

## Seychelles' Lemuria project shaping up for Wright

By ANDREW OVERBECK

PRASLIN ISLAND, the Seychelles — The Lemuria Course here in the Seychelles is shaping up nicely and is on track for its 2000 opening, according to designer Rodney Wright.

"Things have gone remarkably smoothly considering the fact that there were many unknown site conditions when construction started," said Wright.

"We have had a few surprises, both good and bad. For example, while excavating one of the main lakes, we encountered mud where we expected to find pure sand to use for filling the fairways. But we have also not encountered much bedrock or immovable rock which would have required blasting."

French golf construction company Benedetti, which has worked extensively in France and Italy, has been hard at work on the site with equipment that was shipped in from France.

Another Frenchman, European Tour player Marc Farry, has added to Wright's design along the way.

"Marc is one of the longest hitters on the European Tour," said Wright. "But he never loses perspective of the capabilities of the average player. He has offered very down-to-earth, common-sense advice."

One of the highlights of the par-70 course is the 15th hole, which is under construction. From the tee, there are unforgettable views of the Indian Ocean, with the green nestled 183 feet below in the Anse Georgette Valley.

Lemuria's front nine is scheduled to open in July and the full 18 is due to open in September.



Rodney Wright stands on the elevated tee of the par-3 15th hole at Lemuria Resort on Praslin Island in the Seychelles.

## Golf Unlimited

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Europe for a company that can take a project to the highest standard from start to finish," he said. "Having gathered the leading forces from the market, we can now ensure top-class results throughout Europe."

However, this is not an "exclusive" arrangement. In fact, Bohn pointed out that: "Our clients are investors and architects. We



don't only work with Nicklaus but have, in the past, been involved with such architects as Dave Thomas, Kurt Rossknecht, Robert von Hagge and Peter Harradine."

Bohn's operations director and partner is Mark van der Looy, owner and manager of golf course construction company Golf Project Management (GPM), as well as having served for five years as construction manager for Southern Golf GmbH. Both van der Looy and Bohn are keen to emphasize the "seamless coordination throughout the life of the project," and not just for those clients who take on the "full service" that Golf Unlimited offers. The widespread, network nature of the partnership means that customized teams can be assembled to slot in with existing professionals involved with the project.

Indeed, van der Looy and Bohn are continuing with their other commitments to GPM and Nicklaus Design, respectively, and that is where the "secret" of the "one-stop shop" lies, Bohn said, "adaptability." ▴



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