



La Torretta

LAKE RESORT & SPA

In April of 2007, Jeffrey D. Blume, Limited was commissioned to re-design the golf course at La Torretta. He reversed the front and back nine holes to their original rotation, changing the fourth and thirteenth holes to strong par 4s, and changing the ninth hole from a brutal par 4 into an enjoyable, risk and reward par 5. Even though this resulted in reducing the par to 71, the overall length of the course was increased by approximately 150 yards by relocating back tees and repositioning greens where possible.

Hole 1- Short dog-leg left Par 5. Play a tight draw off the tee and set yourself up for a nice birdie attempt to start your round. But, miss your shot too far right and scramble to make a par out of the sand. This hole features a very large green that slopes from right to left.

Hole 2- Medium length Par 3. Choose your club carefully on this hole and favor the front of the green as going long could lead to a very big score. The putting surface is fairly flat and should give a good opportunity to make a putt.

Hole 3- Short dog-leg left Par 4. This hole has charisma. Shape a draw with a long iron or fairway wood, but put an emphasis on accuracy. With water left and out-of-bounds right, this hole can yield birdies and double-bogies all at the same time. The bunker that runs up the left of the fairway short of the green is a very tough up and down.

Hole 4- Long slight right-to-left Par 4. The number 1 handicap hole at La Torretta is a beast. This converted par 5 is as long as it is tight. Tee it high and let it fly down the right side of the fairway, but be very careful with your approach. Water tucks in just left of the green and bunkers protect the right side.

Hole 5- Medium length left-to-right Par 4. The difficulty of this hole depends on wind direction. If the wind is at your back, expect a short-iron approach. But if the wind is at you, this hole plays much longer than the yardage would indicate. A fade up the left side is needed off the tee and make sure to take enough club as it is slightly up hill to an undulated green.

Hole 6- Medium length Par 3. Hit a nice straight iron shot and watch your ball land on the dance floor, however, miss it right or left and attempt a bunker shot to a very well contoured green. Par is a good score here, and bogies are aplenty for those who find the sand.

Hole 7- Medium length Par 4. Birdie opportunity for those who find the fairway. Pay close attention to the pin location as this green has a subtle spine that runs through the middle. Make sure you are on the proper side and give yourself a relatively flat putt at birdie, end up on the wrong side and you are left with a challenging two-putt par.

Hole 8- Short straight Par 4. Your tee shot is crucial on this little hole. A creek runs up the left side, and mounds and trees guard the left. But, split this fairway and you are left with a short-iron approach to an elevated green that slopes slightly from front to back. Beware of the water that fronts the left front of this green.

Hole 9- Dog-leg right Par 5. Play a nice left to right tee shot here and find yourself with a great chance to hit the green in two. Choose the correct club and let your second sail over the water to a multi-contoured green. Make sure you are on the correct side of the very large slope on the left side of the putting surface or two puttings will be a challenge. Play this hole correctly and give yourself a chance at an eagle.

Hole 10- Long left to right Par 4. Start your back nine with the number 2 handicap hole. Play a fade off the tee to avoid the trees on the right and prepare yourself for a long iron approach to an elevated green that is one of the smallest on the course. The subtle breaks on the putting surface make long putts difficult. A par is a great score on this tough hole.

Hole 11- Short Par 3. Club selection is at a premium here, and the wind plays a major role. The green is tricky and slopes gently from left to right. The bunker in the back right will lead to an almost assured bogey.

Hole 12- Medium length downhill Par 4. This hole has a rather wide fairway and sets up ideal for a long power fade. The challenge begins with the approach, which is downhill and guarded by a large bunker on the right and a huge slope that rejects shots left of the green. You should only have a short iron in, but miss it and you'll be rewarded with a bogey, or worse.

Hole 13- Medium length uphill Par 4. Thirteen plays back up the hill, but flattens out for the approach. This green slopes from front to back so play your shot to the front of the green. A shot long of the putting surface makes for a very difficult up and down and could, in fact, find water. Play this hole for a run-up to the green and get your par.

Hole 14- Long Par 3. Very good par 3 with a blind tee shot. Take aim at the large bunker that is 15 yards in front of the green and simply hit your shot over it. The ball will bounce up and on the putting surface. Miss this shot left or right and find out how easy it is to make a big number here at La Torretta.

Hole 15- Long to Medium length Par 4. The signature hole at La Torretta is a very tight driving hole that sets up for a fade off of the large fairway bunker on the left side. Just don't fade it too much because the pond is lurking right of the fairway. Try not to get distracted by the waterfall on the left of the putting surface and pay attention to the pin location as your approach will need to be on the correct level of this two-tiered green.

Hole 16- Medium length right to left Par 5. Good birdie hole to start your finale. Fade a tee shot off of the left bunkers and you are set up for a risky approach or a simple lay up. Water creeps in from the left to complicate your second shot, but stay on the right side and the angle opens up for a wedge approach. This green slopes from back to front toward the water and gets quick when you are putting from behind the hole.

Hole 17- Long Par 3. This hole has it all. It can play as long as 220 from the back tees and has water left, a pot bunker short right, a large greenside bunker left and a false front right of the green. Playing a shot up the left side is almost assured to find trouble. Play a long iron to the right of this very large undulated green and get your par.

Hole 18- Medium length dogleg right downhill Par 5. This hole is a big-hitters paradise from the tee. Hit a fade off of the tee and your ball will catch the slope setting up for a very tempting second shot. But beware, trouble is everywhere around the green. Avoid the water and greenside bunker on the right that is 8 to 10 feet below the putting surface. Bailing out left isn't an option either because you run the risk of hitting it out-of-bounds. Play it smart, just short of the green and give yourself a make-able birdie try on this very undulated green.

Projects completed by Jeffrey D. Blume, Limited: La Paloma Golf Club (new course), Amarillo, Texas; Sweetwater Country Club (renovation), Sugar Land, Texas; Elkins Lake (planning), Huntsville, Texas; Lake Charles Country Club (renovation), Lake Charles, Louisiana; Quail Valley Country Club (planning), Missouri City, Texas; Baton Rouge Country Club (planning), Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Baton Rouge Country Club (renovation), Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Stephen F. Austin Golf Course (planning), San Felipe, Texas; Grand Pines Golf Club (new course), Montgomery, Texas; Elkins Lake (new course), Huntsville, Texas; Elkins Lake (renovation), Huntsville, Texas; The Farm Golf Club (new course), Lafayette, Louisiana; Lakeside Country Club (renovation) Houston, Texas; Hide-A-Way Lake Club (Planning), Hideaway, Texas; Hide-A-Way Lake Club (renovation), Hideaway, Texas; South Shore Harbour (renovation), League City, Texas; Grand Lake Estates (new course), Montgomery, Texas

Projects currently under design by Jeffrey D. Blume, Limited: South Shore Harbour (renovation), League City, Texas; Sunset Golf Course at Ft. Bliss (renovation), Ft. Bliss, Texas; Golfcrest Country Club (renovation), Pearland, Texas; River Bend Country Club (renovation), Sugar Land, Texas