

Enjoy Resort-Style Golf at Teravista

Exceptional service, luxurious facilities set this Troon course apart

By Rebecca MacDonald

When you arrive at Teravista Golf Club in Round Rock, just north of Austin, the first thing you notice is the service. As you park your car, a staffer arrives in a cart to greet you, lifts your bag from the trunk and straps it to the back of the cart. The cart then

speeds away while you stroll to the clubhouse to check in for your round. The staff in the spacious pro shop seem truly glad to see you. They take time to chat, then point you in the direction of the Caldwell Cafe, where, on a recent Saturday morning, there were complimentary breakfast tacos from Rudy's Bar-B-Q and Starbucks coffee.

The resort course feel continues from check-in to the first tee, where you are greeted by the marshal with a friendly Texas hello, a complimentary brass bag tag and divot tool, rules of the day and helpful tips on playing the course. The golf carts are equipped with full-color GPS systems, which provide exact yardage to the green from any point on the course, as well as tips on how to play each hole. As you tee off on the first hole, you'll notice the immaculately groomed tee box, conditions that you'll find echoed on the fairways and greens. It's not hard to imagine that you're on vacation at a posh golf resort, but at Teravista, the resort experience is available every day to the public. Welcome to the Troon Golf experience.



The second green at Teravista features tiered waterfalls.

Troon Golf is known for its resort-style courses. Probably the best-known of these is the Troon North Golf Club in Scottsdale, Arizona, a widely renowned golf destination. While Teravista doesn't have a hotel associated with it, the course keeps to the Troon tradition with its close attention to detail in every aspect of its operation, from the welcoming staff to the immaculate course conditions.

Beginner-friendly

While the course is held to a standard of excellence, your game need not be so perfect. Teravista offers a terrific golf experience for beginner and experienced golfers alike. Recently named a "Beginner Friendly Course" by the National Golf Course Owners Association, Teravista offers a unique commitment to new golfers with a very playable 3,744 yard layout from the front "Jade" tees. This is a terrific option that allows new golfers to enjoy a top-quality course, without the intimidation factor. More experienced golfers have their choice of four more sets of tees, from the Tan tees at 5,099 yards, up to the championship 7,039 layout, which will test any golfer's mettle.

Unlimited practice for \$10/hour

A visit to Teravista's practice facility before you tee off is well worthwhile. The double-ended driving range and 22,000 square foot practice green provide plenty of room to warm up. The facility is also the home of the Teravista Golf Academy, where several instructors, including PGA /LPGA professional Sorrel Richmond, offer lessons. Range passes are also available at a charge of \$10.00 for an hour of unlimited hitting. The practice green is representative of the conditions you'll find on the course: where greens are

well-groomed but slower than they look. Our four-some all had putts that died well short of the hole before we finally adjusted to the speed.

Florida design, hill country views

Teravista Golf Club opened for business two years ago and is part of the Teravista master planned community. New homes are rapidly being built on the front nine, and the construction noise can be distracting. Earth moving equipment roars nearby as you tee off on several holes. However, the course still reflects the hill country beauty, with views that span up to 30 miles. Echoes of designer George Clifton's Florida background are reflected in the lush vegetation and water lilies that surround the water hazards.

Teravista's care for the course can get a little "Big Brother" for golfers who disregard the day's 90 degree or cart path only rules, or who venture too close to "restricted" areas. When golfers stray from the approved paths, the UpLink GPS system first issues a warning, then, if it goes unheeded, they shut down. From there, the golfer must back the cart up to an acceptable position.

The first few holes are a good taste of what's to come. Each is carefully laid out to reward smart play and shot-making. This is not a course where simply hitting down the middle every time will get you where you want to go. For example, on the first hole, a drive down the middle will set



Texas wildflowers decorate the course in spring.

you up for a tricky approach shot over a front greenside bunker. Keeping to the left is the smarter play.

When you get to the back nine, the construction noise dies away and you are left with open ranchland and Texas hill country views. Eventually this nine will be developed as well, but for now, it's some of the prettiest golf you can play in Austin. 

Course Facts

From the Tan Tees:

Par: 72 Rating: 67.9
Length: 5,099 Slope: 121

Rates:

Before 1:00 p.m.:

Monday - Friday: \$75
Weekends: \$85

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.:

Monday - Friday: \$55
Weekends: \$60

After 4:00 p.m.: \$49

Reservations:

4333 Teravista Club Dr.,
Round Rock 78664
www.teravistagolf.com
512.651.9850