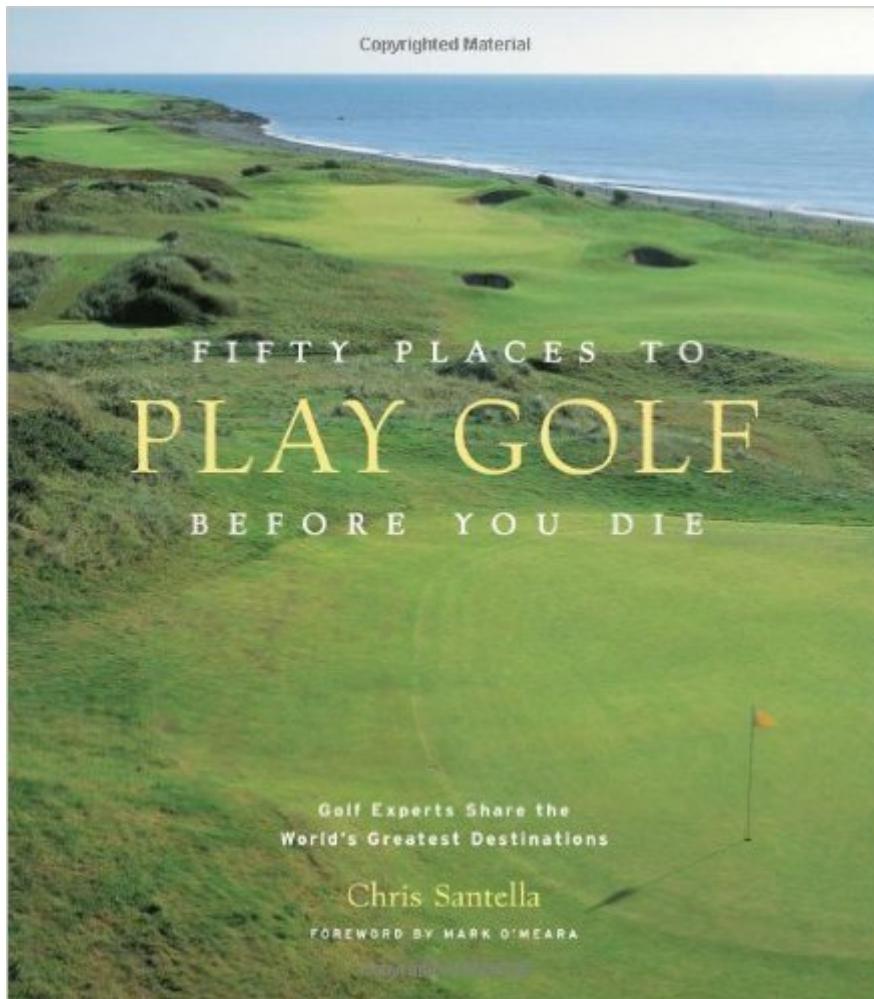


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Fifty Places To Play Golf Before You Die: Golf Experts Share The World's Greatest Destinations



Synopsis

There's an incredible similarity between the mechanics of a fly cast and the swing of a golf club. Perhaps that's why Chris Santella, author of *Fifty Places to Fly Fish Before You Die*, can be found on the links when he's not on the stream. With *Fifty Places to Play Golf Before You Die*, Santella gives voice to his other sporting passion, interviewing 50 people intimately connected to the sport about some of their favorite courses around the world. For both passionate golfers and armchair travelers, this gorgeous full-color book presents the world's greatest golf venues, the personal favorites of renowned players, course architects, and other experts in the sport. From Ballyliffin, Ireland's northernmost course, whose rumpled fairways wander along the North Sea in the shadows of Glashedy Rock, to New Zealand's Cape Kidnappers, perched atop dramatic cliffs some 500 feet above the ocean, the book's beautiful photographs capture the architecture, noteworthy holes, location, and ambiance that make these courses standouts for ardent golfers. A brief history of each course, an experiential account-filled with local color-from the person recommending the venue, and trip-planning advice provide adventurous readers with all the information they need to chip and putt their way around the globe. A close-up look at golf's top courses around the world, recommended by such experts as Nick Faldo and Christie Kerr (pro golfers), Pete Dye and Tom Doak (course architects), Brian McCallen (editor and author), and Donald Trump. With breathtaking color photographs of each site, this is a great gift for avid golfers and armchair travelers alike.

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Customer Reviews

This really is an attractive volume, and it constitutes a sort of fantasy list of unique golf courses. The

author has gone out of his way to avoid many of the "obvious" big name courses that golfers know from televised tournaments. This gives the book an added interest factor, as one can read about exotic courses in such out-of-the-way locales as Morocco and Oregon. Full Disclosure: I know Chris. He is a genial companion and a talented, assured writer.

Notice that the title is not "The Fifty Greatest Golf Courses." My title would be, "Fifty Interesting Places to Play Golf." Whether it's my title or the real title, the emphasis is on "places to play," or "destinations," not golf courses per se. More than fifty golf courses are covered. Which is not to say that the book does not include a lot of great golf courses. The format is mini-coffee table, with several pages of text for each destination and one small picture for most of the destinations. The quality of the printing, photo reproduction and binding in my copy is excellent. The text for each destination has been volunteered by a different prominent golf person. For example, Nick Faldo writes about the Royal Melborne Golf Club (West Course) in the Australian state of Victoria. Alice Dye about the TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course (see a connection there?). On the plus side are the quality of the color photos and the introduction (to me) of golf courses in some far away places (e.g., Bhutan, Morocco, India, places, however, I'll never get to). On the minus side, I don't have a prayer of playing some of the U.S. courses, even after I die (e.g., Pine Valley, Sand Hills, National Golf Links of America), which, honestly, the author points out. Finally, why not at least one photo for each destination? From the two page description of the Pacific Grove muni: "[T]he back nine . . . takes you right out to the water and combines incredible views of the Pacific and Monterey Bay with windswept bluffs reminiscent of some of the great courses of Scotland and Ireland." Why no photo of this course? From the two page description of the Torekov Golf Club in Sweden (my ancestral home): ". . . a links-oriented course. . . You can view the sea from all eighteen holes. In the summer, wildflowers are blooming everywhere . . ." I want a photo, darn it!

Being a golfer, I got this as a gift from one of my relatives. I must say the pictures are outstanding. This book makes me want to travel more to other countries to experience the pleasure of these courses. This book will always have a permanent place in my library. For excellent golf instruction that helped me to drastically reduce my handicap, I recommend, *The Ultimate Golf Instruction Guide: Key Techniques for Becoming a Zero Handicap Golfer or Better*, isbn 1933023090 and for more great pictures of specific golf holes, I recommend, *Golf Digest 365 Golf Holes Calender 2006*, isbn 0761137343. This maintains a permanent place on my office desk.

How on God's green earth to you justify titling a book 50 PLACES TO PLAY GOLF BEFORE YOU DIE, and then proceed to list one private course after another that no ordinary mortal will ever be able to set foot on. They should call it 50 OF THE BEST COURSES YOU WILL NEVER PLAY. Skip it.

Apparently, I didn't read the small print. I opened the book up and decided to check out Sand Hills. It's a great golf course and one that I would like to play one day. The only thing is you have to be in the very small percentage of golfers who actually have a membership or have greased one of the members palms to play there. It's frickin private!! This is definitely not a "Bucket List book" for the average Joe or the other 95% of the population. I mean even I can feasibly see myself playing St. Andrews and Pebble Beach one day. I can't blame the author though, ask a bunch of prominent people in the golf biz a simple question, get invited to the course, mention a little bit about the person and the course and presto.....a book... and free greens fees. Save your money for the next book that comes out "50 Public golf course you can play before you die".

If you want the top 100 courses you can play, then buy a golf digest. Yes, some of these courses are private. That doesn't change the interesting perspectives from the contributors about them. I found myself staying up late several nights to read "just one more" story about a golf course. There are some truly unique places that have captured my imagination. I will most definitely venture to some of my favorites. There are several on here that I would have expected, but many I would never have found in a million years. If you're like me, you're such a golf nut that you love reading about courses of all kinds. The fact that they are recommended by some of golf's royalty makes it even more interesting. I do wish they had included more photos, however. Especially on those few without any photos at all. But other than that, I love this book.

Another golf book for my brother, the big-time golfer. It looks like a book he will enjoy. I'm not a golfer, so can't really review the contents other than to say this looks like a book he will enjoy reading; lots of nice pictures.

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