

## **Rockresorts Closes On Purchase Of Mission Hills Country Club Golf Memberships For Lodge At Rancho Mirage Guest Play**

**VAIL, Colo. - Dec. 31, 2001** - Vail Resorts, Inc. (NYSE:MTN) today announced that its luxury resort hotel company, Rockresorts, has closed on the purchase of a significant number of memberships at the Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, Calif., sufficient for Lodge at Rancho Mirage guest play on the club's three, 18-hole championship courses. Vail Resorts also announced that the Company intends to build a clubhouse at Mission Hills exclusively for the use of Lodge at Rancho Mirage guests, complete with a small pro shop, restaurant and event space. Rockresorts officials expect to seek Bureau of Indian Affairs approval for the clubhouse construction in early 2002.

"We're pleased to offer Lodge at Rancho Mirage guests the opportunity to play three prestigious championship courses synonymous with excellence in the world of golf. The Mission Hills Country Club has a long history and tradition of providing its members with world-class amenities and service and is a perfect complement to the Lodge at Rancho Mirage," said Ed Mace, president of Rockresorts.

The Mission Hills Country Club, owned by ClubCorp of Dallas, Texas, is located approximately four miles from the Lodge at Rancho Mirage and features three championship golf courses designed by Desmond Muirhead, Arnold Palmer and Pete Dye. One of the club's courses is the Dinah Shore Tournament Course, rated by The Desert Sun as the #1 course in the Palm Springs area and home to the LPGA's annual Kraft Nabisco Championship Tournament.

The purchase of the Mission Hills Country Club memberships for Lodge at Rancho Mirage guests eliminates Rockresorts' need to construct a new 18-hole course on a site immediately adjacent to the Lodge at Rancho Mirage. After thoroughly studying the proposed site, meeting with many interested individuals and groups in the community and reviewing all of the issues involved, Rockresorts officials concluded that acquiring memberships at Mission Hills Country Club was a superior option for the Lodge at Rancho Mirage for four primary reasons.

First, due to the federal listing of the Bighorn Sheep as an endangered species, more than 57 acres were removed from the original golf course design and placed in a conservation easement. The reduced acreage could only accommodate a much shorter course than other courses in the Palm Springs area, and one with no driving range. Second, design and construction costs for the course are approaching \$28 million according to new expert estimates, with little certainty that the resulting course would sufficiently increase occupancy at the Lodge at Rancho Mirage to justify that cost, given the ample amount of golf currently available nearby.

Third, the opportunity to play three prestigious courses as opposed to one, along with the construction of an exclusive member clubhouse, adds greater value to the Lodge at Rancho Mirage guest experience in the opinion of hotel officials. Fourth, most of the land proposed for the golf course site will revert to a conservation easement, preserving open space for generations to come.

"We realize that the proposed site for a golf course nestled against the mountains has been the subject of intense debate among many individuals and groups in the area for a long period of time. We're sensitive to the countless hours and efforts that have been expended on either side of this issue. As we stated when announcing our intent to purchase the Lodge at Rancho Mirage and again at the time of closing, Rockresorts is committed to providing an exceptional guest experience and the highest level of service.

To that end, we believe our immediate investment in the Lodge at Rancho Mirage should be focused on renovating and improving the hotel property and creating additional value for our guests through an exclusive golf membership arrangement with the Mission Hills Country Club," explained Mace.

As a result of the Company's decision, most of the proposed golf course site will be preserved as open space according to a 99-year conservation easement agreement with the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy.

Vail Resorts, Inc. is the premier mountain resort operator in North America. The Company operates the Colorado mountain resorts of Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge and Keystone, and the Grand -Teton Lodge Company in Jackson Hole, Wyo. In addition, the Company's Rockresorts luxury resort hotel company operates 11 resort hotels throughout the United States; the consumer website is [www.rockresorts.com](http://www.rockresorts.com). The Vail Resorts' corporate website is [www.vailresorts.com](http://www.vailresorts.com) and consumer website is [www.snow.com](http://www.snow.com). Vail Resorts is a publicly held company traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE:MTN).

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