



New Wisps of Golf

THE WISP RESORT COURSE PLAYS LIKE A COURSE BUILT IN THE 1920S, even though it's only 30 years old. The layout adheres to strict classical design principles, so when Todd Schroeder was asked to design four new holes, he came up with a throwback plan.

Two narrow par 4s and a couple of par 3s were taken out of play. But Schroeder didn't deviate far from the elevation changes for which the Wisp Resort Course is known.

Tucked down in an area of the resort called Fantasy Valley on the north side of the course, the new holes – 11 through 14 – filter down a hill and back up to reconnect with the course in McHenry, Maryland.

“We wanted to elevate the golf experience at Wisp, but we also wanted to make (the new holes) blend in with the existing holes,” says Kris Strauss, director of sales and marketing at OB Sports Golf Management, which manages the course.

They also wanted to incorporate some of the history of the area into the design. New No. 11 passes a decades-old springhouse that protects headwater from a spring that still flows today. An old haunted barn once stood where the green was built, so don't be surprised if the awesome tee shot you thought was a foot from the hole mysteriously disappears.

To top off the changes at Wisp Resort, the former No. 17 – a 562-yard par 5 – is now the closing hole. But you can still play the old downhill par-3 18th as the course's betting hole.

Just in case things weren't settled after 18.

– J. Eric Eckard