



Whiskey Creek Golf Course ~ A Smooth Round That Goes Down Easy

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Since its heralded arrival in 2000, Whiskey Creek Golf Club in Ijamsville, MD, continues to be recognized as one of the premier golf courses in the Mid-Atlantic. The layout is routinely ranked in the Free State’s “top ten” courses. Much like a fine spirit ages and gets better with time, the same can be said about this rhythmic romp across the picturesque Maryland countryside. Much excitement and anticipation surrounded the opening because two-time U.S. Open Champion Ernie Els co-designed the course. Along with Architect J. Michael Poellot, the Big Easy helped lay out this 7,001-yard track on a secluded piece of property near Frederick. Resulting in a golf course that is bold and demanding, Whiskey Creek takes advantage of generous views of the Catoctin Mountains, broad meadows, fresh water streams, stone walls, rock outcroppings, and plenty of hardwoods.

Whiskey Creek Golf Course requires strategy and thought but will not beat up average golfers as long as they select the correct one of four different tee box options. I find it helpful to ask the starter questions to assist me in making a choice. While the layout offers generous fairways, unlike traditional public courses, don’t plan to just bang your driver off the tee each hole. Once on the course, golfers find Whiskey Creek to be an honest test of golf. All hazards and danger zones lie in front of you.



With a British-links feel, bunkers and gorse dominate the scene on the 410-yard par 4 first. A wide landing area makes the relatively straight par 4 second a realistic birdie hole. On the first of a set of terrific par 3s – number three on your scorecard – add a good ten yards to your shot that plays slightly uphill. The 565-yard par 5 fourth begins a stretch of holes that cuts through mature hardwoods with a Parkland-style feel. The next two holes, both par 4s, show a varied array of shots at Whiskey. Enjoy intoxicating views from the tee on the fifth, which is elevated some 100 feet above the fairway. The sixth contrasts in length as the shortest par 4 on the course and plays uphill to a green protected by a deep bunker. Making a risky play from the tee on number nine, a par 5, can reward the golfer with the chance to get home in two. At the halfway point of your round sits a welcome sight, one of the more charming clubhouses you’ll find anywhere. Whiskey Creek has dispersed rye themed memorabilia and artifacts neatly throughout this rustic structure.



most to ooh and aah. The 445-yard, par 4 twelfth, one of the most demanding holes at Whiskey Creek, plays from an elevated tee. You must find the sculpted fairway, which will leave you with a long- to mid-iron downhill shot to a receptive green. Yet another elevated tee shot awaits players on the par 4 fourteenth where water flows down the left side of the fairway and near the green. Fifteen, the longest par 3 on the course, requires a forced carry over a pond. On the breathtaking finish to the round and the property’s most photographed hole, the 550-yard par 5 eighteenth, the ruins of a 19th century stone house rest directly in the middle of the landing area off the tee. Only 275 yards from the back tees, you might reach these relics. A smart tee shot to the right of the house usually leaves a lay-up shot in front of a small pond that protects the long and shallow green. Those who boldly go left of the remnants could go for the green in two.



Even though most golfers feel that the back nine at Whiskey plays 2 to 3 shots harder than the front, the inward nine opens with a good scoring opportunity on the par 4 tenth. The striking par 3 eleventh, seen while driving the club’s long entry road, cause

Whiskey Creek sits on what was once a farm that moonshiners used during prohibition to float whiskey kegs down Bush Creek to Ijamsville Road. From there, it wasn’t a long trip to deliver the bootleg to thirsty Maryland and Washington, D.C., residents. Tucked in the corner of thriving Frederick County, both metro beltways provide convenient access to the course. KemperSports has operated the facility since opening day and do a terrific job. A round here always goes down nice and easy. 🏌️



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