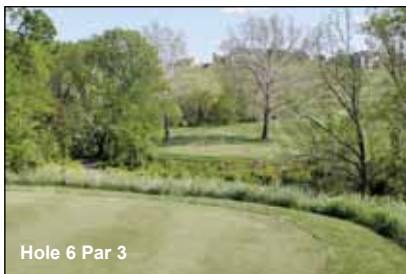




Maryland National Golf Club ~ Just Another Day in Paradise

Nick Ciattei

Status quo—the existing state of affairs <seeks to preserve the status quo>



We can easily look at things later and think that we should have done things differently. The real challenge, getting it right the first time, saves us from reinventing the wheel. Maryland National Golf Club located just outside of Frederick has been doing it right since they opened their doors in 2002. Designed by world-renowned Architect Arthur Hills, Maryland National has earned their must-play course stripes

by providing outstanding and consistent course conditions across a dramatic layout that has grown better with age.

Spread across nearly 200 acres of picturesque topography, Maryland National's par 71 layout rests among the foothills of the Catoctin Mountains. Dramatic elevation changes and a mix of woodlands and wetlands rule here. Maryland National prides itself in persistently sustaining its bentgrass playing surfaces from the first tee to the last green. This course must be executed carefully with well thought out shots because challenges lie around every corner.

An impressive fairway bunker splits the fairways of the par 4 opening hole as well as the fifth, also a par 4. The longest hole at Maryland National, the par 5 second, plays shorter provided your drive catches the downslope where you find 100 feet of elevation change from tee to green. The hole's raw beauty is surpassed only by the exciting opportunity of going for the green in two. I've always thought that the collection of par 3s at Maryland National rival any course in the mid-Atlantic. The first of these, the uphill third, requires an extra club to avoid the false front and bunker protecting the green. Teeing off from one of the many perched tee boxes at Maryland National, the par 3 sixth travels downhill to a uniquely shaped green flanked by two tall Sycamore trees. One of the outward nine's toughest holes and a par 4 monster, number eight, plays 470 yards from the back tees. The open green is receptive to long second shots. The only lake on the course runs down the entire left side of the short par 4 ninth where brain over brawn sets up a good score.



The back nine opens with another testy, short par 4 played from an elevated tee. Maryland National's next three holes, a par 4, 3, and 5, skirt a ridge that provides

wonderful views of the entire property with a mountainous backdrop. Several tee boxes and a green lay almost unscathed among wetlands, trees, and wild vegetation on fourteen, another select par 3. Maryland National's short par 4 sixteenth presents options that can sometimes foster a big number. The seventeenth, the last of the par 3s, exhibits a striking visual from the raised tee box. The tough closing hole plays to a redan green complex with a deep bunker on the left and wetlands to the right. I've always found Maryland National to be a fair test of golf where past experiences as well as a GPS system on each cart come in handy.

While truly an upscale daily fee public course, Maryland National also offers great value. Consider the quality of the course condition, the practice area, and the staff's first-class service. Schroyer's Tavern provides a casual dining experience popular in the Frederick/Hagerstown area. From their grill menu to elegant entrees, Schroyer's opens daily to golfers and the public, and they do not charge extra for the sunsets witnessed on the wraparound deck.

This Free State golf treat has received plenty of awards and recognitions. Maryland National has been named a Rolex Top 1,000 Course, the #1 rated course in the state by *Golf Advisor*, a top ten state rating by *Golf Magazine*, and a Must Play Course by *GolfStyles* annually. Maryland National continues to be one of the region's best golfing experiences and one that captures the incredible beauty of this part of the state.

For more information visit marylandnational.com

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