



TOP 100 COURSES IN CONTINENTAL EUROPE

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Royal Obidos (▲25)

Obidos, Portugal

+351 262 965 220, royalobidosgolf.com.

Par 72, 7,300 yards. Seve Ballesteros.

CB Lots of super holes offering different kinds of tests, with the common theme a feeling this was a job done correctly in every sense. Barely two years old too, so it is only going to keep getting better.

GW VERDICT Sure-footed progress up the ranking following its entry in 2013, Royal Obidos is every inch the modern championship course. Oozes quality.



EXCLUSIVE

“SPECTACULAR... AND TERRIFIC PAR 3S”

Course designer Alex Hay assesses Royal Obidos, the new course north of Lisbon on the cusp of the top 50.



From the moment I arrived at Royal Obidos I knew I would enjoy the day. There was a very relaxed atmosphere in the clubhouse buzzing with golfers and the coffee tasted great while taking in the views of the

golf course and spectacular surrounding scenery. After reaching sufficient caffeine levels I hit some balls on the range with hire clubs far better than my own set and then headed to the 1st tee. I enjoyed the course immensely but don't be fooled by the

relatively large greens; hitting the right club is key to scoring well here and with a couple of blind drives, those who have played the course will definitely have the advantage in a game. I particularly enjoyed the terrific par 3s. Three of the five are heavily influenced by water

and if you are anything like me you will use the bailout areas wisely! In hindsight I wish I had done this more often on the rest of the course as I found myself fishing for balls on more than one occasion...

■ Alex Hay is design associate with European Golf Design.