

Celebrating a Rare Accomplishment

Executive Cup, exclusively for private golf club champions, combines fun, camaraderie, and competition.



NUEVO VALLARTA, MEXICO (5 miles north of Puerto Vallarta): "Winning your club championship is an accomplishment that deserves to be celebrated," stated Mark Pazdur, director of Executive Cup Challenge. "Our tournament, now in its 17th year, allows current and past club champions and couples club champions from across the country to compete for the title of 'champions of champions.'

"Vidanta, with Nicklaus and Norman courses and accommodations that rival the world's best, is the perfect host. Although most refer to Vidanta as being in Puerto Vallarta, it's actually across the Ameca River in *Nuevo* Vallarta. In Spanish, nuevo means *new*.

"So, it was only appropriate that during our Welcome Reception and Dinner participants toasted newlyweds Martha and Bob Mirman, champions from Mission Viejo Country Club in



Martha and Bob Mirman

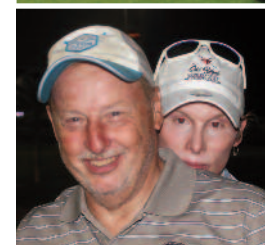
California, who decided to celebrate their *new* relationship at Vidanta."

BUILDING MOMENTUM

Tournament week started on a high note with the inaugural, four-hole, Executive Cup Horse Race Skins Game Shootout under the lights on Vidanta's brand new Lakes Short Course. With 14 teams in the hunt for their share of a \$1,000 purse, those with a par on the first hole lived to fight another day. Incredibly, only birdies on the second hole were safe from the sudden-death chip off to advance. After holing a greenside bunker shot and solid "ham and egg" play, father/daughter team of Frank and Samantha from Old York Country Club in Chesterfield, New Jersey, won the competition and are \$600 richer in "Vida Dollars."

"We felt pampered at Vidanta. We were greeted at the airport, our refrigerator was stocked with goodies, and we had a forecaddie each day." – Martha and Bob Mirman, Members at Mission Viejo Country Club in California, chose Vidanta and Executive Cup as their honeymoon destination

HORSE RACE SKINS GAME SHOOTOUT



Father/daughter team, Frank and Samantha



Barb and John Wellard showing off their Vida Dollars won in the Skins Game Shootout.

DAY ONE: COUPLES CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

One of the best aspects of travel is learning. The Norman Course is peppered with Cuastecomates trees. Folklore says the devil lived on top of the tree. Once banished to the underworld, the tree started producing fruit and its leaves morphed into the shape of crosses. Today, the fruit is used in various holistic asthma and cancer treatments.

The one-day, best-ball Couples Club Championship



Holding leaves from a Cuastecomates tree.

on the Norman Course always has an air of excitement. "Like marriage, the tournament provides opportunity to compromise, strategize, and yes...often beg for forgiveness from your spouse," grinned Kyle Kerestes, champion at Shannopin Country Club in Pennsylvania.

Mike and Donna Gustafson, champions at Eugene Country Club in Oregon, must have listened to Doctor Laura's advice because they won *both* the gross and net titles in the Couples Club Championship.



Corey McKenzie, head golf professional, showing off the piñata filled with candy.

100,000 REASONS TO PARTICIPATE

Guessing the number of pieces of Halloween candy in a colorful piñata was this year's contest for a chance to win 100,000 American

"Sherman, champion at Serrano Country Club in California, and I met 25 years ago. I had just joined the club and he was the first person I was paired with. I have since moved to the East Coast and Executive Cup allows us to rekindle our friendship each year." – Ben Whipple, Champion at The Cliffs in South Carolina

WELCOME RECEPTION



Bob Hope, champion from Del Paso Country Club in California, shot 74 on the Nicklaus Course during the first day of individual play. At age 79, he shot five under his age.

Airlines frequent flier miles.

Numbers ran the gamut with players each having a theory on how to accurately predict the correct number. "This was my first Executive Cup and I love how golf and social events combine," stated Pam Mettler, champion at Shooting Star in Wyoming.

With a guess of 437 (off by only one), Ben Whipple, champion at The Cliffs in South Carolina, won the prize. "Timing is excellent," rejoiced Whipple, "I am going to use the miles to upgrade on our flight to Europe next year for the Ryder Cup."



Pat Lyle

DAY TWO: FIRST ROUND OF INDIVIDUAL PLAY

Competitors were greeted with sunny skies and slightly cooler conditions for the first day of individual play on the Nicklaus Design Course.

"I could have played better, but I really enjoyed my foursome," said Pat Hughes Gelardi, champion from Manufacturers Golf & Country Club in Pennsylvania.

With calm conditions, several impressive scores were posted. When the final foursome arrived back at the clubhouse, it was clear it would be a photo finish the next day.

Going into the final day of play, Samantha Perrotta from Old York Country Club in New Jersey, Deby Anderson from Hideaway Club in California, and Martha Mirman from Mission Viejo Country Club in California were separated by four shots. For the men, Sherman Haggerty from Serrano Country Club in California, Steve Linnemeyer from Hideaway Club in California, and Ben Whipple from The Cliffs in South Carolina were separated by a single shot.



Bob Hope

"Each day we received a different tee prize, including a LINKSOUL shirt by John Ashworth, Srixon golf balls, and a plush Vidanta beach towel." – Pat Lyle, Champion at Eugene Country Club in Oregon

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

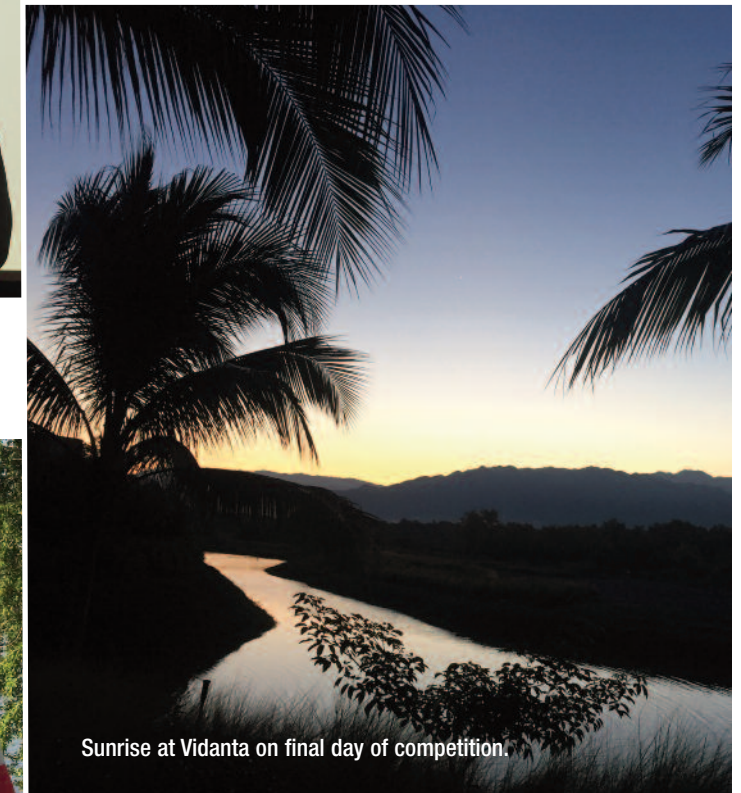


BEN WHIPPLE
The Cliffs in Travelers Rest, SC
Overall 2017 Men's Club Champion
78-75 — 153

SAMANTHA PERROTTA
Old York CC in Chesterfield, NJ
Overall 2017 Women's Club Champion
73-71 — 144



Sherman Haggerty and Ben Whipple at the conclusion of their sudden-death playoff.



Sunrise at Vidanta on final day of competition.

DAY THREE: FINAL ROUND AND AWARDS DINNER

After an impressive two-under-par on the Norman Course, Samantha Perrotta quickly distanced herself from the rest of the field on her way to Women's National Club Champion.

With three holes to play, Whipple had a comfortable four shot lead. Victory seems at hand. On the 18th hole, Haggerty, knowing time is running out, attacks and sticks a three-wood from 240 yards for an easy eagle...setting a stage for a playoff between the long-time friends.

After Whipple sunk a two-foot putt on the first playoff hole to clench the championship, he exclaimed, "Golf is like life, it has its ups and down, but no matter if I had won or lost, Sherman will always be my best friend."

This year's Awards Dinner was one of the more emotional events in tournament history. Samantha's father, Frank, passionately explained her travails with Autism. "It hasn't been easy," said Frank. "Samantha has always been athletic and she gravitated toward golf because it's an individual sport [famous golfer and sportscaster Ken Venturi, who battled stuttering, took up the sport for the same reason]. She has worked hard to become a +2 handicap. Unfortunately, not everyone accepts her and she has to work doubly hard to prove her merits. I can't tell you how proud I am of her accomplishments in life."



Vicki Long and Melanie Trimmer showing appreciation for the Srixon golf balls.

Executive Cup 2018 Challenge will be held at Vidanta from Thursday, October 11 – Monday, October 15. For registration, please contact Tournament Director Mark Pazdur at Mark@ExecutiveGolferMagazine.com or (949) 933-6478.

"It was the first time I played with Srixon golf balls. Although I am still having trouble correctly pronouncing the name, the product performs." – Vicki Long, Champion at Cape Country Club in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

BOY, DID WE HAVE FUN!



BOY, DID WE HAVE FUN!





VIDANTA'S SPECIAL TOUCHES

- Staff members greet you with a tap of their hand to their chest symbolizing "from my heart to yours."
 - Each floor at the Grand Luxxe has a dedicated concierge.
 - Cars are prohibited on property. A raised wooden boardwalk, with music permeating the air, provides access resort wide.
 - The exchange rate is very favorable to Americans.
 - The resort is spotless, modern, and filled with artwork and sculptures by famous Mexican artists.
 - The lush landscape, with tens of thousands of shrubs and trees, will make any green thumb envious.



Two-floor loft suite at Grand Luxxe

"OUR OCEAN-VIEW, TWO-BEDROOM LOFT SUITE was jaw-dropping. Amenities are more like a luxury condominium than a hotel room." – BARB WELLARD, CHAMPION AT INNISBROOK IN FLORIDA



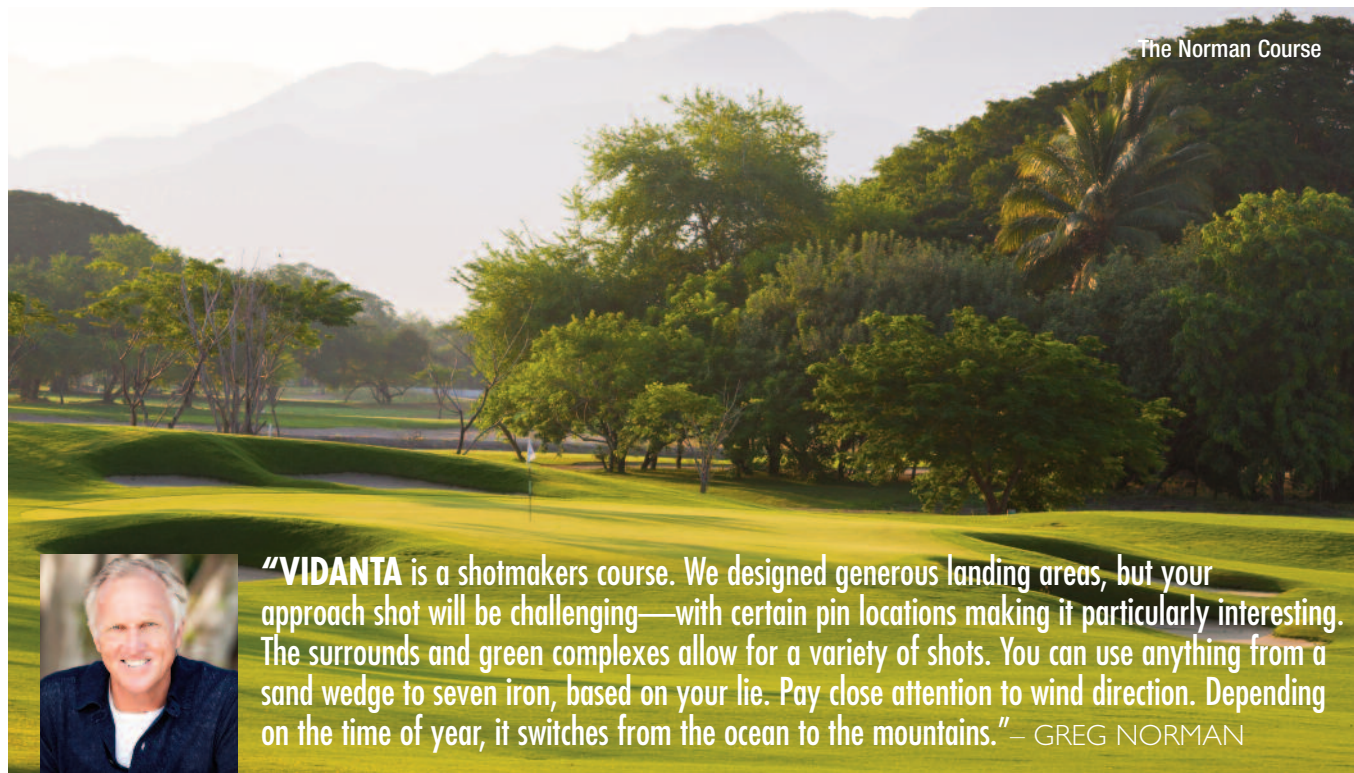
The Santuario

WELCOME TO THE LAND OF MAKE BELIEVE

“Our Cirque du Soleil Theme Park, the first of its kind.

Vidanta is offering us an amazing sandbox in which we can unleash our creativity. We strive for perfection.”

— GUY LALIBERTÉ, FOUNDER, CIRQUE DU SOLEIL



The Norman Course



“VIDANTA is a shotmakers course. We designed generous landing areas, but your approach shot will be challenging—with certain pin locations making it particularly interesting. The surrounds and green complexes allow for a variety of shots. You can use anything from a sand wedge to seven iron, based on your lie. Pay close attention to wind direction. Depending on the time of year, it switches from the ocean to the mountains.” — GREG NORMAN



IMPORTANT TRAVEL POINTS:

- Passports are required.
- The airport to fly into is Puerto Vallarta (PVR). Nonstop flights are available from: Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Memphis, Minneapolis, Newark, Orange County, Phoenix, Portland, Saint Louis, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle. It is a two to three hour nonstop flight from most airports in the southern tier of the U.S.
- Puerto Vallarta is in the Central Time Zone.
- The city of Puerto Vallarta has approximately the same population as Anaheim, California, where Disneyland is located. In 2016, approximately four million tourists will have visited Puerto Vallarta. You will find locals approachable, friendly, and kind. The staff at Vidanta appreciates you are there. They understand that your visit supports their livelihood and family.
- All four major cell networks (AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, and T-Mobile) have excellent service at the resort. Check your plan. Several now offer free calls and data from Mexico.
- The exchange rate is extremely favorable—currently at 19 Mexican pesos to the U.S. dollar. This compares to 9 pesos to the dollar five years ago. You will be surprised and impressed with the savings. At Vidanta, lunch of a chicken crepe, side salad, and diet Coke will set you back \$9.81.
- Other than small local stores, credit cards are welcomed everywhere. Inside tip: consider using a credit card that doesn't charge a 2-3% international transaction fee.
- Vidanta is located seven miles from the airport. Meet-and-greet transportation from the airport is included.
- The La Plaza at Vidanta offers all your shopping needs, including a cheese store, bakery, butcher, chocolatier, pastry shop, liquor store, and grocery.
- A full-service spa is on property. Be sure to sample the hibiscus infused water.
- Rental car facilities are on property.
- Your accommodations include a washer and dryer, and suites include a full kitchen. 24-hour room service is available.



The Nicklaus Course





EXECUTIVE CUP WHITE GLOVE SERVICE

- Meet and greet at airport with ground transfer. • Stocked refrigerator in your kitchen with your favorite groceries.
- Pre-arrival package highlighting non-golf excursions. • Concierge on every floor at Grand Luxxe.
- Forecaddie in every foursome. • Complimentary resort-wide Internet access.
- Most meals and all taxes/gratuities included.



EXECUTIVE CUP 2018 CHALLENGE

Dates

Check in: Thursday, October 11 • Check out: Monday, October 15

Format

A FOUR-NIGHT, THREE-DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Trophies will be awarded to male and female overall low gross champions...net and gross couples club champions ...and age divisional net and gross titles for men and women under 55, 55-64, 65-74, and 75 and over.

Pricing

Single: \$3,665 • Double/one competitor: \$4,220 • Double/two competitors: \$5,045
 Two couples sharing a two floor/two bedroom, luxurious 3,100 square-foot suite: \$4,220 per couple
 Early arrival/late stay nights in a 1,100 square-foot Grand Luxxe master room: \$475/night
 Upgrade to a 1,700 square-foot, one-bedroom suite at Grand Luxxe: \$50/night
 All taxes are included, airfare is not

Itinerary

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11: Arrival Day • Ground Transportation from Airport
Optional Evening \$1,000 Horse Race Skins Game Shootout on Par-3 Short Course (no buy-in required)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12: Full breakfast • Couples Club Championship on Norman Course
Hot lunch on course • Welcome Reception and Dinner

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13: Full breakfast • Executive Cup Round #1 on Nicklaus Course
Hot lunch on course • Evening at your leisure

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14: Full breakfast • Executive Cup Final Round on Norman Course
Hot lunch on course • Awards Reception and Dinner in Grand Ballroom

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15: Full breakfast • Departure Day from Grand Luxxe

Special Incentive

For only \$50 more per night, you can upgrade to an ocean-view, one-bedroom suite with a gourmet kitchen, living room, dining room, two LCD TVs, Jacuzzi tub, and a wide terrace with plunge pool. If you wish to share a suite, consider the two-bedroom suite for only \$130 more per night.

The registration process is done over the phone. For more information on the tournament, or to book a reservation, please contact Tournament Director Mark Pazdur at (949) 933-6478, or you may e-mail Mark@ExecutiveGolferMagazine.com.