



World Golf

Florida's Emerald Dunes Club Completes Restoration

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Emerald Dunes Club in West Palm Beach, Fla., has finished a remodel of its course. The work was overseen by Tom Fazio, the course's original designer.

The result of Fazio's work is a refinement of the heralded course that opened in 1990 and was listed as one of the best 100 courses in the U.S. and rated in the top five of all Florida clubs.

Fazio managed the extensive multi-million-dollar project, which involved the addition of championship tees. Other tees were expanded or redesigned; fairways widened on several holes; some new greens created and others reshaped; bunkers added to increase their number to over 100; and two holes reconfigured. A new irrigation system will ensure that the course conditions remain consistent.

"Tom Fazio took the gem of his original design and perfected it," said the club's Ken Green. "We've created a sanctuary for golfers who appreciate a pure golf experience that's challenging yet fun to play on a daily basis. While we've added length for scratch golfers, the course remains playable for all skill levels. And the new world-class Tom Fazio Short Game Area, along with the two-bay indoor Golf Learning Center, generously complements the club's variety of practice facilities and game improvement amenities that rival any in Florida, if not the nation."

Emerald Dunes features an eight-acre, 310-yard double-sided driving range with more than 28,000 square feet of tee surface. This area also provides five target greens, each framed with shallow sand bunkers, four mini-chipping target greens and a USGA regulation putting green. The separate Tom Fazio Short Game Area includes a 19th hole par-3 that plays from 85 to 135 yards.

Two dedicated target greens, a chipping green and an additional putting green were all built to USGA specifications with same turf conditions as the golf course. Six practice bunkers and a grass pot bunker complete the practice amenities.

A total investment of approximately \$15 million was made by Emerald Dunes' ownership to upgrade the course and refine the clubhouse. Also added were 2,000 mature palms and trees around the course's perimeter to serve as privacy buffers; the former cart paths were replaced with crushed-shell surfaces and pavers to complement the natural look of the course.

"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," said Fazio. "Emerald Dunes is truly a gem and with the recent improvements it's an even more dazzling jewel. Although it's hard to imagine, we've upgraded the quality of the overall golf experience by tenfold. With the addition of soft shell paths, native vegetation and an expansive short game area, the dream keeps getting better. To take something that originally was so well received and make it substantially superior is a special achievement."

Emerald Dunes is just minutes from Palm Beach and the surrounding community. Lee Rinker, a veteran PGA Tour pro who now competes on the Champions Tour, is the club's director of golf. For more information about Emerald Dunes Club, contact Lesley Rey 561/ 687-1700 or visit <http://www.emeraldunes.com>.