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THE #TOPOFMEX AWARDS



The annual TOP OF MEX awards highlight our editors' picks of the best resorts throughout the popular destinations of Los Cabos, Cancun, Puerto Vallarta and Playa del Carmen. Each year our editorial team spends the year traveling to different luxury resorts in these market areas, taking into account things like service, accommodations, amenities, cuisine, location, activities, spa, golf courses, pool areas and more. With so many resorts in Mexico to choose from, these awards recognize the best of the best allowing elite travelers to narrow down their choices and choose from some of the most exclusive resorts with top-tier amenities and service.

BY SUZANNE KOCH

PUEBLO BONITO PACIFICA GOLF & SPA RESORT

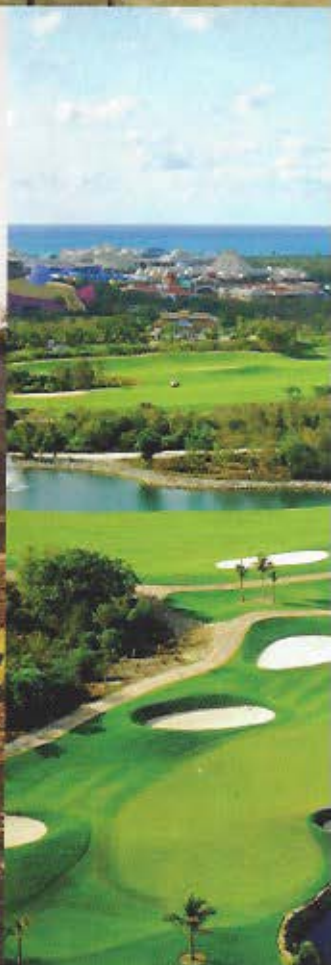
CABO SAN LUCAS

This adults-only, all-inclusive retreat is one of four Pueblo Bonito resorts in Los Cabos, and it recently debuted its newest addition, The Towers at Pacifica, a three-building structure offering an unparalleled level of service. The resort-within-a-resort houses 47 club-level suites in two of the towers while the third, accessed by sky bridge, flaunts a new Baja Med restaurant, a state-of-the-art fitness center and an oceanfront VIP lounge, exclusive to guests of The Towers. Suites are stocked with custom-stocked mini bars, portable Beats speakers, Egyptian cotton bedding and more. Six suites are complete with private plunge pools and the sumptuous, 3,200-sq.-ft. Presidential Suite is located on the top floor with two king bedrooms, a private terrace with a fire pit, a Jacuzzi and outdoor shower. With such impressive accommodations, it's no surprise that the service is even more impeccable. Guests of The Towers are treated to 24-hour service from butlers who have undergone meticulous training from one of the most exclusive butler and front-of-house training schools in the world: British Butler Institute. Pueblo Bonito Pacifica also has five restaurants and three bars on-site along with the award-winning Armonia Spa and access to Quivira Golf, an ocean-desert-mountain course with more oceanfront exposure than any other course in Los Cabos.

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THE
#TOPOFMEX
AWARDS





SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON

MEXICO'S TOP COURSES

BY TOM MACKIN

When two-time major championship winner Lorena Ochoa is inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame next September, she will become the first Mexico-born golfer ever accorded such an honor. While the country may not have produced many great players, Mexico is home to a stellar roster of courses, especially on its coastlines. Here are the top courses—from the Pacific Ocean to the Caribbean, across three regions of the country—that are well worth a tee time, plus a sneak peek at three upcoming new course projects.

Clockwise from top left: Punta Mita, Quivira Clubhouse, Mayakoba Clubhouse, Ikerostar, Quivira



IF A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS,

then images of the golf holes at Quivira, a growing luxury real estate development on the Pacific Ocean side of Los Cabos, are worth a book or two. After a benign opening of four holes on this Jack Nicklaus-designed course, a five-minute uphill cart ride takes you to a 310-yard par-4, sharp dogleg left that plunges downhill to a green overlooking the Pacific. Two par 3s (the 180-yard 6th and 140-yard 13th) are other coastal stunners, while the 12th hole is a 635-yard par 5 that tumbles downward from an elevated tee to a green overlooking the beach. The course debuted in December of 2014 and is open to members and guests at the nearby Pueblo Bonito Pacifica Golf & Spa Resort, Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach Golf & Spa Resort and the Montecristo Estates Luxury Villas. Guests of both Pueblo Bonito Rosé Resort & Spa and Pueblo Bonito Los Cabos Beach Resort also have access to tee times at Quivira.

The layout is also the centerpiece of a

1,800-acre community, which features a variety of real estate options, including Copala, with seven residential towers, condos and homes; and Coronado, a collection of single-level hacienda-style homes starting at \$1.6 million. The Towers at Pacifica—part of the Pueblo Bonito Pacifica Golf & Spa Resort—have recently opened and feature three new structures with distinct accommodations and enhanced amenities (including personalized 24-hour British Butler Institute-certified butler service). There's also elevated dining experiences and exclusive access to a new VIP Towers Lounge, all overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Just north of Quivira is Diamante Cabo San Lucas, a luxury real estate development with two private courses: the Dunes Course by Davis Love III, ranked 38th in the world by Golf Magazine, and El Cardonal, the first course ever designed by Tiger Woods. The Dunes Course recently opened a new par-3 10th hole. The course now ends on the signature former 17th hole while the former 18th hole has been taken out of play. Perhaps more notable is the recent opening of Cabo's first par-3 course—The Oasis Short



Course by TGR Design. There will be 12 holes ranging from 41 yards to 143 yards, plus an alternative three-hole loop within that routing that includes a par 3, par 4 and par 5.

In addition to the several residence club and real estate communities already under development at Diamante, additional future plans at Diamante call for a 10-acre beachfront resort and real estate development, a 90-acre luxury branded beachfront hotel and real estate development, an expansion of the sport and recreation facility, and a "Village" boutique shopping center.

El Dorado Golf & Beach Club is a private members club loaded with high-end amenities. The 7,322-yard Jack Nicklaus-designed course debuted in 1999, but the Discovery Land Company's 2005 purchase of the property raised both the golf and real estate options to a new level. Comfort stations loaded with food and drink—a hallmark of every Discovery Land Company course, including Estancia in Arizona, The Madison Club in Palm Springs and Bakers Bay in the Bahamas—are essentially mini-restaurants. At El Dorado that means access to local tuna jerky, world-

famous chicken salad, an old-fashioned candy store, root beer floats, strawberry "Goose Juice," homemade fresh fruit ice pops, homemade beef jerky, chocolate chip ice cream sandwiches, chocolate-covered frozen bananas and a supply of Casamigos tequila.

When Cabo Del Sol opened in 1994, the Nicklaus-designed Ocean Course set a new standard for golf in the area. Multiple holes along the ocean on both nines—but especially the spectacular par-3 17th—garner plenty of attention. In 2001, the Ocean Course was joined by Tom Weiskopf's Desert Course, creating a very memorable 36-hole experience.

Palmilla Golf Club found a silver lining when Hurricane Odile hit the area in 2014, with the natural disaster acting as motivation for a \$3.5-million makeover of the golf course that includes the renovation of three of the four lakes over the past two years with the fourth lake being completed in 2017. Nearby is the lavish One & Only Palmilla Resort, whose origins date back to the 1950's when the area was a getaway for Hollywood stars and deep-sea fishing aficionados.