

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 part-

PIRATE HIDEOUT NOW GOLF MECCA

A one-time pirate stronghold, the area around here has been a sport fishing center for years. With a wild, rugged coastline, pristine beaches, aquamarine waters and balmy, Mediterranean-like climate, it's not surprising that Los Cabos is emerging as the premier golf resort in Mexico. The sun shines some 340 days a year, and the scenery is stunning.

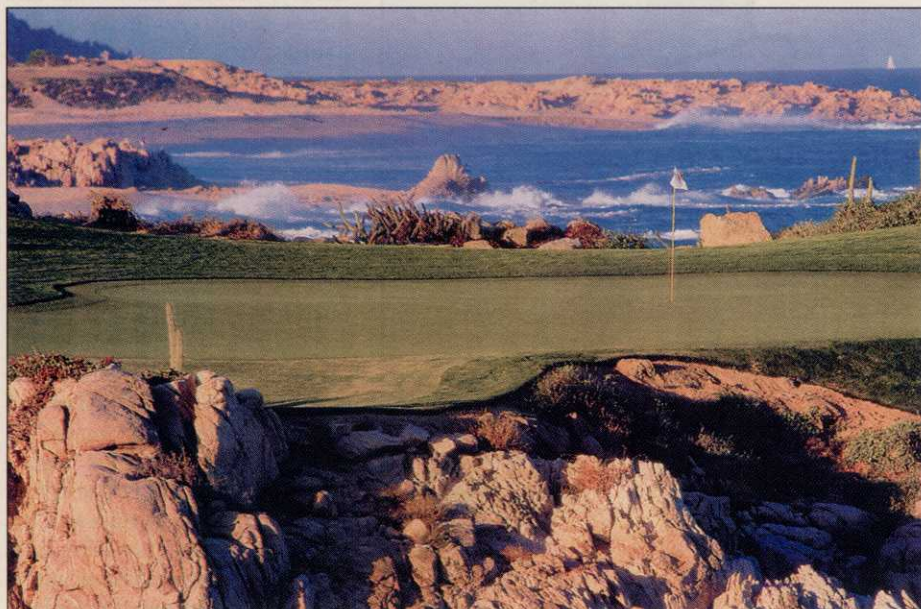
Currently, Cabo del Sol features the

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.



The Jack Nicklaus Ocean Course pictured here depicts the rugged Baja coastline

ners — 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 yet containing fairway corridors 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.

Rough grading has been completed on the first seven holes, and grassing got underway in December. Initial clearing and shaping of the remaining holes have already begun, according to construction manager Ruben Martinez of Diamond International.

"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. Home of the 1995 Senior Slam, Nicklaus' 7,103-yard layout offers seven exquisite holes on the water. Nicklaus himself describes it as "the best piece of golf property on Earth." It's hard to argue with that opinion when you gaze upon the emerald green turf between desert mountains and the brilliant blue waters of the Sea of Cortez.

On the signature 17th hole, golfers must tee off from the top of a cliff and fly their ball over a sandy cove to a green surrounded by rock outcroppings rising from the sea. "This was my chance to design a Pebble Beach," Nicklaus said.

Two luxury oceanfront hotels and several residential neighborhoods provide plenty of housing. Elsewhere in Los Cabos, dozens of hotels have sprouted in recent years. The population has jumped to 50,000, and as many as 11 or 12 courses may eventually be built here at the end of the 1,000-mile-long Baja Peninsula, a two-hour flight from Los Angeles.

TROON IN MANAGEMENT ROLE

Troon Golf, headquartered in Scottsdale, Ariz., is managing the Ocean Course and is overseeing the construction of the new Weiskopf layout.

"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

With a wild, rugged coastline, pristine beaches, aquamarine waters and balmy, Mediterranean-like climate, Los Cabos is emerging as the premier golf resort in Mexico.

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