

INSIDE: The majestic Mulberry Manor opens its doors to our readers

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Your guide to the region's golf courses

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with golf course architect
Robert Trent Jones Jr





Georgina Simpson from Cleckheaton in West Yorkshire, England, turned pro in 2001.

Since then, she has had 17 top ten finishes in Ladies European Tour events and finished 20th in last year's order of merit.

Georgina knows the Algarve well and, early in her career, used to train at Vale do Lobo, Quinta de Cima, Vila Sol and San Lorenzo. She won Junior Golf's major, The Telegraph Junior Golf Championship, in 1993 at San Lorenzo, and this victory was an important factor in her decision to become a professional golfer.

Georgina always seems to play well in Portugal. In the 2005 Algarve Ladies Open, she came ninth at Gramacho. She came joint second in the Portugal Ladies Open three years ago at Quinta de Cima.

This year's Portugal Ladies Open at Campo Real near Lisbon in May saw her finish sixth. A successful performance on subsequent tour events meant she automatically qualified for the British Open at Carnoustie this July.

See page 53 for course directions and other course facts and figures.



San Lorenzo's 18th

A favourite of Georgina Simpson

WORDS Sue Spencer

The eighteenth at San Lorenzo is one of the Algarve's best finishing holes.

In a competition, you have to hold your nerve at this tough par-4 as it's easy to ruin your score here.

There's a natural freshwater lagoon down the left of the fairway, a bunker on the right to catch your drive and a tree at the end of the fairway which can block your shot to the green. You have to place your tee shot just so.

You're then faced with a shot over the lagoon to the green knowing that if you're short, your ball will be in the water, and if you hit your ball too long, it will be in the bunker at the back or in a watery grave beyond.

Many golfers have seen their hopes of victory disappear at San Lorenzo's stroke index four eighteenth.

But it holds special memories for Ladies European Tour player Georgina Simpson, who won the 1993 *Telegraph* Junior Golf Championship here.

"I remember feeling really nervous when playing my second shot over the lake to the green. I told myself not to do anything stupid," she says.

"Luckily my ball landed safely and I pared the hole - a par here is always good! That win inspired me to become a professional golfer."

Georgina is very fond of Portugal, and San Lorenzo in particular: "I find the people very welcoming and I always try to play San Lorenzo when I'm in the area.

"What I especially love about the course is the water and the ducks. My favourite time to play is at the end of the day when the light is lovely and the frogs and other wildlife are going crazy. At dusk, it has a very special atmosphere." ☺

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