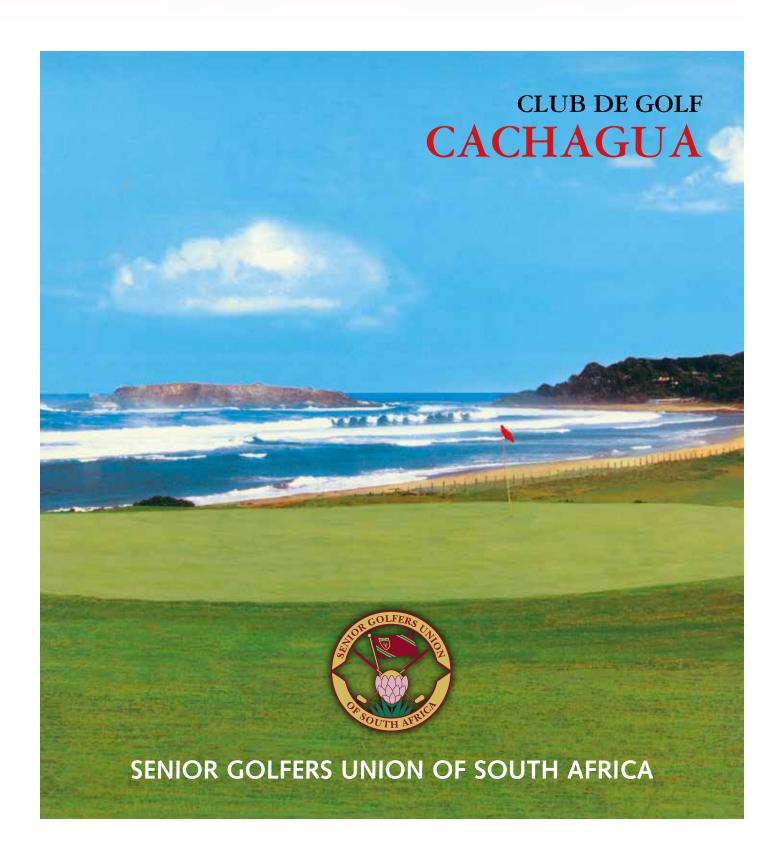
# Tour to Chile November 2015



## The team in full attire at Prince of Wales Golf Club, Santiago



Left to Right: Gordon Odgers, Ray Ramandh, Peter Stapp, Patrick Cronin, Rick Hardy, Dave Horak, Terry Knight, Richard Jelley (Captain), Peter Bailey, Chris Hart and Brian McDonald

#### **Ladies Golf Team**





#### **Tour Participants**

Richard & Robyn\* Jelley

Peter & Magda Bailey

Patrick & Penny Cronin

Chris & Ruth Hart

**Rick Hardy** 

Dave & Vivian Horak

Terry & Anne\* Knight

Brian & Jenny McDonald

Gordon Odgers & Jetske Kingma

Peter & Denise\* Stapp

Ray Ramandh

Royal Johannesburg & Kensington, Gauteng

Prince's Grant, Kwa-Zulu Natal

Johannesburg Country Club, Gauteng

Erindale, Western Cape

Royal Durban, KwaZulu Natal

Randfontein Golf Club, Gauteng

Johannesburg Country Club, Gauteng

Steenberg, Western Cape

Royal Johannesburg & Kensington, Gauteng

Humewood, Eastern Cape

Mount Edgecombe, KwaZulu Natal

<sup>\*</sup>Non golfers

#### Introduction

The golf tour to Chile was made possible by the invitation extended to our society by AGOSECH (Asociación de Golf de Seniors de Chile). Behind the scenes, arrangements between Rob Wassenaar and John Brownrigg finalised the tour dates of 8 to 22 November 2015. The invitations were extended to society members in January 2015 and the team selected in March 2015.

#### The original team as selected:

Richard Jelley Gauteng (Captain)

Peter Stapp **Eastern Province** 

Pat Cronin Gauteng

Terry Knight Gauteng

Gordon Odgers Gauteng

Brian Webber Gauteng

Peter Bailey Kwa-Zulu Natal

Ron de Villiers Kwa-7ulu Natal

Kwa-Zulu Natal **Rick Hardy** 

Ray Ramandh Kwa-Zulu Natal

Chris Hart Western Province

Brian McDonald Western Province As is the case on most tours we had a few late withdrawals. Brian Webber and Ron de Villiers withdrew for various reasons and we were able to find one replacement (Dave Horak) from the standby list.

The group of 11 men and nine ladies departed South Africa via various routes from Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg arriving in Santiago on Sunday 8 November 2015.

For practical reasons we were all accommodated at the luxurious Santiago Marriott Hotel situated in the Las Condes District of Santiago which was a four minute walk from the highend shopping mall at Falabella Parque Arauco and 13 km from downtown Santiago.

Santiago is set on a wide plain near the foot of the Andes and boasts one of the most dazzling backdrops of any capital city on earth. The views onto the towering cordillera after a rainstorm clears the air are truly magnificent,







The city of Santiago at night



Beautifully manicured gardens in and around the hotel on the way to the shopping mall.



The Santiago Marriott Hotel was a five minute walk from the modern shopping mall. Penny Cronin on her way to the shops.

especially in winter, when the snow-covered peaks rise behind the city like a giant white rampant against the blue sky (though smog, unfortunately, often obscures such vistas). The city itself is a rapidly expanding metropolis of around seven million people, and though long in the shadow of some other major South American cities, such as Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro, it has its own proud identity.

On Sunday evening after checking into the luxurious Marriott Hotel, the group was welcomed by David Tullo (Stand-in President), Victor Hawkins and Francisco Ruiz (Pancho) of Asociación de Golf Seniors de Chile (The AGOSECH) delegation.

#### Golf activities during Tour of Chile

Golf in Chile dates back to the 1930's when the first golf association was formed. This association was disbanded and replaced by the Chilian Golf Federation (Federation Chilena de Golf) in 1948. Golf courses can be found up and down the vast length of the country but the majority are centred around Aconcagua and Santiago. Currently there are 60 golf clubs affiliated to the Federation.

We were privileged to play nine golf courses in the Santiago and Valparaíso Coastal region of which three were rated in the top ten golf courses of Chile. Los Leones established in 1910 and rated second. Rochas de Santo Domingo established in the 1940's and rated fourth, and by far the oldest course in Chile, Granadilla established in 1897 and rated ninth.

#### **Tuesday 10 November 2015** Club de Golf Los Leones

Los Leones is situated in the Las Condeos business district of Santiago surrounded by typical high rise buildings and was a short ten minute bus ride from the Marriott Hotel.

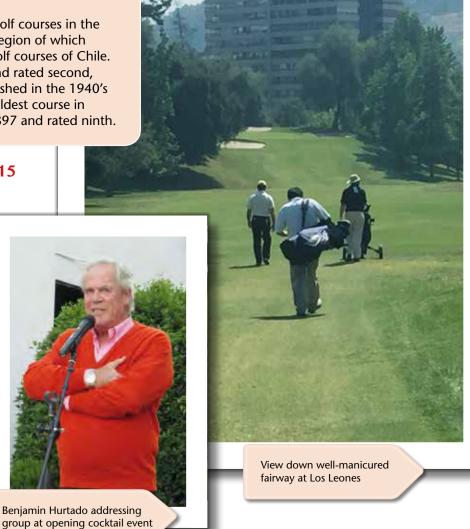
The course was set in fairly flat terrain with wellmanicured bent-grass greens, outstanding bunkers and cynodon fairways. A few well-placed water hazards protected some of the par three holes.

The position of this club attracts many local business people who attend lunch on the various outside patios decorated with brightly coloured umbrellas and furniture. One such patio

was used for the welcoming cocktail get together at which David Tullo (Stand-in President of AGOSECH) and Benjamin Hurtado spoke to the group.

During their welcome, Benjamin and David mentioned that the sudden death of the AGOSECH President (Elect Patricio Hurtado) just prior to this tour, had left a distinct vacuum in the society and apologised for his tragic absence at this opening event.

We all enjoyed the course and accompanying great clear summer conditions to post our first win of the tour. Four matches to two. Result: SA Seniors (4) and Chile Seniors (2).





#### Wednesday 11 November 2015 Club de Golf Cachagua

Our second match of the tour took us to Club de Golf Cachagua situated on the coast and about two and a half hours bus ride from Santiago. We joined the monthly AGOSECH Members Day and played in the competition and also contested our match.

The post-game lunch was attended by all 100 players and was a spirited and noisy gathering followed by a lengthy prize giving at which most players received a prize of some sort. Marcela Bravo and Dave Tullo entertained us briefly with some well-rehearsed songs to round off a wonderful day. The food, wine and general hospitality extended to us by the large group was outstanding.

We were presented with a book covering the 60 year anniversary of the Club de Golf Cachagua (1953-2013) by a past president of AGOSECH and the president of Cachagua, Mr Hernan Garreton Risopatron which was greatly appreciated.

After a fiercely contested match which we lost two games to four, we concluded that the local handicap system was a force to be reckoned with. The two hour bus trip back to our hotel in Santiago passed fairly quickly considering our state of inebriation and exhaustion.



Magda Bailey and Jetske Kingma ready for battle









#### Friday 13 November 2015 **Club De Polo Rama Golf**

As the name suggests this 18-hole layout is part of a larger country club catering for polo. The golf club is situated in the foot hills of the slightly mountainous region suggesting prior volcanic activity surrounding Santiago. The back nine which lies on fairly steep slopes has spectacular views of the city. Six polo fields were visible from the course on the lower perimeter as were the many stables capable of housing 800 horses during the polo season.

Ray Ramandh's birthday celebration



Captain of the day Peter Stapp – apologising for the loss

Franciso Garces was our host for the day and as a member of the Polo Club outlined the options of the massive country club emphasising that the main club house was at another location. A sumptuous lunch was served at the Golf Club House with outstanding Chilian wine paired with the courses.

The match against our Chile Senior opponents did not go our way and final score was SA Seniors (1) and Chile Seniors (5).

The stress associated with the tour and handicap adjustment got to some of our players at this stage resulting in certain individuals (Brian McDonald) taking Gordon Odgers' jacket in a confused mix up.

Even though the De Polo Rama Club was about 15 minutes from the hotel, we were one hour late due to a traffic jam! Peter Stapp was the captain of the day.

De Polo Rama is a great course with wonderful views of the city on the back nine. We sighted many gliders flying in the area as well as the Condor taking advantage of the thermals. The golf club house is massive and is separate from the main club. We celebrated Ray Ramandh's birthday in the evening at a large hotel suite courtesy of Peter and Magda Bailey.

#### Saturday 14 November 2015 Rocas de Sto Domingo

Once again we set off to the coast for our fourth match. The weather was fine on our departure from Santiago but on arrival, as expected, a mist had enveloped some parts of the course and temperatures were significantly lower due to the prevailing Pacific Ocean cool breezes which are experienced in this region south of Valparaíso.

This course could be loosely compared to an inland "Parkland course" with high pine tree lined rye/fescue fairways and fairly open driving areas. Some holes had steep approaches which required approach shots of pinpoint accuracy to score well.

The original 18 hole course was developed in the 1940's and subsequently another new nine holes were added. Today the layout consists of three nine hole

groups (Red, White and Blue nines) consisting of old and new holes which blend in to make two very interesting courses. We played on the Red/Blue course combination with holes stroked one to nine on both sides making the match play shot allocations fairly testing.

The lunch served was the usual sumptuous affair with excellent wines to complement the excellent cuisine of Chile.



Relaxing on the bus to Rocas de Sto Domingo



We were privileged to have the president of Chile Golf Association, Mr Maurico Galenco present at our lunch who also played in the match.

Sadly we were not able to rise to the occasion and lost the match 2 to 4 to the Chile Seniors. At this stage. handicaps notwithstanding, we realised that the pressure was on to capture an overall win on the tour.

Our bus trip back to Santiago was a long one as the ongoing trip began to weigh on our general fitness.



#### **Sunday 15 November 2015** Club de Golf Lomas De Dehesa

This Sunday game represented the midpoint of our golf tour and was a short drive from the hotel. With much less Sunday traffic, departure was at 10:00 and arrival at 10.30. Much to everyone's surprise, the club was almost deserted. After fearing that we were at the wrong venue and making the necessary telephonic enquiries, we gathered that we had arrived early as our planned match tee times were from 14:00 onwards.

With three hours to kill and suffering from sleep deprivation, the general expressed irritation from the majority was understandable. Our AGOSECH captain of the day, Ernesto Almarza, quickly realised the problem of our miscommunication and opened the course to those who thought they required the extra practice and also arranged for the ladies who were not interested in golf to play bridge and/or dominoes, thus keeping all occupied in the interim.

Lomas De Dehesa is set in fairly undulated terrain with a river flowing through both nine-hole layouts. Being 30 to 40 years old, the course was probably first a ninehole test and later extended to 18 holes, judging by the different planted grasses (cynodon and kikuyu) on each side.

Fairways were cut through existing wooded areas and many holes were severely dog-legged and presented very tight driving lines. The river flowing through the course came into play often and some large ponds



Peter Stapp and Brian McDonald admiring the lily pond

with an abundance of attractive water lilies were most picturesque.

All the greens were very slow when compared to the other courses we had played which had a direct impact on our scoring. We were again outplayed by our hosts and lost the game by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  and  $4\frac{1}{2}$ .

At the midpoint of the golf tour, we had won one match and lost four to our hosts. SA Seniors (1) and Chile Seniors (4).

Inspite of the loss, we enjoyed a great barbeque (braai) after the game, accompanied by much outstanding wine, which reminded us of home style meat preparation and consumption.



Lomas De Dehesa is set in fairly undulating terrain with some large picturesque ponds



Prince of Wales Country Club

#### **Tuesday 17 November 2015 Prince of Wales Country Club (PWCC)**

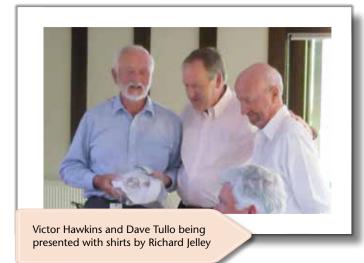
After a well-deserved rest day spent in the winelands, we returned to PWCC to do battle with a formidable AGOSECH team lead by Victor Hawkins and David Tullo.

PWCC was founded in 1925. Edward the Prince of Wales, laid the founding stone for the club in 1927 hence the Prince of Wales emblem of three feathers was adopted as the club emblem.

This is a British style Parkland course with holes framed by trees close to the Bermuda fairways. Greens of A1 bent are very well protected by bunkers with water in play on the 9th and 18th holes.

As a true country club, other facilities at PWCC included a hockey pitch, two rugby fields, a few small football pitches, 12 tennis courts, four squash courts and indoor and outdoor swimming pools, spa and gymnasium.







Our whole group was magnanimously given reciprocity to the PWCC during our stay in Santiago and many did take advantage of this privilege.

After the fiercely competitive match, captained by Chris Hart, we emerged with a draw three all. At this stage

of proceedings, Victor Hawkins and Dave Tullo were presented with shirts bearing our Senior Society logo and South African/Chile flags, in appreciation for the hospitality enjoyed by all our group at PWCC.

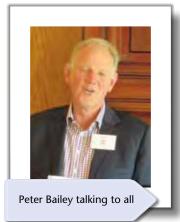
After the usual outstanding pre-dinner snacks and drinks, we enjoyed a three-course dinner before making our way back to the hotel and well-earned rest thinking about another rest day. All the golf and partying was taking its toll at this stage.

Chris Hart was the captain for the day. Result was 3 all. Overall result at this stage of the series was SA Seniors (1½) and Chile Seniors (4½).

#### Thursday 19 November 2015 Club de Campo Granadilla

After a relaxing free day at last, we made an early 07:00 start for our trip to Valparaíso and the oldest golf course in Chile, Granadilla (pronounced Granadiya), founded in 1897 and no relation to the fruit.

Of Chile's 4000km plus coastline, the brief central strip between Rocas de Santo Domingo and Los Vilos, is the most visited

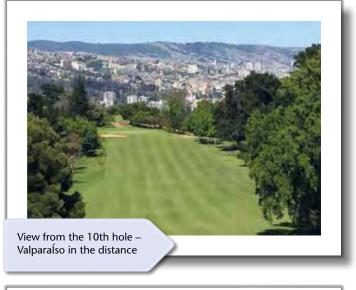


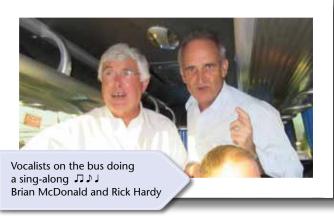
and developed. Known as the Litoral Central, this 250km stretch boasts bay after bay lined with wonderful white sand beaches and a string of coastal resort towns such as Cachagua where we played earlier. Valparaíso and Vina Del Mar sit next to each other near the middle of this central strip.

Prior to finally arriving at Granadilla, our previous city tour guide who accompanied us on the bus trip, took us on a sight-seeing route to Vina Del Mar via the beach front drive. The cold Humbolt current flowing along the coast has a similar negative impact on swimming activities, as is the case at Clifton in Cape Town.

Most of the team were fairly comfortable finally playing on a course with kikuyu fairways and fast bent greens. The biggest surprise to all, apart from the generous Chile opponents' handicaps, was the local rule adopted which allowed placing at any point on the course. This rule was explained to us during the course of the match and taken advantage of immediately.

After enjoying the wonderful views of Valparaíso and Vina Del Mar from the





elevations of the course, we were all very pleased with our win by four games to two which kept us alive for the overall tour match result.

Another outstanding session of snacks, very good wine and three course meal was enjoyed by all after our match, and captain of the day, Peter Bailey, entertained the hosts with a well prepared acknowledgement chat.



ValparaÍso beachfront – a beautiful blue sky, sunny day and very cold ocean



#### Friday 20 November 2015 Las Brisas de Chicureo Club de Golf

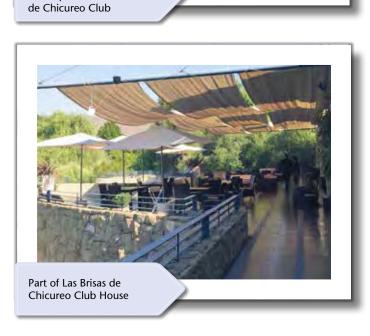
very modern Las Brisas de Chicureo Club house

Our second last day of tour golfing arrived and we made the one hour bus trip inland to Las Brisas. This course was without doubt the most modern styled of all courses played during our visit to Chile.

The large housing development boasted two courses - the Montana and Valle. We played the Valle course which had rye fairways and fast bent greens. The rough was thick but the rest of the course was immaculately manicured with outstanding bunkers. Fairly undulated greens required one to concentrate when picking out the correct lines to compensate for the various double breaks.

Many water hazards were well placed to catch any wayward shot and a large lake flanked the finishing holes of both courses.

The well shaded lunch patio provided an excellent setting for our post-match lunch at which captain of the day, Dave Horak, thanked our opponents for their outstanding hospitality and for soundly beating us four games to two, and thus clinching the series.



Modern style housing

development at Las Brisas



#### **South African Seniors Team**



Brian McDonald and Patrick Cronin at Las Brisas de Chicureo enjoying a glass of wine discussing the scores and game plan for the next day



Back: Peter Stapp, Peter Bailey, Richard Jelley, Terry Knight, Gordon Odgers, Chris Hart, Dave Horak, Rick Hardy, Ray Ramandh Front: Brian McDonald and Patrick Cronin

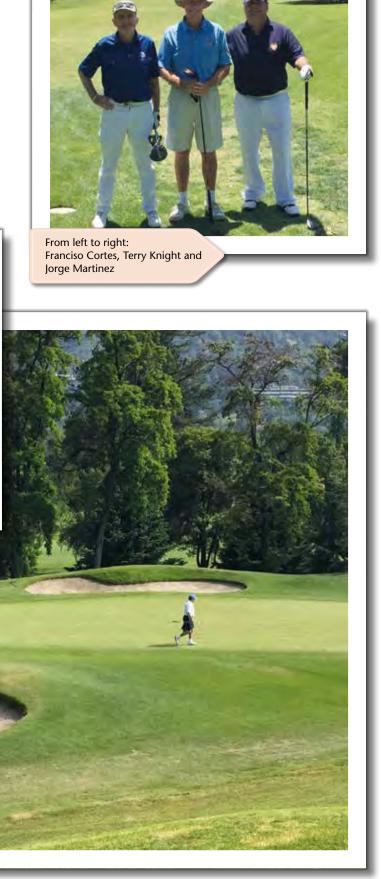


Lunch on the shaded patio

#### Saturday 21 November 2015 **Sport Frances**

The last day of the golf tour dawned with the knowledge that we had lost the series and that a final win at Sport Frances would have resulted in the score being SA Seniors (3½) games to Chile Seniors (5½) games. Sadly, this was not the case and a fairly exhausted South African Seniors team went down one to five games on the final day, resulting in a final tour score of SA Seniors (2½) and Chile Seniors (6½).

The Sport Frances Club is situated in the Santiago precinct and has a distinct country club feel. The course is set in fairly well wooded surrounds with kikuyu fairways and slick bent greens. The modern style club house was the venue of our final dinner attended by our whole tour group and the AGOSECH executive, including Sport Frances Club captain, Juan Orlando Canales.



Sport Frances



David Tullo, the captain elect of the AGOSECH team and stand-in president of AGOSECH, welcomed the entire South African Seniors group and wives. After David delivered a very charming summary of our tour group participants and the various exchanges and interactions during the two week tour, we were presented with a superb glass trophy to commemorate our visit to Sport Frances by Club captain, Juan Orlando Canales.

In replying to David Tullo's address, Richard Jelley added that it has been a great honour and privilege to have been invited to Chile by AGOSECH. As captain of the South African Seniors team, he thanked all those present for contributing to the great overall success of the tour and had the following further comments:

"The tour had surpassed all our expectations - some of us visiting Santiago and Chile for the first time, meeting the most hospitable people and playing on the wonderful golf courses over the duration of the tour. Having experienced outstanding weather, well organised golf matches, seamless travel to the venues, outstanding hospitality both on-and-off the courses. We all were convinced that this was indeed an unique experience".

A special word of thanks was conveyed to David Tullo. Franciso Garces, Francisco Ruiz and Marcela Bravo and the various hosts at the golf clubs, and all the AGOSECH players who attended the matches and who contributed to the outstanding success of the tour.





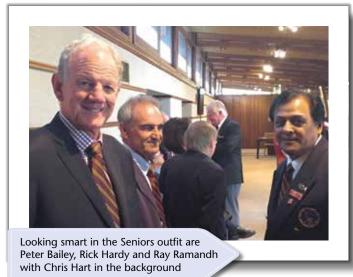
(Ladies Captain) and Juan
Orlando Canales at final dinner

Flower arrangements were handed out to Carla, Gloria and Elen who had worked so hard to keep the non-golfing ladies occupied during the tour.

It was also mentioned that the tour group had been lucky not to have suffered from exhaustion or any injuries throughout this very strenuous two week period covering nine matches.

Overall this visit to Chile had been a fantastic opportunity to be exposed to a new culture, meet and make friends with a large group of keen Senior Golfers, enjoy the excellent hospitality and cuisine Chile had to offer and have a lot of fun on the way.

Richard Jelley then presented David Tullo with a model of one of our "Big Five" animals, the Rhino, as a token of our appreciation and to remind AGOSECH of the bond that remains between the Senior Golfers' Union of South and the Asociación De Golf Seniors De Chile.









Pre-dinner drinks – Chris Hart, Robyn Jelley, Patrick Cronin and Juan Orlando Canales



Terry and Anne Knight with Jorge Martinez





#### **Final Match Scores**

			Overall Results	
	South Africa	Chile	South Africa	Chile
1 Club de Los Leones	4	2	Won	Lost
2 Club de Golf Cachagua	2	4	Lost	Won
3 Club de Polo Golf	1	5	Lost	Won
4 Rocas de Sto Domingo	2	4	Lost	Won
5 Club de Golf Lomas Dehesa	11/2	41/2	Lost	Won
6 Prince of Wales Country Cub	3	3	Halved	Halved
7 Club de Campo Granadilla	4	2	Won	Lost
8 Las Brisas de Chicureo Club de Golf	2	4	Lost	Won
9 Sport Frances	1	5	Lost	Won
Series results			21/2	61/2
Total	201/2	331/2		

#### **Free Days**

#### Monday 9 November 2015 **Santiago City Tour**

We boarded the bus at 11:00 for the Santiago City Tour. We were able to experience the spectacular sights and colourful culture of Chile's capital city on an introductory 3.5-hour tour of Santiago. All saw the city's legendary landmarks on the stroll through Santiago's streets, visiting the picturesque Moneda Palace, the verdant Parque Forestal and the colossal Cathedral.

In the evening, those who were not exhausted, attended an HD movie of the popular theatre production "The Audience" starring Helen Mirren (arranged by the British Commonwealth Society). In this screenplay, the actress reprises the role of Queen Elizabeth II in Peter Morgan's new play, which focuses on the monarch's weekly meetings with Britain's prime ministers.



Santiago boasts the tallest building in South America



Tour guide and group with Victor Hawkins in foreground











#### Thursday 12 November 2015

#### A day of leisure in the mountains!

We visited the Andes Mountains and Valle Nevado Ski Resort. The Andes is the world's longest mountain range (on land). The Andes runs along the west coast of South America for approximately 7000 km with an average height of 4000 m. The Andes Mountains provide a stunning backdrop to Santiago and are very popular with tourists seeking active day trips outside of the city. Hiking, rafting, horse-riding and skiing are the most popular activities. We ascended in the bus and travelled a very winding road up the mountain with a slight delay to the top due to a broken-down truck obstructing the narrow mountain road.

We sighted many Andean Condors (vultures) high up in the Andes. The Condor is a large black vulture with a ruff of white feathers surrounding the base of the neck and, especially in the male, large white patches on the wings. The head and neck are nearly featherless, and are a dull red colour, which may flush and therefore change colour in response to the bird's emotional state. In the male, there is a wattle on the neck and a large, dark red comb or caruncle on the crown of the head. Unlike most birds of prey, the male is larger than the female.



Our visit to the Valle Nevado Ski Resort

The climate in the Andes is slightly different from Santiago due to the altitude. It had snowed

the night before so it was very chilly for us. We defrosted with a tasty lunch of hot soup, salmon, steak and some great Chilean white and red wine.

We ended the day at the Marriott Hotel foyer cheering for Chile as they drew with Columbia in an important World Cup qualifying soccer match!







### Monday 16 November 2015 Indómita wine tour

... a wonderful day of rest and visit to Indómita for good wine and food ...

Located in close proximity to Santiago and the Pacific Ocean and surrounded by thick vineyards, Indómita is the only winery in the area that offers a panoramic view of the Casablanca valley, demonstrating its strong, dominant spirit.

Its imposing state-of-the-art cellar with capacity for 27 million litres dominates the Casablanca valley. Its barrel room and imposing terrace make it a must-visit destination that includes tours, horseback riding, wine tasting, and one of the country's best restaurants.

Its vineyards are located in the Casablanca valley, close to the Pacific Ocean, under optimal conditions for white varieties and Pinot Noir; in the Maipo Valley, the birthplace of Chilean wine production and an ideal area for red wines; and the Biobío valley, a cool and rainy place that is perfect for growing noble varieties.

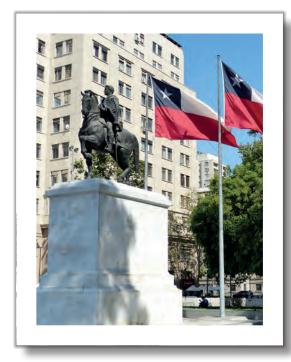
The winery's white construction that emerges among the hills and green vineyards of the Casablanca valley is clearly visible from the highway that leads to the coast. Its short 70 kilometres from Santiago and 40 kilometres from the Pacific Ocean make Indómita a natural tourist destination.





View of winelands

#### **Amazing Chile**











SENIOR GOLFERS UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA