



Doak finishes Beechtree — down the road from Dye's Bulle Rock

ABERDEEN, Md. — Construction is complete on Tom Doak's latest design — Beechtree Golf Course here.

A high-end daily-fee design north of Baltimore, Beechtree is a golf-only

The 441-yard par-4 14th hole at Beechtree Golf Course is spiced up with a treacherous collection of six bunkers to the left of the green.

project built for commercial developer James F. Knott, a Baltimore Country Club member.

The site, two miles off the I-95 corridor, was originally slated for industrial development, but plans changed when Knott realized wooded wetlands through the site would have required filling for large industrial buildings. Instead, the course has been routed around the wetlands, with two narrow creeks retained as features of the 7th, 10th, 15th and 16th holes.

Beechtree is also just six miles from the site of Bulle Rock Golf Course, recently completed by Doak's mentor, Pete Dye. Both courses will open next summer, raising the stakes for high-end daily-fee golf in the Baltimore market. Doak took the coincidence as a friendly challenge.

"It's always nice to work next to a great architect, to see how your own work measures up," said Doak. "But I learned a long time ago that you don't try to outdo Pete Dye. You compete by building something different, but hopefully just as worthwhile."

Beechtree is more of a 1920s-style course, like Five Farms, with rolling greens and lots of bunkering to vary the holes, Doak said, adding, "I think the bunkering will set the course apart from anything else in the Baltimore area."

James F. Knott Construction was its own general contractor on the course, with Bruce Hepner of Doak's Renaissance Golf providing daily supervision and Jim Urbina doing the bulk of the shaping work under a separate contract between owner and designer.

Coore & Crenshaw's latest creations, at Talking Stick, open

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Talking Stick, two 18-hole golf courses considered a taste of Scotland come to Scottsdale, have opened here — the most recent designs of two-time Masters champion Ben Crenshaw and partner Bill Coore.

Built on Salt River-Pima-Maricopa Indian Community land, Talking Stick's \$70 to \$90 greens fee makes it one of the most affordable upper-end venues to come on line in Arizona in a decade. It will be augmented by a golf school and clubhouse. A 1,000-room conference center and resort is also planned.

The North and South courses are a study in contrasts.

The North Course, which opened Dec. 5, is a grasslands track featuring gentle rolling terrain with many angular holes reminiscent of Scottish courses. Its bunkers are wild and jagged, its fairways very wide, with no rough, and its subtle greens open to approach shots. It measures from 5,530 to 7,133 yards.

The South Course, which opened Dec. 15, is an American-style layout from the 1920s and '30s, highlighted by lakes and streams.

Its panoramic views encompass Camelback, Pinnacle Peak, the Four Peaks and Red Mountain.

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