

COSTA NAVARINO AWARDED INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE GOLF DISTINCTION

The first multiple-course destination in the Eastern Mediterranean to become GEO Certified®

Messinia, February 22, 2024 – Costa Navarino has further underlined its commitment and performance across sustainable golf course operations after The Dunes Course and The Bay Course both achieved GEO Certified® status. This distinction marks a significant milestone in a long-standing dedication to fostering nature, conserving resources, adding community value, and taking climate action.

The certification is overseen and managed by the international GEO Sustainable Golf Foundation. Certification Manager Carole Kerrey commented: *“Sustainability is a clear priority for Costa Navarino with evidence across planning and operations at the Bay and Dunes courses; not only satisfying the certification criteria but also going beyond with some innovative projects. We look forward to seeing more to come.”*

David Ashington, General Manager at Costa Navarino Golf, said: *“We are delighted to achieve GEO Certified® status for The Dunes Course and The Bay Course. This international certification acknowledges our long-standing commitment to sustainable golf development. Since the launch of Costa Navarino -and even before, during construction- several groundbreaking initiatives were introduced, to ensure sustainable performance across the golf courses and the destination. We work hard to continue improving these practices and to ensure that all our golfers and guests can enjoy the best possible experience in these spectacular natural surroundings.”*

Costa Navarino is the first multiple-course destination in the Eastern Mediterranean to achieve this international distinction. Some sustainability highlights from Costa Navarino’s Bay and Dunes golf facilities include:

- **Sophisticated water management:** Several years before the courses were launched, extensive studies for the availability of water resources in the region, formed the basis for a sustainable water management system. Water reservoirs were specifically designed and constructed, fully integrated into the surrounding landscape, and filled by less than 1% of the excess run-off from local rivers. This water, together with highly treated recycled water is more than enough to cover the irrigation needs. Additionally, a series of water-saving measures are constantly applied, based on best available practices that focus on consumption monitoring (e.g. leak control, improved efficiency).
- **The total irrigated grassed area on the Bay and Dunes courses has been reduced** by 5% and 10% respectively during 2023, by using native plants and recycled olive tree wood branches. Extensive work is still being carried out in 2024 to further reduce the total irrigated grass areas on both golf courses.
- **Climate action:** Since 2009, Costa Navarino has joined forces with Stockholm University and the Academy of Athens to establish the Navarino Environmental Observatory (NEO), which has been at the forefront of research and education about climate change and the environment in the Eastern Mediterranean region for the past 15 years.
- **The biggest olive tree-transplanting programme in Europe:** More than 7,000 trees are replanted so far across all areas at Costa Navarino.
- The Bay Clubhouse is **one of the first earth-sheltered clubhouses**, ensuring it harmoniously blends into the natural landscape, with a total of 27,500 plants and trees both around the clubhouse and on its rooftop.

- An **on-going, extensive recycling program** for paper, plastics, glass, used oil, batteries and organic waste.
- **Positive wider economic impact** in Messinia, through contribution with 11% to the region's GDP over the years (2006-2022), while generating another 80 distinct services in the wider area.

Environmental protection remains a key focus for Costa Navarino which was chosen as "Best Sustainable Destination" globally by the World Travel & Tourism Council, while it was recently named as 'Europe's Best Eco-Friendly Golf Facility' at the World Golf Awards. The destination enhanced further its sustainable credentials by reducing emissions by 80% for 2022 (compared to 2019), as part of its decarbonization strategy, aiming to achieve net-zero operations for the facilities by 2050. Additionally, various large-scale initiatives have been implemented, in line with Costa Navarino's participation at the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, such as working together with WWF Greece, for the reduction of single use plastics which surpassed 50% in 2023 (compared to 2019).

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About Costa Navarino

Costa Navarino is a sustainably driven destination in the Mediterranean, located in Messinia in the southwest Peloponnese of Greece. Graced with a breath-taking seaside landscape, this is a region shaped by 4,500 years of history. The Costa Navarino philosophy is driven by a genuine desire to preserve the natural beauty and heritage of Messinia. The destination comprises several distinct sites featuring five-star hotels, luxury private residences, a world-class golf experience, and many year-round activities. Navarino Dunes is home to The Romanos, a Luxury Collection Resort, The Westin Resort Costa Navarino and Costa Navarino Residences. Navarino Bay is the setting for Mandarin Oriental, Costa Navarino, W Costa Navarino and Navarino Agora, a curated marketplace. Both sites have signature golf courses, while at Navarino Hills there are two further signature golf courses.

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About GEO Sustainable Golf Foundation

GEO Sustainable Golf Foundation is an international not-for-profit dedicated to helping accelerate sustainability and climate action in and through golf. Founded 18 years ago as an early pioneer in what has now become the sport and sustainability movement, the Foundation remains entirely focussed on golf across the amateur and professional game, providing advocacy, strategy, innovation, solutions, and credible recognition.

Working closely alongside dozens of golf bodies and wider stakeholders, the Foundation provides a comprehensive system for golf facilities and associations; new developments and renovations; and Tours, tournaments and professional players. Prominent aspects include the Sustainable Golf Pledge; the OnCourse® online programmes and tools; annual Sustainable Golf Scorecards and carbon footprinting; the Sustainable Golf Leaderboard and Highlights hub; and the internationally accredited and independently verified GEO Certified® label.
