



Penn National Golf Club & Inn ~ Here We Go Again

By Nick Ciattei



Founders Hole 8 Par 4

Make no mistake. Penn National Golf Club & Inn in Mont Alto, PA, is one of the most popular and successful 36-hole golf operations in the entire mid-Atlantic region. Two award winning 18-hole golf courses and comfortable lodging entertain golfers for an entire day or several days. A short road trip from the Washington and Baltimore metropolises can have you swinging the club on both the Founders Course and

the Iron Forge Course in the same day. Travelers from outside the area vacation at Penn National for several days each year as they sojourn to this South Central Pennsylvania golf landmark for the perfect stay and play package.

The Founders Course, the work of long time popular Northeast golf architect Ed Ault, plays 5360 yards from the forward tees and presents a real challenge for the ladies. Measuring a chip shot under 7000 yards from the tips, even the best players enjoy tackling its expansive girth. The great par 4 starting hole plays from an elevated tee to a green set against a large lake that is the focal point of some of the key holes. The first par 5, the second, stretches around the corner of a water hazard and offers a realistic birdie opportunity if you can keep it in the short grass. The par 4 eighth is rated the hardest hole while the ninth boasts being the longest par 3 on the front side. I'd choose the inward nine as one of my favorites in the mid-Atlantic with its solid test of golf from start to finish. Many golfers remember The Founders Course for its three pretty darn good closing holes. The most identifiable holes on the course, the sixteenth and seventeenth, par 4 and 3 respectively, play around and over the aforementioned lake.



Founders Hole 16 & 17 Par 4 & 3

The Iron Forge Course at Penn National opened in 1996 and was lauded immediately as one of the best new courses in America. Bill Love's wind-swept links design has aged beautifully and definitely shows contrast to The Founders Course. Wispy brown natural grasses border most of the spacious fairways spread across a large piece of farmland to



Iron Forge Hole 4 Par 4

make this course a driver's paradise. The par 3 sixth hole plays over water to a green fortified by a stone wall. A rustic, towering silo, remnants of the old farmland, stay intact as a backdrop to Iron Forge's signature par 5 eleventh. The par 4 fifteenth, also a visual pleaser, plays downhill to a green bordered on the right by a large lake laced with fieldstone.



Iron Forge Hole 9 Par 4

Penn National has always prided themselves in making a golf trip easy. Lodging is located right on the property with golfer-friendly crafted bungalows that house up to 16 golfers. The White Manor House, circa 1840s, houses guest services. Penn National is still located in a "dry" county, so make sure you bring plenty beverages. The staff will be happy to provide a cooler and ice for your cold ones.

In addition, Penn National's adult community of more than 1,000 families has been ranked among "America's Best Master Planned Communities" for ten straight years by *Where to Retire* magazine. The beauty of the surrounding area along with the accessibility and affordability of living there are the main draws. At Penn National, whether you spend a day, a week, or a lifetime, you get to wake up and do it all over again.

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