

GOLF
WORLD

TOP 100

BEST VALUE
COURSES
CONTINENTAL
EUROPE

FALSTERBO
GOLFKLUBB, SWEDEN

THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE
RANKINGS IN THE GAME

THE TOP
15 AREAS

The course hotbeds
- and exactly what
it costs you to
play them.

GET THE MOST
FOR YOUR MONEY

The first ranking that combines the quality of the course
with the cost to play it. The results are fascinating.

WELCOME

This is the first of two rankings in three months where green fees play a key part. Both will be published at a time when the cost of golf is a hot topic.

I wrote, three years ago, that I thought that in some instances green fees were too high. It might be a simplistic analysis, but I struggle to see why courses just a few miles apart and presented in similar condition can be £60 apart in green fee.

I would rather clubs just admitted they were cashing in on overseas visitors or trying to gain a profile by having an expensive green fee (and yes, that really is a thing).

While driving between courses in the Netherlands as I researched the Top 100 Continental Courses list, it struck me that their green fees were relatively reasonable. That made me wonder where they sat among their fellow Top 100 entries in terms of cost, and that made me ponder where the

best pockets of golf at an affordable rate were on the continent. In short: where is the best value? Where can you get the highest level of quality for your money? Which courses give you the biggest bang for your buck?

You'll see the results here and I really hope you agree that this has been an incredibly worthwhile exercise.

We have not simply reordered the courses depending on their green fee. We have taken it a step further, by plotting their position in the main Continental Courses ranking against their green fee, to give a 'value for money' figure for each of them.

The top end of the list offers a pleasing mix of the elite courses that happen to be available for relatively affordable green fees, and some of the courses further down the main list that are available for really, really reasonable fees.

I absolutely accept this is just a starting point in terms of helping to

work out your next golf trip, because everyone's idea of 'value' is different. Valderrama's €500 green fee is the best example of that: to some, €500 will be good value, others would disagree.

I hope you find this a useful ranking. I found it fascinating, both in terms of identifying the best pockets of golf on the continent and also the variations in green fees that exist across countries.

I hope that if the elite courses at the top see the list, they are not encouraged to lift their green fees given the fact their quality merits it. And I hope this encourages UK golfers to head for slightly less well-trodden paths in the future, given it is clear that value might not always lie where received wisdom suggests it does. To repeat, though: 'value' in this ranking is not the cheapest green fee, but getting the highest level of quality for your money.

As ever, I'd relish receiving your comments on the list.
Chris Bertram, Top 100 Editor



HOW WE DID IT

I am indebted to keen golfer and Excel wizard John Martin for his spreadsheet expertise. With his help, I was able to gather green fees for all 100 courses – 91 from the main Continental European Top 100, plus the courses ranked 101-109 in last year's list replacing

the nine totally private courses on that list.

We used published green fees – aka 'rack rates' – rather than what you *can* get them for, as this was the most accurate option open to us. As it happens, I don't think there are too many daft rack rates here and the fees used to calculate the ranking will

be close to what people pay even when they're getting a good deal. I am sure I have failed with some of the green fees, despite trying incredibly hard to get the 100 spot on.

A rating was assigned to the green fees (90 cheapest to 65 most expensive) that had a similar range to the existing

course ratings. Weighting factors were then applied to course rating and green fee rating to produce various lists – in the end we settled on a 50-50 split between the two.

When courses ended up on the same total, I decided where they would fall – often going by the cheaper green fee first.

1 EL SALER

VALENCIA, SPAIN

Green fee €80 T100 rank 13 VFM 83

We can't pretend we were surprised when we applied the formula and this Javier Arana classic came out top. Having such a stellar course as No.1 is proof that quality golf is available for prices that are affordable to many more than just the box-ticking wealthy. Eighty euros is a significant amount, but for the 13th best course in continental Europe it represents brilliant value. Thus, it feels a very worthy No.1. In fact, El Saler being top demonstrates exactly why we have done this ranking.

2 UTRECHT DE PAN

UTRECHT, NETHERLANDS

Green fee €175 T100 rank 2 VFM 82.5

Here's another vindication for this list. To play the second best course in continental Europe for €175 is astonishing. That is a hefty fee but compare that to the elite heathlands of England and it is a snip. We just worry De Pan will see this list and realise they are under-pricing their majestic pine-and-heather masterpiece. We hope they already know they could charge more, and just choose not to.

3 HAMBURGER

HAMBURG, GERMANY

Green fee €120 T100 rank 10 VFM 82

You'll just have to trust us when we say Falkenstein is a heathland that threatens the GB&I Top 100. That's how good it is. And this is a pedigree club, so you could easily imagine the green fee being £70 more. Credit to them that it is sub-£100. And start planning a trip to Hamburg...



4 PARNU BAY

PARNU, ESTONIA

Green fee €105 T100 rank 19 VFM 81.5

This is a wonderful price for a top-20 continental course. Parnu Bay gives you design quality through Lassi Pekka Tilander's imaginative greens and some spectacular Baltic-edge scenes. It's a green fee that you won't regret spending.

5 TROIA

LISBON, PORTUGAL

Green fee €100 T100 rank 18 VFM 81.5

An excellent green fee for this breathtaking seaside course on the Setubal Peninsula. Presentation fluctuates at times but if you aren't obsessed with tees that are like greens, this is possibly the best use of €100 in the entire list.

6 CHANTILLY (VINEUIL)

PARIS, FRANCE

Green fee €140 T100 rank 7 VFM 81.5

Chantilly could easily charge their visitors more and we absolutely love that they don't. One of the great names, experiences and

courses of Europe that is available for the price of a middling modern English course that's got giddy with the post-Covid boom.

7 FONTAINEBLEAU

PARIS, FRANCE

Green fee €165 T100 rank 3 VFM 81.0

See Chantilly and repeat. A wonderful heathland experience of rare character. Europe's No.3 for sub-£150. *Magnifique!* The green fee is €165, visitors being allowed on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and even at weekends from July 14 to August 15!

8 LUBKER (SAND & SKY)

NIMTOFTE, DENMARK

Green fee €65 T100 rank 48 VFM 81.0

This resort is so, so impressive. They do everything well here: the course, the accommodation, the friendly service and the food. Oh, and as you can see, the pricing. Putting places like Lubker front and centre on your thoughts for an affordable golf break is the motivation behind this ranking. Bravo Lubker!

9 LE TOUQUET (LA MER)

LE TOUQUET, FRANCE

Green fee €100 T100 rank 24 VFM 81.0

The heritage Paris clubs such as Chantilly are, as you'll see, exceptionally well priced – and so, generally, are France's resorts. La Mer is a top-25 continental course, a Harry Colt original renovated by Frank Pont, and is worth every one of its €100. Really, really impressive pricing by a resort run by golfers, for golfers.

10 FALSTERBO

MALMO, SWEDEN

Green fee €115 T100 rank 21 VFM 80.5

We could not love this green fee more. Sweden is not a cheap country. Falsterbo is a traditional club. And its course is one of the greats of the continent. Yet it costs under €100. A fantastic opportunity to play one of the very few links outside GB&I.

11 KONGSVINGER

GRANLI, NORWAY

Green fee €50 T100 rank 63 VFM 80.5

The cheapest fee in the list. Fifty euros is astonishing for a course that sits comfortably in the middle of the main list and which we always get great reports about. I've heard of Swedes driving to Norway just to play here.

12 GOLF DU MEDOC (CHATEAUX)

BORDEAUX, FRANCE

Green fee €125 T100 rank 20 VFM 80.5

Another impressively priced French resort course, this time the work of Bill Coore on the heathy plains of Bordeaux. You'll see its sister later in the list, too. Our No.12 is reward for pricing that really encourages a trip to Bordeaux.

13 PRAIA D'EL REY

OBIDOS, PORTUGAL

Green fee €100 T100 rank 29 VFM 80.5

PDR have one of the great stretches in European golf and its main list rank of 29th does not flatter it – it could easily be higher. They have no published rack rate (unlike its stablemate West Cliffs, below), so we have taken the €100 it is available for in the booking system. That €90 is, quite simply, magnificent value.

14 WEST CLIFFS

OBIDOS, PORTUGAL

Green fee €150 T100 rank 16 VFM 80.0

I hope West Cliffs see this ranking, because it is a small reward for such a superb level of green fee. This new course is spellbinding in terms of its location and is packed with dramatic holes, so this is a serious calibre of golf for €150.

15 KRISTIANSTADS

AHUS, SWEDEN

Green fee €65 T100 rank 67 VFM 80.0

Made a splash new entry in the main list last year and at €65 a round, it simply had to be high in this one. Thankfully, the formula duly obliged. Immaculate and interesting after a redesign by Adam Mednick.



16 ESTELA

PORTO, PORTUGAL

Green fee €80 T100 rank 51 VFM 80.0

This Porto links is part of a proper golf club, one that is different from most in Portugal – where resorts are more common. This is more like a British golf club and it offers a magnificent seaside experience. That €80 is a bargain.

17 ROYAL ZOUTE

KNOKKE-HEIST, BELGIUM

Green fee €120 T100 rank 26 VFM 80.0

A really interesting entry. 'Zoute' is a very distinguished club with a pedigree course, so this very reasonable green fee is perhaps surprisingly 'welcoming' to visitors. Take advantage, because it's a quite delightful seaside experience.

18 HARDELLOT (LES PINS)

HARDELLOT, FRANCE

Green fee €110 T100 rank 30 VFM 80.0

The well-priced French strike again. The sister property to Le Touquet comes in below €100 for a round, and given its Tom Simpson heritage – enhanced by a Frank Pont overhaul – that is super value.

19 BRAUTARHOLT

REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

Green fee €75 T100 rank 66 VFM 79.5

Iceland is an expensive country – from accommodation to food and drinks to fuel. So €75 for the continent's No.66 and one of the most spectacular settings you'll ever experience is exceptionally impressive.

20 HOLSTEBRO (FOREST)

BRANDBJERGVEJ, DENMARK

Green fee €80 T100 rank 59 VFM 79.5

Holstebro is really good value at €80.

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Pay the equivalent in Britain and you're not getting a course of this class, other than at Silloth, the Cotswolds, the Highlands and Western Isles of Scotland.

21 BUDERSAND

SYLT, GERMANY

Green fee €120 T100 rank 32 VFM 79.5

Takes a bit of getting to but rewards your effort with a very interesting and scenic course. The very acceptable green fee adds to its allure.

22 KENNEMER (B&C)

ZANDVOORT, NETHERLANDS

Green fee €170 T100 rank 11 VFM 79.5

More on the formula here. Kennemer is five euros cheaper than De Pan but doesn't have the top, top quality of its heathland compatriot so is 22nd. Less than £150 for a course of this quality? Decent.

23 SAINT EMILIONNAIS

BORDEAUX, FRANCE

Green fee €110 T100 rank 35 VFM 79.5

Bordeaux's second course in the top 25. This Tom Doak design starts with as much fun as you'll find on the continent and travels over undulating ground as it charms and challenges.

24 TERRAS DA COMPORTA (DUNAS)

LISBON, PORTUGAL

Green fee €185 T100 rank 9 VFM 79.0

It will be interesting to see if Dunas stays at €185 as time goes on. It entered the main list at No.9 and it's only going in one direction; in 2025 it will threaten the top five. It might be wise to play it now in case it shoots up, because this is a lot of golf course for close to €150.



25 SAND VALLEY

GDANSK, POLAND

Green fee €69 T100 rank 69 VFM 79.0

You might be thinking Polish green fees being very reasonable is not a huge surprise. That's true, but did you know Poland had such a high-class course? Sand Valley is that – comfortably in the European top 70 – so this is a bargain.

26 PENHA LONGA (ATLANTICO)

CASCAIS, PORTUGAL

Green fee €85 T100 rank 62 VFM 79.0

A very sensible and enticing green fee to play the Atlantico. Thrilling drives and exhilarating approaches on this Trent Jones Jnr-Kyle Phillips design to the west of Lisbon, on the outskirts of Cascais.

27 EINDHOVEN

EINDHOVEN, NETHERLANDS

Green fee €140 T100 rank 28 VFM 79.0

Can you tell why I came up with this idea while I was in the Netherlands? They have magnificent courses but don't overcharge to play them. Quirky, charming Eindhoven for a bit more than €100 is an absolute steal. It would be £150 in Britain.

28 HILVERSUMSCHE

HILVERSUM, NETHERLANDS

Green fee €135 T100 rank 34 VFM 78.5

A superb all-rounder for an excellent price. Dutch golf is affordable golf.

29 THRACIAN CLIFFS

CAPE KALIAKRA, BULGARIA

Green fee €130 T100 rank 44 VFM 78.5

A setting like this for around £100 is very, very good. Some design compromises because of the epic site but you aren't getting this level of Insta-worthy moment for this price in Britain, other than possibly at some remote Scottish outposts.

30 DE SWINKELSCHÉ

SOMEREN, NETHERLANDS

Green fee €70 T100 rank 77 VFM 78.5

This Frank Pont design is a real throwback, in the best possible sense. Funky greens, intriguing strategy and an enjoyable dash of bewilderment too, with conditioning that is less pristine compared

to what many clubs aim for. It's no less enjoyable for that.

31 AROEIRA (PINES CLASSIC)

LISBON, PORTUGAL

Green fee €66 T100 rank 81 VFM 78.5

This is what I would describe as 'on-point' pricing. Pines Classic, formerly known as No.1, is good if not absolutely dazzling, so it is priced accordingly. Well done Aroeira, and I hope this position alerts its accessibility in price terms to anyone who travels to play golf abroad.

32 VERDURA (EAST)

SICILY, ITALY

Green fee €120 T100 rank 58 VFM 78.0

A 5-star resort with very acceptable green fee rates. The East is now the clear No.1 at Verdura; a comprehensive test with a gorgeous Mediterranean setting.

33 VISBY

GOTLAND, SWEDEN

Green fee €140 T100 rank 41 VFM 78.0

Visby shot up the main list last year to No.41 thanks in good part to its stunning seaside setting. It's a significant green fee, but this is bucket list stuff on the well-heeled Swedish island of Gotland.

34 CAMIRAL (STADIUM)

GIRONA, SPAIN

Green fee €170 T100 rank 22 VFM 78.0

Spain's leading courses being expensive generally will not be a huge surprise to you. Camiral offers the best value because you get what is a top-25 entry in the main list for €170. That is not a small fee but it clearly flags it up as having a good quality-to-cost ratio.

35 SAINT-GERMAIN

PARIS, FRANCE

Green fee €165 T100 rank 23 VFM 78.0

Another pedigree club on the outskirts of Paris and another very reasonable green fee, given the heritage and class of this Harry Colt woodland-heathland classic.

36 PENATI (HERITAGE)

BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA

Green fee €95 T100 rank 70 VFM 78.0

A good slot for the Heritage, though I must admit this green fee is a touch higher than



Bro Hoff Slott (Stadium), Sweden

I had expected – I predicted more like €70 and thus a top-25 slot. That said, Jonathan Davison's cerebral architecture is well worth the euros.

37 SEIGNOSSE

HOSSEGOR, FRANCE

Green fee €80 T100 rank 74 VFM 78.0

Seignosse is a difficult Robert von Hagge design so isn't for everyone, but it is a lot of golf course for that price. It's certainly a lot more than you'll get for that money in most parts of England, for example.

38 PALMARES (PRAIA/LAGOS)

ALGARVE, PORTUGAL

Green fee €140 T100 rank 45 VFM 78.0

A rather punchy green fee, on account of it being the Algarve, but a top-50 main-list position for €140 for this Robert Trent Jones Jnr redesign is indubitably enticing.

39 ROYAL LIMBURG

HOUTHAIEN-HELCHTEREN, BELGIUM

Green fee €120 T100 rank 56 VFM 78.0

This Belgian heathland scores well on both a reasonable green fee and a middle main-list ranking.

40 SAND

BANKERYD, SWEDEN

Green fee €105 T100 rank 68 VFM 77.5

An 85 ranking in green fee and 70 ranking in course terms gets this lower-profile Swedish course a top-40 slot. The €105 green fee is excellent value in an otherwise expensive country.

41 ROSENDAELSCHÉ

ARNHEM, NETHERLANDS

Green fee €160 T100 rank 36 VFM 77.5

A slightly tasty green fee for this classy heathland (it is not quite in the class of De Pan, which is just €15 more), but add it to the Dutch courses above and you're putting together a heck of a trip.

42 BRO HOF SLOTT (STADIUM)

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

Green fee €170 T100 rank 25 VFM 77.5

This was a surprise green fee, but this time in a positive way. It's touching €150 but for the high-octane experience in terms of water-based drama and conditioning, it is definitely one for your radar.

43 LOFOTEN LINKS

GIMSOYSAND, NORWAY

Green fee €220 T100 rank 5 VFM 77.5

Lofoten is a family-run operation in a remote location (it's in the Arctic Circle!), so this hefty fee might be a bit of a surprise. But it is now in World Top 100 lists and is ridiculously scenic, so you can understand why it is this at this lofty level now.

44 ROYAL HAGUE

THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

Green fee €225 T100 rank 4 VFM 77.5

A second €200+ green fee in a row, but because it is for the continent's fourth-ranked course – coming after the fifth – it gets this historic seaside course in the top 50. Pricy, but exceptionally good. GB&I Top 100-level good.

45 LAS COLINAS

ALICANTE, SPAIN

Green fee €100 T100 rank 79 VFM 77.0

I'm pleased this ranking has identified Las Colinas as a good value option. That scenario plus the fact it is also very playable and was designed for the mid-handicapper rather than the tour pro – which not always the case! – should tell you all you need to know. A resort that is very, very easy to like.

46 THE NATIONAL (LINKS)

MALMO, SWEDEN

Green fee €100 T100 rank 80 VFM 77.0

Given it is a modern, upscale resort, the

green fee is admirable. The Kyle Phillips-designed course is varied as it tumbles over rumpled ground.

47 SON GUAL

MAJORCA, SPAIN

Green fee €125 T100 rank 64 VFM 77.0

This stellar parkland on Majorca is beautifully conditioned and part of a sleek modern club, but the green fee is reasonable and a top-50 slot is its reward. It's the quality of somewhere like The Grove, which you aren't getting to play for €105, even in December.

48 THE GREAT NORTHERN

KERTEMINDE, DENMARK

Green fee €135 T100 rank 57 VFM 77.0

A nice placing for this Jack Nicklaus design because of an incredibly sensible green fee. The Great Northern is unquestionably high-end – the accommodation is exquisite – so this is a very appealing green fee. Another hat tip to the Danes.

49 REAL PEDRENA

SANTANDER, SPAIN

Green fee €135 T100 rank 54 VFM 77.0

About €100 to play at Seve's home course. That is unlikely to put off many travelling golfers. Oh, and it is a Harry Colt design with an elevated seaside location.

50 OITAVOS DUNES

CASCAIS, PORTUGAL

Green fee €160 T100 rank 39 VFM 77.0

This fee will put some golfers off – around €130 is the sort of cut-off that some will draw the line at. However, it is part of Lisbon's exceptional offering and its Atlantic setting might well tempt you...

51 CARYA

BELEK, TURKEY

Green fee €150 T100 rank 37 VFM 77.0

It's tricky to nail down a green fee for Carya as they vary so much and Belek's season is so different to most of the rest of the list. It is somewhere between €110 and €175 and anything in the middle of that is super value for a classy heathland-feeling course.

52 MONTE REI

ALGARVE, PORTUGAL

Green fee €220 T100 rank 14 VFM 76.5

It feels to me like the formula has got this entry spot on and is why someone much wiser than me devised a formula to calculate 'value', rather than for me to try to simply compare things in my head. I'd have struggled to quantify €220 against the magnificent experience you get at Monte Rei, but a mid-list slot feels spot on. Some will happily pay up for the excellence, others will think it just a bit too steep.

53 REAL EL PRAT (ROSA)

BARCELONA, SPAIN

Green fee €110 T100 rank 76 VFM 76.5

This is a solid green fee for the Rosa at El Prat, which is part of a superb club located to the north of Barcelona. The fact that it's not far to Camiral identifies these two as Spain's top-value break.



Verdura, Italy



The Great Northern, Denmark



Terre Blanche (Chateau), France

54 VILLA D'ESTE

🇮🇹 COMO, ITALY

Green fee €150 T100 rank 55 VFM 76.5

A sizeable green fee here, but what a beauty awaits you high among the hills overlooking Lake Como. Exquisite.

55 TERRE BLANCHE (CHATEAU)

🇫🇷 NICE, FRANCE

Green fee €190 T100 rank 31 VFM 76.5

A green fee pushing €200 but again France appears pretty reasonable with its prices, because this is part of a 5-star+ resort where €200+ green fees really would not have been any kind of surprise.

56 GRANVILLE

🇫🇷 GRANVILLE, FRANCE

Green fee €85 T100 rank 95 VFM 76.5

This new entry to the main list in 2024 is available for a very tempting €85. What does £70 get you in British terms these days? Almost certainly not this much Harry Colt seaside quality.

57 CHIBERTA

🇫🇷 BIARRITZ, FRANCE

Green fee €90 T100 rank 87 VFM 76.5

A south-west France course with Tom Simpson elegance and a rumbling seaside-woodland hybrid vibe. Great value at £75.

58 ESBJERG (MARBAEK)

🇩🇰 ESBJERG, DENMARK

Green fee €75 T100 rank 102 VFM 76.0

The Marbaek has flitted in and out of our main list in recent years but one thing is for certain: it is categorically of the same standard as courses that have always been in. For just €75, this is a serious bargain.

59 KYTAJA (SOUTH EAST)

🇫🇮 HYVINKAA, FINLAND

Green fee €100 T100 rank 90 VFM 76.0

It counts for nothing in this ranking but Kytaja is a well-run, friendly club – so if it had been €200, I'd have been disappointed. In fact it is half that, and so worth the £85 to play it. A brilliantly gorgeous, tree-lined and lakeside course.

60 VILLA DE MADRID (BLACK)

🇪🇸 MADRID, SPAIN

Green fee €100 T100 rank 88 VFM 76.0

Essentially a public course that is part of an enormous sports club in Spain's capital. An easy-to-love Javier Arana design, it returned to the main list last year and is in it to stay.

61 BARSEBACK (OCEAN)

🇸🇪 MALMO, SWEDEN

Green fee €105 T100 rank 86 VFM 76.0

A Solheim Cup venue for under £100? More admirable stuff from the Swedes. And it starts a little run of them...

62 VASATORPS (TOUR)

🇸🇪 HELSINGBORG, SWEDEN

Green fee €105 T100 rank 85 VFM 76.0

A bold, modern course in super condition that dips well below £100. You won't feel short-changed here; every one of its 7,000 yards is well-groomed.

63 HALMSTAD (NORTH)

🇸🇪 HELSINGBORG, SWEDEN

Green fee €115 T100 rank 82 VFM 76.0

And here's another Solheim Cup host. It costs €10 more but is a better course, so they end on the same score.

64 DOM PEDRO VILAMOURA (OLD)

🇵🇹 VILAMOURA, PORTUGAL

Green fee €175 T100 rank 38 VFM 76.0

Given its location in the high-end Algarve, this feels a very fair fee. The Dom Pedro group of courses are now under new management and they are investing heavily, so don't be surprised if the fees head north as the courses get even better. Get to one of the great courses of the continent while it's available for about £150...

65 QUINTA DO LAGO (SOUTH)

🇵🇹 ALMANCIL, PORTUGAL

Green fee €175 T100 rank 46 VFM 76.0

See above regarding Dom Pedro Old – much of the same applies here. This feels like it could be even higher because QdL is certainly a high-end development. This fee will make it playable for a good number of golfers, and from this price point you'll be able to find some deals to play it for a good bit less than that...



Kytaja (South East), Finland

The 10 best value Top 100 breaks in Europe

The destinations where your money goes a long way.
Chris Bertram has done them all, so knows exactly what they entail



Troia, Lisbon



Kennemer, Amsterdam

1. LISBON

As I have been writing for years, I believe this is actually three trips in one. So I am cheating slightly here, but it is possible to do, if you don't mind some driving – especially south to the Setubal Peninsula.

If you split them up, they'd have three great entries on their own – especially around the breaks to the north and south. Put the three all together and it's the clear winner in terms of quantity and value.

South of the city you have the seaside pair of Troia at No.5 and Terras da Comporta (Dunas) at No.24, plus inland Aroeira at 31. Aroeira has a second course and there are two good tracks at Ribagolfe plus one at Quinta do Peru – none of them are expensive and they are Continental Top 200 courses.

Due west of the city centre are Penha Longha (No.26) and Oitavos Dunes (No.50) near Cascais. Estoril and Quinta da Marinha add to your options there too.

An hour north-west of the city centre, Praia D'El Rey (No.13) and sister course West Cliffs (No.14) are joined by Royal Obidos (No.78).

TRAVEL: A hire car is essential as there is a decent bit of driving once you land in Lisbon.

STAY: Penha Long is one of Europe's best hotels, for golf or off-course, and it makes the perfect base.

2. PARIS

This was the biggest and most pleasant surprise of this project. Even with Morfontaine's charming pair and the two at Les Bordes excluded because they are private, Paris is still an affordable haven. Chantilly (No.6) on the northern outskirts of Paris, Saint-Germain (No.35) to the west and Fontainebleau (No.7) just outside the city heading south-east are traditional clubs that welcome visitors for happily low green fees. Golf National (No.86) is to the south-west and delivers Ryder Cup glitz.

Joyenval's two courses and the two at St-Nom-la-Bretheche (Red and Blue) are four classy alternatives to consider. **TRAVEL:** Fly to one of the Paris airports and then you probably need a car, although other than Fontainebleau, the others mentioned here are all easily accessible. **STAY:** I'd very happily stay in the centre of Paris, with all that brings, although Le Golf National has a good hotel on site.

3. AMSTERDAM

Labelling this 'Amsterdam' is a little disingenuous as it takes you as far as Utrecht, Hilversum, Arnhem and Amersfoort, as well as to the three seaside courses to the west of the centre. But I can testify that it is entirely manageable.

Utrecht de Pan (No.2), Kennemer (No.22), Hilversum (No.28), Rosendaelsche (No.41) and Royal Hague (No.44) give you five top-50 options, with Noordwijksje at No.69. De Swinkelsche (No.30) and Eindhoven (No.27) are within 90 minutes of Utrecht.

TRAVEL: Fly in to Amsterdam and pick up a hire car – it's essential and the easiest option. **STAY:** I have always based myself in the city.

4. WEST OF SWEDEN

I did not expect Sweden to be in this kind of position when I started this process. It's not an inexpensive country, yet it turns out even its elite golf is reasonably priced.

Falsterbo at No.10 is simply too good to turn down for £100, as is (90 minutes drive away) Kristianstads (No.15) for £55. Also add in PGA National's Links (No.46) and Ljunghusens (No.75) close to Falsterbo, then you can move north to Sand (No.40),

Barseback (No.61), Vasatorp (No.62) and Halmstad (No.63). There's also PGA National Lakes, adjacent to the Links.

TRAVEL: Fly in and out of Malmo or even via Copenhagen.

STAY: PGA National has some rooms, Barseback is a small but pleasant hotel.

5. NORTHERN FRANCE

A relatively small number of entries here, but combine Le Touquet's La Mer (No.9) with Hardelet's Les Pins (No.18) for the basis of a superb trip. They both have No.2 courses on site and there is also Belle Dune and Wimereux, which are both Top 200-calibre courses and on offer for €75 even in peak season.

TRAVEL: The bonus here is you can take the ferry or tunnel with your own car and golf clubs.

STAY: Le Touquet has Le Manoir on site, a beautifully refurbished, characterful hotel.

6. POLAND

Two entries here. Sand Valley – a combination of the brains of Lassi Pekka Tilander and Tony Ristola – at No.25 and Gary Player's Modry Las at No.68. Playing them will set you back £110. Need we say any more? If you need more, add in Sierra for a third venue.

TRAVEL: Fly to Gdansk and you need a car as there is a bit of driving involved. Or play Modry Las and fly out via Berlin, a short drive across the border.

STAY: Both Sand Valley and Modry Las have terrific accommodation.

7. ESTONIA & FINLAND

Two countries on the same trip? It is completely doable; I've done it. Play Parnu Bay (No.4) on Estonia's coast then get the ferry to Finland to play Kytaja's South East (No.59) and Linna (No.77).

Estonia Country Club and Kytaja's North West are also both definitely Top 100 calibre. Add them in and you have a five-course trip with not too much travelling.

TRAVEL: Fly to Tallinn, hire a car and then use the ferry. Fly back out of Tallinn to save a hire car one-way fee.

STAY: Parnu is a holiday town so has lots of nice options, while Kytaja has a brand-new hotel on-site.



El Saler, Spain



Le Touquet, Northern France

8. COSTA BLANCA

El Saler is the No.1 course in this ranking and is available for €65. Pair it with Las Colinas at No.45 (just £85) for £150 of golf that feels like you're getting £250+ worth.

El Bosque is your third option on this level and is a Spain Top 50 entry.

TRAVEL: Fly in and out of Alicante or Valencia.

STAY: El Saler has a hotel, Las Colinas has chic apartments.

9. SOUTH-WEST FRANCE

Golf du Medoc has two courses in the ranking; Chateau at No.12 and Vignes at No.66. Forty minutes inland sits Saint-Emilionnais (No.23). Further south is the seaside-woodland of Chiberta (No.57) and beautiful, but unforgiving, Seignosse (No.37).

Hossegor, a mature woodland, and the links-woodland Moliets have both been in the main list Top 100 several times.

TRAVEL: Fly to Bordeaux and hire a car, as there is a fair bit of non-arduous driving.

STAY: Golf du Medoc has a lovely hotel on

site, and for Saint Emillionnais you can stay at nearby Chateau des Vigiers.

10. BARCELONA

There is a bit of distance between these two courses but it is definitely an option – it's another I have done. Camiral (Stadium) is €170 so not cheap, but you are getting a top-25 main list course in wonderful condition for that. It's near Girona, where there is a lot of other golf such as Pals and Emporia, but further south towards Barcelona gets you a Top 100 entry in the shape of Real El Prat's Rosa (No.53). Under €100 for a very, very solid course in super nick? You'd be mad not to.

TRAVEL: Fly in and out of Girona – it's within very easy reach of Camiral.

STAY: Camiral's two hotels are beautiful and a real treat.

ISLAND VIBES
Fly in and out of Stockholm and play Visby (No.33) on the island of Gotland and Aland (No.70) on Aland Islands and you'll have an absolutely magical experience.



Chantilly, Paris

66 GOLF DU MEDOC (VIGNES)

FRANCE BORDEAUX, FRANCE

Green fee €125 T100 rank 78 VFM 76.0

Here comes the sister to our No.12 course. The Vignes, by Bill Coore's right-hand man Rod Whitman, does not quite have the quality of the Chateau, but for about €100, its position here feels fair.

67 RAVENSTEIN (OLD)

BELGIUM BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Green fee €140 T100 rank 72 VFM 76.0

I half expected the Old to have a 'no visitors' policy, because this is a club of members who aren't so much well-heeled as possibly aristocratic. Happily, though, it does allow some play and €140 is very fair for this elegant parkland.

68 MODRY LAS

POLAND RADUN, POLAND

Green fee €60 T100 rank 108 VFM 75.5

Modry Las rightly benefitted from the formula, because this Top 100-calibre Gary Player design is a snip at €60. We are delighted to demonstrate in this ranking that Poland has quality golf as well as being well priced. You'll be absolutely staggered at how good it is for €50.

69 NOORDWIJKSE

NETHERLANDS LEIDEN, NETHERLANDS

Green fee €200 T100 rank 33 VFM 75.5

The positioning tells the story here, because Noordwijkse is more expensive than courses which, I am absolutely certain, are not inferior to it. I think the formula has worked quite well for Noordwijkse. It's good, but €180 good? I'd say probably not. If they overhauled it though, it really could be.

70 ALAND

FINLAND ALAND ISLANDS, FINLAND

Green fee €100 T100 rank 98 VFM 75.0

Its daily green fee varies between €99 and €125, and that is super value. Aland entered the main list last year thanks to its mix of risk-reward holes and especially its wonderful lake-edge setting. It is absolutely worth that (roughly) £85 fee.



Modry Las, Poland

71 THE NATIONAL

TURKEY BELEK, TURKEY

Green fee €120 T100 rank 91 VFM 75.0

The first course to be built in Belek has been a constant in the past five main-list rankings after taking a while to catch the imagination. A very appealing price point, which varies between €80 and €150.

72 ROYAL BLEED

SLOVENIA BLEED, SLOVENIA

Green fee €220 T100 rank 27 VFM 75.0

The formula has this gorgeous Slovenian course out in the early 70s because although it has much appeal as the 27th best course on the continent, a €220 price tag is prohibitive for a wide number of golfers.

73 REAL SOTOGRANDE

SPAIN SOTOGRANDE, SPAIN

Green fee €325 T100 rank 12 VFM 75.0

There was a significant rise for one of the true greats of the continent in the main list last year. Time spent here is time well spent, but it will cost you... and €325 is a price lots will not consider. That's why 73rd feels right for it - it's a hefty price, but you get so much in return.

74 LA RESERVA CLUB

SPAIN SOTOGRANDE, SPAIN

Green fee €200 T100 rank 53 VFM 74.5

This Cabell Robinson design is a terrific use of undulating land and is presented beautifully by this admirable resort. The €200 fee is not insignificant and so keeps La Reserva in the 70s, but the reality is that it and Sotogrande, a place higher, are more focussed on quality than value, and they certainly ooze the former.

75 LJUNGHUSENS

SWEDEN MALMO, SWEDEN

Green fee €105 T100 rank 101 VFM 74.5

I'm so glad this course is in, because it has been so unlucky to miss out on the main list in the last two editions. Genuinely, if it was No.80 on the main list, you'd understand why when you visited. It's that good and fully merits its €85 green fee. A fabulously firm, heath-feeling coastal course.



La Reserva Club, Spain

76 SILKEBORG

DENMARK SILKEBORG, DENMARK

Green fee €105 T100 rank 103 VFM 74.5

I could happily copy and paste the above in here. Silkeborg is more or less as good as the other Danish entries but sits at No.103. A €105 green fee means it cruises in to this ranking to help fill in for the nine courses in the main list that do not accept visitors.

77 LINNA

FINLAND HAMEENLINNA, FINLAND

Green fee €110 T100 rank 96 VFM 74.5

Forgive me for more formula appreciation here, but I do love how it has acknowledged that there are tiny differences between the courses ranked in the 90s and those ranked 101-109. Linna is more or less the same quality as Silkeborg and Ljunghusens but is five to €10 more, so it sits just behind them on the same points total.

78 ROYAL OBIDOS

PORTUGAL OBIDOS, PORTUGAL

Green fee €130 T100 rank 92 VFM 74.5

A good all-rounder; the Seve-designed course has its high points (literally and metaphorically) and is a fixture in the main list, and the €130 fee isn't daft. However, I would say - and the formula agrees - that you can get more bang for your buck at nearby Praia D'El Rey and West Cliffs.

79 ROYAL ANTWERP

BELGIUM ANTWERP, BELGIUM

Green fee €155 T100 rank 75 VFM 74.5

A bit of heat in this green fee, but I actually expected more of the traditional French, Dutch and Belgian clubs to be a good deal punchier. I really rate Antwerp highly after their woodland management programme, but could you get this level of heathy-woodland at home for £135? I'd say so.

80 ROYAL PARK (TRENT JONES)

ITALY TURIN, ITALY

Green fee €160 T100 rank 73 VFM 74.5

A well-groomed modern parkland-woodland at the foothills of the mountains

in Turin. A very well-rounded taste of Robert Trent Jones Snr, but the fee is a bit too punchy to feature highly in this list.

81 THE SCANDINAVIAN (NEW)

DENMARK FARUM, DENMARK

Green fee €215 T100 rank 40 VFM 74.5

The Scandinavian is a high-end club with a hefty fee many would argue is justifiable. The club are focussing on quality and will not be cost conscious. For €215 you get a quality design presented in unfathomably good order, particularly given its geographical location. You can also expect wonderful off-course facilities and service, though we do not include either in our analysis.

82 ROYAL OSTEND

BELGIUM OSTEND, BELGIUM

Green fee €105 T100 rank 105 VFM 74.0

I'm so happy to have courses from just outside the main-list 100 in this one. Here's another that deserves a spotlight. At €105 it is well priced, but the only thing that counts against Ostend in a visiting sense is its big draw. It is a proper links golf course... and we happen to have lots of them much closer to home.

83 LES AISSES

FRANCE ORLEANS, FRANCE

Green fee €150 T100 rank 84 VFM 74.0

This fee surprised me a touch and it means there is just one place between its main list position and its ranking here. A fine, heathery Hawthorn design near Orleans, but €150 is a lot relative to others we rank as better courses.

84 PGA NATIONAL TURKEY (SULTAN)

TURKEY BELEK, TURKEY

Green fee €190 T100 rank 65 VFM 74.0

This is a big fee but there are two things worth saying. Firstly, it will be in absolutely sensational condition despite getting a lot of traffic. And secondly, this is one of the few that I felt was a real 'rack rate' that will

rarely be paid in full'. You'll be able to get it cheaper outside of the absolute peak times, but that's not what we were marking - hence it being 84th.

85 THE SCANDINAVIAN (OLD)

DENMARK FARUM, DENMARK

Green fee €215 T100 rank 47 VFM 74.0

Four places lower than its stablemate, and we have to say the formula worked a treat. We think the New is a touch better than the Old, and with the same green fee, that is accurately reflected in the rankings.

86 LE GOLF NATIONAL (ALBATROS)

FRANCE PARIS, FRANCE

Green fee €230 T100 rank 42 VFM 73.5

This feels like it is still in Ryder Cup-price mode; perhaps it always will be. I don't think you'd pay £200 for a round on the Albatros if it was in Britain - but you might if it had hosted a Ryder Cup. This is an entry where your own sense of 'value' really will kick in.

87 REAL VALDERRAMA

SPAIN SOTOGRANDE, SPAIN

Green fee €500 T100 rank 6 VFM 73.0

Along with the Dutch green fees, this was the reason I devised this ranking. I am not

going to add much, other than to say this feels about right. Perhaps only Lofoten can match it for bucket list desire on the continent, but it's €500. However you argue it, that is a lot of money. Now it's over to you to decide if it's worth it.

88 LYKIA LINKS

TURKEY BELEK, TURKEY

Green fee €120 T100 rank 107 VFM 73.0

In all honesty, this is a bit misleading because Lykia is usually a main list Top 100 entry but hasn't made the last couple because of concerns over fluctuating management and greenkeeping situations. At its best it's a mid-list Top 100 entry, which is why the €120 green fee is really good. I really like it there and would love it to thrive - which it could - and I would always urge people to play it when they are in Belek.

89 BRO HOF SLOTT (CASTLE)

SWEDEN STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

Green fee €110 T100 rank 109 VFM 73.0

We are starting to see a few entries now that aren't in the main list, and it feels right that they are appearing towards the bottom end of this list. Don't take that the wrong way, however, because at €110, the Castle is super value. Bro Hof's 'second' course has real character and interest.



Le Golf National (Albatros), France

90 HOGE KLEIJ

 AMERSFOORT, NETHERLANDS

Green fee €150 T100 rank 99 VFM 73.0

It squeezed in the last main list for the first time and deserves its slot for its heathland ambience, increased playability and all-round fun. Its green fee is similar to the other Dutch courses but they are 80+ places above it in the main list, hence Hoge Kleij placing at No.89 here.


91 BERNARDUS

 CROMVOIRT, NETHERLANDS

Green fee €225 T100 rank 50 VFM 73.0

It's a different story here. Bernardus moved up to the top 50 in the main list last time but its €225 green fee means it is down at No.90 here. It is presented to a truly astonishing level, however.

92 REAL NEGURI

 BILBAO, SPAIN

Green fee €240 T100 rank 49 VFM 72.5

Neguri's green fee surprised me! It's a private club and a very good course, but this feels like a green fee that says they will accept visitors, but they aren't desperate to have them.


93 SAN LORENZO

 ALMANCIL, PORTUGAL

Green fee €150 T100 rank 104 VFM 72.0

San Lorenzo dropped out of the main list for the first time ever last time. It would still be a valid entry and is perfectly good in here at €150, but it feels a bit tired at present. When it gets the investment it requires, I think everyone will understand why we dropped it out in 2023.

94 ULLNA

 STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

Green fee €190 T100 rank 94 VFM 71.5

A beautiful, beautiful lakeside course in immaculate condition. A bit more expensive than other Swedish courses but I wasn't amazed by that. This is a high-class club with an upscale course.



Costa Navarino (Dunes), Greece


95 COSTA NAVARINO (DUNES)

 MESSINIA, GREECE

Green fee €200 T100 rank 93 VFM 71.0

The course we rank as the best at Costa Navarino, amid stiff competition as all four are very closely matched. The Dunes gets up to the €200 mark for guests, which is what almost everyone will be when playing here. That's not cheap, but I felt that the fact you get a buggy included tends to cancel out the higher cost. Anyway, you won't be disappointed on or off the course.


96 FINCA CORTESIN

 CASARES, SPAIN

Green fee €320 T100 rank 61 VFM 71.0

It's just hosted the Solheim Cup and you are unlikely to find a course presented more immaculately in this list. It also has exceptional off-course service, so the hefty green fee is perhaps understandable.

97 REAL LAS BRISAS

 MARBELLA, SPAIN

Green fee €350 T100 rank 70 VFM 70.0

This is a course you wouldn't have been able to gain access to in the past and it isn't a club in need of lots of visitors, hence a green fee that isn't especially encouraging. It is a

very fine course, however, helped by Kyle Phillips' renovation.

98 COSTA NAVARINO (BAY)

 MESSINIA, GREECE

Green fee €200 T100 rank 106 VFM 69.5

Again, the fee is for guests and it's steep, but you do get a buggy included to soften the blow. For one of our top 10 X Factor Courses in Continental Europe, it's an appealing option, and extraordinarily picturesque.

99 MARCO SIMONE

 ROME, ITALY

Green fee €240 T100 rank 89 VFM 69.5

A new entry in the 2023 main list, and you can expect it to move up, not down, going forwards. It comes with a green fee to reflect its recent Ryder Cup 'experience', but it's certainly not silly money.

100 REAL SOCIEDAD HIPICA

 MADRID, SPAIN

Green fee €250 T100 rank 100 VFM 68.5

A bit like Las Brisas at 97, this is not a club desperate for visitors – but it is assuredly a welcoming one when you're there. This high-end Madrid parkland by Robert von Hagge leaves absolutely nothing in the tank. Expect superb conditioning.

Finca Cortesin, Spain

