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ragtaps
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where hillside vineyards sweep
down to Lake Geneva?

Twin Dolphin's panoramic No. 3 (front) and No. 4 holes

In Mexico

Dream Come True

Big-name designer unveils a spectacular course that's atypical for the Los Cabos golf scene

BY JOSH SENS



From left, Todd Eckenrode and Fred Couples

WHEN LAID-BACK TOUR pro Fred Couples first set foot in Los Cabos, Mexico, in 2008, he felt an instant kinship with this equally laid-back destination. "The vibe, the climate, the welcoming culture," Couples says. "There was nothing not to like about it."

The Hall-of-Famer began dreaming of building a Cabo golf course on a canyon-rutted bluff beside the water. That took some time, but it's now a dream come true. In November, Couples cut the ribbon on **Twin Dolphin Golf Club**, a dramatic layout with an austere beauty that marks a stark departure for Cabo-

area golf. Where many local courses feature lush landscaping that would look at home on a tropical isle, Twin Dolphin works in harmony with its high-desert surrounds. Its broad, buckled fairways give way at their fringes to craggy ridges and arroyos. Cacti and rock outcrops frame its greens and tees. That almost every hole offers views of Santa Maria Bay and the turquoise-colored Sea of Cortez adds to the distinctive sense of place.

Twin Dolphin, which Couples crafted in collaboration with the architect Todd Eckenrode, takes its name from the famed hotel and celebrity hideout that once stood on the nearby shoreline. That hotel is long gone, but its luxury and

exclusivity have been taken up a notch by its replacement: Twin Dolphin Los Cabos, an upscale development that includes a private residential community as well as high-end Montage Resort & Residences Los Cabos. Guests of the resort enjoy limited tee times at the golf club, which is brawny enough, when played from the tips, to entertain a golfer of Couples' talents, but friendly and forgiving from the forward tees.

"This is a place where I can come with my buddies and we can all have a good time," says Couples, who owns a home within Twin Dolphin. "That's what I wanted — a course that's fun for everyone." twindolphinloscabos.com

2 More Cabo Layouts Slated to Open This Fall



Rancho San Lucas Golf Club

An island-green par 3 is one of many artful features at this high-end **Greg Norman-designed** layout. Guests of the Grand Solmar Rancho San Lucas Hotel & Resort will be able to play the private course, located in Rancho San Lucas, a coastal resort community set along miles of alabaster beach. ranchosanlucas.com



Costa Palmas Golf Club

Already home to a yacht club and a Four Seasons resort, this luxe beachfront community will get another upscale amenity with this dramatic 18-hole design by famed designer **Robert Trent Jones II**. The course will be private, but accessible to guests of the Four Seasons. costapalmas.com