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Emerald Dunes - Fazio Master Renovation

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Back in 1990, Tom Fazio finished sculpting what was thought of at the time as one of his finest designs - Emerald Dunes Club in West Palm Beach. Along with Black Diamond's Quarry, Emerald Dunes was certainly considered his best work in the sunshine state (3 years later he designed 36 holes at World Woods north of Tampa).

Over a relatively short period of time, EDC lost some of its luster, and was no longer considered among the state's elite. Whether it was the boom of new courses in the 90's, or the fact that it became lost in ownership changes and shifted from a high end daily fee (at its inception) to an exclusive club (that was owned at one point by a group headed by the late Frank Chirkinian of CBS Sports) no one seems to know for sure.

Fazio was very excited to get a chance to polish his 22 year old creation, "Emerald Dunes has always been one of my favorite courses, and I was pleased to be invited back to make some strategic enhancements to one of the most highly regarded clubs in Florida. Emerald Dunes is truly a gem, and with the recent improvements, it's an even more dazzling jewel".

Thanks to new ownership and a 15 million dollar renovation by Fazio, the course and club are more beautiful than one can imagine. The first eye popping improvement is the Landscaping by Hadden Landscape Company, thousands of native Muhly, Fountain and Cord grasses line the dunes and slopes, as well as 2,000 new palms and ornamental hedges throughout the property. A sea of Purple Bougainvillea vines climb the walls of the newly updated clubhouse.

Practice facilities are often overlooked at clubs of this stature, at EDC it not only wasn't overlooked, it is one of the best anywhere. The eight acre driving range and learning studio on the back end are above standard issue. The four acre shortgame area is as good as it gets, and includes multiple bunkers and target greens for different types of shots in various wind conditions . . . also included is a 19th hole (85-135 yards) for settling wagers or just for working on your wedge play. The turf at the shortgame area is kept at the same speeds and firmness as the course. If I was fortunate enough to be a member (I'm not), I would spend copious amounts of time at this part of the property.

Fazio had this to say about the shortgame area:

"With the new Short Game Area, we added more green space. We've mimicked anything you will encounter on the course here. Practice is an integral part of the game and this is a spectacular amenity that allows golfers to tune-up their short game. This area gave me a chance to make a significant addition to the golf experience at Emerald Dunes."

As for the work on the course itself, Master Fazio gave Dunes his personal touch. He glows when he talks about the place: "To take something that originally was so well received, and make it substantially superior is a special achievement."

Many Championship tees were added (EDC tips out at just over 7100 yards now) and others reshaped, as well as fairways widened and some new greens were created. A new irrigation system will ensure proper and consistent conditions for everyday play 365 days each year in Palm Beach. In an area that boasts the likes of Seminole, Medalist, Jupiter Hills, and Trump International . . . can Fazio's latest edition of Emerald Dunes stack up?

There are many ultra exclusive golf clubs in Palm Beach . . . in Florida . . . and in the U.S, but there are few as special as the new Emerald Dunes Club. The experience at EDC is unique and beautiful, no detail was overlooked in the present edition, it is quite simply the most impressive renovation that we have seen to date - kudos to Master Fazio.

