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Living La Dolce Vita: The Best of Golf in Italy

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## Ugolino Golf Club *Florence*

The history of this club can be traced to the non-Roman origins of the game in Italy. The founders of Ugolino initially built an 18-hole course in Florence in 1889. The club was then relocated south of the city in 1934 to the rolling slopes of the Chianti Hills.



Ugolino Golf Club (photography by Mark Alexander)

The land is idiosyncratic, providing scope for unique and testing holes. The front nine is especially compact, quirky, and absorbing, as old courses can often be. The small, flat greens make modest targets, compensating for the length, which falls short of 6,500 yards.

Unofficially named The Hilly Course, Ugolino has an old-world charm rich in originality and charisma. During the 1983 Italian Open, **Seve Ballesteros** fabulously chipped in at the par-four 9th (then the 18th), which not only delighted the crowds and carded him an eagle, but also secured his place in the tournament playoff.



*Ugolino Golf Club (photography by Mark Alexander)*

While other clubs may have modern conveniences such as air-conditioning, Ugolino is original. From the clubhouse to the starter's hut, everything is as it was when the club opened its doors. In that lies something special.