



The Gauntlet Golf Club ~ Prepare Ye Weapons

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If you really think about it, the sport of golf matches golfers toe-to-toe with the course itself. Yes, you might take on an opponent as in other sports, but the actual battle pits the golfer against the course rather than their opponent. In the mid-Atlantic, several courses bring thoughts of combat by the mere mention of their name, and The Gauntlet Golf Club in Fredericksburg is one of those battlefields.



Hole 2 Par 5



Hole 4 Par 4

The name “Gauntlet” itself needs examining. In medieval times knights wore a glove or mitten, made of mail or plate, called a gauntlet, and architect, PB Dye, known for designing challenging and creative golf courses, has forged a striking fortress for golf on the shores of Curtis Lake. The Gauntlet incorporates some target golf philosophy, undulating bentgrass green complexes, and unique design

features. Dye moved a lot of earth with towering, sculptured bunkers and modern mounding prevalent throughout the layout. Four sets of tees provide a comfortable range from the red tees at just less than 5000 yards to 6900 from the tips. Three of the first five holes play along and sometimes over the lake. Curtis Lake runs down the entire left side of the 493-yard par 5 second hole with a wetland area crossing the fairway just inside 150 yards. The layup area over the marsh appears smaller from the fairway than its actual size. Pinpoint accuracy yields a bonus on this breathtaking hole where the green resides on a peninsula. More shoreline adventure awaits on the par 4 fourth. A sharp dogleg left around the lake beckons big hitters to cut the corner. Even those who play it safe need to negotiate several gaping bunkers and a “Dye”-abolical three-tiered green. Take a deep breath because you are almost through the toughest stretch of holes at The Gauntlet. The par 5 fifth, a natural three-shot hole, plays with water to your left off the tee. A second shot must carry a finger of the lake that crosses the fairway. From there, travel uphill to a large, well-protected green. After the par 3 sixth, a trio of par 4s close out the front nine. The par 4 eighth, which is almost as long as a couple of the par 5s at 470 yards, plays downhill after the drive, as does number nine.

The inward nine at The Gauntlet starts with a straight, up-the-tree-chute par 5 that plays longer than suggested. Bunkers border the fairway as well as front the putting surface. By contrast, distance wins over accuracy on the par 4 eleventh where all the trouble looms to the right. The par 3 twelfth, the shortest hole,

leads the way to the par 5 thirteenth, the longest hole on the course. The last par 3, fifteen, spans well over 200 yards. Three here is gold. While holes eleven through fifteen offer a links feel, the three closing par 4s play through a wooded parkland setting. Seventeen’s dogleg left demands an uphill second shot that ends on The Gauntlet’s most intimidating green armed with deep bunkers. You’ll be wise to take an extra club on your approach to the beautiful uphill par 4 eighteenth.



Hole 17 Par 4



The comprehensive practice facility at The Gauntlet includes about 20 tee stations and several target areas on the range. The facility also includes a practice bunker and chipping area. The full service terrace clubhouse’s veranda overlooks the eighteenth green and makes an ideal late afternoon campground to settle bets, bandage any wounds, and discuss tactics for ye next war game endeavors at The Gauntlet.

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