

The Golf National - Saint Quentin-en-Yvelines, France

Host of the 2018 Ryder Cup



The Albatross Course at Le Golf National outside Paris, a wonderful inland links-target style course that is invariably ranked among the top five in Europe, is the site of the annual French Open.

The course, which is open to the public, was recently chosen to host the 2018 Ryder Cup, which will be the first in mainland Europe in more than a decade.

Stretching nearly 7,000 yards in the flatland region of Guyancourt which surrounds the historic Chateau of Versailles, once home to Louis XIV, The Albatross championship course is one of the three that make up the Le Golf National Club, the other two being the 18-hole classical L'Aigle (Eagle) Course and the 9-hole L'Oiselet (Sparrow) Course.

The Albatross was designed by golf architects Hubert Chesneau and Robert Von Hagge in the late 1980's and adapts magnificently to the flat corn farmlands, cunningly combining the typical features of a Scottish links course with the target golf style set-up so popular in the USA.

It is made up of well-trimmed, slick greens and vast undulating fairways dotted with innumerable links bunkers, sand traps, large and small water hazards, fescue roughs, tree obstacles and the rigid slopes of its artificially-created sand mounds.

Certainly it is an excellent test of a golfer's versatility, his correct choice of clubs and his shot-making capabilities and provides a unique experience of links-target golf.

The scenery and the wine of France have long been acclaimed some of the best in the world. But now I hope we have given you a glance at why golf is making big strides toward world-wide respectability, and no longer just a side bar of your trip to taste the wine and view the landscape of France.