Upscale Escapes

Worthington Manor Golf Club

t didn't take anyone very long to figure out that Worthington Manor was going to be an exceptionally good course. The USGA awarded the Urbana, Md., course the regional qualifying tournament for the U.S. Open in its second year and has returned there almost every year with either the Open or the U.S. Amateur qualifying rounds.

With the exception of a course record 64 shot by PGA Tour pro Michael Meuhr in this year's Open qualifying, Worthington Manor has proved to be a worthy test for the best players in the country.

Its combination of length, forced carries over wetlands and fast, undulating greens makes going low a real challenge from the back tee. But the genius of the design is that it can be very friendly to the higher handicappers from a couple of tees in front of where the guys trying to qualify for national championships are teeing it up.

The variety of holes at

Worthington Manor is best captured in its par 3s. No. 6 is a waterlogged, lowland hole that would be perfectly at home in any coastal region. Nos. 8 and 17 have a mountain feel to them, and No. 15 is a wonderful parkland hole.

Worthington's setting is pastoral, despite being just two minutes off Interstate 270. It is unencumbered by houses, and each hole has plenty of room to breathe. The four opening par 4s may be the toughest stretch of openers in the region.

The newly expanded clubhouse enables the course to expand its food service, and

> now Worthington Manor has everything you need for a great day of golf.

The course is outstanding from start to finish, with plush bentgrass conditions, a smattering of water and woods and plenty of wetlands. The clubhouse, a restored 19th-century manor house, is luxurious and the drive to get to and from the course is as easy as it gets. 6\$

WORTHINGTON MANOR

Urbana, Maryland 301.874.5400 worthingtonmanor.com 7,034 yards 74.0 143 6,525 yards 71.4 132 6,058 yards 68.9 122 5,206 yards 70.1 116

Design: Ault, Clark & Associates

> Price range: \$49 to \$79