

## Tom Fazio track set for July 1998 grand opening in Hoosier state

FOLSONVILLE, Ind. — Victoria National Golf Club, a private Tom Fazio design being built on the site of a former coal mining operation, is on target for a July 1998 opening.

The course, which meanders around 417 acres and will be restricted to 300 members, has been sculpted out of and around existing hills, cliffs, ravines, stripper pits and other quirky details like mining tunnels that reflect the history of the site, which is northeast of Evansville in Warrick County.

Victoria National will boast what Fazio and developer Terry Friedman are calling the first full set of 18 climate-controlled greens. Each of the 18 greens will have an air vault system beneath them to help the bentgrass cope with warmer and cooler temperatures. The system was developed at Purdue University and has been used at Augusta National, home of The Masters. The computerized system reacts to soil temperatures. When temperatures reach 40 degrees Fahrenheit, for example, a compressor is activated to blow warm air in under the green and keep the soil warm. When temperatures reach 80 degrees Fahrenheit, the compressor can blow cold air in to keep the soil cool and reduce the amount of watering it needs. The system also sucks out excess moisture — such as after heavy rainfall — by vacuum and drains it away.

Friedman, who grew up in the area and caddied at local courses, said he would eventually like to see a major professional golf tournament played at Victoria National, maybe a women's U.S. Open or U.S. Senior Open. There will also be high-end housing at the site.

## Georgia course changes name and has \$100k facelift

LAKE LANIER ISLANDS, Ga. — The name has changed, along with the location of a few greens, but Emerald Pointe Golf Club on Lake Lanier Islands remains a challenging layout.

Formerly called Lake Lanier Islands Golf Club, the course has changed names in hopes of distinguishing itself from other activities on the islands in Lake Lanier, a vacation spot northeast of Atlanta. The new Emerald Pointe course is one of

two courses at Lake Lanier Islands. The other is the Renaissance PineIsle at the PineIsle resort.

The course, which is affiliated with the island's Hilton Hotel, opened in 1989 and measures 5,659 yards from the white tees. Thirteen of its holes border the water. Along with the name change, there have been more than \$100,000 in renovations including new drainage and sand in the bunkers and five new greens.



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