

Courses in the Dolomites

In the leisurely stave coach age of travel in the Dolomites few would have hazarded the prediction that time would bring golf into that fascinating region of Southern Europe. But the reckoning was without the automobile. Where the railroad train does not penetrate, the automobile does. One steps from the train at Balzano, takes a motor drive of three hours and there lies a nine-hole course in the majestic scenic surroundings of the Brenda range of the unique Dolomites. Some of the mountain peaks raise their heads nearly ten thousand feet above sea level. There are also vast forests of pine to contribute their share of picturesqueness. Moreover, this excellent course at Madonna di Campiglio—laid out by W. Preston Hornsby, of Torquay—is on historic ground. To this day the site is known as Campo Carlo Magna, for the reason that it was there that Charlemagne and his men pitched their tents on their way to Italy.

The course, with an elevation of about a mile, starts on the terrace of the Golf Hotel and extends to a length of about two thousand yards. There are natural and artificial hazards and the fine moorland turf is soft and springy.

At Carezza, on the Karersee, the course laid out in 1921 has been materially improved within the past two years under the direction of Major P. Charlton, the honorary secretary during that period. This course on the Strada della Dolomites, in the heart of the mountains, has had its length increased to 3000 yds. With the Rosengarten range as its background, this is not only one of the most beautiful nine-hole mountain courses in Europe with which I am familiar, but I consider it an admirable test of one's golf.

In the Dolomites region also there is a new course which is attracting much attention and one is to be constructed at Cortina d'Ampezzo.