



The Vista Links Golf Club ~ Muy Buena

Nick Ciattei

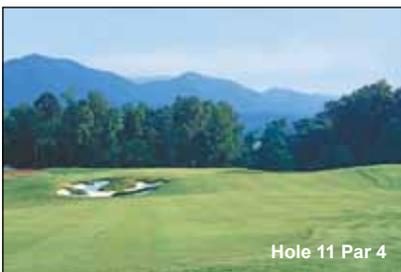


Hole 4 Par 4

The proverb, “beauty is in the eye of the beholder” dates back to the third century BC. To describe The Vista Links Golf Course in Buena Vista, Virginia, we must talk about beholding beauty. Most observers would totally agree that Vista Links can claim being one of the most beautiful golf courses you’ll find in the region. You’ll witness 18 holes of Shenandoah Valley splendor that is equally challenging and very enjoyable to

play. Noted Architect Rick Jacobson manipulated the land well here bringing into play the incredible variations in the rolling land as well as rock outcroppings and then added his own splashy sand trap designs. The designer did a fine job leaving the playing surface as unspoiled and as natural as possible. But for this golfer, the heavenly Blue Ridge Mountain backdrops really steal the show.

The Vista Links opened in 2004 as part of Glen Maury Park, 600-acres of Buena Vista city-run land just off Interstate 81 between Harrisonburg and Roanoke. The par 72 layout uses five sets of tees ranging from just under 5000 to nearly 6900 yards that are roomy enough to accommodate players of all skill levels. The front nine opens with a slightly uphill par 4 where an extra club makes perfect sense on your approach to a



Hole 11 Par 4

receptive green. The par 5 second has most of the previously mentioned Vista Links traits all rolled up into one hole. It takes three well-negotiated shots to get on the dance floor. An outstanding set of 3 pars starts with the third. This pleasing golf hole affords little room for error, so try not to spray your tee shot. The fourth, one of my favorite holes on this side, named “The Old Barn” on the scorecard, displays vintage Virginia Commonwealth countryside. One of the shortest of the par 4s is routed across a ravine to a green framed by an ancient cowshed in the background showing off a muy buena vista! The par 3 fifth has one of the more undulating greens, so hitting it rewards you in your quest for a good score. The par 5 sixth plays uphill all the way and much longer, so don’t be fooled by the yardage. Three par 4s, one just as picturesque as the other, round out the outward side. Seven and eight play in opposite directions as well as contours. The first runs downhill and the next one reaches back uphill. They present good scoring events when played properly. The ninth, at 467 yards from the tips, calls for a “grip it and rip it” mentality from the tee box with its ample fairway.

The back nine at The Vista Links starts with a par 4 that plays in the opposite direction of the ninth hole. The eleventh hole, another petite par 4, will overwhelm



Hole 15 Par 4

your senses with its stunning mountain background. The Vista Links changes things up noticeably on holes twelve through fourteen that play through the course’s only real wooded area. A par 5, 3, and 4 in sequence all have their own challenges. Keep it up the left side on twelve for the best results. Concentrate on the green some 60 feet below the tee box on thirteen, and wisely choose a fairway wood off the tee

on the slender fourteenth. Tagged “Chalk Mine Run,” the majestic par 4 fifteenth at Vista Links begins a fine stretch of holes back to the clubhouse. The tee shot requires accuracy to produce an acceptable line at the green guarded by beautiful Sycamore trees on both sides. Sixteen, the last of the par 5s and a realistic birdie or possibly an eagle hole, plays downhill to a large pond guarding the left side of the fairway. Trust me and take par on the uphill par 3 seventeenth. That’s always a good score that will likely earn you some coin. The par 4 eighteenth provides everything you want in a closing hole to finish your round strong.

Pure golf with minimal distractions except for nature itself dominates here. You may almost experience sensory overload. So enjoy, and take it all in. Very few courses can boast having scenic views like those at The Vista Links. 🏌️‍♂️

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Hole 16 Par 5