

The Ultimate Guide to Golf Course Communities

Western Edition

FAIRWAY

Living

Your Luxury Lifestyle Resource

10 TOP

Colorado Communities

Plus

- Accessible By Air
- Tropical Communities
- Exotic Vacations

Display until September 15th



Summer 2008

Adam's Rib Ranch
Eagle, Colorado



MEXICAN ENCLAVE

Short of going into a witness protection program, celebrities are challenged when they look for paparazzi-free vacation zones. So about 50 years ago, **Palmilla** opened on the tip of the Baja Peninsula with just 15 rooms offering a tropical sanctuary for a trickle of famous types like John Wayne and Ernest Hemmingway.

Palmilla has grown since then, and the famous names have changed to the likes of Michael Douglas, Catherine Zeta-Jones, and Bill Gates. In the early 1990s, Palmilla brought in Jack Nicklaus to design a superb course with 27 holes terraced up and down the hills and punctuated by Cardon cacti and plunging arroyos.

Today large wooden gates open to a number of enclaves where homes and villas are typically priced in the millions. One of those enclaves is **Villas Del Mar** (by Del Mar Development) where homes go for \$2.4 to \$7 million, the price 189 residents are willing to pay for privacy, peace, and pleasures like meals prepared by an in-house chef, aromatherapy massages by private pools, and membership in Club Ninety Six, an exclusive beach club. Residents also enjoy amenities of the posh One&Only Palmilla Hotel next door.

Villas Del Mar is the brainchild of Houston businessmen Ron Hatfield and the late Ken Schnitzer, who came to Los Cabos about a dozen years ago. After playing Palmilla's course, they liked the place so much they bought a ribbon of land in the 1,000-acre Palmilla development and broke ground in 1996 for six 6,200-square-foot villas.

Incredibly well designed and crafted with creamy quarry columns, arches, balustrades, and airy indoor/outdoor living spaces, these architectural gems were sold before they were finished. More land was acquired and more villas were built. The second phase of 30 beachfront homes priced from \$1.2 million to \$1.8 million also sold quickly and re-sales now list at more than \$5 million.

Now available is Las Haciendas, an elite cluster of just 14 five-bedroom homes with up to 5,300 square feet of living space indoors and 6,500 square feet outdoors. Situated on a mountainside above the sea, these villas are selling for \$7 million. For \$2.4 to \$3.1 million you can unpack in one of the 28 one-story, four-bedroom homes of Las Entradas skirting the fairways of Nicklaus' Ocean Nine. At Las Casitas, two-, three- and four-bedroom homes priced from \$3.8 million are strung along the mountainside and celebrate stunning ocean views.

Villas Del Mar marries five-star luxury with five-star service, a key to its success. Homeowners have access to a private chef, concierge, butler, and housekeeping services. Whether it's picking up the mail or providing pre-arrival grocery shopping, all that is needed is to ask.

Guests willing to pay \$2,500 to \$6,000 a night can buy a slice of this elite lifestyle through Villas Del Mar's rental program. ■

—Katharine Dyson

The ocean is right out your back door at Villas Del Mar's beachfront homes, others are set on a mountainside above the sea.