

## Fazio's domain: Virginia Beach, Hilton Head



Tom Fazio-designed Bayville Golf Club to take golfers back to the game's tradition.

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — Boasting what golf course architect Tom Fazio called terrain “reminiscent of British and Scottish linksland which gave birth to the traditions of the game,” the private Bayville Golf Club has scheduled a July opening here.

Fazio has transformed the waterfront terrain, with its subtle contours and sandy soil, into an 18-hole golf course and 16-acre practice range. Yardage varies from 4,987 to 7,086 yards, and

varying wind conditions, combined with the links atmosphere of the design, are expected to provide a new challenge each day to golfers. Lakes as well as berms, tidal marshes, ponds and tree buffers enhance the design.

No residential development is involved in the project.

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HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. — After unveiling its first golf course in late November, Belfair officials have announced Tom Fazio will design a second 18-

hole course at the 1,028-acre private club community located just five miles west of the Hilton Head Island Bridge.

Construction of the first nine holes of the second course is expected to begin late this year, according to J. David Everett, a partner in Belfair Plantation, L.L.C., the company developing the community.

Fazio authored the original Belfair design, a par-72 layout stretching 7,044 yards from the championship tees. The course, which features three holes along 41-acre Hidden Lake and six finishing holes overlooking the Colleton River, opened for limited play last November. The course is expected to open to full-time play this fall.

Fazio said he had not yet begun work on design details of the second Belfair course. But, he added, he looks forward to the challenge of adding a second course to a facility that has earned critical acclaim.

“We’re just in the preliminary layout stages now,” explained Fazio. “But it becomes a big responsibility for me to create a distinctly different style golf course. But we have no reservations that that will not happen.”

According to Everett, the second golf course will feature some of the same traditional design elements employed in the first course, including rectangular tees, closely mown chipping areas and boldly contoured greens. Initial routing plans call for several parallel fairways reminiscent of private clubs built in the pre-development era. As with the first course, real-estate consideration will be kept to a minimum, with no real estate offered behind greens.

The course is routed to take advantage of the entire Belfair property, from the tidal salt marshes along the Colleton River to inland forests of hardwoods and pines.

### Golf Engineering finishes renovation

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Golf Engineering Associates, a Phoenix-based golf course irrigation design firm, has completed an irrigation system renovation plan for Francisco Grande Resort in Casa Grande. The resort is proceeding with a renovation of its existing 18 holes, thought to be the longest course in Arizona at 7,594 yards, and may add five new holes with real-estate development in the near future, according to developers.

GEA is also planning a new irrigation system for the Hanover Country Club in Abbottstown, Pa. The club recently purchased land to construct four new holes in addition to existing course upgrades.

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