

Press Release

1st Messinia Pro Am, an International Golf Tournament to be launched by Costa Navarino in 2017

Athens, 11th July 2016 – Costa Navarino, the prime sustainable golf destination in the Mediterranean, inaugurates the **1st Messinia Pro Am**, on **21-24 February 2017**, under the auspices of the [HYPERLINK "http://www.pgae.com/"](http://www.pgae.com/) PGAs of Europe, the [HYPERLINK "http://www.pgagreece.com/"](http://www.pgagreece.com/) PGA of Greece and the [HYPERLINK "http://hoa.org.gr/?lang=en"](http://hoa.org.gr/?lang=en) Hellenic Olympic Academy.

When golf meets ancient Greek history...

"Sfairistiki", the ancestor of all games being played with a club, such as hockey and golf, was among the most popular sports and is being portrayed in many statues and amphoras dating back from 510 to 500 B.C.

Top professional and amateur golf players, celebrities and special guests from all over the world will compete in the awarded golf courses, The Dunes Course and The Bay Course, the only signature golf courses in Greece. The athletes will have the opportunity to enjoy the ideal weather conditions, the Mediterranean landscape and the stunning view of the Ionian Sea and Bay of Navarino, while playing golf amid lush olive groves and rolling hills.

Costa Navarino is home to "The Dunes Course", the first signature 18 hole golf course, designed by **Bernhard Langer**, former US Masters champion and chief of the Ryder Cup European team, in association with European Golf Design. The Dunes Course features a 3,500 square meters golf club as well as a Golf Academy. The Bay Course came next, an 18 hole seaside golf course, designed by **Robert Trent Jones Jr.**, located next to the historic Bay of Navarino and awarded among the "Best of the Best Golf Courses" by Robb Report. Both golf courses have been accolated, as Best Newcomers, by the World of Leading Golf Association, in 2014.

The **Messinia Pro Am** aims to become an established institution hosting the golfing elite from around the globe, thus contributing to the development and promotion of golf and golf tourism in Greece. Moreover, golf, as of 2016, will again be included in the Olympic Games, for the first time after 1900 and 1904.

AEGEAN, member of STAR ALLIANCE, the leading global aviation alliance will be the official airline partner of the event. The airliner was awarded by Skytrax World Airline Awards, for the 5th consecutive time and 6th time over the last 7 years as the best regional airliner in Europe for 2015.

Subscriptions and participation forms will be accepted through the official website of the event: [HYPERLINK "http://messiniaproam.costanavarino.com"](http://messiniaproam.costanavarino.com) messiniaproam.costanavarino.com. For those who are interested in staying at The Westin Resort Costa Navarino and enjoying the full program of the Messinia Pro Am 2017, special accommodation packages will be in place.

Teaser Video: [HYPERLINK "https://youtu.be/p5FqflhhiN0"](https://youtu.be/p5FqflhhiN0) <https://>

youtu.be/p5FqflhhiN0

Official Airline Partner: AEGEAN

Organizer: Costa Navarino

Website: HYPERLINK "<http://messiniaproam.costanavarino.com>"
messiniaproam.costanavarino.com

Hashtag: #messiniaproam

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Costa Navarino:

Costa Navarino is the prime, sustainable destination in the Mediterranean, located in the Greek region of Messinia in the southwest Peloponnese. One of the most unspoiled and breathtaking seaside Mediterranean landscapes, this area has been shaped by 4,500 years of history. Its philosophy is driven by a genuine desire to promote Messinia, while protecting and preserving its natural beauty and heritage. It will comprise a number of distinct sites featuring 5-star deluxe hotels, luxury residences, conference facilities, spa and thalassotherapy centres, signature golf courses, as well as a wide range of unique year-round activities for adults and children. Navarino Dunes, the first area, is home to two luxury 5-star hotels, HYPERLINK "<http://www.romanoscostanavarino.com>" The Romanos, a Luxury Collection Resort and HYPERLINK "<http://www.westincostanavarino.com>" The Westin Resort Costa Navarino; The Dunes Course – the first signature golf course in Greece- Anazoe Spa, a 4,000sq.m. spa & thalassotherapy centre; the state-of-the-art conference centre House of Events; specially designed facilities for children; as well as a variety of gastronomy venues, sports, outdoor and cultural activities. Navarino Bay, the second area is home to the signature golf course, The Bay Course. Download high resolution photos and logos from the press section in downloads on the website HYPERLINK "<http://www.costanavarino.com>" www.costanavarino.com, using the password nestor.

The Westin Resort Costa Navarino

The Westin Resort Costa Navarino is one of the two luxury 5-star properties operating at Navarino Dunes, the first resort area in Costa Navarino, the prime destination in the Mediterranean. Overlooking the Ionian Sea coastline of the Dunes Beach, at The Westin Resort Costa Navarino 445 rooms and suites, inspired by old Messinian mansions, spring from nature and create an ambiance of genuine hospitality. Voted as the “Best Family Destination” in the Mediterranean amongst Europe’s Starwood Hotels & Resorts, The Westin Resort Costa Navarino is the ideal destination for family getaways as it proposes a plethora of children activities such as a wonderful aqua park with water slides, playground and recreational center as well as two specially designed hubs for children, Cocoon and SandCastle. At Navarino Dunes there is also The Romanos, a Luxury Collection Resort, the 18-hole signature golf course The Dunes Course the 4,000 sqm Anazoe Spa, a state-of-the-art conference center, as well as a variety of culinary venues,

sports, outdoor and cultural activities. Navarino Bay, the second area in Costa Navarino, features the second 18-hole signature golf course, The Bay Course. For more information on The Westin Resort Costa Navarino, please visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.westincostanavarino.com"](http://www.westincostanavarino.com) www.westincostanavarino.com or follow us on Twitter.

The Dunes Course

The seaside Dunes Course at Navarino Dunes, designed by former US Masters Champion and Ryder Cup Captain Bernhard Langer, in association with European Golf Design, opened in May 2010 and is the first signature golf course in Greece.

This 18-hole / par-71 championship golf course includes some links-style features in areas closest to the sea. Parts of the course venture into olive and fruit groves, while several holes run along a small river. Combined with large undulating greens, wide fairways and steep-faced pot bunkers, the links element of the course adds to its unique style and playability, so that each of the 18 holes presents a matchless challenge.

The Dunes Course includes a full-size driving range and a short-game practice area with the largest green in Europe, the 3500m² Dunes Clubhouse with well-appointed dining and function areas, for pre- and post-tournament activities, a designated members lounge with terrace and an exclusive Pro shop.

The Bay Course

Open since October 2011, The Bay Course at Navarino Bay - just a few minutes from The Westin Resort Costa Navarino and next to the historic Navarino Bay, promises a different set of challenges and choices, with greater emphasis on strategic play and positional golf.

With the majority of tees offering inspiring sea views, the 18-hole seaside Bay Course, designed by Robert Trent Jones II, meanders through three distinct natural landscapes. The Seaside, Canyon, and Grove holes provide striking contrasts that make for an intense and memorable golf round.

The Bay Course plays to a par of 71 from a variety of lengths designed to challenge golfers of various skill levels. Crafted across natural terrain, the layout is offering panoramic sea and mountain views, having also some holes that play directly along the sea.

