



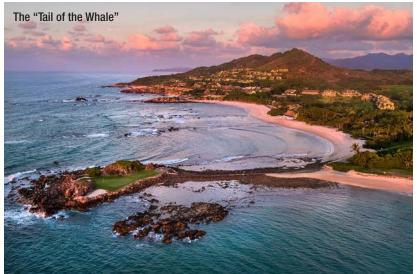
A gracious St. Regis butler welcomed players upon arrival, setting the tone for meticulous, personalized service. Lavish guestrooms are nestled in several buildings, creating a small-village feel. Unexpected niceties include complimentary morning coffee service (served in sterling silver) and pressing of dress shirts and evening wear.

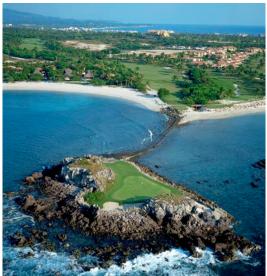
By Mark Pazdur, Tournament Director

NAYARIT, MEXICO (40 minutes north of Puerto Vallarta): Punta Mita has established a reputation known around the world. This fall, the inaugural Mexico Senior Open will be hosted on its Pacifico course.

The name Punta Mita originates from the Aztec word "mictlan" with the literal meaning of "gateway to paradise." I couldn't agree more. The property is surrounded on three sides by nine and one-half (sp 9½) miles of Pacific Ocean—with four beach clubs—and two oceanfront Jack Nicklaus Signature golf courses. To complement the existing St. Regis and Four Seasons resorts, Montage and Pendry hotels are under construction.

Our third iteration of the Punta Mita Pro-Am was a huge success with 11 teams from the Western Hemisphere competing.





"The Pacifico Course, with eight holes directly facing or playing alongside the Pacific Ocean, features the 'Tail of the Whale,' a par-three with the largest natural island green in the world. It's often difficult for a PGA professional to justify travel to Punta Mita. Time and cost are always a consideration. So, if club members field a team, the pro's room, golf, most meals, and even airfare are complimentary. This is an opportunity for private club members to reward their pro with the best of the south of the border hospitality." — JOHN MINTYRE, DIRECTOR OF GOLF

The geographic variety of participants added a spice similar to imbibing on a Habanero-infused margarita. Our goal has not wavered since day one to blend competition and camaraderie.

Jean van de Velde, former Ryder Cup competitor, broadcaster, and current Punta Mita ambassador added a bit of celebrity to the weekend. "You haven't experienced authentic Mexico, with a luxury twist, until you visit Punta Mita," expressed Jean. "Cabo San Lucas is considered Southern California's backyard, Cancun excels with all-inclusive trips that fit into a pretty box, while Punta Mita is the way to feel the 'real Mexico.' I've been fortunate to live in 11 countries [from Dubai to the Bahamas] during my professional playing career. I prefer



"Located on the same latitude as the Hawaiian Islands and boasting more than **340 days of sunshine** per year, you are virtually guaranteed sunny skies and balmy temperatures in Punta Mita."

— MARCELO LOPEZ, SALES DIRECTOR OF PUNTA MITA PROPERTIES



"I appreciated the roundtrip ground transportation from the Puerto Vallarta airport. It provides **peace of mind once you land.**" — LIJUN FENG, TEAM FANTASTIC FOUR FROM CALIFORNIA

Punta Mita. Our location offers everything you could wish for except snow skiing. Our Mexico Senior Open this fall is a really big deal. Our mission is to enhance and promote the sport. It's a shared passion among all of us at Punta Mita."

"With over 35 years under my belt as a global hotelier, I landed on these shores 14 years ago and it was love at first sight," said Emberson, head of operations at Punta Mita. "Our destination, a pioneer in the area, is a real melting pot where human interactions count. There are few exclusive private clubs in this neck of the Pacific, where on any given day you can associate with over a dozen nationalities."

OPENING NIGHT WELCOME DINNER

The Pro-Am started on a high note with a family-style meal prepared by the culinary staff at the Kupuri Beach Club for dinner. In addition to an open bar, a special surprise was in store with a sampling of local Raicilla La Reina—a Agave distilled beverage much like Mezcal. The smooth-tasting drink is produced in a region where tequila is known as the king and La Reina is known as the queen.

"The Punta Mita Pro-Am is a must-consideration for golf professionals and their members. We all lead busy lives, but this is a standout that is worthy of consideration," expressed Wendy Wisbon, representing Annandale Country Club in California.











Day One: Practice Round, Sea Excursion, and Horserace

After a hearty breakfast, our non-golf participants enjoyed an ocean excursion. While they didn't see any whales, dolphins were flocking nearby, and rumor is they caught a couple of fish.

The four-hole Horserace Shootout is always a highly contested competition. This year was no different with 20 two-person, teams competing for 50,000 American Airlines frequent flier miles. "I commend the golf staff

for their expertise managing the Shootout," said Tom Morris on Team The Fore Horsemen. "It can be like herding cats managing so many golfers at one time."

Seven teams were eliminated on the first hole. Five teams were eliminated on the second hole. Four teams were eliminated on the third hole—one by less than an inch! The Shootout ended on the famous Tail of the Whale par-3 with a true island green. Congratulations to Ruben Gonzalez and Mauricio Medina for their win! I imagine they have their own "tale" to tell.





"A lot has changed in the game since I was playing with wooden woods and balata balls. My advice is don't try shots beyond your capability. **Enjoy Punta Mita** and don't let an errant shot weigh you down. You're not going to find a prettier place. My courses are exciting to play." — JACK NICKLAUS

DAY TWO: FIRST ROUND OF PRO-AM

Let's say it was a mixed bag of results. Based on the number of margaritas ordered before lunch...there were some impressive scores (celebrating) and frustrating scores (commiserating).

Our leaders after the first round (playing the Bahia

Course) for the golf professionals were Ruben Gonzalez – 72, Jean van de Velde – 73, and Chris Moody – 73. Clearly, it was going to be a photo finish.

For the Pro-Am teams, The Fore Horsemen from Utah (134), The Fantastic Four from California (137), and Viva Punta Mita from Mexico (138) paced the field.



















Day Three: Final Round of Pro-Am + Awards Dinner

Teams to tee off first had a distinct advantage. By early lunchtime, the wind machine was turned on high leading to demanding conditions.

It was a good tournament indeed for Team Riviera Maya and golf professional Ruben Gonzalez for their clean sweep (winning the Horserace Shootout, team Pro-Am, and first place for the golf professional).

"My friendship with my teammates has increased

substantially since we started playing golf together," expressed Ruben. "Winning is nice, but giving it your best effort is more important. Winning the Pro-Am is a happy accomplishment, but collecting on our side bets and taking money from my buds is priceless."

For more information on the 2025 annual Punta Mita Pro-Am at the St. Regis Punta Mita Resort, March 26 – 30, 2025, please contact Mark Pazdur, the tournament director, at Mark@ExecutiveGolferMagazine.com.







2024 Punta Mita Pro-Am Winners

Golf Professional Winners:

First Place: Ruben Gonzalez -\$5,000 - 72-74 - 146Second Place: Chris Moody -\$3,000 - 73-74 - 147Third Place: Jean van de Velde -\$2,000 - 73-75 - 148

Pro-Am Team Winners:

First Place: Team Riviera Maya – 139-135 – 274

Second Place: The Fore Horsemen – 134-141 – 275

Third Place: Tail of the Whale – 141-136 – 277





