JORGE SANTANA DA SILVA

Jorge Santana da Silva, born in Setúbal in 1956, is a Geometer and professional with more than four decades of experience dedicated exclusively to the **design, construction, renovation and supervision of golf courses**.

He began his career in engineering and construction, working in Saudi Arabia in 1977 with the American company L. G. Defelice Inc. Between 1978 and 1981, he collaborated in Portugal with companies involved in project design, drafting and construction.

In 1981, while the former **Santo da Serra Golf Course** in Madeira was being expanded into a new 27-hole design by **Robert Trent Jones Senior**, he had his first contact with the team of this renowned golf course architect. This experience sparked his vocation for golf course architecture, an area to which he subsequently devoted himself exclusively, complementing his engineering background with knowledge of **landscape architecture, agronomy, irrigation systems and construction**.

Between 1981 and 1987, he was part of the European team of **Robert Trent Jones**, taking responsibility for the supervision and construction management of several international projects. Among these was **Golf di Castelconturbia**, in Italy, where he was responsible for earthworks, artistic shaping, drainage and irrigation. In France, he directed the construction of **Golf de La Grande Motte**, overseeing the creation of 43 greens and 17 artificial lakes, and also supervised projects such as Esterel, Moliets and Vidauban.

From 1987 onwards, he joined the architectural team of **Robert Trent Jones International**, based in Spain, working alongside **Cabell B. Robinson** and **William Boswell**. He developed earthworks, drainage and irrigation designs and further advanced his training in golf course architecture, including periods of study and visits to projects in the United States, eventually becoming a Golf Course Architect. During this period, he participated in the design of projects including **Valderrama, Marbella Golf & Country Club, Castelgandolfo, Joyenval, Sperone, Riviera Golf, Stockley Park, La Palmerie** and **Santo da Serra**.

In 1989, he began a professional partnership with **Cabell B. Robinson**, as co-architect, sharing design and construction supervision responsibilities on several international developments, including **Royal Links, Amelkis, Quinta do Palheiro, Golf de Limère and Magliaso**, while also collaborating on projects such as **Praia d'El Rey, La Cala Golf and Opio**.

In **1994, he returned to Setúbal and established his own practice**, focusing on golf course architecture, consultancy and project supervision. His first entirely independent project was **Golf da Quinta da Deveza**, in Amarante, which opened in 1997. Other projects followed, including **Ammaia – Golf de Marvão, Quinta da Barca, Santo da Serra, Oeiras Golf, Golf do Montado, Pinheiros Altos, Laranjal, Vale Pisão, Aldeia dos Capuchos and Mangais**, as well as numerous projects in Portugal and internationally.
He is a **Senior Member of EIGCA – European Institute of Golf Course Architects**, and a member of GCSAA and APG. He maintains an active involvement in professional development and international exchange with golf course architects and specialists. He has also collaborated with **UTAD – University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro** and the **University of the Algarve**, contributing to training programmes on golf course design, construction and management.

In 2002, he founded **Santana & Krause**, in partnership with Canadian golf course architect David Krause, strengthening their ability to undertake international projects. His methodology places particular importance on the architect's presence during construction, especially in the

supervision of **artistic shaping**, which he considers a fundamental element of golf course design.

His design philosophy is strongly influenced by his mentors, **Robert Trent Jones Senior and Cabell B. Robinson**, seeking to integrate golf courses into their existing landscapes, preserve their natural features and protect their environmental values.

In **2010, he received the Medal of Honour for Merit from the Portuguese Golf Federation**, in recognition of his contribution as an architect and designer of numerous golf courses in Portugal with international recognition. In **2011, Laranjal was named Portugal's Best Golf Course**. More recently, in **2024, Ombria Algarve's golf course was awarded "Europe's Best New Golf Course 2024" by the World Golf Awards**.