



Press Pack
50th Anniversary



50
1966-2016

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PERE COLL I RIGAU: THE HISTORY OF AN ENTREPRENEUR

Pere Coll i Rigau was born in L'Estartit, the son of tenant farmers. He was a gifted student and worked with the notary of Torroella de Montgrí before deciding to make his way to Cuba to seek his fortune.

He joined the crew of a ship as a barber and arrived in Cuba in 1867. After trying his hand at a number of jobs, he found success by opening a match factory with the slogan "Trieu y remeneu" (Compare and choose), with which he broke the existing monopoly in the sector. He tried in vain to get a concession to export tobacco to Spain and so founded the Sin Real, Fàbrica de Cigarros and set about exporting cigars to the United States.

He was already a wealthy businessman when, during a trip to the land of his birth he met Eugènia Llach, whom he married in Cuba in 1890.

He returned to Catalonia with his family in 1894 and invested a large part of his wealth in the economic, social and cultural growth of his homeland.

Pere Coll i Rigau purchased, among other properties, the Arenals de Mar estate and had more than a million pine trees planted there to retain the dunes on the shore and prevent them from advancing and to turn unproductive land

"Pere Coll i Rigau had more than a million pine trees planted to retain the dunes and to turn unproductive land into fertile fields."

into fertile fields. Pere Coll's idea of turning the estate into a forestry plantation did not bear fruit but it did stop the dunes from gaining ground and the desert from expanding.



GOLF DE PALS: THE HISTORY OF A UNIQUE COURSE

Golf de Pals was built at the initiative of Baltasar Parera Vilar, who had first had the idea in Cuba, where he had taken refuge at the end of the Spanish Civil War. While in Cuba, he took up golf at the Country Club in Havana and it was there that he met his future wife, Rosa Coll, the granddaughter of Pere Coll i Rigau, who had inherited the Arenals de Mar estate from her father, who died very young in an accident.

Baltasar Parera was a golf enthusiast and dreamed that one day he might have a golf club in Empordà, the region where his wife's family hailed from.



B.Parera playing at Country Club

On their return from Havana, Baltasar Parera and Rosa Coll took charge of the Mas Gelabert – Granja Coll farming operation, where Pere Coll i Rigau, Rosa's grandfather, had begun to grow rice.

In 1960 Baltasar Parera Vilar took the first steps in building a golf club on the family state. Of Arenales de Mar.

In 1963, Baltasar Parera Coll decided to put the initial project formulated by his brother-in-law on a professional footing and set about looking for a specialist golf course designer. Fred W. Hawtree visited the site, making the most of a stopover on his journey to Palma de Mallorca, where he was constructing the Son Vida golf course. On 10 February 1964, this designer from England agreed to plan and supervise the works for the first nine holes of the course, and the location of the course on the estate and the precise spot where the clubhouse would be built were decided.

“Golf de Pals was built at the initiative of Baltasar Parera Vilar, who became a keen golfer at the Country Club in Habana and dreamed of a golf course on the Costa Brava.”



Pals Beach on the 1950s

On 20 June 1964, Fred W. Hawtree submitted the final plans for the nine holes and work began at a frenetic pace.



Golf de Pals construction

The first earthworks were carried out by labourers at the Granja Coll using the farm's machinery under the supervision of the Sports Turf Research Institute, the Patron of which was the Duke of Edinburgh. This institute had long-standing experience of laying and caring for turf around the entire world.

Five wells were bored to supply the sprinkler irrigation system and lastly the clubhouse was constructed. The clubhouse was decorated by Rosa Coll with the help of the famous interior designer Manuel Marí, who worked for Grifé & Escoda.

"In 1960, the first steps were taken to build a golf course on the Arenals de Mar family estate. The course opened on 15 August 1966."



Golf de Pals construction



Golf de Pals construction

Golf de Pals was inaugurated on 15 August 1966. The course was blessed by the Bishop of Girona during the opening ceremony, which was attended by leading dignitaries and numerous other figures from the world of sport, foremost among them the national delegate Juan Antonio Samaranch, later President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). During the gala dinner organised to celebrate the opening, Baltasar Parera Vilar was awarded the Silver Medal for Sporting Merit.



Golf de Pals inauguration

Once the golf course was built, it was rented out by Compañía Playa de Pals SA to Club Golf de Pals, which ran it until 2003.

With the opening of its initial nine holes, the first golf course on the Costa Brava was ready to welcome tourists from home and abroad.

The course proved so popular with golfers that it quickly became evident that there was a need to extend it as soon as possible to the standard 18 holes. The clubhouse was also expanded and a new practice range was constructed. These works were carried out by the company that owned the course, Golf Playa de Pals SA.

The additional nine holes, also designed by Hawtree, opened in 1970. In 1971, the Spanish International Amateur Golf Championship was held at the course, which soon became one of the finest in the country.

“Six years after it opened, the 46th Spanish Open was held at the course in 1972. It was this tournament that launched the PGA European Tour.”

Just two years later, the 46th Spanish Open was held here. It was this prestigious professional tournament that launched the PGA European Tour, which came into being in Pals in 1972.



Spanish Open – First Tournament of the PGA European Tour

Numerous important amateur and professional championships followed. Between 2000 and 2005, the course hosted the PGA Qualifying School Pre-Qualifying and Final events on a number of occasions.

In November 2003, it was ranked as one of the hundred best golf courses in mainland Europe by the prestigious magazine *Golf World International*. It has continued to appear in the top positions of the table ever since.

Mindful of the importance of golf courses to tourism on the Costa Brava, Golf Platja de Pals SA, in conjunction with other golf courses, founded the Costa Brava – Empordà – Girona

Association of Golf Courses. Baltasar Parera Coll, the son of Baltasar Parera Vilar, was the association's first president.

Over the 50 years since it opened in 1966, it has welcomed amateur and professional golfers from around the world, who have had the opportunity to play on the oldest golf course on the Costa Brava.



Aidan Bradley – Green 12 hole



Aidan Bradley – 8th hole

50th-ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES

To celebrate Golf de Pals' 50th anniversary, a number of sporting and festive activities have been scheduled:



16, 17, 18 and 19 March

50th CATALAN-HEXAGONAL 2016 GRAND PRIX

The 50th edition of this Grand Prix is being held at the courses where it came into being: Golf de Pals, Real Club de Golf El Prat, Golf Terramar, Club de Golf Llaneras, Real Club de Golf Cerdanya and Club de Golf Sant Cugat. Organised by the Catalan Golf Federation, this is the most important amateur golfing event in Catalonia.

Two teams from Golf de Pals will be participating in the Grand Prix.

20, 21 and 22 April

GASTROGOLF

A trials event of the Ryder Cup type to commemorate the Year of Golf and the Year of Wine & Gastronomy.

Organised by the Costa Brava – Girona Tourist Board with the collaboration of Landmark Media, the event is aimed at a select group of professionals, journalists and bloggers connected with golf and gastronomy.

The training sessions will be played at the PGA Catalunya, the first round at Empordà Golf and the final at Golf de Pals.

2 July

50th-ANNIVERSARY INSTITUTIONAL COCKTAIL

To be attended by representatives of the authorities, the tourism industry, sports federations, shareholders, members and other friends of Golf de Pals.

29 and 30 July

50th-ANNIVERSARY CALLAWAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Open tournament.

Callaway Road show / Demo Days.

1 October

50th-ANNIVERSARY GOLF DE PALS – GOLFY TOURNAMENT

Tournament by invitation only for Golfy members.

26 November

50th-ANNIVERSARY CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT

Tournament by invitation only for Golf de Pals members and shareholders. This tournament brings the 50th-anniversary events to a close.

YEAR OF GOLF AND YEAR OF WINE & GASTRONOMY

Golf de Pals is a member of the Costa Brava –Girona Golf Marketing Board, which was set up to promote the tourism-related aspects of the destination.

Coinciding with the 50th anniversary of Golf de Pals, the province of Girona is celebrating the Year of GOLF and the Year of WINE & GASTRONOMY in 2016. In addition, Catalonia has been declared a European Region of Gastronomy 2016 by the European Region of Gastronomy Platform.



One of the initiatives set up to celebrate the Year of Golf and the Year of Wine & Gastronomy is #GASTROGOLF.

#GASTROGOLF is an event organised by the Marketing Club in collaboration with the prestigious PR company Landmark Media. It will be bringing together a number of professionals, journalists and bloggers connected with the worlds of golf and gastronomy so that they can enjoy that perfect joint happening: a tournament in the manner of the Ryder Cup and fine dining.

“Coinciding with the 50th anniversary of Golf de Pals, the province of Girona is celebrating the YEAR OF GOLF and the YEAR OF WINE & GASTRONOMY in 2016.”

The final of the tournament will be held at Golf de Pals on 22 April so that we can celebrate our anniversary with a select group of golfers.



Isabelle Kenis - Celler de Can Roca Restaurant

THE COURSE

Golf de Pals, set amid a vast pine grove overlooking the white sandy beach of Pals, is the oldest course on the Costa Brava.

Designed by Fred W. Hawtree, from Britain, the course will thrill every type of golfer, from absolute beginners to proficient experts.

The first holes are quite short, with narrow fairways, gentle doglegs, extremely deep bunkers protecting the greens and venerable pine trees lining the fairways, requiring golfers to make extremely accurate shots.

“Golf de Pals, set amid a vast pine grove overlooking the white sandy beach of Pals, is the oldest course on the Costa Brava.”

From hole 12 onwards, the holes are longer and more continental in style. The fairways are broader and the greens more generous.

With five par fives, nine par fours and four par threes, it is one of the few par 73 courses in Catalonia.

Two lakes provide water hazards on the course. At hole 8, the water hazard appears where golfers take their second shot and runs alongside the fairway as far as the green. At hole 9, golfers must hit the ball over the lake to reach the fairway before coming to a relatively flat but small green surrounded by quite deep bunkers.



Steven Caar – 9th Hole



Steven Caar – 3rd Hole



Steven Caar – 9th Hole

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

GOLF COURSE NAME:	GOLF DE PALS
ADRESS:	Carrer del Golf, 64 17256 PALS – Girona (Spain)
TELEPHONE NUMBER:	+34 972 667 739
FAX:	+34 972 636 799
E-MAIL:	info@golfdepals.com
INNAUGURATION:	1966
PRESIDENT:	Mr. Baltasar PareraColl
MANAGER	Mrs. Elda Mata Miró-Sans
GREENKEEPER:	Mr. Lluís Sabenya
DESSIGNER:	Mr. F.W. Hawtree
HOLES:	18
DRIVING RANGE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Driving Range<ul style="list-style-type: none">• From carpet / grass according to the season.• 250 m. length• Covered and not covered area- Approach area<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 greens and 2 bunkers• Par 3 hole with bunker
SCHOOL MANAGER:	Mr. Marc Deulofeu (Professional)
CLUB HOUSE FACILITIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Pro-Shop- Caddy Master- Toilets- Dressing room- Snack Bar & Restaurant- TV area- International Golf School- Television room, card room- Meeting rooms
OPEN:	All year
ACCES:	From Barcelona: AP-7 (E-15) - Exit 6 (Girona N) – C-66 – TORROELLA DE MONGRÍ – Pals From France: AP-7 (E-15) - Exit 6 (Girona N) – C-66 – TORROELLA DE MONGRÍ – Pals

MAP OF THE COURSE



Course

18 holes Par 73

Handicap needed
36 men / 36 women

Distances

● 6263m	● 5970m
● 5419m	● 5156m

Ⓚ DR Diving Range
Ⓚ PA Practice Area

CURRICULUM

During its 50-year-long history, Golf de Pals has hosted numerous domestic and European professional and amateur tournaments.

Particularly worthy of mention is the fact that the PGA European Tour began at Golf de Pals when the 46th Spanish Open was held here in 1972. This prestigious competition has taken place at only five other Catalan courses: Sant Cugat, Cerdanya, El Prat, PGA Catalunya and Vallromanes.

1966 I Costa Brava Championship

1967 I Gran Prix of Catalonia – Hexagonal 1967

1968 Spanish Under 14 Championship

1970 Spanish Amateur Championship

1971 Spanish International Junior Amateur Championship

1972 Spanish Open - The 1st. EUROPEAN PGA TOURNAMENT

1978 European Male and Female Junior Championship

1979 Spanish Ladies Amateur Double Championship

1979 Spanish Ladies Amateur Individual Championship

1984 Spanish Professional Championship - Tournament Codorniu

1985 Spanish Amateur Championship

1985 Spanish Amateur Championship

1988 Spanish International Ladies Amateur Championship

1989 UEFA European Women's National Team

1989 Catalonia Open – MassimoDutti–Open PGA

1991 Girona Open–Open PGA

1993 Spanish MidAmateur Championship

1994 Heineken Open Catalonia- Open PGA

1994 Spanish International Amateur Championship – Copa S. M. El Rey

1966 Cup of Nations

1996 XVI Senior Ladies European Championship

1998 Match Spain – Francia Under 16

2000 Spanish International Ladies Amateur Championship – Copa S. M. La Reina

2001 Triangular Spain – Italy – France Senior Ladies Championship

2002 Peugeot Oki – Tour of Spain

2002 Qualifying School Finals – PGA

2003 Junior Men's Championship Interterritorial of Spain

2003 Qualifying School Finals – PGA

2004 Junior Men's Championship Interterritorial of Spain

2004 Qualifying School Finals – PGA

2005 European Final Catalonia Ladies Masters

2005 Spanish Senior Amateur Championship

2008 Spanish International Amateur Championship – Copa S. M. El Rey

2010 Spanish International Ladies Amateur Championship – Copa S. M. La Reina

2011 Spanish Mid Amateur Championship

2012 Catalonia Under 14 Championship

2013 Spanish Senior Tournament – Qualify Tournament

2014 Catalonia Senior Championship

2015 39º Gran Prix Senior of Catalonia – Pentagonal 2015

2016 50º Gran Prix of Catalonia – Hexagonal 2016

FACILITIES

Golf de Pals has extensive facilities to ensure its clients' comfort and convenience.

Bar 19th

Charming bar in the English style with a magnificent terrace overlooking the golf course, providing an excellent spot for a drink or a bite to eat. From the bar garden, you can see the hole 9 green and the teeing grounds for holes 1 and 10.



Restaurant

The club restaurant, surrounded by the golf course and set amid pines of an impressive age, has a beautiful canopied area with views out over the lake and the green of the spectacular hole 9. It offers an extensive Mediterranean menu of seasonal cuisine and is famed for its traditional rice dishes prepared using local produce.

Changing rooms

Spacious changing rooms with lockers for hire for the use of members and visitors.

Meeting rooms

British Open

55 m² room with access to the garden.

Capacity for 15 to 40 people depending on the arrangement of the room.

Television Room.

Ryder Cup

104m² room.

Capacity for 30 to 80 people depending on the arrangement of the room.

Card Room.

Pro-shop

Extensive range of golf equipment, clothing and accessories from recognised brands.

Our pros are available to advise clients on the choice of equipment best suited to their game.



Practice range

Full practice range facilities:

- Indoor driving range
- Outdoor driving range
- Two putting greens; one between tee 1 and tee 10 in front of the clubhouse
- Approach area with two bunkers and two greens (behind hole 9)
- Practice par 3 hole with bunkers



ACCOMMODATION

Golf de Pals has been a member of the Golf Marketing Club of the Costa Brava– Girona Tourism Board since it was set up. The club offers an extensive range of hotels, apartments and rural tourism accommodation with personalised services designed for golfers.

ACCOMMODATION	Town	Distance (km)
		
La Costa Golf & Beach Resort (Hotel, villas and apartments on the beach)	Pals	Direct access
Apartaments Golf & Beach Resort (Studio, 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms on the beach)	Pals	Direct access
Apartotel Golf Beach	Pals	1 Km.
Double Tree by Hilton Hotel & Spa Empordà	Gualta	8 Km.
Mas Mauri	Regencós	10 Km.
Hotel Aiguablava	Begur	11 Km.
Hotel Clipper & Villes	Torroella de Montgrí	12 Km.
Hotel Castell Empordà	La Bisbal d'Empordà	15 Km.
Hotel Alga	Calella de Palafrugell	18 Km.
Hotel Garbí	Calella de Palafrugell	19 Km.
Aparthotel Ciutat de Palol	Platja d'Aro	30 Km.
Hotel Costa Brava	Platja d'Aro	31 Km.
Silken Park Hotel San Jorge	Platja d'Aro	31 Km.
Hotel Aromar	Platja d'Aro	32 Km.
Hapimag Mas-Nou	Platja d'Aro	34 Km.
S'Agaró hotels	S'Agaró (Castell-Platja d'Aro)	35 Km.
Hotel Eden Roc	Sant Feliu de Guixols	37 Km.
Sallés Hotel Mas Tapiolas	Santa Cristina d'Aro	41 Km.
Hotel Gran Ultonia	Girona	42 Km.
Hotel Carlemany	Girona	43 Km.
Hotel AC by Marriott Palau de Bellavista	Girona	46 Km.
Hotel Torremirón	Navata	54 Km.
Hotel Peralada Wine & Spa	Peralada	56 Km.
Hotel Vistabella	Roses	58 Km.
Casa Granados	Tossa de Mar	64 Km.
Hotel Santa Marta	Lloret de Mar	71 Km.
CORREDOR MATÓ – property rentals (more than 200 properties in the area)	Costa Brava	various

GOLF IN COSTA BRAVA ,EIGHT REASONS FOR CHOOSING OUR REGION

Golf de Pals is a member of the Costa Brava – Empordà – Girona Association of Golf Courses.



In the area there are a 10 rounds available on 8 different Golf Courses with a maximum of 45 minutes distance between.

Eight reasons for choosing our region

1. EIGHT GOLF COURSES, TEN ROUNDS

Golfers can get to eight courses, ten outstanding rounds, within a maximum of 45 minutes.



2. GOLF PASS

Three or five green fee passes to enable golfers to fully enjoy the courses on the Costa Brava.



3. GOLF ALL YEAR ROUND

The Costa Brava has a mild climate typical of the Mediterranean: no extreme cold in winter, no extreme heat in summer. The average annual temperature varies between 14 °C and 20 °C.

4. COSTA BRAVA

National Geographic Traveler magazine included the Costa Brava as one of the top 20 tourist destinations worldwide in its November 2011 edition.



5. BARCELONA

Barcelona is not that far away (130 km) and has excellent transport connections. It offers an opportunity to enjoy a major Mediterranean city with lots of cultural and leisure options. Discover Gaudí and its Art Nouveau architects.



6. ACCESS

The Costa Brava is extremely easy to get to.

It can be reached by plane (there are airports in Barcelona, Girona and Perpignan), by car or by high-speed train (AVE/TGV).

7. FINE DINING AND CULTURE

The gastronomy of the Girona area is recognised worldwide thanks to its 13 restaurants that between them hold 17 Michelin stars, notably El Celler de Can Roca in Girona (40 km), run by the Roca brothers and ranked as the best restaurant in the world in 2013 and 2015.



The province of Girona has declared 2016 the Year of Golf and the Year of Wine and Gastronomy.

Catalonia has been declared a European Region of Gastronomy 2016 by the European Region of Gastronomy Platform

8. SPORT AND LEISURE

The Costa Brava offers an impressive range of sport and leisure activities.

Golfers can combine golf with sea and mountain sports and an extensive array of cultural attractions.

HOW TO GET HERE

BY PLAIN:

- Girona Airport at 55 km.
- Barcelona Airport at 150 Km.

BY TRAIN:

- High Velocity Train – Girona Station at 40 km.
- High Velocity Train – Figueras Station at 45 km.
- High Velocity Train – Barcelona Station at 136 Km.

BY CAR:

- From the **AP-7** Motorway, take **EXIT 6** (Girona Nord) in the direction of **Palamós**. When you come to the municipality of **La Pera**, turn left in the direction of **Torroella de Montgrí**. Continue in the same direction. At the roundabout as you enter **Torroella de Montgrí**, take the exit to the right in the direction of **Pals**. Follow the signs for **Platja de Pals**.

GPS:41°59'39.95" N, 3°11'32.41" E

CONTACT



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1966-2016

Carrer del Golf, 64
17256 – PALS (Costa Brava)
Espanya



Bookings:

Reception Chief–Mrs. Rosa Caballol

Tel. + 34 972 667 739

Fax. + 34 972 636 799

E-mail: info@golfdepals.com

Chief Commercial and Public Relations

Mrs. Maite Aliu

Tel. +34 629 814 016

E-mail: comercial@golfdepals.com

Manager:

Mrs. Elda Mata

Tel. + 34 619 418 715

E-mail: dir@golfdepals.com

INTERESTING LINKS



www.golfdepals.com



<http://golfincostabrava.org/en.html>



<http://en.costabrava.org/what-to-do/golf>



<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/c5ivfdc3vig87q7/AAD-bw8OTo3HKwmtdyJBCy8ra?dl=0>



<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/pp2kw2b5wu8gucz/AADgrlQ0jwvY9zLdpTdplecSa?dl=0>