

## El Dorado Golf & Beach Club

*Custom homes and a Jack Nicklaus-designed course on the Sea of Cortes.*



Best  
of the  
Best

**T**HE GOLF COURSE at Los Cabos' 520-acre El Dorado Golf & Beach Club is a tough act to follow. In 1999, the prominent Sanchez-Navarro family, whose diverse holdings include a stake in Grupo Questro, a leading real estate development firm, hired Jack Nicklaus to design a public course. In 2004, the Discovery Land Co. of Scottsdale, Ariz., partnered with the family to take the 72-par links private and develop a small, exclusive residential community nearby. Nicklaus himself redesigned the course, moving four of the nine

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*The Cliffs at Keowee Springs*

*Palazzo Tornabuoni*

*The Residential Suites at the*

*Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua*

holes that were situated along the beach to make way for 84 homesites.

These sites, upon which buyers will build custom homes, range in size from one-third of an acre to a full acre, and cost between \$8 million and \$13 million each. The developers recently completed some of the 120 villas and casitas (beginning at \$2 million) that

they plan to build on the property. Homeowners pay a \$125,000 initiation fee for one of the 350 memberships in the residents-only golf and beach club.

As well as luxury real estate and a challenging golf course, El Dorado offers a sublime, intimate setting that provides a welcome break from crowded resorts. "Here, with more than a mile of coastline on the Sea of Cortes, we embrace the ocean and try to get people involved in it," says Discovery Land's founder, Mike Meldman. To that end, a full concierge staff will help homeowners



The Cliffs at Keowee Springs

plan such activities as parasailing, surfing, and boating expeditions to nearby islands. For those who prefer leisure to adventure, a 6,500-square-foot spa, a small theater, an oceanfront beach club with gourmet dining, and swimming pools all await. —JESSICA TAYLOR

*El Dorado Golf & Beach Club, 866.513.4434, [www.eldoradogolfandbeachclub.com](http://www.eldoradogolfandbeachclub.com)*

**N**ESTLED ON THE eastern shore of Lake Keowee in the Blue Ridge Mountains of South Carolina is the **Cliffs at Keowee Springs** (866.435.5127, [www.cliffscommunities.com](http://www.cliffscommunities.com)), a vacation-property development with an unusual value proposition: Membership includes a commitment to the wellness of all members.

Here, not far from Clemson University, Lake Residences (from \$1.5 million to \$5 million) punctuate 1,600 wooded acres, their native-stone facades

and slate roofs blending tastefully into the hilly terrain. Home interiors feature wide-plank, hand-scraped oak flooring and floor-to-ceiling windows that frame dramatic vistas of the lake and surrounding mountains. Enormous



verandas link interiors with sylvan grounds and the forests beyond.

Other residential options include Lodge Cottages (priced from \$1.5 million to \$1.8 million) and golf condos (from \$610,000), which are situated on a Tom Fazio—designed course, scheduled to open in August.

Beyond golf, the Cliffs at Keowee Springs offers sporting opportunities on the lake and miles of hiking and bridle paths. In late 2009 or early 2010, the Keowee Springs Lodge and Spa, said to be the first luxury family wellness resort in the country, will open on-site. —MIKE NOLAN

Although sprawling beachfront homes have an undeniable appeal, convenience and hassle-free maintenance make the **Residential Suites at the Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua** (866.665.9184, [www.livingkapalua.com](http://www.livingkapalua.com)) a tempting alternative for those looking to buy in paradise.