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Top 10 Jack Nicklaus Designs You Can Play

by JOE PASSOV

If there's one thing that may eclipse Jack Nicklaus's legacy as a player, it will be his legacy as a course designer. As Pete Dye once said, "It's astonishing to me that the same guy who was gifted with the greatest golf skill of the 20th century should also be blessed with such deft creativity." The Memorial Tournament venue—Muirfield Village—is private, but here are 10 terrific North American Jack Nicklaus designs that you can play.

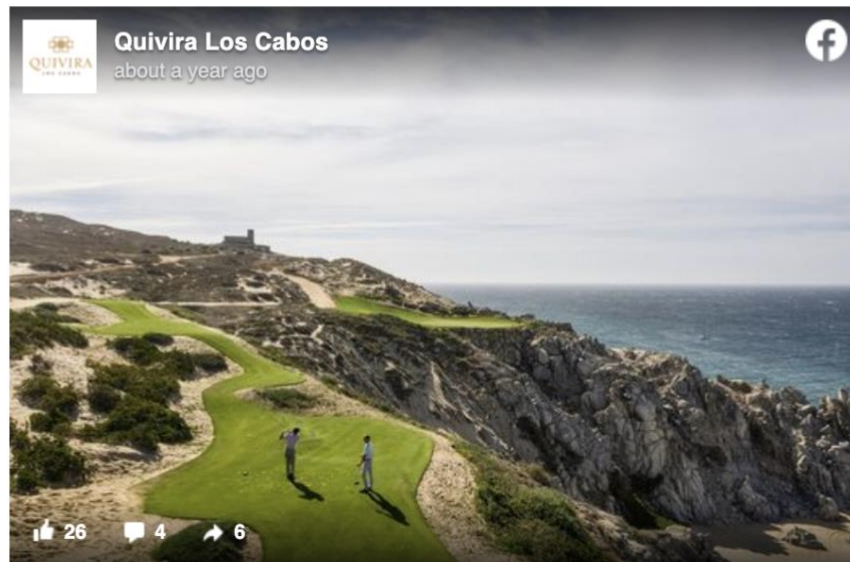
Pronghorn Club (Nicklaus)—Bend, Ore.

This 2004 creation—now part of the Juniper Preserve—didn't reach mass appeal until it opened its doors to outside play in 2010. Since then, folks have been scaling the snow-topped Cascades for a chance to duel with this sagebrush-lined, high desert treat that's dotted with lava rock ridges and juniper trees, notably at the lake-guarded, dogleg-right, 378-yard par-four 13th.



Quivira Golf Club—Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

Cabo's ultimate dazzler sits high atop a cliff edge of the Pacific. Ranked by one authority as among the world's Top 100 courses, Quivira features cliff-top holes that straddle rock-encrusted dune ridges which leave you dizzy—and that's just from the cart ride. The 6th and 13th holes, both par threes, stagger the senses. If you're prone to vertigo, tee it up elsewhere. To play Quivira, you must be a resident or a guest at one of the Pueblo Bonito Resorts in Los Cabos.



Punta Mita (Pacífico)—Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

The elder of the two Nicklaus-designed Punta Mita siblings dates to 1999 and is justifiably famous for its alternate, island-green, **par-three 3rd hole**. Known as 3B, it's called "Tail of the Whale" due to its distinctive shape. When the ocean surf rolls in, an amphibious vehicle ushers you to the green. Typical of a Nicklaus coastal course, the other holes are strong and scenic as well. The on-site Four Seasons Resort complements the courses perfectly.



Four Seasons Resort Hualalai—Kailua-Kona, Big Island, Hawaii

Home to the PGA Tour Champions' season-opening Mitsubishi Electric event since 1997, Hualalai is one Nicklaus's most player-friendly designs—especially on the minimally contoured greens—where highlights include the jaw-dropping par-three 17th, its putting surface jabbed into black lava rock and backdropped by the Pacific. Four Seasons hotel guests have access to this otherwise private layout in Paradise.



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Hualalai Resort

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Aloha Monday... 😊 I know, its supposed to be Aloha Friday. I'm a bit late. However, if you'd ever like to treat yourself to one of the truly extraordinary places on the planet, get yourself to The Big Island and The Four Seasons Hualalai. You'd won't be disappointed with either the accommodations or the golf. One of my favorites. Who's been?

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