

The Golf Course

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USGA recognises Chambers Bay



New Jersey, USA – The United States Golf Association has announced that it has awarded the 2015 US Open Championship to Chambers Bay, the spectacular municipal links course located on the scenic lower Puget Sound in University Place, Washington State.

The USGA also announced that Chambers Bay, designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr and Bruce Charlton, would play host to the US Open Championship in 2010.

The 2008 Golf Industry Show in Orlando has been heralded as an enormous success – with attendance apparently setting an all-time high, as well as record-breaking square footage on the show floor. However, USGA staff attending the Orange County Convention Center... (text continues)

Chambers Bay will be the third municipal course to play host to the US Open, following Bellerabe Golf in New York (2002, 2003) and Torrey Pines in California later this year. Chambers Bay will be the first golf course in the Pacific Northwest to hold the US Open.

"We are excited to take the US Open Championship and the US Amateur to such an awesome site," said Jim Neale, chairman of the USGA and USGA's Executive Director. "This is the first time the US Open has been in Washington and we are confident that the golf course will provide a challenging test for the best players in the world, as well as a great spectator experience for those who attend the event and watch it online and on television."

The local leadership provided by Pierce County has been superb and we look forward to partnering with them and the great sports fans in Washington to host a truly unique Open Championship. And, the USGA will give us a great insight into the golf course architecture and championship setup. For the first time, the National Open will be played on fine fescue grasses, including the putting greens," continued Hyler.

Chambers Bay, opened in June 2001, is the centerpiece of a 930-acre park purchased by Pierce County, Washington in 1992 that today features scenic trails and coastline vistas where a sand and gravel quarry once stood. "Our hard work has paid off as we have done everything possible to attract

and we are confident that the golf course will provide a challenging test for the best players in the world, as well as a great spectator experience for those who attend the event and watch it online and on television."

The course architect lauded Korea's top layouts, David Dale, since it was worth attention to rankings. He USGA office, even in San Francisco. This is nice to see, and I'm happy for our client at Nine Bridges, but I'm concerned Nine Bridges is just the beginning of Golfplan. Our firm has several projects in development, right here in Korea and across Asia, Europe and Central America that are every bit as good," said Dale, as he leaned back in his chair and took some time to smoke the pipe. Top 100 lists in his hands. "Here's Island – I had been named on Golf Digest's list of Top 100 courses outside the United States, but he didn't know exactly where (No 43). He search's what we had also ranked No 40 on Golf

From: That's the sort of company we intend to keep in the 21st century," Dale and his partners at Nine Bridges, Ron Freeman and Kevin Ramsey, are poised to continue his work among the

Are turf pests changing with the climate?

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IAGTO Award for Vietnam Golf

CIENSA, MEXICO – The International Association of Golf Travel Operators (IAGTO) has named Vietnam its 2007 'Undiscovered Golf Destination of the Year'. The announcement capped the organization's annual Awards Gala December 4th in the Grand Milla Hotel in Cancun.



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DEVELOPMENT

Jacobsen Hardy's new 18 at Brasada Canyons

By PHILLIP HALL

Oregon, USA – Central Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, in general, stand as two of the USA's most active course development regions. But neither has ever seen anything like The Club at Brasada Canyons, centerpiece of the ambitious development at Brasada Ranch. Laid out by Jacobsen Hardy Golf Course Design and opened in autumn 2007, The Club at Brasada Canyons debuts as the only desert-style layout on this famously picturesque, arid plateau.

Jacobsen Hardy made the most of an extraordinary site, routing 18 holes in, across and along the edges of a sprawling network of canyons.

This sort of elevation affords golfers long, panoramic views of the snow-capped Cascades. Man-made items tend to get dwarfed here, but Brasada's 80-foot-high wooden golf cart trestle – which delivers players back to the clubhouse and serves as backdrop to the par-5 finishing hole – more than holds its own.

"There's so much to see during a round at Brasada, it's such a feast for the eyes, that we had to make some strategic decisions about when to create visual drama and when to simply get out of the way," said Peter Jacobsen, a partner with Jim Hardy in Houston-based Jacobsen Hardy Golf Course Design. "The creative part of

our design here was mainly a matter of routing. There are three basic types of holes at Brasada: those that play in the canyons themselves; those that play along their edges at elevation; and those that play off the edges, either into the canyons below or across them to another ridge.

"It's unbelievably dramatic, nearly a mountain golf experience with all the elevation change – but very high desert in terms of the surrounding vegetation, which is unique to central Oregon. When we first arrived on site, it struck us all as being similar to Desert Mountain, in Scottsdale, but with juniper in place of the cactus. It's a singular golf environment, and the course

we created here accentuates every bit of it."

Brasada's opening suite of holes neatly previews these distinct environments: The par-5 1st snakes along a gently rising canyon floor; the par-4 2nd plays along a broad ridge-top to a green seemingly perched at lands end; the par-4 3rd drops precipitously from a ridge back down into a canyon, while the par-3 4th stretches from the edge of one ridge, across a canyon to another ridge.

"If you think hard on it, golf courses rarely offer so many hole templates that are so very distinct," said Jim Hardy. "The great courses have two or three environments or 'looks', and the remaining holes are variations on those themes. At Brasada Canyons, we had three or four themes – and the sheer variety of resulting holes is quite striking.

"Folks have latched onto the 15th" – a drivable par-4 across a canyon in full view of the Cascades – "but the 9th might be our favourite hole out there. It's 499 from the tips, a par-4. You play across a baranca, to a hugely generous landing area. There is no fairway bunkering – there is no need for it when you consider the natural roll of the terrain. The green sits out at the terminus of this ridgeline with the white-

capped mountains as a backdrop. Just stunning." Brasada Ranch is a joint development by Eagle Crest and Jeld-Wen, the Klamath Falls, Oregon-based maker of doors and windows that has slowly but surely stepped up its visibility in the golf industry. Late in 2007, Jeld-Wen became a major sponsor of The Players Championship tournament, generally considered the PGA Tour's most significant event outside the four majors.

In mid-June, Brasada Ranch sold 103 more luxury home sites ranging in price from \$200,000 to \$550,000, the latter price representing the highest lot sale in Brasada's brief history. There are 900 units in all. Certain parcels sold during this initial phase featured close-up views of the semi-private layout at Brasada Canyons.

That said, the housing never intrudes on the 7,328-

yard course. Rex VanHoose, Jacobsen Hardy senior vice president/managing architect, notes that his firm was given an extremely wide berth in laying out Brasada Canyons. "The fairways at Brasada are extraordinarily wide for a whole host of reasons – because we were given a free hand by the developers, because the wind can really howl up there, and because holes framed by canyon walls tend to look narrow, even when they aren't."

"Combating that optical illusion was an aesthetic decision, but we had another reason for this width: Fairways on a grand scale fit the character of this property. With so many 360-degree views of the valley floor, with so many holes looking across at Mt Jefferson, Three Sisters, Broken Top and Mt Bachelor, we wanted the golf course to have its own sense of grandeur."

