



# Viva Punta Mita

*“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”*

— ELEANOR ROOSEVELT



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 McINTYRE, 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 experi-

enced 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





## Punta Mita Pro-Am

“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. ►



**Mauricio Medina and Ruben Gonzalez**



## Punta Mita Pro-Am

“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. ▶



Team Stonebrae Spouses



Team Archie's Amigas



Team Blame the Pro



Team Punta Mita



Team America





Team Santarena



Team Texas Tee Totalers



Team B-Low



Team Riviera Maya

**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 Horseshoe 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](mailto:Mark@ExecutiveGolferMagazine.com).*





# Punta Mita Pro-Am

2024 Pro-Am Team Winners



	DAY 1	DAY 2	TOTAL		DAY 1	DAY 2	TOTAL
<b>Team of the Week</b>				<b>Team of the Week</b>			
LUIS PARRAGA	77	73	150	JOSE GONZALEZ	73	75	148
CHRISTOPHER ANDRÉS	141	136	277	CARL ENBERSON	138	147	285
MARCELO BARRERA				MARCELO LOPEZ			
BLANCA ROSALES				LUIS MARTINEZ			
				JOSE RIVERA			
<b>Second Place</b>	76	84	160	JUAN BERNARDO	72	74	146
LEE OWENS	142	142	284	MIGUEL ROSA	139	135	274
PAUL BERRY				MIGUEL ROSA			
BOB BROWN				PAULA MITA			
<b>Third Place</b>	82	86	168	DAVIDE COFFEE	75	75	150
LAURA KNISEN	140	147	287	DAVIDE COFFEE	142	140	282
MICHELLE PATRICK				SHANE BELL			
FRANCO SERRANO				SHANE BELL			
				DAVIDE COFFEE			
<b>Fourth Place</b>	79	89	168	JOHN BERRY	85	84	169
ANGELA RAD	137	145	282	JOHN BERRY	150	147	297
RYAN LEE				JOHN PARRAGA			
LYDIA KING				JOHN PARRAGA			
				JOHN PARRAGA			
<b>Top 100</b>	73	74	147	JOHN PARRAGA	81	84	165
JOHN MOODY	134	141	275	JOHN PARRAGA	151	157	308
JOHN MOODY				DAVE WOLFORD			
ROB LEBLANC				DAVE WOLFORD			
BOB LEBLANC				DAVE WOLFORD			
BOB LEBLANC							
<b>Final Round</b>	85	79	164				
LEAHN DONT	149	141	290				
LEAHN DONT							
LEAHN DONT							

## 2024 Punta Mita Pro-Am Winners

### Golf Professional Winners:

**First Place:** Ruben Gonzalez – \$5,000 – 72-74 – 146

**Second Place:** Chris Moody – \$3,000 – 73-74 – 147

**Third 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

The Fore Horsemen



Team Fantastic Four



Team Viva Punta Mita

