

Riverwood Golf & Country Club

4100 Riverwood Drive, Port Charlotte Florida 33953
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Charlotte County's premier championship layout, The Riverwood Gold & Country Club was rated 4-star by Golf Digest, and is located in the gated community of Riverwood. There are lots of rolling fairways, so you rarely hit from a level lie. Water comes to play on several holes, so watch out for the alligators living in the lakes. They have big, sharp teeth. There are also deer nestling throughout the course, plus plenty of wondrous wildlife, including quail.

Designed by Gene Bates, this phenomenal course provides golfers with an exceptional challenge. Situated alongside a majestic riverfront, the lengthy 401 yard (from the whites) par-4 hole number 8 is the hardest ranked hole on the course and rightly so. There's intermittent water on both sides of the fairway, so if you hit it crooked here into the blue, you will have to chalk that one up to Mr Gator!



Everyone's talking about this phenomenal golf gem. Designed by Gene Bates, the layout provides an exceptionally interesting challenge with rolling fairways surrounded by natural woodlands and marshlands. Maintained in great condition, Riverwood is a 'must-play' course. New clubhouse facility with state-of-the-art amenities rounds out this great golf experience. It is also a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

How the course plays, by Chris Baker:

Riverwood is regarded as the hardest and longest course in the area with tight fairways and small greens making it a real challenge for all types of golfer. Whether you want to attack the course from the black tees or just enjoy the course from the forward tees it will be enjoyable. Mike Burton the head pro is one of the best teachers in the area and the best I have been to so if you need your swing tuned he is the man to see about that.



As you approach the turn you need to be playing good golf to save your score card because the last three holes can definitely wreck it. The seventh is a long par three with a pond right and trees preventing a bail out to the left so an accurate shot is required. The eighth is stroke index one and when you look down the fairway you will see why. The tee to this long par four is set back in the trees bordered by water giving you a taste of what is ahead. Out of bounds and trees line both sides of the fairway which is reasonably wide so you can get a bit sloppy and still be in play. However your fate comes down to the second shot which requires precision and accuracy to hit green. Its length plays a factor and many players will be hitting long irons into the green which is surrounded by trouble. The fairway is split in two by a water hazard which runs down the left into a large pond to the left of the green. To the right are two bunkers ready to catch people bailing out and beyond that lurks the out of bounds.

The green is one of the deepest on the golf course so again club selection is crucial. If you thought those last two holes weren't bad enough the ninth is a monster of a whole. At about 580 yards it plays every inch. Probably one of the hardest tee shots you will face is on this hole with trees bordering both sides along with water leaving no margin for error. A good tee shot through the trees leaves you with an enormous second shot if you try to make it in two which isn't recommended with OB and water in play at all times. The safer option is to take a mid iron down the fairway which should leave a shorter iron to the green which significantly has only one bunker to trouble players.

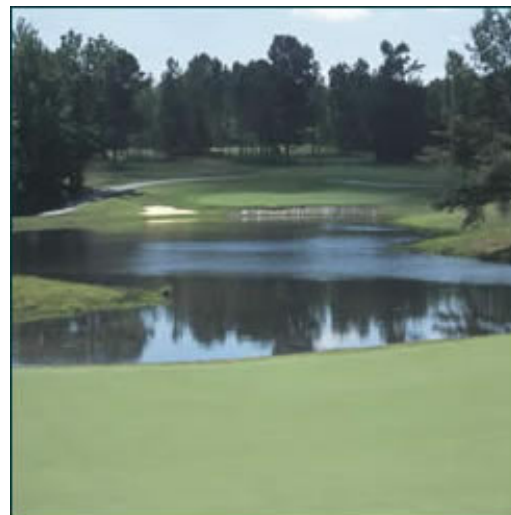
Additional player reviews:

Played 12th Nov 00. Overseed period in progress. Course is immaculate and some holes play hard (except the 1 handicap 8th which is easy to score). The greens are paino slow and not too challenging. Some holes are tight so bright your straight game. The contiguous hole progression is a nice change from many Florida courses. A good value at current pre-season rates.

Played 5th Jul 98. I played Riverwood Friday 3rd July, the fairways and green were incredible. The course is incredible if you are in the area, you must play this course.

Course statistics:

	Par	Yardage	Slope	Rating
Blue	72	6938	138	73.8
White	72	6444	128	71.9
Green	72	6023	122	69.6
Gold	72	5376	117	66.3
Red	72	4695	112	66.8

**Standard fees:**

Regular	Before 11 a.m.	After 11 a.m.	After 2 p.m.	After 3 p.m.	After 4 p.m.
Dec 26 - Mar 31	\$95.00	\$75.00	\$50.00		
April	\$75.00	\$55.00		\$40.00	
May 1 - Oct 31	\$45.00	\$35.00			\$25.00
Nov 1- Dec 24	\$55.00	\$45.00	\$35.00		

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