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4 STEPS TO FLAT-OUT BOMB IT
by PHIL MICKELSON

THE SECOND OF ANVAYA COVE'S THREE "AMEN CORNER" HOLES

BEST NEW COURSE



HOLE 12 / PAR 4 / 446 YDS

AMAZING ANVAYA

IF YOU GET THE CHANCE TO PLAY HERE, YOU BETTER TAKE IT. FOR THESE ARE SOME OF THE BEST 18 HOLES IN SOUTH EAST ASIA EVER CREATED BY MAN
BY PATRICK HO

PHOTOS: TOM BRAZZELLE



The Philippines is a nation that can be proud of many things in the sports arena. "Giants" like two-time world champion pool player Efren Reyes and of course, superstar boxer Manny Pacquiao have brought much glory.

On December 7th, 2013, the nation and its people celebrated a historical occasion with the opening of the Anvaya Cove Golf & Sports Club. Owned and developed by Philippines real estate giant, Ayala Land. The 7,030-yard golf course located at Morong, Bataan was the group's first attempt at a high-end golf-

residential development by the sea under its high-end residential brand, Ayala Land Premier.

"The physical characteristics here immediately place it on a par with international developments that have similarly sought to seamlessly combine living and leisure in a thoughtfully

designed, master-planned community," said Jose Juan Jugo, head of Ayala Land Premier. "With Anvaya Cove, we saw the opportunity to meet the demand in the Philippine domestic market while also competing effectively in the international second-home market. We've already welcomed retired expats

who've chosen to make Anvaya Cove their primary homes. With a golf course of this quality now in place, we anticipate further interest in this sort of investment - from what we see as a global market."

While the course is expected to garner much attention in the coming years, the talent of

Golfplan partner Kevin Ramsey has seen the birth of one of the world's finest golf course designs. "Too often, courses in golf communities get the land the developers didn't want for housing," Ramsey said. "I call this the Leftover Syndrome, but the reverse situation applied here at Anvaya Cove. Take the

ABOUT ANVAYA COVE

Anvaya Cove boasts a striking Beach & Nature Club complete with two restaurants, a water sports pavilion, pool complex and a massive swath of pristine beach along Anvaya Cove itself. Members of the Anvaya Cove Golf & Sports Club enjoy the amenities at both, including more than 40 guest cottages.

LOCATION The resort is located on the West Philippine Sea.

By road: Approximately 3 hours from Manila.

FAST FACTS Around 450,000 cubic meters of earth was moved. No dynamite was needed during construction / 4 excavators were used for earthworks / 8 trucks transported the earth / 2 excavators were used for storm water trenching / Clubhouse designer: HGHB (Monterey, California).

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par-5 2nd hole, which plays along a ridge high on the property and gives golfers their first view of the sea - and the Bataan Mountain range across Subic Bay. That land, those views, would normally be set aside for housing. Not here, and it's a big reason the course came out so spectacularly well."

Working closely with shaper Rueben Bernal, Ramsey carved the course through a route of bluffs that were 30 metres above the surf looking out towards Subic Bay, some holes played along the beach, while most holes weaved through tropical jungle and ridges that are 100 metres above sea level.

The dramatic mix of risk versus reward holes is most evident on Anvaya Cove's very own "Amen Corner" starting from Hole 11 to 13. These holes and the rest of the inland holes are Ramsey's pride and joy that are in-line with his firm's philosophy of "look hard, play fair".

This 470-hectare development project at Anvaya Cove also features the Beach & Nature Club that adds to the exclusive members only seaside residential community

with stately homes nestled amongst the course in a tropical setting.

This is a masterstroke by the Philippines' most renowned real estate developer that was the commercial force behind Makati, Manila's premier business and lifestyle district. The group recently launched a pair of luxury hotels, the Fairmont Makati and The Raffles Makati.

The other plus point is the resort's proximity to the Subic Freeport Zone and the new airport at the former Clark Air Force base (Air Asia, Jetstar & Cebu Pacific Airlines). This certainly opens a gateway to international golf real estate investors.

...THE TALENT OF GOLFPLAN PARTNER KEVIN RAMSEY HAS SEEN THE BIRTH OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S FINEST GOLF COURSE DESIGNS



Q&A WITH KEVIN RAMSEY, ARCHITECT

What were your thoughts when you first arrived at the Anvaya Cove site?

When I arrived here in June, 2006 my first impression was awesome! So much potential. The further we got into the site the better it got. But when you arrive and go to the viewing pavilion, just above the 8th hole, you can see everything for miles. It was very inspiring. Of course you look to where the greatest potential is and so we did focus on how to handle the area where holes 11-13 sit.

Was the terrain one of the toughest to route in your experience?

Not really but it was a challenge to balance minimizing the impact and creating great golf. We have worked on very mountainous sites in Korea, Japan and requiring millions of cubic meters of soil. These projects become engineering feats and require creativity of a different sort. Anvaya was so natural it was more about making the course appear as it had always been there.

What were the biggest challenges of this project?

You always walk a fine line when trying to preserve as much of the native site as possible. You must make sure playability and good sound strategy are respected.

The 11th, 12th and 13th holes are some of the most spectacular in terms of play and stunning views. What kind of elements did you want the golfer to experience over these three holes?

Wow, wow and wow! I think we pulled this off but really we wanted the golfer to experience many different feelings and experiences throughout all 18 holes. This kind of varied experience gives the golf course a lot of personality and adds greatly to the memorability of the golf holes.

Hole 15 would qualify as the toughest hole on the course. Were the wall of trees on the left before the green part of the initial design plan?

The trees were always there. There are still a few that are not considered high value that I would like to thin out. What changed was the green

was pushed further back adding length to the hole. We found that as we massaged the course into the site we lost a bit of yardage in places so we needed to look for opportunities to add some length. This hole was one of those opportunities so it evolved into this monster hole. It truly requires two very good, well hit shots to set up the approach. A true three-shot par 5.

Anything short of the creek will require a challenging 3rd shot up and over the trees.

Was this your first golf course design in Asia?

No. My career began in Japan back in 1989 during the golf boom there. I continued to work in Japan and throughout Asia through the 90's and then began working in Europe and Africa

as well as Asia in 1999. For the past 15 years it has been a mix, but predominately Asia.

If you had a choice, which country would you like to design a course in?

Having roots back to Northern Ireland and Ireland, and having visited and played courses over there a number of times, I would love the opportunity to take on a

links course there. The quirkiness of some of the links courses intrigues me.

What's your handicap?

Currently a 6 but there was a time when I was scratch but those days are long gone! Having started at the age of eight I feel I have had some great opportunities to play some wonderful courses and tournaments over the years. Now I enjoy introducing the game to my daughter.

ABOUT KEVIN M. RAMSEY, ASGCA, ASLA

PRINCIPAL/VICE PRESIDENT Kevin's golf course architecture career began in 1988 even before he completed his Landscape Architecture degree from the University of California, Davis. He joined Golfplan in 1999 as a Senior Golf Course Architect.

Kevin is a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA); an associate member of the Golf Course Superintendents of America (GCSAA), the Northern California Golf Association (NCGA), and the United States Golf Association (USGA).

While growing up in Chicago, seven-year-old Kevin learned the game from his parents. He went on to play collegiate golf for the University of California at Davis, competing in the NCAA Division II National Championships in 1987 and 1988. He still maintains a single digit handicap. Kevin lives in Marin County, California with his wife and young daughter.

