

# Golf Digest: **HOT** TRACKS

## The Club at Nine Bridges, Jeju Island, South Korea



Hole 9 from rear  
Photo by: R. Fream

**W**hat sort of golf club would Bill Gates build if he decided that's how he wanted to spend his money?

It would probably be very much like The Club at Nine Bridges. Created with intense attention to detail by Jay Lee, a grandson of the founder of Samsung and present chairman of Cheil Jedang Group (a corporate founder of Hollywood's DreamWorks SKG), the private club sits at 2,750 feet above sea level on the slope of extinct volcano Mount Halla, next to a forest where tiny deer not only roam, but bark.

Lee worked closely with American architects Ronald Fream and David Dale of Santa Rosa, California-based Golfplan, in the design of the course. This is the only layout in Korea with Bentgrass tees, fairways and greens. It moves from a forest of pines into ancient lava fields then to a field of glorious red maples and the edge of a canyon filled with Scottish heather and bracken fern. It has big bold features, including massive fairways, a few nine-foot-deep greenside bunkers and 45 bunkers with stacked sod verti-

cal edges that cast ominous shadows.

There are halfway houses every fourth hole, offering indoor dining of international cuisine as well as outdoor patios where the sake flows freely. And the restrooms around the corner feature heated toilet seats.

The mostly female maintenance crew hand-picks weeds and replaces divots with new strips of sod. An all-female caddie corps undergoes a six-week training program before toting a bag, learning, among other things, the location of hidden ball washers.

It took five years to complete this wonder. The club reportedly has sold nearly all of its \$250,000 memberships and a third nine is planned. We'll hear more about the course when it hosts the LPGA Tour's Sports Today CJ Nine Bridges Classic in October.

For more information, contact Golf Projects International 1(818) 597-0270.

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