

## Whitetail Golf Resort ~ Full House

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I think many of us agree that the task of moving is one of the most feared and stressful to go through. On the other hand, when you move into newer and more spacious digs, you can now spread out a very big mat to welcome visitors. After a long wait, one of the mid-Atlantic's most beautiful golf courses, Whitetail Golf Resort in Mercersburg, PA, has opened their new clubhouse on the site of the old small farmhouse that they used to call home. The new headquarters provide not only terrific additions for golfers but also for the staff. Whitetail Director of Golf and PGA Professional Rich Hogan said the old clubhouse, in use since the course's opening back in 2000, was just not sufficient for the many large golf outings that the resort handled. The 10,000 square foot clubhouse includes a fully stocked pro shop, snack bar and kitchen, as well as meeting and banquet facilities for 95 people. With the additional patios situated around the building, their new home will be able to handle those outings more comfortably than in the past.



The very challenging track at Whitetail was designed by Rick Robbins, who cut his teeth while working as a protégé under Jack Nicklaus. Robbins' several contoured fairways tend to force the ball back toward the middle. At nearly 7000 yards from the tips and just over 5000 from the forward tees, the course plays enjoyably for most golfer's games. A majority of the links-style front nine fields across farmland and wetlands provide some forced carries. The back nine has a five-hole cluster carved into a wooded mountain that literally takes the course to another level.

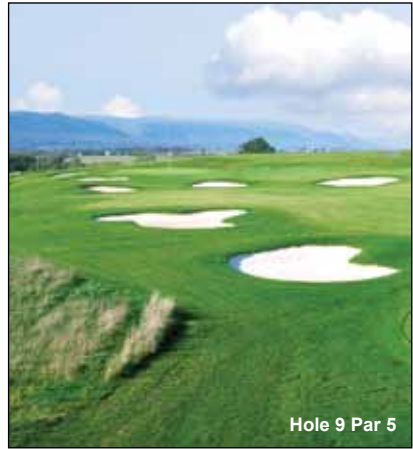
Three of the first four holes on the front side offer good scoring opportunities. Make the best out of those, and take note of the raw beauty and demands of the par 4 second. A precise tee shot to a fairway sloping from left to right will set up an attractive downhill second shot. You'll need to carry a creek and wetlands to reach one of the course's deepest greens. I enjoy playing the par 4 fourth, a short hole with a sentinel of fairway cross bunkers that hinder those big hitters going for the green.



On holes number five and eight at Whitetail, which are both tough par 4's, the putting surfaces hold residence on the other side of cross hazards that need to be navigated. The two par fives on the outward nine, seven and nine, are both considered three shot holes because after your drives, the remainder is uphill. Architect Robbins did a masterful job creating the green complex and bunkering around nine.

The back nine opens with a downhill

par 4 charmed by a photographic mountain backdrop. The eleventh is another par 4 with one of the narrower fairways to find off the tee. From here, the course takes a dramatic turn up the mountain where many of the area wildlife take shelter and occasionally watch golfers strap on their hiking boots. The twelfth is the longest of the par 3's at Whitetail but swings downhill to a large inviting green. Both thirteen and fourteen, a par 4 and 3 respectively, play over ravines. The latter is the shortest hole on the course with the putting green situated like a shanty on the edge of a gorge. Any mishits are



Hole 9 Par 5



Hole 14 Par 3

M.I.A.'s, and it's time to reload! The par 5 fifteenth is an aesthetic treasure with its unique design and countryside backdrop. Two deep bunkers square in the center of the fairway make a terrific risk-reward hole that gets better every time I play it. The par 4 sixteenth has the only real blind tee shot on the course. Par here is a good score. The final par 5, the seventeenth, requires well positioned shots for optimum success. Avoid anything left, which is jail. The closing par 4 plays uphill, so take an extra club on your approach to the green.

Things were not always rosy at Whitetail Golf Resort. After a checkered first five years

that almost left the course in limbo, Snow Time Inc. stepped in and purchased the golf course back in 2006. Since then, things have been running smoothly. Superintendent Jeff Hall has been the one constant there since they opened and does a super job in keeping course conditions above par. Last year, Snow Time purchased Carroll Valley Golf Resort to add to their links resume and to coincide with many of the region's top ski resorts they also operate. Now, with a brand spanking new clubhouse to coincide with the breathtaking layout, it won't be surprising to see many call Whitetail home this golf season.



Hole 17 Par 5

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