

Golf du Medoc Hotel & Spa recommended

by Roderick Easdale



I absolutely adored the Chateaux golf course at Golf du Médoc Hôtel & Spa, 10 miles north-west of Bordeaux, near Margaux in south west France.

Trying to rationalise this is hard. But then, that isn't that the thing with love? But trying to be coldly analytical about it came down to many factors revolving around the ambience and the quality of the design and condition. I was especially taken with the way the bunkers have been built up, with heather plants around them, making a beautiful feature when viewed from the tee.

These also help to define the hole, so that the first-time player feels confident of where, and how, to go. I found devising strategy around this course much easier than usual. This is probably why I managed to play to my handicap on this former French Open course. Which, frankly, also probably has something to do with why I relished playing here so much.

Another positive is that the course's surroundings, as well as the individual holes, are beautiful. Standing on the course, wherever you may be, and looking a round is a joyous experience. Well almost. Opinion in our group varied as to the vistas which took in the red hotel. I did not like those views so much, finding the hotel obtrusive; others thought it worked well. In fairness, the hotel is only two storeys, and dominates the surrounding far less than at many hotel courses.

But then only recently has it become a hotel course. The course is 19 years old, the hotel three. The hotel has been crafted on, with great success, to the timber-and-glass clubhouse. Many of the Golf du Médoc's 79 rooms run alongside the 18th fairway. I was in room one which overlooked the green. Avoid this room - and room 101 for similar reasons - if you are a light sleeper as you may find the heavy clanging of the door at the end of the corridor outside disturbing. Mind you, any fan of George Orwell will avoid any room 101 anyway.

Also, maybe be careful of room 6, too. One of our party had this, and when for a late-night smoke on his individual terrace. The golf course sprinklers came on and splashed him.

The rooms themselves at Golf du Médoc Hôtel & Spa are all that you would ask - well so long as you don't mind the absence of bath, as there is only a shower - and my bed was gorgeously comfortable. There are tea and coffee making facilities in the room. Clever net curtains on the ground floor rooms allow those inside to see outside clearly, but those outside cannot see in.

There are two, adjoining, dining areas, La Table du Médoc and Le Clubhouse. The former offers more formal dining, with regional cuisine, The food in both was superb, and the hotel takes great pride in its wine selection.

There are in fact two golf courses here. The other one, the Vignes, I did not get to play. I regret this... but at least it gives me a good excuse to go back.

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