

The Golf Club at Ballantyne

A Classic Experience

By JOHN TORSIELLO

The Golf Club at Ballantyne, located in Charlotte, N.C., is a true Must Play.

Listed among the finest PGA public golf courses in the region, and honored with 4.5 Stars by Golf Digest and named as a Top 50 Golf Resort by Golf World, this par-71, tree-lined championship golf course is situated on a dynamic terrain, carefully crafted into the natural hills of the Piedmont. Golfers of all ages and skill levels can enjoy the challenging but fair course that has multiple water features coming into play throughout. The Golf Club at Ballantyne was the first in the Charlotte region to update its greens to Champion Ultra Dwarf in September of 2009.



“We have the best pace of play in town, and I would estimate that 75 percent of our play is local,” says Director of Golf Woody Allen. “We try to walk that fine line so that everyone enjoys their round of golf because they can play it in four hours. We actually try not to sell out all of our tee times.”

Ballantyne’s challenging yet quite approachable 18-hole golf course is the recreational centerpiece of The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge. The track was designed by Land Design/Shape Makers and plays 6,740 yards from the tips, although three other sets of tees allow golfers of all abilities to enjoy this gem. There are ample bunkers, some tree-lined fairways, and enough water to make the player think out every shot, both off the tee and on the approaches to the medium-sized greens.

Your round finishes in grand fashion, with a very good par-four that plays 420 yards. There

is water to the right side of the fairway leading to the green and a sand bunker that flows into the water that you need to steer clear of if you want to end your 18 holes in acceptable fashion.

In addition to the golf course, golf facilities include a spacious practice area, golf pavilion for events and lunch, golf pro shop, and golf event planners for tournaments and outings.

The golf course is located adjacent to The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge, which is a member of Starwood’s Luxury Collection. This Forbes Four-Star, AAA Four-Diamond hotel offers special stay-and-play packages.

Adding to the allure is the Dana Rader Golf School, a state-of-the-art instructional facility selected to Golf Magazine’s prestigious list of Top 25 Golf Schools in America and unrivaled in North Carolina.

The school’s founder and owner, Dana Rader, is a Golf Digest Top 50 Teacher in America and Golf Magazine Top 100 Teacher. With the assistance of her award-winning instructional staff and state-of-the-art technology, players can learn the basics or advance their skills. From video swing analysis to multi-day golf schools, this is sure to fulfill any golfer’s dream vacation. It operates year round.

“Our philosophy is to coach new and experienced golfers on an individual basis with consideration for each person’s goals, playing abilities, and swing tendencies,” says Rader. “We enhance overall player performance where it counts, on the golf course. Our instructional staff uses the most-up-to-date teaching techniques, technology, on-course instruction, club fitting, and fitness to develop our player’s overall game.”

For tee times, call the pro shop at 704-248-4383, or visit www.golfballantyne.com. For lessons and golf school packages, call the golf school at 704-542-7635, or visit www.danarader.com.

www.TheBallantyneHotel.com

PUTTING IS A GAME OF PRECISION

Here’s what separates the pros from the three-putting public, according to Golf Digest 50 Best Teacher Dana Rader.



In order to be a good putter you must do three things. First, make sure you are properly fitted for your putter. This is a huge mistake that golfers make and a putter that doesn’t fit will produce mechanical errors and compensations.

Second, learn the proper set up for putting. The proper fit and set-up go hand in hand. If a putter fits you then the posture, distance from the ball and alignment are easier to do. For example, if the putter is too long it affects how you can stand to the ball and in effect moves your eyes off the target line.

Third, keep your body still and your eyes quiet. Quiet eyes means you are focused on making the putt and not thinking about making a perfect stroke. When your brain gets active with swing thoughts, your eyes will begin to blink, causing a lack of focus to the target. It also causes the brain to send confusing messages to the muscles about how long or far the putt is and how hard to hit the ball. There is considerable research in this area and it would be very helpful in making you a better putter. In fact, I believe that you can be just okay mechanically if you believe you can make every putt you stand over. Do that consistently and you will perform at a much higher success rate.

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