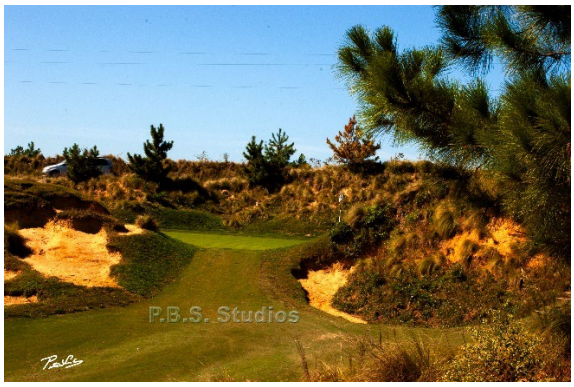
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13th & 14th Holes Tobacco Road Golf Course
By
Peter Smolens



What Club Would You Hit?

Today's golf hole photographic illustrations are of the 13th & 14th Holes of Tobacco Road Golf Course located in Sanford, NC - it's in the Pinehurst Region of golf courses. Tobacco Road is part of "The Maverick Golf Trail". I've had the honor over the years to play all six Mike Strantz golf courses in the mid-Atlantic region several times. My golf experiences on "The Maverick Golf Trail" are a chapter in my golf book "Golf a la Cart Version 2."

Tobacco Road Golf Course is designed by the late golf course architect Mike Strantz. If Pete Dye invented the target golf course, Mike Strantz perfected the concept. In Tobacco Road, Strantz has created his masterpiece. Some people call the Tobacco Road 'bold' and 'artistic,' while others call it 'contrived.' Everyone who plays Tobacco Road agrees that this represents the ultimate in target golf. He used visual deception to make many holes appear to be more difficult. Tobacco Road is visually stunning and surprisingly playable if you play the course as designed.

Built on the remnants of a sand quarry in the Sandhills of North Carolina, Tobacco Road is not the longest golf course, measuring only 6,532 yards from the back tees and has a par of 71.

However, it has a course rating of 73.2 and a slope of 150, meaning it's built to test highly skilled players.



The 14th hole, a beautiful par-3, is the back end of a two-hole stretch in the middle of the back nine that displays Mike Strantz's golf course design philosophy at its best. The 13th hole is a challenging par-5 that requires you to hit to a specific spot. If you play the golf hole as Strantz designed it, you'll find a wide fairway for your landing area. However, like many golf holes at Tobacco Road, if you try to bite off more, it's an easy way to make a high number.

The 14th hole is a straight-ahead par-3. You're hitting over water to an hourglass-shaped green. Pin location will determine club selection. It plays longer than the yardage book numbers. With a green depth of 45 yards, make sure you select the right club, or you could have a very long putt. The first time I played Tobacco Road, I took the wrong club to a back pin and landed on the front of the green. I then proceeded to make a three-putt bogey.

This column, digital paintings, and photographs were adapted from a chapter in my book, "Golf a la Cart Version 2," now available on Amazon or by contacting me. The illustrations are also available as a print at my Etsy Store. To purchase a print, go to the 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.

Give me a like and leave a comment. Let me know what you think about the series.

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