

AG

AVIDGOLFER

AUGUST 2015 \$4.99

WWW.MYAVIDGOLFER.COM

MYSTERIOUS
Sand Bunkers,
Absent VICTORS,
And This Year's LAST
SHOT At Glory

2015 PGA
PREVIEW

Page 43



Livin' the Good Life

The best of 2015's golf gear,
gadgets and the lakeside lifestyle

THE ANNUAL LUXURY ISSUE



takes you up a hill with a tight fairway, then runs the fifth hole sharply back down the slope, before curving No. 6 up and to the left, ending with the seventh tee box atop a hill, looking over the green some 20-30 yards below.

Another great stretch of holes is Nos. 12-15. The 12th is our favorite hole on the golf course – a long par three over the entrance road (see sidebar) – and the 14th and 15th run right down to the banks of the Brazos River. Hole No. 14 is an outstandingly designed hole, using the river to frame it in its entirety, making it both visually appealing and quite difficult. As we mention in the sidebar, it is very rare that a par 5 is a course's hardest hole, but there is no question No. 14 is the most difficult at SugarTree.

After the round, we highly recommend taking some time to relax on the dining area's outdoor porch that overlooks the ninth green. You can enjoy a cold beverage and a delicious cheeseburger and take in the entire country atmosphere. It is hard to beat after a fun round of golf.

A truly unique aspect of the facility is The Cottage at SugarTree, a completely refreshed a refurbished home on the prop-

erty that is perfect for an overnight golf outing or trip with the family. According to the SugarTree website, the cottage "contains a living area with a 50" TV, full kitchen, five bedrooms, six queen size beds, two and a half baths and an outside shower for summer use. An outside grill is conveniently located for those 'sit around the fire' times, cooking and enjoying quiet evenings."

Adjacent to the cottage is a five-hole par 3 course (18 tee boxes for variety), available for guests only, with unlimited play during your stay. You also get a free round of golf per night stay in the cottage. For more information on the cottage, visit www.sugartreegolf.com/the-cottage.

For golfers in the Metroplex – and especially those in and around the Fort Worth area – SugarTree Golf Club in Lipan is a scenic piece of golfing greatness. While it isn't lengthy, the Phil Lumsden design is still challenging, with tight landing areas and rounded, sloping fairways running through groves of pecan and oak trees. The golf course is enjoyable, and the calm, quiet scenery may be even more so. No matter what you fancy in a golf course, SugarTree is a must visit for any golfing aficionado. **AG**

SUGARTREE GOLF CLUB

Address: 251 Sugar Tree Drive
Lipan, TX 76462

Phone number: 817-341-1111

Website: www.sugartreegolf.com

Designers: Phil Lumsden

Year opened: 1987

Par/Yardage: 70/6,659 yards (Gold);
6,177 (Blue); 5,807 (White); 5,200 (Red)

Greens: Bermuda

Rates: Monday-Thursday \$39; Friday-Sunday \$49. Rates are for peak hours and include cart.

Toughest hole: No. 14, 524-yard par 5. It isn't often that the toughest hole on a golf course is a par 5, but at SugarTree, the 14th is, in our opinion, a monster of a golf hole. At 524 yards it isn't long, but there are trees, bunkers and water hazards eager to grab your ball on every shot. The hole is a slight dogleg to the left, curving around the Brazos River from the tee box to the green. The water cuts across the hole just before the fairway, so a poor tee shot is liable to get wet, and giant trees guard the left side, ready to ricochet your ball right into the river. Going for this green in two isn't really an option, and the green is elevated well above the fairway. Don't miss the green, as you will struggle to get up and down.

Our Favorite Hole: No. 12, 210-yard par 3. As rare as it is for a course's toughest hole to be a par 5, it may be even rarer for it's best hole to be a par 3. In our opinion, however, the par-3 12th really takes the cake at SugarTree. From the back tees, you hit over the course's entrance road, which is cool, to a green that is set back and down in a group of trees, giving it a secluded feel. It is a tough tee shot, as bunkers guard the skinny green on the left and water on the right, but the view from the tee is really neat. It probably isn't a "easy" hole, but take a minute to look and appreciate how unique it is. And then get your par and move on.

Most Intriguing Hole: No. 5, 471-yard par 4. On paper, this hole is a monster of a par four. 471 yards? Yikes! However, the reality is the hole is much more interesting than it looks at first glance. The hole plays considerably down hill, but from the tee, all you can see is about the first 150 yards of the rough and fairway, because it drops off after that. There is a bit more room to the left than you think, and even a decently straight drive should run out, leaving you a manageable second shot. The green slopes from front to back and sits at the very bottom of the hill, so you can land 10-15 yards short and the ball will bounce on to the green.

Between Rocks and Waves

Quivira Golf Club in Los Cabos, Mexico is beautifully carved between stunning rock hills and the crashing Pacific Ocean

BY MICHAEL HILLER

Los Cabos is one of those sunny Mexico golf destinations I escape to as often as I can and dream about when I cannot. Bookended by boozy Cabo San Lucas to the west, and the more sedate San Jose del Cabo to the east, the windswept finger of land sits at the southern tip of Mexico's Baja Peninsula. Collectively called Los Cabos, or just Cabo, the booming oasis of blonde

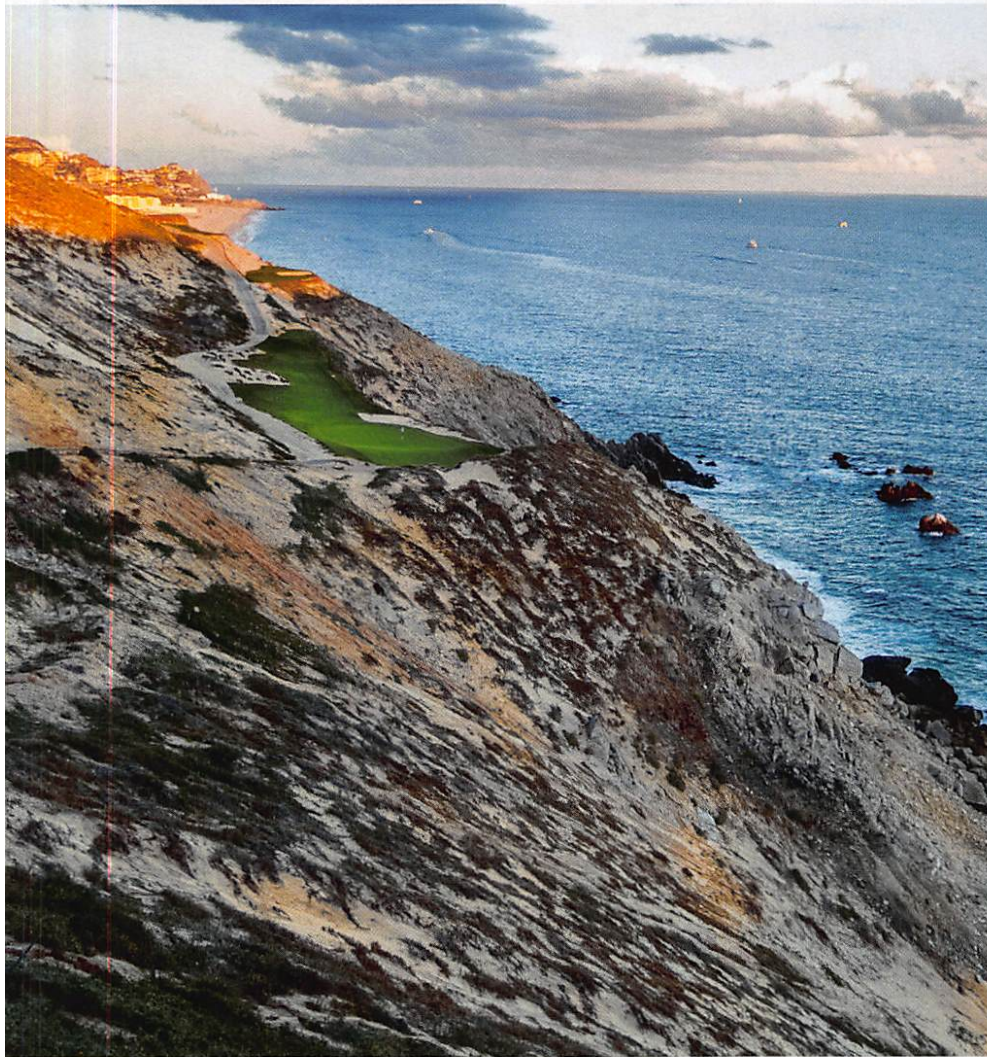
beaches, lavish resorts and scenic golf sits strategically positioned where the Pacific Ocean meets the sea of Cortez in a swirl of sea foam and azure blue. It's been battered by hurricanes, molded by tourists and chiseled by golf course architects.

Nowhere is that more evident than at Quivira Golf Club, Jack Nicklaus' new 18-hole design ten minutes from down-

town Cabo San Lucas and the centerpiece of a 1,850-acre master-planned community.

To create Quivira's 7,139-yard, par-72 layout, Nicklaus muscled his way through massive sand dunes and steep granite cliffs, carving out deep hollows and secluded coves. It's Nicklaus' sixth course in Cabo – his 26th course in the Caribbean and Mexico – a \$40 million design that tattoos





itself into your brain with the same indelible ink you'd reserve for Chambers Bay, or, say, Cypress Point – courses whose scale and setting widen your eyes and quicken your pulse.

Beginning and ending at the ocean's edge, Quivira wends its way across a base of dessert sand for four holes before climbing 275 feet nearly straight up, a ten-minute cart ride to a tee box that hangs on the edge of an oceanside cliff. There, with the Pacific over your left shoulder and boulders over your right, Nicklaus unrolled a carpet of platinum Paspalum to a downhill green that also teeters over the Pacific.

You can lay up with a seven iron and hope your wedge shot sticks on the tiny green (it won't), or you can go for glory with a three-wood off the tee. If you hit a draw just right and the wind is in your favor, you'll land

near the cup. If you miss the shot, you'll need to reload. I needed to reload.

Is it one of the world's great golf holes? No. It's contrived, a little goofy and maddeningly tough for a 310-yard par-4. Yet, I circled back to play it again – twice – after my round.

That doesn't mean I liked the next hole, the par-3 No. 6, any less. Carved into the base of a thick dune and hemmed in by more cliffs on the right and water on the left, you fire directly into the wind, hoping your ball finds safety on a long, narrow green, whose riskiest edge is ocean.

Heading inland on No. 7, Nicklaus placed tee boxes near a historic lighthouse at Land's End, the oldest standing structure in Cabo San Lucas. Remember the movie Troy? The producers used the land now occupied by the No. 12 green for part of

**We Provide the Boats.
You Provide the Fun!!!**



**ENJOY THE BOATING
LIFESTYLE THIS SUMMER
BY JOINING DFW'S
PREMIER, MEMBERS-ONLY
BOAT CLUB!!!**

Suntex Boat Club offers access to our entire fleet of top-of-the-line pontoons, ski boats and wakeboard boats.

**MENTION THIS MIDSUMMER
AVIDGOLFER SPECIAL & RECEIVE
\$500 OFF THE INITIATION**

***Only valid on new memberships.
Expires August 31, 2015.*

**Memberships can be used
at all 3 DFW Locations**

Lake Lewisville
Pier 121 Marina (Lewisville)

Lake Ray Hubbard
Chandler's Landing Marina (Rockwall)

Eagle Mountain Lake
Eagle Mountain Marina (Fort Worth)

Call today to book a tour

469-404-3852

SuntexBoatClub.com

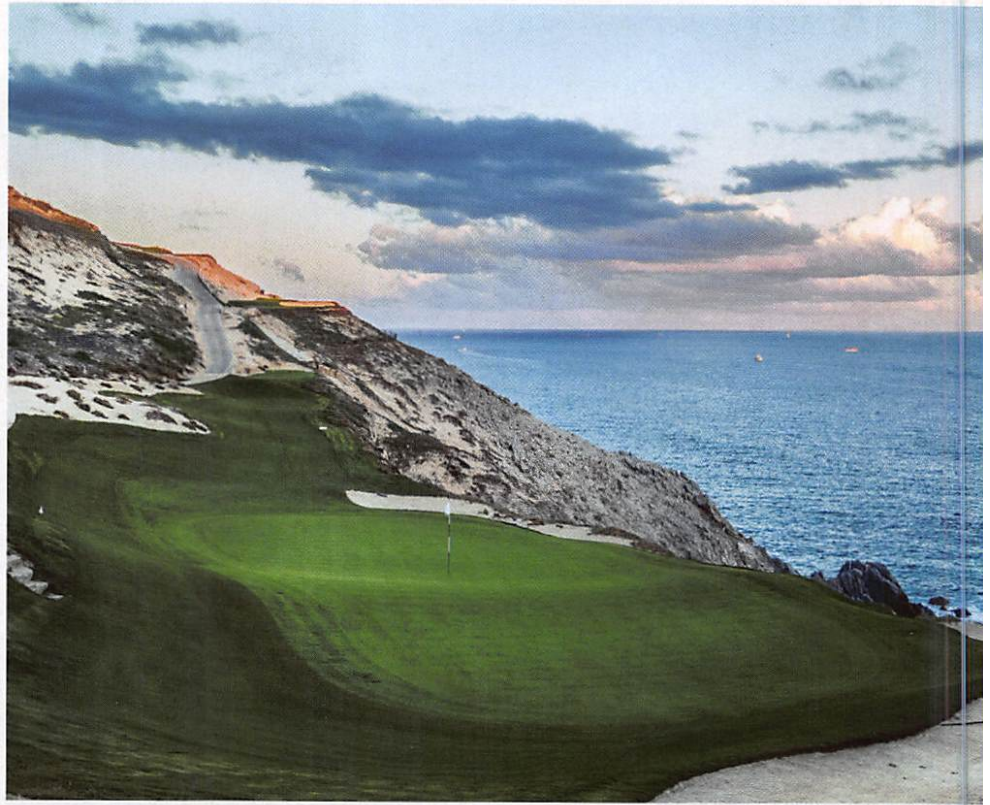
TRAVEL

their set, leaving behind a portion of pole fence as a memento.

"This is one of the great pieces of property in the world," Nicklaus remarked when the course opened last fall. "We tried to create some excitement on the mountain and in the dunes, and I believe we've created a golf course that plays as spectacular as it looks."

Quivira seems to have a little bit of everything you'd want in a golf site: desert, mountain, ocean, rocks and plenty of sun. It also books the fewest number of bunkers in Nicklaus portfolio, his smallest green (at No. 13), and an unusual front-back split – par-34 on the way out then par-38 back in.

To appeal to a wide range of golfers, Nicklaus wisely constructed five sets of tee boxes that vary the overall yardage from 4,793 yards to 7,139. That enriches Quivira's appeal to guests of the two resorts that can access the course, Pueblo Bonito Pacifica Resort & Spa and Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach Resort & Spa, plus their three affiliated real estate communities, Montecristo



Discover the Changes... Experience the Lifestyle

Improvements over the years have led to our most significant milestone to date!



Since opening in 2011, The Lakes at Castle Hills has been committed to providing the premier country club experience. As part of that commitment, The Lakes is undergoing a complete renovation of the existing clubhouse capping off over \$20 million of improvements.

Schedule your tour today with our Membership Team at 972-899-7400, and learn more at www.thelakesatcastlehills.com.



The Lakes
CASTLE HILLS

699 Lady of the Lake Boulevard • Lewisville, TX 75056
972-899-7400 • www.thelakesatcastlehills.com



Quivira Golf Club

Address: Via de Lery, Cabo San Lucas 23450, Mexico
Phone number: +52 1-800-990-8250
Website: www.quiviragolfclub.com
Designers: Jack Nicklaus
Year opened: 2014
Par/Yardage: 72/7, 139 yards (Black); 6,701 (Gold); 6,216 (Blue); 5,598 (White); 4,326 (Red)
Greens: Paspalum
Rates: \$115-\$295

Estates Luxury Villas by Pueblo Bonito, Copala and Novaispania Residences.

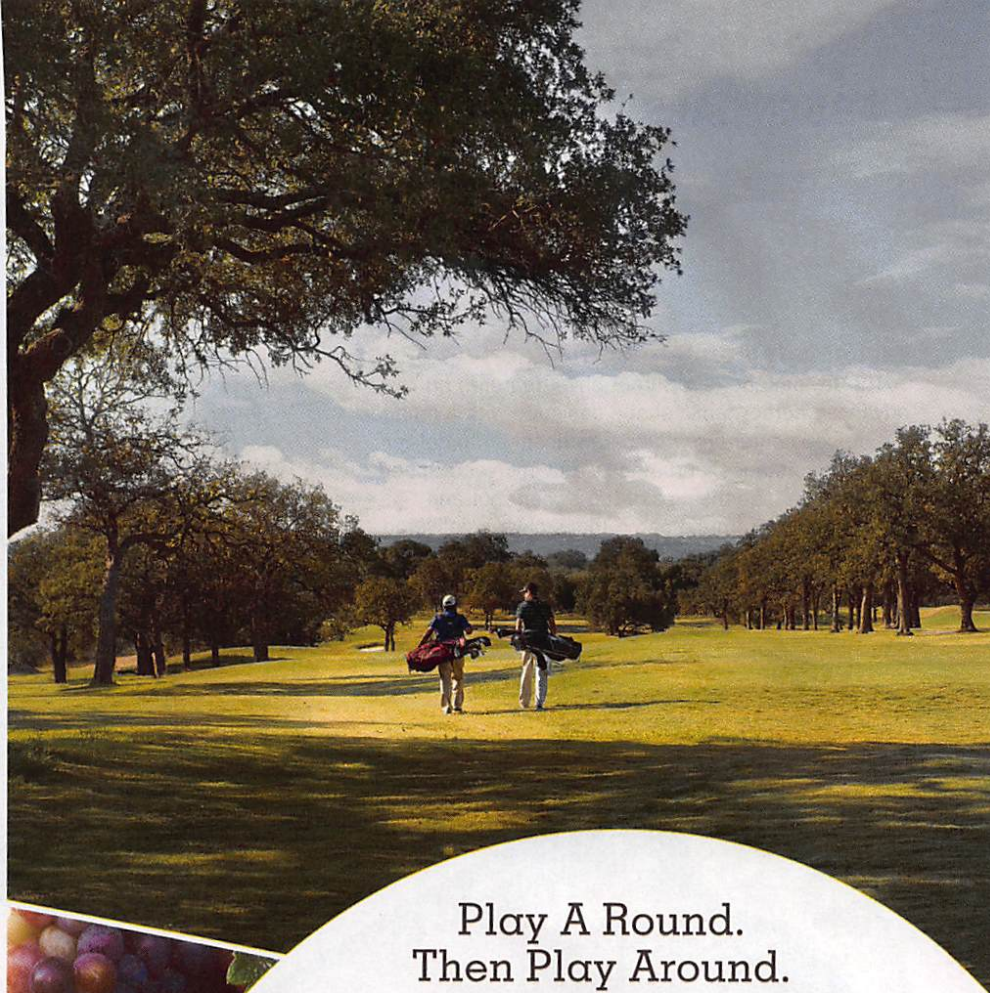
Given the private nature of Quivira and the adjacent luxury neighborhoods, service and niceties are more than an afterthought. While you won't find any cart girls roaming the course, Quivira maintains four comfort stations along the routing, each stocked with complimentary food and beverages

With rollercoaster contours, cactus-studded arroyos and lob-wedge proximity to the Pacific and the Sea of Cortez, Los Cabos is an easy mark for more golf course development. Quivira has another 18 in the works. Tiger Woods recently opened his first course nearby (you can spot it from the Quivira's cliff tops). Because so much of Baja's quiet eastern coast already developed, though, designers now have to move west of the Sea of Cortez, staking out sites along the more blustery Pacific. But as Jack Nicklaus and his team proved with Quivira, land once deemed inhospitable is suddenly welcoming.

Keep your eye on this wedge of Mexico; it has "Best Golf Course" written all over it.



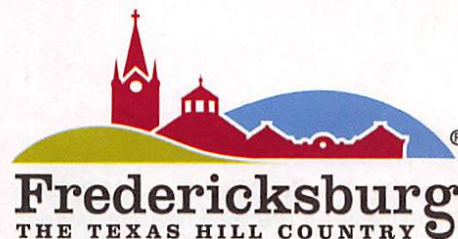
Michael Hiller is a member of the Society of American Travel Writers. He is Travel Editor of AvidGolfer Magazine. You can follow his travels on Twitter, @MikeHiller



Play A Round.
 Then Play Around.
Alles in Fredericksburg!

Serious golfers will find it "all in Fredericksburg." At Lady Bird Johnson Golf Course, you'll play on contoured fairways built to USGA standards with 48 challenging bunkers, water in-play on over half the holes, lush Champion Ultra Dwarf underfoot and spectacular Hill Country views. Your fleet of four-wheeled "chariots" awaits at the clubhouse, featuring the Red Bird Grill and Golf Shop. Plus, your 19th hole is historic Fredericksburg—where you'll find wineries, spas, gourmet cuisine, shopping, live music and so much more! As far as getaways go, it's your ace in the hole.

GolfFredericksburg.com | 800 950 8147



Texas Heart. German Soul.

