

Our Three  
PRIVATE  
ESCAPES  
This Year



1 Reynolds Plantation, Greensboro, Georgia



2 PuntaCana Resort e<sup>2</sup> Club in the Dominican Republic



3 Our magnificent home in Cabo del Sol, Los Cabos, Mexico



## Discover PRIVATE ESCAPES for Luxury Vacations Worldwide

- Last year, Platinum members received \$3,421 net in credit.
- Your membership is an entrée to 37 destinations in 8 countries at affordable rates.
- Reside in private million-dollar villas, play high-end, scenic golf courses, relish pleasure-giving spas, stroll uncrowded beaches, sleep late, dine formally or casually, have fun.
- Pick your destination worldwide. An escape planning guide will take it from there and make recommendations, reservations and all arrangements.

BY EDWARD F. PAZDUR, CHAIRMAN & CEO

**LOS CABOS, MEXICO:** "Private Escapes," said CEO Richard Keith, "is a destination club with 37 luxurious vacation homes in 12 states and 8 countries. We will eventually have 70 properties in 25 destinations worldwide.

"Your membership," he said, "is your entrée into exquisite residences [valued on average at about \$1.5 million] at some of the world's most beautiful beachfronts,

ski-in/ski-out locations, championship golf courses, famous spa resorts, and even a yacht in the British Virgin Islands and private jet service at reasonable prices.

"A membership in Private Escapes becomes a valuable investment and a time-saving asset," said Keith. "Our goal is ultimately to have 70 properties in 25 destinations worldwide."

Private Escapes Destination Clubs, headquartered in Fort Collins, Colorado, was founded in 2003 and is the first and only destination club to meaningfully reward its members with credit distribution. The credit for each member for 2005 amounted to \$3,421 net.

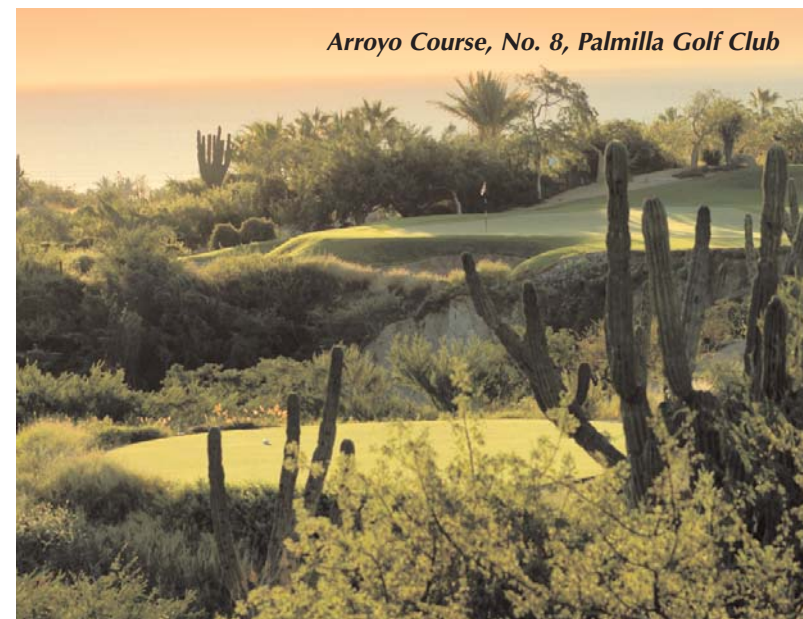
"Each year," said Keith, "we distribute 18 percent of the appreciation from our real estate holdings as club credits to members. When properties appreciate, members enjoy the upside."

NFL Hall of Famer and former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Steve Young, a Platinum member who joined for family reasons, said: "My family and I chose



Ocean Course, No. 3, Palmilla Golf Club

Arroyo Course, No. 8, Palmilla Golf Club



Private Escapes because we love exploring new areas. It fits our needs and provides locations that will create wonderful memories for my wife and sons."

My wife, Theda, and I also enjoy diversity and have visited three Private Escapes residences in three countries so far this year.

The first was Reynolds Plantation in Greensboro, Georgia, reported in our February '06 edition; the second was PuntaCana Resort & Club in the Caribbean's Dominican Republic, reported in our April '06 edition; and currently The One & Only Palmilla Resort residence in Los Cabos, Mexico; as reported in this issue.

All three of our Private Escapes experiences have created happy and lasting memories.

### HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

Our first step, for our third vacation this year, was to notify Escape Planner Eugena Bellamy when we wished to vacation at the Palmilla Resort residence in Los Cabos, Mexico, located only 1,100 miles south of Los Angeles on Mexico's Baja California Sur, at the southwest, bottom tip of the Baja Peninsula.

The Peninsula, longer than Italy, consists of an extended granite ridge over 1,000 miles long, from Mexico's northern-most city of Tijuana to Cabo San Lucas at the Peninsula's southern-most tip. Your vacation should focus on a 19.6-mile stretch of seaside highway between Cabo San Lucas at the southern end and San Jose del Cabo northward. This area, encompassing both



*Our Residence at PRIVATE ESCAPES in LOS CABOS, MEXICO*

cities, is known as *Los Cabos*.

When you drive this 19-mile strip between both cities and look (east) toward the ocean, you'll see a panorama of untarnished coastline. Look the other way (west) and you'll see harsh, dry desert scrub that ostensibly only snakes, lizards, and golfers could love.

**GETTING LAUNCHED BY YOUR ESCAPE PLANNER**

Less than three days after our initial call to Bellamy, she sent us an Escape Planning Guide for Los Cabos, Mexico, that described places to visit and things to do.

It provided (now don't hold your breath) a map of the area, best ground transportation (rent a car or take a van), important facts about passports, the local water, driving culture, dress code, exchange rate (10.5 pesos = \$1), tipping, cell phone coverage, cash or credit card transactions, use of amenities in your Private Escapes residence, tours, restaurants, cruises, three best golf facilities in the area, hiking, horseback riding, parasailing, scuba diving and snorkeling, sightseeing, shopping, whale watching, kids' activities, fishing, nightlife, and—believe it or not—much more!

After we jointly established our itinerary with Bellamy, she took care of all of the arrangements and reservations with the airlines, restaurants and sports activities. It was professionally documented and a copy was sent to us and to Jorge Ibara, our local host in Los Cabos.

When we arrived at our stunning residence, we were met by Ibara who introduced us to our 3,500 square-foot house with an infinity pool, Jacuzzi, three bedrooms, kitchen, lounge, upgraded electronics, and a casita. The refrigerator was stocked with food and beverages preselected by us. This, I thought, beats the hell out of a five-star hotel suite. He told us we could reach him at any time of day or night for any reason.



**TWO TOWNS: TWO DIFFERENT LIFESTYLES**

The region of Los Cabos (meaning the Capes) has it all: the beaches, resort-hotels, spas, golf, luxury estates, restaurants, fishing, and quaint villages—either in Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo—or between them—two towns, two different lifestyles, separated by only 19 miles and connected by a reasonably good highway alongside of hotel-lined beaches.

*Cabo San Lucas*, on the southern-most tip, is the more popular of the two towns with more nightlife and shopping. As a result, it attracts cruise ships and college "Spring Breakers."

*San Jose del Cabo*, to the north, is smaller, more quaint and unassuming, with some of the best restaurants.

**OUR RECOMMENDED FAVORITE PLACES**

Our favorite for lunch was Viola, located at the new designer building, Plaza Paulina, in downtown San Jose del Cabo. For dinner we liked Pitahaya's at the Sheraton Hacienda in Cabo del Sol (about midway between both cities) and Mi Cocina in downtown San Jose del Cabo.

For general recreational activities we recommend a sunset cruise on the Rissalena in Cabo San Lucas; golf at Palmilla Golf Club, a 27-hole course designed by Jack Nicklaus; and The One & Only Palmilla Spa, the best and largest in Los Cabos where my wife Theda met Oscar winner Halle Berry.



*"PRIVATE ESCAPES is the only destination club to reward its members. Last year each member received \$3,421 net for club credits. When our properties appreciate, our members enjoy the upside."*

—RICHARD KEITH, CEO, PRIVATE ESCAPES DESTINATION CLUBS

**FORTUNATELY, PRIVATE ESCAPES IS IN THE MIDDLE OF IT**

The Los Cabos area is becoming the fastest growing and most popular luxury resort region in Mexico. Private Escapes has two residences here with three more under way. We resided at the Cabo del Sol residence; the other four are at Palmilla, including the three under construction.

We found the Palmilla resort community and the exclusive *One & Only Palmilla Hotel* to be most appealing because of its famous spa, its legendary hideaway hotel reputation, great restaurants, a new shopping plaza, its high-end, private residential community, and its 27-hole Jack Nicklaus golf course. Fortunately, our Private Escapes residence was right in the middle of it.

**WHAT'S IT LIKE? JUST ASK RAY METZ**

The Los Cabos region to newcomers is confusing. I thought I'd ask Ray Metz, an experienced Troon Golf executive assigned to manage the Palmilla Golf Club, to clarify it. He did. He said: "Pluck Scottsdale out of Phoenix



*Theda Pazdur felt right at home.*

and set it on the ocean, and you have Los Cabos. Its desert-target golf but on the beach. It's remarkable to see cactus, palm trees, green fairways, clear blue skies, coral reefs as a backdrop, and whales jumping in the background," he flaunted unabashedly. "We have golf's leading designers here, including Jack Nicklaus, Tom Weiskopf, Tom Fazio, and Robert Trent Jones.

"We have three 9-hole, Nicklaus-designed courses here," said Metz. "The Arroyo, the Mountain, and the Ocean courses."

"I understand Mountain and Ocean, but what's Arroyo?"

"It's a stream bed in the spring, but is dry other parts of the year."

"What's your favorite 9-holer?"

"It's Arroyo," he replied. "It has panoramic views—180-degree views of the Sea of Cortez—and it's built up in the hills. Los Cabos is one of the best golf destinations in the world, and Troon Golf is proud to be managing it."

**SCHOOLS OUT AFTER THREE TRIPS. HERE'S HOW WE PERSONALLY RATE PRIVATE ESCAPES:**

Richard Keith, founder and chairman of Private Escapes promises a lot. He describes his destination club to be an entrée to exquisite vacation homes in 12 states and 8 countries with beautiful beaches, well-crafted golf courses, professional concierge service around the clock, soothing spas, ski-in/ski-out locations, and even the use of a private yacht—all hassle free!

We undertook the task of personally checking three of his destinations to see if he was a man of his word and visited Reynolds Plantation in Greensboro, Georgia; PuntaCana Resort & Club in the Dominican Republic; and Los Cabos, Mexico.

Here's what we found: The residences, valued at \$1.5 million on average, are exquisite; and located on, or adjacent to, golf courses and beaches. Concierge service was excellent and it made our escape hassle-free. Formal and informal dining reservations were first rate, the spas were exceptional and we loved every minute of it.

Rob Mitchell, president and COO of Reynolds Plantation, said: "We're very impressed with the Private Escapes concept and I feel Mr. Keith is a good partner to work with."

If you don't want to bother with the hassle of making airline, car rental, golf, spa, tours, bike riding, hiking, sailing, scuba diving, night life, sightseeing, dining, whale watching, etc. reservations, then pick up the phone and call the membership director at Private Escapes: (866) 536-4700.

How do we grade it? Triple A. ♦

*For more information, you may phone the membership director of Private Escapes toll free at: (866) 536-4700; or visit [www.private-escapes.com](http://www.private-escapes.com).*