



11 SEVILLA SEVILLE, ANDALUCIA

Design **34.9** Setting **11.5** Memorability **12.2**
Playability **6.9** Consistency **8.9** Presentation **7.7**
TOTAL 82.1

Jose Maria Olazabal laid out this modern course close to the centre of the beguiling city of Seville. It has frequently been a Continental Top 50 entry, but didn't quite catch this panel's imagination. Nevertheless, a very solid modern course with water playing a key role.



13 EL PRAT (ROSA) TERRASSA, CATALUNYA

Design **32.5** Setting **13.3** Memorability **13.3**
Playability **6.1** Consistency **8.6** Presentation **7.6**
TOTAL 81.4

This historic club moved from its site next to Barcelona's airport to this huge plot of gently undulating, forested land north of the city. There are five loops of nine, all designed by Greg Norman. This is the best combination – Bosque and Arriba. Expect a serious examination among woodland.



14 LAS COLINAS ALICANTE, VALENCIA

Design **31.2** Setting **12.1** Memorability **12.4**
Playability **8.8** Consistency **8.1** Presentation **8.8**
TOTAL 81.4

Cabell Robinson was a master at laying out courses on difficult terrain and this is one of his best examples. What we really like about it is the fact the American designed it for mid-handicappers to play – yes, they can host Tour players here, but it is a modern course with bite yet playable by all.



12

MODERN
CLASSIC

LA RESERVA CLUB, SOTOGRANDE SOTOGRANDE, ANDALUCIA

Design **31.9** Setting **12.3** Memorability **12.0** Playability **8.2**
Consistency **7.7** Presentation **9.3** **TOTAL 81.4**

La Reserva is a serious championship course and with a better variety of holes than some of the more established names. Cabell Robinson routed the course in 2003 on the same kind of rolling topography as its star-studded neighbours in the Sotogrande area, and as a result of advances in equipment and thus earth moving, there is a really

nice flow to the round here. The undulating land on which Robinson built the course literally gives rise to dramatic elevated tees from where views of the Mediterranean can be taken in – and no doubt photographed by the majority who visit this modern classic.

Robinson's skill was in making the

holes that play uphill not seem like a chore while maximising the effect of the ones that come tumbling back down. La Reserva has always been good and a Top 100 Continental course no less – but under the ownership of Sotogrande SA, its conditioning has risen to a new level – a level few in Europe come anywhere near matching.



15 LAS BRISAS MARBELLA, ANDALUCIA

Design **33.0** Setting **11.6** Memorability **12.0**
Playability **8.1** Consistency **8.7** Presentation **8.0**
TOTAL 81.4

Designed by Robert Trent Jones near the start of the Andalusian golf revolution, it has hosted the great and good of the game – from Jack to Seve. Kyle Phillips' thorough restoration of the back nine in particular gets this Marbella course in the top-15 of this list as well as in our Continental 100.



16 ANFI TAURO PUERTO RICO, GRAN CANARIA

Design **32.1** Setting **14.5** Memorability **13.6**
Playability **6.0** Consistency **7.9** Presentation **6.9**
TOTAL 81.0

While this Gran Canaria course is at times jaw-dropping in its beauty, it is often brutal. The flatter front nine is a nice warm-up but the pulse immediately quickens on the uphill 10th and 12th that take you into the mountains, the latter with a huge rock amphitheatre green akin to the 1st at Doonbeg.



17 LA MORALEJA (NO.4) MADRID

Design **32.0** Setting **11.9** Memorability **11.4**
Playability **8.2** Consistency **8.7** Presentation **8.4**
TOTAL 80.6

This pedigree club was founded in 1973 but 37 years after the original course opened, work began on two new courses – No.3 and No.4. The latter is by Nicklaus Design and opened in April 2013. Its gently undulating terrain makes it an easy-walking parkland and provides interest to the golfer.



18 SAN ROQUE (OLD) SOTOGRANDE, ANDALUCIA

Design **31.7** Setting **12.2** Memorability **12.9**
Playability **7.3** Consistency **8.7** Presentation **7.8**
TOTAL 80.6

This may be a slightly false position within a year, because it is being thoroughly overhauled so the Dave Thomas design at the foothills of the Sierra Bermeja will have a sparkling new feel in 2021. We rank on what we have experienced, and that is a nice mix of exacting holes and aesthetic ones.



19 VILLA DE MADRID (BLACK) MADRID

Design **33.2** Setting **12.6** Memorability **12.2**
Playability **6.8** Consistency **8.0** Presentation **7.8**
TOTAL 80.6

VdM was threatened with extinction a few years ago by a golf-suspicious local council, but it is still going strong. The Black's clever routing makes good use of severe terrain and there are a very good set of par 3s and interesting greens. A European Tour host that still manages to test the elite.