

JAY MORRISH

(1936 -)

BACKGROUND

Native of Grand Junction, CO. Educated at Mesa Junior College, the University of New Mexico, Colorado University and Colorado State. Taught horticulture, then joined a construction crew in California, building the Spyglass Hill Golf Course at Pebble Beach. Worked for Robert Trent Jones, George Fazio, Desmond Muirhead and then Jack Nicklaus. While with Nicklaus, he collaborated with the other in-house designer, Bob Cupp, on several courses under the corporate name of Golforce, Inc.

In 1983, left Nicklaus and established a golf design business of his own, based in Tulsa. Soon formed a successful partnership with PGA Tour player Tom Weiskopf. In the late 1980s, they became the first American designers to design a course in Scotland.

In 1994, Morrish and Weiskopf announced that they would dissolve their partnership. Son Carter Morrish then assumed a more active role in the Morrish firm, which relocated to Dallas/Fort Worth.

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

Reflecting his training, Morrish's work blends the heroic strategies of Trent Jones with the natural flow of the land practiced by George Fazio, and added the occasional outrageous touch of Muirhead. With Weiskopf, a design style evolved that reflected the influence of older architects like Tillinghast, Thomas and Mackenzie, with bunkers of sweeping faces and grass tongues and holes that rewarded particular shots. The two also revived the short, reachable par-4 as an acceptable design feature on modern courses.

IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS

The short par-4 with perilous hazards that can be driven from the tee by the bold or foolhardy. Very subtle green contours. Par-5s with alternate routes.