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11th Green Rock Harbor "The Rock" Golf Course
By
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What Club Would You Hit?



Today's golf hole digital painting illustration is of the 7th hole at Rock Harbor, the Rock Course Golf Course, located in Winchester. The 7th hole features an island green.

Located on 325 acres, Rock Harbor Golf Course sits in front of a working rock quarry owned by the Perry family. Originally an old apple orchard, the golf course's location, with its natural elevation changes, was a natural fit. It also provided a natural buffer zone from the quarry. Drawing on his background in running a construction company and an asphalt-paving business, owner Dennis Perry decided to design the golf course himself. Many of the golf courses he's seen and played became the basis for Rock Harbor.

Using his regular construction crew created its own challenges. The key to building roads and parking lots is to make everything flat. Perry had a hard time changing that mindset. He reminded the crew that golf course fairways have natural rolls and swales.



The original 18 holes were designed, built, and completed in 2003. With additional land, Perry added a second golf course. Today Rock Harbor offers two championship golf courses, the **ROCK** and the **BOULDER**, each with its own individual character and challenges.

I've played both golf courses. The Rock Golf Course's signature hole is the 7th - a medium-length, par-3, which features an island green that can stretch out to 165 yards from the tips. It's another golf hole in Virginia that features an island green (think Golden Horseshoe and Meadows Farm), where making the right club selection will be difficult. Pick your club, make a good swing, and take your chances.

I played the 7th hole from the white tees at a more manageable length of 132 yards. Because the green is surrounded by water, it's all carry. I took an extra club and took my chances. I landed in the middle of the green and rolled to the back edge. I was too cautious on my first putt, leaving me with a tricky five-footer for par. With five feet left, I sneaked the putt in the side for a par.

This column, digital paintings, and photograph were adapted from a chapter 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 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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