

**GOLF
WORLD**

TOP 100

HOLES
CONTINENTAL
EUROPE

THE SCANDINAVIAN,
COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

**THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE
RANKINGS IN THE GAME**

EUROPE'S BEST HOLES

From Norway to Turkey and France to Bulgaria,
100 holes of incredible quality

WELCOME

The following pages are a truly wonderful celebration of golf in Continental Europe.

The Courses ranking that we will publish in November will be too, but in some ways this list especially highlights the incredible variety on offer on mainland Europe because we were just seeking outstanding individual holes.

So while there are certainly plenty of familiar names from our blue riband Courses list, you'll also find plenty of unfamiliar courses with holes in this ranking.

I also love that while the traditional powerhouses of France and the Netherlands have plenty of entries here, holes from plenty of modern courses also feature.

The type of hole is also enjoyably varied. As well as a pleasing division between par 3s, 4s and 5s, there are also holes that capture the imagination for different reasons; it could be aesthetic; it could be strategic; it could

be dramatic. Sometimes, it is a combination of all three.

It was a Herculean task to compile this list and I'm the first to admit there will be plenty of great holes left out; I can almost hear social media's reaction: 'It isn't even the best hole on that course never mind in Europe!'

All I'd say in response is that the panel I assembled has truly staggering breadth, reaching all corners of the continent and with lots and lots of overlap with their knowledge. That said, we will all definitely have forgotten to nominate great holes we've played, so do tell me any you feel warrant inclusion.

Helping me with this task were the following: Nigel and Suzanne Butler, Charles North, Jonathan Davison, Adam Lawrence, Alfonso Erhardt, Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano, Olle Dahlgren, Xavier Champagne, Edwin Roald, Jeff Howes, Salvador Macedo, Ben Stephens, Frederico Champalimaud, David Jones,

Anthony Hodgson, Ian Knox and Sergio Carballo. I thank them sincerely for their input – I am indebted to them all, possibly more than in any previous Top 100.

I have presented the 100 in six brackets – retro *Golf World* style, as that's how the very first Top 100 was done in 1982. It is so hard to list individual holes, but equally I did want to try to give an idea of what is the best of the best.

A few courses have multiple entries and probably could have had even more holes included. More courses could have had multiple entries too. As a general rule, rightly or wrongly, I tended towards having a greater spread of courses. It's worth noting that Russia has many fine holes, but we did not consider any in the country for the very obvious reason.

Anyway, that's enough from me – get ready to digest 100 brilliant golf holes all over Continental Europe.
Chris Bertram, Top 100 Editor





Thracian Cliffs

BRACKET A

DEPAN 10TH

UTRECHT, NETHERLANDS

Par 4, 339 yards

Happily falls alphabetically (given we have used its 'local' name) as the first entry, because if we were ranking 1-100 there is every chance this par 4 would have been number one. "A driveable par 4 hole that you can't really drive," said one panellist. Beautifully framed by Scots pine and a mix of deciduous trees, with a bottleneck fairway before the green, it is the perfect antidote to 'bomb-and-gouge' golf.

DEPAN 15TH

UTRECHT, NETHERLANDS

Par 3, 161 yards

Another top-10 entry for De Pan, this time an exquisite short hole nestled against a dune. Its raised green ties in perfectly to a landform on the left and at the back of the green and falls dramatically on the right. Standard Harry Colt par-3 genius. "The cousin of Sunningdale Old's 5th," noted one panellist.

EINDHOVEN 2ND

EINDHOVEN, NETHERLANDS

Par 4, 275 yards

One of the coolest short par 4s you will ever

be fortunate enough to play, with two heather islands in the fairway. It sits very comfortably in Bracket A.

LOFOTEN 2ND

GIMSOYSAND, NORWAY

Par 3, 154 yards

If we were ranking by number and the main criteria was X Factor setting, this would be top of the pile. From an elevated tee you fire to a tiny green sitting among rocks lapped by the sea. Breathtaking.

MORFONTAINE (GRAND PARCOURS) 4TH

PARIS, FRANCE

Par 3, 179 yards

Our long-time number one in the Continental courses list was always going to have a few entries in this ranking. We aren't generally huge fans of uphill par 3s but this is one that appeals greatly, enhanced by great bunkering.

MORFONTAINE (GRAND PARCOURS) 13TH

PARIS, FRANCE

Par 3, 147 yards

A controversial choice given this par 3 has a mature pine tree directly in the line of play. We think the hole composition is majestic and it delivers an interesting and quirky challenge – not least the ingenious

hourglass green with deep bunkers guarding the middle.

MORFONTAINE (VALLIERE) 5TH

PARIS, FRANCE

Par 5, 467 yards

An entry for the 'smaller' course at this private Paris club. A short par 5 by modern standards but a mix of heather, a narrow fairway and a wickedly contoured green are to be admired. Full of charm, character and, most importantly, fun.

ROYAL HAGUE 6TH

WASSENAAR, NETHERLANDS

Par 4, 428 yards

"Probably the hardest par 4 I know, and it is still great fun," said one panellist. A tough two-shot hole that oozes class.

ROYAL HAGUE 10TH

WASSENAAR, NETHERLANDS

Par 5, 445 yards

This beautiful par 5 over some of the wildest terrain you will ever see begins a stellar back nine at this Harry Colt masterpiece.

THRACIAN CLIFFS 6TH

CAPE KALIAKRA, BULGARIA

Par 3, 232 yards

This Gary Player design could have had several entries, but this drop par three has real 'wow' factor. Made for Instagram.

BRACKET B

CAMIRAL GOLF & WELLNESS (STADIUM) 13TH

GIRONA, SPAIN

Par 4, 371 yards

This iconic straightaway par 4 plays downhill from a wonderful elevated tee. The Montseny massif mountain range gives the hole a stunning backdrop. Wrapped around the green is one of three good-sized ponds that you have already encountered at the 3rd and 11th greens, and again at the 12th tee. Pretty... with a punch.

CHANTILLY 17TH

PARIS, FRANCE

Par 3, 209 yards

This short hole is part of the fabled closing three-hole stretch here. It plays down a tree-lined valley and asks for one of your better strikes. The reward for pulling it off is great satisfaction.

CRANS-SUR-SIERRE 7TH

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Par 4, 337 yards

Pretty, memorable and exciting, you cannot help being overwhelmed by the incredible views from Crans' 7th tee. The hole itself has more substance than just a nice view. It is short, strategic, drivable... and tempting. It features a brilliant infinity green perched on top of a strong slope, surrounded by sand-flashed bunkers.

EL SALER 8TH

VALENCIA, SPAIN

Par 4, 328 yards

This gorgeous stretch of golf, routed by Javier Arana, sees the 8th play alongside the sea on an undulating fairway. The Balearic waves crash about noisily just yards away as you putt out on a superb dune-enclosed complex.

FONTAINEBLEAU 3RD

PARIS, FRANCE

Par 4, 430 yards

A long, heather-dominated carry onto the fairway on this early opportunity to ascend to a crow's nest tee box, from which to launch your ball towards the gently curving fairway below. In your sights will be a large,



Crans-sur-Sierre



Camiral

single cross bunker you need to avoid if you hope to make the green in regulation.

FONTAINEBLEAU 12TH

PARIS, FRANCE

Par 4, 380 yards

Cross bunkers are your first challenge, but negotiate them and large white rocks then hide part of the approach, with the green at the foot of a slope. A risk-and-reward hole; go for the green in two, but miss it short and the rocks deliver the penalty.

HAMBURGER 17TH

HAMBURG, GERMANY

Par 5, 480 yards

The standout of this charming German heathland, this short par 5 has an iconic approach shot over a purple sea of heather to the green.

KYTAJA (SOUTHEAST) 18TH

HYVINKAA, FINLAND

Par 5, 520 yards

If you close your eyes and think of a land of a thousand lakes, this is what you imagine. The epic 18th plays around water and is as exciting and challenging as it is spectacular.

LOFOTEN 14TH

GIMSOYSAND, NORWAY

Par 3, 423 yards

Another entry for Lofoten, and another hole that enjoys an awesome setting (all 18 do, to be fair), but has a bit more design nuance to it. Try to take your eyes off the mountains and the Arctic Ocean and rest your drive as close to the sea as possible for the best angle into the green.

BRAUTARHOLT 3RD

REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

Par 4, 316 yards

A brilliant routing by Edwin Roald produced a succession of fine holes. The 3rd just got over the line as the best, but in reality four others are every bit as good. A sporty par-4 that most golfers can get close to with a good drive, allied to an all-world setting... Brautarholt's 3rd is truly magnificent.

HOW I CREATED NO.3

By architect Edwin Roald

Brautarholt features in the Icelandic Sagas, dating back almost 1,000 years, where the estate was said to have 18 doors on hinges. Here, however, we almost couldn't care less about 18, since a fixed, pre-determined number of holes put us at risk of leaving out some of the site's jaw-dropping green sites and golf features.

The driveable par-4 3rd is a prime example. This uses natural terraces for tees, from where a decision must be made. Do you hold back or play boldly? Here, the crashing waves of the Atlantic Ocean, against the hole's cliff-top right flank, play a role similar to that of the old railway on the 16th at the Old at St Andrews and its daughter, the influential 4th hole at Woking, in the heart of the heathlands of Surrey and Berkshire, where I spent my formative years as an aspiring course designer.

The closer you go to the edge, the easier your approach shot will be, since it sits on a knoll, called 'Simbi', guarded by rock outcroppings on the front left.

This makes an approach from the left – the consequences of an overly cautious tee shot – that much harder, with limited visibility and landing space. This is also where the angle of the step in the green does not function as much as a backstop as it will from the ocean's edge.

A good number of recreational golfers have the power to drive the green, and a successful attempt at that is one that may last you a lifetime, plus bragging rights.



Moliets

MOLIETS 13TH

FRANCE BAYONNE, FRANCE

Par 4, 315 yards

A spectacular linksy hole in Aquitaine. A huge bank of pure white sand stretching up the left, edged by a carpet of rolling, vibrant-green fairway, the distinct colours providing a jagged contrast. The funky, North Berwick-style green concludes one of the finest holes in France, and in Europe.

MORFONTAINE (GRAND PARCOURS) 11TH

FRANCE PARIS, FRANCE

Par 3, 151 yards

Part of a wonderful phase in the middle of the round with strong two-shotters at the

7th and 8th, and sporty par 4 greens at the 9th and 10th, but we went for the gorgeous 11th... which is followed, two holes later, by a similarly cute par 3.

MORFONTAINE (VALLIERE) 4TH

FRANCE PARIS, FRANCE

Par 3, 130 yards

The second of the Valliere's nine holes to be chosen, the 4th is one of the scariest and wildest short par 3s you'll ever have the delight of tackling.

SAINT-GERMAIN 18TH

FRANCE PARIS, FRANCE

Par 4, 506 yards

We could have chosen the delightful, short

par-4 10th or the dramatic par-3 17th, but the 18th is such a strong finishing par 4 (489 yards off the whites). First, you have to carry the cavernous bunkers before facing a long second into a prevailing wind to a green guarded by typical Harry Colt bunkers that are a work of art.

SAN LORENZO 6TH

PORTUGAL ALGARVE, PORTUGAL

Par 4, 386 yards

One of the most memorable tee shots in Portugal, the Ria Formosa lagoon, the Atlantic Ocean beyond and a sliver of right-to-left dog-legging fairway lie before you. The second half of the hole is played alongside the stunning lagoon.



Saint-Germain

SPERONE 5TH

FRANCE CORSICA, FRANCE

Par 4, 277 yards

Driving off from the most southerly tip of Corsica, your tee shot and potentially a risk-reward second are played over cliffs that plunge to the Mediterranean below. A spectacularly scenic Robert Trent Jones Snr clifftop hole.

VALE DO LOBO (ROYAL) 16TH

PORTUGAL ALGARVE, PORTUGAL

Par 3, 215 yards

One of the most photographed holes in

world golf, and with very good reason.

This long and testing par 3 is played over rusty red cliffs, with the Atlantic Ocean and beach on your left. A sprinkling of umbrella pines, elegant palms and some of Vale do Lobo's iconic white villas complete a quite dazzling scene.

VALDERRAMA 4TH

SPAIN SOTOGRADE, SPAIN

Par 5, 567 yards

Although the 17th is more famous, 'La Cascada' is a short par 5 of great beauty. It toys with its visual perception, because what

seems safe from the tee may not be quite so ideal if you want to reach the green in two. The sound of the babbling brook by the green may soothe anyone caught out by it.

WEST CLIFFS 7TH

PORTUGAL OBIDOS, PORTUGAL

Par 5, 590 yards

A truly epic par 5, playing downhill through sand dunes, it appears to stretch out for miles. Swing hard and with confidence!

WESTMAN ISLAND 8TH

ICELAND WESTMAN ISLAND, ICELAND

Par 4, 271 yards

This is part of a stretch that is home to the oldest holes in Iceland. The back left quadrant of the 8th green is likely the country's oldest green surface still in use. This driveable par 4 is played downhill from a dramatic, clifftop coastal tee set at the base of the towering, near-vertical rock wall that defines the volcanic crater in which the entire course sits. Hollows and undulating land lead to a small green that all will be attacking with a wedge at most.



Vale Do Lobo

BRACKET C

APHRODITE HILLS 7TH

CYPRUS PAPHOS, CYPRUS

Par 3, 231 yards

A dramatic 130m gorge dividing the tee from the green offers a thrilling challenge - anything short is lost and the large bunker at the back of the green is not a bad miss. Then comes a breathtaking, multi-hairpin buggy drive down to the green...

BUDERSAND 13TH

GERMANY SYLT, GERMANY

Par 3, 169 yards

Short hole pointing inland (the 15th towards the sea was a contender) that plays to a fabulous horseshoe-shaped green.

COSTA NAVARINO (DUNES) 2ND

 KALAMATA, GREECE

Par 4, 385 yards

A hole that has a bit of everything; challenge, charm and beauty. The tee shot is relatively straightforward on this short 4 but placing your ball for the optimum angle for that day's pin is important, for the approach is far from easy to a pushed-up green guarded by bunkers. Plus, there is the distraction of the gorgeous view beyond the infinity green...


ETRETAT 14TH

 ETRETAT, FRANCE

Par 4, 367 yards

Highlight of this scenic clifftop course on the Normandy coast, where any of the cliff-hugging holes between 10 and 14 were candidates. The technically difficult par-5 10th, with its knee-trembling tee-shot, might be regarded as the standout, but we go for the par-4 14th, requiring a tee-shot over a ravine and offering perhaps the best views of the white cliffs of Etretat.

FALSTERBO 4TH

 MALMO, SWEDEN

Par 4, 405 yards

The springy, tightly-mown turf of this memorably strategic two-shot hole helps your ball bound along to a lovely green complex. The short par-5 18th was also a strong contender.

HOLSTEBRO 11TH

 BRANDSBJERGVEJ, DENMARK

Par 3, 154 yards

Picture-perfect short hole that showcases the beauty and class of this often underrated Danish heathland.

KENNEMER 15TH

 ZANDVOORT, NETHERLANDS

Par 5, 523 yards

Harry Colt said it "should prove to be one of the best one-shot holes ever made" – and who are we to disagree?


PENHA LONGA (ATLANTICO) 6TH

 CASCAIS, PORTUGAL

Par 5, 486 yards

Tumbling downhill, this double-dog-leg par 5 plays to a green nestling alongside an ancient fortification and aqueduct. It's one of several exciting holes on this superb Lisbon parkland.


LE TOUQUET (LA MER) 12TH

 LE TOUQUET, FRANCE

Par 4, 403 yards

An understated, classic two-shot links hole with no bunkers but a simple though devilishly tricky green with slick run-offs around it. Set among the best of the rolling dunes, it is played from an elevated tee.

LES BORDES (NEW) 15TH

 ORLEANS, FRANCE

Par 4, 306 yards

The 15th is a short par 4 by Gil Hanse that has bags of character and interest, helped by his design associate Jim Wagner really sweating the landscaping.


MONTE REI 14TH

 ALGARVE, PORTUGAL

Par 3, 181 yards

A gorgeous short hole with water running down the left side and a bunker on hand to snaffle anything long or right.

NOORDWIJKSE 17TH

 NOORDWIJK, NETHERLANDS

Par 3, 202 yards

We have not been huge fans of Noordwijkse of late but the 17th shows the true potential of this Dutch links-woodland. It's a really memorable par 3 played to a green in a gorgeous amphitheatre.

PRAIA D'EL REY 15TH

 OBIDOS, PORTUGAL

Par 4, 404 yards

It's very hard to split the 13th, 14th and 15th here – all would be worthy entries. We've

gone for this par 4, which plays right along the shore with the beach and out of bounds left, and well-placed bunkers that, together with a drop in fairway level, add strategy. Catch the downslope of an acutely-undulating fairway and leave an approach under 100 yards – or face an approach from a fairway ledge much higher than the green.

Integrated with the encroaching coastal dunes that also frame the green, the kidney-shaped target sits hard to the beach, bursts of sand contrasting with the lush green swales around the putting surface.

PUERTA DE HIERRO (ARRIBA) 9TH

 MADRID, SPAIN

Par 4, 456 yards

A beautiful, steeply downhill and long par 4 that plays through a natural valley. A typically classy Harry Colt hole.


PUERTA DE HIERRO (ARRIBA) 12TH

 MADRID, SPAIN

Par 4, 467 yards

The second inclusion within three holes for the Arriba, which is being gradually restored by Frank Pont with input from long-time member Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano. This is one of the many stellar two-shotters on the beautifully undulating back nine.


ROYAL ZOUTE 5TH

 KNOKKE-HEIST, BELGIUM

Par 5, 435 yards

The best hole on this pedigree Belgian seaside course; a very short but interesting dog-leg left par 5.

SCANDINAVIAN (NEW) 9TH

 COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Par 3, 147 yards

The 11th, where an old military shooting range has been used to create a memorable par 4, got some votes, but it was the gorgeous short 9th, with water lining its right side, that got our vote.

SOTOGRADE (OLD) 7TH

🇪🇸 SOTOGRADE, SPAIN

Par 4, 419 yards

Wonderful two-shot hole played to a narrow green with water waiting on its right side.

ST EMILIONNAIS 8TH

🇫🇷 BORDEAUX, FRANCE

Par 4, 316 yards

The last of an epic hat-trick of holes on this Tom Doak design comes with this sporty par 4. With all the land sloping left to right and a bunker on the right, you've got to feather your drive up the left and let it tumble down. But be too cautious in line and length off the tee and you'll find the bunker front right of the green is an awkward obstacle, especially because the slightly elevated approach means you only just see the bottom of the pin.

TERRAS DE COMPORTA (DUNAS) 16TH

🇵🇹 LISBON, PORTUGAL

Par 4, 342 yards

A wonderful, drivable par 4 on this brand-new David McLay Kidd design south of Lisbon. You are offered a rising diagonal fairway with an ever-expanding carry to the green. You can bomb it all the way or angle right and reduce the carry. If you're confident out of the sand, there's no reason to not blast away. But a mid-iron and wedge will make par all day.

BRACKET D

ADAMSTAL 9TH

🇦🇹 HAINFELD, AUSTRIA

Par 4, 452 yards

Adamstal has many beautiful holes to choose from but the 9th gets in this list because of the risk and reward tee shot over the deep valley to the right. The more you take on, the shorter the approach to this par 4, which plays very long if you don't take on the risk.

ALAND (CASTLE) 10TH

🇫🇮 ALAND ISLANDS, FINLAND

Par 4, 435 yards

A gorgeous start to the back nine on this recently renovated course that is under consideration for our Continental list in November. The 10th encapsulates why, a stunning mix of strategy and scenery.

DINARD 13TH

🇫🇷 SAINT-BRIAC-SUR-MER, FRANCE

Par 3, 167 yards

The most memorable of the five par 3s at this grand old layout on the Brittany coast. Driving off from the top of a World War II bunker, with an exhilarating seaside view at your back, you take dead aim up the hill to a flagstick that stands proudly against the skyline.

GREAT NORTHERN 18TH

🇩🇰 KERTEMINDE, DENMARK

Par 5, 539 yards

An epic finish to this impressive Jack Nicklaus design, a dramatic hole with water all the way down the left and where your final approach is played to a near-island green.

HARDELLOT (LESPINS) 7TH

🇫🇷 HARDELLOT, FRANCE

Par 3, 145 yards

'The Fortress', a fabulous short hole restored by Frank Pont and Patrice Boissonnas, gets its name from being surrounded by intimidating bunkers.

HERZOGSWALDE 7TH

🇩🇪 DRESDEN, GERMANY

Par 3, 220 yards

"A truly original long par 3 by Christian Althaus," said one panellist. From a high tee, you see fairway to the left and a large, intimidating bunker to the right. You can hit down the left fairway if you want, but you won't get on the green (and your pitch will be brutal). Instead, take courage and play your



Kalajoki (A Wright)

A GREAT IN THE MAKING?

BOIS D'ARLON (THE HEATH), BELGIUM 15TH

Par 4, 337 yards

A hole which has never been played yet is destined to be a classic when it opens in 2024. A superb downhill and a downwind drivable par 4 designed by English architect Stuart Hallett. It's a hole which tempts you to hit the driver, but trouble awaits. The hole is timed at the right point of the round to tempt, whether playing strokeplay or matchplay. The green is a masterpiece, falling away from the golfer and built just at the right level to give views to the surrounding landscape.

tee shot straight over the big bunker to the blind fairway and hope to run it home.

KALAJOKI 2ND

🇫🇮 KALAJOKI, FINLAND

Par 4, 388 yards

A gentle dog-leg left that culminates in a crescendo of a green site. Straight out of the Surrey heathland playbook, it could be a hole at Swinley Forest.



Le Golf National

wind, you can use almost every club from wedge to 3-wood.

PEDRENA 6TH

🇪🇸 PEDRENA, SPAIN

Par 4, 380 yards

The 7th, a fine par 3 which is in many ways the highlight of this Harry Colt design, was in our thoughts too, but 'El Recodo' - 'the bend' - got the nod, a sweeping two-shot hole with charm and aesthetic appeal. Seve will have enjoyed it...

PUERTA DE HIERRO (ABAJO) 11TH

🇪🇸 MADRID, SPAIN

Par 5, 544 yards

This Kyle Phillips design at the fabled Madrid club is notable for its exacting, thrilling par 5s and the 11th is the pick, a perfect mix of enticement and challenge.

QUINTA DO LAGO (SOUTH) 15TH

🇪🇸 ALGARVE, SPAIN

Par 3, 196 yards

Played tee to green over a lagoon, this is a time for a quick picture with your phone camera and then a sweet strike.

REFRATH 8TH

🇩🇪 BERGISCH GLADBACH, GERMANY

Par 3, 158 yards

Refrath's 8th is a strong par 3 with a green on a plateau defended by visually intimidating bunkers.

LA RESERVA CLUB 6TH

🇪🇸 SOTOGRADE, SPAIN

Par 5, 545 yards

A brilliant downhill par 5 that gives many a chance of getting on in two - although there is a lake along the whole right side. Movement in the green means birdies are not guaranteed even if you find it in two.

a deep breath before playing their tee and approach shots on this water-laden closing hole. Hitting the near-island green in regulation will guarantee you bragging rights in your group.

PARNU BAY 14TH

🇪🇺 PARNU, ESTONIA

Par 3, 154 yards

This par 3 playing towards the sea is almost always against the wind and is the only hole in Parnu played in a north-south direction. It is only 154 yards but depending on the

LE GOLF NATIONAL 18TH

🇫🇷 PARIS, FRANCE

Par 4, 471 yards

Amateurs and Ryder Cup players alike take



Hardehot Les Pins



Finca Cortesin

SAND VALLEY 16TH

GDANSK, POLAND

Par 4, 322 yards

We like the three-shot holes at 4 and 8 here, and the last is also terrific, but the 16th is our pick for this Polish design by Lassi Pekka Tilander. It's a cute, short two-shotter but the green is one of the smallest and trickiest on the course.

SCANDINAVIAN (OLD) 13TH

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Par 4, 405 yards

The tee shot is crucial on this hole. You want to keep close to the bunkers on the left, to give yourself a clear shot to the green. The green is raised and anything short will come back down the slick front side. A channel of water 100 yards out ratchets up the drama.

TERRE BLANCHE (CHATEAU) 11TH

NICE, FRANCE

Par 5, 534 yards

An elevated tee shot is followed by a tricky lay-up as a result of a well-positioned stream – a dry 'barranca' in summer – cutting across the fairway. Then there is a scenic pitch into a shallow, angled green surrounded by trees.

TROIA 3RD

LISBON, PORTUGAL

Par 4, 404 yards

Robert Trent Jones Snr selected this, a gorgeous seaside par 4, as one of the best he ever designed.

VALDERRAMA 17TH

SOTOGRADE, SPAIN

Par 5, 539 yards

A notorious hole, with the difficulty of the approach shot over water to the wide but shallow green having caught out many superstars down the years – including Tiger. 'Los Gabiones' is a hole we all want to have a go on...

VERDURA (EAST) 6TH

SCIACCA, SICILY

Par 4, 363 yards

Used to be the West's 9th but has been seriously reworked. A sharp dog-leg right with a bunker protecting the corner, it looks like a drive over the bunker is the shot but, played likely downwind, there is a risk of running out of fairway. Taking a safer left route means a tricky 8-iron to a well-defended green with water and bunkers. A super-looking hole with the sea as the backdrop for your approach and all the way down the right as you tee off.

BRACKET E

BRO HOF SLOTT (STADIUM) 15TH

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

Par 5, 625 yards

The dramatic conclusion to the Stadium had to have an entry. Water features on every hole of the back nine on the Trent Jones Jnr design and nowhere more than on this sinewy par 5, which has Lake Malaren along its entire left side as it sweeps towards a long, narrow green.

CARYA 9TH

BELEK, TURKEY

Par 4, 398 yards

Mid-length par 4 at Turkey's clear No.1. Well-bunkered off the tee, your approach must be good enough to find a tiered green.

FINCA CORTESIN 4TH

CASARES, SPAIN

Par 4, 335 yards

A pretty, enticing two-shot hole which will make for intriguing viewing in this year's Solheim Cup. From an elevated tee, do you draw your tee shot on to the apron of the green, or lay up and wedge on? You draw it because it sits hard to a pond all the way down the left, right up to the front edge.

FOHRENWALD 13TH

LANZENKIRCHEN, AUSTRIA

Par 4, 348 yards

This mid-length par 4 is a slight dog-leg left with trees and a stream all down the left off the tee. Anything too far left will block your approach. But hugging left gives you a good angle for the approach to a green guarded by bunkers on the left and the stream which continues front and right.

HALMSTAD (NORRA) 16TH

HALMSTAD, SWEDEN

Par 3, 180 yards

In an excellent closing stretch at Halmstad North is the picture-perfect 16th. Beautifully framed by tall, mature trees, a good-sized babbling brook lurks dangerously across the front of the green.

LA TOJA 5TH

ISLA DE LA TOJA, SPAIN

Par 3, 122 yards

In the north-west of Spain, an hour north of Vigo, you find Royal La Toja. And on this nine-hole course you will find this quite wonderful short hole. Precociously jutting out into the scenic Ria de Arousa on a rocky peninsula, two iconic trees also frame the memorable 'Punta Cabreira'.

LUBKER (SAND) 3RD

AARHUS, DENMARK

Par 4, 301 yards

A classic sporty two-shotter where many can drive the green but the 'safe' play is a hybrid then a pitch... but even then the bunkers short of the target



Carya

make the approach somewhat tricky. The 7th on Lubker's Sky course was also a strong contender.

PINE CLIFFS 6TH

ALGARVE, PORTUGAL

Par 3, 216 yards

Played off the tips, 'Devil's Parlour' presents a knee-trembling tee shot to a green sitting atop the iconic orange cliffs. A cliff-top, oceanside classic.

OITAVOS DUNES 14TH

CASCAIS, PORTUGAL

Par 3, 165 yards

The pick of a stellar collection of short holes, the Dunes' 14th has the Atlantic Ocean as the backdrop to an infinity green beyond a gorge of sandy waste; aesthetic appeal and real drama.

QUINTA DO LAGO (SOUTH) 16TH

ALGARVE, PORTUGAL

Par 4, 409 yards

Hard on the heels of the 14th and 15th (also in this list), this gently dog-legging par 4 is beautifully framed by umbrella pines and the Ria Formosa lagoon beyond the green.

ROYAL OSTEND 8TH

OSTEND, BELGIUM

Par 3, 150 yards

There are two classic seaside par 3s in three holes at Ostend. The 6th, the 'Postage Stamp', and 'Blekkaert', the 8th, are both played from elevated tees. Both offer views onto the North Sea and down across the superb middle section of this revered Belgian 'Royal', with Blekkaert well defended by collecting pot bunkers.

TERRAS DA COMPORTA (DUNAS) 4TH

🇵🇹 LISBON, PORTUGAL

Par 4, 441 yards

This downhill par 4 offers lots of choices off the tee. Hard left over a high fairway bunker allows you to catch a speed slot and open up an undefended green. It's a risky tee shot but an easy second that sets up birdie. Head right for safety and you face a semi-blind approach to a narrow green front that is backed with deep bunkers.

TOXANDRIA 4TH

🇳🇱 MOLENSCHOT, NETHERLANDS

Par 3, 141 yards

A medium-length par 3 with a volcano green defended by three bunkers and lots of short grass and heather.

VALE DO LOBO (OCEAN) 15TH

🇵🇹 ALGARVE, PORTUGAL

Par 3, 195 yards

We could just repeat our words for Vale do Lobo Royal's 16th... "One of the most photographed holes in world golf, and with good reason." This one is at beach level and is every bit as awesome.

VISBY 18TH

🇸🇪 GOTLAND, SWEDEN

Par 5, 516 yards

This Swedish course had nominations for several holes – most notably the 2nd, 6th, 8th, 16th and 17th – but this epic three-shot finisher got the nod. Spectacular in setting and challenge.

BRACKET F

CASTELFALFI (MOUNTAIN) 9TH

🇮🇹 FLORENCE, ITALY

Par 3, 194 yards

A downhill short hole of exceptional beauty, playing from a tee 100ft above the green to a target guarded by water.

COSTA NAVARINO (BAY) 2ND

🇬🇷 KALAMATA, GREECE

Par 3, 179 yards

The Bay course is rarely anything other than aesthetically spellbinding and the 2nd is *probably* the high. A beautiful par 3 played right alongside Navarino Bay.

EL SALER 5TH

🇪🇸 VALENCIA, SPAIN

Par 5, 518 yards

The highlight for many will be the stretch that ends the front nine, but the 5th plays up and over the brow of an hill and opens up a classic seaside landscape.

EMPORDA (FOREST) 6TH

🇪🇸 GIRONA, SPAIN

Par 4, 321 yards

Intriguing two-shot hole with two routes to the green – either a straight drive to a peninsula fairway and a shorter approach, or head left to a more slender landing strip and face a longer shot to the green... but without flying over water.

ESTONIAN G&CC (SEA) 3RD

🇪🇪 TALLINN, ESTONIA

Par 4, 350 yards

Takes you from the higher ground of the forest down to the edge of the Baltic Sea.

GOLF DU MEDOC (CHATEAU) 14TH

🇫🇷 BORDEAUX, FRANCE

Par 5, 532 yards

A classic risk-reward par 5 by Bill Coore begins with an awesome driving hole that will resonate with anyone who has played over the open heathland terrain of Walton Heath. The turf runs fast here so cut enough of the corner off and it's reachable in two... but gorse, pines, heather, water and sand wait to punish modest execution.

LINNA GOLF 9TH

🇫🇮 HAMEENLINNA, FINLAND

Par 4, 403 yards

Pine-lined Linna has several outstanding holes. This one used to be the 18th but now acts as the last on the front nine, taking you from an elevated tee back to the clubhouse with an approach over a lake.

LA RESERVA CLUB 15TH

🇪🇸 SOTOGRANDE, SPAIN

Par 3, 222 yards

The huge, tiered green has water wrapped around it on fully two sides while three bunkers add further protection.

MARCO SIMONE 16TH

🇮🇹 ROME, ITALY

Par 4, 354 yards

A brilliant risk-reward par 4 that will

provide plenty of excitement in the Ryder Cup. Go for the green with a driver but risk finding the water hazard on the right, or lay up and wedge in... but as well as water there are also two bunkers, and stopping the ball is even harder from a downhill lie...

MONTE REI 12TH

🇵🇹 ALGARVE, PORTUGAL

Par 4, 344 yards

This dog-leg right par 4 gives long hitters the chance to attack the green with their drive with a tailwind, but for most of us it is a fairway wood or hybrid then a medium iron to avoid the water at the front of the angled green.

QUINTA DA RIA 12TH

🇵🇹 ALGARVE, PORTUGAL

Par 4, 314 yards

Played within the Ria Formosa Natural Park, from where the club takes its name, this short par 4 encapsulates the beautiful setting this jewel of the Algarve enjoys.

VALDERRAMA 12TH

🇪🇸 SOTOGRANDE, SPAIN

Par 3, 213 yards

Beautifully framed by an amphitheatre of trees, this simple par 3's green is well bunkered on both sides and has a tongue of close-cropped apron extending towards you, showing you the route in. Easier said than written.

VERDURA (WEST) 17TH

🇮🇹 SICILY, ITALY

Par 3, 179 yards

The West's 17th plays to a long green with two big bunkers and precious little room to the left with the likelihood of the wind off the sea. A spectacularly beautiful hole, and a challenging one.

VILLA D'ESTE 18TH

🇮🇹 MILAN, ITALY

Par 4, 345 yards

This testingly tight and well-bunkered short par 4 closes out your round at our Italian No.1. The palatial clubhouse sits above the green.

PALMARES (ALVOR) 4TH

🇵🇹 ALGARVE, PORTUGAL

Par 5, 597 yards

"Arguably the best hole in the country," said one panellist. A mix of beauty and beast.

