

Grand Casino Tunica: From Mississippi Riverbed to 18 holes

Grand Casino Tunica's The Cottonwoods Golf Club, designed by Hale Irwin and Stan Gentry of Hale Irwin Golf Design, opens for play on May 11. Sitting on 200 acres of the resort's 2,200-acre property, Cottonwoods was once riverbed on the Mississippi that has been reshaped to rolling hills and elevated plateaus.

The course measures 7,000 yards. The casino hauled over three million yards of dirt to the area, adding 18 feet to land that was once below the Mississippi River water line. Grand Casino Tunica

also added a lake to its existing family of waterways. The fully sodded course includes thousands of trees, bushes, and regional flowers; three lakes; and 80 sand traps.

Over half of Cottonwoods' holes border on water, including an island green. The golf course's drainage system and grassing plan allows for winter play. The course boasts bentgrass greens, Bermudagrass tees and rough and Zoysiagrass fairways.

An island green is indicative of water's role at Cottonwoods.



Design 3 starts job

RAVENNA, Mich. — Moss Ridge Golf Club broke ground on March 2 halfway between Muskegon and Grand Rapids.

A group of investors led by Richard Kent chose Design 3 of East Lansing to master plan the 18-hole championship course and 54 home sites skirting its perimeter.

The 254-acre site is "very diverse, offering golfers a variety of terrain, orchard and water," said architect W. Bruce Matthews III. The 6,700-yard, par-72 layout has nine holes playing through rolling orchards and six holes adjacent to water.

Domres Construction of Manistee is the general contractor.

Poellot on Asia

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golf courses, which they never could have done in Hong Kong," he said.

• Japan has "some homework to do yet," he said. "They are certainly better than they were a few months ago. They are taking the right steps, but there are still a lot of cobwebs to clean out of some of the corners: graft and improprieties in economic circles. People keep being discovered as being involved in kickbacks and other inappropriate behavior. They have discovered that the iceberg is a lot deeper than they first thought.

"They are beginning to realize that if they want to get back on-stream, they have to do some purging before too long — more than superficially. They need to cut taxes and they need to get the people fired up."

Regarding the role the International Monetary Fund (IMF) might play, Poellot said he wishes administrators "could even be stronger than they have been.

"In a way it's disheartening to see the IMF throw all this money into a country. There are so many companies in so many countries that are suffering because of the Asian crisis. They ought to be given a little boot-strapping. Let the IMF help the little companies and resolve the problem from the grass roots up, rather than from the upper end, where it inevitably gets mismanaged."

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