

Castelconturbia Golf Club, Italy



Severe Drought Prompts Club's Decision to Renovate Its System

Property Details:

Irrigation Consultant

Lorenzo Simoni

Contractors

Battistella Golf
En.Bo.

Rain Bird Products

Nimbus™ II Central Control
Smart Pump™ Software
MI Series™ Software
IC System™
751 Series Rotors
500/550 Series Rotors
PGA Valves
PRS-Dial Pressure Regulators

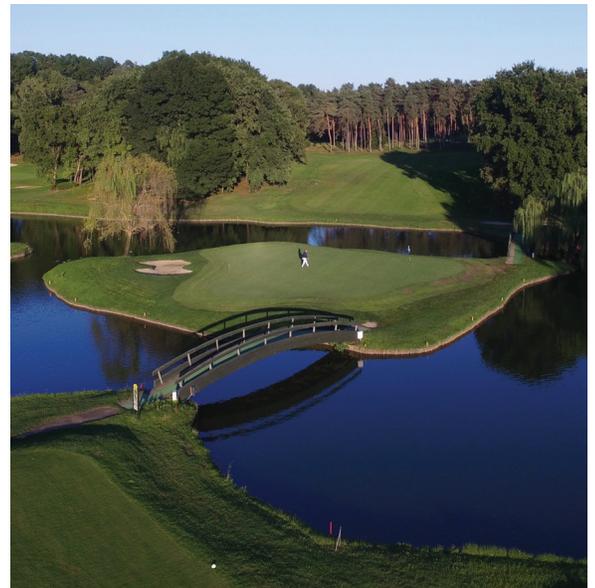
CHALLENGE

Severe drought in 2017 presented the course with a significant challenge. After an unusually dry spring, Italy suffered its worst drought in 60 years, at one point placing 26 cities including Venice and Rome on the maximum extreme heat alert. Many of Rome's fountains were turned off and the city narrowly averted drastic water rationing. A brutal August heatwave, 'Lucifer', saw temperatures soaring over 40°. Castelconturbia has its own water source, but scorching temperatures resulted in low reservoir levels, and lakes and wells that failed to refill. The course irrigation system struggled to cope and with water use capped, the quality of the course, play and the member's experience were badly affected. With temperatures 10-15% higher than normal and researchers predicting that summer conditions in southern Europe could get tougher in future years bringing spells of extreme heat, 2017's summer drought was the spur that prompted the club to react quickly and decide to renovate its irrigation system.



RESULT

Irrigation consultant Lorenzo Simoni designed a new irrigation system for fairways, tees, greens and approaches, from the pump station to the rotors. The system design centres on the Rain Bird IC System and Nimbus II Central Control software with mapping. On fairways, triple rows of Rain Bird 751 IC Rotors provide easy, top-adjustable full- and part-circle operation, using much less hardware compared to satellite and decoder systems. Rain Bird's latest 500/550 rotors were installed on tees for precision watering. As part of the tender process, with combined input from irrigation consultant, Rain Bird's technical team, contractor and client, the project was divided into 3 phases with three teams working on each phase. Two contractors agreed to work collaboratively to bring forward the project completion. Final handover is expected in late 2019.



"Since 1986 when the course was built, our irrigation system has served us very well and in all that time we've only made one significant improvement in adding the double rank system. However, after 30 years the plant is showing signs of structural weakness and our quality golf experience is being put at risk by plant obsolescence. Stopping the system for maintenance means extra working hours and spare parts which weigh heavily on the club's overall budget and continually disrupt planned schedules for staff working on the course. Having evaluated our options, we chose to use Rain Bird for its system technology and for its great expertise in the golf sector."

— Club Director, Giovanni Malcotti

