



Member's Beach is just one of the venues where the "Q" participants gathered for an evening of camaraderie.

KOHANAIKI is a private community on 450 oceanfront acres of the Kona Coast. Once the playground of Hawai'i's royalty, its shores are steeped in history with sacred artifacts and cultural landmarks. The club represents an evolution of the private club experience, instilling a welcoming, relaxed, and comfortable lifestyle.

KOHANAIKI'S multi-level clubhouse includes an extensive curated Hawaiian art collection; a spa with four indoor/outdoor treatment rooms; a fitness center overlooking the Pacific Ocean; a 25-meter lap pool; and a 120-seat, open-air restaurant. The lower level is dedicated to recreation with a four-lane bowling alley, a 21-seat movie theater, an arcade, a card lounge, and microbrewery. Oenophiles will appreciate a trip to the tasting room filled with rare vintages including 50 years' worth of Chateau Mouton Rothschild.

"Kohanaiki is one of the greatest sites in coastal golf." – REES JONES



KOHANAIKI'S finishing holes feature rock petroglyphs, anchialine ponds, a donkey corral and—did we mention—unobstructed ocean views.

A Sense of Place

Kohanaiki—where families unite.

KONA, HAWAII: "I first visited the Big Island of Hawai'i with my dad in the 1960s," fondly recalled Rees Jones, golf course architect. "I soon learned the nuances of growing grass on lava. The Big Island actually has two types of lava rock—pahoehoe and a'a. Pahoehoe is smooth and dense, while a'a is porous and jagged. During construction of Kohanaiki, we had to blast and crush the pahoehoe lava to grade the land. The long hours of work transforming the barren lava field into a golf course paid dividends. Untouched lava surrounding the course make for a landscape found few places in the world.

"The oceanfront site that I had to work with at Kohanaiki is like manna from heaven for a golf course designer," described Jones. "One of the barometers on which an architect is measured is the overall success of a project. Kohanaiki has exceeded even the loftiest of expectations. Kona has developed a reputation as one of best hot spots for private golf—with Kohanaiki at the epicenter. It's the real deal. Even the practice facilities are dramatic. As you make a left turn from the 12th hole, you approach one of the most awesome stretches of oceanfront golf in the world. During construction, we took special care to our surroundings—many of which carried environmental and cultural significant areas."

A FAMILY AFFAIR

The childhood of Rees Jones was decidedly middle class. "We didn't have much money when I was growing up and typically traveled by car," expressed Jones. "Our fortunes changed when my dad started working with Bobby Jones and Augusta National. I think my favorite memory was going to Augusta with my father and sitting down with Bobby Jones. That introduction resulted in design work at Atlanta Athletic Club and Eastlake Club [both in Georgia]. Looking back, I have great gratitude in my heart for my dad allowing me to rub shoulders with so many influential people at such an early age."

Rees earned the nickname, "The Open Doctor" for his design work at seven U.S. Open venues. "I've been fortunate to experience the best around the world," said Jones. "Kohanaiki is our family favorite."

"During a recent visit, I told my granddaughter we were going to travel to Kona [less than 10 minutes away] for shaved ice. She countered, 'I want to stay right here. I don't want to leave this place.'

"My sentiments exactly," expressed Jones. ■

For more information on the family lifestyle at Kohanaiki, please visit Kohanaiki.com, or call (866) 868-9003.

"PRIMARILY, the style of a course is dictated by contours of the land. The importance of the visual impact of a golf hole from the tee should never be underestimated. Natural elements are embellished and created elements are made to look natural. Every design is customized to enhance what nature offers, always with sensitivity to environmental issues. I work at designing courses that are fair. No one enjoys getting beaten up by the course in a round of golf." – REES JONES

Rees Jones recently attended Kohanaiki's annual "Q" member/professional event.



Professionals Scott Simpson and Lee Trevino (right) enjoy a laugh at Kohanaiki's 5th Annual "Q." Quirky "Q" trophies (above) reflect the event's name.



THE "Q" EVENT pairs members with PGA professionals for spirited golf competition and evenings of island-style camaraderie. The golf pros are part of the Kohanaiki 'ohana (family) and they love it.

