Riviera Country Club from Access Software

Access Software has released another course in their very popular golf game, Links CD. This course features the Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles, Ca., the site of the 1995 PGA Championship.

Riviera is a very challenging course designed to test your ability to place a shot on the fairway, not how badly you can crush the ball. The graphics are again very well rendered, but the more courses I play for Links, the more I would like to see something done about the unbelievably long load times for the holes. Even when run from the hard drive, the screens seem to take longer and longer to load. The ability to create the scene from any angle is appreciated, it's just too much to expect from a 486dx33 to refresh a full screen after every shot. I highly recommend splitting the screen with a shot of the green to speed things up.

The sound is still pretty much the same. I have gone to using the Bobcat caddie voice all the time to help liven things up. I don't know about you, but whenever I get a chance to hit the course, we seem to be having a lot more fun than you are supposed to on a golf course (but then we all stink - and know it). I just wish Access could get some new comments for the next disk. I have all of the comments memorized now.

After playing Devil's Island last month, Riviera seems to be a bit of a let down. I would like to see Access design more of their very unique fantasy courses. I still enjoyed Riviera, and it's probably the only way I will every get to play this legendary course. But I think I will get a tee time for Devil's Island next week.

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Rating

graphics	85
sound	77
interface	88
fun factor	75
overall	81