



55 La Quinta

Marbella, Spain

Course 27.6 **Accommodation** 16.1 **Amenities** 15.6
Practice 8 **Accessibility** 9 **TOTAL 76.3**

Fly to: Malaga airport is 40 minutes away.

What to expect: A five-star hotel, apartments and villas. A gym, tennis, and a huge spa, plus 27 holes by Ryder Cupper Manuel Piñero.

GW verdict: Excellent hotel amenities, lots of dining options and solid if low-profile courses. There's a nice feel to this popular resort.



54 Vila Sol

Vilamoura, Portugal

Course 26.2 **Accommodation** 17.4 **Amenities** 17.0
Practice 7.0 **Accessibility** 8.8 **TOTAL 76.4**

Fly to: Faro airport is 40 minutes away.

What to expect: Three loops of nine among pine trees make for enjoyable rounds without a back-breaking challenge. A range of accommodation.

GW verdict: One of the town-type resorts, it will suit all kinds of visitor but notably those seeking restaurants and amenities over world-class golf.



53 Thracian Cliffs

Kavarna, Bulgaria

Course 30.0 **Accommodation** 17.1 **Amenities** 15.5
Practice 6.6 **Accessibility** 7.2 **TOTAL 76.4**

Fly to: Varna airport is an hour away.

What to expect: You've all seen the course - it's that ludicrously spectacular one Gary Player says is Europe's Pebble Beach. A well-equipped hotel.

GW verdict: You can also play Lighthouse and BlackSeaRama and barely drive for 10 minutes, so a super three-course trip. Loses access marks.



52 Monte Rei

Tavira, Portugal

Course 32.1 **Accommodation** 15.3 **Amenities** 12.6
Practice 8.2 **Accessibility** 8.4 **TOTAL 76.6**

Fly to: Faro airport is 45 minutes away.

What it offers: Portugal's No.1-ranked course as well as rented villa accommodation and probably the best food on offer in this list in the clubhouse.

GW verdict: Easy to categorise; for nothing more than high-calibre golf and a lovely villa with a pool, it's ideal. Just don't expect lots of amenities.



51 Emporda

Girona, Spain

Course 28.2 **Accommodation** 16.8 **Amenities** 15.5
Practice 8.1 **Accessibility** 8 **TOTAL 76.6**

Fly to: Girona is 30 minutes away, El Prat an hour.

What to expect: Von Hagge-designed Links and Forest 18-holers plus a DoubleTree by Hilton located between the two courses.

GW verdict: A stylish hotel with extensive non-golf amenities and contrasting courses that are both in the Continental Next 100.



49 Vidago Palace

Porto, Portugal

Course 27.2 **Accommodation** 18.1 **Amenities** 16.5
Practice 7.0 **Accessibility** 7.8 **TOTAL 76.6**

What to expect: An historic woodland-parkland course successfully renovated, plus one of the most characterful and classy in this Top 100.

GW verdict: Combining the capital attractions of Porto, the wine of the Douro Valley, the cute course and the majestic hotel give this bags of appeal for connoisseurs of life and golf.



By Edouard des Fontaines

"GLORIA SPORTS ARENA IS QUITE EXTRAORDINARY"

Best quantity of holes? Quinta do Lago has to be up there with its 54-hole offering. You can also consider PGA Catalunya, Golf du Medoc or Terre Blanche.

The best for fun golf? La Cala Resort has three courses carved into the Mijas mountains. Most holes offer spectacular views, with big elevation change which are fun.

Best golf facilities? Terre Blanche has it all - a rooftop range, home to only one of two European Tour Performance Institutes, which includes the world famous biomechanics unit headed by Jean Jacques Rivet.

Favourite large hotel? Maxx Royal in Belek would be close, a dazzling-looking hotel with impeccable service. Penha Longa is also an impressive Ritz Carlton in the grounds of an old monastery.

Your favourite small hotel? Rio Real Golf Hotel on the Costa del Sol. This boutique hotel is of a very tasteful modern style. A lovely golf course too.

Best non-golf facilities? Gloria Sports Arena in Belek - quite extraordinary.

The resort you always feel reinvigorated at? Costa Navarino. There is an aura about the place as soon as you step foot in the resort. Verdura is also a very good choice.

Your favourite overall? PGA Catalunya, Terre Blanche or Quinta do Lago... and Penha Longa.

■ Edouard is Golf Breaks' global head of product.

50 Argentario Resort

Tuscany, Italy

Course 26.8 **Accommodation** 18.6 **Amenities** 16.4 **Practice** 7.0 **Accessibility** 7.8 **TOTAL 76.6**



Fly to: Rome's Fiumicino airport is 90 minutes away.

What to expect: An achingly-stylish 73-room designer hotel and an independent golf villa. A sumptuous spa plus heated indoor swimming pool, outdoor pools, a hi-tech gym and tennis courts. A course designed by former Tour player Baldovino Dassù and architect David Mezzacane in the lush Monte Argentario landscape.

GW verdict: A slice of Tuscan utopia. No-one had anything other than positive things to say about Argentario as a golf break of comprehensive quality in a gorgeous location.



By Nick Dougherty
European Tour winner and Sky Sports pundit

"My wife (presenter Di) absolutely disagrees with this - and sometimes actually denies me the chance to follow my own travel rule - but I am convinced you have to sleep only when it is night time in your destination. Even just a couple of hours makes a big difference, so do anything you can to hang on before shutting your eyes!"