

Then and Now at MAYACAMA

The Golden Bear returns to The Golden State



Aerial photo of Mayacama: Mayacama holds the distinction as a “Top-100 Golf Course in the United States” by *Golf Digest*. The clubhouse was inspired by the grandeur of Old World Mediterranean estates.



Pictured from left to right: Jonathan Wilhelm, Malin Giddings (member), Jessica Wilhelm, Grant Wilhelm, Jack Nicklaus, Barbara Nicklaus, Aimee Santana (member), David Wilhelm.

SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA (just outside Healdsburg): The Wilhelm and Nicklaus families formed a personal bond that originated from business dealings. “It’s a relationship that has only grown over time,” expressed Jonathan Wilhelm, managing partner of Mayacama. “After successful launches of Roaring Fork Club and Cordillera [both in Colorado] our attention turned to the West.”

Mayacama, a private club with a Nicklaus Signature design, is located in the heart of Pinot Noir country. In a nod to the region’s vinicultural heritage, its clubhouse offers more wine lockers than golf lockers.

“We opened Mayacama a month before 9/11,” lamented Jonathan. “The tragedy reinforced in me how lucky we are to live in America.”

This summer, Mayacama celebrated its 20th anniversary as one of the most prestigious private clubs in California, with both Barbara and Jack Nicklaus in attendance.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

“Mayacama embraces everything special about the area, from the club’s vintner program to the wine cave just off the 18th green,” expressed Jack Nicklaus. “It’s in a magnificent setting tucked into a box canyon in the golden hills of ‘Old California.’

“Private golf clubs have always filled the need as a place of refuge. A day at Mayacama provides a sense of normalcy in an abnormal world.”

— JONATHAN WILHELM

“During the grand opening of the golf course in 2001, I shot one under. Now, with my infrequent play, I don’t want to be a competitor with a score of three digits behind it,” teased Jack. “I have a new appreciation of golf course architecture through the membership’s eyes. I don’t like to make change for change sake. It must be warranted to enhance pace or ease of play. Coming back, after all these years, I forgot the natural beauty of Mayacama and its surroundings.”

CHITCHAT LEADING TO THE NICKLAUS VISIT

“As a founding member of Mayacama, I’ve had the good fortune to play over 2,000 rounds here, and I can tell you, I still get just as excited today to tee it up and take the sacred walk as I did the very first time. I can’t think of a

better compliment to be paid to any golf course,” said Kevin Bedsole. “It’s a place where our family comes to be among great friends; meet new friends; and enjoy a private, top notch set of experiences that simply have no equal in the wine country. What more could anyone possibly ask for?” ■

For more information, please visit Mayacama.com.