

LOS CABOS, Mexico — Palmilla Golf Club's new Nicklaus-designed Ocean Nine has broken ground and is expected to be ready for play in December.

The Ocean Nine will complement Palmilla's existing 18-hole championship course, the first Jack Nicklaus Signature design in Latin America.

"Golfers will soon be able to enjoy three distinct nines —

Nicklaus adding nine to Mexican resort

choosing between a combination of Palmilla's Mountain, Arroyo and Ocean nines," said Rick Renick, vice president of golf operations for Koll Resorts International of Newport Beach, Calif. "Each nine is a championship test offering a variety of scenic holes and shots," added Renick.

The Ocean Nine layout, featuring a 600-foot elevation change from holes one to six, takes advantage of the natural desert and mountain terrain and incorporates challenging directional changes. Several holes are located within a pitching wedge of the ocean, affording players unparalleled

panoramic views of the Sea of Cortez. Featuring two par-3s and two par-5's, the new layout, when completed, will stretch 3,465 yards from the championship tees.

"The third hole of the Ocean Nine is destined to be the most photogenic of the layout, with a lengthy par-4 playing right

down to the ocean," said course designer, Jack Nicklaus.

"We are confident that with the addition of the Ocean Nine, Palmilla's 27-holes will enhance Los Cabos' rapidly growing reputation as one of the world's top golf resort destinations."

The 900-acre Palmilla resort encompasses the Palmilla Golf Club, opened in 1992, the newly renovated landmark hotel Palmilla, and an exclusive residential community offering oceanfront and fairway living. Palmilla has been listed among the "Best Places to Stay in the World" by *Conde Nast Traveler*, and has been ranked among the top 100 resorts.

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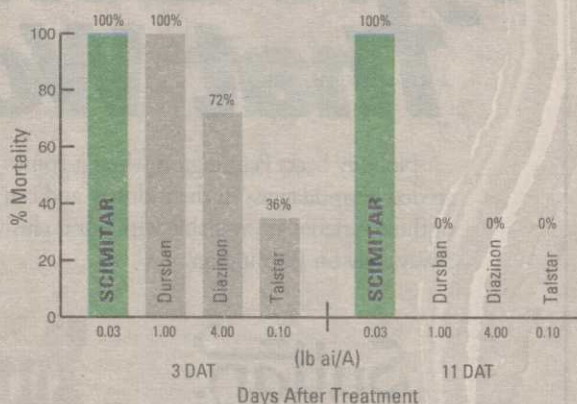
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Oman eyes golf for oil

MUSCAT, Oman — Oman plans to invite private investors to participate in a major tourist project north of the capital, Muscat, the commerce minister said in remarks published recently.

The Oman daily quoted Makboul bin Ali bin Sultan as saying the first stage of the project would include construction of 13 three- to five-star hotels, two golf courses, a marina and around 100 villas.

The first phase, one of three, was estimated to cost up to 150 million rials (\$390 million). The paper gave no details on the other phases.

"The Ministry of Commerce and Industry...will present this project to a group of giant local and international investment companies specialized in tourism to set up a holding investment company to develop and manage the project," bin Sultan said.

He said the government has allocated a 13.5-square-mile plot for the project in an area 62 miles north of Muscat.

"The project would play a vital role in reinforcing tourism in Oman and would encourage the establishment of sports tourism in all its forms in the country," bin Sultan said.

The minister said the company will offer 40 percent of its shares for sale through the Muscat stock exchange. Oman, a small independent oil producer at the southeastern edge of the Arabian Peninsula, is trying to diversify its economy away from oil.