

Mind over Matter

Appearances can be deceiving. It's listed as a par three, but when golfers see hole number five at Victoria National for the first time, it looks much harder. The green is basically an island, with hazards to the left and right, in front, and behind. As golfers approach the hole, all they see is water. There is no bailout. "You're better off aiming for the green, which is 7,800 square feet rather than the small landing approach, which is only 600 square feet," says Kyle Callahan, director of agronomy at Victoria National.

And every factor matters. The angle. The wind—prying and persistent—blows almost constantly. Your club choice. Your perspective. Your focus. And, of course, everything changes from tee box to tee box.

Hole five is also a two-tier green. There's an upper ridge and a lower ridge, making shot selection crucial and playing it safe an incredibly viable option. With the elevation changes, the water, the island look of it, and the different tiers—it's a myriad of intimidation more than anything: truly a test of mind over matter.



