

Mayakoba

JOINING FORCES TO CREATE MEXICO'S FINEST ECO-RESORT



"I LIKE TO GIVE PLAYERS OPTIONS, whether using a driver or long iron off the tee to shape a certain shot, or different flop shots around the green areas. When traveling to Mayakoba, make sure to take all 14 clubs in your bag." – GREG NORMAN

A team of biologists, engineers, hydrologists, financial planners, and hospitality experts came together to create a master plan.

RIVIERA MAYA, MEXICO: (30 minutes south of Cancun): The one-mile, tree-canopied drive from Mayakoba's entranceway feels like you are on the set of Jurassic Park. Instead of dinosaurs, you are likely to encounter a family of coati, resembling a cross between anteaters and raccoons.

Site of the PGA TOUR's OHL Classic, the \$1 billion eco-resort features a Greg Norman designed golf course and Rosewood, Banyan Tree, Andaz, and Fairmont flagged hotels.

"Anytime a developer takes the initiative to be environmentally friendly, I look to build upon that vision. My number one mantra I adhere to on all projects—minimalism and sustainability," explained Greg Norman. "With many areas environmentally restricted, several of the corridors for golf were predetermined, which in some cases were quite narrow. I took the approach to keep the outer areas well maintained in order to keep your ball in play.

"Every golfer wants to be challenged. Knowing the course would host the OHL Classic, extra attention needed to be given to make El Camaleon playable for *all* without adding a burden to the annual maintenance cost.

"Obviously I love the positive feedback and seeing my designs on the international stage, but I do not design a course for the one week of the year professionals play," continued Norman. "I must admit; however, it's a testa-



Native obstacles, unique to Mayakoba, include miles of limestone walled canals and cenotes (sinkholes) converted into bunkers.

ment to my design philosophy when the best in the game openly compliment one of my courses. It is a stamp of approval for a job well done!" ■

For more information, please visit MayakobaGolf.com.

EL CAMALEON IS SPANISH FOR CHAMELEON – THE INDIGENOUS LIZARDS FOUND ON THE MEXICAN COAST.