Venezuelan development takes off

By MARK LESLIE

VENEZUELA is "still feeling the effects of the monetary devaluation of the mid-1980s, but they seem to be on track now," said J. Christopher Commins of Sunshine Design in Jacksonville, Fla., who will design the course in Puerto la Cruz west of the Orinoco River delta. "There are some good opportunities here and elsewhere in South America."

"Venezuela has a new oil region in the vicinity of the Orinoco River. And this project is almost strictly driven by the oil interests and trying to market to those people and their executives and visitors."

Meanwhile, entrepreneurs are taking advantage of the newly discovered oil fields of eastern Venezuela. A joint venture of Venezuelan and Canadian companies is building La Encantada Country Club in Puerto la Cruz, Estado Sucre, the mainland closest to Margarita. And an 18-hole private course, Altos de Golfe, with temporary memberships for transient (mainly oil) workers, is under construction in Maturin, an hour's drive inland from the coast.

The three other facilities are:

- The country's first Planned Unit Development, called Vira Vira on the outskirts of Barquisimeto, in which the nine-hole course is designed by Arnold Palmer Design Co. and the land planning is being handled by Edward D. Stone Jr. & Associates of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
- An unnamed 18-hole project on the coast near Rio Chico about 1-1/2 hours north of Maturin, which is expected to get under construction this year.
- A nine-hole par-3 golf course designed by Stone & Associates, in association with the new resort hotel Cumana Goto in Cumana on the coast due east of Caracas and south of Isle de Margarita.

"Venezuela is "still feeling the effects of the monetary devaluation of the mid-1980s, but they seem to be on track now," said J. Christopher Commins of Sunshine Design in Jacksonville, Fla., who will design the course in Puerto la Cruz west of the Orinoco River delta. "There are some good opportunities here and elsewhere in South America."

"Venezuela has a new oil region in the vicinity of the Orinoco River. And this project is almost strictly driven by the oil interests and trying to market to those people and their executives and visitors."

Meanwhile, entrepreneurs are taking advantage of the newly discovered oil fields of eastern Venezuela. A joint venture of Venezuelan and Canadian companies is building La Encantada Country Club in Puerto la Cruz, Estado Sucre, the mainland closest to Margarita. And an 18-hole private course, Altos de Golfe, with temporary memberships for transient (mainly oil) workers, is under construction in Maturin, an hour's drive inland from the coast.

The three other facilities are:

- The country's first Planned Unit Development, called Vira Vira on the outskirts of Barquisimeto, in which the nine-hole course is designed by Arnold Palmer Design Co. and the land planning is being handled by Edward D. Stone Jr. & Associates of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
- An unnamed 18-hole project on the coast near Rio Chico about 1-1/2 hours north of Maturin, which is expected to get under construction this year.
- A nine-hole par-3 golf course designed by Stone & Associates, in association with the new resort hotel Cumana Goto in Cumana on the coast due east of Caracas and south of Isle de Margarita.

"Venezuela has a new oil region in the vicinity of the Orinoco River. And this project is almost strictly driven by the oil interests and trying to market to those people and their executives and visitors."

Meanwhile, entrepreneurs are taking advantage of the newly discovered oil fields of eastern Venezuela. A joint venture of Venezuelan and Canadian companies is building La Encantada Country Club in Puerto la Cruz, Estado Sucre, the mainland closest to Margarita. And an 18-hole private course, Altos de Golfe, with temporary memberships for transient (mainly oil) workers, is under construction in Maturin, an hour's drive inland from the coast.

The three other facilities are:

- The country's first Planned Unit Development, called Vira Vira on the outskirts of Barquisimeto, in which the nine-hole course is designed by Arnold Palmer Design Co. and the land planning is being handled by Edward D. Stone Jr. & Associates of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
- An unnamed 18-hole project on the coast near Rio Chico about 1-1/2 hours north of Maturin, which is expected to get under construction this year.
- A nine-hole par-3 golf course designed by Stone & Associates, in association with the new resort hotel Cumana Goto in Cumana on the coast due east of Caracas and south of Isle de Margarita.

"Venezuela has a new oil region in the vicinity of the Orinoco River. And this project is almost strictly driven by the oil interests and trying to market to those people and their executives and visitors."

Meanwhile, entrepreneurs are taking advantage of the newly discovered oil fields of eastern Venezuela. A joint venture of Venezuelan and Canadian companies is building La Encantada Country Club in Puerto la Cruz, Estado Sucre, the mainland closest to Margarita. And an 18-hole private course, Altos de Golfe, with temporary memberships for transient (mainly oil) workers, is under construction in Maturin, an hour's drive inland from the coast.

The three other facilities are:

- The country's first Planned Unit Development, called Vira Vira on the outskirts of Barquisimeto, in which the nine-hole course is designed by Arnold Palmer Design Co. and the land planning is being handled by Edward D. Stone Jr. & Associates of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
- An unnamed 18-hole project on the coast near Rio Chico about 1-1/2 hours north of Maturin, which is expected to get under construction this year.
- A nine-hole par-3 golf course designed by Stone & Associates, in association with the new resort hotel Cumana Goto in Cumana on the coast due east of Caracas and south of Isle de Margarita.

"Venezuela has a new oil region in the vicinity of the Orinoco River. And this project is almost strictly driven by the oil interests and trying to market to those people and their executives and visitors."

Meanwhile, entrepreneurs are taking advantage of the newly discovered oil fields of eastern Venezuela. A joint venture of Venezuelan and Canadian companies is building La Encantada Country Club in Puerto la Cruz, Estado Sucre, the mainland closest to Margarita. And an 18-hole private course, Altos de Golfe, with temporary memberships for transient (mainly oil) workers, is under construction in Maturin, an hour's drive inland from the coast.

The three other facilities are:

- The country's first Planned Unit Development, called Vira Vira on the outskirts of Barquisimeto, in which the nine-hole course is designed by Arnold Palmer Design Co. and the land planning is being handled by Edward D. Stone Jr. & Associates of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
- An unnamed 18-hole project on the coast near Rio Chico about 1-1/2 hours north of Maturin, which is expected to get under construction this year.
- A nine-hole par-3 golf course designed by Stone & Associates, in association with the new resort hotel Cumana Goto in Cumana on the coast due east of Caracas and south of Isle de Margarita.

"Venezuela has a new oil region in the vicinity of the Orinoco River. And this project is almost strictly driven by the oil interests and trying to market to those people and their executives and visitors."

Meanwhile, entrepreneurs are taking advantage of the newly discovered oil fields of eastern Venezuela. A joint venture of Venezuelan and Canadian companies is building La Encantada Country Club in Puerto la Cruz, Estado Sucre, the mainland closest to Margarita. And an 18-hole private course, Altos de Golfe, with temporary memberships for transient (mainly oil) workers, is under construction in Maturin, an hour's drive inland from the coast.

The three other facilities are:

- The country's first Planned Unit Development, called Vira Vira on the outskirts of Barquisimeto, in which the nine-hole course is designed by Arnold Palmer Design Co. and the land planning is being handled by Edward D. Stone Jr. & Associates of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
- An unnamed 18-hole project on the coast near Rio Chico about 1-1/2 hours north of Maturin, which is expected to get under construction this year.
- A nine-hole par-3 golf course designed by Stone & Associates, in association with the new resort hotel Cumana Goto in Cumana on the coast due east of Caracas and south of Isle de Margarita.

"Venezuela has a new oil region in the vicinity of the Orinoco River. And this project is almost strictly driven by the oil interests and trying to market to those people and their executives and visitors."

Meanwhile, entrepreneurs are taking advantage of the newly discovered oil fields of eastern Venezuela. A joint venture of Venezuelan and Canadian companies is building La Encantada Country Club in Puerto la Cruz, Estado Sucre, the mainland closest to Margarita. And an 18-hole private course, Altos de Golfe, with temporary memberships for transient (mainly oil) workers, is under construction in Maturin, an hour's drive inland from the coast.

The three other facilities are:

- The country's first Planned Unit Development, called Vira Vira on the outskirts of Barquisimeto, in which the nine-hole course is designed by Arnold Palmer Design Co. and the land planning is being handled by Edward D. Stone Jr. & Associates of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
- An unnamed 18-hole project on the coast near Rio Chico about 1-1/2 hours north of Maturin, which is expected to get under construction this year.
- A nine-hole par-3 golf course designed by Stone & Associates, in association with the new resort hotel Cumana Goto in Cumana on the coast due east of Caracas and south of Isle de Margarita.
Brit Clark joins with Snead, Ledbetter in Dominican project

By MARK LESLIE

MACAU BEACH, Dominican Republic — A development encompassing three golf courses, two hotels and homes along three miles of beachfront property is expected to break ground here by the end of the year.

With its 54-hole golf complex, the new Macau Beach Resort hopes to draw golfers from America and Europe to buy properties and play its 54-hole complex as well as the famed Casa de Campo. The property is compelling, said British golf course architect Clive Clark, who will design the first course with Sam Snead.

The second with golf instructor David Ledbetter and the third with an as-yet-undetermined consultant.

"A headland at the northern end of the property will be devoted to one golf course," Clark said. "It will have a cliff top look, and the land gently slopes down to the ocean so the ocean is in view over the entire course. It has a half to three-quarters of a mile of ocean frontage. And the other two courses are alongside the ocean. It's a huge site."

Amsterdam, Holland-based Golf Ag One is developing the property and has been working with European governments to finalize tax-effective purchasing agreements for Europeans.

Clark said he expects Golf Ag One to fast-track the second course, beginning construction shortly after the first is completed. It will be Ledbetter's first venture into course design.

Clark will visit the property again in early summer to begin the design process with Snead. He said the site is very similar to Casa de Campo's, but boasting both beachfront and clifftop.

Is it a challenge to design courses so close to the Pete Dye-designed Casa de Campo track, nicknamed "Teeth of the Dog"?

"Yes," he said, "we want to produce something of a high standard because Casa de Campo is so good. In terms of cliff top golf Casa de Campo is about as good as anything in the world, very much on a par with Pebble Beach."

The layout will measure as long as 7,000 yards from the back tees, Clark said.

Golf Ag One hopes to attract some form of professional involvement with a tournament of some type.

Some Of The Greatest Holes In Golf Are Never Seen

Most golfers don't know they exist, but great aerification holes make great greens!

Superintendents know the importance of aerification holes, because both the procedure and choice of amendment can be critical to the long-term health and durability of the green. While sand and some manufactured amendments can actually break down over time (adding to compaction problems), GREENSCHOICE provides for a permanently amended root zone, unaffected by physical or chemical forces.

GREENSCHOICE is a chemically inert mineral composition, kiln-fired to provide both high porosity and exceptional hardness. Amending with this advanced product results in a dramatic improvement in water and nutrient retention, reduced compaction and significantly increased percolation.

Proven successful in conditions ranging from compacted soils to droughty sands, only GREENSCHOICE can provide a full range of benefits to problem greens:

- Fights compaction, providing a naturally aerified root environment where moisture, nutrients and oxygen are readily available to the roots.
- Offers percolation rates to 115'/hour, ensuring both effective drainage in periods of heavy rainfall and thorough flushing out of the root zone.
- Retains up to 88% of its weight in water, providing for superior moisture and nutrient retention... a significant benefit to greens plagued by dry conditions.
- Draws moisture and nutrients back into the root zone via a strong capillary rise rate of 50 cm/24 hours.
- Promotes vigorous root development by making both oxygen and moisture available deeper into the root zone.
- Provides a permanent solution, unaffected by heavy traffic or the application of acidic or caustic fertilizers.

Green your greens the greatest, amend them with GREENSCHOICE. The First Amendment. For more information and the location of a distributor in your area, contact Premier Environmental at 800/829-0215.

GREENSCHOICE The First Amendment

PREMIER ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS • P. O. Box 218469 • HOUSTON, TX 77218 • 800/829-0215

CIRCULAR #124

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

Vietnam project OK'd

HANOI — Vietnam's government has approved a $22.1-million joint venture between Gateway Development Ltd. and a local firm to build an 18-hole golf course in the northern province of Hai Hung.

Construction is expected to start in April.

Hoang Van Bao, vice-general director of the venture said the foreign partner, which is registered in the British Virgin Islands, would contribute 70 percent of the total investment capital. Hai Duong Tourism and Hotels Co. would contribute the remainder in the form of land-use rights.

Bao said the course will be located on a 321-acre site 50 miles east of Hanoi.

Work on a number of golf courses in Vietnam is already under way, but some have hit problems because of sensitivities in the country associated with acquiring land for construction from farmers.

Venezuela

Continued from page 57

three — are being built first, with housing construction following.

Palmer is designing a nine-hole course, which will expand to 18 holes in the second phase of the project, probably in two years.

Ground could be broken as early as April, and a summer 1999 opening is expected.

"The property is basically dome-shaped and sits on a large knob," said Veal, "and the golf course skirts around the lower part. It has good elevation, with beautiful views over an agricultural valley and the city of Barquisimeto."

Developers face the problem of few Venezuelan golfers. "As they start building facilities like this they expect the demand will skyrocket," Veal said. "I think you will see a boom in golf here for sure."

Arnold Palmer Design is attracting real estate developers who can get instant credibility before the course is built.

While the future is not certain, these projects go a long way in relieving the pressure for more golf holes in a country where the latest surge of development was in the 1960s when Dick Wilson and Joe Lee designed layouts here.

"I know some local people are skeptical about the economic future here," said Sunshine Design's Commins. "But keep in mind, in terms of scale, 'a lot' of opportunities here might mean 20 courses."