

5 French Golf Destinations Worth Checking Out

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Gear Patrol

Play, Stay and More

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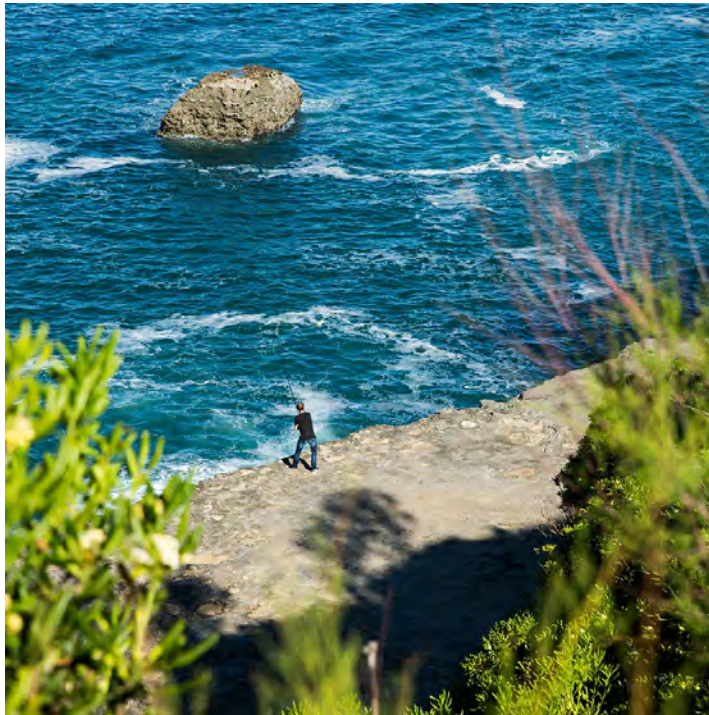
France is known for many things, most prominently its notable cuisine (croissants, quiche, coq a vin) and its rich culture (Hemingway, Picasso and Baldwin drew on Paris as a source of inspiration). A not-so-known fact about the country is its long-running passion for the game of golf. France is the home to the [oldest golf course in Europe](#) (established 1865) as well as an impressive 600+ active courses. This deep devotion undoubtedly nudged the country to the front of the pack to win the bid for the [2018 Ryder Cup](#), solidifying France as a must-play destination on the golfing map. This summer we covered over 1,000 miles from the capital to the southern border (and back) to find the best places worth playing.

Biarritz: The Historic Coastline









Play: La Phare Golf Course

This 18-hole course by Willie and Tom Dunn is one of the oldest courses in France (it was built in 1888) and its front nine offers beautiful vistas of the city while the entire course is easily walked. There's no water in play, but the coastal winds and expertly placed greens make the course challenging yet enjoyable.

Green Fees: \$63-\$94 | [Learn More](#)

Stay: Hotel Du Palais

Napoleon III originally built this five-star palace as a summer retreat. The chipping/putting green in the front yard is a big plus.

Rates per Night: \$333-\$1,598 | [Learn More](#)

Drink: Cocktails on the Bay of Biscayne

Mojitos are a thing in France; order one (or three) at [Le Surfing](#) and watch the sunset from your table. There's not a bad seat in the house.

Entree Price: \$13-\$19 | [Learn More](#)

Seignosse: The French Woodlands







Play: Blue Green Seignosse Golf Club

The rolling, tree-lined fairways on this Robert Van Hagge course offer a unique experience for players of various skill levels. The 18th hole is an irresistible challenge for long hitters to attempt reaching the green in two — it's a 666-yard, par six.

Green Fees: \$67-\$90 | [Learn More](#)

Stay: Relais de la Poste:

This charming hotel located in the small town of Magescq surrounds guests with only the essentials; homemade meals, best-in-class spa treatments and tranquil woodland views.

Rates per Night: \$259-\$613 | [Learn More](#)

Eat: Dinner at L'Auberge Côté Quiller:

One of the highlights of French cuisine is bourgeois fare, the day-to-day food that most families eat at home. Chef Jean Coussau takes these humble meals and elevates them to Michelin-star status.

Entree Price: \$25-\$55 | [Learn More](#)

Medoc & St. Emilion: Wine Country







Play & Stay: Golf du Medoc Resort

Many resort courses lean on excessive bells and whistles (a.k.a. waterfalls) in their course design to add intrigue. The Chateau course at Medoc does the opposite; nature sculpts each hole, creating a playing experience reminiscent of traditional Scottish golf.

Green Fees: \$68-\$102 | [Learn More](#)

Play: Grand Saint-Emilionais Golf Club

This family-run, Tom Doak–designed course is a true gem of the region surrounded with sweeping views of the countryside. Each hole is a unique puzzle that will test every aspect of your game. Playing it twice is highly recommended.

Green Fees: \$100-\$124 | [Learn More](#)

Visit: Six-Generation Family-Run Vineyard

The Lignet family continues to make some of the best wine in the world. Two tips: ask for Vincent to give you a cellar tour and buy a bottle there, because finding one back home will be next to impossible.

Tours: \$18/person | [Learn More](#)