

Middle East

golfer

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Full Monty

Colin Montgomerie
enters Hall of Fame

OPEN SEASON

TIME FOR WOODS
TO GET BACK IN
THE MAJORS MOOD

ABU DHABI SPECIAL
The emirate's signature clubs



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Abu Dhabi Golf Club

In January each year, the world's best golfers descend on Abu Dhabi for one of the first major events of the new season. This year was no exception, with Rory McIlroy, Tiger Woods and Justin Rose all competing for the famous Falcon trophy. However, for 50 weeks of the year, this incredible course is open to us regular players, and is a must-play for anyone in the region.

I recall when I first played the championship course ahead of the inaugural European Tour event in the emirate in 2006. Dubai already had a long

history of hosting the Desert Classic (heading into its 25th year in 2014) but its neighbor was taking its first steps on the international stage. It was just a few days before the tournament and I was asked to walk the course, carrying my clubs, and all alone with not another soul to be seen. I have to say, it was one of the most enjoyable rounds of my life.

Walking the course gave me the opportunity to really appreciate the terrain. That's something you just don't get when you are whizzing along in a cart with marshals hurrying your every move.

What struck me about the Abu Dhabi course was how mature it felt, how established, and the fact that it had an atmosphere completely unlike anything I have experienced in the emirates at that time.

Times have changed, and the Abu Dhabi Golf Championship is now a firm fixture on the golfing calendar and able to command the kind of players that other tournaments can only dream of.

Abu Dhabi Golf Club is managed by Troon Golf.

Fifteen minutes from the city centre, about an hour's drive from Downtown Dubai and just ten minutes from Abu Dhabi International Airport, Abu Dhabi Golf Club is perfectly located for domestic and international guests.

Abu Dhabi Golf Club features 27 Championship holes over 162 hectares with an undulating terrain meandering through pockets of palms, ornamental trees and shrubs with no less than seven saltwater lakes.

The 18-hole par-72 Championship Course measures 7,590 yards and was designed by Peter Harradine. The National Course is host of the Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship.

Also designed by Peter Harradine, the Garden Course is a 9-hole par-36 challenge stretching 3,292 yards.

As well known as the course itself is the iconic, unique clubhouse. Made in the image of a falcon swooping down on the course, the newly refurbished clubhouse with its wings outstretched, looms over the 9th and 18th greens.

The course has also benefitted considerably from the opening of The Westin Abu Dhabi Golf Resort & Spa on site. Whichever way you look at it, Abu Dhabi Golf Club is an essential destination.

