



Penn National Golf Club & Inn ~ Nines, Dines and Wines

Nick Ciattei

I always enjoy revisiting Penn National Golf Club & Inn in Mont Alto, PA. You would be hard pressed to find a better tandem of courses in the entire Mid-Atlantic region. The Founders and Iron Forge 18-hole courses and a satisfying stay and play complex provide Penn National with the opportunity to keep golfers at their facility all day or for several days. Six modern guest lodges surround the Manor House, providing 52 spacious guest rooms. While lodging has received some nice upgrades, I am excited to bring you the news that soon you will be able to add some “wine” to your “dine” and some craft brews to your “nines.” Now that I’ve wetted your whistle, bear with me for just a moment as we discuss the REAL reason you go to Penn National.

The Founders Course created by Northeast Golf Architect Ed Ault brings plenty of challenges to test your game on a classic parkland layout that plays 5360 yards from the forward tees to just under 7000 yards from the tips. Your buddies can witness your first poke of the day on the great par 4 starting hole. Penn National welcomes you with an elevated tee, always appreciated on an opening hole. The green is set against a large lake, which becomes the focal point of some of the key holes you encounter later in your round. The inward nine on Founders is solid from start to finish and one of my favorites in the four-state region. It is best remembered for three pretty darn good closing holes. The sixteenth and seventeenth, par 4 and par 3 respectively, play around and over the aforementioned lake and are the most identified holes on the course.

The Iron Forge Course at Penn National is a complete about-face in looks compared to its sister course. Bill Love’s links design opened in 1996 and spreads across a painted field full of wispy brown grasses, crystal blue lakes, and deep green fairways. The course plays as a single loop, and your driver will fall in love with this layout. A carry over water leads to a stone fortress safeguarding the green on the par 3 sixth. A remnant of the old farm that previously occupied the land, a towering silo, serves as the backdrop to Iron Forge’s signature par 5 eleventh. The also visually pleasing par 4 fifteenth plays downhill to a green bordered on the right by a large lake laced with fieldstone.



Iron Forge Hole 15 Par 4

The Inn at Penn National has benefited from several upgrades. All guest rooms now have new 43” flat screen Samsung TVs with High Definition cable service. The hospitality rooms offer even bigger ones with 55” ready for watching sports. New bedding has also been installed in all guest rooms. Renovation of the concession areas and floors at Penn National’s Restaurant and Clubhouse is planned to begin in February 2019. When the Founders Grille reopens in March of next year, beer



and wine will become available. Those familiar with the resort know it lies in a dry county. The Grille will have 3 or 4 craft beers on tap, a limited number of PA brewed beers, as well as a selection of Pennsylvania wines. The company that has managed Penn National’s food service for the last 21 years, Altland House, will hold the alcohol license. This will provide golfers and guests the chance to grab a cold pint. They can

drink it at the grill or take it back on the course. Wine purchases, however, must be consumed at the bar. This means that you are more than welcome to Bring Your Own (BYO) wine or spirits (not beer) into the restaurant/back patio, but they will charge a \$5 corkage fee per bottle. Penn National will still be BYO on the course as well as at your lodge building. While it may be a bit confusing the first time, it will be a welcome change for the bar and restaurant.

More than 1,000 families live in Penn National’s adult community, which has been ranked among “America’s Best Master Planned Communities” by *Where to Retire* magazine. I am sure many residents will be happy with the liquid assets now available at the restaurant and clubhouse. 🍷

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Founders Hole 8 Par 4

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