

HAWAII



PHOTOS BY RON DRISCOLL/GLOBE STAFF

On Hawaii's Big Island, the Halemaumau Crater; Waipio Valley and its black sand beach; and the Canada-France-Hawaii (foreground) and Gemini North observatories at the Mauna Kea summit.

Island of extremes

Earth, wind, and fire made the Big Island and keep it exotic

BY RON DRISCOLL | GLOBE STAFF

WAIKOLOA — We spotted the first of the messages shortly after turning onto Hawaii Route 19 out of Kona International Airport. The stark landscape of black lava that created this island stretched as far as we could see, broken only by strategically placed strips of white coral.

“You land at Kona in a barren lava field,” said Jessica Ferracane of Irondog Communications and the Big Island Visitors Bureau. “It’s like landing on Mars. And then you see the coral, which is our version of billboards.”

The environmentally friendly graffiti, dubbed “Rockbook” by one visitor, is formed into declarations of love, shout-outs to friends, or pledges to favorite sports teams. On the 17-mile drive to our rental condo on the South Kohala Coast, we rarely went more than a few hundred feet without spotting elaborately designed turtles, sharks, or crosses. Others took a predecessor’s advice: “Keep it simple.”

“Aloha Leah” read one. “Go Terps.” “Mahalo ohana (Thanks family),” and our favorite: “Out of gas.”

You don’t want to break down on the Big Island, which got that moniker because, at more than **BIG ISLAND, Page M3**

The fruits of their labors make interesting vintages

By Claudia R. Capos
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

VOLCANO — Wisps of “vog” swirl around the vineyard of symphony grapes at Volcano Winery, high atop Kilauea on Hawaii’s Big Island. The smoggy shroud of volcanic gases spewing from Pele’s lair, deep beneath nearby Halemaumau crater, has obscured all traces of towering Mauna Loa in the distance.

Wine lovers and curiosity seekers seem unperturbed, however. Each year, nearly 50,000 visitors stop at the southernmost winery in the United States to savor nectar fit for a volcano goddess. Unusual blends of California grapes and exotic island berries and fruits yield award-winning wines for the family-run establishment, not far from Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

Inside Volcano Winery’s cozy tasting room, Vancouver honeymooners Felicia and Rece Bergstrom settle into high seats at a long wooden serving bar. “I’m a wine **WINERY, Page M2**

INSIDE

When on **Maui**, hike the Haleakala Crater and brave the road to Hana, where Waimoku Falls awaits. **M2**

At **Destinations** for the new decade, indie pop and après-ski, dance and DJs headline the events. **M7**



EROS HOAGLAND/THE NEW YORK TIMES

EXPLORE NEW ENGLAND

There is still plenty of time for you to buy **gifts** that will truly move your friends and fit your budget. **M5**

The **Ocean Explorium** purposefully capitalizes on New Bedford’s history of harvests from the sea. **M5**

