

Southern golf central

GOLF, TRAVEL
& LIFESTYLE
MAGAZINE

Volume 16, Issue 6



 **PNC**
FATHER-SON
CHALLENGE
THE RITZ-CARLTON GOLF CLUB® ORLANDO

Celebrate Family

December 10-13, 2015

Experience Quivira!

Hole#11 Green

The Baja Peninsula of Mexico

is the longest peninsula in the world. Longer than Italy.

It is a collection of mountains, desert, cactus and wide beaches that stretches 747 miles from top to bottom. To the east is the Sea of Cortez. To the west, the Pacific Ocean. And to the south there is not another piece of land until Antarctica comes into sight.

The first European travelers to reach the Baja were adventurers – Hernan Cortes and Francisco de Ulloa. They were in search of the fabled Seven Cities of Gold. They never found them.

But gold finally was found on the Baja Peninsula – in particular in the Los Cabos region – in 1992. It came in the form of the Golden Bear, Jack Nicklaus.

That's when Palmilla, Nicklaus' first signature course in Latin America, was built in the then-sleepy tourist region. Before that time the region had only two distinctions.

In the capital town of San Jose del Cabo, there was the mission that was founded by the Jesuits in 1690. That town slowly grew and eventually opened the tiny airport that brought a small number of tourists to the region. Now it is a modern jetport that brings more than two million tourists to the region every year.

The other town was Cabo San Lucas. In the early 1900s it grew around a small fishing village and a tuna cannery. Later it became one of the sport fishing capitals in the world.

And then the Golden Bear started a new gold rush. Or, better termed, a golf rush. His first course, Palmilla,

started a wave of golf construction and, soon, a new wave of upscale tourism development that has transformed the area into one of the most chic vacation destinations in the world.

In December of 2014, the 14th golf course in the region – and the sixth designed by Nicklaus – opened.

Quivira is part of a master planned community that includes the Pueblo Bonito Pacifica luxury hotel, the Novaispania interval ownership estate homes, the ocean-view Copala condominiums and the Coronado single family homes. And at the center of it all is one of the most scenic, exciting, wildest and dramatic seaside golf courses in the Western Hemisphere.

The setting is magnificent, as golfers play through three different environments – seaside, dunes and high-desert mountains.

Quivira provides more oceanfront exposure than any other course in Los Cabos, with views of the Pacific from every hole.

"There are many golf courses in Los Cabos but Quivira is an experience," explains Antonio Reynante, director of golf at this cross between a golf course and a roller coaster ride. "It can be strikingly beautiful one moment and then, when the wind rises, it can strike fear into the greatest golfers on earth."

Situated on the southernmost point of the peninsula, wind is an ever-present factor. And, at its fiercest, it can topple a Sumo wrestler.

Fortunately, Nicklaus took into account the wind. He designed extremely generous fairways. Placing a tee shot in the short grass is a fair proposition on even the windiest days.

The challenge increases when



Blanco at night



Beach Banquet

it is time to zero in on the greens. Elevation comes into play when calibrating most approach shots.

Speaking of elevation ... there is more elevation change on Quivira – 275 feet of elevation change – than can be found on all but a handful of golf courses in the world.

That makes for some grueling uphill holes. One, for example, is No. 8. Although only 318 yards from the blue tees, it is extremely uphill and plays into the face of the predominant wind. Those two forces can turn what looks like, on paper, an easy hole into a long brute.

In fact, on paper, the entire course doesn't appear to be long. It measures 7,139 yards from the championship tees; 6,701 from the gold; 6,216 from the blue; 5,598 from the white; and 4,326 from the red. But it plays longer

At least, Nicklaus took pity on the golfers. For every brute of an uphill hole, there is relief in the form of a downhill hole.

Two of the longest holes – No. 16, 428 from the blues; No. 17, 440 from the blues – play extremely downhill. Known as the “canyon holes”, slightly errant tee shots will bounce back into play on the fairways.

No. 6 is another downhill hole ... but not to the advantage of the golfer. It is only 135 yards from the blue tees and the green hangs on a cliff atop the ocean. From the second the golfer makes contact with the golf ball, there are perilous moments of anxiety as the shot hangs high against an azure blue backdrop. Finding the green is usually followed by a loud exhale of relief.

No. 13 is another spectacular par 3 – this time with the ocean and a forest of granite rock spires lurking immediately to the right of the green. It is 122 yards of nail-biting anxiety from the blue tees.

These are just some of the high points of an adventure on the links at Quivira.

But that adventure can be fully rewarded once the wind-whipped golfer arrives back at the Pueblo Bonito hotel. Whether it is the adults-only Pacifica hotel, right up against the beach and the crashing waves of the ocean, or the Sunset Beach hotel, with a view from above the cliffs, hospitality and comfort reign supreme.

The restaurants are superb – offering everything from award-winning gourmet Mexican cuisine, to a sushi restaurant that serves some of the freshest fish from the nearby sea.

The pools are aqua playgrounds, with large whirlpools, wading pools and swim-up bars. The spa is world-class. The landscaped areas in between the buildings set an elegant atmosphere, both day and night.

“Our hotel philosophy is to provide the absolute finest in service, food and accommodations,” explains Mizraim Corpus, the general manager at Pacifica. “We offer 24-hour room service. All of our dining, with the exception of

breakfast, is a la carte. We insist that our staff pays attention to every detail of our guests.” If you are looking for ordinary

Mexican food, go to Taco Bell. Unique, high-end offerings are the norm from the Quivira chefs. One appetizer was called Cactus Blood – mushroom mixture, goat cheese, vinaigrette shallots and red tuna. A featured entrée – Mar y Montana – was fresh handmade pasta, cooked in chipotle pitahaya sauce, Kalamata olives, cherry tomatoes, shrimp and steak.

“There is the rest of Mexico, and then there is Quivira,” says Jose Luis Mogollon, chief development officer for the entire project. “We are a bit different ... a cut above.

“Quivira is separated from all of the tourist activity in Cabo San Lucas by the mountain. It makes for a quieter, more serene setting. Yet, for those who want it, the party is only five minutes away by car. It's the best of both worlds.”

In town, not only is there the celebrated night life of Cabo – with its bars (Cabo Wabo), restaurants (The Office) and nightclubs (Giggling Marlin) – but there is plenty to do during the day also.

Companies, such as Cabo Adventures, provide a long list of offerings: whale watching (November to April), snorkeling, mountain biking, zip lines, scuba diving and sailing on luxury yachts. For those wanting something totally different, there is even a camel safari.

Or, for those who prefer doing absolutely nothing, there is a magnificent beach ... with hammocks and even tented suspended beds for massages or napping. But don't get so distracted that you forget the golf. Quivira is an unforgettable golf experience.

The early explorers may not have found gold in the Los Cabos region, but today's vacationers are discovering a wealth of treasured memories. 🏌️



Deluxe Oceanview Balcony

Hole #5 Fairway

