



**68**  
(60)

**ANTALYA (PGA SULTAN)**  
BELEK, TURKEY

**WEBSITE:** [www.sirene.com.tr/antalyagolfclub.asp](http://www.sirene.com.tr/antalyagolfclub.asp)

**GREEN FEE GUIDE:** ●●●●●

**DESIGNER:** David Jones

Turkish golf is gaining a stellar reputation and it is no surprise with courses this good. The Sultan is the work of the consistently good European Golf Design and is carved through terrain which was once more swamp than golf. Eucalyptus and pine trees border many of the fairways.



**67**  
(38)

**HILVERSUMSCHE**  
HILVERSUM, HOLLAND

**WEBSITE:** [www.hilversumschegolfclub.nl](http://www.hilversumschegolfclub.nl)

**GREEN FEE GUIDE:** ●●●●●

**DESIGNER:** Harry Colt and Kyle Phillips

Harry Colt didn't just create wonderful heathlands in Britain – here is another example. And just when it was beginning to become a little too straightforward for stronger players, along came one of our contributors, Kyle Phillips, to stiffen it up. "This is a wonderful course which begins and ends with difficult par 5s. It was a delight to be asked to make a few changes," Phillips told us.



**66**  
(61)

**FONTANA**  
OBERWALTERSDORF, AUSTRIA

**WEBSITE:** [www.fontana.at](http://www.fontana.at)

**GREEN FEE GUIDE:** ●●●●●

**DESIGNER:** Doug Carrick, Hans Erhard

This parkland course south of Vienna has for many years hosted the Austrian Open with champions ranging from home favourite Markus Brier to India's Jeev Milkha Singh. It has residential properties on its outskirts but they don't impinge on the enjoyment of a long course which has huge, flat bunkers and even bigger lakes. Water laps the edge of elevated greens and the tall pines are never far away.

**65**  
NEW ENTRY

**THRACIAN CLIFFS**  
KAVARNA, BULGARIA

**WEBSITE:** [www.thraciancliffs.com](http://www.thraciancliffs.com)

**GREEN FEE GUIDE:** ●●

**DESIGNER:** Gary Player

It takes something special to find yourself so high in such a short space of time – Thracian has only been open a matter of months – but that is exactly what we believe this Bulgarian venue to be.

\*Framed by rugged coastal cliffs and the

vast blue of the Black Sea, the 18-hole Gary Player-designed Signature course at Thracian Cliffs is one of the most dramatic golf courses on earth," says their website, and our those on our panel who have been here did not disagree with that sentiment.

Thracian is laid out over 164 hectares of wild terrain with the course stretching 4.5km along the coast. This is truly thrilling golf according to our panellist and we'd urge you to check out the pictures on the website – they are as stunning as the one we have here!

Player, admittedly not the most reserved of men with his opinions, insists Thracian is twice as good as Pebble Beach...

Multiple tees on every hole allow players of all levels to be both challenged in their play and inspired by the incredible views.

Thracian is located on the Marina Village circle and the clubhouse is a great place for a meal or drink. Plus, there's two other top courses nearby; No.80, Black Sea Rama and Ian Woosnam's Lighthouse track (in our 'Next 50' on page 37).



**Q&A**  
WITH GARY  
PLAYER

**After five years of hard work, what would you say about the completion of the project, does it meet your expectations?**

We've designed more than 325 golf courses around the world and I can honestly say that Thracian Cliffs is probably the most beautiful golf course I've ever seen. The course looks even better than I expected. It's a paradise.

**Is it a typical links course?**

No, though it's by the sea it's not like the Scottish links golf courses for example, it's an absolutely unique golf course. I've been playing golf for 55 years and this is the only golf course where you can see the sea on every hole! And the 6th hole is the most dramatic hole I've ever played since I became a professional golfer, Thracian Cliffs is definitely one of the top five courses that we have designed.

**What should be done next for the development of golf in Bulgaria?**

People will be surprised to come and see this magnificent golf course. When I travel around the world and people ask me which is the most beautiful golf course in the world, I answer – it's Thracian Cliffs, in Bulgaria. They exclaim – Bulgaria?! But – I say, 'Yes, go and see for yourselves!' And now you have three different golf courses here at the Black Sea – Thracian Cliffs, Black Sea Rama and Lighthouse, which is wonderful. Golf will bring a lot of businessmen and European players to the country. Golf is a great sport for helping the economy.

# A NEW LIST OF THE TOP 100 EUROPEAN COURSES

FROM FINLAND IN THE NORTH TO TURKEY IN THE SOUTH, HERE'S OUR 2011-2012 RANKING OF THE VERY BEST LAYOUTS ON THE CONTINENT.



- 1 ▶ (1) Les Bordes, Paris, France
- 2 ▶ (2) Morfontaine, Paris, France
- 3 ▲ (16) Royal Hague, Holland
- 4 ▲ (5) Royal Zoute, Cadixspad, Belgium
- 5 ▼ (4) Golf National, Paris, France
- 6 ▼ (3) Valderrama, Sotogrande, Spain
- 7 ▲ (21) Kennemer, Haarlem, Holland
- 8 ▼ (7) PGA Catalunya, Girona, Spain
- 9 ▼ (6) Noordwijkse, Leiden, Holland
- 10 ▲ (12) Bro Hof Slott, Stockholm, Sweden
- 11 ▼ (9) El Saler, Valencia, Spain
- 12 ▼ (8) Chantilly, Paris, France
- 13 ▼ (10) Sporting Club Berlin, Schamutzelsee, Germany
- 14 ▼ (11) Fontainebleau, Paris, France
- 15 NEW The Scandinavian (Old), Farum, Denmark
- 16 ▼ (14) Lubker, Nimtofte, Denmark
- 17 ▲ (33) Hamburger, Hamburg, Germany
- 18 ▲ (62) Terre Blanche (Chateau), Fayence, France
- 19 ▲ (97) Vasatorps (Tour), Helsingborg, Sweden
- 20 ▲ (25) Oitavos Dunes, Cascais, Portugal
- 21 ▲ (28) Sevilla, Seville, Spain
- 22 NEW PGA National (Lakes), Malmo, Sweden
- 23 ▼ (18) Prince de Provence, Vidauban, France
- 24 ▲ (27) San Lorenzo, Algarve, Portugal
- 25 ▲ (36) Budersand, Sylt, Germany
- 26 NEW Onyria Palmares, Lagos, Portugal
- 27 ▼ (22) Sperone, Corsica, France
- 28 ▲ (50) Monte Rei, Algarve, Portugal
- 29 ▲ (30) El Prat (Red), Barcelona, Spain
- 30 ▲ (24) Falsterbo, Malmo, Sweden
- 31 ▲ (34) Royal Park, Torino, Italy
- 32 ▼ (20) Troia, Lisbon, Portugal
- 33 ▼ (13) Praia d'el Rey, Obidos, Portugal
- 34 NEW The Scandinavian (New), Farum, Denmark
- 35 ▼ (26) Utrecht de Pan, Utrecht, Holland
- 36 ▼ (15) Halmstad, Halmstad, Sweden
- 37 ▲ (39) Ravenstein (Old), Tervuren, Belgium
- 38 ▲ (41) Seignosse, Biarritz, France
- 39 ▼ (23) Santander, Madrid, Spain
- 40 ▼ (19) Barseback (Masters), Malmo, Sweden
- 41 ▼ (35) Penha Longa (Atlantic), Lisbon, Portugal
- 42 ▼ (17) PGA National (Links), Malmo, Sweden
- 43 ▲ (89) Domaine Imperial, Geneva, Switzerland
- 44 ▼ (32) Sotogrande (Old), Sotogrande, Spain
- 45 ▼ (31) Saint Germain, Paris, France
- 46 NEW Abama, Tenerife, Spain
- 47 ▼ (37) Biella la Betulle, Magnano, Italy
- 48 ▼ (47) Le Touquet (La Mer), Pas de Calais, France
- 49 ▼ (29) Villa d'Este, Montorfano, Italy
- 50 ▲ (52) St Nom La Breteche (Red), Paris, France
- 51 ▲ (54) Bled, Bled, Slovenia
- 52 ▲ (63) Lykialinks, Belek, Turkey
- 53 ▲ (91) Son Gual, Majorca, Spain
- 54 ▲ (64) Chiberia, Biarritz, France
- 55 ▼ (43) Castelconturbia, Via Suno, Italy
- 56 ▼ (45) Puerto de Hierro, Madrid, Spain
- 57 NEW Quinta do Lago (South), Almancil, Portugal
- 58 ▼ (51) Villa de Madrid (Black), Madrid, Spain
- 59 ▼ (57) Golf du Medoc (Châteaux), Bordeaux, France
- 60 ▲ (75) Esbjerg, Jutland, Denmark
- 61 ▼ (56) Le Querce, San Martino, Italy
- 62 NEW Verdura (East), Sciacca, Sicily
- 63 ▼ (40) Neguri, Algorta, Spain
- 64 ▲ (65) Amendoeira (Faldo), Algarve, Portugal
- 65 NEW Thracian Cliffs, Kavarna, Bulgaria
- 66 ▼ (61) Fontana, Oberwaltersdorf, Austria
- 67 ▼ (38) Hilversumsche, Hilversum, Holland
- 68 ▼ (60) Antalya (PGA Sultan), Belek, Turkey
- 69 NEW Crans sur Sierre, Crans-Montana, Switzerland
- 70 ▲ (94) Porto Santo, Madeira, Portugal
- 71 ▼ (67) Vilamoura (Old), Algarve, Portugal
- 72 ▲ (78) Kytaja South East, Hyvinkää, Finland
- 73 NEW Las Colinas, Alicante, Spain
- 74 ▼ (42) Steiermarkischer, Murhof, Austria
- 75 ▼ (53) Bogogno, Novaro, Italy
- 76 ▼ (55) Golf Club de Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland
- 77 ▼ (74) Pevero, Sardinia, Italy
- 78 NEW Finca Cortesin, Malaga, Spain
- 79 ▲ (86) Sand, Jönköping, Sweden
- 80 NEW Black Sea Rama, Balchik, Bulgaria
- 81 ▲ (85) Hossegor, Biarritz, France
- 82 ▼ (71) Eindhovensche Golf, Eindhoven, Holland
- 83 NEW Costa Navarino (Dunes), Messinia, Greece
- 84 ▲ (95) Estonia G&CC, Tallinn, Estonia
- 85 NEW Limburg, Houthalen, Belgium
- 86 ▼ (46) Las Brisas, Andalusia, Spain
- 87 ▼ (72) Cornelia (Prince), Belek, Turkey
- 88 ▼ (87) Royal Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium
- 89 NEW Holstebro (Forest), Brandsbjergvej, Denmark
- 90 ▼ (48) La Reserva de Sotogrande, Sotogrande, Spain
- 91 ▲ (96) Linna, Hameenlinna, Finland
- 92 ▼ (70) Royal Des Fagnes, Spa, Belgium
- 93 ▼ (58) San Roque, Sotogrande, Spain
- 94 NEW Nordcenter (Freem), Aminnefors, Finland
- 95 ▼ (83) Hardelot (Les Pins), Hardelot, France
- 96 ▼ (73) Quinta do Peru, Lisbon, Portugal
- 97 ▼ (90) Moliets, Bayonne, France
- 98 ▼ (82) Modry Las, Choszczno, Poland
- 99 ▼ (93) Cayra, Belek, Turkey
- 100 ▼ (99) Arcos Gardens, Cadiz, Spain