

# Course Review: Quail Point Golf Course

The Rogue Valley Manor, a huge Medford retirement center, sits ominously above the Quail Point Golf Course, sort of Bates Motel-like. No wonder; they share the same address, as the manor owns Quail Point. The manor, in fact, also owns Centennial Golf Club, making it a major player in Medford's upscale golf community.

Quail Point is technically a semi-private course; we assume manor residents have some form of tee time preference. But you can get on easily enough, which we did as part of our 2008 Golf Week, a week based in Grants Pass at Don's cousin's home that saw us play a dozen courses throughout Southern Oregon in stifling heat. It was already well over 90 degrees the morning we teed off at Quail Point.

Quail Point is a 9-hole course set on 75 very lush acres. An errant shot could land you in a flowerbed, but you get free relief from those. The entire course is meticulously maintained, the greens in particular. Quail Point's little dance floors are manicured perfectly, roll very quickly but putt smooth and true.

We played the white tees, as is our custom when playing a course for the first time. The whites measure 2900 yards, so Quail Point is medium length. Par is 35; there's only one par 5. Aside from flowerbeds, you'll encounter some trees, quite a bit of sand and lots of water.

No. 1 at Quail Point is a 386-yard par 4 that gives you a good introduction to the course. Your approach shot has to carry a creek, so you want to hit a decent drive to start your day. No. 2 is a 366-yard par 4 that features a double bunker at the green.

The easiest hole is No. 3 as long as you keep it straight off the tee. It's only 287, but there are trees



lining both sides of the fairway. An average drive still leaves you a 9-iron at most. Don kept his tee shot straight and parred the hole; Pete was off in the trees and ended up with a triple bogey.

Quail Point's best hole is No. 4 (photo above). It's only 154, so a 7-iron will do it. But there's a small stream to carry, sand traps in front of the green and a pond on the right, so, as is frequently the case when playing golf, accuracy is important.

No. 5 features a sharp dogleg left; it's not overly difficult as long as you don't hit it too far off the tee — a well-placed 3-wood is a better option than driver. There is a big bunker greenside. Next comes another short (332 yards) par 4, but you're playing to an elevated green, so you may need to club up one on your approach shot.

The seventh at Quail Point is the course's No. 1 handicap hole. Once again you're hitting to an elevated, two-tier green. Depending on the pin placement, putting could be an adventure. No. 8 is the only par 5, just 481, but there's water surrounding three sides of the green. We both navigated the hole well and carded two pars. You finish your Quail Point round with a 159-yard par 3 that's surrounded by a lake. The green is huge, so even a tee shot that hits the dance floor could result in a very long putt.

We walked Quail Point without issue, despite the heat. While there are elevation changes, they're not extreme — again, this is the on-site home course for a retirement community, it's not going to be overly taxing physically. Quail Point also features a popular real grass putting course (photo left).