Weiskopf design under construction at Baja’s emerging golf mecca

By JAY FINEGAN

LOS CABOS, Mexico — Here at the tip of the rugged Baja Peninsula, construction of the new Tom Weiskopf signature design is progressing rapidly at Cabo del Sol, an 1,800-acre master-planned golf resort community.

The Desert Course, an 18-hole, par-72 layout, is Weiskopf’s first design sojourn into Latin America. Ground was broken in May, and according to Cabo del Sol partners— the Day Group and ICA— the course is scheduled to open in November 2001.

“Cabo del Sol offers a great opportunity for me,” Weiskopf said. “The natural surroundings are incredible. It has a unique combination of desert and ocean, with unusual rock formations, an intense variety of desert foliage and dramatic canyon-like arroyos. My design for this course guarantees ocean views from almost every hole.”

Overall course yardage will measure 5,300 yards from the forward markers to 7,100 yards from the championship pegs. Greens will range from 5,000 square feet to 7,500, with gentle, subtle rolls and elevation changes. The bunkering will be dramatic in the landing areas as well as around the greens. Wide variety of desert vegetation will afford golfers great visual appeal off the tee. Each hole will feature four or five tee locations, and the design will incorporate large landing areas and few forced carries.

Good rough has been completed on the first seven holes, and grading is underway in December. Initial clearing and shaping of the remaining holes have already begun, according to construction manager Ruben Martinez of Diamond Hotels Development Co.

“We’re thrilled to be moving ahead with the new Weiskopf design,” said Jonathan Jaffrey, principal with the Los Angeles-based Day Group. “We are committing approximately $12 million for the construction of this course, and we’re confident it will rank among the best in the world.”

Ocean Course, a Jack Nicklaus signature design rated among the world’s top 100 courses, offers seven exquisite holes on the water. Nicklaus himself describes it as “the best piece of golf property on Earth.”

“We’re confident that Troon’s management expertise and success with world-class golf resorts will be a great asset to the positioning of Cabo del Sol,” said Saturnino Suarez, vice president of ICA. “Troon’s proven sales and marketing approach will enable us to expand our reach and continue to attract the world’s most discerning golfers and second home buyers.”

This fall, the oceanfront resort will release 100 new custom lots for sale, many sporting clear views of the Weiskopf course and the azure ocean waters. In conjunction with the release of new lots, a golf membership program will be announced and clubhouse construction will commence. When completed, Cabo del Sol will feature three championship courses, 1,700 residential units, four hotels, tournament tennis facilities, a beach club and a village center.

Cabo del Sol is a partnership between the Day Group and ICA. Comprised of a group of investors led by Robert A. Day, the Day Group has been involved in the project for more than 10 years. ICA, Mexico’s largest engineering, procurement and construction company, has been involved in the development of Cabo del Sol since 1992.

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