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Our starting point is the awareness that the value of Tuscan golf courses increases inasmuch as they relate closely to the setting of the course site itself and are sustainable within this given environmental context. The course's eco-compatibility and sustainability thus become an added value moreover for the fact that management expenses and the negative consequences of pollution are reduced. Even more, the character of an environment is a resource in that it becomes a qualifying value in promoting tourist and sports activities.

This is the reason that has motivated the Tuscan Golf Consortium, together with the Italian Golf Federation, the Tuscan Committee, the Regional Government of Tuscany and ARPAT (the regional environmental agency), to judge in a positive way the launching of a project whose aim is to gain entrance to recognised procedures of environmental certification, on the basis of criteria elaborated by the Community EMAS and Ecolabel regulations and by the international 14001 ISO norms.

These golf facilities are very particular sport businesses with important management features linked to the agronomic maintenance of the grass carpets and to the morphological modelling of the grounds. To obtain a certification which further qualifies the environment, both in landscape and agro-cultivation terms, it is thus necessary to adopt bio-architecture and/or natural engineering concepts as well as to ascertain, in verifying and promoting an Environmental Management System, that the necessary feasibility tests are carried out directly on the golf courses.

To fulfill this organisational and strategic requirement, the Tuscan Golf Consortium, as well as on behalf of the Tuscan Committee of the Italian Golf Federation, has ascertained the availability of the following sports facilities in order to identify basic criteria in determining environmental certification. The following facilities have been identified:

- AS Montecatini Golf
- Casentino Golf Club
- Cosmopolitan Golf & Country Club
- Poggio dei Medici Golf & Country Club
- Punta Ala Golf Club

after verifying the availability of their management, on the grounds that their geo-floro-territorial connotations represent significant Tuscan landscape ecosystems which encompass a wide range of different sites: from the sandy coastal areas to the borders of a natural park, to the undulating foothills, from nearby thermal spas, to riverside areas in the "macchia mediterranea", as well as to inland areas in pre-Appennine locales or near the art cities.