



## Private Golf Course "Nový Berštejn"

*Independent assessment of 2010 / author: Ing. Josef Vymazal*

The course was built in the "Nový Berštejn" castle park between 1998 and 1999 and opened in 2000. When choosing the location for the course, it was respected that the castle park is mostly populated with historically protected trees. Therefore, the selection of individual fairways had to be significantly subordinate to this fact. This is not a classic golf course that would meet the criteria of a standardized golf course, but nevertheless, playing on it provides a golfing enjoyment, as its difficulty is mainly due to the narrow fairways lined with trees and bushes. The course somewhat resembles a cross-country experience. Playing on this course requires concentration and precision shots, making it excellent practice for more challenging gameplay situations on standard golf courses.

### **1.Par 3**

This hole most closely resembles a classic par 3. The green is in excellent condition. On the right side of the fairway, there is the rear complex of Berštejn Castle from the 16th century. The green is situated in a beautiful spot among the trees. On the front side of the green, there are two oval sand bunkers. The hole has a magnificent scenery. Distance: 115 meters.

### **2.Par 5**

The tee of this hole is located on the embankment to the right of the castle building. This hole is one of the more difficult ones, as the fairway narrows from both sides due to trees. The ball's landing area is on a slope. This hole is a dogleg to the left. The second shot is very challenging, as there are mature trees on both sides of the fairway and the space between them is relatively narrow, requiring considerable accuracy and a straight direction for the second shot. After the second shot, there is a dogleg to the right towards the green. To the left, below the green, there is a sand bunker. Distance: 305 meters.

### **3.Par 4**

This hole is one of the most challenging on the course. In the middle of the narrow fairway, there is a tall tree, and the green is partially hidden behind trees on the left side. It is

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recommended to play the first shot considerably low (as Lee Trevino used to do in Texas). Another danger around the green is the slope of the fairway and the green itself to the right, where the forest is located. Distance: 139 meters.

#### **4.Par 3**

A highly challenging hole demanding precise playing technique. In the second third of the fairway, there are tall trees that must be played over to reach the green; otherwise, achieving par is very difficult. The green is tucked away in a hollow under an embankment. On the right side before the green, there is an oval sand bunker. Due to trees lining the fairway relatively closely on both sides, achieving par is significantly challenging. Distance: 129 meters.

#### **5.Par 4**

A dogleg to the left. The first shot is played into an open area. The difficulty of the second shot lies in the narrow fairway lined with tall trees, making precision crucial for the second shot. Distance: 120 meters.

#### **6.Par 4**

Although the distance from the tee to the green is not great, trees in the middle of the fairway pose an obstacle, making the first shot's difficulty lie in precision and height to clear the tree height. On the left side of the green, there is a sand bunker. Distance: 135 meters.

#### **7.Par 3**

This is the most psychologically challenging hole on the course. The flag is not visible from the tee, and players must overcome a high retaining wall made of sandstone stucco, which can be intimidating, especially for beginners. The approach to the green is open, with the right side posing a danger as tree branches encroach into the fairway. A sand bunker is located on the left side of the green. Distance: 130 meters.



#### **8.Par 4**

A dogleg to the left. The drive is played into a narrowed fairway between trees on a rising hillside. The precision of the first shot is crucial. The difficulty of the green lies in its slope to the left. The green is guarded by a sand bunker, and dense parkland lies behind it. Distance: 125 meters.

#### **9.Par 4**

This hole offers a picturesque view, with the entire façade of Berštejn Castle visible directly from the tee. The difficulty of the hole lies in the necessity of a straight drive. Tall trees line both sides of the fairway. It's possible to play the first shot directly to the green, which is hidden behind trees, but this shot is highly risky and not recommended even for skilled players. Since the green is hidden behind a group of trees on the left side of the fairway, it plays as a dogleg to the left. Sand bunkers are located on the left side before the green. Distance: 165 meters.

**Total distance: 1,363 meters**

**Total Par: 34**