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SANDPINES GOLF LINKS RECEIVES MAJOR AWARD FROM TRIPADVISOR.COM

Sandpines Golf Links of Florence was recently awarded Trip Advisor's Certificate of Excellence for 2014, receiving four-and-a-half out of five possible points.

The award ranks Sandpines as the number-two overall golf destination on the Oregon Coast, just behind the Bandon Dunes golf complex. TripAdvisor is the world's largest travel website.

"We are delighted by this award, says Sandpines' general manager Michael Pearson. "This is a real testament to our staff, our grounds crew, and the Florence area itself."

A survey of reviews on TripAdvisor yields words like "challenging," "forgiving," "beautiful," "well run," "great layout," "top-of-the-line," and "best on the coast."

According to TripAdvisor, the public course also ranks eighth out of 190-plus sports-related attractions on the Oregon Coast.

In addition, Sandpines is wrapping up its twentieth anniversary celebration this year.

"Since opening in 1993, Sandpines has been known for its world-class design and playability for experienced and beginning golfers," says Pearson. "Sandpines has been an international go-to place for golfers from all over the world. It's long been one of the 'must-play' spots along the Oregon Coast."

Upon opening, Sandpines won recognition as the "Best New Public Course in America." As one of the premier courses in the Northwest, Sandpines has also received a four-and-a-half star rating from *Golf Digest's* list of "Places to Play in the USA." In 2002, Travel & Leisure magazine name it one of America's 100 Best Courses for \$100 or Less. The course is so favored by the international golfing community that the United States Golf Association commissioned a coffee-table book to commemorate its 100th anniversary, and chose Sandpines for its cover shot.

"Many golfers and golf pros consider Sandpines their favorite golf course in the state, or anywhere else for that matter," says Pearson. "People know they can get a world-class golf experience at Sandpines for less than the cost of a required caddy at other courses along the coast; and our price includes a covered golf cart."

One of the advantages of playing Sandpines is its year-around playability. It's built on sand dunes so rainwater drains off almost instantaneously, making it playable just minutes after a rainstorm. Pearson says there are other advantages built into Sandpines such as an exceptional practice facility and driving range where players can drive and putt on real grass year around.

Even with its international profile, Sandpines is true to its roots as a local public course. Sandpines regularly hosts a number of charity events for non-profits such as the Boys and Girls Club of Florence

and Children's Miracle Network, as well as numerous annual tourneys for junior and senior golfers/ Numerous writers and bloggers for golf and travel magazines make Sandpines a featured stop in their travels.

Sandpines' 9,000 square-foot two-story club house houses offices, a conference room, and a golf shop with the latest in golf equipment, apparel, and accessories for both men and women. It is also home to the highly regarded Tavolo Restaurant and Lounge.

For tee times or more information about Sandpines Golf Links, visit their website, Sandpines.com, or call 541-997-1940 or 800-917-GOLF (4653).