

AS APPEARED IN GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE, JULY 2010

# Elea Golf Club

Paphos, Cyprus

*Adam Lawrence was the first golf journalist to visit Faldo Design's new course in Cyprus, which will open this autumn*

“Golf design should have few if any rules. In many cases, developers demand architects to comply with a set formula – a par of 72, no blind holes, and a specific length – however, in reality, few of these features truly matter to golf course design. Rules tend to restrict a good golf course designer from creating the best course for a particular property.

The new Eléa course in Cyprus, on the other hand, is a refreshing case study of golf course design. Eléa, developed by Cypriot firm Eliades Leisure and designed by architect Guy Hockley on behalf of Nick Faldo, doesn't comply with any formulaic golf design rules.

Built on a hillside about five kilometers from the resort town of Paphos, Eléa is Cyprus's first true golf club. The golf course offers great views of the Mediterranean from every hole and a severe slope that produces both great sea views and a playable but difficult golf course. Nick Faldo spoke of the club's golf design claiming “When we designed Eléa we decided to put the emphasis on thoughtful, rather than big-hitting golf.” What is clear about Eléa: “what might, at first glance, appear to be a relatively short, gentle course, in fact packs a real punch.”

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