

WOLF CREEK GOLF RESORT

WHERE CANADA MEETS SCOTLAND

MINIMALIST GOLF & UNDERSTANDING THE WOLF

Wolf Creek Golf Resort was originally built in 1984 by a young Rod Whitman. It was meant to be a tribute to Old World Golf with a western twist on native sand belt land in central Alberta. True to form Wolf Creek was always a different animal and requires a deeper understanding of the game. To this day we still get nay-sayers, even with the trend in minimalist golf in North America. We have however stayed the course to celebrate Rod's vision.

- **The bunkering** – Left natural with most bunkering called erosion bunkers which gives them a rugged natural unkempt look. This is by design and a throw-back to wasteland areas in many old world courses. All bunker sand is natural without any foreign material brought in from other areas, in most cases bunkering was just walled out of the side of a hill or hummock
- **The Greens** – Commonly called potato chip greens that flow out with the surrounding land. Sand was mined from key areas on the property with the best sand used on the greens, in some cases existing sand on the green was just pushed up and shaped. All drainage was created naturally in the design of the green, very little drain tile was used. The speed of the greens are dictated by the weather, time of year and other maintenance practices. Because of some of the extreme undulations in the greens it does not make sense to have them extremely fast, except during major tournament play.
- **Wasteland area** – These areas were natural sand pockets that have been scraped off and mined for other bunkering and green complexes. These areas can be played from and are left natural as what is called sandy wasteland or transition bunkers. It is incorporated into the design because the land base is in a sand belt.
- **Course Routing & playability** – Critical in every Rod Whitman course is the routing, he takes great care in creating a routing that is enjoyable to play but also offers a thinking golf course that can be played many ways depending on time of year and weather. In many cases playing conditions will change as the weather pattern dictates, if it is dry and firm then the ground game comes into effect. The wind is an important factor in all Rod's routings as he offers hole arrangements that balances in all directions especially the par three's.
- **Yardages & other measurements**- Rod Whitman being a true minimalist believes the golf course should avoid clutter of signage with very simple and authentic markings.
 - ✓ Our signature cattle skulls can be seen from most tee's giving you a distance guidance at 150. A single yardage block is inset into each tee box depicting total yardage.
 - ✓ Our Tee's and pin placement are set in a very simple rotation of back tee –front pin, middle tee – middle pin and front tee – back pin.

In conclusion Wolf Creek has consistently ranked in the top 100 in Canada since its inception, the course has a rough gnarly look to it with many areas left to what nature provides. The colors change with the season, green is mixed with brown on the fairways and rough, some bunkers are left to erode naturally. Over 35 years ago, Rod Whitman Pioneered this concept in Canada with Wolf Creek, this minimalist concept has become popular today with many of the great new destination resorts like Bandon dunes, Sand Valley and Cabot Links.