

THE NEW COURSE



WAYNE FREEMAN: This is a good starting hole, not particularly difficult but the idea is to get everybody off the tee without stressing people out too much. Why any course would start out with a tough par 5 is beyond me.

MIKE BLUM: Very straightforward Par 4, a good starting hole.

VIC PLACERES: The tee sets you up to hit it to the left of the mounds further than you should.

EUNICE CHO: Very straightforward... tee shot does narrow, so I take a fairy wood. It's all about where you put the ball

LISA MULVANEY: Grip it and rip it.

This is a nice hole to start off the day. On the right you're greeted with some bird of paradise plants amidst some oriental fountain grass. Down the fairway some nasty trees were replaced with purple fountain grass, augmented some existing acacias and the melaleuca with day lilies. On the left side along the driving range the landscape crews have been slowly cleaning up the gaps and filling them in with a variety of plants. The idea is to give some different textures, a variety of colors at different heights.

OLD RANCH AT 50



WAYNE FREEMAN: one of the best holes on the course. challenging tee shot with big tree guarding the green on right and OB on the left. You need a very well-placed tee shot to have any chance to reach the green in regulation. If you hit the drive on right side you have to contend with that tree. Most times you have to run up a shot. The green is one of most difficult on the course. Because of the slope, and because it's very undulating, and very mounding, even with the pin in middle of green, this can be very challenging.

MIKE BLUM: one of the better holes on course—tight, challenging, a hard driving hole.

VIC PLACERES: The trick here is to hit a little cut or fade off the left side. If you're going to miss, miss it with a bigger cut. You'd rather blow it to the right rather than the left.

EUNICE CHO: another straightforward hole. The second shot ball placement is very important

LISA MULVANEY: Stay on the right side

There are twenty different species of grass around the lake -- wild blue rye, pampas grass, rushes (*scirpus*), purple fountain grass, switchgrass, even some papyrus. These are not only attractive -- they act as a filter and catch the fertilizers and chemicals before they can go in the water.

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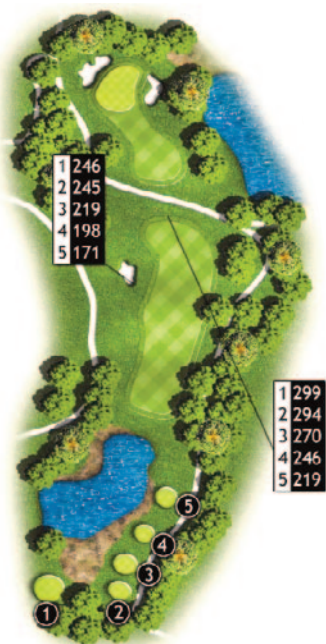


OLD RANCH
COUNTRY CLUB

3

PAR 4

- 398
- 392
- 364
- 343
- 312



1 246
2 245
3 219
4 198
5 171

1 299
2 294
3 270
4 246
5 219

WAYNE FREEMAN: Another wonderful golf hole, especially from the back tee. It's in a natural chute, so you have to hit it between trees on either side, then have it dogleg left. There's a large bunker to contend with on the left of the fairway and trees on the right. So you need a well-placed drive to have the opportunity to hit the green on your second shot. The Green is well designed and well-protected by bumpers, From regular and women's tees, big tree on right that can seriously come into play and grab a lot of golf balls.

MIKE BLUM: This is a straightforward gold level hole.

VIC PLACERES: Just stand up and hit it hard. If you're going to miss, hit it right.

EUNICE CHO - This is almost exactly like Hole 2. For me, because I'm a longer hitter, a lot of the trouble is out of the way. You want to be below the hole.

LISA MULVANEY: My least favorite hole. An annoying, gigantic tree is directly in front of the ladies tee. Finally, after some years, we convinced them to at least cut off a low-hanging branch.

There is a lot of bad soil around this area -- so the groundskeepers have tried to cover it with a lot of ground cover — lantana, California rock grass, more purple fountain grass and the pink "muhly grass" (*Muhlenbergia capilaris*). In the low areas by the lake, papyrus (an Egyptian plant with some very nice fall flowers.) were planted and the grass between the tee areas was let to grow unmowed. This soaks up some excess water and also cuts down on maintenance, plus the unmowed areas accentuates and makes the contours more readable.

OLD RANCH AT 50



OLD RANCH
COUNTRY CLUB

4

PAR 4

- 393
- 369
- 348
- 312

WAYNE FREEMAN: This is a good par 4. The fairway is protected by bunkers on the right and left, the green is very challenging. The green is sloped especially in the front half and large mounds protect the back half. It's very challenging.

MIKE BLUM: Old Hole 4 had a great personality. Now it's just hit and chase it — they've removed most of the trouble.- all those gnarly bushes.

VIC PLACERES: If the pin is in front, I use a 3-wood, starting on the left with a little cut . If the pin is in back, you have to get your first shot at least to the right. Like most of the holes, the greens can be penal if you don't watch it.

EUNICE CHO: Off the tee you want it right in the middle. Once you get over the hill that cart path gets you in the rough. So I take a fairy wood to that as well.

LISA MULVANEY: This is a pretty fun hole. Try to hit over the cart path.

As you approach the green on the right is the first of some new succulent areas, which drew doubt at first but now it's mainly compliments. The path from 4 to 5 has been beautified -- on the right zebra grass was planted amidst some the existing wandering jew (the deep purple plant). Past the rest station on your left is a fine little fern meadow -- asparagus ferns, sword ferns, forest ferns, and a few others amidst some fine fescue grass. Just beyond the ferns check out the dead tree. The canopy was trimmed off to keep it from blowing over and now its become a natural wildlife habitat. Boring birds like woodpeckers now dig holes and eat insects.

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WAYNE FREEMAN: This is an excellent par 3 on a course with a lot of good par 3s. It's up against the fence by the new houses and its mid-distance requires an accurate tee shot.

MIKE BLUM: This is a good par 3. From the back tees, it's hit a 5-iron and pray that you hit the green.

VIC PLACERES: Your strategy varies depends on the placement of the flag. Just hit some kind of iron.

EUNICE CHO: Make sure you get it close to the hole because the undulated greens are challenging. Hitting into the green can work to your favor.

LISA MULVANEY: A short par 3 with the wind at your back. You must avoid the front right bunker.

To the right of the fairway is some nice fountain grass in the planter and behind it is lantana which will eventually grow taller than the fountain grass. Beyond that is a thick callow lilly which is a wetland plant. Then you see the unmowed bermuda around it. It gives contrast and texture -- the nice green mowed grass against the longer, unmowed grass with the purplish seeds at the tips. Just before you reach the 6th tee on the left is some tall pampa grass which is an invasive species.

OLD RANCH AT 50



WAYNE FREEMAN: This is the best hole from a beauty standpoint. The new back tee forces power hitters to hit a long drive over water to have chance at the green in two. The second shot is also over water. Overall, it's very good risk/reward par 5.

MIKE BLUM: What's interesting is that this is our No. 1 handicap hole, but maybe our easiest hole – it's an easy Par 5, easy to get on in 3. Much prettier now because of all the water. Easier in every way except it's a longer course.

VIC PLACERES: Your first shot depends on the tee you play. I aim between the fairway bunkers a little left and hit it with some draw. A good drive gets you at the greens in two. If not, I would go with a 5-iron layup then a wedge.

EUNICE CHO: To me, this is all about visualizing... have to carry it over the bunker. The more left I aim it the better my second shot. 190 yards sets up a perfect 5-wood into the green. I don't care about where pin is... from there a two-putt... again, want to be below the green.

LISA MULVANEY: This is a fun par 5. Full bore driver to get around the bend. Then a short shot. I play the silver tees a lot. The gold tees make you be aware of a lot more stuff on the hole.

To the the left of the tee -- in the water and "wetlands" along the base -- are cat tails and willows surrounded by new plantings of many species of grasses. The unmowed Bermuda catches the nitrates from whatever they're planting on the base. Down the fairway on the right planter area - the real tall thin grass is Indian grass, and some sages, including Santa Barbara sage. Further up the hole, the wraparound reveals the lake and the backdrop. -- a member favorite. "The sun coming up over the edge of the lake.. it's beautiful... and always shown on a tour."

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OLD RANCH
COUNTRY CLUB

7

PAR 3

- 196
- 171
- 149
- 124



WAYNE FREEMAN: I think this was Ted Robinson's favorite hole. Bunkers are hidden from back tees. It's very camouflaged, a lot of deception on the hole. Also a lot of times you're hitting into the wind.

MIKE BLUM: This is a terrific par 3. But our Par 3s are the strength of the course

VIC PLACERES: This is a lot like Hole No. 5. You're playing into the teeth of the wind. Club selection is key. Our par 3s are good. When I play Old Ranch my goal is to make par on all our par 3s.

EUNICE CHO: This is very straightforward... lot of people worry about the bunkers... I just look at them, point and go for it... grip and rip it off the red tees.

LISA MULVANEY: Most newbies don't see the two hidden bunkers. The wind is a major factor, so go up a club or two.

This is another one of Old Ranch's pretty three-pars. Like 18, this hole is totally different in the morning than it is in the afternoon. And this hole and 9 are the only two to have rough in the front. Many people think this hole is a redan but from a technical architectural standpoint it's not. The hump in front keeps you from playing bump and run. You've got to reach it.

OLD RANCH AT 50



WAYNE FREEMAN: Since we added a new back tee, this is probably tied for longest hole. From back tee, which is elevated, this is one of the prettiest tee shots. It goes over water, and a bunker protects the right side. Elevated green for the second shot. Very solid par 4.

MIKE BLUM: Hole 8 is the toughest hole on the course from the back tees. From the regular tees it's normal, just long. The back tee really brings water in play.

VIC PLACERES: Once again, this is one of those where you want to aim a little left and still hit a little cut. At 255 yards, those fairway bunkers are right in my wheelhouse so you need to be careful. You cannot hit it into those fairway bunkers.

EUNICE CHO: I try to just aim for left side... fly the bunker and I'm straight in middle of fairway. This is another one where you hit it below the pin

LISA MULVANEY: You have to think about the bunkers. If you go beyond the green, it's no fun.

Eight is a great hole overall. Some say it could use a few more bunkers. At 31, Old Ranch has few bunkers compared to most courses which have at least 60, according to groundskeepers. A little past the water on the cart path, take a look at the meadow on the left. More fountain grass and right in the middle is a ponderosa pine that fell over. Instead of removing it, the crew chopped it into a couple sections. Now worms eat it, fungi grows on it, birds eat it, animals eat it...it's a mini-habitat.

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9

PAR 5

- 549
- 522
- 495
- 449



WAYNE FREEMAN: This hole has a lot of subtleties. You can't see the water from the tee box which is interesting – nor can you see the big bunker on the left side. Big hitters can hit the water. To reach the green in two you have to hit two really good golf shots. You're hitting over water on the second shot and then the water lines the whole left side of fairway. The two tiered green creates a lot of interesting pin placements.

MIKE BLUM: This is a good honest par 5, water... used to drive my wife crazy. Shorter hitters can't get over water on second shot,

VIC PLACERES: Hit it right at the bridge. If your first shot is good, almost always hit with a 3-wood. Otherwise a 5-iron or a 4-iron lay-up. Your distance control is huge. get a little short and you roll back to big problems. Too far you have some bunker problems. I think I'd rather deal with the bunker problems.

EUNICE CHO: I have to hit a fairy wood off the tee otherwise I go in the water. Sometimes I can go for it and reach the green in two... but wind is always a big factor – especially on 18 but generally coming back to clubhouse

LISA MULVANEY: This is a fun hole. You want to hit a good drive, then a knee knocker across the water. If you get across, you're okay. Most ladies look to lay up.

On the path to the ninth tee, where everyone was cutting through and killing the plants, the crew recently made an attractive barrier -- with agave, some maidenhair grass, and blood red trumpet creeper vine. Down the fairway check out the different colors and textures between the mowed and unmowed grass, and the plantings behind the green and by the clubhouse.

OLD RANCH AT 50



WAYNE FREEMAN: We added a new tee 2-3 years ago. The back tee makes this hole longer and dogleg left, so there's a real premium on your drive. It's very challenging.

MIKE BLUM: This is a terrific hole from the back tee, super easy from regular tee. Stay short of the pin. This is the most severe green on the course... You must be below the hole.

VIC PLACERES: I usually use a 3-wood. A driver creates an awkward distance. The 2nd shot is downwind so you have to keep that in mind and use distance control. That's part of the reason I lay it back -- a 100 yard shot is a lot easier to get backspin on and have it die.

EUNICE CHO: I love this hole because I can hit my driver sometimes to the fringe, but most of the time about thirty yards out. Very undulated as well. any long putt is like three-putt range because of the undulations.

LISA MULVANEY: This hole is super fun. I choose a much lower club—a 7-iron, or 5-wood—but the green is treacherous, all kinds of humps and undulations.

Ten is a very difficult green because there are not a lot of pin placement possibilities, so the crew feels the turf often gets worn down too much. This is another hole that could probably use more bunkers but the variations and the waves of the grasses are calm and soothing.

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WAYNE FREEMAN: a solid par 3. 6-iron... pretty straightforward.

MIKE BLUM: Good solid par 3...

VIC PLACERES: This is another one of our great par 3s. It's like 7, with a similar wind. It's an iron shot but sometimes you have to play two clubs down.

EUNICE CHO: We're hitting into the wind on this hole, so you have to take an extra club. Use a shorter club, and it sucks back about 20 feet. Again be below the hole.

LISA MULVANEY: The biggest challenge is the wind which comes up around 11am. You can almost set your clock by it.

In recent years the grounds crew has planted *muhlenbergia* along with *salvia greggia*, autumn sage, that gives the red and pinkish color in the summer and fall. The plants with the purplish flowers are spiderwort. The crews still think that from a visual standpoint it's still kind of plain, so they have discussed removing some of the acacia shrubs which don't grow well and put some more no-mow areas on the sides.

OLD RANCH AT 50



WAYNE FREEMAN: This is a good hole, with dogleg right, and the hazard out of bounds from Lampson. It requires well-place drive to get a birdie and a well placed tee shot because of the dogleg, the hazard on the right and trees on left.

MIKE BLUM: This is the tightest hole in golf course... a live par 4. The key is to get your tee shot in play... the narrowness is the challenge,,, just a little dog leg

VIC PLACERES: I use a 3-iron off the tee, avoiding the right side at all cost. It's downwind and downhill so play a club less.

EUNICE CHO: I find this a very tricky hole, so I tend to hit a 5-iron or rescue club. There are a lot of hazards -- streams, trees -- so just get it in the middle of the fairway. For your second shot hit it a little longer than normal. Then just get it on the green for easy putt.

LISA MULVANEY: Another tricky hole, but fun because of the creek down the side. Long hitters usually take a shorter club to avoid the creek or other hazards.

The out-of-play area was all acacia shrub and mariposa lilies when I got here. We've been replacing some excess acacia and augmenting the mariposa with fall fescue and fine fescue. The creek area by the bridge is tough to get anything to grow -- but then this is where all the runoff from College Park East enters, sometimes surging so hard it erodes the hillside.

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OLD RANCH
COUNTRY CLUB

13

PAR 4

- 402
- 379
- 357
- 339
- 316



MIKE BLUM: – plays long, from front it's easy.

VIC PLACERES: This is a weird hole for me. Used to hit a 3-wood. Now I just use a driver -- right down the middle of the fairway. It's an awkward hole. You can't go left because of the trees, but you can't play right because of the hazard. If you do miss, you want to miss left. The greens are one of those two-tier jobs. Like the 12 hole, you play a half club or so short.

EUNICE CHO: Just have to aim down the fairway, hit it left center so it always bounces to the right middle. I like this hole, especially when the pin is in the back. It's a pretty straightforward green. Sometimes afternoon gets dryer and harder, and the greens get quicker.

LISA MULVANEY: This hole looks easy but it's not. The slope and the giant pine and the stinking pepper which used to be little but now it's not.

13 is a favorite hole of many. Starting from the back tees are planted some agapanthas, and fortnight lilies (yellow blooms with maroon spots), butterfly bush (long pink cluster of blooms) and lions tails. The eucalyptus on the right are interesting - - the soft wood has taken a beating from golfers who slice so all the soft dark spots on the bark is the tree healing itself from all the hits.

OLD RANCH AT 50



WAYNE FREEMAN: This is an excellent Par 5, because the wind tends to be tricky. If you can't get near the green on your second shot, the third is over water and difficult to judge. It requires a precise third shot, unless you're a big hitter.

MIKE BLUM: This is a beautiful, challenging par 5. The tree-lined fairway is long enough and the lake in front of the hole makes it difficult to get on the green in 2.

VIC PLACERES: I aim at the cart path and try to hit a hook. You want to hit it right to left but the wind makes it run left to right. Ideally you end with a layup with a 6-iron to 4-iron. The third shot is probably the toughest on our par 5s. The key is to be able to use at least a 7 iron -- get a lot of spinning so the ball comes back. You just can't come up short. I'd rather be in the back bunker than short.

EUNICE CHO: I love this hole. It's pleasing to the eye and it sets up perfectly for the way I naturally draw the ball as it moves left. A good drive leaves me about 220-230 yards out. Then I use a three-wood and I hit it right so sometimes it doesn't end up on green.

LISA MULVANEY: Against the wind, grip it and rip it. Avoid the trees. On your third shot the water in front of the green is like a horseshoe that collects balls back to the water.

There used to be piles of stored on the right against the base. They have been leveled out and planted with a combination of tall fescues and fine fescues, Color was added with fortnight lillies. Then it was all tied together, and given a sense structure, with the unmowed areas. Being up against the base, the course has a constant challenge with gophers and this area is no exception..

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WAYNE FREEMAN: 205 yards, 3-iron. Nothing special.

MIKE BLUM: Hole 15 is a very long Par 3. Plays 224 all of it from Back tee. I think it's tougher than its reputation. I have no idea why this is rated second easiest hole on course or the easiest on the back nine.

VIC PLACERES: This is the longest par 3 on the course and the wind is down-wind probably harder than anywhere else on the course so always play down a club and a half or two. I usually use a 6-iron, sometimes a 5-iron and just try to get it on the green. You do not want to hit it left.

EUNICE CHO: This is another very straightforward hole, actually kind of ho-hum. You have to make sure you hit the right club, right distance... if you do usually come up with a par

LISA MULVANEY: The wind is usually with you. The huge green gives lots of places to put the pin. A back right location makes it really difficult.

The meadow on the right used to be scraggly mariposa and myoporum which has been replaced and/or augmented with Pride of Maderia (which gives it some height and tiers and a showy long purplish bloom), and *abuella grandiflora* (the boxy bush with white flowers).. All this and the butterfly bush are now a habitat for bees and birds, and the bluebirds use the new birdhouse which the WGA monitors. The club has applied to have this registered with the Audubon society.

OLD RANCH AT 50



WAYNE FREEMAN: This is a good par 5, but architecturally, it's average.

MIKE BLUM: What I most remember about this hole -- actually the old 16 -- is one day I was standing on the middle of the fairway and I heard the noise of an F-111. It was deafening but impressive -- everybody loved them. So one day I hear the noise, and I look up to see this F-111 barely clear the fence. It seemed only about 30 feet above my head and I could feel the heat. An unbelievable experience.

VIC PLACERES: Aim at the left bunker and cut it off the tee. You just can't hit it right. Even the left fairway bunker is better than hitting it right.

EUNICE CHO: Thi is my second favorite hole because I can hit it on in two. The drive is tricky. You can't see where you're going so I hit it over the bunker on right. Then bread and butter 5-wood to get on green, two-putt and get out of there.

LISA MULVANEY: A lights up, fun hole! Long drives but it's easy to go in the bunkers on the left or right, You have find the saddle. I sometimes use a rescue club to lay up in front.

The right side of the fairway used to be a plain meadow which has now been planted with a a whole variety of cactus and other succulents, intermixed with sages, iris and wild blue rye and Hong Kong orchid trees -- they have large thick leaves and an attractive purplish red flowers. Birdhouses have been placed here and really made it a habitat. We get a lot of compliments for all these.

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WAYNE FREEMAN: I think this is a better than average golf hole. It often plays into a cross wind and on the tee shot have all that water on your right, But the challenge of the hole is the second shot with the wind coming off the water on your right and then you have more water on the back left. Aa lot of people tend to pull ball left into bunker or water.

MIKE BLUM: This is a good solid par 4.

VIC PLACERES: Take a driver and grip it and rip it. Aim at the right green side bunker.

EUNICE CHO: I just take my driver and grip it and rip it... it's a wide fairway... I'm usually about 90 yards in... You think you're pin high but end up 20 feet short, so I usually choose an extra club for extra yardage...

LISA MULVANEY: This is a ladies long drive. The wind is a factor so just rip it. The green is hard to reach. But hit it too much and you're in back in the water.

Golfers love the whole while groundskeepers think the hole could be visually more interesting, a shade more challenging. There were discussions about subtly and slightly enlarging no-mow areas which would help to better frame it visually when you're standing at the tee.

OLD RANCH AT 50



WAYNE FREEMAN: This is one of our best holes and definitely the most challenging if there is any kind of wind. You have to hit it over water so that's a problem if you don't hit a long enough drive. Another one of our two-tier greens and the back of the green is sloped, so making par on any back pin is a big challenge.

MIKE BLUM: This is the signature hole of the course with the lake and the wind. I don't care what time of day you are playing – it's almost always a 30 yard wind.

VIC PLACERES: I use a driver or 3-wood and aim it at the red stake that marks the corner of the hazard. There is nothing good about the left or right side.

EUNICE CHO: For hole 18, I try to swing out of my shoes and often end up pushing my tee shot right. Which means I'm hitting into the wind on my second shot and that is a challenge. 50-50 I hit in regulation. Have to lay up on my tee shot... usually a rescue shot... that one is really into the wind...

LISA MULVANEY: This is a fun hole depending on the time of day. The tee shot can be anywhere from a driver to a 4-Rescue. You have to know the wind, which you can't always feel from the tee box, Once you figure that out, you still have to shoot over the water to a large green with a lot of slope back to front. .

This hole is totally different from morning to afternoon. The afternoon winds make it dryer so the greens are much faster. The crews say the soil is also challenged—when they reconstructed and filled it in, they put the good top soil down deep and the tough soil on top—so grass doesn't grow well. They're fixing that and letting the bermuda grow longer near the lake to filter the fertilizers and chemicals we use. On the right side we added some more Pride of Madeiras and lantana.