

TEE BOX

NEWS EDITOR: RICHARD HUMPHREYS



New Faldo course opens in Pakistan

Rumanza layout takes golfers through three distinct areas, characterised by desert, trees and water

Rumanza Golf Club in Multan, Pakistan, has opened its new Sir Nick Faldo Signature course.

The club, part of a new 9,000-acre community being developed by the Defence Housing Authority of Multan, also has a six-hole par-three layout and a practice range.

“The course should challenge the top players from the back tees but be eminently playable for all other standards of golfer from the other tees,” said Andy Haggar, lead architect at Faldo Design. “The fairways are quite generous to help golfers keep the ball in play, whilst at the same time, the shaping and placement of the hazards challenge the better players to put the ball in the right place.

“Often the strategy of the hole is created with the green’s design as the starting point. Here, each green features a range of pin placements that will be either hard, medium or easy. There is noticeable movement in the greens, but the surface areas are large enough to accommodate that movement. As with the fairways, it is about being in the right place on the green to give yourself the best chance of a good score.”

The layout, which is over 7,500 yards from the back tees, takes golfers through three distinct areas, with the first four holes characterised by desert, holes five to twelve among trees, and the remainder traversing around a water storage lake to the clubhouse at the centre of the course.

“On the playing side at Rumanza, we wanted to create an interesting, strategic and memorable golfing experience,” said Haggar. “Once we had scraped off the top surface of material on this very flat site, we found pure sand. That moved us towards creating something of an inland links-style golf course.



Faldo Design created an inland links style layout, with greens that have significant movement and are defended by revetted bunkers

Photo: Rumanza Golf Club

“The closing three holes are spectacular. They play around a large lake that features a peninsula, where we have retained mango trees. Also, because of the peninsula, it will mean that the extent of the lake is only revealed as you play the holes around it. This means you won’t see the lake alongside the par-four eighteenth until you walk off the par-three seventeenth green and stand on the final tee. It is certainly impressive and memorable.”

Haggar says that alongside some links-like shaping, revetted bunkers were the obvious choice. “Bunkers are revetted in a traditional style using EcoBunker, with turf rolled down over the edge,” he said. “We also used EcoBunker to create a revetted edge to certain sections of the waste areas adjacent to the fairways, which provides another nice feature of the course, and which complements the bunkering.”

Grassing Pakistan’s first signature course

When selecting turfgrass for the Rumanza course, sustainability and performance were primary considerations. The conditions called for a durable warm season turfgrass able to thrive in extreme temperatures and conducive to the pure sand base. To meet these demands, the architect team at Faldo Design specified a turfgrass with which they were familiar from previous projects, Platinum TE paspalum, supplied by Atlas Turf International.

Rumanza features Platinum TE throughout the course from tee to green. As a versatile cultivar, Platinum TE is adaptable to various heights of cut and can be mowed as low as 2.03 millimetres for tight and fast greens or grown to higher heights for fairways and rough.

“Rumanza has successfully opened to the public with rave reviews from the Pakistani golfers for the overall facility – including the Platinum paspalum,” said general manager Sam Clayton. “The highest praise came from Sir Nick Faldo, Graeme McDowell, Rafa Cabrera-Bello and Charley Hull on their recent visit.

“The Platinum paspalum has endured six months of 45-50C heat from May to October, followed by three months of freezing overnight temperatures with heavy, frequent frosts and fogs from December through February. With the extreme weather conditions, the praise is a testament to the durability of the Platinum paspalum and assurance that the turf selection was the right choice.”

PERFECTION EXPECTED

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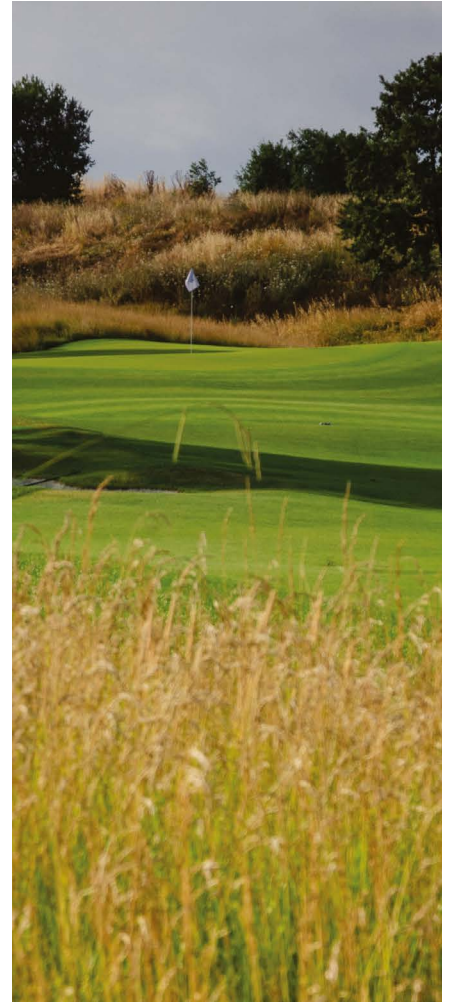
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