

Course Review: Eagle Landing Golf Course

Say “Eagle Landing Golf Course” and without fail, the first thing that comes into either Don or Pete’s mind is “red Mercedes.” We will explain in due course.

Oregon old-timers may well recall the Top O’ Scott Golf Course, which operated from 1926 through 2003. It took its name from its location atop Portland’s Mount Scott, really more a big hill of 1,091 feet in Clackamas County near Happy Valley. Top O’ Scott was a short course that spanned less than 5000 yards, though playing to a par 69.

In 2004 Eagle Landing arose from the ashes of Top O’Scott as an upscale, 27-hole par 3 pitch-and-putt course. Completely transformed and modeled in a European style, the longest hole measures 87 yards; the shortest is 41. It’s literally a course you can play with two clubs: your favorite wedge and your putter. There is some sand, so if you’re tied to your sand wedge out of the sand, bring it, too. We only used our pitching wedge and simply made do.

To its credit, Eagle Landing knows what it is and does its thing well. We played there with church friends Craig Carey and Lee Dresser. We soon learned that although obviously short, Eagle Landing doesn’t qualify as “easy.” If you live in East Portland, it would be a great place to hone your short game. Both the 18-hole North Course and the 9-hole South Course include unique undulations, changes in elevation, sand traps and water hazards. Miss the greens and you’ll find rough roughs. The course also features some nice mature trees in many places. We saw fathers teaching children and husbands teaching wives. Eagle Landing self-promotes as “the perfect place for beginners to learn the basic fundamentals, and advanced players to focus on the most important part of golf, the short game.” That’s actually not all hype, it’s pretty accurate.



We found the greens at Eagle Landing average. That’s not a knock, just a statement of fact, at least the day we played. Average size, average speed, average condition. Some greens have undulations, but nothing you can’t read — there were few “tricky breaks” on putts. The one maintenance issue Eagle Landing understandably struggles with are tee box divots and pock-marked greens. It’s really important to follow the old golf adage and fix your ball mark and at least one other, because with the longest one being under 90 yards, the Eagle Landing greens do take a beating.

No, we didn’t forget about the red Mercedes. Eagle Landing is built in the midst of a fairly pretentious, “McMansion” development (though you don’t get any snootiness from the staff). But several holes front streets, and Jaguars, Acuras, BMWs and such troll the pavement, not Honda Civics. Lee bladed a tee shot well over the green on one street-fronting hole just as a shiny red Mercedes came by. The ball’s errant path and the car’s direction looked to be on a collision course; Lee missed the Mercedes by *that much*, in the words of Agent Maxwell Smart.

By the way, Eagle Landing also includes two of Oregon’s nicest miniature golf courses. The pair of 18-hole layouts are not grass courses, you play on “golf carpet,” but this isn’t the windmill or clown’s face kind of mini-golf. These challenging courses strategically curve in and out of trees, waterfalls, fountains and mountains. It’s a great place for a family outing, an adult birthday party, etc. But it’s not a mini-course designed for a dozen 8-year-olds — take that birthday party to Bullwinkle’s in Wilsonville.