

# Five to visit this month:

Courses of premium quality combine with a desirable climate, legendary cuisine, fine wine

To casual observers, Italy landing the 2022 Ryder Cup might have appeared as much a shot in the dark by the European Tour as if it had gone to Poland, Russia or Bulgaria. In fact, Italy has tremendous pedigree in the sport, and just as the 2018 Ryder Cup has helped shine a light on the wealth of courses – both traditional and modern – in France, the matches four years later ought to do the same in Italy. There are historic and modern courses established in our Top 100 and there are an increasing number of high-class resorts with a wealth of attractions on and off the course. Here are a quintet that we especially like.



## Bogogno, Piedmont

It has a Top 100 and a Top 200 course plus an intimate hotel. It was created by the Robert von Hagge-Rick Baril axis of Les Bordes fame. The clubhouse food is run by the owner of a Michelin-starred restaurant.

NW of Milan, close to Lake Maggiore, 30 minutes from Milan Malpensa airport.

### WHAT KIND OF COURSE WILL I DISCOVER HERE?

Baril rates the Del Conte highly, suggesting it is the course where design intentions were translated on site with most sophistication. As well as the woodland Del Conte, the Bonora is a fine 'second' course – some like it every bit as much as the premier attraction.

### WHAT DOES IT OFFER OFF THE COURSE?

The brand-new hotel has 28 rooms, and four suites overlooking the 18th, 50m from the clubhouse. There is a pool and a terrace with a Jacuzzi as well as four villas to rent.

### WHAT DOES IT COST?

Two nights in a double room and two green fees (Del Conte & Bonora) for €310pp.

### ARE THERE ANY OTHER GOOD COURSES NEARBY?

Iles Borromées, Varese & Le Robinie are close by. Top 100 tracks Castelconturbia (10 mins), Biella la Betulle (50 mins) and Royal Park (in Turin, 70 mins) are to the west while Villa d'Este is 50 minutes NE, near Lake Como.

### CONTACT DETAILS

t: +39 0322 864137  
w: bogognogolfresort.com  
e: info@bogognogolfresort.com



## Argentario, Tuscany

A luxury retreat with a superb course in the Maremma, a beautiful but still-unexplored part of Southern Tuscany. There is an emphasis on high-end style in 73 designer bedrooms and independent golf villas.

Off the E80 north of Rome, 90 minutes away from the city's Fiumicino airport.

An aesthetically-pleasing course designed by former European Tour player Baldovino Dassù and architect David Mezzacane. Its location on a chip of land almost completely surrounded by the Tyrrhenian Sea, gives it a microclimate as well as uncommon beauty.

A 2,700m<sup>2</sup> spa, a heated indoor swimming pool, outdoor pools, a hi-tech gym and tennis courts. Dama Dama Restaurant offers Tuscan food using produce grown on site.

A three-night package with green fees, two spa treatments and a welcome dinner from €558pp.

Circolo de Golfe Roma, Sheraton Parco de Medici Rome and 2022 Ryder Cup host Marco Simone are all in Rome while midway between there and Argentario is highly-rated Golf Nazionale plus Terre dei Consoli.

t: +39 0564 810292  
w: argentariogolfresortspa.it  
e: booking@argentarioresort.it

# High-class Italian resorts

and convenient access to make these five complexes highly appealing to travelling golfers.



## Donnafugata, Sicily

A resort where golf (via two Top 200 courses) truly is the top priority. There is a spa, delightful accommodation, an infinity pool, and wonderful dining options – but Donnafugata is principally for golfers.

Near Ragusa in the south-west corner of Sicily, 20 minutes from Comiso airport.

There are two courses here, the Parkland and the Links. The former was designed by Gary Player and is a fine woodland-parkland track that hosted the European Tour. The Links by Franco Piras is spread over open, crumpled terrain punctuated by water.

A spa and gym, a huge pool with views over the Parkland course, four restaurants and loads of style. There are lots of UNESCO World Heritage Sites to explore nearby too.

We like €206 per room per night in the last week August. Includes a daily hour in the spa.

Top 100 course Verdura East and its sister course the West, a Top 200 course, are up the coast while I Monasteri is to the east – both are highly accessible from Donnafugata. Il Picciolo is in the north-east corner.

t: +39 0932 914200  
w: donnafugatagolfresort.com  
e: info@donnafugatagolfresort.com



## Grado, Friuli Venezia

Tenuta Primero is a comprehensive holiday resort that is renowned in Italy. It is situated in coastal woodland on a spit of land lapped by the gorgeous Adriatic Sea. Its wealth of facilities include Grado golf course.

Near Monfalcone south of Udine, two hours' drive east of Venice, close to Slovenia.

It has echoes of the Florida everglades as a result of being routed among wetlands next to the coast. This exhilarating course is fairly flat, so is affected by wind and the fairways are not especially wide; it looks like holiday golf, but flailing away will lose you balls...

You can choose to stay in the wooden cabins of the campsite or in the swish marina suites. The clubhouse's food is sensational – and the non-golf leisure facilities are endless!

Six stay in a cabin for £760 in July – or just £265 in September (when it *will* be warm).

Lignano is 45 minutes back towards Venice, which in itself has numerous and historic courses as well as obvious non-golf appeal. Or cross the border to breathtaking Slovenia to Lipica and Trieste (60 minutes).

t: +39 0431 896896  
w: golfgrado.com  
e: info@golfgrado.com



## Castelfalfi, Tuscany

There are 27 holes at Castelfalfi golf club, while Il Castelfalfi is a five-star hotel being built within the resort that will open in March 2017. In the meantime, you can stay at La Tabaccaia and enjoy great green fee prices.

Just over an hour's drive south-west of Florence, close to Pontedera.

The Mountain course is close to 7,000 yards and a strong strategic test laid out among mature woodland by Rainer Preissmann and Wilfried Moroder. The Lake is just nine holes but is 3,500 yards and, while unquestionably being picturesque, is also a proper test.

La Tabaccaia is a beautifully restored former tobacco-drying barn. There are swimming pools, tennis courts, guided trekking, bike rental, yoga and a spa.

All La Tabaccaia guests receive significant green fee discounts at Castelfalfi.

Several lower-key options: San Miniato and Montelupo are closest to the north while Dell'Ugolino is NW. La Bagnaiola is near Siena-Grosseto and Pelagone near Follonica to the south. Tirrenia is to west.

t: +39 0571 891000  
w: castelfalfi.com  
e: via website