

# BY JACK NICKLAUS



masters  
2015

'I ALWAYS PLAYED IT SMART HERE: MIDDLE OF THE GREEN.'

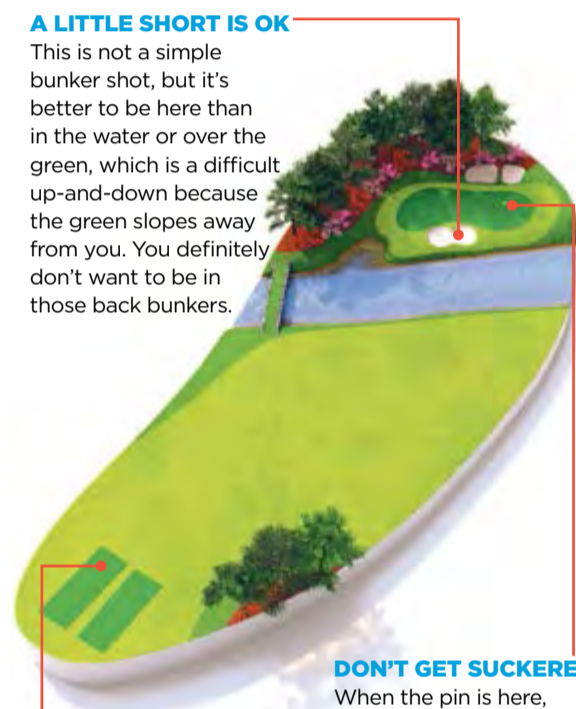
## SMALL WONDER THE 12TH HOLE AT AUGUSTA GOT MY RESPECT

This is one of the best – and also most dangerous – holes in golf.

I love it because it makes you think and tempts you to try bolder shots than you should. It's not a particularly difficult hole in calm conditions, but the swirling wind is almost always a factor. You're playing a 155-yard shot, but with the water in front, you can make a big number. Like so many holes at the Masters, if you play to the centre of the green, you'll usually have a reasonable birdie putt. I made a lot of birdies at Augusta by sinking 20-foot putts rather than firing at the flag. The 12th was no different. — with Roger Schiffman

### A LITTLE SHORT IS OK

This is not a simple bunker shot, but it's better to be here than in the water or over the green, which is a difficult up-and-down because the green slopes away from you. You definitely don't want to be in those back bunkers.



### FINDING THE RIGHT STUFF

The key to this hole is having the right club in your hand. I never liked hitting a right-to-left shot into this green—too much risk of going over.

### DON'T GET SUCKERED

When the pin is here, best to play left of it. I liked to line up at the middle of the front bunker. I might fudge it a little right, but never right of the bunker. If you go there and come up short, you're down the bank and in the drink.

Illustration by Chris O'Riley