

[NO. 28] **Barnbougle
Lost Farm** (*top*)
joins our list this year.
[NO. 14] **Barnbougle
Dunes** (*bottom*)
moves up six spots.

STEPHEN SZURLEJ



WELCOME TO the latest edition of Planet Golf, our periodic review of all the golf that our world has to offer. On the following pages you will find a ranking of the top-100 international golf courses (outside the United States), plus individual country rankings: the best golf courses in each of 203 nations around our planet. ✨ Our rankings are based on a large global-panel survey—609 panelists around the world provided 11,426 individual course evaluations—with input from the 30 international editions of >>>

THE INTERNATIONAL GAME BUCKS A TREND
+ GROWS WITH A FLOURISH **by John Barton**



[NO. 52]

Diamante Golf Club in Cabo San Lucas is new to the 100 Best list and is No. 1 in Mexico.



Golf Digest. Growth of golf has stalled domestically—in 2011 there was a net loss of almost 140 courses in America, the sixth consecutive annual decline and the largest to date. But internationally it's a different picture, as lots of exciting new entries to our world ranking show, such as Yas Links in Abu Dhabi (24th), Barnbogle Lost Farm in Australia (28th), Castle Stuart in Scotland (38th), Diamante in Mexico (52nd) and Black Mountain in Thailand (98th).

Other countries have new courses that didn't make the top-100 list but did debut as best in their nation, such as Thracian Cliffs in Bulgaria, Eléa in Cyprus, Costa Navarino in Greece, Black Pearl in Honduras, Mazagan in Morocco, Tselevo in Russia and The Residence Tunis in Tunisia. And other countries have recently joined the league of golf nations by adding their first golf course: Take a bow, Belarus, Equatorial Guinea and Sudan.

Some countries, meanwhile, still have no real golf courses, the most populous being Iraq (32,030,823 inhabitants), Yemen (24,052,514) and Guinea (9,981,590). And others have for now stepped away from golf. In Haiti, for instance, the fairways of The Pétienville Club have been turned into a giant refugee camp for displaced people after the devastating earthquake that killed more than a quarter of a million people two years ago.

This is Planet Golf, a world of 32,515 golf courses, played and beloved by some 60 million people who are proud to call themselves golfers. >>>



100 BEST COURSES OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES ...

[NO. 1]
Royal County Down in Northern Ireland repeats in the top spot.

📍 Check courses you've played

- 1. **Royal County Down G.C.**
Newcastle, Co. Down, Northern Ireland
- 2. **Royal Melbourne G.C. (West)**, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- 3. **St. Andrews Links (Old)**
St. Andrews, Scotland
- 4. **Royal Dornoch G.C. (Championship)**
Dornoch, Scotland
- 5. **Muirfield**, Gullane, Scotland
- 6. **Cape Kidnappers**
Hawke's Bay, New Zealand
- 7. **Turnberry Resort (Ailsa)**
Turnberry, Scotland
- 8. **Hirono G.C.**, Hyogo, Japan
- 9. **Kingston Heath G.C.**
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- 10. **St. George's G. & C.C.**
Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada
- 11. **Ellerston G.C.**
Hunter Valley, N.S.W., Australia
- 12. **Portmarnock G.C.**
Portmarnock, Co. Dublin, Ireland
- 13. **Royal Portrush G.C. (Dunluce)**, Portrush, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland
- 14. **Barnbougle Dunes**
Bridport, Tasmania, Australia
- 15. **Kawana Hotel G. Cse. (Fuji)**, Shizuoka, Japan
- 16. **Carnoustie G. Links (Championship)**
Carnoustie, Scotland
- 17. **National G.C. of Canada**
Woodbridge, Ontario, Canada
- 18. **G. de Morfontaine**
Mortefontaine, France
- 19. **Kauri Cliffs**
Northland, New Zealand
- 20. **Royal Birkdale G.C.**
Southport, England
- 21. **Sunningdale G.C. (Old)**
Sunningdale, England
- 22. **Casa de Campo (Teeth of the Dog)**, La Romana, Dominican Republic
- 23. **Waterville G. Links**
Waterville, Co. Kerry, Ireland
- 24. **Yas Links**
Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.
- 25. **New South Wales G.C.**
La Perouse, N.S.W., Australia
- 26. **Ballyunion G.C. (Old)**
Ballyunion, Co. Kerry, Ireland
- 27. **Hamilton G. & C.C.**
Ancaster, Ontario, Canada
- 28. **Barnbougle Lost Farm**
Bridport, Tasmania, Australia
- 29. **Royal Porthcawl G.C.**
Porthcawl, Wales
- 30. **Fancourt (Links)**, George, Western Cape, South Africa
- 31. **Punta Espada G.C.**
Cap Cana, Dominican Republic
- 32. **Royal St. George's G.C.**
Sandwich, England
- 33. **The C. at Nine Bridges**
Jeju Island, South Korea
- 34. **Kingsbarns G. Links**
St. Andrews, Scotland
- 35. **The National G.C. (Moonah)**, Cape Schanck, Victoria, Australia
- 36. **Royal Troon G.C. (Old)**
Troon, Scotland
- 37. **Royal Lytham & St. Annes G.C.**
Lytham St. Annes, England
- 38. **Castle Stuart G. Links**
Inverness, Scotland
- 39. **Walton Heath G.C. (Old)**
Walton-on-the-Hill, England
- 40. **Valderrama G.C.**
Sotogrande, Spain
- 41. **Lahinch G.C. (Old)**
Lahinch, Co. Clare, Ireland
- 42. **Swinley Forest G.C.**
Ascot, England
- 43. **Leopard Creek C.C.**
Malelane, Mpumalanga, South Africa
- 44. **Rye G.C. (Old)**
Rye, England
- 45. **Loch Lomond G.C.**
Luss, Scotland
- 46. **Woodhall Spa G.C. (Hotchkin)**
Woodhall Spa, England
- 47. **The Mid Ocean C.**
Tucker's Town, Bermuda
- 48. **Royal Aberdeen G.C. (Balgownie)**
Bridge of Don, Scotland
- 49. **Capilano G. & C.C.**
West Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- 50. **Machrihanish G.C.**
Campbeltown, Scotland
- 51. **North Berwick G.C.**
North Berwick, Scotland
- 52. **Diamante G.C.**
Cabo San Lucas, Baja California Sur, Mexico
- 53. **Cruden Bay G.C.**
Cruden Bay, Scotland
- 54. **Cabo del Sol (Ocean)**
Los Cabos, Baja California Sur, Mexico
- 55. **Highlands Links**, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada
- 56. **Royal Melbourne G.C. (East)**, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- 57. **Royal Liverpool G.C.**
Hoylake, England
- 58. **Victoria G.C.**
Cheltenham, Victoria, Australia
- 59. **G. de Fontainebleau**
Fontainebleau, France
- 60. **Sunningdale G.C. (New)**
Sunningdale, England
- 61. **The Metropolitan G.C.**
South Oakleigh, Victoria, Australia
- 62. **Ganton G.C.**
Ganton, England
- 63. **Les Bordes**
Beaugency, France
- 64. **Naruo G.C.**, Hyogo, Japan
- 65. **St. Enodoc G.C. (Church)**
Wadebridge, England
- 66. **Nirwana Bali G.C.**
Tabanan, Bali, Indonesia
- 67. **Phoenix C.C.**
Miyazaki City, Japan
- 68. **Paraparaumu Beach G.C.**
Paraparaumu Beach, New Zealand
- 69. **Jasper Park Lodge G.C.**
Jasper, Alberta, Canada
- 70. **Four Seasons Costa Rica G.C. at Peninsula Papagayo**
Guanacaste, Costa Rica
- 71. **St. George's Hill G.C.**
Weybridge, England
- 72. **Devil's Paintbrush**
Caledon Village, Ontario, Canada
- 73. **Western Gables G.C.**
Irvine, Scotland
- 74. **Kasumigaseki C.C. (East)**
Saitama, Japan
- 75. **Royal Montreal G.C. (Blue)**
Ile Bizard, Quebec, Canada
- 76. **Kinloch G.C.**
Taupo, New Zealand
- 77. **G. de Chantilly (Vineuil)**
Chantilly, France
- 78. **Beacon Hall G.C.**
Aurora, Ontario, Canada
- 79. **Mangilao G.C.**
Mangilao, Guam
- 80. **West Sussex G.C.**
Pulborough, England
- 81. **Woo Jeong Hills C.C.**
Cheonan City, South Korea
- 82. **Tralee G.C.**
Ardfert, Co. Kerry, Ireland
- 83. **El Dorado G. & Beach C.**
Los Cabos, Baja California Sur, Mexico
- 84. **Wentworth C. (West)**
Virginia Water, England
- 85. **Sagebrush G. & Sporting C.**, Quilchena, British Columbia, Canada
- 86. **Lake Karrinyup C.C.**
Karrinyup, W. Australia, Australia
- 87. **Noordwijkse G.C.**
Noordwijk, Netherlands
- 88. **The European C.**
Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow, Ireland
- 89. **Sheshan International G.C.**, Shanghai, China
- 90. **The National G.C. (Old)**
Cape Schanck, Victoria, Australia
- 91. **Shaughnessy G. and C.C.**
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- 92. **Four Seasons G.C. (Pacífico)**, Punta Mita, Nayarit, Mexico
- 93. **Spring City G. & Lake Resort (Lake)**
Kunming, China
- 94. **Saunton G.C. (East)**
Braunton, England
- 95. **Tokyo G.C.**
Saitama, Japan
- 96. **Kenner G. & C.C.**
Zandvoort, Netherlands
- 97. **Redtail G. Cse.**
St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada
- 98. **Black Mountain G.C.**
Hua Hin, Thailand
- 99. **Anyang Benest G.C.**
Gunpo, South Korea
- 100. **The Royal Adelaide G.C.**
Adelaide, S. Australia, Australia



STEPHEN SZURLEJ + FOR A SLIDE SHOW OF OTHER COURSES ON OUR LIST, VISIT GOLFDIGEST.COM/GO/PLANETGOLF

... AND THE BEST COURSES IN 203 COUNTRIES >>>