

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands –

Ginn Clubs & Resorts acquired Mahogany Run Golf Course, described by CEO Bobby Ginn as “the Caribbean jewel in the Ginn Clubs & Resorts portfolio,” in June of 2004.

Since then, the company has invested its top talent to transform a widely popular and challenging golf venue into a world class destination golf club.

An Engineering Marvel

Carved and blasted into an area of land just less than 110 acres, Mahogany Run Golf Course, designed by George and Tom Fazio, was proclaimed as much an engineering marvel as an architectural one when it opened to much fanfare in 1980.

The course was purchased in 1994 by Contran Resorts, which completed construction on a 300,000 gallon per day reverse osmosis desalination plant. In conjunction with a new irrigation system, the desalination plant allowed the course to be fully irrigated on a consistent basis for the first time.

Over the years the course has played host to a bevy of celebrities, professional athletes and political leaders from around the world – all eager to conquer “The Devil’s Triangle.”

The Devil’s Triangle

With a reputation for 18 of the most beautiful holes in the Caribbean, the real challenge at Mahogany Run culminates in the spectacular “Devil’s Triangle,” the name given to the signature trio of holes overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. So challenging are these three holes that anyone who plays all three without a penalty stroke is awarded a special “I Survived the Devil’s Triangle” certificate in the Pro Shop.

The 327-yard 13th hole sets the pace; a downhill par-4 into a craggy cove, described in Golf Digest as “one of the most beautiful settings for a putting green in the game of golf.” Number 13 is a dog-leg left that requires an accurate 200-yard tee shot followed by a wedge into a postage stamp green that sits right out on the Atlantic Ocean. Number 14 is one of the world’s most dramatic par three’s, a 173-yard, cliff-side hole with the crystal blue ocean serving as its fairway. Golfers must play the ball out over the ocean, battling swirling winds and world class views of several islands including Hans Lollick, with its dazzling white beach, and Jost Van Dyke and Tortola, both British

Virgin Islands. The exquisite vistas tease even the most seasoned golfers into taking their eyes and minds off the ball. In February and March, the migrating humpback whales add a surreal touch to this breathtaking backdrop.

If 13 and 14 are not challenging enough, number 15 brings golfers to their knees. This 560 yard, par 5 is the number one handicap hole on the course. Once again, accuracy off the tee is vital. If a monster drive is hit, temptation to take your second shot over the pond could provide trouble because of the out-of-bounds behind the drastically sloping green. All of this would explain why those intrepid few that make it through The Devil's Triangle without incurring a penalty stroke are rewarded.

Polishing the Jewel

In addition to the magnificent course, Ginn Clubs & Resorts also purchased nearly 90 acres of property surrounding the club. While plans for the property are still being finalized, Ginn and his team have wasted no time making drastic enhancements to the tropical golf facilities. The clubhouse recently received a facelift and the course has never been in better condition.

The grillroom has been enclosed and air conditioned as part of a major renovation and upgrade which also includes the addition of state of the art satellite, High Definition TVs, new and more luxurious décor and all new kitchen equipment. “The once after-round meeting place has been transformed in to a comfortable and stylish restaurant destination for locals and visitors alike,” said Rich Hohman, vice president of asset development for Ginn Clubs & Resorts.

Known for delivering more than they promise, the St. Thomas team at Ginn Clubs & Resorts has reportedly spent millions during the first phase of renovation alone – and that won't include what company officials describe as major future enhancements to the course itself. “The improvements we've made to date are just the beginning,” says Hohman.

The Future Looks Bright

Some speculation on the future of Mahogany Run includes renovating and re-conditioning the golf course to meet world-class standards, as well as adding custom villas and luxury condominiums, typical of other Ginn Clubs & Resorts communities, on portions of the surrounding property.

On the south side of St. Thomas on Frenchman's Bay, Ginn Clubs & Resorts also purchased more than 130 acres of the most picturesque land in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Company officials one day envision a premier private beach resort to augment Mahogany Run Golf Course and offer guests ready access to a full menu of island club amenities.

“One thing is for certain,” said Hohman. “We’re starting with a one-of-a-kind golf layout and acres upon acres of the world’s most scenic property. With this as our foundation, there are simply no limits to the height to which we can take this property.”