



# PLANET GOLF

## MODERN MASTERPIECES

DARIUS OLIVER

FOREWORD BY MIKE KEISER

# Contents

Foreword by Mike Keiser .....	viii
Introduction .....	x
<b>United States of America</b> .....	<b>1</b>
Sand Hills .....	4
Friar's Head .....	8
Pacific Dunes .....	12
Ballyneal .....	16
Whistling Straits .....	20
Bandon Trails .....	24
Old Macdonald .....	28
Chambers Bay .....	32
Shelter Harbor .....	34
Streamsong – Red .....	36
Streamsong – Blue .....	42
Sand Hollow .....	44
Sebonack .....	46
Old Sandwich .....	50
Boston GC .....	52
The Olde Farm .....	54
Kingsley Club .....	58
Sand Valley .....	60
Wolf Point .....	62
Gamble Sands .....	64
Gozzer Ranch .....	68
Colorado GC .....	70
Bandon Dunes .....	72

Bandon Preserve .....	74
Dismal River – Red .....	76
Galloway National .....	80
Tobacco Road .....	82
Prairie Club – Pines .....	84
Prairie Club – Dunes .....	86
Rock Creek Cattle Co. ....	88
Erin Hills .....	90
Sutton Bay .....	92
East Hampton .....	94
Dormie Club .....	98
Kinloch .....	100
Loop at Forest Dunes .....	102
Marquette GC – Greywalls .....	102
Pete Dye GC .....	104
Wine Valley .....	106
Bluejack National .....	106
Black Sheep .....	108
Calusa Pines .....	108
Victoria National .....	110
Ballyhack .....	110

<b>Rest of The Americas</b> .....	<b>112</b>
Cabot Cliffs .....	116
Cabot Links .....	122
Diamante – Dunes .....	126
Blackhawk .....	130

Sagebrush .....	130
Quivira .....	132

## Great Britain & Ireland 134

Ardfin .....	138
Castle Stuart .....	144
Trump International – Scotland .....	148
Kingsbarns .....	152
Trump International – Doonbeg .....	154
The Renaissance Club .....	158
Machrihanish Dunes .....	162

## Europe 164

Lofoten Links .....	168
Grand Saint Emilionnais .....	172
Praia D'El Rey .....	176
Oitavos Dunes .....	178
Bro Hof Slott – Castle .....	180
Verdura .....	182
The Scandinavian .....	184
Lyngbygaard .....	186
Budersand .....	186
Lubker .....	188
Sand GC .....	190
De Swinkelsche .....	190

## Swinkelsche Golf Club

COURSE OPENED 2013  
DESIGNER Frank Pont

Known in Dutch as De Swinkelsche Golfbaan, this very appealing Frank Pont-designed golf course is surrounded by forests and attractive heath areas a short drive southeast of Eindhoven. Built for around \$3 Million, the project is a success from a golf perspective for the restraint shown by Pont in design, and the freedom allowed him by the developers to build the most appropriate course for their compact property. This is classically understated old-school golf, and great fun for those who enjoy a challenge but prefer not to be beaten up on each and every hole.

The most obvious features of note at Swinkelsche are the greens and bunkers. Nicely sculpted, there is a rustic feel to the entire property thanks to the jagged edge bunkering and the manner in which greens are shaped to exist comfortably within their surrounds. If there is a criticism of the course, it's only with the few areas where the design is actually evident and perhaps overdone. Examples include humps or raised greens at the 6th, 10th and 13th or the excessive bunkering of the split-route 11th and 18th holes.

Elsewhere, what impresses most about this course is the sheer number of quality holes and quality green sites. From the severe front-to-back aspect of the par five 2nd green, to the wonderfully simple but effective contouring on the long par three 5th, Pont continually strikes the right balance between creating tricky or interesting pin positions, yet keeping slopes in context with the rest of the area and the rest of the hole. Among the highlights are the tree-lined par threes, the beautifully bunkered short par four 3rd, the strategically arranged 14th and De Pan-like 16th, played into a grove of trees.

Although Swinkelsche is far from the most exciting piece of ground in Holland, because of the sensible approach taken to design here, the layout has great appeal. It stands out as the premier modern course in the country, and is about as much fun to play as anything inland of the famous old Dutch dune tracks.

OPPOSITE The highly effective risk/reward short par four 3rd hole at Swinkelsche Golf Club



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