

BEACHES & BUNKERS HOLLAND & ITALY 2020

GOLF COURSES - DETAILS

GOLF CLUB DE HOGE KLEIJ

Leusden, Utrecht, Netherlands

The course was built in the 1980s on part of an old estate, Den Treek. During its construction, a number of Bronze Age and Iron Age items were found on site, causing quite an archeological stir at the time. The golf course is situated in old woodland and presents the player with intriguing glimpses of the original estate through the trees lining the fairways and wide views over the surrounding countryside from the higher tees. The strategic lie of bunkers and hazards give the player the choice between an offensive or defensive playing strategy.



UTRECHT GOLF CLUB THE PAN

Utrecht, Netherlands

Designed by Harry Colt, the course is set in delightful wooded seclusion and is considered one of the finest courses in the Netherlands. Host to the Dutch open on three occasions – the last was in 1982 which Paul Way won – Utrecht de Pan is a strategic and exacting layout which requires thought rather than muscle, especially during the homeward nine. The course is laid out in classic English heathland style, doglegging through stands of pine, birch, oak and chestnut trees with memorable driving holes at

the 6th, 7th and 10th where the tee shot is played over valleys of heather and sand.

UNA POGGIO DEI MEDICI

Scarperia e San Piero, Italy

Set in the heart of Tuscany, the club's location close to Scarperia is actually quite a sporting hotspot; the golf course sits to the west of the hillside village and the famous Mugello Circuit race track lies on the other side. Poggio dei Medici is nothing other than an unadulterated delight. With fairways set amongst rolling hills, it is an open parkland layout that weaves across a picture postcard landscape with water only ever threatening at a few holes; namely the par five 2nd, the doglegged 5th and short par four 15th. Poggio dei Medici opened for play in 1992 and seven years later it hosted the first of five consecutive Ladies Italian Open events. During its tenure here, five women from five different European countries won the competition.





CIRCULO GOLF DELL'UGOLINO Impruneta, Florence, Italy

This 18-hole course in the beautiful Chianti hills was founded in 1933 as a project of the English architects Blandford and Gannon, who bought it as a course with par 69 (in the 1960s this was upped to par 72 by the engineer Piero Mancinelli). The Ugolino is an essential part of Italian golf history: innumerable competitions and national championships have been staged on its grass. Among vineyards, olive groves and maritime pines, it is highly pleasant but also demanding. Indeed it exploits, in the best

possible way, the natural characteristics of its environment: cypresses, olive trees, slopes that follow the wonderful landscape, and small, often well-defended greens.

ACQUASANTA GOLF CLUB Rome, Italy

Laid out over an enchanting parkland landscape, with views of the Via Appia Antica, Aqua Claudius arches and ancient tomb of Cecilia Metella in the background, Roma Acquasanta seems suspended in a time warp with the course and its surroundings standing still as the modern world goes by. It was back in 1903 that a number of like-minded, golf-mad British expatriates created the 1st Italian golf course along with a cricket pitch and tennis court, to the south east of the Eternal City. Over 115 years later,

Roma Acquasanta Golf Club remains not only one of the most prestigious clubs in the country and a wonderfully atmospheric place to play golf, but also Italy's oldest golf course. Like Muirfield, the course routing is such that the back nine is played within a loop created around the perimeter of the property by the front nine holes.



CASTELGANDOLFO GOLF CLUB Castelgandolfo, Italy

Designed by the esteemed American golf architect, Robert Trent Jones, the course is a fantastic par-72 layout set out within the remains of an old volcanic crater. A couple of lakes come into play in the middle of the property, most notably at the right doglegged 4th and short par four 16th, where water threatens on either side of the fairway at both these holes. The course has plenty of strategically placed bunkers to confound and confuse. The clubhouse is located within a fabulous, beautifully-restored 17th-century villa

that was originally built for a nephew of Pope Alexander VII which overlooks the fairways as they weave their way around stands of cypress, pine and olive trees. The course hosted two editions of the Roma Masters, a short-lived tournament on the European Tour in 1992 and 1993. Both events were won after a play-off with Jose Maria Canizares overcoming Barry Lane the first year and Jean Van de Velde seeing off Greg Turner twelve months later.