

JORGE SANTANA DA SILVA

Jorge Santana da Silva was born December 22nd, 1956 in Setúbal (50 Km south of Lisbon), Portugal. After studying in the field of civil engineering, degrees of geometrician and surveyor engineer, starts in Saudi Arabia for the American construction contractor L. G. Defelice Inc., in 1977. Back in Portugal collaborates with several design, project and construction companies, from 1978 to 1981.

His career in Golf starts at **1981** in the Portuguese Madeira Island. At the time the existing 9 holes **Golf Santo da Serra** was remodelled into a modern 27 holes by **Robert Trent Jones Senior**. Jorge is chosen by the contractor to direct the earthmoving works and has been involved full time in Golf course design and construction ever since.

In Madeira meets Robert Trent Jones Senior's design collaborators and fascinated by the work of sculpting existing land into forms, to make the Golf game possible and interesting, concentrates his interest in this job that requires, not only his engineering knowledge but also the challenge of improving his understanding of the game, learning landscape architecture, irrigation, agronomy, etc.

Joining **Robert Trent Jones Anstalt** as site supervisor of their 27 holes design of **CastelConturbia**, responsible for directing construction, and achieves here the completion of earthworks, shaping, drainage and irrigation. **Golf di CastelConturbia** is later elected the best new course in Italy and 1991 Italian open site.

In France **1985-1987**, it starts by following the construction of **Golf de la Grande Motte** (18+18+6 practice holes) near Montpellier. He sees 47 Greens being shaped and 17 lakes dug under his direction. Due to his interest in Golf Architecture, develops his draftsperson capacities and participate in some draw changes of his own initiative. This course has been the site of the qualifications for the European tour and several main tournaments have been taking place here. It has been appointed several times by the press as having the best Greens in France.

Supervising some of the other courses Mr. Jones is building at the time in France his next task: **Golf d' Esterel** (18 holes) in S. Raphael; **Golf de Moliets** (27 holes), north of Bordeaux on the Atlantic coast and **Vidauban*** (18 holes) in the Var.

Needing extra help on the design field in **1997**, **Cabell Robinson** and **William Boswell**, invite Jorge to join **RTJ** design team in Fuengirola, Malaga (Costa del Sol) Spain. Due to his experience in engineering, becomes right away involved in planning earth moving, drainage and irrigation. His capacity of reading topographical plans and his experience of geometrician, help him to prove his skill

on designing and learning **Mr. Robert Trent Jones Senior's** philosophy on routing Golf courses.

Jorge knowledge in this area is increased by several trips to USA. He has the opportunity to visit some of Mr. Jones courses and study Golf architecture at **Robert Trent Jones International**. His graduated to the level of Golf Course Architect.

During this period he is involved in various degrees, on master planning, design, specification writing and supervision, in the following projects:

- Valderrama** (18 holes, site of Ryder Cup 1997), Sotogrande, Spain;
- Valderrama** (9 holes, par3 course), Sotogrande, Spain
- Marbella Golf & Country Club** (18 holes), Spain;
- Golf de la Cañada** (9 holes), Guadiaro, Cadiz, Spain,
- Golf di Castelgandolfo** (18 holes, site of World Cup 1991), Rome, Italy;
- Golf de Joyenval** (36 holes), Paris, France;
- Golf de Sperone** (18 holes), Bonifacio, Corsega;
- Riviera Golf** (18 holes), Cannes-Mandelieu, France;
- Stockley Park** (18 holes), London, England;
- Golf de la Palmerie** (18 holes), Marrakech, Morocco;
- Golf Santo da Serra** (27 holes were he had worked previously).

When **Cabell B. Robinson**, associate designer and director of all **Robert Trent Jones Senior's** architecture and construction companies in Europe for 17 years, decides to start his own Golf course designing company, Jorge does not hesitate when he is proposed to share Cabell's responsibilities in March 1989.

During this association Jorge is co-architect with Cabell in the office and in the field working in the following projects:

- Golf de Cabo Negro** (two 9 holes phases), Tetuan, Morocco;
- Royal Links** (18 holes), El Jadida, Morocco,
- Royal Golf de Fes*** (two 9 holes phases), Morocco;
- Amelkis** (18 holes), Marrakech, Morocco;
- Golf du Palais Royal d'Erfoud*** (9 holes), Morocco;
- Golf do Palheiro** (18 holes), Madeira island, Portugal;
- Golf de Limere** (18 holes, site of French professional championships), Orleans, France.
- Golf di Magliaso**, Lugano, Switzerland (Partial remodelling of the existing 18 holes).

Also assists Cabell in other of his projects:

- Praia d'El Rey** (18 holes), Óbidos, Portugal
- Golf du Club Mediterranée** (27 holes), Agadir, Morocco;
- La Cala Golf & Club de Campo** (36 holes), Costa del Sol, Malaga, Spain;

- Golf d' Opio** (18 holes + 9 holes executive), Cannes, France;
- Golf di Chianciano Terme*** (18 holes), Toscani, Italy;

Still with Cabell, Jorge routes 'layouts' for 2 courses in Spain: **Castillo de Gorraiz** (18 holes), Pamplona, and another 18 holes project in Merida*.

Back in his hometown, slowly establishing a name for him, starts in 1994 his own practice creating Golf Design Lda., and proves being able to design very interesting, pretty and challenging courses on difficult land.

The first project, fully designed by him was **Golf Quinta da Deveza**, a 18 holes Golf course in Amarante, northern Portugal. This mountain course is inaugurated in 1997. The Portuguese Professional Championship is been played here since in 1998.

In January 1995 he started the design of the 18 holes **Ammaia - Golf de Marvão** (Eng.Carlos Melancia), in Alto Alentejo. The course is fully in play since early 1998

The 9 holes project of **Quinta da Barca**, in Esposende, around a touristic and real state development is inaugurated at the beginning of 1998.

In 1997 Jorge is asked to be the construction architect of the third 9 holes project in **Golf Santo da Serra** in Madeira Island (the site of the Madeira open). From this 27 holes master plan by Robert Trent Jones (where Jorge had collaborate previously), were only built originally 18 holes. The inauguration of the third 9 takes place in 1999.

In **1999** has de pleasure to be invited to collaborate with **Boswell Golf Design** in Atlanta, USA, in their project of **Lake View** (18 holes), Connecticut, and remodelling projects of **Horseshoe Bent** (18 holes) and **Big Canoe** (27 holes), both in Atlanta.

Among others, finalized the following projects: **Oeiras Golf & Residence** (18 holes), already built; **Curia Golf** (9 holes), open; **Palheiro Golf** (2 new holes) Madeira; **Palmela Village** (18 holes short), open; **Golf do Montado** (18 holes complete renovation) open; **Pinheiros Altos** (18 holes partial renovation + 9 new holes), Quinta do Lago, open; **Laranjal** (18 holes), Almancil, Algarve, open; **Vale Pisão** (9 holes), Sto Tirso, Porto, open; **Aldeia dos Capuchos** (9 holes short), Costa da Caparica, Lisbon, open.

Under construction nowadays (**2010**): **Mangais** (18 holes), Barra do Cuanza, Angola; **Herdade do Pinheirinho** (27 holes), Grândola, Portugal.

With complete project done, waiting for construction to start: **Quinta da Ombria** (18 holes), Loulé, Algarve; **Cumbuco** (18 holes), Fortaleza, Brazil; **Herdade Nossa Senhora da Glória** (18 holes), Salvaterra de Magos; **Mata de Sesimbra** (3X18 holes), Sesimbra.

Most relevant projects on the design table: **Évora Resort** (27 holes), Évora; **Alassa Golf Resort** (18 holes), Cyprus; **Costa de Prata** (9 holes), Cape Verde; **Golf Park am Schloss Moyland** (36 holes), Germany.

His design style is strongly marked by his teachers Robert Trent Jones senior and Cabell Brooke Robinson.

Following the philosophy of adapting the layout of the Golf course to the original land, trying to preserve the native beauty of the site, integrating the existing elements and protecting environment values, Jorge produces all the traditional and computer aided plans required, strongly believing at the same time on 'hands-on' Golf course architecture.

Golf history teaches that most famous and renamed courses in the world had their construction supervised by the Architect himself on the field. Jorge follows this method and presents himself quite often in site directing the several construction phases, especially the artistic shaping, considered one of the most important elements of a good design.

Jorge Santana da Silva is a **senior member** of **EIGCA - European Institute of Golf Course Architects**. He is a member of the **GCSAA - Golf Course Superintendent Association of America** and of the **APG - the Portuguese Association of Greenkeepers**. Jorge is in touch with colleagues members of the **ASGCA - American Society of Golf Course Architects** and aware of innovations about Golf construction and design. Has also collaborated with **UTAD – University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro**, and **University of Algarve**, he gives lectures during intensive courses for graduates. He travels frequently to seminars, congresses and Golf shows in America and Europe. Visits and Plays in different Golf courses in every opportunity.

In **2002** Jorge formed a company with his colleague based in Hamburg, Canadian Golf Course Architect David Krause. **Santana & Krause** will allow Jorge and David to cover Southern and Northern Europe, to face more international projects and combine their knowledge in Golf.

Besides his own language, Jorge is fluent in English, French, Italian and Spanish. He has been a member of Troia Golf, both courses in his hometown, he is a honorary member of his own design courses at Quinta da Barca, Ammaia Golf de Marvão and Golf do Montado.

Jorge received in 2010 the Honor & Merit Medal Award by Portuguese Golf Federation for recognition of his work as Golf Course Architect.

In 2011 Laranjal Golf Course won the Best Golf Course Category in Portuguese Travel Awards.