

150 GOLF COURSES

**YOU NEED
TO VISIT BEFORE
YOU DIE**

By Stefanie Waldek

Lannoo

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**FAIRMONT GRAND DEL MAR:
GRAND GOLF CLUB**

5200 Grand Del Mar Way, San Diego, California 92130, USA

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

This is a fabulous inland
resort course in California
that’s a delight to play.

While coastal courses like Pebble Beach are at the top of most golfers’ bucket lists, when it comes to playing in California, the inland courses provide an entirely different experience. The Grand Golf Club at the Fairmont Grand Del Mar is set in the verdant hills of Los Peñasquitos Canyon, some 20 miles outside of San Diego. Blink, and for a second you might believe you’re in Tuscany (thanks in part to the Mediterranean-style clubhouse). The Tom Lazio–designed course has the 18th hole as its signature, where a tumbling waterfall cascades behind the elevated green.











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SILVIES VALLEY RANCH:
HANKINS AND CRADDOCK

10000 Rendezvous Lane, Seneca, Oregon 97873, USA

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

These two courses are played
on shared, reversible holes.
Yes, you read that right.

Technically, the Hankins and Craddock courses at Silvies Valley Ranch—a remote resort between Portland, Oregon, and Boise, Idaho—are two separate courses... but not entirely. Confused? Okay, here’s how it works: There are 36 holes across 27 greens, which means that some of the greens are shared by 2 different holes. Designed by Dan Hixon and resort co-owner Scott Campbell, the course is reversible, with the route being changed every single day. To make things even more complicated, the tee boxes and the pins themselves can move, providing additional variation during each round. Interestingly, reversibility is nothing new—the Old Course at St. Andrews was played both clockwise and counterclockwise for decades.



40 TAMARINA GOLF CLUB

Tamarin Bay, Tamarin 90922, Mauritius

TO VISIT
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The spectacular setting is a tropical forest surrounding a river beneath craggy mountains.

Even though Mauritius is an island nation, the ocean doesn't play a major role at Tamarina. Instead, the views are all about the mountains, including the imposing Mount Rempart and the triple peaks of the Trois Mamelles. And the immediate landscape surrounding the course—designed by Rodney Wright—is primarily lush tropical forest or open savannah. But there is water here by means of the Rampart River, whose gorge and estuaries serve as hazards on a few holes. The signature hole here is number 13, a par-three with an 82-foot drop from tee to green. This is by no means the most challenging course on the golf-heavy island, but it's certainly fun to take in the scenery during a round.









89 GOLF D'ÉTRETAT

Route du Havre, 76790 Étretat, France

TO VISIT
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BECAUSE

Many golf courses are built
atop cliffs, but not cliffs
like these.

At Golf d'Étretat in Normandy, the 10th hole is a stunner. The coastal town is known for its white-chalk cliffs facing the English Channel, and the hole plays right up to them. The original course was designed in 1908 by Bernard Forbes, 8th Earl of Granard, and it featured just 13 holes, of which 5 were played twice. But the course was extended to its completion after World War I, though it suffered during World War II when its fairways and greens were filled with landmines. Golf d'Étretat reopened in 1949 and has since been entertaining French and international golfers alike.



90 LE GOLF NATIONAL: ALBATROS

2, avenue du golf CS40549, 78286 Guyancourt, France

TO VISIT
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BECAUSE

This course has hosted the French Open every year but two since 1991.

Even if you're not a golf pro, you can still feel like one as you play Le Golf National's Albatros Course, the host of the venerable French Open since 1991 (save for two years). The stadium-style course just outside of Paris, near Versailles, can accommodate 80,000 spectators, and though there might not be quite that many as you play a round, you can still feel the grandeur. As the geography in this area of France is quite flat, architects Hubert Chesneau and Robert von Hagge had truckloads of earth moved to create the undulations of the course—they essentially had carte blanche to create the design of their dreams.



100 CERVINO GOLF CLUB

Via Circonvallazione 18, 11021 Breuil-Cervinia,
Valtournenche, Valle d'Aosta, Italy

TO VISIT
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BECAUSE

The iconic Matterhorn
watches your every swing at
this Alpine course.

If you're up for a high-altitude challenge while traveling Europe, head to Italy's Cervino Golf Club. The course is at an elevation of more than 6,700 feet, set in the shadow of the Matterhorn (known as Cervino in Italy). It was designed by Donald Herradine in the 1950s, and while the short course might not be the most difficult to play—it's just shy of 6,000 yards and the ball carries farther in the thin air—it has one of the best mountain views in Europe. Keep an eye out for marmots as you play, and try not to channel your inner Bill Murray à la Caddyshack.



101 GOLF CLUB ALTA BADIA

Strada Planac 9, 39033 Corvara in Badia, Bolzano, Italy

TO VISIT
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BECAUSE

The Dolomites provide perhaps the most dramatic backdrop in Italy, if not Europe.

The Dolomites might technically be a part of the Alps, but the look and feel in this more westerly region of Italy is slightly different from what you'll find out east, especially when it comes to the golf courses. At Golf Club Alta Badia, located just over 5,500 feet in elevation, near the town of Corvara (which the course is sometimes called), the landscape is a little more open, though it's still flanked by mountains, forests, and meadows. The course, which is just nine holes, becomes a ski run once the snow starts falling, so expect some slight hills.







144 CAPE KIDNAPPERS

446 Clifton Road, Te Awanga, Hawke's Bay 4180, New Zealand

TO VISIT
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BECAUSE

The back nine are built on top of precipitous “fingers” of land that stretch out some 460 feet above the sea.



Despite being a geographically small country with a relatively small population, New Zealand has an impressive number of highly ranked golf courses, not least among them Cape Kidnappers, a daring course that challenges those with a fear of heights. Designer Tom Doak set the back nine holes atop narrow slivers of land—“fingers” if you will—between which are steep cliffs that drop 460 feet into Hawke’s Bay. This course is not for the faint of heart, although admittedly it appears far more intimidating from the air than it does from the fairways or greens. Still, the views from the back nine are pretty stupendous.

