

A'UPULEHU, Hawaii — The new Jack Nicklaus-designed 18hole championship course has opened for play at the Hualalai resort community on the Big Island's Kona-Kohala coast.

To build the course, Nicklaus turned an almost pure lava field into a stunning design by sculpting the solid pahehoe lava and crumbling lava into a visually dramatic, par-72 layout. The black lava is a stark contrast to the green fairways, white sand bunkers and blue ocean.

Nicklaus has designed three other courses in Hawaii. But

Hawaiian lava beds form bedrock of new Nicklaus course

Hualalai is the first course where he faced the challenge of working entirely with lava. He said in a prepared release that he wanted to maintain the drama of the lava, but also keep the resort course generous for vacationing golfers.

"Every time I came out to see the project, we kept widening the landing area," Nicklaus said. "You want to keep the lava just out of play physically, but in play visually. It can be a great feature visually, but it can also be a pretty stiff mental hazard. I don't care how far you push the lava, people are going to get into it."

The course, which opened in late January, is contoured with a 5-degree slope to the ocean and includes parts of the historic King's Trail, an ocean-side pedestrian highway for the prewestern Hawaiian natives that lived along the coast.

The 7,000-plus yard course starts and ends at a 14,000-square-

foot clubhouse that overlooks the ocean. The clubhouse is scheduled to be finished in September 1996 to coincide with the opening of the 243-room Four Seasons Resort. The 625-acre Hualalai resort complex will also have a sports club and spa and a range of homes, townhouses and villas.

With five-star accommodations and a Tour-quality golf course, The Hualalai Golf Club also opens with the distinction of being named the first PGA Tour Resort. As a result, the resort will be promoted by the PGA Tour and used as a destination for certain Tour functions.





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FLORENCE, Ore. — Japanese investor Kenzo Ariki is reportedly crafting a new development plan for the prestigious Sandpines Golf Course and could begin construction at a 290-acre site in Florence next spring.

In October, Ariki won a year-long struggle in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Eugene to take over ownership of the spectacular, windswept facility. The tract now holds the 170acre Sandpines course and a handful of new homes. The previous owners had planned a clubhouse, hotel and as many as 350 single-family homes and condominiums.

Entrepreneurs Ellis Vandehey and Jack Roake bought the land and built the 18-hole course in the early 1990s, largely using \$9.3 million in loans from Ariki. But the pair buckled under the debt and sought bankruptcy shelter in 1994. A court-approved sale gave Ariki the project in lieu of an estimated \$14 million he was owed in principal and interest.

Trevino design opens in Arizona

TUCSON, Ariz. — The 18-hole Torres Blancas Golf Club, designed by Lee Trevino, opened in December as the centerpiece of Santa Rita Springs, Green Valley's newest retirement community.

Almost 2,000 homes and possibly a hotel are planned for the 596-acre golfing community.

The course almost wasn't finished. Santa Rita Springs LLC, led by Dorn Builders, bought the property from Farmers Investment Co. in August 1994 after it was left unfinished by the bankrupt Roadhaven Resort in 1985. The Torres Blancas course also was left partly built.

Jon Fitch, general manager for Par for the Course LLC, which owns Torres Blancas, said the course will be golfer-friendly with generous landing areas off the tee and open fairways.

HILTON TAKES OVER COLORADO RESORT

DURANGO, Colo. — Hilton Hotels has assumed management of the Tamarron resort and renamed it the Tamarron Hilton Resort. Arthur Hills designed the facility, which has been rated among the top 50 resort courses in the country by *Golf Digest*.