

Machrihanish Dunes claims IAGTO award

By *Martin Inglis* on November 27, 2016



- Machrihanish Dunes recognised with IAGTO sustainability award
- The course won ‘Outstanding Commitment to Sustainable Golf’
- “We are thrilled,” said David Southworth – founder of The Village

MACHRIHANISH DUNES | IAGTO

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

On the final night of the International Golf Travel Market (IGTM) in Mallorca, which was attended by more than 1,000 industry professionals, *Machrihanish Dunes* took home one of 14 awards handed out, which was ‘Sustainable Golf Course of the Year – Outstanding Commitment to Sustainable Golf’.

“The [Machrihanish Dunes](#) project represents golf’s turning point back towards stunning, highly naturalised courses” - Jonathan Smith

The IAGTO Sustainability Awards are the result of a partnership between IAGTO and the Golf Environment Organisation (GEO), which recognises excellence in environmental and social responsibility.

And Machrihanish Dunes, [which is one of the 18 courses available to play in the 2017 bunkered subscription offer](#), clearly ticked all of those boxes for the GEO.



Jonathan Smith, GEO chief executive, said: “Machrihanish Dunes, the winner of this year’s inaugural Outstanding Commitment Award, have, from the course’s inception through to today, worked in harmony with the natural environment.

“In many ways, the Machrihanish Dunes project represents golf’s turning point back towards stunning, highly naturalised courses.”

“Our company places great importance on being good stewards of the environment” - David Southworth

David Southworth, founder and CEO of Southworth Development, the parent company of The Village at Machrihanish Dunes, said: “We are thrilled. Our company places great importance on being good stewards of the environment.



“We consider ourselves privileged to have the opportunity to stand watch over this precious shore land. It’s a responsibility that we welcome – and one that we also take very seriously.”

Hilton Head Island (*above*) in South Carolina, home to the PGA Tour’s RBC Heritage, scooped the inaugural ‘Sustainable Golf Destination of the Year’ award, while the ‘Golf Destination of the Year’ in Europe went to Andalucia, Spain.

Full list of 2017 IAGTO award winners

2017 IAGTO Awards winners

Golf Destinations of the Year

- North America: **North Florida, USA**
- Latin America & Caribbean: **Los Cabos, Mexico**
- Africa & Gulf States: **Western Cape, South Africa**
- Europe: **Andalucía, Spain**
- Asia & Australasia: **Chiang Mai Province, Thailand**

Golf Resorts of the Year

- Europe: **Costa Navarino, Greece**
- North America: **Barefoot Resort & Golf, South Carolina, USA**
- Rest of the World: **Laguna Golf Lăng Cô, Vietnam**

Undiscovered Destination of the Year

- **Kärnten (Carinthia), Austria**

2017 IAGTO Sustainability Awards winners

Sustainable Golf Destination of the Year

- **Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, USA**

Sustainable Golf Courses of the Year

- Nature Protection: **Great Rift Valley Lodge & Golf Resort, Kenya**
- Community Value: **Laguna Golf Phuket, Thailand**
- Resource Efficiency: **Pebble Beach Resorts, California, USA**
- Outstanding Commitment to Sustainable Golf: **Machrihanish Dunes,**