 yards

Designer: Harry Colt

Harry Colt excelled in the Netherlands and this is another jewel. A traditional heathland which remains relevant today following the addition of some back tees; its 6,800+ yards are a serious test. A thatched-roofed clubhouse is entirely fitting alongside this charming course.

**80 Costa Navarino (Dunes) ▲ (83)**

Messinia, Greece

+30 272 309 0200, costanavarino.com

Green fee guide: D. Par 72, 6,800 yards

Designers: Bernhard Langer/European Golf Design

The only course from Greece to ever feature in our list moves up from its entry position as the greens get even slicker and more true. EGD and Langer were helped immeasurably in creating this terrific venue by the interesting natural terrain as well as the stunning sea views.

**79 Bogogno (Del Conte) ▼ (75)**

Novaro, Italy

+39 322 863 794, circologolfbogogno.com

Green fee guide: B. Par 72, 6,872 yards

Designer: Robert von Hagge

The late Robert von Hagge isn't well known in Britain but his CV is impressive. He designed two courses here, and while the Bonora is a nice parkland-hillside hybrid, the Del Conte is no.1 – technically good with an invigorating backdrop of the Monte Rosa mountain on the Swiss border.



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## TOP 100 CONTINENTAL EUROPE

**55 Halmstad (North) ▼ (36)**

Halmstad, Sweden



+46 35 176 801, hgk.se

Green fee guide: E. Par: 72, 6,908 yards

Designers: Rafael Sundblom, Nils Sköld and Frank Pennick

Once placed in the heady heights of the top 20, Halmstad is now placed just outside the top 50. The venue for the 2007 Solheim Cup doesn't offer the same excitement as either Sweden's new superstar courses or its traditional favourites. Set out on fairly flat land, definition is provided by the mature woodland which line fairways and surround greens. When this fall was mooted, no-one spoke up for it. Are we being too harsh? We'd love to know your views on one of the list's most controversial moves...

**54 Abama ▼ (46)**

Tenerife, Spain



+34 922 126 000, abamahotelresort.com

Green fee guide: A. Par 72, 6,899 yards

Designer: Dave Thomas

Attached to a luxury hotel which is also very distinctive (that is being kind), this course does not receive a huge amount of golfers and, allied to the year-round sun, is in astonishingly good nick. The greens are as pure as you could wish for but possibly a little quick and tiered for many club golfers; it is worryingly easy to putt from one side and off the other. This beast is beautiful though; it has 22 lakes linked by impressive waterfalls, white-sand bunkers 25,000 palm trees, and from its hilltop position offers fabulous views of the Atlantic and island of La Gomera.

**53 Quinta do Lago (South) ▲ (57)**

Almancil, Portugal



+351 289 390 705, quintadolagogolf.com

Green fee guide: D. Par 72, 7,100 yards

Designer: William Mitchell

A new entry in 2011, our panel two years on have seen fit to move the South to the brink of the top 50. The premier track at this three-course venue – both the others, the North and especially the Laranjal, were under serious consideration too – was laid out in 1972 and the Almancil-based layout has hosted the Portuguese Open eight times. It demands accurate drives and precise approaches and thus produced champions of the calibre of Colin Montgomerie. Stunning backdrops of Ria Formosa Natural Park, it has been meticulously refurbished in recent years.

## ADVERTORIAL FEATURE

# ROYAL OBIDOS: SEVE'S LEGACY

Introducing the new superstar of Portuguese golf...

**T**he stunning five-star Royal Óbidos Spa & Golf Resort opened in January 2012 with a course designed by Severiano Ballesteros before he passed away.

The course benefits from Atlantic Ocean views from the clubhouse and back nine holes, while the front nine overlooks the Óbidos lagoon. Eye-catching lakes and water features are also dotted throughout the course, adding challenge as well as aesthetic appeal.

In keeping with the original landscape, the course is a traditional heathland laid out in an amphitheatre. It is difficult to identify a stand-out hole, for there are so many outstanding ones; but certainly the par-5 2nd and par-3 3rd combine to create a thrilling beginning to the new jewel in the crown of Portuguese golf.

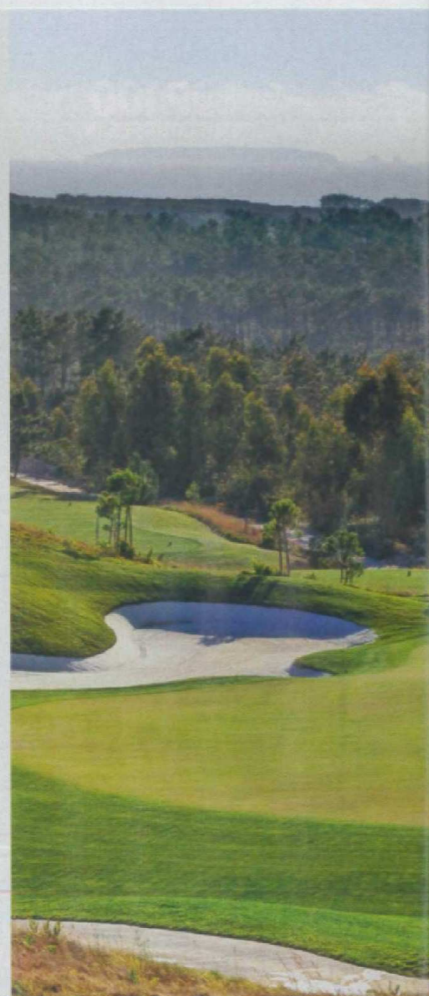
Seve has created a masterpiece and leaves a legacy for passionate golfers to enjoy. To add more golf to your trip, Praia D'El Rey and Bom Sucesso are very close by.

Royal Obidos' striking clubhouse is perfect for thirst-quenching drinks or an exquisite culinary experience before or after golf – perhaps on the glass-fronted decking with sensational views across the golf course and Atlantic Ocean.

And the resort will be enhanced further in summer 2014 with the arrival of the boutique five-star Evolutee Hotel. It will have 40 bedrooms, a vast wellness spa facility, bespoke bar, sumptuous restaurant and conference rooms.

**When you're not golfing...**

Off the course, visit a vineyard on the Wine Tour, lap up the sun on the glorious unspoilt beaches, indulge in water sports, soak up the history in the medieval town of Obidos and enjoy the 'catch of the day' fresh from the ocean in the many restaurants lining the coastline. Óbidos is in the increasingly-popular Silvercoast area, just 45 minutes from Lisbon thanks to the new A8 motorway.





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**52 Chiberta** ▲ (54)

Biarritz, France

🇫🇷 +33 559 525 110, [golfchiberta.com](http://golfchiberta.com)  
 Green fee guide: D. Par 70, 6,178 yards  
 Designer: Tom Simpson

A rarity in Continental Europe – a genuine links, or at least a good part of it is. With some proper seaside holes and others tree-lined in a fashion more reminiscent of Woburn, this is a combination course of great pedigree.

Tom Simpson takes the credit, crossing the channel in 1926 to lay it out as passion for the game expanded on the continent. It is one part of a lot of good golf in the Biarritz area; Biarritz Le Phare is a stone's throw away and Hossegor (earlier in list) and Seignosse (still to come) are just a little further north.

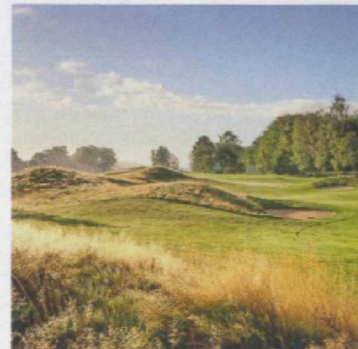
**51 Le Touquet (La Mer)** ▼ (48)

Pas de Calais, France

🇫🇷 +33 321 062 800, [opengolfclub.com/touquet](http://opengolfclub.com/touquet). Green fee guide: C. Par 72, 6,862 yards. Designer: Harry Colt

Le Touquet's Mer (the Forest course is not in the same class) could have slipped further down the list as a result of other courses rising, but this very small fall is indicative of the improvements made to the conditioning of the Sea course.

And when this is the case, it is a very fine venue. Located south of Boulogne and a favoured holiday destination for the British gentry in decades past, it combines some proper, windswept links holes with some which are dominated by trees. Host of six French Opens – including one won by Seve.

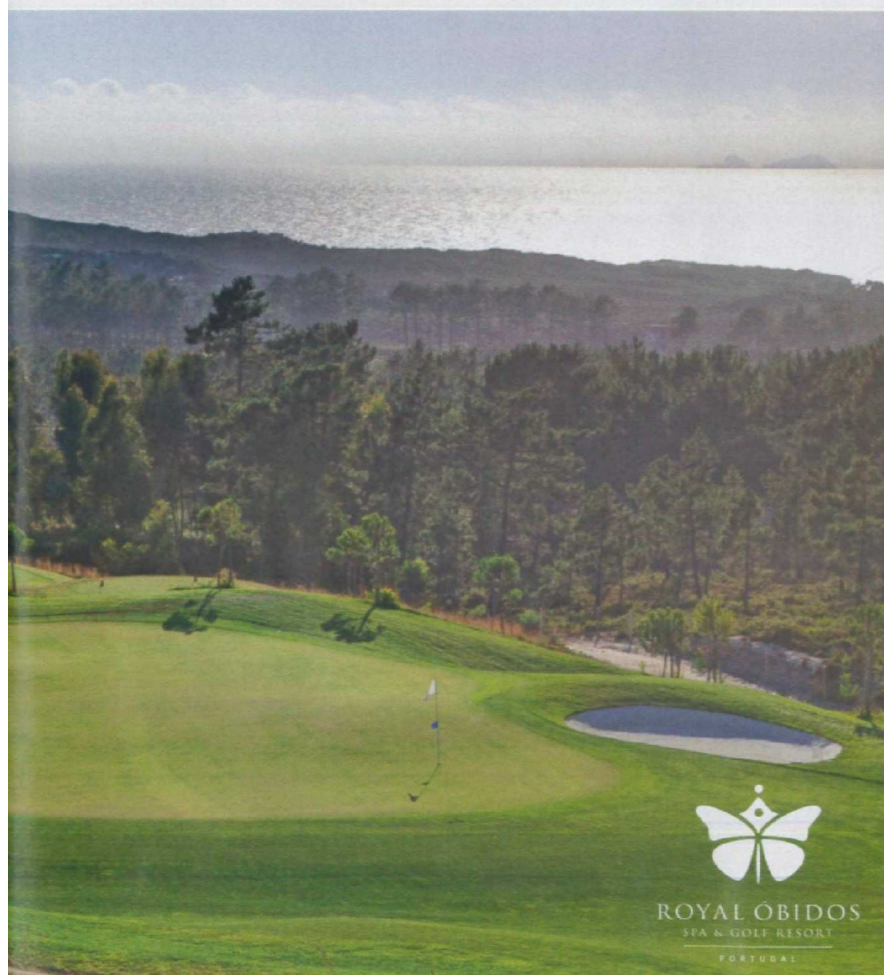
**50 Vasatorps (Tour)** ▼ (19)

Helsingborg, Sweden

🇸🇪 +46 42 235 058, [vasatorpsgk.se](http://vasatorpsgk.se)  
 Green fee guide: E. Par 72, 7,369 yards

Designers: Arthur Hills and Steve Forrest

Following work by Hills & Forrest, we moved Vasatorps' Tour course up significantly in the 2011 ranking. Certainly, the changes were worthwhile but with greater opportunity to assess the new course, it drops to the edge of the top 50 in this ranking. It is a top-quality venue asking strategic questions of especially the low handicap amateur who plays off the tees further back. A spot in the top 50 feels appropriate for this modern course which has a look of Carton House (Montgomerie) and lies to the east of the seaside town of Helsingborg.



## THE GOLF &amp; WINE PACKAGE

Stay in a luxury two-bedroom apartment on the Praia D'El Rey estate, including golf and all transfers from the apartment to the course. Indulge in a unique wine-tasting at one of Portugal's best wineries, including a visit to the gardens and vineyards, a tour of the production process, a visit to the old mill with a wooden press from 1871, and finally tasting seven wines as well as local cheese & pastries.

**PACKAGE ONE:** Three nights' B&B in a two-bedroom apartment, three rounds at Royal Óbidos, golf transfers and Wine Tour. €268pp (four sharing).

**PACKAGE TWO:** Four nights' B&B in a two-bedroom apartment, three rounds at Royal Óbidos, golf transfers and Wine Tour. €303pp (four sharing).

**PACKAGE THREE:** Seven nights' B&B (two-bed apartment), three rounds at Óbidos, two at Bom Sucesso, transfers and Wine Tour. €484pp (four sharing).

Prices valid from 1 Nov 2013 - 28 Feb 2014. Alternative dates available, price on request. Book now by emailing [golf.reservations@royalobidos.com](mailto:golf.reservations@royalobidos.com). For more information on the resort and special packages visit [royalobidos.com](http://royalobidos.com) or call +351 262 965 220



ROYAL ÓBIDOS  
 SPA & GOLF RESORT  
 PORTUGAL



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## FROM 100-1: THE LIST IN FULL

The rundown of our refreshed Top 100 – and where to find them.

- 1 Les Bordes, Orleans, France
- 2 Morfontaine, Paris, France
- 3 Royal Hague, The Hague, Holland
- 4 Royal Zoute, Cadiespad, Belgium
- 5 PGA Catalunya (Stadium), Girona, Spain
- 6 Golf National, Paris, France
- 7 Kennemer, Haarlem, Holland
- 8 Valderrama, Sotogrande, Spain
- 9 Noordwijkse, Leiden, Holland
- 10 El Saler, Valencia, Spain
- 11 Fontainebleau, Paris, France
- 12 Chantilly (Vineuil), Paris, France
- 13 Bro Hof Slott (Stadium), Stockholm, Sweden
- 14 Terre Blanche (Chateau), Fayence, France
- 15 Sporting Club (Faldo), Schmutzensee, Germany
- 16 The Scandinavian (Old), Farum, Denmark
- 17 Lubker (Sand & Sky), Nimtofte, Denmark
- 18 Monte Rei, Algarve, Portugal
- 19 Hamburger, Hamburg, Germany
- 20 Oitavos Dunes, Cascais, Portugal
- 21 Sevilla, Seville, Spain
- 22 PGA National (Lakes), Malmo, Sweden
- 23 Onyria Palmares, Lagos, Portugal
- 24 San Lorenzo, Algarve, Portugal
- 25 Budersand, Sylt, Germany

- 26 Utrecht de Pan, Utrecht, Holland
- 27 Prince de Provence, Vidauban, France
- 28 Seignosse, Biarritz, France
- 29 El Prat (Red), Barcelona, Spain
- 30 Falsterbo, Malmo, Sweden
- 31 Sperone, Corsica, France
- 32 Royal Park, Torino, Italy
- 33 Praia D'El Rey, Obidos, Portugal
- 34 Ravenstein (Old), Tervuren, Belgium
- 35 Penha Longa (Atlantico), Lisbon, Portugal
- 36 The Scandinavian (New), Farum, Denmark
- 37 Troia, Lisbon, Portugal
- 38 Sand, Jönköping, Sweden
- 39 Santander, Madrid, Spain
- 40 Barseback (Masters), Malmo, Sweden
- 41 Domaine Imperial, Geneva, Switzerland
- 42 Sotogrande (Old), Sotogrande, Spain
- 43 Saint Germain, Paris, France
- 44 Son Gual, Majorca, Spain
- 45 Biella la Betulle, Magnano, Italy
- 46 PGA National (Links), Malmo, Sweden
- 47 Villa d'Este, Montorfano, Italy
- 48 LykiaLinks, Belek, Turkey
- 49 Bled, Bled, Slovenia
- 50 Vasatorps (Tour), Helsingborg, Sweden

- 51 Le Touquet (La Mer), Pas de Calais, France
- 52 Chiberta, Biarritz, France
- 53 Quinta do Lago (South), Almancil, Portugal
- 54 Abama, Tenerife, Spain
- 55 Halmstad (North), Halmstad, Sweden
- 56 St Nom La Breteche (Red), Paris, France
- 57 Golf du Medoc (Châteaux), Bordeaux, France
- 58 Castelconturbia, Via Suno, Italy
- 59 Puerto de Hierro (Arriba), Madrid, Spain
- 60 Verdura (East), Sicily, Italy
- 61 Oceanico Faldo, Algarve, Portugal
- 62 Esbjerg (Marbaek), Jutland, Denmark
- 63 Antalya (PGA Sultan), Belek, Turkey
- 64 Villa de Madrid (Black), Madrid, Spain
- 65 Neguri, Algorta, Spain
- 66 Oceanico Old, Algarve, Portugal
- 67 Kongsvinger, Oslo, Norway
- 68 Hilversumsche, Hilversum, Holland
- 69 Golf Nazionale, San Martino, Italy
- 70 Fontana, Oberwaltersdorf, Austria
- 71 Crans sur Sierre, Crans-Montana, Switzerland
- 72 Las Colinas G&CC, Alicante, Spain
- 73 Limburg, Houthalen, Belgium
- 74 Finca Cortesin, Malaga, Spain
- 75 Porto Santo, Porto Santo, Portugal
- 76 Kytaja (South East), Hyvinkää, Finland
- 77 Steiermarkischer Murhof, Murhof, Austria
- 78 Thracian Cliffs, Kavarna, Bulgaria
- 79 Bogogno (Del Conte), Novaro, Italy
- 80 Costa Navarino (Dunes), Messinia, Greece
- 81 Eindhovensche Golf, Eindhoven, Holland
- 82 Royal Obidos, Lisbon, Portugal
- 83 Estonia G&CC (Sea), Tallinn, Estonia
- 84 Las Brisas, Andalucia, Spain
- 85 Holstebro (Forest), Brandsbjergvej, Denmark
- 86 The Dutch, The Netherlands
- 87 Royal Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium
- 88 Arcos Gardens, Cadiz, Spain
- 89 La Reserva de Sotogrande, Sotogrande, Spain
- 90 Hossegor, Biarritz, France
- 91 Cornelia (Prince), Belek, Turkey
- 92 The International, The Netherlands
- 93 Golf Club de Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland
- 94 Linna, Hameenlinna, Finland
- 95 Winston Links (Champ), Schwerin, Germany
- 96 San Roque, Sotogrande, Spain
- 97 Moliets, Bayonne, France
- 98 Hardelet (Les Pins), Hardelet, France
- 99 Carya, Belek, Turkey
- 100 Quinta do Peru, Lisbon, Portugal