

Architects recognize Spain's Ortiz-Patino

SAN ROQUE, Spain — Valderrama Golf Club owner and President Jaime Ortiz-Patino, will receive the 2000 Donald Ross Award from the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) at the society's 54th annual meeting in Newcastle, Ireland.

The ASGCA's most presti-

gious honor, the Donald Ross Award is presented annually to an individual who has made significant contributions to the game of golf and the profession of golf course architecture.

"Mr. Ortiz-Patino has become a highly regarded figure in the golf industry because he has given a great deal of his time and

talent to emphasizing the importance of environmental stewardship and preservation of the traditions of the game," said ASGCA President John LaFoy.

Among the highlights of Ortiz-Patino's career was the opportunity to host the 1997 Ryder Cup. Prior to the Ryder Cup, Valderrama played host to nine

editions of the PGA European Tour's Volvo Master, and has since hosted the World Golf — American Express Championship. Valderrama is the only international golf course to become fully certified by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System for Golf Courses.

VALDERRAMA DECLARATION

Recently, Ortiz-Patino and officials from the world's top govern-



Jaime Ortiz-Patino

ing bodies of golf joined forces to endorse the Valderrama Declaration on golf, environment and sustainability. The initiative was signed to promote environmental awareness and encourage sound environmental practices for golf courses and other sports facilities.

Held in November at Valderrama Golf Club, the meeting was the first-ever U.S.-European Golf Environment Summit, and it brought together members of the United States Golf Association Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee, Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews and national ecology officers from several European golf federations.

The declaration, which is also supported by the International Olympic Committee, United Nations Environment Program and World Wide Fund International, establishes a proactive perspective on the golf community's role in initiating and supporting environmental education, research and conservation programs.

The declaration states the golf community's support of the practices and principles of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program in North America and the Committed to Green initiative in Europe. These are two related programs designed to promote environmental awareness and encourage the implementation of sound environmental practices on golf courses.

STORIED LIFE

The grandson of mining baron Simon Patino, Ortiz-Patino led what many would consider a storybook life: raised in a four-story castle; educated in the finest schools; and even raced sports cars until his father convinced him to give it up.

An avid tennis player, Ortiz-Patino's talents earned him spots in both the French and Italian Open tennis tournaments before a shoulder injury eventually forced him to redirect his talents to skiing and golf.

Ortiz-Patino's interest in the game dates back to around 1956 when he caddied for Dai Rees in the Italian Open. In lieu of a bag fee, Rees presented Ortiz-Patino with tickets to the 1957 Ryder Cup at Lindrick in England.

In 1985, Ortiz-Patino and other businessmen purchased Las Aves Golf Club in Sotogrande. He later changed the name to Valderrama.

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