

A wide-angle photograph of a golf course at sunset. A golfer in a blue shirt and tan pants is captured mid-swing on a green. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the landscape. In the background, there are palm trees and a line of trees. A golf cart is parked on a path to the left.

# A Sense of Place

*“Dataw Island Club was one of the first, and remains one of the finest, master planned communities in the Southeast. The island is long and linear to allow routing that maximizes water views.” – TOM FAZIO*

DATAW ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA: Before the advent of the modern private golf community, most private clubs were named after the city in which they were located (Los Angeles Country Club in California) or referenced an attribute specific to the area (Shinnecock Hills Golf Club in New York).

When real estate and golf intertwined, naming a club became more complex. Developers strived for aspirational names that didn’t seem trite.

Alcoa, the world’s largest aluminum manufacturer, was a major developer in the Southeast. When the company decided to create a golf community between the beaches of Hilton Head Island and charming Charleston, South Carolina, attention turned to selecting a name symbolizing its lifestyle.

“The proposed name was Sunset Island,” reported John Colgan, member at Dataw Island Club. “We have our fair share of beautiful sunsets, but as groundwork started, archeologists, hired by Alcoa, discovered important artifacts. Additional research uncovered the fact that the name ‘Dataw Island’ can be traced back to documents, commissioned by Pope Paul III in 1536, recording expeditions of Spanish explorers.

“A decision was made to remain true to our roots by

honoring the early Native American heritage and name the community Dataw Island Club.

“During construction,” continued Colgan, “trucks were rerouted to limit vibrations and protect several of our tabby ruins that offer a glimpse of antebellum life on a cotton plantation.”

### *A DELIGHTFUL PLACE TO BE*

Dataw Island Club features Tom Fazio and Arthur Hills courses; an 85-slip, full-service marina; a 40,000 square-foot, clubhouse; eight Har-Tru tennis courts (four lighted for night play); a fitness center and yoga studio; a pair of championship croquet lawns; a resort-style pool and an indoor lap pool; a community garden; miles of walking trails, and a neighborhood library.

“I live on the marsh and its palette of brown and green hues create a picturesque backdrop,” described Colgan. “Most residents at Dataw are golfers, but golf isn’t the most important reason for living here. It’s our sense of place and neighbors with similar values.” ■

*For more information on Dataw Island Club and their Experience Package, please visit [Dataw.org](http://Dataw.org) or you may phone (866) 683-2829.*

**DATAW ISLAND CLUB** has three times the number of holes bordering water than Harbour Town Golf Links.

**THE COMMUNITY** is building an on-site history museum to display and document Dataw Island’s past.