



Circolo Golf Ugolino
1889



Golf dell'Ugolino



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Over 100 Years of Golfing History

In 1889 the British colony in Florence founded the Florence Golf Club, the first golfing association in Italy. The course was in the Cascine area and in 1905 the first Italian National Championship was held there. Immediately after WWI the Golf Club transferred its premises to the area next to where the airport stands today, at Osmannoro, and the number of golfers grew.

The idea of creating a new course began taking shape in the twenties and at the beginning of the thirties. The Tourist Board at the time considered golf to be of great attraction for tourists, so much so that signs devoted to Florence were spread throughout Italy with the simple wording: “Florence: 18 hole golf course”.

Ugolino was founded on the Via Chiantigiana in 1933 and was designed by British architects Blandford and Gannon who had also designed the course at Monza near Milan. The course they drew was par 69 but was considered difficult, owing to the ups and downs, the many trees and the small greens. In the sixties the course was turned into a par 72 by Piero Mancinelli.

The clubhouse was built by Architect Gerardo Bosio who designed a structure fully functional and enjoyable to this day. It is one of the best examples of rationalist architecture and is catalogued and protected by the Department of Fine Arts.

Ugolino is largely synonymous with Italian golfing history; on its fairways along the Via Chiantigiana many competitions and national championships have taken place and players of both national and international reputation have played there.

The trophies collected by the Ugolino Golf Club are many and important; it is not easy to name each and every player who has contributed to such success.

Many international opens have taken place on the Ugolino course, the fondest memory being the Open Internazionale d'Italia of 1983, when Bernard Langer won after a passionate final play-off against Severiano Ballesteros and Ken Brown in a competition with players like Greg Norman, Mark James, Costantino Rocca, Baldovino Dassù and many other stars of the European Tour.

● Buca/Hole 1

The first hole is a slight dog-leg to the left. The major danger is a group of trees on the left. The green is defended by three bunkers.



● Buca/Hole 2

The fairway slopes severely to the left and all of the right hand of the hole is out of bounds. The main problem is judging the right strength with which to reach the small green.

● Buca/Hole 3

Drive to the left of the trees, but not too far, otherwise problems arise with the large pine tree to the left of the green.

● Buca/Hole 4

Long and delicate par 3, many trees on the left and a raised green which makes putting difficult.

● Buca/Hole 5

A very long hole, the green is not visible and the fairway slopes dangerously to the right: out of bounds on the first shot and sand trap on the second.

● Buca/Hole 6

Delicate drive with out of bounds on the right. An accurate second shot will fly over the trees on the lefthand side of the fairway. The sloping green is difficult to read.

● Buca/Hole 7

The fairway slopes to the left with trees on the right and cypresses on the left. The shot to the green needs to avoid both the central oak tree and the sand trap on the right.



● Buca/Hole 8

A classic par 3 that requires concentration, precision and the right club.

● Buca/Hole 9

The narrow fairway between the trees requires courage and determination. The fairway slopes to the right on the second shot.

● Buca/Hole 10

A long and delicate par 3 sloping to the right with many bunkers.

● Buca/Hole 11

Uphill drive with out of bounds both to the right and to the left. The second shot is often blind and needs attention.

● Buca/Hole 12

Out of bounds to the right and fairway sloping to the left. The most difficult shot is the second one which needs to land in exactly the right spot in order to then shoot the green.

● Buca/Hole 13

The drive must be straight without being influenced by the out of bounds on the right and the trees on the left. The green is well defended by sand traps.



● Buca/Hole 14

Dog-leg to the right which requires an accurate second shot.

● Buca/Hole 15

A delicate par 3 whose green, well defended by bunkers, is very difficult due to severe sloping to the right.

● Buca/Hole 16

Bunkers on the right on driving distance and a small well defended green.

● Buca/Hole 17

Drive to the left; the oak tree in the middle of the fairway will condition your second shot, the green has four bunkers and is very sloped.



● Buca/Hole 18

Dog-leg to the right which requires extreme precision for both first and second shots.

The Course

If you look at the scorecard you might think at first that this is an easy course because its length is “only” 5,741 meters. But watch out! Difficulties on golf courses are not just meters. Ugolino is a natural course designed and built in 1934 in the Chianti hills and it exploits at best the natural characteristics of the Tuscan landscape: the cypress trees and olive trees, the slopes that curve and follow the magnificent scenery, the small greens which are often very well-defended. These are the obstacles that the golfer comes up against on a course which is part and parcel of Italian golfing history and severely tests players of all sorts. It is not by chance that Ugolino, under the expert guide of the pro Franco Rosi, has formed many excellent golfers like Baldovino Dassù, Renato Campagnoli, Federica Dassù, Massimiliano Secci e Lorenzo Gagli. The course is an amusing but most challenging test for players who have to devote their skills to playing accurately rather than powerfully.

The first three holes are all par 4 with a delicate shot to the green, which can allow for a couple of birdies in spite of hidden dangers which require accuracy.

From the fourth hole (a par 3) onwards one really needs to start hitting the ball in order to drive the green here and to reach the green at the fifth (a par 4). The sixth hole is the first par 5, it requires both length and accuracy to avoid trouble with the many trees along the fairway.

On the ninth hole, another par 5, danger lies on both sides of the fairway and the green is raised and quite small.

The second nine begins with a spectacular par 3 which opens on to a wonderful view. Holes number 11 and 12 are fairly long with difficult shots to the green and many out of bounds.

The next few holes are on the other side of the Via Chiantigiana and here the technical design changes, these holes are flatter and longer. Number 15 is one of the trickiest holes of the course due to the difficulty in choosing the type of shot to play. The well defended green slopes severely to the right.

The two final holes are very delicate for different reasons: the seventeenth hole has out of bounds on the right which means a tough choice in deciding the strategy of alignment, whereas the eighteenth hole is a dog-leg to the right and the second shot played uphill can easily be misjudged.

A delicate course which has to be faced, shot by shot, with great attention and, above all, great caution.

Enjoy!



COME SI ARRIVA, in auto:
uscita Firenze Sud della A1,
direzione Siena al Km.8 della
SS Chiantigiana,
5 Km dopo Grassina.
Da Firenze seguire le
indicazioni per l'entrata
Firenze Sud della A1.



HOW TO GET THERE, by car:
Autostrada del Sole A1,
Firenze Sud exit,
then 8 kms. on route 222
(Chiantigiana) towards Siena.
From Florence downtown,
follow signals Firenze Sud
Autostrada del Sole A1

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