

Quarry Ridge Golf Course

Picture-perfect setting for a great golf experience

Finding a golf course that combines spectacular scenery with a challenging layout isn't easy. Too often, it's one or the other, but rarely both.

Not so with Quarry Ridge Golf Course in rural Portland. Here, you'll quickly discover yourself lost in the majestic hilltop views of the surrounding countryside. Look north and there's the meandering Connecticut River. To the southwest is Metacomet Ridge and the Sleeping Giant.

But don't get too mesmerized because Quarry Ridge is a course that demands close attention and focus at each and every turn. Opened in 1993 initially as a nine-hole course and expanded to a full 18 five years later, this Al Zikorus and Joe Kelley design is built on an old quarry site and features rolling hills and granite rock outcroppings.

As they like to say here, bring your A-game and your camera.

Length is not the issue at Quarry Ridge. From the Black tees, the furthest of four, overall distance measures 6,389 yards. But tight fairways and testy green complexes require skill and accuracy, especially off the tee.

"Quarry Ridge can be challenging because people have a tendency to try to drive the ball too close to the greens," said head professional John Lucas Jr., who has been at Quarry Ridge since 1997. "The difficulty of the course is the undulating greens and slopes around the greens that take the ball away from the hole. To score well here at Quarry you must try to play from full-shot wedge distance and attack pins from there."

This is true on one of Lucas's favorite holes, the 9th, which plays 201 yards from the back tees and is the longest par-3 on the course. The hole plays from an elevated tee to a fairway lined on both sides with large trees

and ledges. The green is guarded by a front bunker that will catch anything hit short.

Lucas said the hole is a straightforward par-3, and that you should favor the right side for your tee shot. The hole tends to play about a half club short of the yardage on a calm day because of the elevated tee, he said.

His other favorite hole at Quarry Ridge is the 12th. At 447 yards, this is the longest of the par-4s and offers perhaps the best view of all on the course. When you arrive at the green, be sure to look to the southwest where you can see the Middletown countryside and the Sleeping Giant in Hamden.

But even before you arrive on the green, you are facing Quarry Ridge's most difficult hole. From the Blue tees, long hitters need to stay left with their drives. The green is tiny with a small slope through the back middle. Lucas suggests going with the short club if you are between distances because you'll find trouble long and right.

The longest hole is the 4th, which is 509 yards from the Black tees. This hole starts somewhat uphill and ventures down and slightly right. Lucas said the hole is reachable for many players from the Blue tees at 463 yards. But a water hazard along the left could come into play if you're too far left. "Hit your drive down the right side," Lucas recommends. "Once you are in the fairway, you have the choice of laying up or going for it. If you go for the green, be aware of the hazards left and long of the green."

Course owner Michael Milano first visited Quarry Ridge in 2006 and realized it was a special place. Milano was impressed by the many elevation changes throughout and how the property was isolated from surrounding residential areas. "The course is part of the natural landscape rather than built on top of it," he said.

Milano has worked hard to make Quarry



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2009 Club Champions: Men: Mark Fong
Senior: Ed Forsberg
Women: Barbara Bradow
Course Record: 66 - John Lucas (2006)

Ridge not just a great test of golf, but also a great golf experience. Since taking over, Milano has improved irrigation throughout the course and thinned out some tree areas. And he has worked to improve the pace of play by increasing the interval between tee times to 10 minutes.

Off course, clubhouse improvements greatly enhanced the overall experience at Quarry Ridge. Daily dinner specials are available in the restaurant, which stays open until 9 p.m. The Grille Room is roomy and comfortable, with large flat-screen televisions and even wireless Internet so you can catch up while enjoying food and drinks. Or you can simply take in the view from the spacious windows or the new outdoor deck.

The banquet facility regularly hosts receptions, business meetings, showers, tournaments, group golf outings and other special events for up to 60 people in the dining room or up to 165 in the banquet room. Quarry Ridge offers a complete banquet menu for these events.

Quarry Ridge has special greens fee discounts available throughout the golf season along with three types of season passes that allow for unlimited play. Spring specials include 27 holes of golf for the price of 18 holes, and this summer Quarry Ridge will let juniors play for free when accompanied by a full-paying adult.



The 13th hole is a 310-yard par-4.