



Bryce Resort ~ Fore all Seasons

Nick Ciattei



Located about 20 minutes off I-81 in what feels like its own little corner of the world you will encounter the delightful four-season Bryce Resort in Basye, VA. The Ed Ault-designed golf course along with the ski slopes at Bryce form the cornerstones for the plethora of year-round activities you will find here. This beautiful layout opened in 1970 and spreads across 400 acres on the east side of Great North Mountain. An

initial glance at the scorecard reveals comfortable yardages that make Bryce one of the more player-friendly layouts in the region. Peppered with a fine mix of tree-lined holes and several others that play across rolling open land, the main obstacle to contend with is Stony Creek, a handsome flowing tributary that comes into play on 12 of the holes.

The front nine at Bryce opens with one of the great holes in the valley. The 573-yard par 5 gently doglegs to the right and requires two forced carries over the creek from the tee box and on your approach. A majority of the front nine plays on the most secluded part of the unique course where the front and back nines are separated by an airport runway. The tee box on the par 3 eighth could pass as a landing strip as you take off towards one of the course's longest greens. You get a terrific view of the ski slopes at Bryce from the tee of the par 4 ninth. Some golfers enjoy playing golf during the day and then take in some night skiing after a round here.

Short and sloping would accurately describe the par 4 back side opener. Holes fourteen, par 4, and fifteen, par 3 are the holes most recognized at Bryce Resort. You can catch glimpses of them from the entry road, and they are very good holes to boot. Both of the par 5s on the inward nine are long, respected holes. The uphill thirteenth has a challenging green while the sixteenth requires some clever shots to negotiate properly. Another rather charming trait of the property is that residents lay claim and care for several attractive flower gardens that are situated around the course.

The ski facility at Bryce is recognized as one of the premier resorts in the mid-Atlantic and has frequently received "The Most Family Friendly Ski Resort" accolades by trade publications. A new quad lift that was added several years ago really helped the resort give the skiers and snowboarders more time on the slopes. Three 800-foot snow tubing lanes provide fun and excitement for the whole family, even the non-skier. The trails at Bryce face the colder west side that allows around the clock snow-making when Mother Nature cooperates like she has this



season. In addition to the links and slopes, Bryce continues to ride the cusp for the modern-day thrill seeker with a wide range of other outdoor activities including the recently redesigned Zipline Adventure. This



11-line quest cruises 90 feet off the ground and crisscrosses the mountain taking nearly two hours to complete. The snow tubing lanes transform into a 330-foot summer tubing romp with no bathing suit or water required. The mountain Bike Park at Bryce continues to be one of the more popular attractions for extremists. Eight trails range from beginner to advanced on the custom-built, shredder



approved park. Designed by Gravity Logic, it was built by 402 Trails. Bryce's specially equipped quad chairlift allows you to take your bike over the cone of the park and spend more time on the trails taking the jumps. Additional distractions for you to partake in include conventional outdoor recess like swimming, boating, and fishing at Lake Laura.

Reaching Bryce Resort entails a leisurely 2-hour journey from the Washington DC Beltway through the Shenandoah Valley, and with plenty of recreation for the entire family, you score an affordable getaway any season of the year.

For more information visit bryceresort.com



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Hole 12 Par 4