



The ultimate indulgence: room service dinner at the David McLay Kidd estate.



(Left) The Underhill and Pazardur families head to Nicaragua.

(Below) The finishing hole on the course is a par-3 that plays to the Pacific.



Age Old WISDOM

“At Mukul Resort, the combination of beach frontage and immense trees had me wide-eyed and excited to be selected to design the course.”

– DAVID MCLAY KIDD

By Mark Pazardur, Publisher

GUACALITO DE LA ISLA, NICARAGUA: The Dalai Lama guides, “Once per year, go someplace you’ve never been before.”

For the better part of three decades, my family and the Underhill family have traveled together on summer vacation. We received a jarring wake-up call two years ago, when my best friend’s wife, Karina Underhill, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Quickly we realized our mortality and appreciated the value of health and friendship.

While interviewing the respected and quick-witted David McLay Kidd (a rising star in the golf architecture world) for a story, he inquired if I had heard of Mukul Resort in Nicaragua. He welcomed me to stay at his private estate, complete with four separate private villas, to enjoy what he considers one of the undiscovered great resorts in the world.

So our families, realizing the preciousness of time and at the invitation of David, headed to Central America.

FACEBOOK WORTHY MOMENTS

I believe millionaires have money; billionaires have responsibility. For five generations, the Pellas family (one of the wealthiest families in the world) has been dedicated to their homeland. Mukul Resort is their newest endeavor to grow tourism, tax revenue, and jobs in one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere.

Mukul means “secret.” If you are looking for five-star service (I am a harsh critic and it delivered) and enjoy experiential moments that few have discovered, I recommend Mukul for your next vacation. Luxury is no longer defined by distance traveled. The destination must hit all touch points of accommodations, food, activities, and service. Highlights for us included a surfing lesson, golf, massage, and a day trip into Granada. ■

Traveling to Mukul: Nicaragua is in the Mountain Time Zone. Passports and a \$10 immigration fee are required. Although there is a private airport 20 minutes from the resort, most fly into Managua Airport (MGA). The resort provides modern transportation, with a nice touch, complimentary wi-fi for the two and one-half hour drive. No matter the time of year, since you are visiting a rainforest, sun screen and bug spray are a must.

The bottom line: Mukul Resort is worth the effort. Don't let its remoteness deter your decision. If you are looking for an out-of-the-ordinary destination that provides the expected level of service of a top U.S. resort, Mukul fits the bill.

For more information: MukulResort.com. If you wish to inquire about the David McLay Kidd estate at Mukul, please contact David at dmk@dmkgolfdesign.com.