



Colorado

# TPC Colorado Golf Course

## Golf Course Architect's Hole-by-Hole Commentary

### HEAVEN'S GATE

**HOLE** 1  
**PAR** 5

Tour 635  
Scratch 635  
Long 615  
Back 555  
Middle 485  
Intermediate 435  
Forward 380

A natural plateau creates the first landing area and sets up the layout of this open, downhill par 5. This plateau offers a well-formed, comfortable opening hole if golfers want to play the hole as a three-shotter. Players that hit a strong tee shot through the "gate" of pot bunkers could find the speed slot downhill, opening up a variety of options for their second shot. A combination of stacked sod-wall pot bunkers along with larger bunkers, define various landing areas and strategic options for your second shot.

The green may be reachable in two shots for players that have hit their tee shot down the hill. A narrow drainage swale flowing across the front edge of the green and the shallow depth of the green surface will require players to be precise with their approach shot. This layout resembles the first hole at The Old Course in St. Andrews. The except is with attention to the intermittently wet and dry variations throughout the year. The hazard sneaks around behind the right half of the green requiring a little more attention on approach shots played to the right half of the green. Hole locations on the left half of the green are backstopped by a high ridge. Ending up with a hanging lie in the rough, will create additional concerns as players look down at a shallow green running away from them, ending up in the hazard below the front edge of the green.

### BIARRITZ

**HOLE** 2  
**PAR** 3

Tour 234  
Scratch 215  
Long 190  
Back 165  
Middle 135  
Intermediate 110  
Forward 85

The expansive tees for this longer par 3 are slightly elevated above the green, perched on a bluff above the natural lake, giving players a good view of the largest green surface on the golf course (11,500 square feet).

The green is inspired by a famous par 3 in France that has been replicated many times throughout the world over the past 80 years. The main feature of the green is a deep swale cutting across the middle creating three distinctly different areas for hole locations. The front plateau is shallow and will require a shorter yet precise shot to keep the ball on it for a good birdie opportunity. The swale itself is 25' wide and 2-3' deep and holes located along the bottom will collect tee shots that are close. The back plateau is the largest area on the green but is surrounded on three sides by water. A longer, nerveless tee shot will be required to get all the way back onto that peninsula. For those still trying to ease into the round there is ample bail-out room short right of the green. Be careful with the chip from there as the green runs away from the player towards the lake.

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**HERO'S ALLEY**  
**HOLE** 3  
**PAR** 4

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Tour         | 393 |
| Scratch      | 375 |
| Long         | 355 |
| Back         | 325 |
| Middle       | 295 |
| Intermediate | 255 |
| Forward      | 210 |

The second half of the waterside duo of holes brings the players to a short par 4. This hole wraps around the lake and is very unique and interesting with the rolling ground that extends off of the high ridge to the west. The change in elevation adds a vertical dimension for players to consider as one of the many available options. Players can hit anything from driver to seven iron off the tee, depending upon their strategy and confidence level.

The scorecard yardage measures the hole as a dogleg left, but the heroic shot would be played straight at the green if the wind is favorable. For those who feel up to that challenge, there are two "alleys" available for them to utilize while trying to reach the green with their tee shot. The beginning of the rock wall just left of the cross bunker puts the player's tee shot on a flat narrow piece of fairway that should allow the ball to run up onto the green. The players using the more forward tees, playing up and over the hill just right of the cross bunker should catch the backside downslope that will also direct a ball down onto the green. Players can choose the shot direction that compliments their game and suits their angle of approach from the tee.

For those who choose to play a little more conservatively, lay-up positioning will be important if they want to have a view of the green on their second shot. The further away from the edge of the lake they play, the less they will see on their second shot. There is a lot of fairway to play to on this hole. The key is to avoid the three sod-wall pot bunkers with the tee shot.

**BIG SHOT**  
**HOLE** 4  
**PAR** 4

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Tour         | 527 |
| Scratch      | 485 |
| Long         | 450 |
| Back         | 405 |
| Middle       | 360 |
| Intermediate | 310 |
| Forward      | 270 |

Players head up over the ridge and drop into the next area of golfing adventure. There are five holes located in this central valley of the course. The first to be played will be the long, par 4 fourth hole. The fairway has ample width, approximately 65 yards, but is defined along the left side by a deep arroyo and on the right side by a pair of deep bunkers. Players will need to identify the hole location on the green to determine their best angle of approach for what will likely be a long second shot.

The green sits beautifully at the foot of a hill with a large bunker wrapping around the left side of the green. Hole locations on the left part of the green will be tough to get close to unless the tee shot has been positioned near the fairway bunkers on the right. Hole locations to the right side of the green will give players a bit more latitude on where to approach from. Shots played at the green from farther left in the fairway will need to cross the green side bunker, but will have the length of the green to work with as these longer approach shots run out. The fairway wraps around the green so that players who don't hit or hold the green will have a variety of shot options.

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**HIGH ROAD  
HOLE  
PAR** 5  
5

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Tour         | 626 |
| Scratch      | 575 |
| Long         | 520 |
| Back         | 465 |
| Middle       | 430 |
| Intermediate | 390 |
| Forward      | 350 |

While this mid-length par 5 traverses a subtle portion of the property, the golf itself is anything but that. With a favorable wind this green can be reached in two shots, but both shots will need to be superiorly executed. The tee shot is played to an expansive fairway (70 yards wide) with a sharp ridge splitting the fairway into a narrower “high road” on the left and a broad, low road on the right. The green is potentially reachable from either location as the hole is relatively straight. Approaching the green from the narrow high road, will give the player a view of the green surface and will provide the best angle to funnel the ball onto the green.

Golfers playing the hole as a three shot par 5 will have several choices. Players should consider the hole location prior to playing their second shot so they can set up the best angle of approach for the short third shot. The fairway swings far to the left wrapping around the large bunker fronting the green. The small green has a variety of challenges around it, including a steep fall-off along the back left and a couple of hidden pot bunkers off the back and right sides. Players can choose from nearly 90 degrees of angles to approach this green, depending upon the hole location.

**RIVIERA  
HOLE  
PAR** 6  
4

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Tour         | 360 |
| Scratch      | 330 |
| Long         | 300 |
| Back         | 270 |
| Middle       | 230 |
| Intermediate | 210 |
| Forward      | 190 |

The sixth hole is a dramatic, short par 4 sitting in a wide, low valley. The elevated tees give players a great view of the hole as well as a spectacular backdrop of the entire Front Range. The golf hole itself is inspired by the strategic layout of the famous tenth hole at Riviera Country Club.

Dynamic bunkers line the hole from the right side with an additional bunker located on the left side, just short of the green. The wide fairway sitting within these bunkers and just short of the green looks inviting even with the small green of 5,000 square feet - the smallest on the golf course. The green drops to the left on the front half and to the right on the back half so players will need to proceed with caution and precision. Position in the fairway will be very important for the approach shot. The deep pot bunker fronting the green will also play a substantial role in helping players formulate a plan of attack here. The green is reachable in one stroke if the wind is down or out of the east, but that shot is high risk/high reward. Positioning the tee shot adjacent to the left side bunker will open a direct shot to the green without having to navigate the deep pot bunker.

**BLIND MAN’S  
BLUFF  
HOLE  
PAR** 7  
4

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Tour         | 458 |
| Scratch      | 430 |
| Long         | 400 |
| Back         | 355 |
| Middle       | 325 |
| Intermediate | 285 |
| Forward      | 250 |

Having played down to the lowest part of the golf course, players will now start the journey back up with a semi-blind tee shot on this mid-length par 4. Two fescue-covered hills frame the fairway, leading players to the green to set up their tee shot. From the landing area, players will face another semi-blind shot on the approach. This shot should be played onto the low “bluff” fronting the green. This will allow the ball to bounce and roll onto the green surface which falls away and to the left.

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## REVELATION

**HOLE** 8  
**PAR** 3

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Tour         | 192 |
| Scratch      | 175 |
| Long         | 150 |
| Back         | 135 |
| Middle       | 120 |
| Intermediate | 100 |
| Forward      | 70  |

The eighth hole is the most site-specific hole on the golf course and truly unique. This relatively short par 3 is played on a narrow, natural peninsula lined by large Cottonwood trees. The peninsula extends out into Lonetree Reservoir and as players get out to the green they are greeted with their first full view of the lake. It is here that the proximity and natural beauty of the course presents itself. The 50-yard-deep green with its low rolling contours will provide plenty of variety for various hole locations. Players will need to maintain their focus in this scenic setting. Natural wetlands line the fairway which is no wider than the green itself. The dry ground between the tees and the green, is the only safe place on this hole besides the green.

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## TURNER BEND

**HOLE** 9  
**PAR** 4

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Tour         | 450 |
| Scratch      | 420 |
| Long         | 380 |
| Back         | 340 |
| Middle       | 300 |
| Intermediate | 265 |
| Forward      | 235 |

The final hole of the front nine bends strongly from left to right around the grove of Cottonwood trees through a beautiful valley. A combination of shaped bunkers and stacked sod wall bunkers give players a few options to consider on their tee shot. This par 4, with its strong bend to the right can play short if players can place their tee shot in the fairway between the various bunkers.

As they make their way to the landing area, players come around the grove of trees and are greeted with one of the most beautiful approach shots and green settings on this golf course. The shallow green sits on the bank of Lonetree Reservoir with a backdrop of Long's Peak. A shorter iron, used with precision, is needed on the approach shot.

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## EAGLE'S LAIR

**HOLE** 10  
**PAR** 4

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Tour         | 332 |
| Scratch      | 300 |
| Long         | 270 |
| Back         | 240 |
| Middle       | 210 |
| Intermediate | 185 |
| Forward      | 165 |

The back nine start out with a bang! This short par 4 is dramatic and interesting in every regard. The natural undulating ground sets up a variety of strategic options off the tee, while the Scottish-style pot bunkers and Lonetree Reservoir combination enhance this spectacular setting. The larger green tempts players to try to reach and hold it with their tee shot providing an eagle opportunity to start their second nine holes.

Players not inclined to try for the green with their tee shot have plenty of other options. A well-played shot to the top of the narrow plateau in the fairway adjacent to the pot bunkers will leave players with a full shot into the green with a short wedge. A slightly more aggressive play would be to sling a longer left-to-right shot off of the second bunker trying to catch the downslope that will advance the ball to the bottom of the green. This takes the bunkers out of play for the short approach to the green.

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**RUB OF THE  
GREEN  
HOLE  
PAR**

**11  
4**

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Tour         | 502 |
| Scratch      | 470 |
| Long         | 435 |
| Back         | 390 |
| Middle       | 345 |
| Intermediate | 300 |
| Forward      | 265 |

As players move back into the central valley of the property they face the only bunkerless, waterless hole on the golf course . . . no problem! They will need to focus on this hole that looks so benign. The fairway and green are full of strong rolling contours that could take shots away from their intended line, feed an errant shot onto the green or back towards the fairway. The hole plays softly uphill from tee to green which disguises some of the movement and subtlety of the hole. Though it appears straightforward and boring, repeated plays will unlock all of this hole's secrets.

A strong ridge running along the center of the fairway creates two options to approach the green. This same ridge continues into and through the green. Players will need to line up their approach shot angle with the hole location on the green. Correct navigation through these contours will allow the player to control the run-out of their shots.

**BIRDSALL VIEW  
HOLE  
PAR**

**12  
4**

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Tour         | 434 |
| Scratch      | 395 |
| Long         | 355 |
| Back         | 320 |
| Middle       | 285 |
| Intermediate | 245 |
| Forward      | 220 |

This mid-length par 4 continues the climb, with the green being the highest point on the golf course besides the clubhouse area. The high green plateau gives players a spectacular view of the course and the Front Range - Including the Boulder Flatirons (40 miles away) and Pikes Peak (130 miles to the south). Access to the green with the short approach shot will require precision and planning. The shallow and wide green, falls away on both sides, creating the need to approach various hole locations from the proper angle to have any chance at a birdie or par. The tee shot must navigate a group of stacked sod wall pot bunkers to set up the short approach shot. Playing out to the left will remove the bunkers from play, but this approach will become increasingly blind as players end up behind the high ridge to the left of the landing area.

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**LONGER STILL  
HOLE 13  
PAR 5**

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Tour         | 762 |
| Scratch      | 710 |
| Long         | 665 |
| Back         | 585 |
| Middle       | 520 |
| Intermediate | 460 |
| Forward      | 395 |

The longest hole on the golf course, and likely one of the longest holes anywhere, this par 5 is intended to be a full three-shot par 5 even for the best players. The tee shot is wide open and slopes softly from right to left with the dogleg of the hole, allowing players to swing away as they set up the important second shot.

Upon arriving in the landing area the players will be faced with “Hell Bunker”. This bunker is inspired by the world-famous Hell Bunker on the fourteenth hole (named “Long”) at The Old Course in St. Andrews, Scotland. Originally, that bunker was a fearsome adversary, dictating the strategies of players who had to decide whether they should, or could, carry it on their second shot. This version of Hell Bunker creates the same strategic dilemma for players with contemporary equipment.

Laying up short of “Hell Bunker” on the second shot will leave players with a third shot approaching 200 yards in length. Players will need to club up to on their second shot to reach a shorter or more comfortable yardage for their approach shot.

This Hell Bunker has three distinct hollows with stacked sod wall bunkering, each one 40 yards further down the hole than the previous wall. The rest of the bunker is a combination of random strips of sand and fescue covered islands and peninsulas. Ending up anywhere in the bunker could leave players with a shot that could be advanced towards the green or a lay-up shot that needs to be put back in play wherever possible.

The green sits on an angle to the approach line of play, guarded front right by a pot bunker and front left by a steep slope. The green pitches towards the players, but an approach shot played a bit too long will put you off the back of the green in low undulating ground. The defining finishing stretch of the golf course has begun and the adventure continues to build interest and intensity!

**BRASSIE  
HOLE 14  
PAR 3**

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Tour         | 273 |
| Scratch      | 248 |
| Long         | 223 |
| Back         | 190 |
| Middle       | 160 |
| Intermediate | 130 |
| Forward      | 105 |

After playing the longest hole on the golf course players will need to regroup quickly, they now face the longest par 3 on the course. The hole sets up beautifully with tees elevated up on a high ridge. Players can view the entire hole and green surface sitting down in the valley below. The large yardage number on the scorecard will be offset by the downhill nature of the tee shot and the eastern orientation of the hole with westerly winds. Woe to those who catch this hole with a wind out of the east . . . it instantly becomes a par 4!

A long, interesting bunker meanders up the right side of the hole and sets up the green. A large ridge runs from the forward tees up the left side to the front left corner of the green and can be used to help funnel a shot onto the green. This allows golfers to play away from the bunker and still find a way to get on the green with their tee shot.

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**TEMPTATION  
HOLE 15  
PAR 5**

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Tour         | 579 |
| Scratch      | 540 |
| Long         | 500 |
| Back         | 450 |
| Middle       | 405 |
| Intermediate | 360 |
| Forward      | 320 |

The scorecard indicates a breather hole, a short, reachable par 5. The view from the tee indicates something else, especially around the green. Hole 15 is intended to be a reachable in two shots, especially if there is a helping wind out of the north.

Players will need to be careful not to over swing on the wide, open tee shot as hitting the fairway is critical to opening up the full range of options for the second shot. The green sits high among the hills, a partial punchbowl and peninsula as it peeks out from behind a high, fronting hill. The large green (8,800 square feet) has distinct movement on the surface, making it imperative to find the correct area of the green relative to the hole location.

Playing a fade up and over the high hill and deep pot bunker to the left, will likely funnel the ball onto the green. A slight pull to the left on this line and the player will find themselves in a shallow fairway with several options on how to play the next shot. The easiest hole location to see from the landing area, on the western point of the green, might be the hardest one to get close to. The green is shallow on this end and a miscalculation short, long or to the right will leave the player well below the hole and 20-30 yards away by the time the ball stops rolling down the steep embankment.

Playing the hole as a three shot par 5 might be the prudent play. It will be easier for players to navigate the challenges around the green with a short iron or wedge in their hands. Carefully lay-up your position by avoiding the deep, larger, pot bunkers.

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**CENTER STAGE  
HOLE 16  
PAR 3**

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Tour         | 164 |
| Scratch      | 150 |
| Long         | 150 |
| Back         | 150 |
| Middle       | 115 |
| Intermediate | 90  |
| Forward      | 90  |

This par 3 has everything a player could want including: spectacular setting, downhill shot, view of the green, short club in their hand, oversized green and of course, plenty of witnesses if they hit that elusive hole-in-one!

This will be one of the marquee holes and highlight experiences of this golfing adventure. Players get a chance to feel true tournament pressure as they tee off adjacent to the clubhouse, hitting their shot to the raised green located on the peninsula along McNeil Reservoir.

The 9,000-square foot green allows for distinctly different hole locations to really change up how this hole will play from day to day. The low shelf on the right point of the green is tiny, but players who find the right portion of the slope will watch their ball roll down the slope towards, and maybe into, the hole. The shortest hole location, at the front left, is one of the more treacherous hole locations on the green. The two deep pot bunkers frame this part of the green and the quicker slope of the green will put a premium on keeping the tee shot below the hole. This brings the two pot bunkers into play.

The fat part of the green is probably the safe play to avoid a potentially large number late in the round. With a wedge or short iron, it'll be very tempting to try and hit a tight shot and become an instant star.

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## LAST HURRAH

**HOLE** 17  
**PAR** 4

Tour 511  
Scratch 455  
Long 420  
Back 375  
Middle 335  
Intermediate 290  
Forward 255

The seventeenth hole heads south and plays downhill from tee to green. The slight dogleg left is strategically straightforward. The inside corner of the dogleg is well-guarded with bunkers, undulating slopes and fescue grasses. The front right pot bunker, dictates that players should try to place their tee shots on the left side of the fairway close to the bunkers at the green. This will minimize the need to carry the green side bunker with a long shot approach.

The green is framed by a moderately high mound to the left and a low slope on the right. The fairway wraps around the green giving players who miss the surface with their approach shots a variety of ways to try and make par. This penultimate hole is a solid par 4 overlooking McNeil and Welch Reservoirs.

## COLORADO DREAMING

**HOLE** 18  
**PAR** 4

Tour 529  
Scratch 490  
Long 455  
Back 410  
Middle 370  
Intermediate 320  
Forward 275

The longest par 4 on the golf course is the setting for the finale to your golfing adventure. Playing slightly uphill from tee to green, the eighteenth hole will challenge players on their tee shot and their approach shot. The fairway is wide, with a slight slope running diagonally across the landing area creating a smaller high plateau to the right and a lower bench along the left. A small pot bunker cut into the upslope defines your two fairway options.

The long approach shot will need to carry or avoid the deep pot bunker just short of the green. The green itself is framed by a variety of slopes and challenges that will make hole locations continually interesting as they move around the green from day to day. A slight roll is located short right of the green and extends across the approach area making an approach from the left fairway preferable. A sharp drop-off along the left edge of the green makes the left side hole locations difficult to get close to unless the player approaches from the right fairway plateau. A bunker behind the green will put a premium on distance control with the long approach shot, and a slight low back right of the green will also collect shots that run-out. The green is larger in size at almost 8,000 square feet with subtle slopes throughout. A player finding the green with their second shot will have a good birdie opportunity to finish up the round.

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