

19

Saint Germain

Paris, France. Harry Colt.

Design 21.0 **Setting** 15.1 **Playability** 13.0 **Holes** 8.2
Presentation 16.0 **Consistency** 7.7 **TOTAL 81.0**

H-JW Early layout of Harry Colt (1922) that was carved from the forest, with more than 100 bunkers and beautiful undulating fairways.

CB One of the best surprises in Continental Europe. A brilliant routing on a relatively flat site. Oozes class.

GW VERDICT Moves up to join the top-20 elite for the first time, thanks to Colt's cerebral routing and par 3s.

GENIUS OF H.S. COLT

Harry Colt touched many of the Top 100 but rarely did he make more of a modest site than on the 'Grand Parcours' here, called in when the club moved from its original location near the Seine, he moved as much earth as was feasible but otherwise relied on a flowing routing, clever green complexes and estimable par 3s. It was renovated in-house nicely in the 1990s.

TOP 100 CONTINENTAL EUROPE

MY FAVOURITES IN SPAIN

By Álvaro Quiros

Valderrama and Sotogrande are my two favourites – both are very good. I'd probably pick Valderrama just ahead of Sotogrande as the most competitive, whereas Sotogrande may be more enjoyable.

El Saler is still a good course but it is not as good as it was 25 years ago for me, because technology means it is so short for me to play. But it is a very well-designed course.

Las Brisas is newly redone and very nice and I enjoyed Neguri when I was very young. I always thought it was very nice. Of the ones I know in Madrid I like Club de Campo and I know PGA Catalunya well. It is a good course even if it is not one of my biggest favourites.

■ Alvaro Quiros is a multiple Tour winner.

MY FAVOURITES IN GERMANY

By Marcel Siem

Hamburger is a proper old course built among the trees with interesting greens. It is beautiful to play, like one of the traditional old heathland courses you have in England.

I also like Sporting Club Berlin, the Faldo course there. Budersand is on your list and is a links I'd like to play – you've beaten me to it!

Elsewhere in Europe, I really like Paris National – it is very demanding, with the last four holes featuring water.

■ Marcel has won four European Tour titles



18 Falsterbo (▲6)

Malmö, Swe. Bauer, Nordwall, Chamberlain.

Design 19.6 **Setting** 16.1 **Playability** 13.5 **Holes** 8.0
Presentation 16.6 **Consistency** 7.2 **TOTAL 81.0**

XC Under-rated – simply a lovely course.

PB A good traditional, true links course.

CB No doubt in my mind that this is Sweden's top course. Consistently excellent from the 7th.

GW VERDICT Becomes Sweden's No.1 after a long reign by Bro Hof Slott. Pretty much as close to a proper links as you'll find in this ranking.



17 Troia (▲2)

Lisbon, Portugal. Trent Jones Snr.

Design 20.7 **Setting** 17.9 **Playability** 10.6 **Holes** 8.2
Presentation 15.1 **Consistency** 8.5 **TOTAL 81.0**

XC Remote but well worth the visit.

H-JW Enormously difficult, classical links on a peninsula. Sensational routing by Trent Jones Snr which never loses sight of the sea.

GW VERDICT A significant rise for this pines-and-seaside experience south of Lisbon. Extremely challenging but a real class act.



16 Hamburger (▲7)

Hamburg, Germany. Colt, Alison, Morrison.

Design 21.2 **Setting** 15.1 **Playability** 13.0 **Holes** 8.2
Presentation 16.0 **Consistency** 7.7 **TOTAL 81.2**

XC A classic course with technical excellence.

H-JW Far and wide I know of no other place which instantly draws you in as it does.

JB Old school, like Blackmoor in England.

GW VERDICT A notable rise for the historic heathland of 'Falkenstein'. Germany's No.1 for the first time, it's a bona fide future top-10 candidate.