



Ingleside Golf Club ~ You Can't Judge a Book by Its Cover

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I'm sure it's happened to you on occasion just like it has for me. You see a trailer for a new movie or television show, or maybe you watch the ad for a new car or even more appropriately one of the latest drivers that hits the golf ball a mile. You say to yourself "I just don't think that's for me" only to later find out that you loved the movie, you are driving the car, and you are hitting the ball further than you ever have with the new driver. Most of us are guilty of sometime, somewhere, forming a first impression that we found to be foolish later. Well, chalk another one up for this hard-headed Italian.



A couple of years ago, this writer had heard through the grapevine that Ingleside Resort had fallen on hard times and was about to close. The resort located in Staunton, Virginia, had been a long time fixture in the Shenandoah Valley. I assumed that with the downward spiral of the hotel and resort, the golf course would follow suit. But that is not the case here. Ingleside Golf Club is alive and doing quite well I may say. Owned and managed by PGA Golf Professional Eric Cobb, Ingleside is one of the most historic golf properties in the Commonwealth. Designed by noted architect Fred Findlay, Ingleside opened in 1927 and has hosted five Virginia State Opens. Cobb has assembled a fine team here and has invested heavily to make Ingleside one of the top conditioned courses in the region. A testament to that is the fact that they will be the host of a two-day VSGA mid-Atlantic Pro-Am to benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs.



It would be hard for anyone who arrives at Ingleside Golf Club to overlook the hotel and resort which still sit on the property high on a bluff overlooking the Blue Ridge Mountains. What used to be a proud and stoic structure is now a shadow of itself that would make a great movie set for a Jack Nicholson or Norman Bates movie. Once you get past that, you can revel in a top quality golf course that is challenging and a ton

of fun to play. Ingleside plays 6405 yards from the tips and will play longer because a majority of the holes on this single looped layout play from elevated tees to elevated greens. That's a great characteristic of Findlay's design, and it makes for a fun day with the driver. Three other sets of tees, including a junior/beginner set at 3800 yards makes this course playable for all.

The front nine starts off with a memorable, short par 4 that features a 70 foot drop from tee to green. All the trouble on this hole is to the right. After the par 5 second hole, which plays uphill, you come to the par 4 third. This hole had to be redesigned in 1998 when Route 11 was widened. It's now a sharp dogleg left that plays to a petite green surrounded by willows. The locals at Ingleside will tell you a majority of the putts you will have will break towards the highway. And they do on the fourth, a great, short par 3 that plays slightly uphill to a devilish, diminutive green surrounded by bunkers. At just 147 yards, it's rated the fifth hardest hole at Ingleside! Holes five through seven play through the highest points on the golf course, and feature some unparalleled views. Six is a good birdie chance, as long as you can avoid the fairway cross bunkers. After the par 3 eighth, you'll face a stretch of holes that I believe are the meat of the Ingleside course. It's not that they are brutally difficult; they just represent a key portion of the course that can make or break your round. The ninth is a tough dogleg left par 4 that plays along a roller coaster fairway from about 150 yards in. Ten and eleven are bookend par 5s that play similar, but only in the opposite direction. The par 4 twelfth, a tight driving hole that requires a solid tee ball to the top of the hill, is my favorite hole and starts a string of four played through a forested section. Ingleside provides several different varieties of golf, and it is evident here. Sixteen and seventeen are two beautiful par 4s, the former representing the hardest hole on the back side. The closing par 3 is a wonderful finishing challenge that has cost many golfers a match amongst friends.



On my visit there in June, the Ingleside Golf Club was packed on a late Saturday afternoon. Many of the club's regulars were there along with a surprising number of folks who drive up to an hour each weekend to play this well-conditioned golf track. They obviously know you can't always judge a book by its cover, and that proverb is never more evident than at Ingleside. 🏌️



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