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Middle East

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Was Patrick Reed's rant refreshing or ridiculous?

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Harradine eyes Oman

A course that is fun, and playable for the average amateur, will be inspiration behind the design of a new 9-hole layout in Qurayyat.

Peter Harradine has vowed to employ his tried and tested "keep it simple" method to a new course earmarked for Oman.

The renowned UAE-based course architect has been contracted to design a 9-holer with driving range and practice facilities as part of a new tourism and real estate development in the seaside town of Qurayyat, Oman.

Located on the coast of the Arabian Sea, the golf course will act as the central core of a WATG designed masterplan with a surrounding mix of luxurious real estate and hotels.

The site boasts a series of majestic sand dunes ranging from 10 to 28m in height. With a goal to protect and enhance as much of this landscape as possible, the golf course will weave its way around and in between the dunes, utilising the numerous elevation changes and rolling contours to create a fun, challenging and diverse layout while showcasing the incredible views of the dune landscape and Arabian Sea.

The course will be Harradine's fourth nine-hole design in the GCC, following Jebel Ali Golf Resort, The Track at Meydan and Sharjah Golf

and Shooting Club.

"It's a great location, great everything," Harradine said of the dramatic landscape.

"And the best thing is it is another nine holer, which is something I'm really trying to push. The problem golf has today is you have people building courses for the wrong reasons, 'championship' courses that no one can play on.

"The people who pay the majority of green fees are typically your 24-36 handicapper and a lot of championship courses are simply too difficult for them. So good players are costing the game...the whole thing is going in the wrong direction."

While the nine holer is real estate-driven, Harradine is pleased the course will serve as the core of the Qurayyat development rather than holes weaving in and out of apartment blocks.

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