

THE ABACO CLUB

THE BAHAMAS

THE BAHAMAS IS SUDDENLY A HOTBED of Caribbean golf activity, with the opening of the mammoth Baha Mar resort, but also news is that the much more intimate Abaco Club on Great Abaco Island has been sold.

The 10-year-old private sporting club was recently acquired by Southworth Development, which owns and operates private clubs and residential communities in the U.S. and overseas, including Creighton Farms in Virginia and Machrihanish Dunes in Scotland. Southworth is planning a multi-million-dollar renovation of the existing facilities at The Abaco Club, as well as the addition of a state-of-the-art golf practice facility (to be designed by course architect Bob Cupp) plus a new marina and boathouse.

The 453-acre club already boasts one of the Caribbean's most highly regarded golf courses, a seaside layout—often described as a “tropical links”—designed by Donald Steel and Tom Mackenzie. The front nine runs along the sands of Winding Bay, while the back is perched on a ridge, offering stunning views as well as strong winds.

Other amenities include a European-style spa, infinity pool, fitness center, tennis courts, watersports, restaurant and bar, deep-sea and bone-fishing charters, and full concierge services. It's also easy to arrange diving and snorkeling in the third largest coral reef system in the world. Nearby Abaco National Park is a 20,000-acre nature preserve famous for endangered native parrots.

The club offers a choice of memberships (which include reciprocal privileges at other Southworth properties), as well as a variety of homes and homesites.

—James A. Frank

