



Whitetail Golf Resort ~ A Sight to Behold

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Quite frankly, few if any golf courses in the mid-Atlantic can match the unmistakable beauty of Whitetail Golf Resort located in the scenic mountains of South Central Pennsylvania. The golf course stretches out over a widespread landscape that teeters effortlessly back and forth from rolling farmland to forested mountainside. The land's natural topography will make you wonder what, other than a golf course, should be here.

With plenty of challenges on this formidable layout, rest assured you will need nearly every club in your bag. Designed by golf course Architect Rick Robbins, a Jack Nicklaus-design protégé, Whitetail opened for daily play in May 2001 and immediately attracted some lofty recognition. Several publications praised the course for being one of the best new courses in the region, and *Golf Magazine* awarded it a five-star rating.



From the first tee to the final green, three things can't be found at Whitetail. Houses, screaming highway traffic, and noise will not disrupt play, unless a squirrel munching on his nuts qualifies as a distraction! The front nine begins with a straight forward par 4 with an open driving area. I've always thought that a simple opening hole provides golfers a better chance to get their

rounds off to a good start. The 423 yard par 4 second requires more strategy. A precise tee shot to a sloping fairway sets up a downhill approach over a creek and wetlands to one of the course's deepest greens. The backdrop on this hole and throughout the layout delight the senses as they really are sights to behold. After the par 3 third, a nifty short par 4 at number four follows. Several cross bunkers come into play if you are trying to drive the green. Wetlands on the fifth hole may make you select a three wood off the tee as smarter play. The second par 3 on the outward nine, six, plays slightly downhill, so check both club selection and wind for best results. The outward nine closes with three tough holes. Seven and nine, both par 5s of generally the three-shot variety, play across the most exposed area of the course. The par 4 eighth hole also features a forced shot over wetlands.



The back nine at Whitetail launches off with a par 4 downhill beauty complete with mountain backdrop. The following par 4 ranks as one of the tougher tests from the tee because of a tight landing area. A fairway wood or hybrid off the tee always serves as a good choice. Each golfer that visits Whitetail Golf Resort for the first time remembers the next series of holes best that are literally carved into the side of a mountain through thick hardwoods. The twelfth, the longest of the par 3s at Whitetail, plays downhill to a huge green. Both thirteen and fourteen, par 4 and 3 respectively, carry over deep ravines. Premium shots find the fairway on the former. Fourteen, the shortest hole on the course, requires accuracy because mis-hit shots on this 130-yarder lay waste into a deep gorge in front of the green. The majestic par 5 fifteenth displays a sweeping vista of the countryside. A pair of deep bunkers down the middle of the fairway must be averted on your drive. The only blind tee shot on the entire course can be found on the par 4 sixteenth, which I have always found to be one of the toughest holes at Whitetail. A large lake splits the par 5 seventeenth in two, and anything that goes left on this hole brings big trouble. The closing par 4 plays uphill and requires one more club on your approach to the green.



Folks at Whitetail (especially those who have been there since the beginning like Superintendent Jeff Hall) will tell you that the situation remained fluid at the golf facility for quite awhile. Some days this writer scratched his head wondering if the place would even survive. Finally, in 2006 things became more focused when Snow Time Inc. entered the golf business by purchasing the course. Up until then, Snow Time fixated on ski business and ran a successful trio of ski slopes, including one just up the street from the course. In 2011 they added a much needed clubhouse, which just adds to the golf experience. Part of a 4-season resort, Whitetail Golf offers a diverse range of outdoor experiences from fly fishing to adventure camps for kids. It has also become a popular place to host banquets, meetings,



Hole 17 Par 5



and weddings. Winter sports offered by Whitetail Resort include skiing, snowboarding, and snow tubing.

Several other positive qualities at Whitetail need to be addressed including the affordable tariff you find here. They pride themselves for their friendly staff and outstanding, pristine conditions that you may find at a golf

course that charges twice the price. A full practice facility allows you the chance to warm up in the fresh mountain air before teeing it up. Just an hour and a half from Baltimore and Washington, DC, and 45 minutes from Frederick, Whitetail is nestled between Mercersburg, PA, and Clear Spring, MD. I've always found the drive there very relaxing and just the right potion for your day on the links.



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