

COURSE FACT SHEET



MOLIETS GOLF COURSE MOLIETS, FRANCE

Moliets Golf course, located some 45 minutes north of Biarritz in the sand dunes which border the Atlantic Ocean, is a championship course in the true sense of the word. Designed by Robert Trent Jones Senior in 1981, this course held the European Tour qualifying school competition in September of 2006. The French Golf Federation also uses the facility as its winter training home for its National team.

At over 6800 yards, the course is long for the average amateur, but the links style layout offers some roll on the fairways, and the greens are receptive to well hit iron shots. The course is unusual in that 14 holes play through pine trees together with 4 more holes which are completely open, lying directly beside the Atlantic Ocean. Here, the wind can make play very difficult, and the greens are difficult to read even on a calm day.

The second hole seems to play longer than its 400 yards, since the drive must be positioned to the left and then the approach plays back up to a green which slopes from right to left. Any tee shot played down the right hand side will leave a shorter approach, but is complicated by a stand of pine trees which can only be cleared by a high shot, followed by a green which now slopes away and to your left.

Another fine hole is the par 5 5th hole. A semi blind tee shot on a hole just shy of 500 yards will find plenty of fairway if played up to the left. However, this will leave a longer approach across water to a long narrow green which slopes slightly away from you. A more cautious lay up to the left finger of fairway leaves a wedge or short iron which must be played directly over a pine tree to find the putting surface. This might well be a hole where the more aggressive approach is the more sensible, as there is a large apron of landing area across the water for those going for it. This makes for a more forgiving third shot should you come up a little short.

Although part of a large resort, Moliets has a splendid, uncrowded feel to the course, and has the added advantage of its ocean holes, which are refreshing after the tree lined fairways of the inner course. The course also has very fine greens and is a true test of the putter.

