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## MACHRIHANISH DUNES WINS SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

## At international awards ceremony

Words: John Dean



Machrihanish Dunes has been recognised on a worldwide level by the International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO) after winning their inaugural sustainability award.

Machrihanish Dunes took home one of 14 awards handed out, which was 'Sustainable Golf Course of the Year' in recognition of its "outstanding and inspiring work as a minimal-impact golf course, in harmony with its natural environment."

Machrihanish Dunes was the first 18-hole golf course in the United Kingdom to earn GEO certification, an honor that it achieved in 2010. The 18-hole links golf course located on the west coast of Scotland was designed by David McLay Kidd and is sited on an environmentally protected Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Of the 259 acres upon which the course sits, only seven were modified during the creation of the course—just greens and tees—with no heavy equipment or inorganic materials used. Throughout the course-creation process and in all the years since, Machrihanish Dunes has worked hand-in-glove with Scottish Natural Heritage to ensure that the site's fragile ecosystem (and in particular its protected species of rare orchids and moths) is managed and nurtured in the most sustainable way possible.

Meanwhile Ugadale Hotel at the Village at Machrihanish Dunes has recently won "Best Hotel" recognition at the 2016 Scottish Golf Tourism Awards. So that's another reason to get up to this remote and beautiful part of Scotland.