

The Monster Golf Club and Resorts World Catskills kick off a new Catskills era for golfers

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The sleek Resorts World Catskills is a solid casino hotel property in upstate New York. Tim Gavrich/GolfPass

While golfers wait to see what happens at Grossinger's, one other area resort's second chapter is already well underway. Opened in 2018, [Resorts World Catskills](#) sits on the property of the former Concord Resort Hotel, which sprang up as a rival to Grossinger's and built two golf courses of its own in the 1960s. Of the pair, The Monster was the draw, known for many years as one of the hardest and longest tests in America, measuring a fearsome 7,650 yards from its opening. It outlasted the Concord resort but eventually closed in 2010.

The rise of Resorts World Catskills, as well as the neighboring Kartrite Resort - with an indoor waterpark and go-kart facilities - enabled The Monster to take a new form for the 21st century. Laid out by Rees Jones and associate Bryce Swanson and opened in 2023, [the new Monster](#) is an impressive effort that uses land that belonged to both of the Concord's former golf courses. The opening par 4, a long and scenic uphill dogleg-left, serves as a perfect introduction: this is still a course where solid shots will be necessary. The front nine wanders some hilly territory, highlighted by the long par-3 4th, which drops some 60 feet from the tee down to the green. The graceful par-4 7th sits beautifully between woods, pond and meadow.



A striking pine adds to the appeal of The Monster's par-4 7th hole. Tim Gavrich/GolfPass

The back nine at The Monster is flatter, using more of the tract of its namesake course. Here, Jones and Swanson uncorked a cracking set of holes along Kiamesha Creek. The long par-5 12th tacks to the right the whole way, with a centerline fairway bunker whose right-side fairway can make the hole play shorter. The short 13th is a superb wood-and-wedge par 4 where a tiny finger of the water intrudes on the tee shot. The water doesn't come into play on the following hole, a picturesque par 3, so much as it sets a nice scene.

Managed by Troon Golf, the Monster is an upscale golf experience along similar lines to other casino courses. At 7,300 yards from the tips, it is less monstrous than it used to be; golfers who play the correct tees will have a good time. Tee times are spaced 15 minutes apart to give groups a sense of seclusion on an already appealing property. House-made lemonade with different flavored syrups (I recommend the lavender flavor) made for a refreshing treat at the turn. The fairway grow-in has been slowed slightly in places by some challenging spring weather the last two years, but the greens were nearly perfect, albeit recovering from aerification, when I played the course in June. Peak green fees sit north of \$200.

The Resorts World Catskills casino hotel property itself is bright, clean and cheerful, with the typical variety of slots, table games and a modest poker room. The highlight restaurant is Cellaio, an Italian steakhouse by celebrity chef Scott Conant. The 18-story hotel tower's higher floors afford lovely views of the Catskills landscape, welcoming visitors to a new era for the region.



[The 2nd hole at The Monster kicks off a strong set of par 3s. Tim Gavrich/GolfPass](#)



[The Monster's par-4 3rd hole creeps uphill to a tricky green. Tim Gavrich/GolfPass](#)



[The 4th is The Monster's longest par 3, but it plays significantly downhill. Tim Gavrich/GolfPass](#)



[Add The Monster's 13th to any list of superb short par 4s in New York. Tim Gavrich/GolfPass](#)



[The par-3 14th at The Monster sits attractively beside Kiamesha Creek. Tim Gavrich/GolfPass](#)



[The Resorts World Catskills casino hotel lords over The Monster's par-4 16th hole. Tim Gavrich/GolfPass](#)



[The green of The Monster's long par-4 18th sits above a rock outcropping. Tim Gavrich/GolfPass](#)



Resorts World Catskills Stay & Play Package

Monticello, NY

MONTICELLO, NY | Enjoy 3 nights' accommodations at Resorts World Catskills and 2 rounds of golf at The Monster Golf Club.