

TOP 100 CONTINENTAL EUROPE

FROM THE TRADITIONAL POWERHOUSES OF FRANCE AND SPAIN, TO NEWCOMERS ACROSS SCANDINAVIA AND BEYOND, EUROPE IS AWASH WITH WORLD-CLASS GOLF.

1= Morfontaine

FRANCE
Designer: Tom Simpson
Score 90.0/100

1= Utrecht de Pan

NETHERLANDS
Designer: Harry Colt
Score 90.0

3 Valderrama

SPAIN
Designer: Robert Trent Jones
Score 86.9

4 Monte Rei

PORTUGAL
Designer: Jack Nicklaus
Score 84.1

5 Fontainebleau

FRANCE
Designers: Julien Chantepie/Tom Simpson/
Fred Hawtree
Score 84.0

6 PGA Catalunya (Stadium)

SPAIN
Designers: Angel Gallardo/
Neil Coles
Score 83.4

7 Les Bordes

FRANCE
Designers: Robert von Hagge/Rick Baril
Score 83.0

8 Troia

PORTUGAL
Designer: Robert Trent Jones
Score 82.9

9 Noordwijkse

NETHERLANDS
Designer: Paul de Jong
Score 82.0

10 Bro Hof Slott (Stadium)

SWEDEN
Designers: Robert Trent Jones Jr
Score 81.9



SPOTLIGHT

The high riser

Parnu Bay ESTONIA

A new entry at 45 in 2017 and a high riser again, Parnu Bay ticks several 'links boxes'. Wide, yawning fairways, expansive waste areas, sublime sandy soil, wispy fescue grasses and dramatic bunkering give this new course a distinctive seaside feel but, much like the similarly spectacular Bro Hof Slott Stadium Course in Sweden, there is just a little too much on-course water for the true purist. The first links course to be built in the Baltic region was designed by Lassi Pekka Tilander, with Mick McShane, best known for his work at St Andrews' Castle Course and Kingsbarns, as the lead shaper. And it's as spectacular to look at as it is devious to play. In true Tilander style, the greens are 'funky' but they contrast delightfully with the course's minimalist feel. Sandy fairways run between tall pines for the most part, and there are truly memorable holes throughout, before a grand seaside stretch brings the course to a jaw-dropping conclusion. Alongside West Cliffs in Obidos, Portugal, and Great Northern in Denmark, it's one of the best new golf courses to have been built in recent years. Could go even higher in the future.

HOW WE RANKED IT

DESIGN: 24.8/30 | SETTING: 17.7/20
PLAYABILITY: 11.3/15 | PRESENTATION: 10.7/15
HOLES: 8.7/10 | CONSISTENCY 6.7/10
TOTAL: 79.9/100

11= Terre Blanche (Chateau)

FRANCE
Designer: Dave Thomas
Score 81.3

11= The Kennemer

NETHERLANDS
Designers: Harry Colt/
Frank Pennink
Score 81.3

13= Royal Hague

NETHERLANDS
Designer: CH Alison
Score 81.2

13= Royal Zoute

BELGIUM
Designer: Harry Colt
Score 81.2

15= Hamburger

GERMANY
Designers: Harry Colt,
Bernhard von
Limburger
Score 80.9

15= West Cliffs

PORTUGAL
Designers: Cynthia
Dye/Matt McGarey
Score 80.9

15= Chantilly (Vineuil)

FRANCE
Designer: Tom Simpson
Score 80.9

18 Raevo CC

RUSSIA
Designer: Jack Nicklaus
Score 80.8

19 Golf du Medoc (Chateaux)

FRANCE
Designers: Bill Coore/
Rod Whitman
Score 80.6

20= Falsterbo

SWEDEN
Designer: Gunnar
Bauer
Score 80.5