

# irish

Ireland's No.1 Golfing Newspaper

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# GOLF WORLD

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## 2025 AMGEN IRISH OPEN AT THE K CLUB

Three-time Major Champion Pádraig Harrington and PGA TOUR winner Séamus Power have confirmed their participation in the 2025 Amgen Irish Open. Harrington and Power - both golf ambassadors for Title Partner Amgen - will join Major winners Rory McIlroy and Shane Lowry in the field as the prestigious National Open returns to The K Club from September 4-7.

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## KPMG WOMEN'S IRISH OPEN

Irish star Leona Maguire and Major winner Georgia Hall have confirmed they will return to Carton House, Fairmont for this year's KPMG Women's Irish Open which will be a true showcase of talent as a star-studded field heads to Carton House this summer, from July 3-6. The event will also feature Annabel Dimmock, Lottie Woad, Madelene Sagström, and Anna Nordqvist.

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## THE 153rd OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP AT ROYAL PORTRUSH

History will be made at The 153rd Open at Royal Portrush as recently revealed by The R&A that 278,000 fans will gather at the iconic Dunluce links from July 13-20 for the largest Championship held outside of St Andrews.

Excitement is building among fans at The Open's return to the Antrim Coast after the success of the Championship in 2019.

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# GRAND SLAM GLORY FOR RORY McILROY

## The Masters 2025 Review

**A** Grand Slam for Rory McIlroy at Augusta was delivered as a illustrious career continues to unfold.

Rory McIlroy beat Justin Rose in a play-off to win the Masters Tournament and join golf's most exclusive club by completing the career Grand Slam.

The Northern Irishman captured his fifth Major title at Augusta National after a thrilling final round which saw four different players find themselves in at least a share of the lead.

Victory makes the World Number Two only the sixth man to win all four Majors and the first since Tiger Woods in 2000, joining an elite club also containing Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus.

It was McIlroy's 11th attempt to write his name in golfing immortality, having ticked off the other three between 2011 and 2014.

"It feels incredible," said McIlroy. "This is my 17th time here and I started to wonder if it would ever be my time."

"I think the last 10 times, coming here with the burden of the Grand Slam on my shoulders and trying to achieve that - I sort of wonder what we're going to talk about going into next year's Masters!"

"I'm absolutely honoured and thrilled and just so proud to be able to call myself the Masters champion."

"When I hit the wedge shot into the creek on 13 - I feel like I did a really good job of



bouncing back from that - and the double-bogey at the first as well.

"There was a lot of pent-up emotion that just came up on that 18th green but a moment like that makes all the years and all the close calls worth it."

"I want to say hello to my mum and dad back home in Northern Ireland. I can't wait to celebrate this with them."

The day started as a head-to-head between McIlroy and American Bryson DeChambeau, the foe who had ensured his Major drought stretched into an 11th year by beating him at Pinehurst in last year's U.S. Open.

McIlroy, who went into the final round two shots clear, made the worst possible start

as a wayward drive at the first was followed by a three-putt for a double-bogey six.

The 35-year-old found sand off the tee on the second and could only manage a par as DeChambeau birdied the par five to take lead.

However, there were further two-shot swings on the third and fourth and both went in McIlroy's favour.

He birdied the third from ten feet, then saw his playing partner miss a par putt on the same line from seven feet.

DeChambeau then bogeyed the short fourth after missing the green as McIlroy birdied after an outstanding tee shot to nine feet.

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# News

## CAMIRAL GOLF & WELLNESS

**C**amiral Golf & Wellness, formerly known as PGA Catalunya, continues to firmly establish its position as Spain's No.1 Golf Resort at the 59club European Service Excellence Awards, setting the benchmark for exceptional customer service.

Home to the renowned Stadium Course and Tour Course, the resort has proudly earned the prestigious 'Gold Flag' award for the third consecutive year, a testament to the European Tour Destination's unwavering commitment to service excellence and its ongoing efforts to enhance the customer experience.

The 59club European Service Excellence Awards celebrate outstanding venues, teams and individuals who are dedicated to providing top-tier customer service.

Simon Wordsworth, CEO and Founder of 59club, said: "Having been honoured with a prestigious 59club Gold Flag Destination each year since our engagement, Camiral Golf & Wellness continues to define the standard for premier customer service at European golf resorts. From the moment guests arrive, they are immersed in five-star service and unforgettable experiences that are ever-present throughout their stay."

"Our golf team is dedicated to delivering the best possible experience for our members, guests and visitors, and this recognition is a testament to their hard work," said Flavio Papa, Director of Golf at Camiral Golf & Wellness.

"Across all departments, whether it's our front-of-house team, F&B team or our golf operations staff, we are committed to providing exceptional service throughout the customer journey. Complementing our service, our world-class golf amenities, including our two critically-acclaimed courses and the newly established PGA National Academy, further help elevate the first-class golf experience we offer."

Guests of Camiral Golf & Wellness can also enjoy a range of amenities beyond golf, including the state-of-the-art Wellness Centre, perfect for golfers seeking post-round recovery and ultimate relaxation, alongside the newly opened Origin restaurant and refreshed Camiral Bistro for exceptional dining experiences.

Located just 1-hour north of Barcelona and situated just outside the culinary capital of Girona, Camiral Golf & Wellness is home to the five-star Hotel Camiral, a member of The Leading Hotels of The World portfolio, and the four-star LAVIDA Hotel.

For further information about Camiral Golf & Wellness, visit [www.camiral.com](http://www.camiral.com)

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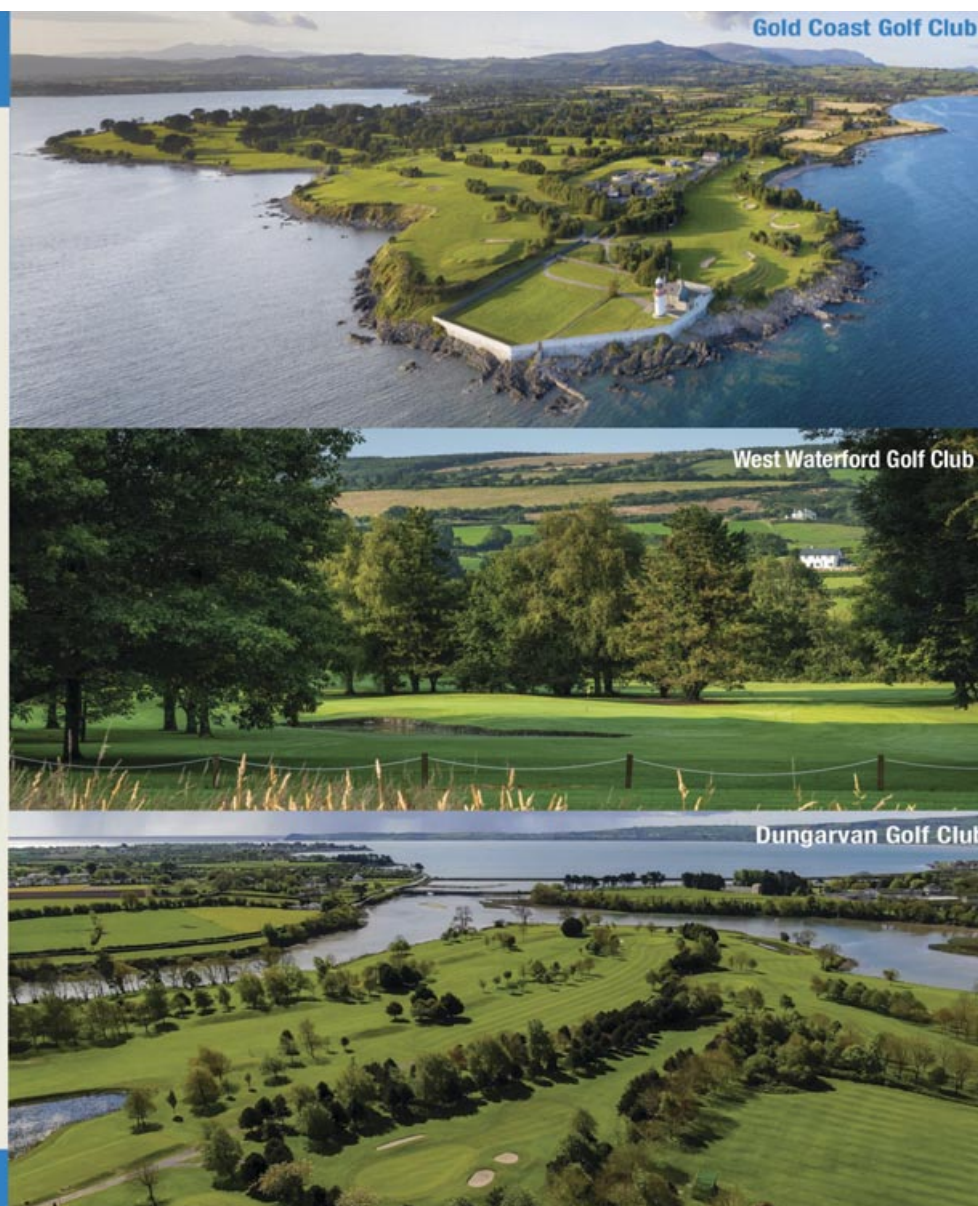
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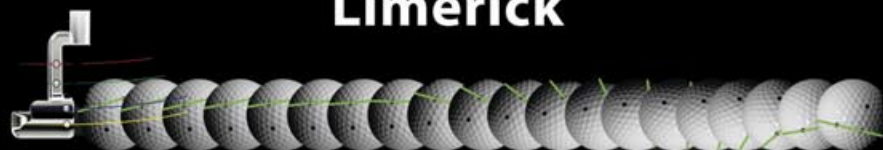




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# News

## GOLF IRELAND PROFESSIONALS RECEIVE OVER €350,000 IN FUNDING FROM SPORT IRELAND

Golf Ireland have announced details of the 2025 Golf Ireland Professional Scheme, with nine elite Irish golfers set to benefit from €350,000 in funding provided by Sport Ireland.

The scheme was officially launched at the Golf Ireland Academy in Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co Kildare with Minister of State for Sport Charlie McConalogue TD attending alongside Sport Ireland representatives and several of the beneficiaries, including Conor Purcell, Lauren Walsh, Max Kennedy, Mark Power, Alex Maguire, and Annabel Wilson.

Conor Purcell



Each of the nine players selected for the scheme will receive €33,000 in support, enabling them to compete internationally and continue their development. Sara Byrne, Anna Foster and Liam Nolan are also recipients in 2025.

Minister of State with responsibility for Sport and Postal Policy Charlie McConalogue said: "I would like to congratulate and wish all nine players selected for the scheme the very best of luck for this year and beyond. May you all go on to great success in your careers in professional golf."

"I believe it vitally important that we continue to invest in sport at all levels, and that we support projects such as the Golf Ireland Professional Scheme to enable our elite, high performance golfers to excel in their chosen field."


Golf Ireland CEO Mark Kennelly said: "Golf Ireland's relationship with Sport Ireland is crucial in supporting Ireland's top golfing talent. This funding plays a key role in enabling our players to excel internationally while inspiring future generations to engage with golf."

Sport Ireland CEO Dr Úna May said: "We're proud to have been associated with this initiative since its launch in 1999 and we're delighted to once again be able to back some of Ireland's most talented golfers. We wish them every success in the future."



Golf Ireland's High Performance ambitions were previously boosted with a provisional allocation of €1.4m under the Large-Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund, which was announced in November 2024. The funding will support the development of indoor High Performance facilities for amateur and professional golfers.



Sport Ireland has provided funding to the Golf Ireland Professional Scheme since 1999. The scheme also gives players direct funding, coaching expertise, access to Golf Ireland's National Academy and Quinta do Lago training base, and access to the Sport Ireland Institute.

**For more information on the Golf Ireland Professional Scheme visit the Golf Ireland website <https://www.golfireland.ie/> Full criteria for the scheme can also be found at <https://static.clubhouse.golfireland.ie/clubs/1000/uploads/files/gip-scheme-regulations-2025.pdf>**




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## News

## THE FIRST TEE

Three new celebrities have signed up for 'The First Tee' with former Paralympic swimmer and gold medallist Ellen Keane, ex-Ireland international footballer Stephanie Zambra, and personal coach and fitness influencer Nathalie Lennon coming on board this year.



Pictured (from L to R) are Nathalie Lennon, Ellen Keane and Stephanie Zambra. Photo: Jonny Mac Cann.

"So, when I met with Cian Arthurs, he's one of the Irish golfers with one arm, he put all my worries aside and showed me what I was able to do. I was a little bit afraid that I might need a prosthetic, but he showed me I don't need a prosthetic to do golf.

"Anything that I need to do I already have on me, which was really really good and gave me a lot of confidence, that I would be okay with this."

Former Republic of Ireland international, Zambra, scored a famous goal in 2013 which saw her finish second in the Puskas Award behind Colombia's James Rodriguez. She recently took on a Women's First Team Coaching role at Shamrock Rovers, having retired from playing duties with the Hoops last year.

“ “ The First Tee is Golf Ireland's social media campaign with the goal of encouraging more women to consider taking up the game of golf ” ”

‘T he First Tee' is Golf Ireland's social media campaign with the goal of encouraging more women to consider taking up the game of golf, by seeing women they follow embark on the challenge of learning how to both play and get into the sport over a 12-week period.

The trio, who are all new to the game, recently had their first lessons at the driving range. In the coming weeks, they will attend a Get Into Golf session along with likeminded beginners and a Chip & Chat evening, joined by female golfers of all ages and abilities.

Their crash course will culminate at the KPMG Women's Irish Open Pro-Am on 2 July in Carton House. Last year it was Muireann O'Connell, Kayleigh Trappe and Ailbhe Garrihy who took part as they were introduced to golf.

Keane became Ireland's youngest ever athlete when she swam at the Beijing Paralympic Games in 2008 before she went on to win gold at Tokyo 12 years later. However, she believed her disability might have held her back in golf.

"When I got asked to do this, I was afraid of not being able to hit the ball and the perception is you don't see a lot of disability when it comes to golf," said Keane.

"I've never seen a one-armed golfer, so I was afraid because I had not seen it before, that I wouldn't be able to do it.

"Previously I haven't had much lessons, I always had an interest in it," said Zambra.

"Growing up, in my estate we were quite lucky, we had loads of open fields and lots of open spaces so whenever any sport is on TV we were always out playing it, and golf was one of them.

"My brother had a set of golf clubs in the house, I used to steal his golf clubs every now and again, take one and go out and hit the ball, so I had an interest in it from a very young age.

"My dad used to bring us to the driving range up in Stepaside as well but never had proper structure to what I was doing, so I'm really excited to get some help and lessons."

Having qualified as a personal trainer in 2016, Lennon is a health and fitness coach who spreads her message based on body confidence, sustainable habits, and an optimal relationship with food and fitness.

"My experience with golf has been extremely minimal, second to none," said Lennon.

"I've been to a driving range, maybe twice in my life, so a lot of nervous excitement right now. Today will definitely be my first time really picking up a golf club.

"At the driving range a couple of years ago, I picked it up but I didn't know how to hold it, what way to use it, so today would be an experience for sure."

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# News

## McILROY'S MASTERS GRAND SLAM ENHANCES IRELAND'S REPUTATION AS THE HOME OF CHAMPIONS

After a dramatic final play-off, Rory McIlroy became the first golfer from the island of Ireland to win The Masters, and only the sixth ever in the history of the game to win the Grand Slam of all four men's Majors (The Masters, US PGA Championship, US Open and The Open Championship).

Royal County Down Golf Links



For a small island on the edge of Europe, Ireland is a powerhouse when it comes to golf, with McIlroy, Padraig Harrington, Graeme McDowell, Darren Clarke and Shane Lowry all recent winners of Major titles. With world-class courses in some of the most spectacular locations on the planet, it's not surprising that Northern Ireland is where McIlroy first honed his skills.

McIlroy first joined Holywood Golf Club at the age of seven, becoming the club's youngest ever member. Set high in the Holywood Hills of County Down, the club boasts a picturesque 18-hole parkland course, with stunning views over the Belfast Lough and the Antrim Coast. Just a short drive from Belfast City Centre, the course has an unrivalled location.

Portstewart Golf Club



The club is just one of a number of world-class golf courses in Northern Ireland, a region which boasts over 90 courses, ranging from gentle links and parkland courses to challenging championship courses, ensuring both seasoned golfers and beginners can find the perfect green.

McIlroy also has a long history with Royal County Down Golf Club, a notoriously challenging course which he credits as the course that taught him how to plan shots and be more methodical in his game as a teenager. Located in one of the world's most naturally beautiful links settings in the Murlough Nature Reserve, it is set against the magnificent backdrop of the Mourne Mountains, in the seaside town of Newcastle. The picturesque links course stretches along the shores of Dundrum Bay offering a dramatic panorama as well as an unforgettable golfing experience.

McIlroy's historic Masters victory looks set to create even more interest in the return of The Open Championship to Royal Portrush. More than 250,000 people are expected to flock to the Co. Antrim course in July to see the best golfers in the world in action when The Open returns. The reception when Rory McIlroy steps onto the first tee at Royal Portrush in July will undoubtedly be incredible, especially as everyone will be looking to see if he can beat the course record of 61, which he set himself at just 16 years old!

“ With world-class courses in some of the most spectacular locations on the planet, it's not surprising that Northern Ireland is where McIlroy first honed his skills ”

Situated in the Causeway Coast & Glens area of outstanding natural beauty, Royal Portrush is nestled in a triangle of giant sandhills which present magnificent views in all directions — the hills of Donegal in the west, the Isle of Islay and Southern Hebrides in the north, with the iconic Giant's Causeway and the Skerries in the east. Also loved by acclaimed Irish golfers including Harrington and Lowry, the courses are overlooked by the ruins of the 13th century Dunluce Castle, giving its name to Royal Portrush's famous Dunluce Links, among the world's most challenging golf courses.

Throughout Northern Ireland there are many iconic courses including Ireland's oldest golf club, Royal Belfast, which dates from 1881. The charming links layout overlooks Belfast Lough and was chosen by Harrington, Open champion in 2007 and 2008, as one of his top 30 courses. Over in the beautiful Fermanagh Lakelands the championship Faldo course at Lough Erne Resort, designed by six-time major winner Sir Nick Faldo, combines outstanding scenery with holes that will test and delight players of all abilities; whilst Royal Portrush's neighbouring course - Portstewart Golf Club on the north coast - is home to three fine true links golf courses with the backdrop of the Atlantic Ocean, golden beaches and rugged coastline.

For more details [www.ireland.com](http://www.ireland.com)



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# 2025 AMGEN IRISH OPEN AT THE K CLUB

Three-time Major Champion Pádraig Harrington and PGA TOUR winner Séamus Power have confirmed their participation in the 2025 Amgen Irish Open.

Pádraig Harrington



The 2025 Amgen Irish Open promises to be another unforgettable edition, as the DP World Tour's best players take on the challenge of The K Club's Palmer North Course. Having hosted the Ryder Cup and multiple Irish Opens, the renowned venue is no stranger to dramatic finishes, and fans can expect plenty of excitement when the tournament returns in September.

Last year, Denmark's Rasmus Højgaard produced a stunning final-round performance to claim his maiden Amgen Irish Open title, edging out a strong field in a dramatic Sunday finish. The 23-year-old secured victory with a series of clutch birdies on the closing holes, edging out home favourite Rory McIlroy at Royal County Down. Højgaard's triumph further cemented his status as one of Europe's brightest young talents, and his name now sits alongside some of the biggest stars in the history of Ireland's national open.

Harrington and Power join already-announced home heroes McIlroy and Shane Lowry as the excitement builds for the island of Ireland's national Open.

For more details <https://www.europeantour.com/dpworld-tour/amgen-irish-open-2025/tickets-packages/>

“The 2025 Amgen Irish Open promises to be another unforgettable edition, as the DP World Tour's best players take on the challenge of The K Club's Palmer North Course”

Harrington and Power - both golf ambassadors for Title Partner Amgen - will join Major winners Rory McIlroy and Shane Lowry in the field as the prestigious National Open returns to The K Club from September 4-7.

Harrington, one of Ireland's most celebrated golfers, remains a fan favourite wherever he plays, and his return to The K Club is set to be a highlight of the week. The 52-year-old, who has amassed 15 DP World Tour titles including his trio of Major victories, will be part of a star-studded field in Co. Kildare.

The 2007 Irish Open champion knows exactly what it takes to win in front of the passionate home crowds and will be relishing the opportunity to contend once again. Having also been part of Team Europe's Ryder Cup victory at The K Club in 2006, Harrington is looking forward to another special week at the iconic venue.

"Playing at home is always a privilege, and the Amgen Irish Open is a tournament that means a great deal to me," he said. "The atmosphere at The K Club is always fantastic, and I know the Irish fans will come out in force once again. It's an event where you feel the energy of the crowd with every shot, and their support can really motivate you."

"I've been fortunate to win this tournament before, and I'd love nothing more than to have another run at the title. The K Club is a venue that brings back great memories for me and it's the kind of course that produces exciting finishes. It's going to be a brilliant week of golf, and I'm really looking forward to being part of it."

Joining him in the field is fellow Irishman Power, a two-time winner on the PGA TOUR who has become one of Ireland's most consistent performers on the global stage. The Waterford native will be eager to put on a show for the home fans as he seeks to add his name to the distinguished list of Amgen Irish Open champions.

"The Irish Open is a tournament I've always wanted to play well in and I can't wait to be back," he said. "The K Club is a brilliant venue, and I know the crowds will create an amazing atmosphere. It's going to be a great week, and I'm really looking forward to it."

"Being based over in America, I cherish the opportunity to come home and compete, so this week really is a highlight of my year."

Séamus Power





# Swing into scenic perfection - Play and stay in Ards and North Down

10 Clubs | 12 Courses - A variety of Links and Parkland, including Holywood Golf Club, home of Rory McIlroy and The Royal Belfast Golf Club, the oldest golf club in Ireland.



Photo : © Scrabo Golf Club, Newtownards Co. Down

**N**orthern Ireland has firmly established itself on the global golfing map, hosting The Open Championship in 2019 and set to welcome it again in 2025, alongside the Irish Open in 2024 and numerous PGA events in recent years. These prestigious tournaments highlight the region's world-class courses and the warm Northern Irish hospitality that makes it a must-visit for any golfing enthusiast.

At the heart of this offering is **Ards and North Down**, where golf in the area dates back over 125 years when The Royal Belfast Golf Club became Ireland's first club, in 1881. Today the region boasts **12 diverse courses**, designed by the likes of **H.S. Colt and James Braid**. With breathtaking scenery, including stunning lough views and glimpses of Scotland, these courses deliver both challenge and beauty in equal measure.

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# RORY MCLLOY WINS THE MASTERS

A Grand Slam for Rory McIlroy at Augusta was delivered as an illustrious career continues to unfold.

Rory McIlroy



Rory McIlroy beat Justin Rose in a play-off to win the Masters Tournament and join golf's most exclusive club by completing the career Grand Slam. The Northern Irishman captured his fifth Major title at Augusta National after a thrilling final round which saw four different players find themselves in at least a share of the lead.

Victory makes the World Number Two only the sixth man to win all four Majors and the first since Tiger Woods in 2000, joining an elite club also containing Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus.

It was McIlroy's 11th attempt to write his name in golfing immortality, having ticked off the other three between 2011 and 2014.

"It feels incredible," said McIlroy. "This is my 17th time here and I started to wonder if it would ever be my time.

"I think the last 10 times, coming here with the burden of the Grand Slam on my shoulders and trying to achieve that – I sort of wonder what we're going to talk about going into next year's Masters!

"I'm absolutely honoured and thrilled and just so proud to be able to call myself the Masters champion.

"When I hit the wedge shot into the creek on 13 – I feel like I did a really good job of bouncing back from that – and the double-bogey at the first as well.

"There was a lot of pent-up emotion that just came up on that 18th green but a moment like that makes all the years and all the close calls worth it.

"I want to say hello to my mum and dad back home in Northern Ireland. I can't wait to celebrate this with them."

The day started as a head-to-head between McIlroy and American Bryson DeChambeau, the foe who had ensured his Major drought stretched into an 11th year by beating him at Pinehurst in last year's U.S. Open.

McIlroy, who went into the final round two shots clear, made the worst possible start as a wayward drive at the first was followed by a three-putt for a double-bogey six.

The 35-year-old found sand off the tee on the second and could only manage a par as DeChambeau birdied the par five to take lead.

However, there were further two-shot swings on the third and fourth and both went in McIlroy's favour.

He birdied the third from ten feet, then saw his playing partner miss a par putt on the same line from seven feet.

DeChambeau then bogeyed the short fourth after missing the green as McIlroy birdied after an outstanding tee shot to nine feet.

McIlroy looked set to pull further clear when he produced a remarkable approach from among the trees down the left of the seventh to eight feet and DeChambeau found the front bunker.

However, McIlroy left his birdie putt a fraction short and DeChambeau produced a superb shot from the sand to save par.

First-round leader Rose birdied the 11th from 58 feet moments after berating himself for bailing out short and right with his second, then birdied the 12th after a fine tee shot to 17 feet to move level with DeChambeau on nine under.

Ludvig Åberg soon made it a three-way tie for second with his third birdie of the day on the tenth.

However, the trio found themselves four behind as McIlroy took advantage of a huge drive at the ninth to complete an outward 35.

Rose birdied the long 13th to take outright second but McIlroy swiftly restored his four-shot advantage by converting from 15 feet at the tenth.

Åberg found a bunker on the 12th and Rose's drive finished stuck behind a tree on the 14th, with the Green Jacket seemingly at McIlroy's mercy at that stage.

DeChambeau found water with his approach to the 11th and double bogeyed as his challenge faded around Amen Corner but McIlroy failed to take advantage of a huge slice of luck as his second stopped inches short of the same fate only to then fail to get up and down.

Rose responded to his bogey with a birdie at the 15th to close within three.

McIlroy's serene progress was abruptly halted as he hit a pitch into Rae's Creek from inside 100 yards at the 13th and double bogeyed, with Rose birdieing the 16th from five feet to suddenly join him in share of lead.

McIlroy briefly relinquished his share of the lead with a bogey on the 14th after leaking his drive right but Rose failed to get up and down at the 17th, with Åberg suddenly finding himself in a three-way tie for the lead after birdieing the 15th.

McIlroy looked blocked out down the left off the tee at the par-five 15th but hooked a magnificent approach a fraction over the drink, with the ball feeding round to eight feet.

A tame eagle putt left the World Number Two with a tap-in birdie to retake the lead.

The drama was far from done. Rose made his tenth birdie of the day as he holed a 20-footer on the last for a stunning round of 66.

McIlroy hit a superb tee shot to ten feet on the 16th but missed the birdie chance as Åberg three-putted the 17th before a triple-bogey at the last.

McIlroy almost holed his seven-iron approach to the penultimate hole before tapping in from two feet to take a one-shot lead up the last.

A perfect drive was followed by a leaked approach which found the right bunker but after splashing out to five feet, he missed the putt before making no mistake at the second time of asking as a closing 73 left him tied with Rose on 11 under.

Patrick Reed took third on nine under after a closing 69, with defending champion Scottie Scheffler a shot further back in fourth.

“I’m absolutely honoured and thrilled and just so proud to be able to call myself the Masters champion – Rory McIlroy”





BALLYNEETY GOLF CLUB  
LIMERICK, IRELAND



Ballyneety Golf Club, just a five minute drive from Junction 29 on the M7 on the southern side of Limerick City, is beautifully located at the gateway to the World Class links courses on Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way. Co-designed by Ryder Cup legend, Des Smyth, this Par 71 Championship course was built to USPGA standards on the historical Croker Estate.

The original design has been tweaked by Golf Architect Ken Kearney and the 2025 season at Ballyneety Golf Club opened to a comprehensive re-design of all bunkers, water hazards and tees. Course Manager, Dave Bailey and his team ensure superb playing surfaces all year round.

Ballyneety Golf Club is also home to what was Ireland's first Trackman Driving Range under the expert guidance of PGA Fellow Donal McSweeney and his team of PGA pros.

Vines Bar and Restaurant in the beautifully designed panoramic clubhouse offer all visitors a warm welcome and beautiful fare with Gerry Grant and his team.

In November of 2024 Ryder Cup Europe announced that Ballyneety Golf Club would, in conjunction with Adare Manor Resort, host the Junior Ryder Cup in 2027.

General Manager John Leamy said:

*"The remarkable story of Ballyneety Golf Club continues to evolve at great pace. We are delighted to have been chosen as the host venue for The Junior Ryder Cup in 2027 and we have no doubt that our magnificent golf course, driving range, practice facilities and hospitality will ensure a wonderful tournament for players, officials and visitors alike. It is a wonderful honour for our Club and one that our members are immensely proud of."*

## Is there a better place? "I doubt it" said Croker!

**[ballyneetygolfclub.ie](http://ballyneetygolfclub.ie)**

**[info@ballyneetygolfclub.com](mailto:info@ballyneetygolfclub.com)**

**Tel: +353 61 351 881 (Clubhouse)**

**Tel: +353 61 352 787 (Range)**



# KPMG WOMEN'S IRISH OPEN

Irish star Leona Maguire and Major winner Georgia Hall have confirmed they will return to Carton House, Fairmont for this year's KPMG Women's Irish Open.

Leona Maguire



The 2025 KPMG Women's Irish Open will be a true showcase of talent as a star-studded field heads to Carton House this summer, from 3–6 July. This year's event will feature some of the top names in women's golf, including Maguire, Hall, Annabel Dimmock, Lottie Woad, Madelene Sagström, and 2026 Solheim Cup captain, Anna Nordqvist – arguably the strongest field assembled across the Ladies European Tour this year.

Dimmock will return to Carton House as she looks to defend her title after securing the trophy in a dramatic playoff last year over Pauline Roussin-Bouchard. She will join Ireland's highest-ranked golfer, Leona Maguire in the field who secured a top 15 finish in last year's event. The two-time LPGA Tour winner and three-time Solheim Cup star will aim to win on home soil by claiming the KPMG Women's Irish Open title.

Maguire will be joined by her Solheim Cup teammate Hall who she played alongside in last year's final round that drew in some huge crowds to watch the super pairing on the Sunday. Hall has an extremely impressive career having represented Europe in five Solheim Cups, Great Britain in the Olympics and individually winning the 2018 Ricoh Women's British Open, she will bring a great level of competitiveness to the field once again.

Hall said: "I am looking forward to returning to Carton House again to play in the KPMG Women's Irish Open. It was one of the highlights of my year in 2024. The

course, hotel, and hospitality were amazing, and the golf fans who came to watch made me feel so welcome. I can't wait to come back, roll on July."

The Swedish duo of Nordqvist and Sagström will also join the field. Nordqvist who has nine LPGA Tour and three LET Wins will be a fantastic addition to the field. Having played in nine consecutive Solheim Cups, she has recently been announced as the captain for the 2026 Solheim Cup. She will tee it up in the event alongside her Solheim teammate Sagström, who is an LPGA Tour winner and four-time Solheim Cup player.

Nordqvist said: "I am so excited to return to Ireland this summer to compete in the 2025 KPMG Women's Irish Open. The Irish crowds are always so incredible, and it's been great to see this event get bigger and better every year. See you in July Ireland!"

Nordqvist and Sagström are strong additions to the event alongside world number one amateur golfer, Lottie Woad of England who will tee it up in the event in July. Woad clinched the 2024 Augusta National Women's Amateur title and won the low-am prize at the AIG Women's Open later in the season to showcase her talent playing at a professional level.

Stephen King of KPMG said: "We are thrilled to welcome such an extraordinary lineup of talent to the 2025 KPMG Women's Irish Open. With top players like Leona Maguire, Georgia Hall, Annabel Dimmock, and Anna Nordqvist, this year's event promises to showcase the very best of women's golf. At KPMG, we are proud to continue our support for this fantastic tournament, and we look forward to an exciting week of competition at Carton House. It's an incredible opportunity to watch these world-class athletes compete on home soil and inspire the next generation of golfers."

KPMG has championed the KPMG Women's Irish Open since 2022 when they took on the title sponsorship and brought the competition back to life after a decade-long hiatus. The tournament, staged by ForeFront Group, is now one of Europe's biggest women's golfing showcases (winning Tournament of the Year in 2024, voted by the Ladies European Tour players) and has attracted nearly 100,000 attendees and a global audience of over 100+ million since 2022.

Simon Honan, Tournament Director said: "We are excited to welcome an exceptional group of players to the 2025 KPMG Women's Irish Open. This year's event promises to be one of the most competitive yet, and Carton House, Fairmont, will serve as the perfect venue for a fantastic week of world-class golf. Our aim is to grow this event year on year and the field quality is a huge part of the growth strategy, so we are pleased to be announcing such big names."

An impressive field of players is set for Carton House and the 2025 KPMG Women's Irish Open promises to be one of the most competitive events on the calendar. The event will take place from 3rd – 6th July at Carton House, Fairmont and will be an event not to be missed as Annabel Dimmock will look to repeat her win at the Kildare-based venue.

**For tickets <https://kpmgwomensirishopen.ie/tickets>**



“ KPMG has championed the KPMG Women's Irish Open since 2022 when they took on the title sponsorship and brought the competition back to life after a decade-long hiatus ”



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# THE 153rd OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP AT ROYAL PORTRUSH

History will be made at The 153rd Open at Royal Portrush after it was revealed by The R&A that 278,000 fans will gather at the iconic Dunluce links from July 13-20 for the largest Championship held outside of St Andrews.

Royal Portrush Links



Excitement among fans at The Open's return to the Antrim Coast after the success of the Championship in 2019 led to unprecedented demand for tickets in the ballot last year with applications for more than one million tickets.

The attendance this year will surpass the previous high mark set at Royal Portrush six years ago when 237,750 fans celebrated Irishman Shane Lowry complete a memorable win in The 148th Open with a six-shot victory over Tommy Fleetwood.

Mark Darbon, Chief Executive at The R&A, said, "The Open is one of the world's great sporting events and we will do everything we can to make this year's Championship at Royal Portrush an outstanding and memorable occasion for everyone involved from fans to players and the millions watching on TV and digital platforms worldwide.

"The passion and enthusiasm for golf throughout the island of Ireland is world-renowned and is clearly reflected in the extraordinary demand among fans to be part of this historic occasion. We look forward to welcoming a record crowd to these spectacular links for a true celebration of golf and seeing who emerges from the 156-strong field to become Champion Golfer of the Year."

The 153rd Open will also be the largest ever sporting event held in Northern Ireland and is expected to generate more than £213 million in total economic benefit for the country according to an independent forecast by the Sport Industry Research Centre (SIRC) at Sheffield Hallam University.

It estimates that the economic impact resulting from The 153rd Open will be £63 million, while the destination marketing benefit for Northern Ireland derived from coverage produced via linear television and digital platforms will exceed £150m.

"It's clear that staging a major event such as The Open can generate significant economic benefits for the locations in which they are held and this study demonstrates the huge benefit that the Championship brings," said Darbon.

"We are grateful to the government and local agencies in Northern Ireland for their investment and support in bringing the Championship back to Royal Portrush after the success of 2019. Their enthusiasm and expertise has been crucial to our planning and we thank them for the work they have contributed towards making this possible."

Aine Kearney, Director of Events at Tourism Northern Ireland, said, "The 153rd Open at Royal Portrush is nearly there and excitement is building and all the partners

involved in the delivery of the Championship are working in collaboration to make it even bigger and more memorable than 2019.

"The Open in 2019 brought huge economic benefits, not just to the North Coast, but to the whole of Northern Ireland and 2025 will be no different.

"It is shaping up to be another world-class sporting event which presents us with an invaluable opportunity to further raise Northern Ireland's profile as a must-see travel and golf destination as well as a fantastic place to invest."

The Open continues to be one of the most accessible major sporting events for young people thanks to The R&A's long-running Kids Go Free initiative. More than 27,000 tickets are available for those under the age of 16 and there are reduced price tickets for fans under the age of 25. Since Kids Go Free was launched in 1997, 434,000 children have attended The Open for free.

A record 89,000 spectators will attend the four sold-out Practice Days of The 153rd Open, exceeding the total of 61,000 fans who attended the equivalent days at Royal Portrush in 2019.

The Open Camping Village continues to prove a popular accommodation option among families and young people with 4,600 guests booking a place to stay on-site this year. Almost a third (32%) of those staying at the village are under the age of 25 meaning that 20,000 free bed nights have been provided to this group since the initiative was launched at Royal Troon in 2016.

For more details <https://www.theopen.com/royal-portrush-153rd-open>

“ The 153rd Open will also be the largest ever sporting event held in Northern Ireland and is expected to generate more than £213 million in total economic benefit ”





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Anyone interested in playing golf on three charming and equalling challenging courses should look no further than Dungarvan in Co. Waterford.



**D**ungarvan boasts three 18-hole golf courses all located only 10 minutes from each other and all only 5 minutes from Dungarvan town centre.

Dungarvan Golf Club, Gold Coast Golf Club and West Waterford Golf Club make up this three course golf triangle where you can play all three courses any day of the week for as little as €90, and who said golf in Ireland was expensive.

All three courses welcomes every visitor, and all catering needs are well looked after within the clubhouses of Dungarvan and West Waterford, Gold Coast having its own Gold Coast Golf Hotel on site.

All three clubs have a good working relationship with each other which has resulted in the concept of playing the

three courses over a few days, and this is done by using the very popular Golf Triangle Ticket. The Dungarvan Golf Triangle Ticket for €90 offers probably one of the best value three course green fees available.

The ticket is available Monday to Sunday and is for sale in each of the three golf courses. All 3 rounds don't have to be played consecutively, you can use the ticket over 1, 2 or 3 visits to Dungarvan.

Full details on our website located at [www.dungarvangolftriangle.com](http://www.dungarvangolftriangle.com).

Dungarvan Golf Club is set against the backdrop of the Comeragh Mountains and runs adjacent to Dungarvan Bay. This Championship Parkland course has been architecturally designed with seven lakes and man made hazards strategically placed to test all levels of golfer.

At Gold Coast Golf Club you will find a scenic and challenging 18 hole golf course bordered by the Atlantic ocean with unrivalled panoramic views of Dungarvan Bay and the Comeragh Mountains. At 6,511 yards off the back tees, the course will present a real challenge for the discerning golfer wishing to test their skill in a magnificent and spectacular location.

The West Waterford Golf Club is built on 150 acres of rolling parkland on the

**“ “ Dungarvan Golf Club, Gold Coast Golf Club and West Waterford Golf Club make up this three course golf triangle where you can play all three courses any day of the week for as little as €90 ” ”**





Gold Coast Golf Club

banks of the Brickey river with the backdrop of the Comeragh Mountains to the east, the Knockmealdowns to the north and Drum Hills to the south. The Brickey river traverses the southern boundary which makes this a very challenging golf course.

Other than golf, the picturesque town of Dungarvan, the county town of Waterford has plenty to offer. Beautifully situated at the head of a broad bay which sweeps past spectacular cliff scenery to Helvic head and the wild beauty of the Comeragh mountains, this thriving centre

of activity has much to offer the visitor. Walking tours, an EU Blue flag beach, watersports, fishing, boat hire, horse riding facilities are all on your doorstep and easily organised. Eating out, whether for mid-day lunch, afternoon tea or a romantic candlelit dinner is made easy in any of the town's award-winning and fine restaurants. For night-life and your favourite pint, there are over fifty pubs to choose from.

A multi-plex cinema, trendy shopping stores, three hotels with leisure centres all afford the visitor plenty to choose from.

After a relaxing break and happy golfing memories you'll reluctantly bid farewell, longing to return to this haven in the sunny South East.

Dungarvan is home to the Waterford Greenway, a spectacular 46km off-road cycling and walking trail which travels through time and nature across eleven bridges, three viaducts and through the atmospheric tunnel all the way from the river to the sea from stunning Dungarvan all the way to the quays of Ireland's oldest city - Waterford.



**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

**Dungarvan Golf Club**  
18 – Hole Par 72 – 6,708 yards  
Tel: 058 43310  
Email: [office@dungarvangolfclub.com](mailto:office@dungarvangolfclub.com)  
[www.dungarvangolfclub.com](http://www.dungarvangolfclub.com)

**Gold Coast Golf Club**  
18 – Hole Par 72 – 6,511 yards  
Tel: 058 44055  
Email: [golf@goldcoastgolfresort.com](mailto:golf@goldcoastgolfresort.com)  
[www.goldcoastgolfclub.com](http://www.goldcoastgolfclub.com)

**West Waterford Golf Club**  
18 – Hole Par 73 – 6736 yards  
Tel: 058 43216  
Email: [info@westwaterfordgolf.com](mailto:info@westwaterfordgolf.com)  
[www.westwaterfordgolf.com](http://www.westwaterfordgolf.com)



Dungarvan Golf Club



# THE ALGARVE 2025

As the southernmost region of Portugal, The Algarve is known for all year round sunshine and beautiful, sandy beaches and of course stunning Golf.

Dom Pedro Victoria Golf Course



**L**ate Autumn to early Spring is the best time to visit this coastal region for golf although there are many who understandably like to combine their favourite sporting activity early in the morning of a hot summer's day before indulging in some sun bathing. Sounds good, really good, when you think about it!

With over 3,000 hours of sun a year or 300 days of sunshine, the climate in the Algarve makes it a favourite holiday destination. Take into account Algarve's mild climate, reasonably priced restaurants, bars and accommodation, charming seaside towns, lively nightlife and it is easy to see why the Algarve makes a perfect base for a holiday. The Algarve benefits from natural reserves and national parks making it a haven for zealous walkers and those interested in outdoor pursuits.

## INTRODUCTION

When considering golf in the Algarve, it is key to note that it is the southernmost region of Portugal and the most western point of Europe so we again draw the reader's attention to its agreeable climate, perfect for golfing enthusiasts and challenging courses.

Voted the World's Best Golfing Destination several times by the IAGTO (International Association of Golf Tour Operators), the Algarve has become the destination of choice for golf lovers.

From the outset, courses in the Algarve were singled-out by 'Rheingold' and 'Golf Digest' Magazines, which ranked the San Lorenzo Course and Vilamoura Old Course among the top 100 golf courses in the world.

Golf courses in the Algarve are blessed with a well-preserved natural setting, which allows you to play all year round on internationally recognised courses, where the high quality of their facilities and course design is acknowledged by top professionals and legendary champions.

Among the factors that make the Algarve a top golfing destination are its environmental setting, quality courses, accessibility and professionally-run transport systems plus the entire infrastructure that goes into supporting them. There is a network of hotels, transfers and even the airlines themselves that make access easy and contribute to a pleasant and appealing stay.

**EMERALD ISLE TOURS**  
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## VILAMOURA : A PARADISE IN SHADES OF GREEN

Few will dispute that there is any region of its size anywhere in the world to measure up to the amazing quality of golf available at Vilamoura. And it's no surprise that it continues to attract major professional and amateur tournaments – much to the delight of players, officials, spectators and media.

The accommodation, the restaurants and bars, the marina, the value, the weather and above all the courses, what golfer could ask for more?

Occupying a privileged location in Portugal, Vilamoura is regarded as a unique European golfing venue. With five 18-hole courses, each of outstanding design and with different levels of difficulty, as well as an elite Golf Academy, Vilamoura tests the skill of professional players to the utmost and provides an exciting challenge for golfing enthusiasts. The Old Course is one of the most well-known and acclaimed courses in Europe, its exacting fairways demanding precision owing to the forests of umbrella pine which surround them.

The Pinhal Golf Course, flanked by a magnificent pine forest, has small greens that require the highest degree of accuracy. The Laguna Golf Course is an open course, embellished by waterfalls and the Millenium Golf Course, one of the most beautiful courses built in Portugal, combine to form an 18-hole course.

The Victoria Clube de Golfe, with its lakes and waterfalls that make it a genuine hymn to nature, and where major golfing competitions take place, such as the Algarve World Cup and the Portugal Masters, completes the list of golfing options in Vilamoura. This investment in quality has been rewarded with the chance to hold many tournaments there each year. The Taça do Presidente (President's Cup), the Grande Troféu de Vilamoura (Vilamoura Grand Trophy) and the Expresso/ BPI Golf Cup are the examples most widely praised by amateur players and leading professionals alike.

It boasts many outstanding golf holes, notably the sporting par 5, 17th where the professionals are tempted to go for the green in search of a precious birdie but all too often plunge into the lake fronting the green. The 18th is a tremendous par four with water all the way up the left and craftily placed bunkers threatening the overly careful tee shot on the right. Padraig Harrington chipped and putted both for a crucial birdie and par on the way to victory in 2016.

When it comes to considering accommodation with easy access to golf and Algarve beaches, Hilton Vilamoura As Cascatas Golf Resort & Spa is well-recommended. Set amid



  
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Dom Pedro Pinhal Golf Course



five acres of landscaped gardens, the resort is adjacent to the prestigious Dom Pedro Pinhal Golf Course. Central Vilamoura is a kilometre from the door, and a free shuttle covers Vilamoura Marina and Falesia private beach.

Also included is the prestigious 7 Seven Spa, the second largest of its kind in Europe where relaxing and tranquility are first and foremost.

In the heart of the Algarve you will find Vilamoura Garden Hotel. This boutique 4-star hotel is the perfect accommodation choice for those looking to experience the beaches, nature, hospitality and golf in southern Portugal. Located just a 12-minute walk from the beach and in close proximity to some of the best golf courses in Europe there is plenty to explore.

## WESTERN ALGARVE

Framed by a valley that zigzags through steep slopes, the Golf Santo António at Parque da Floresta - is an impressive arena that has already been the stage for Europro Tour events.

Palmares Golf in Lagos is used to organising the Amendoieiras em Flor Tournament in February when the almond trees are covered in pink and white blossom. It makes for a very beautiful scenario.

Boavista Golf & Spa is one of the Western Algarve's premier resorts. With an exceptional 18-hole championship course it is one of the most beautifully manicured courses, bordered by properties all designed to harmonize with the land's natural contours. With two distinctive sections, Boavista course offers a variety of holes, the first

“ Benamor Golf in Tavira has been introduced into an area where golf is starting to emerge as a leisure destination without spoiling its existing character and countryside ”

nine climb to the highest point of the resort before descending steadily to water features, streams and lakes that finish at the clubhouse.

The challenging 18-hole, par 72 course at Espiche Golf, in Lagos, has been designed to complement the distinctive Western Algarve landscape by embracing a sustainable and eco-friendly ethos. The lakes, streams and indigenous planting scheme work to enrich the local biodiversity, while creating a unique golfing game and environment for golfers in the Algarve.

The Le Meridien Penina Golf & Resort, in Portimão is a centre with an excellent course, which has won prizes many times as one of the finest in Europe. Penina was the first 18-hole course opened in the Algarve and has benefited considerably from sensible and wise updating over the past fifty years or so.

In Lagoa, the magnificent Quinta do Gramacho course at Carvoeiro, designed by

**EMERALD ISLE TOURS**  
TAILOR MADE LUXURY HOLIDAYS WORLDWIDE

Ronald Fream, hosts the Algarve Ladies Open, a tournament that forms part of the Ladies European Tour. In Albufeira the Salgados Golf Club combines lakes, waterfalls and rolling sand dunes.

The Pestana Golf Resort is superbly located on a level plateau, close to the picturesque fishing village of Carvoeiro, just a few minutes away from the most beautiful beaches in the Algarve and less than three hours away by plane from the main European capitals. Discover the world-class courses: Gramacho, Vale da Pinta, Silves Golf, Alto Golf and Vila Sol. The resort offers a secure and family environment.

## EASTERN ALGARVE

One of the many attractions to golf tourism in the Algarve is the proximity of the Faro international airport and especially at the eastern end of the one hundred kilometre stretch.

Benamor Golf in Tavira has been introduced into an area where golf is starting to emerge as a leisure destination without spoiling its existing character and countryside. The views of the mountains to the North and the Atlantic Ocean to the South are stunning.

Located in the heart of the Parque Natural de Ria Formosa (Formosa Estuary National Park), the Quinta da Ria and Quinta de Cima courses, in Vila Nova de Cacela, are among the most beautiful of the region. The Quinta da Ria now hosts the prestigious Europro Tour and the Quinta de Cima, the Algarve Seniors Tour, a competition that forms part of PGA European Senior Tour. Also in this town, at the Monte Rei Golf & Country Club, you are surrounded by a stunning landscape and immersed in total tranquillity.

At Castro Marim, the Castro Marim Golfe and Country Club and the Quinta do Vale Golf Resort provide a thrilling challenge within a natural environment, unique for its panoramic views of the Guadiana River.

## CENTRAL ALGARVE

Quinta do Lago is nestled within the Algarve and the privacy and security of the Ria Formosa nature reserve. A clean & safe destination, here, world-class golf - including the €7 million upgraded South Course - surrounds award-winning real estate, sublime restaurants, a premier sports hub, boutique hotel and golden sand beach. Quinta do Lago has been at the forefront of international golf since its creation.

The San Lorenzo Golf Club in the Ria Formosa has won many prizes, rightly being nominated as one of the best courses in Europe.

Another success story is the Vila Sol – Beach, Golf & Country Club in Vilamoura which only eight months after it opened hosted the Portugal Open for two years running.

Also well-known to the world of golf is the Vale do Lobo, in Almancil, which has played host to the Portuguese Open and the 'Skins Game'. The resort is the home of the two most difficult and stunning golf courses in Europe: the Ocean Golf Course and the Royal Golf Course, where the cliff top par three 16th hole is one of the world's most famous and most photographed settings for golf.

When deciding on accommodation in Quinta do Lago, consider Four Seasons Fairways, whose villas and luxury apartments blend Portuguese architecture with the landscape of its beautiful gardens.

Vila Galé is the second largest hotel group in Portugal, ranking in the top hotel groups in the world. With nearly 3 decades of existence, the Vila Galé network currently has twenty seven hotels, including twenty in Portugal, from its North to its South, and seven in Brazil, all of them with a strategic and privileged location, which translates in a total of 6.476 bedrooms, 13.068 beds, and 2500 staff members. For more details <https://www.vilagale.com/>

**For further information on Golf in the Algarve [www.algarve-tourist.com](http://www.algarve-tourist.com)**

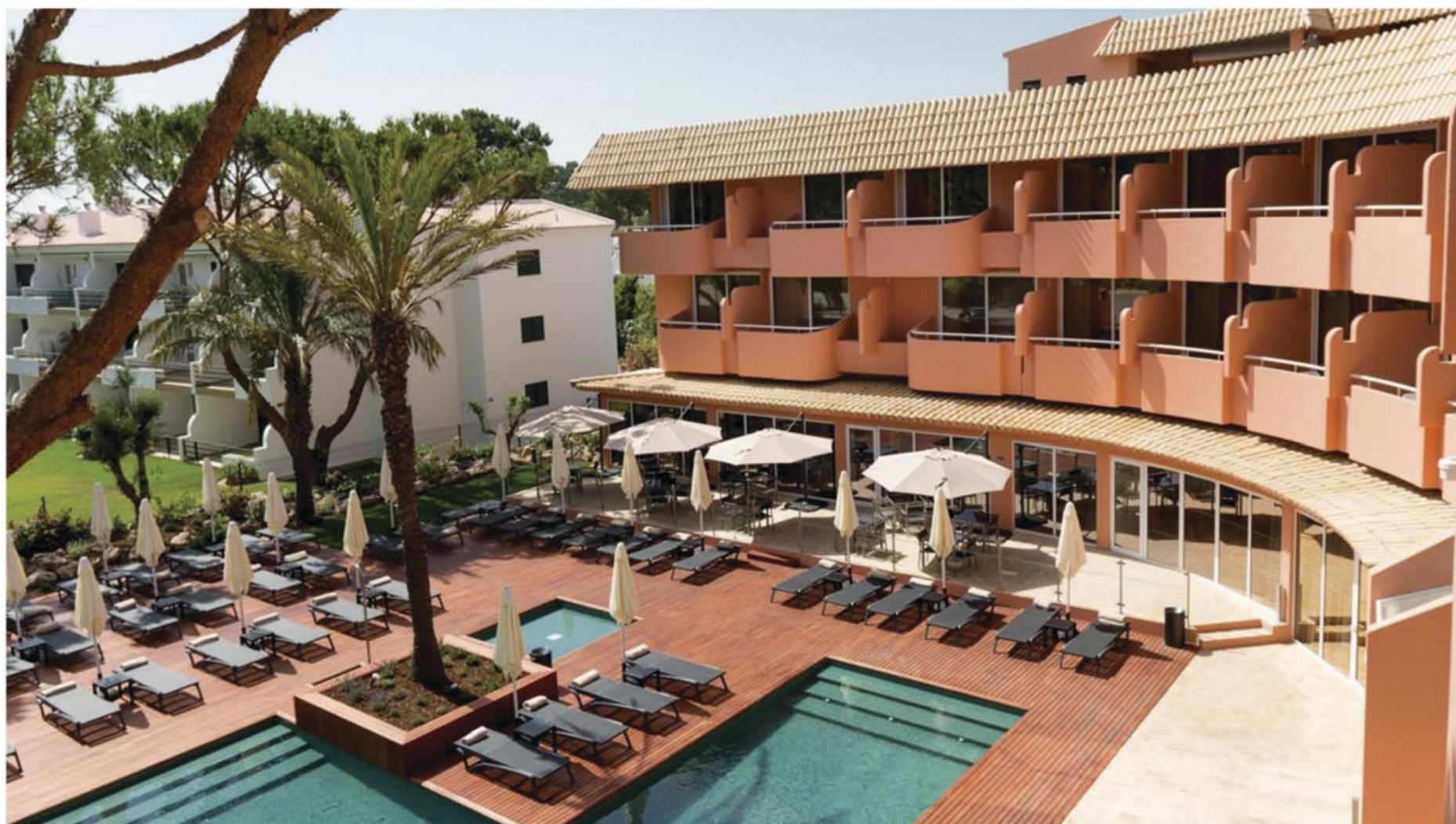
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# BOAVISTA GOLF & SPA

Boavista Golf & Spa offers year-round activities for those who wish to participate.



Positioned strategically to the west of the historic town of Lagos in Portugal, Boavista Golf & Spa nestles within a site of outstanding natural beauty and offers residents and visitors the essence of luxury living. One of the most beautifully manicured golf courses in the Algarve, the Resort enjoys far reaching views of the Monchique mountains to the north, whilst the pristine waters of the Atlantic Ocean provide a radiant seascape to the south.

Opened in 2002, the Boavista Golf course designed by Howard Swan, presents itself as a challenging course for players of all levels, particularly holes 6 and 8 where golfers have to hit the ball over a ravine.

The design of the course took into account the natural contours of the terrain and subtly took advantage of the surrounding landscape, providing views of rare beauty.

At the top of the hill the Clubhouse restaurant overlooking the city of Lagos, with two spacious terraces, is the perfect place to enjoy the views of the beautiful bay of Lagos. Here you can appreciate a relaxing sunset and chill out with a drink, try many snacks or taste the menu which covers both international and local cuisine with options for all.

Whether you prefer to have a challenging workout at the gym, a sauna or steam, spoil yourself with a day of beauty, or just relax by the pool, Essential has you covered. Cliff top location at Boavista Golf & Spa, with the backdrop the glorious Atlantic, you can enjoy striking panoramic views from the warm waters of our indoor swimming pool or jacuzzi.

While you go the distance on one of our elliptical machines, or sculpt your body with a state-of-the-art Technogym equipment, you can keep your eye on the ball on the 18th green.

Bela Colina Holidays luxury accommodation affords magnificent views of either the pristine waters of the Atlantic Ocean or the rolling Monchique mountains. Furnished to a high standard, each townhouse provides 2 double bedrooms and living areas that cater for all needs. Guests have direct access to pools and leisure areas which are set in private landscaped gardens amongst palm, olive and almond trees.

Set in the five-star Bela Colina Holidays, La Bistro restaurant serves a rich and varied buffet breakfast to suit all tastes. At La Bistro you can try our delicious homemade pizzas as well as a selection of snacks and refreshing drinks. Sit out on the terrace open to the lawn, perfect for the little ones to play as you enjoy a meal. Take away service is also available.

Whether one is looking for an active holiday, a base from which to explore the area or simply to relax, Boavista Golf & Spa will exceed all expectations.



“ Boavista Golf & Spa nestles within a site of outstanding natural beauty and offers residents and visitors the essence of luxury living ”





# Boavista Golf & Spa

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Discover the best kept secret of the Western Algarve. Set between the sea and the mountains, Boavista Golf & Spa includes an 18-hole golf course. For a golfing holiday or simply relaxing at Essential Fitness & Spa, the Boavista Resort will exceed your expectations.

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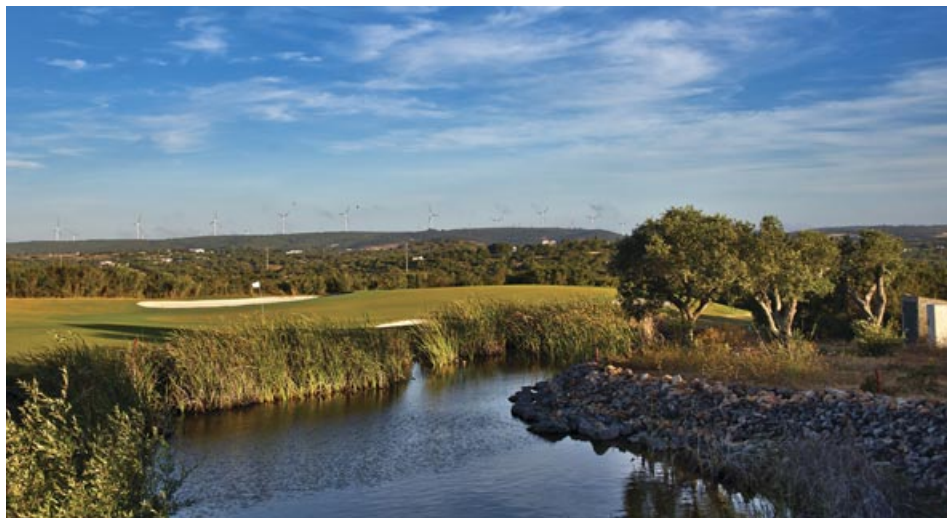


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# ESPICHE GOLF : UNIQUE GOLFING EXPERIENCE IN THE WEST ALGARVE

The Western Algarve has long enjoyed a reputation for offering a more authentic taste of Portugal than the central region.



**A**lthough requiring a slightly longer drive from Faro airport, the Western Algarve is easily reachable thanks to the A22 motorway which runs the length of the coast, making Lagos and its golf courses within an hour's drive from the airport.

Located just a few minutes from the coast and the city of Lagos, in the picturesque and less touristic "barlavento" Algarve, Espiche Golf is a golf course that combines sport with contemplation and respect for the surrounding nature, taking advantage of being located in a nature reserve.

Espiche Golf provides an exceptional golfing experience in a beautiful natural environment. The architect Peter Sauerma designed the shape of the course to integrate harmoniously with the surrounding landscape, and with its maintenance a great concern is taken for preserving the natural ecosystem and unique reserve. Espiche Golf offers a challenging 18-hole course, par 72. Its lakes, streams and indigenous vegetation enrich and promote the biodiversity of this area and the exceptional view, surrounded by fields and vineyards, lurking on the horizon of the beautiful Serra de Monchique.

The course was the vision of Peter Thornton, a musician in the 70's and his friend Paul Langley, a property developer from London. From the start they could see the possibilities the land had to offer. Espiche Golf has given the local community an elegant, warm, friendly and sociable active hub with its award-winning clubhouse, restaurant and the surrounding golf course that appears as if it has always been there, constructed by the hand of nature over time.

The greens and fairways of Espiche Golf course have been carefully placed to balance the dual demands of the golfer and the environment, with indigenous planting throughout creating a beautiful backdrop and some challenging obstacles.



The course requires careful thought along the 5862 metres (6411) yards from the back tees and a deft touch on the short game. Bunkers guard most greens whilst the greens themselves are large and undulating, requiring a soft hand with the putter. This is a shot-maker's course, where each hole poses a new challenge thanks to the variety of the layout. Golfers are pushed to take risks with their game with rich rewards for those who make the most of their golfing skills and who best judge the course.

Espiche Golf takes exceptional pride in its responsibility to its course maintenance and its history in environmental research. It is committed to an ongoing process of research and development for sustainability. Espiche Golf has been selected as a case study by the Portuguese Golf Federation and the UK's prestigious Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI). It is one of the annually visited courses in Europe for the winners of the prestigious "Golf Environment Awards" as an example of best management practices and for its unique integration of warm season grasses into the existing landscape. Espiche Golf is also a participating member on "GEO Foundation" OnCourse® program. Committed to continually improve in the areas of sustainability of nature, water, energy conservation, supply chain, pollution control and community. The commitment to maintaining natural resources is one that will allow Espiche Golf to continuously contribute to a sustainable future.

Espiche Golf Clubhouse won 3rd placing in "Golf Inc Magazine's" prestigious "Clubhouse of the Year" Architectural Award in 2015 – the first club outside the US to pick up this prestigious award.

The Clubhouse award was judged for its design intergration into its environment and efficiency. Reference is also made to the choice of materials used for the building construction, its resource management and interior design. The exceptional location of the Clubhouse, situated on top of a hill overlooking the resort, offers breath-taking views across the golf course and the nature reserve. The views, coupled with the exceptional quality of the food available, makes the Clubhouse a reference for both lovers of golf and those who value the tranquility and beauty of nature itself.

**For further information, please visit us at [www.espichegolf.pt](http://www.espichegolf.pt) or contact us via email : [reception@espichegolf.pt](mailto:reception@espichegolf.pt) and Tel : +351 282 688 250.**

**We are looking forward to welcoming you!**

“ Espiche Golf has given the local community an elegant, warm, friendly and sociable active hub ”







## Discover the West Algarve's Hidden Gem: Espiche Golf

Nestled within a stunning nature reserve and just 10 minutes from Lagos, Espiche Golf offers a unique eco-resort experience seamlessly integrated into its breathtaking surroundings. Here, every round of golf is not just a game but a journey into the heart of nature.

Elevate your Algarve getaway with our exclusive **Stay and Play Packages**, featuring rounds at Espiche Golf, Palmares Golf, and Boavista Golf. Complete your experience with comfortable accommodations at nearby hotels. Packages are available for **3, 5, or 7** nights, starting at just **286€ per person**.

Unwind, play, and immerse yourself in the charm of the West Algarve. Contact us for more details or to book your unforgettable escape!



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# BENAMOR GOLF



BENAMOR GOLF TAVIRA

**BENAMOR GOLF, in Tavira, invites you to play among “Hills View & Ocean Breeze”, on an 18-hole course surrounded by the authentic beauty of the Eastern Algarve.**

Here, every shot is framed by the shade of ancient olive trees, robust carob trees, and almond trees, perfectly blending with the green fairways and the freshness of the ocean breeze. Let yourself be embraced by the tranquility and the unique nature of this course, where golf is played to the rhythm of the Algarve.



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**DISCOVER THE EASTERN ALGARVE  
AND LET YOURSELF BE CAPTIVATED  
BY THE PERFECT BLEND OF GOLF  
AND GASTRONOMY.**

**In Tavira, the heart of this authentic and tradition-filled region, Benamor Golf invites you to experience a unique harmony between nature and the joy of playing golf.**

Amidst “**Hills View & Ocean Breeze**”, the 18-hole course unfolds along a landscape embraced by the region’s natural beauty. Every shot is played under the shade of ancient olive trees, robust carob trees, and blossoming almond trees, offering a vibrant palette of colors and aromas typical of the Algarve. The green fairways blend seamlessly with the blue of the Atlantic and the gentle rolling hills, creating an idyllic setting for those seeking more than just a good round of golf.

And because the Algarve is also meant to be savored at the table, your visit to Benamor Golf can be enriched with a journey through the region’s flavors. In the kitchen of **Chef Gilberto Cristina**, mastery and passion for local produce are transformed into dishes that elevate Algarvian tradition to a level of excellence, providing an unforgettable dining experience.

Benamor Golf is not just a course; it is an invitation to feel the authentic Algarve – where the ocean breeze refreshes your game, and local hospitality completes a truly memorable experience. Whether for a perfect round of golf or to savor the region’s culinary heritage, Benamor awaits you in Tavira, where golf and the pleasures of southern Portugal come together.



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# GOLF IN THE EMERALD ISLE

**Come to Ireland and play our world class courses and stay with our many excellent accommodation providers.**



Killeen Castle

Starting in the Midlands East Region and the Royal County of Meath, home to Killeen Castle, proudly hosts the magnificent Jack Nicklaus signature course which is spaciouly rambling over 350 acres among superb natural woodlands.

Royal Tara Golf Club is nestled at the foot of the Historic Hill of Tara and is among Ireland's most enjoyable and conveniently located golfing retreats. Reputably, it is recognised as one of the finest inland members Golf complexes and renowned for its welcome to visitors. With 27-holes in mature parkland the main features of Royal Tara are the avenue of trees that each golfer must negotiate to come in with a decent score.

Headfort Golf Club in Kells has gained quite a reputation for itself as a premium Golfing destination in Ireland. This is thanks to its wonderful contrast of experience with Old and New Courses offering 36-holes of Golfers paradise and key location being only 90 minutes from Belfast. The Headfort Arms Hotel focuses on its rich tradition of personal Irish service, familiar faces & its reputation of fine food. Relax by the open fire or stroll in the beautiful garden after a day exploring the richest heritage Ireland has to offer in the Boyne Valley.

Also, Black Bush Golf Club with 27 holes of a well drained parkland course, who are open most of the year for play. They also have three interchangeable 9-hole courses that keep things moving. Black Bush Golf Club is situated only minutes from Fairyhouse Racecourse. Mature trees leading up to well maintained greens line the fairways.

Moving to County Kildare and the world-renowned K Club which is home to the Smurfit and Palmer courses. Designed by Arnold Palmer, The Palmer Ryder Cup Course and The Palmer Smurfit Course are considered two of Europe's finest Championship Courses. The K Club played host to the 2016 Irish Open.

Craddockstown Golf Club is a golfing jewel waiting to be explored. Situated on the outskirts of Naas and five miles from the K Club, they are nestled between Punchestown, the Curragh and Naas Race courses.

The 7,419 yard Palmerstown House Estate's Course presents players with feelings of tradition, excellence and quality. Golfers of all skill levels will find enjoyment and challenge on their well-designed 18-hole championship course. This challenging course is set amidst thousands of mature trees that boast a variety of colour throughout all four seasons, and each hole has its own individual charm.

Into County Westmeath where golfing at Glasson Golf Club is an experience not to be missed. Glasson Golf Club has justifiably earned an international reputation as one of the most challenging and scenic golf courses in Ireland. Designed by Ryder Cup star, the late Christy O'Connor Jnr., no matter what your level of golf expertise, the course is cleverly crafted so you can tee off for a relaxing round while soaking up the Glasson atmosphere, or test your game to championship level. Enjoy a luxury overnight stay at Glasson Lakehouse.

Athlone Golf Club is situated in the centre of Ireland, in the beautiful Hodson Bay area. It offers a unique opportunity to play on what is regarded as one of the most picturesque golf courses in Ireland. The course is remarkably wet weather tolerant, due to the underlying Esker, which makes it a delight to play all year round.

Tullamore Golf Club is a mature 18-hole parkland championship course situated on the outskirts of Tullamore, County Offaly. Located here since 1926, the James Braid course was re-designed in 1995 by Patrick Merrigan. The result is a magnificent course which is enjoyed by members and visitors alike.

Next stop is County Wicklow and Old Conna Golf Club which was designed by Ireland's renowned golf course designer Eddie Hackett. This beautiful parkland course located only twelve miles south of Dublin, combines panoramic sea-scapes and mountain views with exceptional wooded terrain.

Also, Tulfarris Golf Club, part of Tulfarris Hotel & Golf Resort, designed by the celebrated golf architect, Patrick J. Merrigan. The 18-hole championship golf course blends the natural landscape with inspired features to create a challenging golfing layout.

Bray Golf Club, is a magnificent USGA-standard parkland course, situated between Bray Head and the Sugar Loaf Mountain with magnificent views of Killiney Bay and the Wicklow Mountains. Described as "spectacular in every aspect", Bray combines stunning scenery with a classic layout.

While in Wicklow, a visit to Powerscourt Golf Club in Enniskerry is a must. The East course was designed by David McLay Kidd whose portfolio also includes the acclaimed Bandon Dunes in Oregon. Like the East, the West course offers a variety of challenging holes presenting a fresh perspective on the stunning scenery of the Powerscourt Estate.

At Rathsalagh Golf & Country Club, you will find a golf course built to championship standard, routed over rolling terrain and with a number of burns, ditches and ponds that bring water into play on several holes. It sits in beautiful parkland near Dunlavin, Co Wicklow with mature woodland lining all the fairways.

Not to be missed when in the 'Garden of Ireland' is Arklow Golf Club which was formed in 1927. Since the very beginning, the club has extended a warm welcome to all its visitors from at home and overseas and will ensure your visit is much more than a round of golf.

Moving into the Capital, Dublin, which is populated with superb parkland courses and testing links courses, offering every type of challenge, suitable for both the novice and experienced golfer.

Howth Golf Club, which is an 18-hole, Par 72 heathland course, located on the beautiful scenic peninsula of Howth in North-East County Dublin, and features wonderful views over the city of Dublin, South to Dun Laoghaire, Bray and Co. Wicklow, North over Co. Dublin and Co. Louth and the Sea to the East.

Over 100 years ago, St. Anne's Golf Club was founded as a 9-hole course with a modest clubhouse. Today it boasts a spectacular 18-hole links course, sitting on the UNESCO Wildlife Sanctuary of Bull Island only 5 miles from Dublin city centre.

Malahide Golf Club is a real gem of a Parkland Course, where Society Golfers and Visitors are both warmly welcomed, with many returning year after year. 2017 saw the club celebrating its 125th Year as well as the reopening of the Blue Nine following a development by the renowned golf architect Martin Hawtree. Why not experience the 'Magic of Malahide' for yourself and book a round.

Situated on the shoreline of a rugged peninsula, St. Margaret's Golf & Country Club is one of Ireland's premier championship parkland courses. Previously home to the Ladies Irish Open, the Seniors Irish Open and the Irish PGA Championship, the 18 holes offer golfers a wonderful variety.

The golf course at Luttrellstown Castle is a spectacular course which was designed by Tom MacKenzie and Donald Steel (whose work includes Turnberry, St Andrews and Royal St Georges), close to Dublin city and a short drive from the airport. This Par 73 is firmly established as one of Ireland's premium courses. It has a superb club-house, two excellent restaurants, a driving range, a short game area and a 3-hole short course designed to sharpen the wedge game.

Rathfarnham Golf Club, founded in 1899, is set in the rolling foothills of the Dublin Mountains. The course offers challenging but fair golf to Members, visitors and societies. With a beautifully appointed clubhouse, views over the course, mountains and the city, and within easy reach of the M50, Rathfarnham Golf Club will provide you with a relaxing and friendly environment in which to enjoy your golf.

Grange Castle Golf Club founded in 1998 was designed by Patrick F. Merrigan. This 18 hole championship course is regarded as one of the finest public golf courses in Ireland. Measuring 6,800 yards from the blue tees and 6,450 yards from the white tees, the golf course is ideally set up to suit golfers of all levels.

Moving into the South West which is renowned for its spectacular beauty and its golf courses which have utilized the natural landscape to create a combination of links and traditional parkland courses offering the visiting golfer both choice and challenge.

Fota Island Golf Resort in Carrigtwohill is a fine example, where the splendid woodlands are woven into a challenging Par 71 championship course. A 5 Star Hotel and Luxury Spa are also available.

Also, Cork Golf Club. Founded in 1888 and re-designed in 1927 by Alister Mackenzie, this well renowned championship parkland course is as graceful and mature as its age would suggest.



A visit to Cork would not be complete without a round of golf at the Old Head Links of Kinsale. The Old Head Golf Links is built on a 220-acre diamond of land. The promontory is almost an island with numerous caves running beneath your feet as you play the course.

Like Cork, County Kerry has a wealth of excellent golf courses on offer including the Ring of Kerry Golf Club located in Kenmare and also Waterville Golf Links; a mature links course where champions of the British Open are known to practice.

One of the oldest Irish clubs, rated among the top 5 in Ireland and the top 20 links courses in the world, Waterville's Golf Links course is highly acclaimed, both nationally and internationally, and by a host of some of the world's leading professionals. A combination of sand dunes, gorse and native grasses, from teeing ground to putting green this 18-hole course reflects the rugged charm of the Irish West. Also, the Waterville House is highly recommended for all your accommodation requirements.

Close by in Killarney where the natural lakeside courses at Killarney Golf & Fishing Club are uniquely designed to offer a variety of challenges to the golfer. Sample its three courses Mahony's Point, Lackabane and Killeen all built to modern specifications with sand-based greens and tree-lined, undulating fairways.

Travelling further north is Ballyunion Golf Course, where the fine links of the Old and Cashen courses are bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and overlook the mouth of the Shannon Estuary amidst the most beautiful of scenery.

While visiting the Kingdom of Kerry, Tralee Golf Club is not to be missed. Built by Arnold Palmer, this stunning setting represents a true paradise for those willing to challenge what is widely acclaimed as one of the finest links courses in Ireland.

Nestled on the edge of Ireland's dramatic south-west coastline, Dingle Golf Links is a very special place to visit and is an ideal location for your golfing holiday in Kerry.

Moving to County Limerick which is just a short distance north from Kerry and home to some of the top courses this side of the Shannon.

Adare Manor Golf Club, an 18-hole parkland golf course provides an historic Irish golfing experience. The Desmond Castle (dates back to 1200 AD) is a magnificent backdrop to the 1st and 15th greens, while the ruins of the Franciscan Abbey (1464 AD) dominate the centre of the course.

The Adare Manor Hotel and Golf Resort owned by JP McManus is a five-star luxury experience. The golf course which will host the 2027 Ryder Cup is one of Ireland's finest parklands.

Newcastle West Golf Club is a unique golf course, featuring strategic bunkering, water hazards, many groves of trees, and well-designed risk and reward holes. The course is playable all year round, and is maintained to the highest standards, with the widely acknowledged best greens in Munster.

The course at Limerick Golf Club is a mix of demanding holes interspersed with some good birdie chances, notably the tenth and the short fifteenth. The long eight is an outstanding hole, with a stream meandering its way through it, coming into play for all shots to a severely sloping green.

With stunning views, a welcoming atmosphere, and a course that keeps you coming back for more, Ballyneety Golf Club is your perfect golf destination and the venue for the 2027 Junior Ryder Cup.

In keeping with its neighbouring counties County Clare can also lay claim to some of the most challenging and spectacular golf courses in the Mid West region.

One such course is found at Dromoland Castle Golf & Country Club, which is one of the finest 5 star hotels in Ireland and has a golf course to equal the splendour of the setting. Also, The Inn at Dromoland is recommended and which combines high levels of service, sumptuous dining and new renovated rooms and facilities.

Lahinch Golf Club is a world-renowned links golf course. Founded in 1892 it has often been described as the "St. Andrew's" of Ireland. Lahinch is actually two 18 hole courses, the Old Course, is between the road and the sea, and situated at the opposite side of the road from the Old Course is the Castle Course. The Castle Course is a flatter links named after the ruins of a nearby castle tower that stands to the north of the course.

Moving to the South-East, a golfer's paradise with courses to suit all tastes and skills. Starting in Waterford, Gold Coast Golf Resort welcomes visitors and societies to its parkland by the sea. The 18-hole championship course offers wonderful views of Dungarvan Bay.

Dungarvan Golf Club is a class 18 hole Championship Parkland course located outside the town of Dungarvan, County Waterford. The course is adjacent to Dungarvan Bay and set against the backdrop of the Comeragh mountains.

West Waterford Golf and Country Club designed by the late Eddie Hackett is an 18-hole par 73 championship golf course situated 4km west of Dungarvan. The club is maintained in excellent condition offering superb playability throughout the year. Societies and Visitors are warmly welcomed.

Ireland's only true island golf course surrounded by the River Suir, accessed by complimentary car ferry is Waterford Castle Golf Club which enjoys idyllic seclusion located minutes from Waterford city centre, 90 mins from Dublin and Cork. The 18-hole par 72 Des Smyth designed course, located on the 310-acre private island is ranked in the top 30 parkland courses in Ireland. The Waterford Castle Hotel & Golf Resort is a truly stunning 5 Star experience and a must visit in Ireland's South East.

Waterford Golf Club was founded in 1912 and overlooks the historic city of Waterford. With

## It's Time to Enjoy the Spirit of St Anne's

Established in 1921, St Anne's Golf Club's spectacular eighteen-hole links course is one of only 53 links courses in Ireland.

Only five miles from Dublin city centre, we are particularly fortunate to be located on the UNESCO Wildlife Sanctuary on the spectacular Bull Island which is one of Dublin's most scenic and exceptional nature reserves.

St. Anne's has a well-earned reputation for great hospitality and conviviality so visitors can be sure of a very warm welcome from staff and members alike. Our links course is in great condition and provides a true challenge for golfers of all skill levels.

Our impressive modern clubhouse enjoys unrivalled, spectacular panoramic views of Dublin Bay. Members, and visitors alike, truly enjoy these views and the lovely relaxed ambience of our top quality bar and restaurant.

We look forward to welcoming you on the fairways!



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its magnificent views, this 18-hole parkland course, Par 71, is a gem. The irregular city, with its towers and steeples spread before the eye along the valley, and in the west, Slievenamon and the Comeragh Mountains, make a background of enduring splendor.

Nearby Tramore is a small but charming seaside village twenty minutes from Waterford city. Tramore Golf Club, an 18-hole parkland course is situated on the outskirts of Tramore and offers visitors a superb gently undulating course and top notch facilities including a pro shop, club bar and restaurant.

Dunmore East Golf Club overlooks the village of Dunmore East, County Waterford in the South East of Ireland. With panoramic views of the village, the bay, the Hook Peninsula, Waterford Harbour estuary, the Saltee Islands and the Irish Sea, this seaside parkland course offers idyllic surroundings, fresh clean sea air, combined with stimulating and challenging golf.

Also, Faithlegg Golf Course, which was designed by the late Patrick Merrigan and includes undulating greens, water hazards and perfectly placed sand traps, all of which, complete and heighten the challenge.

Like Waterford, Wexford has a selection to suit everyone. On the outskirts of Wexford Town stands Wexford Golf Club, an 18-hole parkland course situated on the slopes of Mulgannon Hill and offering stunning views of the harbour.

Established in 1905, New Ross Golf Club is a mature parkland golf course situated between the scenic Barrow and Nore valleys with the magnificent Brandon and Blackstairs mountains providing the backdrop.

Bunclody Golf and Fishing Club is situated in 300 acres of breathtaking parklands in the former Hall-Dare Estate on the Carlow Wexford border. Opened in 2009, it is ranked in the top 21 parkland courses in Ireland and was voted 'The Best Hidden Gem in Ireland'. Designed by Jeff Howes, the Championship course runs over 7000 yards on the banks of the river Slaney and has a diversity of golf holes, rarely seen on one golf course.

Stretching along the curve of Rosslare Bay is Rosslare fishing village. Here Rosslare Golf Links boasts a spectacular landscape standing on a narrow peninsula with the Irish sea on one side and Wexford harbour on the other. Two courses are on offer at this club including an 18-hole championship course and a 12-hole layout known as the Burrow Course that opened in 1992.

While in Wexford, visit St. Helen's Bay Golf Resort, a club steeped in history and boasting a challenging course with spectacular views over the Irish Sea.

For accommodation, The Ashdown Park Hotel is tastefully designed and highly-recommended for your golfing visit to the South-East. Enjoy the food on offer all day or just relax with regular live entertainment. Facilities include conference & banqueting facilities, the award-winning Rowan Tree Restaurant, Ivy & Coach Bars, Leisure Club & Beauty Studio and complimentary car park. All public areas are wheelchair friendly.

Kilkenny Golf Club offers a warm atmosphere on its championship golf course and welcomes individuals, societies and groups. It is a course worth visiting in 2025 when making your plans into the South East.

Mount Juliet Golf Club is set on lush parkland 20 minutes from Kilkenny. Designed by Jack Nicklaus, Mount Juliet golf course first opened in 1991 with a friendly match between Jack Nicklaus and the late Christy O'Connor Snr. Set in a world of its own, on lush parkland in the south east of Ireland, the course is both captivating and memorable.

The Heritage Golf Resort in County Laois was recently voted in Ireland's top 30 parkland courses. The Ballesteros Championship Golf Course was created by golfing legend Seve Ballesteros and co-designed by renowned golf architect Jeff Howes.

Carlow is an in-land town offering visitors an exciting array of activities from exhilarating outdoor pursuits, vibrant shopping to spectacular golf courses.

The Mount Wolseley Hotel Spa and Golf Resort is situated in the tranquil countryside of County Carlow, just one hour from Dublin City. Carlow Golf Club itself boasts two courses: with the Championship 18-hole Deerpark course and the 9-hole (Par 35) Oakpark Course which opened in 2002.

In County Tipperary and within a peaceful countryside location, the 4-star Great National Ballykisteel Golf Hotel offers spacious accommodation and superb facilities, including a leisure centre, spa and golf course. The 18-hole championship golf course provides a challenge for all levels of leisure golfers.

Also, Tipperary Golf Club overlooking the stunning Glen of Aherlow is one of the finest parkland courses in the region. Membership is open and Society and Groups are also welcome.

Clonmel Golf Club founded in 1911 is one of the oldest clubs in the province of Munster. A rolling parkland course designed by the renowned Eddie Hackett, it is a mature 18-hole par 71 course measuring 6,366 yards. The ladies course measures 5,445 yards, par 74. Set in the foothills of the Comeragh Mountains with magnificent views across the valley of the River Suir and the rolling Waterford and Tipperary countryside.

Cahir Park Golf Club is situated half a mile from Cahir town. The 18-hole golf course is divided in two by the River Suir and displays mature trees, lakes and streams. Stay in the Cahir House Hotel in the centre of the heritage town and experience simple old world charm and elegance.

Heading to the West coast into County Galway, you should consider Galway Bay Golf Resort. Other options to consider while in Galway include Glenlo Abbey, Gort, Loughrea, Tuam, Galway Golf Club, and Connemara Golf Links to name but a few.

Tuam Golf Club is one of the premier parkland courses in the West of Ireland. The club was founded in 1904 and includes a magnificent clubhouse facility, incorporating bar, restaurant, private visitor area, games room, professional shop and changing rooms. Visitors are always welcome to Tuam Golf Club.

From the golfing novice to the aficionado, Glenlo Abbey Golf Course offers a unique and challenging experience. With the many lakes, trees, large greens, and the wind whipping from Lough Corrib, it plays differently every day. This is a 9-hole parkland golf course originally designed by Christy O'Connor Jnr and a must visit when in Galway.

Into Sligo, and the links land jewel in the crown is Co Sligo Golf Club at Rosses Point about six miles from the town of Sligo. Created towards the end of the 19th century on glorious golfing territory between majestic Ben Bulbin on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other, it is renowned for its scenery, the demanding but fair nature of its challenge and superb golfing atmosphere.

And this is by no means the only top-class links course in Co Sligo. Enniscrone Golf Links, affords panoramic views of Killala Bay, Bartra Island and sandy beaches with Nephin and the Ox Mountains forming the backdrop.

Castle Dargan Golf Resort is home to one of the premier parkland golf courses in the North West of Ireland. Making the most of the natural ebb and flow of the Sligo estates grounds, Darren Clarke course designer has woven eighteen beautiful golf holes through majestic

“ The 7,419 yard Palmerstown House Estate's Course presents players with feelings of tradition, excellence and quality ”

trees, natural lakes, burns and around the ancient stone walls and ruins which dominate this romantic landscape.

Moving to Strandhill golf course which contains 5,804m of undulating fairways & unforgiving shortcuts, and a promise of an unforgettable experience by all who play it. The par 70 course is challenging but rewarding!

To County Mayo where you will find Ballina, Westport and Castlebar Golf Clubs. Also recommended is Carne Golf Links in North Mayo which lies in magnificent unspoiled sand dunes overlooking Blacksod Bay and the wild Atlantic. Carne is an 18-hole, par 72 and was the last links course designed by the late Eddie Hackett.

Further North into Donegal where outstanding golfing venues trip easily off the tongue. While in Donegal you should consider Donegal Golf Club at Murvagh, which is an outstanding links golf course. Designed by the legendary course architect, Eddie Hackett, it



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is continually featured in Golf World's Top 100 courses in Ireland.

The Abbey Hotel Donegal is renowned for its unique setting and idyllic views, situated in the centre of the beautiful and historic coastal town of Donegal, located on the banks of Donegal Bay. Surrounded by the extraordinary beauty of churches, castles, shops and monuments, the Abbey Hotel is an ideal starting point for family, leisure and business travellers. Located near beautiful coastal drives and signature discovery points, the Abbey Hotel is ideally situated for planning your golf visit to the North West.

Also the stunning links of Portsalon where golf has been played since the 1880's. Originally designed by Thompson of Portrush, the layout has evolved over the decades with significant changes being undertaken under the guidance of Pat Ruddy in 2000. Portsalon continues to progress, with the 2014 Ryder Cup captain, Paul McGinley, guiding further improvements.

Bundoran Golf Club is a challenging par 70, which sweeps along the rugged and picturesque Donegal Bay coastline with a mixture of dunes and undulating terrain making up the 18 holes.

And into Northern Ireland and the province of Ulster home to Major Champions Rory McIlroy, Graeme McDowell and Darren Clarke and renowned for its stunning natural golfing country, Northern Ireland has many spectacular links courses that attract worldwide attention.

In the land of the mythic Giant's Causeway, the Royal Portrush Golf Club joins the top ranked Irish courses in the World and hosted The Open Championship in 2019. The club is located on the world famous Causeway Coast in Co Antrim. Founded in 1888, it has two championship courses – the renowned Dunluce Course and the smaller, but equally enjoyable Valley Course.

Portstewart Golf Club hosted the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open in 2017. Founded in 1894 and re-designed by Willie Park Jnr in the 1920's this championship links course received its greatest makeover with the purchase of land known as "Thistly Hollow" in 1986. This enabled the club to build a stunning new seven holes through towering dunes and fabulous and natural links land. Designed by Des Griffin the Strand Course is the jewel in the Portstewart portfolio.

Hilton Belfast Templepatrick Golf & Country Club is home to one of the country's finest courses. Designed by the winner of many European pro tournaments, David Jones, in consultation with David Feherty, one of Northern Ireland's most successful golfers, the course makes full use of the spectacular scenery, including streams, rivers and mature trees.

Roe Valley Resort is home to a stunning 18-hole parkland course in the heart of the scenic Roe Valley. Golf facilities include a 10 bay floodlit driving range and short game area, as well as an indoor TrackMan Studio, a well-stocked golf shop, and expert tuition from on-site PGA Professionals.

Galgorm's championship Castle course, academy with Toptracer Range and 6-hole pitch & putt makes Galgorm a perfect golfing getaway. It is ideally located close to both Belfast airports and the stunning North Antrim coast.

In the Mourne County where Royal County Down Golf Club is among some of the most breathtaking golf courses in the world. Situated south of Belfast on the edge of Dundrum Bay and set against the backdrop of the Mourne Mountains, the club has two links courses, including the Championship links, which is rated among the Top 10 courses in the world and has hosted many great events including The Walker Cup.

Ards and North Down is steeped in golfing history and first class courses.

It was Rory McIlroy himself who declared Northern Ireland, "the golfing capital of the world". With seven major wins, Rory victorious in five, collected by golfers from these shores over the past few years who could argue! Courses designed by names such as H.S. Colt, James Braid and Peter Alliss sum up the quality on offer. The Royal Belfast, Bangor, Clondeboy, Kirkistown Castle and Rory's own club, Holywood, have all been awarded the "Quality Assurance" stamp by Tourism Northern Ireland.


In County Fermanagh, Lough Erne is a 5 Star Golf Resort making it one of the finest in Northern Ireland. Lough Erne Resort is home to two Championship Golf Courses – The Faldo Course and Castle Hume Golf Course.

In the Breffni County of Cavan is the stunning Radisson Farnham Estate parkland course which is spread over 500 acres of rolling countryside and dense woodland. The two nines are quite contrasting in nature. Also, County Cavan Golf Club which is one of the oldest and most mature parkland courses in Ireland and presents the golfer with a challenging and unforgettable experience.

Ardee Golf Club in County Louth, has become one of the premier golfing destinations in Ireland's North East. Situated in the centre of Co. Louth and only 5 miles west of the M1 Dublin-Belfast motorway (junction 14), it is only 45 minutes from Dublin city, making it very accessible from both north and south.

Set on an elevated site above the seaside village of Blackrock, Co Louth, the parkland course at Dundalk Golf Club offers magnificent panoramic views across Dundalk Bay to the legendary and imposing Cooley and Mourne mountains.

**The pages of Irish Golf World will continue to keep you updated on great golfing options throughout our editions in 2025.**



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# OPEN SEASON MAKES BEST TIME FOR STAY AND PLAY

There has never been a better time to book your next golfing trip to Northern Ireland with golf front and centre of minds after Rory McIlroy's Grand Slam heroics and The Open at Royal Portrush just around the corner.



Galgorm



Roe Valley Resort

Those driving the golf and tourism sector for this part of the world got it spot on when they ran with the strapline "Northern Ireland – Made for Golf". The fact we are blessed to have superstars like McIlroy and other Irish Major champions from here makes promotion of golf in Ireland that much easier. These really are heady times for Irish golf and Northern Ireland in particular.

All roads now lead to Royal Portrush for the 153rd staging of The Open, the third time the renowned Irish links will host golf's oldest Major after Shane Lowry famously lifted the Claret Jug there in 2019. To have an Irishman return to 'defend' his title on home soil, and Irish fans get to celebrate McIlroy's Grand Slam immortality, could send Irish golf to dizzy new heights next month.

With all eyes soon focusing on Royal Portrush, now is the time to book your very own golfing trip to Northern Ireland, and your perfect partner is Galgorm Collection, 'Northern Ireland's premier luxury hospitality group'.

Galgorm Collection needs little introduction with award winning hotels, spa, golf and leisure destinations across Northern Ireland, including the group's flagship venue, Galgorm Resort in Ballymena and the recently acquired Roe Valley Resort in Limavady.

**Galgorm** continues to set the standard and has a range of accommodation options for the discerning golfer. Choose from Galgorm's 125 guest rooms, or why not stay in one of the bespoke options across the 650-acre estate. With 44 cottages and cabins, plus shepherd's and forest dens along the River Maine & River Braid, there is no shortage of choice. Or for something special, VIP guests can enjoy the Red Oaks private residence for up to 12 guests or the Charles Lanyon Lodge & Linen Merchant's Residence for up to 10 guests.

“The Championship Castle Course at Galgorm is also a must play venue for ‘Stay & Play’ enthusiasts”

Galgorm also boasts one of the best spa experiences anywhere in Europe (Best Spa Experience at the Conde Nast Johansens Awards for Excellence & World Luxury Spa Award 2024). It really is the perfect place to kick back and relax after a day on the fairways.

And when it comes to dining options, Galgorm has you covered with four different restaurant choices across the estate.

The Championship Castle Course at Galgorm is also a must play venue for 'Stay & Play' enthusiasts. Take your chance to play the same venue where the 2020 Irish Open and numerous World Invitational events were held. Galgorm is one of Ireland's leading parklands and is suitable for golfers of all ability.

Galgorm is just 30 minutes north of Belfast and within easy reach of the signature courses in Northern Ireland, such as Royal County Down and Royal Portrush. It's two hours' drive from Dublin and easily accessible for golfers across the country.

**Roe Valley Resort** is well known within Irish golfing circles and has a wonderful reputation as a family-friendly hotel and spa resort. As a recent addition to Galgorm Collection, further investment is being made to Roe Valley to ensure it remains one of the best golf, spa and leisure destinations in the province. Roe Valley is also the ideal venue to explore everything the magical north coast has to offer, such as the Giant's Causeway, stunning beaches or the renowned Bushmills Whiskey Distillery.

Roe Valley has 118 guest bedrooms and suites plus self-catering options. The hotel, 18-hole golf course and clubhouse within the old courtyard are set in 150 acres of parkland with stunning views at every turn. There is also a spa and health club on site, complete with gym, pool, sauna and jacuzzi.

If thoughts of The Open returning to Northern Ireland have the golfing juices flowing, then it's the ideal time to book your next golfing trip. Take inspiration from the stars of the fairways, then make time for your next golf trip to Northern Ireland to play some of the best courses in the world and stay in luxury with Galgorm Collection.

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To find out more contact – Chris Watt, Director of Golf on

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Garry Flood Landscapes Ltd, based in Co. Wexford, is a family run business operating since 1993.

**W**e specialise in Golf Course and Sportsground construction, drainage and maintenance systems and have earned a well-deserved reputation throughout Ireland for our quality work.

We also supply quality lawn turf for the commercial and domestic markets.

We are a member of the Association of Landscape Contractors of Ireland (ALCI). We have won several national Landscape awards from the ALCI for golf course remodelling work over the years.

Garry Flood founded Garry Flood Landscapes Ltd in 1993, following the completion of a Diploma in Horticulture at Kildalton College, Piltown, Co Kilkenny.

Garry brings a wealth of experience to the company.

Having started out growing lawn turf for private and commercial markets, he is an expert in the cultivation and maintenance of different types of grasses.

Under Garry's leadership the company has successfully completed many contracts in the Golf Course sector in Ireland. With over 30 years' experience, Garry delivers quality results for his clients through personal supervision of all contracts.

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# Golf Travel News

## THE DUNAS COURSE AT TERRAS DA COMPORTA RETAINS NO.1 RANKING IN PORTUGAL

The international popularity of The Dunas Course at Terras da Comporta has been further underlined after the venue was named as the number one golf course in Portugal by users of a respected industry website for the second year running.



**T**he acclaimed par-71 layout near Lisbon – architect David McLay-Kidd’s first golf design project in mainland Europe which opened in October 2023 – was the overwhelming first choice in Leading Courses’ updated ‘Golfers’ Choice Awards 2025’.

Decided by reviews given by the Leading Courses community, each course was assessed across a range of categories including design, surroundings, maintenance, hospitality and value for money, with The Dunas Course scoring highly in each.

As well as being named as the best course in Portugal, The Dunas Course also came out top in the sections of most improved course, best club, best maintenance, value for money, best hospitality and best surroundings.

Rodrigo Ulrich, director of golf at Terras da Comporta, said: “It was very special last year when we were named as the best course in Portugal, but to be named number one in so many different categories is incredible and help to cap what has been an amazing last 18 months.

“ The Dunas Course is the first of two 18-hole championship courses that will open at Terras da Comporta with the second, The Torre Course, set to be unveiled this summer. ”

“Everyone at Terras da Comporta is committed to delivering the best possible customer experience to all our guests, no matter whether they are regular visitors or are playing the course for the first time. We pride ourselves on the service levels we offer and will be doing everything we can to win this prestigious for the third year in a row next year.”

The accolade is the latest global accolade to be bestowed on The Dunas Course since it was officially opened more than 18 months ago – including being named as the ‘World’s Best Golf Course’, ‘Europe’s Best Golf Course’ and ‘Europe’s Best Eco-Friendly Golf Facility’ at last year’s World Golf Awards.

Situated one hour south of Lisbon in a secluded setting on the edge of the Sado Estuary Nature Reserve, The Dunas Course – which measures 6,646 metres off the back tees – has been created over 84 hectares of natural, sandy terrain and has been built using the highest sustainable practices.

Owned by Vanguard Properties, Portugal’s largest real estate developer who took ownership of the development in 2019, The Dunas Course is the first of two 18-hole championship courses that will open at Terras da Comporta with the second, The Torre Course, set to be unveiled this summer.

Designed by Sergio Garcia, the Torre Course is the first major layout that the European Ryder Cup legend has held overall design responsibility for. Inspired by Real Club Valderrama – which the 2017 US Masters champion cites as his favourite course in the world – the par-72 course will feature generous fairways, small greens and measure 6,575 metres from the back tees when it opens. As well as two 18-hole golf courses, Terras da Comporta will boast a wide range of lifestyle and sporting facilities including tennis, padel, pickleball and horse riding. The development, which sits just one hour south of Lisbon, also includes an array of plots for hotels, tourist and residential condominiums.

### About Terras da Comporta:

The Terras da Comporta development, located in the heart of Comporta, is the result of Vanguard Properties’ acquisition of assets from the Herdade da Comporta Real Estate Fund in 2019.

It is made up of two large developments: Torre, comprising 365 hectares of land in the Alcácer do Sal municipality, and Dunas, which occupies around 1,011 hectares of land in the Grândola municipality. Both enjoy exceptionally tranquil and beautiful locations in dense pine forest. Torre is found near Comporta Village and its iconic rice fields, and Dunas, eight kilometres to the south, is next to Praia do Pego beach.

The Terras da Comporta project is founded on the best environmental, economic and social sustainability practices, assuming a long-term perspective that will undoubtedly contribute to the region’s development. Positioned in the market’s most exclusive segment, where aspects such as quality, comfort and privacy are given top priority, both Torre and Dunas offer a wide range of plots for hotels, tourist and residential condominiums.

There will also be excellent sports facilities including two 18-hole golf courses designed by world-renowned golf architect David McLay-Kidd (Dunas) and US Masters champion Sergio Garcia (Torre). Having been originally launched by McLay-Kidd in 2010, the Dunas Course at Terras da Comporta opened for play on June 1, 2023, with its official inauguration taking place in October 2023.

For more information visit: [www.comporta.com/](http://www.comporta.com/)



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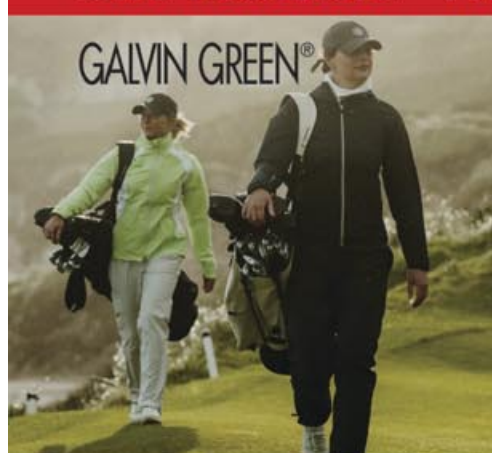
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