

Lohmann christens Whispering Springs

FOND DU LAC, Wis. — Lohmann Golf Designs and its construction division, Golf Creations, have put finishing touches on Whispering Springs Golf Club, an 18-hole daily-fee track that opened for play in the fall along the shores of Lake Winnebago.

Marengo, Ill.-based Lohmann Golf Designs (LGD) completely transformed the property, which had featured a nine-hole course called The Ledges. Working for developer Ed Huck, LGD designed 18 new holes while creating lots for residential housing, upscale apartments and condominiums.

"Whispering Springs is a good example of our turnkey approach to golf development," said Bob Lohmann, president of LGD and vice president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. "We started by doing a land plan for 18 new holes in anticipation of keeping the existing nine open during devel-



Berms frame the green well on Whispering Springs' par-3 12th hole.

opment. However, when we started the first new nine, we just kept going. It doesn't feel like a residential course at all, which we're proud of.

"Because the original nine is gone, we were able to put 18 new golf holes on land that might have accommodated 27. Also, we managed to save some of the

trees from the old nine."

The new course at Whispering Springs plays over rolling terrain, around enormous oaks. The layout itself stretches from 5,500 to nearly 7,000 yards.

Lohmann also used a creek that runs north to south through the property. On three par-5s — Nos. 4, 10 and 18 — play-

ers are required to negotiate the creek.

"The strategy is there; placement is crucial," said Lohmann. "I'm also very pleased with the putting surfaces. The more you play them, the more you appreciate their versatility. They're large enough to move pins behind bunkers or close to slopes, which allows the course to set up differently every day.

"If you take a 4,000- to 5,000-square-foot green and put a lot of depressions around it, the putting surface doesn't look hard to hit. If you take a 10,000-square-foot green and surround it with water, it will appear very hard to hit. We've tried hard to make the player think out there."

The rocky soil here in Fond du Lac presented significant challenges to Golf Creations. The Golf Creations team used the ledge rock to line ponds and frame entryways all around the property. The Lohmann team even provided rock to neighbors for landscaping.

"The ledge was tough, but it turned out to be one of the property's most unique features," said Lohmann. "As a style element, it ties the whole development together."

Ontario resort getting course

SAN DIEGO, Calif.— Tri-National Development Corp. has entered into an agreement to purchase 159 acres for the planned Emerald Hills Resort located 60 miles from the Toronto, Ontario, Canada international airport. The resort is to contain an 18-hole golf course, competitive tennis facilities, a hotel, indoor pool and saunas, a recreation and health club, restaurant and approximately town homes. The property is zoned to accommodate all phases of the proposed plans. The resort would sit in the heart of central Ontario, which is well known for its seasonal tourist population and is an attraction for a large number of business and convention travelers, with annual visitors estimated at 16 million. Upon completion it is projected that the development will have a value in excess of \$75 million.



Intrawest marks \$500M for Tremblant

MONT-TREMBLANT, Quebec — Intrawest plans to invest \$500 million more at Tremblant (Quebec), in partnership with the federal, provincial and municipal governments, over the next five years.

Counting the \$467 million that was spent by December, Intrawest expects it will have

spent nearly \$1 billion on The Tremblant by the end of 2002. Two more golf courses will join the award-winning Le Geant, including Le Diable, a track that will welcome its first golfers in July.

"This investment is justified by a tourist industry that is in a major growth mode," said Houssian. "Canada needs areas that can become true destination resorts — resorts that will attract international visitors. Canada now has that at Whistler/Blackcomb and

unquestionably, we are building it in Quebec, at Tremblant."

Intrawest expects that 2 million guests will visit Tremblant each year by 2002, which is why, between now and then, the company will spend \$46 million on infrastructure, \$88 million for to the mountain expansion and the development of four-season activities, and a further \$366 million for new tourism accommodation.

The development of four-season activities includes a golf academy, a themed mountain-top attraction, equestrian center, outdoor amphitheater, an expanded network of outdoor recreation trails, as well as a new beach and tennis facility.

All three levels of government will take part in the project and provide financial support for infrastructure improvements. On hand for the announcement were Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard, Treasury Board of Canada President Marcel Masse and Mont-Tremblant Mayor Andre S. Sigouin.

"As we began planning Phase 2 of Tremblant's transformation, it became very clear that if we were going to build something of world-class stature, it was going to need the co-operation of all levels of government," said Houssian. "We would need their financial co-operation as well as other forms of teamwork. We received their support because they saw what we saw - an opportunity to build something very special in a world-class location on a world-class scale."

The economic impact of this project will be unprecedented in the Quebec tourism industry.



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