



incredible trio of eagles on the par 5, that everyone who was there will recall.

London's Country Club, as it is often known, hasn't looked back and has established itself as a world-class venue just outside Watford and a short trip from the attractions and bright lights of the capital. No wonder it's been the long-time training base for the England national football team.

The five-star hotel provides luxury accommodation including a sumptuous spa; it prides itself on super service and that certainly applies on and around the Kyle Phillips-designed course, which has a great variety of holes, including a classical parkland stretch on the back nine. It's also highly likely you'll never play a better-conditioned course and putt out on a faster, truer set of greens.

Top deal: TG special offer: Book a stay & play package in Feb and March and get a complimentary bottle of Tattinger. Rates are from £149pp (based on 2 sharing). To book call 01923 296010, www.thegrove.co.uk



Now branded an International Resort, St Mellion delivers on all fronts – on and off the course – and isn't afraid to run with special offers and packages. Indeed value-for-money is very much the name of the game at Crown Golf's flagship venue which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary.

Naturally everyone wants to tackle the mighty Nicklaus course which topped the latest 2-FORE!-1 Top 100 listing and in many ways is the ultimate test of parkland golf though the neighbouring Kernow is a splendid layout in its own right.

The on-site accommodation is comfortable and some offer balcony views overlooking the final hole on the Nicklaus – while you can unwind in the health club & spa and dine in two restaurants including fine dining. Having staged six Benson & Hedges International Opens, St Mellion has a glorious past too.

Top deal: On all residential bookings made before February 28, each individual will receive a drinks voucher to be exchanged for draft beer, soft drink or glass of wine. To book call 01579 352031.



Far left: The closing hole at top English course Royal Birkdale.

Above left: Wentworth's West is a must play venue.

Above right: The Grove has been a fine addition to London's portfolio of courses.

Below: St Mellion is the finest inland course in the south west of England.

GOLFER TRAVEL AWARDS 2015

ENGLAND'S BEST COURSE & HOTEL (EAST & N MIDS)
The Belfry

The new-look legendary West Midlands resort – synonymous with the Ryder Cup – has been upgraded to the tune of £26m – a serious investment designed to ensure the venue's off-course facilities match its world-class and internationally renowned golf courses.

The only venue to host the Ryder Cup four times has fully-refurbished bedrooms and brand new bars and restaurants, as well as a state-of-the-art leisure club and spa.

The Belfry has come a long way since being converted from potato fields to a world-famous golfing venue. Obviously most Belfry visitors want to tackle The Brabazon but the main attraction is ably backed-up by the neighbouring PGA National and Derby layouts. Don't be surprised to see the Ryder Cup eventually return to the West Midlands sometime in the future.

"It has obviously been a big year for us, and this award just further validates the great work



ROLL OF HONOUR



WALES

BEST HOTEL/RESORT

- 1 Celtic Manor 67%
- 2 Marriott St Pierre 17%
- 3 The Vale 10%

IRELAND

BEST COURSE

- 1 K Club 26%
- 2 Royal Portrush (Dunluce) 22%
- 3 Royal County Down 12%

BEST HOTEL/RESORT

- 1 K Club 40%
- 2 Druids Glen Resort 13%
- 3 Portmarnock Hotel Links 13%

SPAIN

BEST COURSE

- 1 Valderrama 35%
- 2 La Manga (South) 26%
- 3 PGA Catalunya 18%

BEST HOTEL/RESORT

- 1 La Manga Club 47%
- 2 La Quinta 12%
- 3 Melia Golf Vichy Catalan & La Cala both 8%

PORTUGAL

BEST COURSE

- 1 Vilamoura Old Course 31%
- 2 Quinta do Lago (South) 18%
- 3 San Lorenzo 10%

BEST HOTEL/RESORT

- 1 Quinta do Lago 13%
- 2 Vale do Lobo 13%
- 3 Dom Pedro Vilamoura 12%

FRANCE

BEST COURSE

- 1 Le Golf National (Paris) 35%
- 2 Le Touquet 25%
- 3 Terre Blanche 8%

BEST HOTEL/RESORT

- 1 Le Manoir Hotel 18%
- 2 St Malo Hotel G&CC 15%
- 3 Hotel du Golf St Omer 14%

BEST VALUE DESTINATION (CONTINENTAL EUROPE)

- 1 Algarve, Portugal 21%
- 2 Belek, Turkey 19%
- 3 Murcia, Spain 18% ➔