



## Musket Ridge Golf Club ~ Par Excellence

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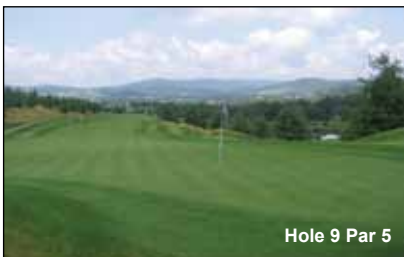


Hole 6 Par 5

Each year when *The Golf Guide* arranges golf packages for the Frederick, Maryland, area, one of the “must plays” is always Musket Ridge Golf Club. This Joe Lee classic carved into the foothills of the Catoctin Mountains has been a favorite for travelers as well as a majority of the Baltimore–Washington metro residents since it opened in 2002. It is safe to say that Musket Ridge is recognized as one of the top courses in the Free State. This was Lee’s curtain call in golf architecture as he passed away shortly after the opening. Lee, along with

fellow designer Tim Freeland created a beautiful romp that combines playability along with challenge. Undulating greens, strategically located visible hazards from elevated tee boxes, and unique bunkering are trademarks of this superbly conditioned golf course that plays from 6900 yards from the tips and 5300 from the forward tees. Located just west of Frederick in the sleepy little Camelot of Myersville, Musket Ridge sits just below the mountaintop horizon and a famous retreat you may have heard of called Camp David.

The par 4, first hole almost sums up what Musket Ridge is all about. The tee box is set at the top of a “ridge,” and the view of the Maryland countryside rivals any scenic overlook you may find along the highway. Concentrate on hitting the fairway below and then clearing the lone lake on the course with your second shot. This water hazard must also be negotiated on the par 3 second and the dogleg right, par 4 third. Several



Hole 9 Par 5

holes stand out on the front side as terrific ones. Included in that lot is the first par 5, the sixth, where your drive played from an elevated tee must favor the right side of the fairway. Anything too far to the left will fall off a steep bank that will maximize your score. The green complex is set below the hole’s contour, and deep drop-offs surround the putting surface. The outward nine ends with a trio of holes thought to be the stiffest stretch at Musket Ridge. A 448-yard par 4, the longest par 3, and the demanding uphill par 5 ninth will test even the best of players on any day.

The back nine opens with three of my favorite holes on the course. The tenth is a sweeping par 5 famous for the nearly 100-yard bunker that protects the left side. You will need to use strategy in deciding whether to lay up or considering going


for it in two. The short par 4 eleventh is a visual treat that can be treacherous. Sculpted grass mounds and splashy bunkering create a runway to the green that gets increasingly smaller at the nook in the fairway. I’ve seen players drive this hole, and I’ve also seen triple bogies. The par 5 twelfth is a double dogleg with several corners to cut or carry plus a bevy of ten bunkers to overcome. One of the more dramatic holes at Musket Ridge is the par 4 sixteenth which plays downhill through a chute of trees to a split-level fairway. The inviting, bunkerless green is comfortably set among hardwoods. There are a couple of birdie chances on the closing holes, with the par 4 eighteenth playing to a multi-tiered green with the clubhouse in the background.



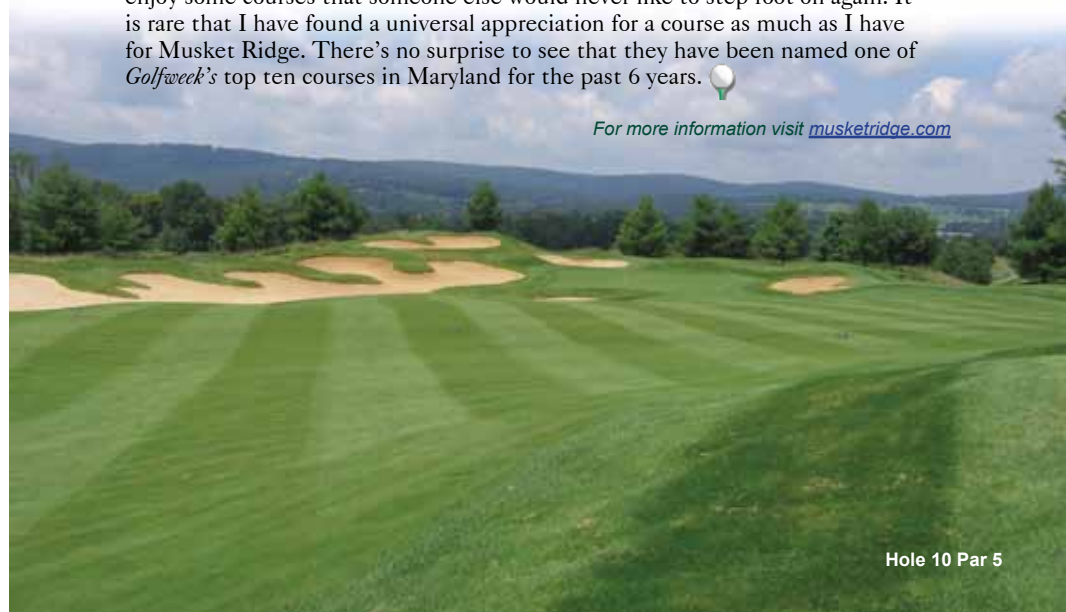
Hole 16 Par 4

Musket Ridge’s clubhouse and banquet facilities are second-to-none for daily fee golf courses in the mid-Atlantic. First, there is the setting of both structures situated on a bluff overlooking the course and the Middletown Valley. The golf pro shop, lounge, and the Catoctin Banquet Hall form a campground of functional features. The hall has been called “Maryland’s Best New Event Venue” and is the only zero food waste facility on the East Coast. It’s hard to imagine a more majestic setting for a wedding or reception.

2012 will be an exciting year at the course as they are set to host the Challenge at Musket Ridge, a new tournament on the LPGA’s Symetra Tour. Formerly called the Futures Tour, this event will spotlight the LPGA stars of tomorrow the fourth weekend in August. It should be quite exciting to see the future of the LPGA on display as they take on the par 72 layout.

In my business, I’ve learned that personal taste in golf courses is just that. I may enjoy some courses that someone else would never like to step foot on again. It is rare that I have found a universal appreciation for a course as much as I have for Musket Ridge. There’s no surprise to see that they have been named one of *Golfweek’s* top ten courses in Maryland for the past 6 years. 

For more information visit [musketridge.com](http://musketridge.com)



Hole 10 Par 5