

“Quinta do Vale is in the running to be named the best new European course of 2008”



David Brice, PGA Tour Journalist

**Seve Ballesteros** was not only one of Europe's most outstanding professional golfers of the 20th century, but in more recent years, has developed into one of Europe's most impressive golf architects as Quinta do Vale apparently attests.

This is still the baby of the Eastern Algarve and at barely a few months old, has yet to be properly tested, however, the initial reports from those that have played it are very encouraging. It seems that Seve may have pulled it off and rumor has it that the 7,162 yard monster called Quinta do Vale is in the running to be named the best new European course of 2008. Let's keep our fingers crossed for the course, Seve Ballesteros and the Eastern Algarve.

There's no doubt the design is impressive with 6 par-5's, 6 par-4's and 6 par-3's. The wide fairways contain plenty of doglegs and water is in bountiful supply, coming into play on half of the holes. Always a top bunker player when he was on tour, Ballesteros has been more than generous in providing an ample supply of them here. Problem is they are deeper than is usual and used very effectively to guard the greens which are very well contoured and many are multi-tiered as well. Seems that just as in Seve's previous life, and his innate ability to extricate himself from the most serious of problems, combined with a good short game and some talent with the putter, will go a long way toward most of us achieving a decent score at Quinta do Vale.

The Eastern Algarve has made its grand entrance onto The Algarve's golfing scene and has already proved that golf here will be a match for even the very best of the opposite end of this sun drenched coast. Better get there soon and be among the first to savor some top quality new courses.