

BEST 18 HOLES YOU CAN PLAY

by Ron Whitten, Architecture Editor, Golf Digest

As golfers, we love to reflect on the most striking holes we've played over the years. Not just the ones where we've scored the best, but the ones that stand out in our minds. We try to analyze what made them good (or bad). Some were beautiful, some were dramatic, others were challenging and a few were just plain aggravating. But they were all memorable.

Part of the beauty of golf course architecture (and of the game itself) is that no two holes are alike. Even the same hole doesn't play the same way twice. The more we study golf holes (especially good holes, thoughtfully designed and expertly constructed), the more fascinating the game of golf can become.

What follows is The Best 18 Holes You Can Play, based upon years of studying golf courses and architectural styles for *Golf Digest* magazine. It's not The Greatest 18 in the world (I defy anyone to pick that), and it's not The Easiest, either. It was selected simply to shed some light upon different aspects of golf course architecture and design. It's The Best from some of North America's most prominent golf architects.

There were three parameters followed in making the selections: Each hole had to be open to public play; no more than one hole was chosen from any one architect; and no more than two holes were chosen from the same state or province.

Play this 18, and you'll have a better appreciation of the quality of public golf courses being designed these days.

Statistics

OUT - 3,348 / 3,195 / 2,930 / 2,497 yards, par 36.

IN - 3,497 / 3,226 / 2,978 / 2,610 yards, par 36.

TOTAL - 6,945 / 6,421 / 5,908 / 5,026 yards, par 72.