

HOLE NO. 18

18TH AT BLACKWOLF RUN GOLF CLUB (MEADOW VALLEYS COURSE),

KOHLER, WISCONSIN.

PETE DYE, DESIGNER.

458 / 395 / 383 / 303 YARDS, PAR 4.

We conclude with a clever hole from perhaps the most creative architect in golf, Pete Dye. It's the 18th at the Meadow Valleys Course at Wisconsin's Blackwolf Run, one of two 18s Dye did there.

The tee boxes sit on a high bluff overlooking the Seboygan River. The fairway sits down in a flat floodplain, separated from the riverbank on the right by a line of trees.

The second shot, a long iron or even a wood, must carry the swiftly-flowing river and miss tree limbs left and right, to reach a huge freeform double green (the right half of which also serves as the 18th green for the adjacent River Course).

It's a great match-play finishing hole, but for short hitters and most women, it's an almost impossible second shot. It's simply too long of a shot to clear the river and reach the green.

Dye's solution (influenced in all likelihood by his wife, Alice, a champion golfer and golf architect herself) was to create an alternate green on this side of the river, off to the left a bit. It's a much tinier target, guarded by a bunker, mounds and a grasstrap, so it's no pushover.

Few finishing holes have as much versatility or sensibility as this 18th.