

RUMBLING BALD RESORT



The complete getaway from the real world

Shane Sharpe, GolfGuide.com

The Blue Ridge Mountains region of western North Carolina is vast, spanning more than 170 miles east-to-west and diverse, ranging from basins at 1,000 feet above sea level to towering mountains over 6,000 feet.

Legendary golf course architect Donald Ross was enamored with the dramatic terrain in the western half of the Old North State, designing numerous courses in the 20s and 30s including famed Linville Golf Club and the Omni Grove Park Inn Golf Course.



His protégé Ellis Maples followed suit, crafting several highly regarded mountain tracks such as Grandfather Golf and Country Club and Boone Golf Club. And his son, Dan, made his mark in the mountains with the Apple Valley course at Rumbling Bald Resort at Lake Lure.

Rumbling Bald Resort sits along the northern shore of Lake Lure, centrally located in the Eastern foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. All the major metropolitan offerings of Charlotte less than two hours east, and Asheville is just an hour west.

And while it has served guests from around the world for decades, Rumbling Bald is more than a resort. It's a thriving, 3,000-acre mountain golf community blessed with a comfortable climate year-round, stunning mountain views and full of friendly faces and kindred souls.

"There's part of our brains that simply need to shut down, kind of disconnect," said Jeff Geisler, Rumbling Bald's General Manager. "It's a vibrant part of who we are and when we don't do that, bad things happen. The whole point of the resort

is to get you outside, to get you to the lake, get you on a boat, get you to hike and of course play some championship golf. These are the things that make you human."

Rumbling Bald's two 18-hole layouts, Bald Mountain and Apple Valley, are just minutes apart but decidedly different in their look, feel and playing characteristics.

Designed by W.B. Lewis, a protégé of George Cobb, Bald Mountain Golf Course is just what the name suggests: a pure mountain course with a beguiling mix of uphill and downhill holes inviting golfers to use every club in the proverbial bag. Rumbling Bald Mountain, which got the "Rumbling" part of its name after a reported earthquake in 1874 left the mountain making rumbling sounds.

Chances are you've seen Rumbling Bald Resort at Lake Lure if you've watched Dirty Dancing. The iconic lift scene, where Patrick Swayze's character lifts Jennifer Grey into the air while the two were in a pond, was shot at the Bald Mountain par-3 16th hole.

The resort embraces its history with one of the most famous dance scenes in movie history. It annually hosts 2,000 people for an after-party during the town's Dirty Dancing Festival. Unfortunately due to the Covid-19 situation the mid-September event has been canceled, but is scheduled to resume in 2021.

The Apple Valley Golf Course, in contrast, is a traditional design that Maples delicately routed through the hills and dales just south of Bald Mountain. Maples estimates that nearly three-fourths of all shots on Apple Valley are either level or downhill, a rarity for a course in these parts.



For more information on Rumbling Bald Resort, or to make tee-times and reservations call 800-260-1040 or logon at www.rumblingbald.com.