

# Best of Big Island

By Scott Kauffman

When the late Laurance Rockefeller opened his legendary Mauna Kea Beach Hotel on the Big Island of Hawaii in 1965, he had a dream location for his famed Robert Trent Jones Sr.-designed golf course. For years, the renowned resort and highly acclaimed layout served as the standard bearers for private, luxurious hospitality and great volcanic golf—Hawaiian style.

Of course, since Rockefeller first put the Big Island's Kona-Kohala Coast on the map, numerous resorts have helped make Hawaii's Gold Coast one of the world's leading destinations. But there is still only one Mauna Kea, the matriarch of this classic collection.

Now, four decades after Mauna Kea's debut, a Hawaii-based group is offering a rare slice of this resort life with a new residential golf course project called **WAI'ULA'ULA AT MAUNA KEA RESORT**. Actually located "mauka," or toward the mountains, from Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, Wai'ula'ula features 102 upscale condominium homes set amid Mauna Kea's sister resort, the modern Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel and its stunning Arnold Palmer-designed links.

Surrounding Hapuna's 11th and 14th holes, the Wai'ula'ula gated enclave emphasizes lush, environmentally sensitive tropical landscaping (the course is a member of Audubon International), low-density buildings and open sightlines, which afford residents rare, unobstructed 180-degree vistas of the Pacific Ocean and Kohala Coast. Prices start at \$1.5 million for Ridge units (2,364- to 2,588-sq.-ft. fourplexes), \$2.2 million for Villa units (3,000-sq.-ft. duplexes with pools and garages) and \$3 million for single-family estate homes (3,800-sq.-ft. dwellings with pools, spas and two-car garages).

Among the many amenities associated with Wai'ula'ula are special privileges at Mauna Kea Resort, including access to its famous white sand beaches, world-class championship courses, tennis and fitness centers, spas, nine restaurants, hotel facilities and concierge services. For those not interested in mingling with Mauna Kea, Wai'ula'ula has its own luxury amenity center called Hale Ikena, host to a comprehensive fitness center, swimming and sitting pools



and an area outfitted with a full kitchen for entertaining.

Real estate broker Kathrin "Chacha" Kohler of Mauna Kea Realty, Wai'ula'ula's exclusive marketing agent, says the combination of Mauna Kea's low-density, world-class environment and location are what give Wai'ula'ula an unprecedented platform. "It's paradise," says Kohler, who has been affiliated with Mauna Kea for more than 20 years.

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"What really sets us apart are the fabulous views, low density and unmatched amenities starting with the two best beaches on the island. When Mr. Rockefeller came to Hawaii, he had the choice of going anywhere on the Big Island. And to this day, we're blessed with the best site on the Big Island."

Jim Dollens, a former sales executive with Boeing, couldn't agree more. After retiring from Boeing, Dollens, 63, set out to find the best place on the planet to live. He had residences in the Caribbean, the South of France and elsewhere, but eventually settled on Mauna Kea, where he's had a home for 15 years. "I've lived all over the world and found there is no better place to enjoy life than at Mauna Kea," Dollens says. "I always feel this is the place where dreams go to come true." Rockefeller, Mauna Kea visionary, noted philanthropist and champion of the National Parks system, couldn't have said it better.

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