



## Kinloch Looking Into the Future

**K**INLOCH Club has come of age.

The nine-year-old club is now firmly etched on the golfing map, benefiting from hefty investment during the past five years by New Zealand-based owner Southpark Corporation and the vision of its executive director, John Sax.

New Zealand's only Jack Nicklaus signature design, the par-72 championship course on the shores of Lake Taupo has always been regarded as one of the Golden Bear's best.

The greatest golfer of all time drove the first ball on opening day in 2007 and returned a year later to play all 18 holes.

"You won't find another golf course that looks much like this in the world," Nicklaus said.

Today at Kinloch, it's all about the future. The Lodge, now six months old, has a bold, luxurious design – with credit going to Andrew Patterson, of Pattersons Associates Architects, and interior designer Virginia Fisher. Both Patterson and Fisher are recognised New Zealand leaders in their respective fields – and part of their design challenge was to create a modern building echoing the grand features of Scotland's Kinloch Castle on the Isle of Rùm.

Patterson's design work also included one-bedroom suites and a range of luxurious one

THE PICTURESQUE KINLOCH CLUB IS A MUST-PLAY FOR ANY PASSIONATE GOLFER.



and two-bedroom villas, with views over the course and out to Lake Taupo. His focus was 'harmonising' the buildings with the magnificent golf course and the wider landscape, and Fisher introduced interior design concepts of wide-open internal spaces, huge log fires, window settings framing spellbinding views, and furnished terraces.

This elegance is a contrast to 2007, when visitors to the then fledgling course found the pro shop and adjoining real-estate company operating out of portable buildings. It was a 'temporary' arrangement that lasted longer than anticipated.

Lack of funds to achieve the

planned lodge, clubhouse and other facilities meant that, for many years, the visitor's first impression of The Kinloch Club was a work in progress.

Resident professional Tom Long, one of the few staff members who have been employed throughout several changes of ownership, has risen above challenging circumstances to be part of the reinvigorated Kinloch.

New Zealand and international golfers continue to regard it highly. Kinloch shot straight to the top when it opened, and was named in US Travel & Leisure Golf as one of the new top 10 courses. In the inaugural

AUSTRALIAN GOLF DIGEST Top 40 Courses of New Zealand ranking this year, Kinloch came in at No.5 behind Tara Iti, Jack's Point, Cape Kidnappers and Kauri Cliffs.

Though not a true links course, Kinloch is often referred to as a mix of 'links' and 'parkland'. Sir Bob Charles said: "For those unable to play the great links courses of Scotland, Kinloch compares with the best of them. A true links experience with Jack Nicklaus at his best." But it's the whole experience at The Kinloch Club that sets it apart. The acclaimed restaurant offers an expansive, locally sourced menu, and the Kinloch Spa specialises in sporting therapeutic and organic wellness treatments.

Kinloch's marketing arm is working hard to ensure New Zealand and international travellers and golfers are made aware of the many packages on offer. An exceptional golf course with a superb lodge now offers the golfing public a truly magical experience in a unique New Zealand setting.



Denise Langdon is the Director of PaR nz Golfing Holidays, based in Auckland.