BANDON Dunes Resort adding Pacific Dunes layout

BY JAY FINEGAN

BANDON, Ore. — Hot on the heels of one of the most acclaimed new courses, Bandon Dunes Resort here on the southern Oregon coast is preparing to introduce another new layout, this one by golf architect Tom Doak.

Last year, the big news was Bandon Dunes, which quickly zipped up the charts to be ranked as the number-one resort course built after 1960; the best upscale daily-fee course of 1999; the 44th-best golf course in the United States and number 80 in the world. All that in its first year.

The noise this year is coming from Pacific Dunes, set to open in July. The par-71 layout, measuring 6,700 yard from the back tees, rests on a stretch of Pacific Ocean coastline that draws comparisons to the revered Alister MacKenzie course, Cypress Point.

Doak, who heads up Renaissance Golf Design, of Traverse City, Mich., has cut a jewel from the coastal terrain and inland dunes.

HUMONGOUS BUNKERS

The course, just north of its sister Bandon Dunes track, features undulating fairways, small but thoughtful greens, and a landscape that blends seamlessly with native vegetation and with the tract’s wind-whipped sand masses.

Bunkers are another highlight. Two of the largest bunkers on any golf course in America rest along the par-4 second hole and on the 18th, a strong, par-5 finishing hole.

Stephen Kay's Architects' Golf Club nearly completed

BY JAY FINEGAN

PHILLIPSBURG, N.J. — For 18 years, Stephen Kay harbored a plan to design a course commemorating the great architects of this past. His idea wasn’t to copy their layouts but to capture their styles — the way they fashioned their bunkers, the way they shaped their greens, the subtle nuances and contours that gave their courses distinct personalities.

“I wanted to take golfers on a history lesson, starting in order from Old Tom Morris, who began doing golf architecture in Scotland in the 1860s,” Kay said. “But I never found a client who was willing to do it.”

Finally he did find an accommodating group of developers who wanted to build a course here in northwest New Jersey. They told Kay, “Stephen, you’re the architect, do you what you want to do.”

With carte blanche clearance and 175 acres of farmland to sculpt as he chose, Kay finally brought his old dream to life. The Architects’ Golf Club, inspired by the artistic genius of 17 of the game’s greatest designers, will open here in Phillipsburg next summer. The daily-fee course is nearly finished, and Kay seems pleased with the outcome.

BUILT TO MODERN NORMS

The par-71, 6,844-yard layout, featuring five par-3 holes, will

Nevada's Paiute tribe building third Dye course

BY JAY FINEGAN

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Construction has begun on a third Pete Dye course here at the Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort. The 7,400-yard layout is part of the resort’s $500-million destination project that already includes two Dye courses, along with a clubhouse and banquet facilities.

The $170-million “phase two” of the master plan includes the third course plus a fourth course, and involves construction of a casino, conference center and “luxurious” accommodations.

“Our third course will differ dramati-
Coral Canyon debuts in Utah

WASHINGTON, Utah — SunCor Golf’s newest 18-hole daily-fee golf course, Coral Canyon, opened here recently. Designed by golf architect Keith Foster, the new layout provides a rare opportunity for players to enjoy luxurious golf on the doorstep of some of the world’s most famed natural wonders.

Located at the northern end of the Mojave Desert, in southwestern Utah’s so-called “Color Country,” Coral Canyon’s 7,029-yard, par-72 track provides stunning views of the red rocks of Zion National Park and Pine Valley Mountain.

Foster’s design features 100 acres of turf, 55 sand bunkers, two lakes and a labyrinth of dry washes through the course, offering players a variety of risk/reward opportunities. Typical of the challenges at Coral Canyon is the short sixth hole—a 122-yard par-3. Seemingly dropped into the red rock outcroppings, this hole plays from a rocky tee box over a deep ravine.

The par-5 number 16—528 yards long—is nestled in a series of hills that roll down to a punchbowl green guarded on the right front edge by a short bunker and on the left by two sharp ridges. A good drive and a sense of adventure will allow players a relatively clear approach to the green.

Cut into the property’s mountainous terrain, Coral Canyon’s clubhouse provides superb views of the front nine as well as Zion National Park from an expansive picture window. The clubhouse features a large pro shop, a Southwestern-style grill seating 66 people, and an outdoor covered pavilion with seating for 200.

An intimate, high-desert golf community built on 2,700 acres, Coral Canyon offers both designer-model homes and custom homesites with great views of the course.

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