

This is how I play Montanya (on a Good day with no miss hits – (Reasonably long hitters guide)

(Bear in mind that Montanya is around 800m in altitude so you can expect to hit the ball about 10% further than at sea level).

Hole 1, 309m, Par 4, 'El Cirerer'

A Beautiful View off the 1st Tee invites a good 3 Wood or even long iron to ideally leave you around 60m to the receptive green. Don't drive too far (or left) because you will be blocked out by a large Pine Tree on the front left of the green and the two bunkers underneath.

Hole 2, 131m, Par 3, 'Els Pins'

A short pine tree lined par 3 with a 3 tier green. Anything from a Gap Wedge to 9 iron if the flag is right at the back. Watch out for the Bunker on the right hand side and the Pine tree short left that covers the front left edge.

Hole 3, 292m, Par 4, 'L'Arboç'

A sharp dog/leg to the left will require a drawn 6 to 4 iron to leave you 100 m to the green. This is uphill and will require an extra club to get there may be a Pitching Wedge to 9 Iron if the flag is at the back. Watch out for the bunker on the front left and avoid missing left or long. The green is sloping back to front so you can be brave here.

Hole 4, 321m, Par 4, L'Auro

Another downhill dog-leg to the left. Normally a 6 Iron to the corner leaving a pitching wedge to a long narrow green. Watch out not to be long or too far right as there is Out of Bounds all around the back edge. The rough around the left of the green is 'penal' so forget the 3 wood to the green off the tee, unless you have a polished short game. The green is fairly flat break wise.

Hole 5, 472m (Back Tee) 409 (Front), Par 5, El Tremól

You can safely hit a driver here leaving it around the left hand fairway bunker (or just beyond). This will leave you anything from a 4 to 7 iron over the pond to an uphill green. Watch out for the lateral hazard all the way down the right hand side and try to leave your approach below the hole as anything above will require a masterly touch on a very difficult putt. One of the best holes on the course.

Hole 6, 149m, Par 3, La Sequoia

Tricky little par 3 with Pines on the left of the tee ready to catch anything hit slightly left. The hole suits a draw with a cut down 7 or 8 to avoid the bunker guarding the left side of the green which is an upside down saucer. Again stay below the hole for an uphill putt and avoid missing on the right where the green falls away to an out of bounds.

Hole 7, 370m, Par 4, 'Els Marrunyes'

Before you tee off here, don't forget to take in the views of the Pyrenees! Then start concentrating again because this hole will need all your attention.

I normally hit a 2 or 3 iron here to avoid the right hand fairway bunker on this downhill fairway. This will leave about 130m to the green that can be hit with a 9 iron or Pitching wedge and again avoid anything above the hole. Just an impossible putt from there. The dangers here are going too long and right which will block off your second behind the trees on the outside of the dog-leg and the lateral water hazard at about 260m on the left inner corner.

Hole 8, 380m, Par 4, 'El Cedre'

No obvious danger off the tee so you can hit a good long driver here. That should leave you at the top of the hill with a panoramic second to a right to left sloping green. Should be anything from a 9 to Sand Wedge. Avoid driving too far left on this tree lined fairway as the ball may fall onto the 5th fairway or even get blocked in the rough. Just over the hill there are 3 bunkers and one short left and one off the right of the green. The green is usually true but is sloping right to left as to enter from the fairway.

Hole 9, 492m, Par 5, 'El Roure'

A nice par 5 that will leave you a fair chance of a par. The question is.. do you feel lucky.

A good drive off either tee will get you just past the oak on the left of the fairway. You have about 6 m on the left of the tree to play with before the out of bounds comes into play. The Lateral hazard [lake] on the left of the fairway should not come into play unless the wind is against. A good drive will leave you around 200m to the green so a very good 3 iron or a fairway wood will be needed to get up to the putting surface. There are bunkers 90m short of the green on the right and another set at 30m. The green slopes back to front and is fairly true. On your first visit you can consider a par here as a very good score.

Hole 10, 311m, Par 4, 'El Ginebre'

A very attractive dog-leg to the right over the lake. From the forward tee you'll need to stay left of the bunker on the right that is visible off the tee. The ideal line is a 2 iron or 3 wood about 15 m left of the bunker towards the lone tree on the far side of the fairway. The second will be anything from a wedge to Lob Wedge to a very narrow green bunkered on the right and short left. The bail out shot here is to the left side of the green as the bank on the left should bring the ball onto the putting surface.

Hole 11, 395m, Par 4, 'El lledoner'

A slight dog-leg downhill right to a long green. The tee shot should present no difficulties so long as you take into account the two bunkers on the right hand side of the fairway. A good drive should take you just beyond these leaving you a 9 iron to sand wedge to the green. Watch out for the two bunkers short and left and one right. Avoid going through the green as the rough is totally overgrown there. The green tends to break left to right from the front.

Hole 12, 390m, Par 4, 'Els Verns'

his is the hardest hole on the course. The tee shot must be hit with a draw to stay on the fairway. The bunker in the landing zone off the left of the fairway should be avoided at all cost although this is somewhat hidden by the tall trees on the left of the fairway. The really long hitters might try to fly these leaving you with anything from a 6 to 8 iron to the ling narrow green. Avoid anything left of the green and the bunker short left. Shots hit to the right of the green tend to drop down onto the putting surface. You can feel fairly satisfied if you come off of this hole with a par.

Hole 13, 450m, Par 5, 'Els Pollanques'

A very well planned par 5 gives you a good option to drive to the right corner of the dog-leg avoiding the lateral hazard on the left hand side. The bunker short left on the fairway should not come into play so your only problem will be, once in position, to hit the three tier green below the flag. You will need anything from a 3 to 7 iron for the second and watch out for the hidden bunker on the front top right of the green. It is totally hidden from the fairway.

Hole 14, 166m, Par 3, 'Els Bedolls'

The most deceptive par 3 on the course and one that always presents difficulties. From the lower tee an easy 8 iron to the centre of the green should be sufficient. off the upper tier you might need a 7. Danger is the water hazard in front of the green which opens up on the right hand side. Pretty straight forward but beware of the prevailing right to left breeze and the tall trees on the right.

Hole 15, 447m, Par 5, 'Els tells'

A difficult double dog-leg uphill meander. A good strike with the driver will get you up to or just beyond the bunker on the right. A Lateral hazard from the bunker moves up the fairway for about 50m. Once on the fairway, given the incline, you will need a couple more clubs than you might think if you plan to go for the green. A lone tree behind marks the line over the bunker short. You will need to fly the shot all the way to the surface which is in a bowl so anything missing will normally back up to the surface. The smart play, if you are in doubt, is to the right side of the left hand corner of the dog-leg into the green leaving you a sand iron third to the green.

Hole 16, 401m, Par 4, 'Les Acacies'

A beautiful hole with a great option to hit the driver to the right of the pines and over the saddle. This should drop down the hill to the fairway leaving you a 9 iron or wedge to the uphill forward facing green. Avoid the bunkers short left of the fairway (over the left pines will take you straight into them) and the two short left of the and the lone bunker half way up the green on the right. The green falls away steeply from right to left and back to front. Try to stay below the flag on this long green.

Hole 17, 196m, Par 3, 'L'Alzina'

Two bunkers short on each side of the green mark the only difficulties on this hole, apart from the distance of over 215 yards. Normally playing into a stiff breeze, this hole will need anything from a 3 to 5 iron (on a still day). Ideally a draw into the green from the right should carry the bunker. The green is sloping back to front and is fairly true although on two tiers. A good hole to get a Par.

Hole 18, 377m, Par 4, 'Els Xiprers'

A slight dog-leg to the right with a hidden bunker on the inside corner and a lateral to the right of the bank bordering the fairway. Out of bounds on the left should never come into play. This hole usually plays with the wind so the long hitter can risk taking on the bunker and trees left of the Holm Oak. This should carry some 280m to be safe leaving you with a Sand or Lob Wedge to the green protected on the right by a lone bunker. The entry to the green is uphill so you won't easily run one up to the hole. The two bunkers to the left of the fairway rarely come into play. Stay below the flag as this green is pretty slick.

Well that is how I would play it on a perfect day, in warm conditions. One thing to remember is to take your camera. The views at Montanya are spectacular and in spring the views of the Pyrenees are postcard perfect.

Visit Montanya and Jordi and his team will ensure you will have a magnificent and unforgettable round in the shadows of the Montanya Mountains and like everything at Montanya, the restaurant is Fabulous and you can get great deals on accommodation at the Hotel Montanya resort and Spa, just down the road.

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