

# Course Review: Quail Run Golf Course

Central Oregon is full of beautiful golf courses. With so many great layouts concentrated in an area, inevitably one or two are going to be overlooked. Quail Run Golf Course is one of those. Maybe because it's in LaPine, 20 miles or so south of the rest of the courses in Bend proper, or maybe because it's just a golf course, not tied to or near any resort, Quail Run doesn't get the "props" it deserves.

We played Quail Run fairly early in our Quest, it was course No. 23. Our pastor had a coupon for a free round for two that was near its expiration, so we trekked over from Newberg to LaPine and back the same day to play. A journey for sure, but, free golf!

Quail Run is a beautifully maintained, 18-hole championship course with panoramic views of the surrounding Central Oregon mountain ranges. With four sets of tees ranging from 5,400 to more than 6,800 yards, Quail Run provides a challenge for golfers of all skill levels, accommodating serious players and also those who just want to relax amid some beautiful Pacific Northwest scenery.

Quail Run likes to bill itself as "a resort-quality course at half the resort course fees — Oregon golf's best value." There's probably a little hyperbole in that statement, but not much. Quail Run definitely offers some of the lowest green fees in the area, and if you're doing a Central Oregon golf vacation, Quail Run can be a welcome day off for your budget without lowering your golf experience. It's that nice.

Don (and family) had played Quail Run a handful of times prior to the Don and Pete official visit. The staff are unfailingly friendly, and the course is always in great shape. In fact, the first time Don played Quail Run was about a year after it opened in 1991 as a 9-hole layout. At that time the course was so lush it compared with any course in Oregon. It's not that lush since the back nine was added, but it's still well



manicured and generally yields near perfect lies on any shot that finds a fairway.

The golf course features a goodly portion of pine trees, more on the original nine, and trees will be your biggest issue if you hit an errant shot. They line most of the fairways, although the majority of the holes have decent landing areas off the tees. But, if you whack it far enough off-track to be in the trees, you'll have issues. There are a number of natural grasses, weeds and fallen branches to impede your venture back to the fairway. You'll likely learn the hard way that your best strategy is to take your medicine, escape back to the short grass as best you can and play on. Trying to hit a miraculous recovery shot out of the junk is more likely than not just going to cost you another stroke.

The course is also dotted with shallow, white sand bunkers, strategically placed both near greensides but also in some fairways. As sand traps go, they're quite playable. There's also some water, though not a lot. You do have to shoot over the course's largest pond to reach the green on No. 18.

The greens at Quail Run are a little larger than average and very receptive to approach shots; hit the green and it'll usually stick. That doesn't mean they putt slowly — in fact, far from it. The greens are typically quick but consistent. There's break in several, but nothing you can't read and adjust for. You should have a good day on the dance floor.

Finally, don't miss out on the food. It's really just a glorified snack bar, nothing fancy, but everything is tasty and sandwiches are freshly made to order.