

MAY/JUNE 2008

oceanhome

25 TOP U.S.
OCEANFRONT HOMES

Los Cabos Luxe

QUERENCIA seaside
living at its best

**SWEET
CAROLINA**
coastal spots to savor

**MAGICAL
MAUI**
where the buys are

\$8.95 | €7.50 | £4.75

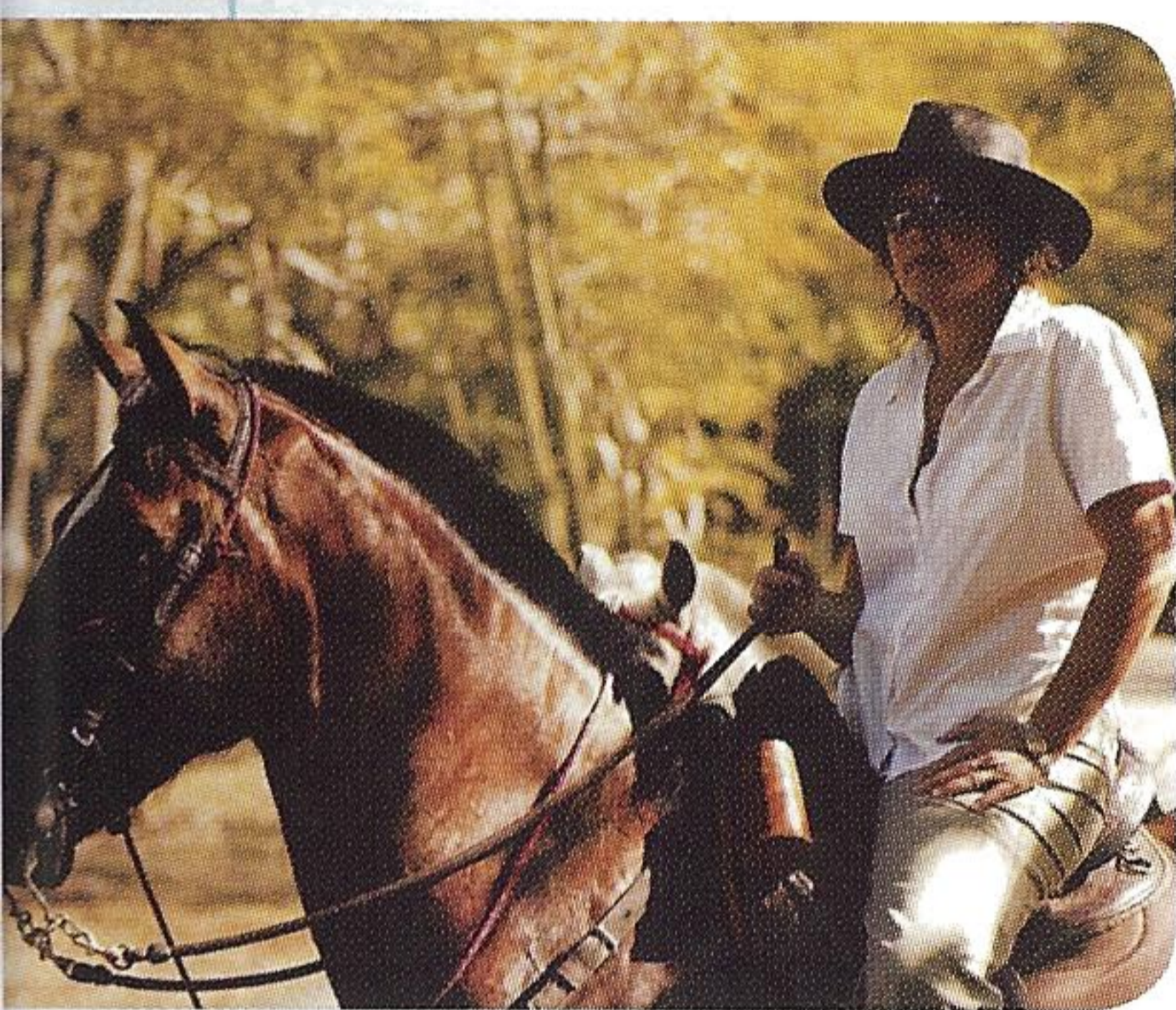


oceanhomemag.com

PURA VIDA

Ana Saborio leads the carefully planned luxury lifestyle experience at Costa Rica's Reserva Conchal

By Victoria Brewer



Meet a Costa Rican and you will likely be greeted with a smile and the words *Pura Vida*—translated to “a life of beauty and adventure in his beloved country.” As one of the oldest democratic governments with no standing army, and no hurricane activity due to the proximity of the mountains to the coastline, Costa Rica is an anomaly in Central America. It is also the most environmentally conscious country in the region.

In keeping with this spirit, Reserva Conchal, the exclusive 2,300-acre golf and beach community in Guanacaste, has been in careful development since the mid-1990s. With a 25-year master plan due to be completed in 2015, the property's infrastructure is in place

and the developers are heavily guided by environmental concerns.

“The core of our vision as we develop is maintaining the spectacular natural beauty of Reserva Conchal's land,” says Ana Saborio, the dynamic investment banker-turned-CEO of Reserva Conchal who grew up in San Jose.

In fact, more than 50 percent of the project will remain undeveloped. In partnership with the Costa Rican Ministry for the Environment, the community has created the Reserva Conchal Mangrove Preserve—comprising 95 acres of untouched, bio-sensitive land that includes a protected wildlife refuge and research center. Tours of the preserve by trained naturalists are open to the public and an environmental program for children is being planned.

Also planned is an oceanfront swimming pavilion with an 80-meter pool divided for lap swimming and family activities. Residents will be able to kayak, jet ski or sail and horseback ride along the beach, or partake in Scuba and snorkeling trips, surfing, volcano excursions and canopy tours through the rainforest that can easily be arranged. Supervised activities are available

to younger guests at the dedicated Kids Corner.

The newly opened Ahui spa offers six treatment rooms, a Pilates and yoga studio, fitness center and massages, while the par-72 Robert Trent Jones, Jr. resort golf course features undulating fairways and several holes along the ocean.

In keeping with the western feel of the Guanacaste region, plans call for a comprehensive equestrian center surrounded by hacienda-style homes on acre-plus lots. A town center with shopping and four hotels will complete Reserva Conchal's development. Currently available is the all-inclusive Sol Melia Paradisus, which offers Royal Service guest rooms for a more pampered experience.

Residential purchase opportunities range considerably from oceanview condos to larger private residences and ranch properties. Reserva Conchal offers a turnkey rental program for owners interested in renting out their investment.

Among the luxurious residen-



tial projects currently available or launching soon are: **Carao**, an area of the community featuring two- to three-bedroom condos, 30 terrace villas and 18 panoramic pool homes; **Ceibo**, offering 36 homes with dramatic golf course views and just a short walk to the Beach Club; **Jobo**, comprising 18 spacious condos, each with private elevators, 10-foot ceilings, oversized bathrooms and gourmet kitchens; and **Cocobollo**, two- to three-bedroom homes with stunning views of the Catalina Islands.

Prices range from the high \$500,000s to \$1.2 million-plus, and homes have been selling out in pre-construction phases. ©

www.reservaconchal.com