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Fazio Renovates Emerald Dunes Club in West Palm Beach

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When it opened as Florida's 1,000th golf course in 1990, Emerald Dunes in West Palm Beach was among architect's Tom Fazio's more anticipated layouts – a course that would set the standard for high-end, daily fee golf. Emerald Dunes has been a private club since 2005 when it was acquired by a group led by legendary TV golf producer Frank Chirkinian. The club was purchased by local real estate attorney Steven Rubin in 2010 for a reported price of \$15 million.

For the past several months, Fazio has worked to polish one of the jewels of his impressive architectural portfolio and introduce the Emerald Dunes Club as one of the top private courses in the country.

New championship back tees have been added, other tees were expanded and redesigned, fairways were widened on several holes, some new greens

were created and others reshaped, bunkers were added to increase their number to more than 100, two holes were reconfigured and a new irrigation system was installed.

“Tom Fazio took the gem of his original design and perfected it,” said Emerald Dunes Club Executive Vice President 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.”

Indeed, few clubs have the extensive practice facilities found at Emerald Dunes. The eight-acre, 310-yard double-sided driving range includes more than 28,000 square feet of tee surface.

This arena also has 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. Six practice bunkers and a grass pot bunker complete the practice amenities.

A total of 2,000 towering mature palms and trees were planted around the course's perimeter to screen any visible outside architecture and to serve as privacy buffers and the old cart paths were replaced with crushed shell paths and pavers.

“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,” Fazio said. “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 ten-fold. 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.”