



**Q & A WITH JACK NICKLAUS  
GOLF COURSE DESIGNER**

**Q: How do you see Quivira fitting into the existing golf experience throughout Los Cabos? Could it, in some ways, redefine the Cabo golf experience?**

A: Cabo's golf experience does not need redefining, but Quivira will certainly add to it greatly. I think Quivira is loaded with really, really good golf holes and unique golf holes. There is good golf even before you get to the ocean holes, which will be unlike anything else in Cabo or many other places. I've never seen any place that has three holes hanging out over the ocean like this golf course does. They are unbelievable. This is a diverse golf course with inland settings, it's got desert, it's got ocean, it's got rocks; it has a little bit of everything. It's not a hard golf course; we made the course very user-friendly. It will look difficult because of where it is, but I think you're going to find that the course is very playable.

**Q: When a golf course designer is presented with so much bounty from Mother Nature, is the challenge even greater to design a stunning and challenging course? Do you have to challenge yourself to match up your work to the canvas?**

A: We had to help the golf course emerge from the natural terrain we had to work with. I thought it was a very challenging yet spectacular piece of property. Much of it is located on the side of a hill and although there were many opportunities (to place golf holes), we had to find them. Even though we found them, they still required an awful lot of effort to make certain that they work and that they remain stable.

**Q: What design features did you incorporate into the course to make it pleasurable for the average golfer?**

A: (Laughing) I have not figured that out yet. I think the pleasure will come from the fact that we tried not to make it really difficult. I don't think you're going to find Quivira to be a long-playing golf course. We tried to make it so the average golfer not only plays the same holes (as the pros), but has the same experience. The golf holes will be challenging yet pleasurable because they are so beautiful and so unique. We didn't try to make Quivira a back-breaking golf course. We tried to make the golf course very playable. Only 1.8 percent of people on a worldwide average play the back tees. So, 98.2 percent of the play is on the forward tees. That's the audience we designed the golf course for.

**Q: Was there one particular design challenge at the site that exceeded all others?**

A: I think the stability of the dunes was probably the most difficult task. We obviously had to stabilize the dunes, because every time we came back the dunes had changed. They are alive, absolutely. We needed to get them where we want them, then make sure we establish them, make sure they stay where they are supposed to stay.

**Q: What have you done to design the course taking into account the wind here on the Pacific side?**

A: There are times of year when the wind can be strong, so what we've done is create quite a few tee locations on every hole. That means whoever is setting up the golf course in the morning needs to know what the wind is going to be. There's the opportunity to lengthen some holes when you're playing downwind, or to shorten a lot of holes when the wind is in your face. I think we've tried to accommodate the wind the best we can. We think we've done a pretty good job of it.

**Q: As opposed to the user-friendliness for the average player from the forward tees, how do you think professionals will find it?**

A: The pros will have a good challenge. The property was too unique to try to create a golf course that would be a resort golf course suited just for a high-handicapper. It was a golf course that you had to take advantage of all the spectacular situations you had and be they too difficult or not, you had to take advantage of it. It is just too unbelievable. There will be a lot of really good players who will come down here and will want to play the back tees, and they'll find a challenging, unforgettable golf course to play.

**Q: Each time you design and then open a golf course, it potentially impacts your legacy —you are judged by your latest work. How do you think Quivira will impact your legacy?**

A: As with pretty much everything, I think it will be mixed, but I hope most people will think it's the most spectacular golf course and the best golf course they have ever seen. And yes, some other people will say, "*You have got to be kidding.*" It will depend on how you look at the game of golf. If you look at the game of golf as having a fun experience, and playing in an exciting and beautiful place, you will absolutely love it

**Q: How eager are you to play a finished product like Quivira that offers such spectacular vistas?**

A: Well, I already know how it plays out...I've played it in my head many times already. The 12<sup>th</sup> hole is a spectacular par 5. You are standing way up on top of this dune, and the hole is nearly 600 yards from the back tee, but it won't play like that simply because you have a 150- to 200-foot elevation change that goes down to the ocean. Then we've got a spectacular little par 3 at No. 13 with tees along the edge of the cliff playing into a rock outcropping that comes out into the ocean, and the green sits right in the middle of these rock outcroppings high above the sea. Then we're off the ocean until we get back to the par-4 18th. From start to finish, I'd say Quivira has as much pace, variety and spectacular beauty as any course I've ever designed.