

“SEASIDE GOLF IN CABO” by Cori Brett, *Special to the AWGA*



The Dunes Course @ Diamante Cabo San Lucas

A lone horseman owned the beach that day, silhouetted against the bright blue sky and shimmering waves. Foamy white spray exploded into the air when crashing waves met firm sand. I could almost feel it on my face. Then suddenly I realized, “I’m up,” and steadied my nerves for the daunting drive ahead.

I was playing the Dunes Course at Diamante Cabo San Lucas, the first-ever golf course on the Baja California Sur Pacific Coast. It rocks and rolls through giant sand dunes along a wide stretch of secluded coastline. This beach is so big, it was used in the movie “Troy,” as the site of the massive encampment from which the Greeks attacked the city. Brad Pitt played the role of Achilles.

Diamante Dunes is links-style golf topped off with tropical breezes and margaritas. At the festive Grand Opening party, course designer Davis Love III described the three-year effort involved in completing the Dunes Course. The new course launches Diamante, a master-planned resort community on 1,500 acres that’s only ten minutes from all the action in downtown Cabo. Building is proceeding slowly with an upscale resort hotel anticipated in 12-18 months. Check for updates at www.DiamanteCaboSanLucas.com.

The Love design team created five tee boxes from 5,151 yards to 7,300 yards. No colors or fancy names – just I, II, III, IV, and V. The first few holes play down in the dunes. We surfaced to find a luxurious “comfort station,” fully stocked with food and beverages. Some of the stations offered specialties like tortilla soup or sweet tamales. It’s all complimentary, as are the services of a forecaddie.

Most of the holes have gorgeous ocean views, playing towards or away from the ocean. When the ocean breezes pick up, as one friend said, “It could be a very bad hair day.” The best view is from the green of No. 11, a gnarly little uphill par 3 and the highest point on the course. No. 14 is probably the toughest hole, tucked between dunes and rocky hillsides and funneling into a narrow approach to a tight green. The stunning finishing holes are close enough to hear the waves splashing against the shore. No. 17 challenged me at every shot. The drive required carry over sand, then a second shot over rocks, until I found myself staring up at the green, which seemed almost perpendicular to the fairway. I could barely see the pin.



The 17th on the Dunes Course @ Diamante Cabo San Lucas

I was pleasantly surprised to meet a fellow AWGA member at Diamante! Helen Gerhardt plays out of Tonto Verde Golf Club, to a 19 handicap. Helen is a long-time Cabo fan. She’s played all the courses in the area and says, “Diamante is in my Top Three.” We agreed that AWGA members would find it a fun experience.

The fun actually starts at the practice range. It covers 35 acres with four large stone “hitting bays,” each stocked for golf and good times. Loud classic rock plays in the background. It could make practicing pretty challenging if you’d been partying in Cabo the night before. Clubs like the Giggling Marlin, Cabo Wabo and El Squid Roe attract an uninhibited crowd.



The driving range at Diamante Cabo San Lucas

Diamante has alliances with most of the upscale hotels in the area. We stayed at Playa Grande, which fronts on beautiful Solmar Beach, perfect for long walks but not for swimming or watersports. We walked to the marina, which is full of yachts, party cruisers and sport fishing boats vying for customers. Diamante enjoys the friendly, laid-back vibe that Cabo is famous for and adds a new dimension to an already terrific golf destination.

“Escape with Cori” on assignment to exotic and fun golf destinations. First-hand impressions from an experienced golf travel writer and AWGA member, available only on the AWGA website. www.coribrett.com