



Texas Golf: 18 most beautiful holes in Texas

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Jack Nicklaus took one look at the land where No. 16 at Cordillera Ranch sits and knew he had a special piece of property.

"It became a beautiful par-3 and was born out of a spectacular setting," said Nicklaus, course designer, said via e-mail. "We had this beautiful gorge, rock outcroppings and potential waterfall. We tried to figure out how to incorporate these features without destroying what nature provided us. In the end, I think the hole turned out to be pretty darn good. I'm pretty happy with it."

The hole was named one of the most beautiful par-3s in Texas by *The Dallas Morning News*' panel. It also made the best par-3 list, proving the hole is both stunning to see and a challenge to play. No. 16 received the highest score of any par-3 on the list.

Nine courses are represented in the 18 most beautiful holes in the state. Whispering Pines, the No. 1 course in Texas for the fourth consecutive year, and Barton Creek Fazio Foothills have four holes on the list. Dallas National, The Hills Country Club and Walden on Lake Conroe had two each.

But judging by the voting for No. 16 at Cordillera Ranch, it's likely to be on the beautiful list for a long time.

"It's a special hole that has that 'wow' factor," said Chris Hill, vice president of Cordillera Ranch Development Corp. The company owned by his father, David Hill, owns the course. "I've played it with people who haven't seen it before, and their jaws drop. Jack never had a plan on paper. Each time he visited it, he did a little more. It was interesting to see it evolve. He just let nature do that hole."

Photos



Courtesy photo

The par-3 No. 16 at The Clubs at Cordillera Ranch near Boerne, Texas has twin water falls flowing into a canyon.

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TEXAS' MOST BEAUTIFUL 18			
Course	Hole	Par	Yards
Cordillera Ranch	16	3	172
The Hills CC (Hills)	7	3	184
Barton Creek (Foothills)	9	3	175
Whispering Pines	15	3	178
Austin CC	18	4	476
Barton Creek (Canyons)	10	4	450
Barton Creek (Foothills)	10	4	424
Barton Creek (Foothills)	16	4	422
Dallas National	9	4	448
Preston Trail	16	4	415
The Hills CC (Hills)	18	4	442
Walden on Lake Conroe	8	4	400
Whispering Pines	14	4	392
Whispering Pines	18	4	464
Barton Creek (Foothills)	18	5	560
Dallas National	10	5	610
Walden on Lake Conroe	11	5	582
Whispering Pines	17	5	603