

THE TOP TEN OCEANSIDE GOLF COURSES (INCLUDING TIGER'S FIRST)

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MARCH/APRIL 2009

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THE TOP 10 OCEANFRONT GOLF COURSES NOW IN PLAY  
OR SET TO DEBUT SOON. BY **SCOTT KAUFFMAN**

# SEASIDE GREENS



Wyndansea, the Jack Nicklaus Golf Club of Canada on Vancouver Island.  
Opposite, Punta Brava, Mexico, the site of a Tiger Woods-designed course.



Arguably, the highlight of the round is the 104-yard, par three 17th that plays across an ocean inlet from the back tees; it is a hole many are comparing to the classic par three seventh hole at Pebble Beach. The final hole is also full of action, with two shots over the crashing cliff side surf.

“Roco Ki is a course designer’s dream,” says Faldo, the 2008 Ryder Cup captain and six-time major championship winner. “There is so much variety across the 18 holes leading up to an absolutely stunning finish. It was a thrill to build.”

In addition to this new world-class layout, Roco Ki offers three miles of beachfront Westin resort accommodations and a variety of luxury residential opportunities, including beachfront residences and home sites. EcoDream Villas, 6,285-square-foot, four-story residences with wraparound porches and private rooftop terraces, are under construction and priced from \$2.25 million.

A future phase of the 2,500-acre resort-style community will feature a Fairmont hotel and luxury condominiums. 888.476.2654, [www.rocoki.com](http://www.rocoki.com)

#### **SANTA BARBARA PLANTATION, CURAÇAO, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES**

Esteemed golf course architect Pete Dye, who was recently enshrined in the World Golf Hall of Fame, is about to add Curaçao to his long list of golf course locations. Scheduled for a fall 2009 opening, the course is taking shape on the naturally contoured site overlooking the Caribbean Sea and the sheltered harbor known as Spanish Water, aptly named centuries ago after the Spanish sailors who came ashore to fill their freshwater casks. Measuring 7,200 yards from the

championship tees, the course will be complemented by an 8,000-square-foot clubhouse featuring a fully stocked golf shop, locker rooms, restaurant and lounge.

“The ambience is what makes it special,” says Dye. “First you see the Caribbean, then the bay and the boats, then that big mountain. This land is incredible—the contours, the views, the ruins, the setting. Here the topography has enough movement; you don’t have to create it.”

The golf course development is part of Santa Barbara Plantation, a 1,500-acre, resort-style community under development just 25 minutes from Curaçao’s capital city of Willemstad.

Besides the course, the other main element of Santa Barbara’s initial phase is the 350-room Hyatt Regency Curaçao Resort & Spa, also scheduled to open this fall. Already in operation is the 120-slip Seru Boca Marina, which is capable of accommodating vessels up to 80 feet in length within Spanish Water.

In addition to the golf course and marina, Santa Barbara Plantation will feature recreational amenities, such as a beach club for homeowners and their guests, fine and casual dining, a tennis center, business center, outdoor swimming pools and boutique retail shops.

By late spring, Santa Barbara Plantation should have Terrace home models available for viewing, priced from \$1.1 million. Single-family home sites priced from \$450,000 to more than \$1 million will feature similar golf course or ocean views.

The Marina Village, a 27-unit residential community overlooking Seru Boca Marina, consists of two- and three-bedroom patio homes ranging from 1,700 to 2,100 square feet with pricing from \$726,000. 877.740.0567, [www.santabarbaraplantation.com](http://www.santabarbaraplantation.com)