

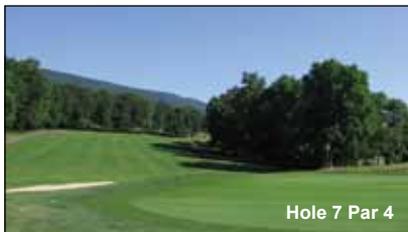


Cacapon Resort ~ The Name Game

Nick Ciattei

In my travels during the off-season to several golf shows throughout the region I always have to smile and chuckle just a little when people talk about one of my favorite golf resorts in wild and wonderful West Virginia. I smile because of their knowledge of the destination, but I also have to chuckle at the several different pronunciations that I hear when people talk about Cacapon Resort in Berkeley Springs. We have discussed this matter in previous editions of *The Golf Guide*, so this time I expect more of you to get it right. The correct pronunciation of Cacapon is . . . (A) CACK-a-pon, (B) Ka-KAY-pon, or C) Kay-Kay-PON? If you said B, you are correct. The actual word dates back to the Shawnee Indians and means “medicine waters,” symbolic of the healing waters for which the area is known.

This season, you can find just about any outdoor activity at the 6000-acre Cacapon Resort, but it’s the award-winning golf course that we believe is the focal point to this outstanding playground. The work of Hall of Fame Golf Architect Robert Trent Jones, Sr., has always stood the test of time, and quite frankly, Cacapon is one of



Hole 7 Par 4

his signature designs. At an elevation of 2,300 feet, the ball seems to fly across the rolling foothills where the course resides at the base of the mountain ridge. Jones used his legendary trademarks like runway tee boxes and a copious amounts of fairway bunkering to help earn Cacapon high merits. USA Today named the course one of the 100 best designed tracts in the country.

The par 72 measures 6827 from the tips and is a strong test for the women at 5647 from the forward tees. The front nine opens with a dogleg right par 4 played from an elevated tee. Your approach swings slightly uphill to the green protected by bunkers on both sides. The par 4 second brings water into play down the right side and near the green. The first par 5, number three, plays along a treeline to the right that must be avoided. One of the unique traits at Cacapon occurs with both par 3’s on the outward nine. Holes four and eight share a double green that is nearly 100-yards long. Both play downhill to one of the property’s lowest areas. Holes five through seven are all par 4’s and each are doglegs, with seven rated the toughest hole on the course. At 430 yards from the blue tees, a big drive



Hole 15 Par 3

is needed down the right side to clear the corner. The par 5 ninth requires two straight shots to set up a wedge to the dance floor for a putt at birdie.

One of the most recognized holes at Cacapon is the par 4 tenth because of its proximity to the clubhouse. On top of that, the tee box is located next to the putting green with an eye-opening stone chimney planted right in the middle. You'll notice the back nine's undulating playing field in contrast to the front nine. The par 5 eleventh plays downhill and is an excellent birdie opportunity as long as you can avoid the bunkering up around the green. Three par 4's follow in succession with the first playing uphill, the next downhill, and the third relatively flat. The highlight par three is found at the fifteenth, with an elevation change of some 70 feet from tee to green. A massive bunker along with two normal-sized ones protect this green set against the most natural of backdrops. The sixteenth is a tough par 4 from the back tees due to two fairway bunkers at the left corner of the dogleg. After the par 3 seventeenth, you get a final shot at glory on Cacapon's closing par 5. Much like most of the par 5's play at the resort, a couple of solid straight shots should set you up with a wedge in to a well protected green.



West Virginia State Parks does a terrific job with all of their courses and resort properties. As well as Cacapon, you have Pipestem and Twin Falls in the southern portion of the state, Canaan Valley in Davis, and the beautiful Arnold Palmer designed Stonewall Resort in Roanoke. I guess it's safe to say that no matter what alias Cacapon Resort goes by, we recognize a great golf course when we see one, and that's the name of that game! 🏌️

For more information, visit cacaponresort.com

