



## Cannon Ridge Golf Club ~ Shot from the Heart

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It has only been nine short years since Cannon Ridge Golf Club burst on to the mid-Atlantic golf scene with a heavy artillery of exceptional golf holes. The facility has been recognized as one of the most challenging around as well as being lauded for its exceptional conditioning. Much of Cannon Ridge's high praise comes from the sheer, raw beauty of the course. Situated on a crest above the Rappahannock River, Cannon Ridge takes its name from the fact that the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia, was fought near there in 1862. The club honors that history with plaques situated on the property where the remnants of cannon embankments still remain.

The fully matured golf course was designed by former PGA commissioner Deane Beman along with Bobby Weed, who cut his design teeth as an assistant to Pete Dye. The two used the layout of the land wonderfully here to create a naturally flowing course with no gimmicks or hidden obstacles. Five sets of tees stretch the distances in both directions providing challenging experiences for most skill levels. The forward tees measure in just over 4600 yards with the back tees right around 6900. Cannon Ridge does boast some formidable slope ratings signifying the difficulty, but the one thing I really like about the course is that there always seems to be a path of least resistance on each hole keeping you away from trouble.



Hole 3 Par 5

The front nine at Cannon Ridge starts with a trio of holes that allow you to ease your way into the course. The optimum line on the par 4, 410-yard first is along the left side of the fairway that falls to the right. Accuracy off the



Hole 5 Par 4

tee is required on the second, the shortest par 4 on the course. The third is a sweeping par 5 that tempts long hitters to reach its bounty in two. Four is the first par 3 on the outward nine and plays from an elevated tee to the largest green on the course. Any bailout here must be right, with a tree-laden gorge looming to players' left. Rated the hardest hole at Cannon Ridge, the uphill par 4 fifth offers plenty of room off the tee, but take note that the approach shot to an elevated green normally requires one more club. At 499 yards from the tips, the sixth is the longest of the par fours, but it plays somewhat shorter. Deep bunkers short and to the right are in range on the short par 3 seventh. The tee shot at the eighth hole of Cannon Ridge could make

any golfer with a short fuse blow up ... literally. Firing from several perched tee boxes, your drive needs to carry a deep gorge to a fairway that shifts from right to left. The best target on the 425-yard par 4 ninth is left of the fairway bunker complex.



Hole 10 Par 4

The back nine at Cannon Ridge opens with the par 4 tenth, which runs parallel to the course's opener. This hole features a grassy ravine in the fairway from about 100 yards into the green, so you may want to rethink driver off the tee. Eleven is a solid par three with vast drop-offs all around the green. The picturesque par 5 twelfth is reachable by long hitters. Favor the right side, and your ball will catapult down the fairway leaving you the best angle in. Another of Cannon Ridge's trademark ravines must be carried with your tee shot on the par 4 thirteenth. A fairway wood or long iron is the smart play on the classic, short par 4 fourteenth. Just to the left of the green here, you are also going to find some of those historic cannon emplacements. Beman plays homage to British Open golf with the "punchbowl" greened seventeenth. The closing hole on your campaign is another par 5 that offers up another birdie opportunity as long as you avoid two clusters of fairway bunkers that border the right side of the fairway.

The well designed state-of-the-art clubhouse features an open area that includes the pro shop and snack bar. A 3,000 square foot ballroom, a conference room, civil war memorabilia, and large outdoor porch all are part of this fine structure. It is an exceptional facility for weddings, parties, and reunions.



Hole 14 Par 4

Cannon Ridge Golf Club is part of the massive Celebrate Virginia complex just off I-95 in Fredericksburg. Although the sluggish economy has slowed the progress of the project down a bit, the vision of the master plan remains intact with several new stages just on the horizon. The 2,400-acre site is split by the Rappahannock River. A gondola will eventually transport people from each side of the waterway. The golf course,

housing, and some retail are located on the north side of the river, while hotels, more retail, and the Expo Center bulk up the Virginia south side. The Kalahari Resorts Celebrate Virginia water park project is still in the planning stages.

Cannon Ridge is a heavy caliber golf course that remains the backbone of this visionary project right in the heart of Virginia. The master plan anticipates another 18 hole golf course being built. Until then, let your senses explode and take your game to one of the mid-Atlantic's premier golf courses. 🏌️

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