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16th Hole Wintergreen Devil's Knob Golf Course
By
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What Club Would You Hit?



Today's golf hole is the 16th hole at the Devil's Knob Golf Course at Wintergreen Resorts, located in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Wintergreen, Virginia. Devil's Knob course is the highest in Virginia at 3,850 feet.

When Ellis Maples designed this 18-hole gem, his challenge was to enhance its stunning Blue Ridge Mountain setting with the Devils Knob golf course, which features narrow fairways, speedy greens, and unsurpassed vistas. Being on top of a mountain provided spectacular 50-mile views of the Shenandoah and Rockfish valleys. Because of the elevation, during the golf season, it's often 12-18 degrees cooler than its sister golf course, Stoney Creek. Fall offers the most dramatic mountain foliage backdrop.

While located on top of the mountain range, the golf course is surprisingly level on the mountaintop terrain. One hole that has an elevation change is the 16th hole. From the tee, the 16th hole at Devils Knob offers one of the best views of Wintergreen Resort. In the middle of the back nine, the 16th hole is a solid par four that plays 417 yards from the tips. With an elevated tee, your tee shot can soar down to the fairway. Your approach shot is to a small green guarded by a single bunker.

While staying at Wintergreen Resort, I got a chance to play Devils Knob—the 16th hole from the white tees at a more manageable length of 391 yards. I hit a solid drive to the right side of the fairway. Leaving me with 150 yards to the pin. My approach was straight and true, landing

in the middle of the green, leaving me with a medium-length putt for a birdie, which I left a couple of inches short – I know you're never supposed to leave a birdie putt short. Still, I'm not going to complain about a par.

According to the Wintergreen resort website, after years of play, Devils Knob is getting a facelift this summer. They're replacing the irrigation to provide even watering of the fairways and improving the drainage on some holes. Storms and erosion have taken their toll, forcing management to rebuild the bunkers.

While Stoney Creek Golf Course in the valley is open to the public, Devils Knob Golf Course is only available to Wintergreen Club Members and Wintergreen Resort Lodging Guests.

This photograph is used as an illustration in my book, "Golf a la Cart Version 2," now available on Amazon or by contacting me. It's also available as a digital print at my Etsy Store. To purchase a print, go to the pbsstudios.com Golf Photography Gallery Section of pbsstudios.com

I hope you like my weekly series of columns about golf holes I have played and photographed. The series includes original photographs or digital paintings in the series based on photographed golf holes.

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