

Westchester Magazine: 2013 Golf Getaway in Palm Beach, Florida

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A just-completed multimillion-dollar renovation by Tom Fazio, the original designer, makes Emerald Dunes Club an excellent choice for those second-home owners who don't live in a dedicated golf community. It's a challenging but perfectly playable course where there's plenty of risk and reward to go with the refined landscaping and sense of isolation that comes from the 2,000 trees recently planted along the club's perimeter.

Emerald Dunes opens with a pair of enjoyable birdie opportunities—a 504-yard par 5 and a 400-yard par 4—but the teeth come out on the fourth hole, the first par 3—168 yards over water and a major

bunker with a small bailout area to the left. A delightful rock-ledge waterfall frames the green back right. That's followed by a double-dogleg 562-yard par 5 with water all the way to the green on the left and bunkers lining the fairway on the right. The back nine offers some birdie opportunities as long as you're not risk-averse. The 11th hole, a 489-yard par 5, is one of them, especially for the long drivers in the group. The 18th hole, a 433-yard par 4, has a big, inviting fairway but long approach to an elevated green.

Fazio also designed a new short-game practice area with multiple target and chipping greens, sand and grass bunkers (including a shallow-face fairway bunker), and a huge putting green to go with a double-ended range, a learning center with two teaching bays, and a club-fitting area. Members also enjoy a unique yearly dues arrangement that includes absolutely everything—even all food and beverages. The club has an excellent caddie program as well.