

# Golf Inc.™

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2007

## Development *of the* Year

Who are this year's shining new stars? Courses in California, Washington and Lithuania capture honors as the best of 2007.

Daily fee Development of the Year  
Chambers Bay Golf Club

2007 DEVELOPMENT of the YEAR

# Shining Stars

A Lithuanian first, a bow to golf's past in Washington and a private club 'home run' take the top spots in Golf Inc.'s 2007 Development of the Year contest. By Jim Dunlap

**a** European national trailblazer, a site reclamation project reflecting golf's oldest traditions and a new private club that is finding rare immediate success captured top honors in the 2007 Golf Inc. Development of the Year contest.

The Capitals Golf Club, the first championship course ever in the country of Lithuania, was judged the winner in the International Division. Chambers Bay in University Place, Wash., was the first

choice in the Daily Fee category, while Vellano Country Club in Chino Hills, Calif., won in the Private Club division.

Golf Inc. annually selects judges representing the developer, course architect and golf course builder communities in order to provide different perspectives from key development team members.

Judges Tom Powers of Bluegreen Golf, Joe Niebur of Niebur Golf, and Randy Russell of RussellGolf Design rated the finalists in each division on

how successfully the development team fulfilled its vision (50 percent), the golf course routing (25 percent), and course aesthetics and amenities (25 percent).

Representatives of all the Development of the Year finalists will be invited to attend the Spring 2008 Golf Inc. Conference at Doral Resort in Miami, April 21-23, and will be honored during the conference Awards Gala on Monday evening, April 21.

Here are the winners, along with judges' comments on each:

# CHAMBERS BAY GOLF CLUB UNIVERSITY PLACE, WASH.

DEVELOPER: PIERCE COUNTY, WASH. ARCHITECT: ROBERT TRENT JONES II CONTRACTOR: HERITAGE LINKS

**V**isitors to Chambers Bay, looking out over a spectacular links-style golf course to the waters of Puget Sound, will have a hard time imagining that the fairways and dunes were a gravel mining pit for decades.

The vision of Pierce County's elected officials and the artistry of the Robert Trent Jones II and Heritage Links teams have created a spectacular walking-only, truly Scottish-Irish links layout on Puget Sound's shores.

Opened in June 2007, the course is projected to do 35,000 rounds its first year. And although it's a county-owned facility, it's not cheap — county residents pay \$65-\$85, while visitors shell out \$115-\$125.

"It's a heckuva piece of land they put that golf course on," said Powers. "It reminded me a bit of the Bandon Dunes complex."

"It's a county deal and a reclamation, and it's neat they could do something like that," said Niebur. "They're giving back to the game, and it's priced reasonably for what it is."

Added Russell, "In terms of the golf, it was obviously the prettiest, and it had the best site."

**240** TOTAL GOLF COURSE ACREAGE

**4,320** SQ. FOOTAGE OF CLUBHOUSE

**32** HITTING STATIONS ON RANGE

**\$150** PEAK-SEASON WEEKEND VISITOR GREENS FEE

