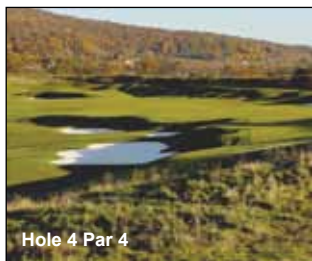


MARYLAND NATIONAL

Maryland National Golf Club ~ National Velvet

Nick Ciattei



A fitting tribute to any golf course is to be recognized by national publications. The same could be said for the architects whose creations achieve such satisfying acclamations. Years before famed golf architect Arthur Hills ever put pen to paper in designing Maryland National Golf Club, he was one of the top at his craft. There's a good chance that sometime somewhere you have planted your tee on one of Hills' layouts. His other notable works in Maryland

are Lighthouse Sound in Ocean City, Blue Mash in Olney, and Waverly Woods outside of Baltimore. Other Hill delights are Lowes Island (now Trump National) and Heritage Hunt, both in Virginia. His modern design features are never more evident than at Maryland National where he laid down an exceptional canvas of golf holes. He has put his signature on a picturesque par 71 layout over 125 acres on the foothills of the Catoctin Mountains utilizing dramatic elevation changes and a tasty combo of woodlands and wetlands.

Since its opening in June of 2002, Maryland National has received praise and accolades that place the course among the top ten in the Free State. The latest honor was being one of only three public courses in the state chosen as one of "The Rolex World's Top 1000 Golf Courses." I'll be the first one to tell you that this is one of the more challenging courses that you will ever play. In addition, I've always found it a

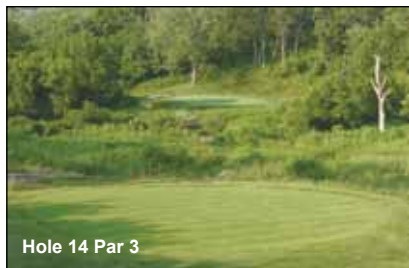
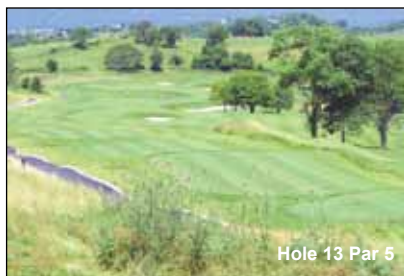


fair test that your past playing experiences come in handy each time around. An impressive fairway bunker splits the fairways of the par 4 opening hole as well as the fifth, also a par 4. Try to keep your tee shot down the left for a better view of the green avoiding the steep drop-off that borders that side. The longest hole at Maryland National plays shorter provided your drive catches the downslope where there's 100 feet of elevation change from tee to green.



A majestic elm has been maintained up the left side of the fairway on the 585-yard par 5 second whose beauty is surpassed only by the exciting opportunity to go for the green in two. Most golfers consider the five par 3's at Maryland National one of the best collections you'll find anywhere. The first of these is the uphill third. Play an extra club to avoid the false front and deep bunker that protect the green. Much of the difficulty on the par 4 fourth is found

around the green complex where the designer left drop-offs and collection areas that make for tough up-and-downs. The previously mentioned fifth has a wide fairway that doglegs slightly to the left. Playing from one of the many perched tee boxes at Maryland National, the par 3 sixth plays downhill to a uniquely shaped green where two tall Sycamore trees and a creek form interesting obstacles. Smart play on the par 5 seventh is to avoid the humps and dips along the way and hit the ample areas provided to set up a chance for birdie. Number eight is a monster par 4 playing 470 yards from the back tees, but the green is fairly open and receptive to long second shots. The only lake on the course runs down the left side of the short par 4 ninth, and the water squeezes in the fairway the closer you get to the green.



The first hole of the inward side is another testy, short par 4 that Maryland National has in its repertoire. It requires two very accurate shots for success. The next three holes, a par 4, 3, and 5, play along a ridge that provides wonderful views of the entire property with the mountains in the backdrop. The thirteenth is definitely a fan favorite as motorists driving I-70 in the distance gawk at its sweeping

portrait. The well protected, two-tiered green sets up difficult approach shots. The simplicity of Hills' design philosophy is never more evident than on the par 3 fourteenth. Leaving the land almost unscathed, several tee boxes and accompanying green do not disturb the wetlands, trees, and wild vegetation. Anything short here and you are hitting from the drop area. The last par 5 is the fifteenth providing a good chance for birdie. A layman's 452 yards from the white tees gives many the ability to reach the green in two. Maryland National's sixteenth hole had me scratching my head the first time, but I really enjoy the arousal of short par 4's. There are plenty of options from the tee. The seventeenth is the last of the par 3's with a striking visual from the raised tee box. Also notice that it is the ninth rated hole on the course proving that beauty is only skin deep. An aggressive play up the left side of the fairway will ease demand on the tough closing hole. Here again Hills provides a wonderfully designed redan green complex with a deep bunker left and wetlands to the right. Par here will likely decide many matches.

Not only is the playing surface at Maryland National plush bentgrass from tee to green, but the modern clubhouse overlooking the course is picture perfect. Schroyer's Tavern provides a casual dining experience that is fast becoming popular at treat time in the Frederick area. Catch some beautiful sunsets painted against Maryland's velvet landscape from the wrap-around deck. Maryland National is one of the region's best golfing experiences and one that will leave an impression hard to forget. 🏌️

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