

Course Review: Eagle Crest (Resort Course)

The Eagle Crest Resort Course, sometimes referred to as the “original course” at the Redmond-area resort, is the oldest of Eagle Crest’s three tracks. It measures a modest 5600 yards from the white tees (6300 from the blues), so it’s very playable from a length standpoint, especially factoring in the extra carry you get in the light High Desert air.

The Resort Course, designed by well-known Oregon golf architect “Bunny” Mason, opened in 1986 and features one of Oregon’s signature golf holes. The 464-yard par 5 second hole (pictured) has a tee box that sits eight stories above the fairway, which is encompassed within a canyon. Hit your drive much right or left, and you’re sitting on a steep canyon wall. It also doglegs right at the end, and if you hit a good drive it’s inviting to try and cut that corner, even though it’s a blind shot. More often than not it’s not a good idea to go for it, but sometimes the temptation is just too great. The tee box is also adjacent to the road that all condo guests tool down, so this is a familiar hole even to non-golfers, and you frequently have a mobile, drive-by audience as you tee off.

Ironically, No. 2 is much more indicative of what you’ll face on the back nine at the Resort Course, as other than No. 2 the front side is generally pretty open. You start off with a very negotiable 335-yard par 4 that gently turns left at the end; your only potential for trouble there is slicing into the driving range on the right. No. 3 is a short, uphill par 3; it borders a far corner of the Eagle Crest property and there are frequently deer lurking about. In fact, you will have played an unusual round at the Resort Course if you *don’t* see deer and/or rabbits at some point.

Things tighten up immediately on the back nine as you arrive at the No. 10 tee. Playing a mere 270 to 300 yards from the whites, No. 10 is a blind uphill drive flanked by homes on both sides. A tall mirror sits at the rear of the tee box so you can see if it’s clear to hit up ahead. It’s a hole that serves notice the last nine holes are going to be considerably different than the first nine, as errant shots that would have easily been in play on the front side can be out-of-bounds and sitting in some homeowner’s well-manicured lawn on the back nine — perhaps even after ricocheting off someone’s roof.



You don’t get as many panoramic views of the Central Oregon mountains on the Resort Course as you do on the Ridge and Challenge courses, which are built across Cline Falls Highway and higher up — but you do get some. Sunsets can be spectacular.

One of the things Don and Pete like the best about Eagle Crest in general is its lack of pretentiousness. It’s a great family resort, and the golf courses likely have the least restrictive dress codes you’ll find on upscale courses. While tank tops are frowned on, there’s no collared shirt requirement. The Resort Course, in particular, seems to draw a lot of “Hey, let’s play golf today” vacationers, so occasionally you’ll catch a little slow play from people not really knowing what they’re doing. The Resort Course has also hosted the Oregon high school golf championships since 1991, so keep that in mind and check dates if you’re planning a late spring visit. The snack bar in the Resort Course clubhouse has limited offerings — the little restaurant at the Ridge Course is much better. Finally, kudos to Eagle Crest for having unique logo balls for each of its courses, including even the Putting Course. We have each of the four proudly displayed in our respective homes.