



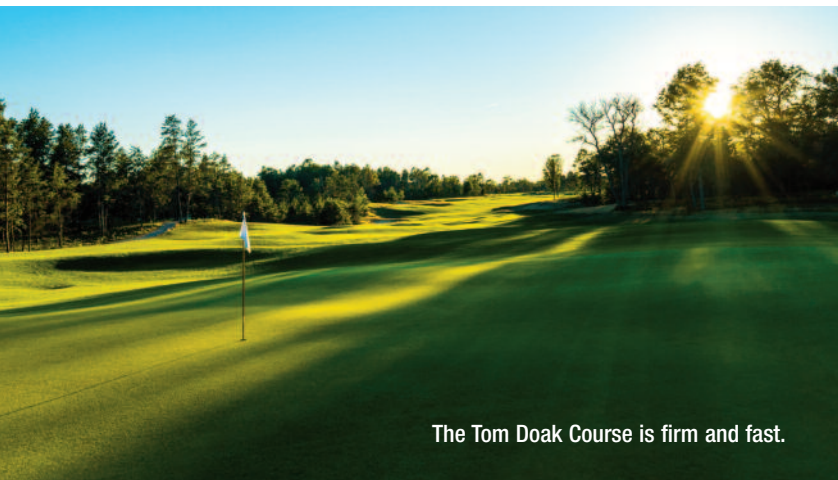
Lake AuSable Lodge features 14 well-appointed rooms and suites.

## The Tale Of Two Toms

*The Loop at Forest Dunes Golf Club opens.*

ROSCOMMON, NORTHERN MICHIGAN: Surprisingly, there are more golf courses in Michigan than California.

“Competition is fierce for your golfing dollar,” said Lew Thompson, owner of Forest Dunes Golf Club. “We have 30 golf courses, including Treetops Resort, within a 30-mile radius of us.”



The Tom Doak Course is firm and fast.

Before Lew purchased the club, Forest Dunes had already established itself on the golf scene. Its existing Tom Weiskopf design, set within the Huron National Forest, is ranked No. 23 in *Golf Digest's* 100 Greatest Public Golf Courses.

“My goal was to create a golf destination that would warrant a couple night’s stay, not an afternoon round as

you pass through town,” explained Lew. “To accomplish the task, I knew I needed to build a lodge and, ultimately, a second golf course. Tom Doak was my pick from day one for the second course. We are not adjacent to an ocean nor on a mountain. I needed something so compelling that golfers from around the country—for that matter, around the world—would want to travel here.”

Doak presented a concept that he had been mulling over for 30 years. “I think you have the right site and are the right client to understand the appeal of a reversible course, allowing golfers to play it both ways. You are getting two courses in one,” explained Doak.

Lew was stunned and hesitant. Thoughts raced through his mind. “Yes, this is different and intriguing, but would core golfers find it to be a gimmick?”

Lew green-lighted the concept and construction commenced two years ago on The Loop at Forest Dunes. Now open for play, the course features two distinct layouts using the same 18 greens but playing clockwise one day (black routing) and counter-clockwise the next (red routing).

“If you know Tom, he is a man of few words,” concluded Lew. “I asked, ‘Okay, the course is complete and the grass is grown in. Tom, what have we got here?’”

“It’s good. It’s really good,” complimented Doak. ■

*For more information, please visit [ForestDunesGolf.com](http://ForestDunesGolf.com).*