

PRESS RELEASE

Messinia Pro-Am: Golfers were the protagonists

The 1st tournament was completed with unique performances!

Athens, 02 March 2017. The 1st international golf tournament, Messinia Pro-Am took place at [The Dunes Course](#) and [The Bay Course](#) from February 21-24 2017. The golf tournament attracted **27 Teams** consisting of **27 top professionals and 81 amateur golfers** from **14 countries**, including the **Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russia, the UK and the United States.**

The **1st Messinia Pro-Am** was played over 54 holes (three rounds) with each team consisted of one professional and three amateurs. The high level of the golfers, offered a strong and competitive tournament where the daily results balanced until the end of each round.

The **Messinia Pro-Am** closed with the Gala dinner and Prize Award Ceremony, which was presented by **Nadia Boule** and **Christos Chatziioannou**. Mr. **Achilles V. Constantakopoulos**, Chairman & CEO, of TEMES S.A., developers of Costa Navarino opened the Gala dinner with his speech. He highlighted the long-standing dream of his father and founder of Costa Navarino, Captain Vassilis Constantakopoulos to make Greece a premier golf destination.

The first award of the night was a special 'Hole in One' award given to German journalist from **Golf Spielen, Petra Himmel**. She is one of only **6 golfers** to have managed this rare feat in competition at [The Bay Course](#). **Petra Himmel** also received the awards for the "Longest Drive" and "Closest To The Pin" for women. **David Arendt** received the "Longest Drive" men's category. **Haris Papadopoulos** received the Men's "Closest To The Pin" award.

The **1st place** Team was the professional **Stuart Boyle** and amateurs **Haris Papadopoulos, Georgios Kyvernitis and Daniele Bovio**. **2nd place** went to the professional **Steve Dooley** and amateurs **Gerhard Komarek, Andreas Hainz and Gerhard Marischka**. Professional **Panos Karantzias** and his team of amateurs **Igor Graskin, Christian Werner and Bettina Schroeder** won 3rd place.

The evening concluded with the awards for the winning Professionals!

Federico Elli (PGA Italy) was the **1st Messinia Pro-Am champion**. "*Costa Navarino is always a top place to be...a wonderful hotel, wonderful golf course and all the staff are brilliant. I think this is one of the best spots for a golfing holiday...we will come back for sure next year.*" said Mr. Elli. His interview can be watched [here](#).

Ralph Miller (PGA Holland) was 2nd and **Lorenzo Gagli (PGA Italy)** 3rd. **Hugo Santos** and **Emanuele Canonica** were 4th and 5th respectively. Finally, **Paul Nilbrink** the winner of the 4th Aegean Airlines Pro Am (2009) came 6th. In addition to these top professionals, celebrities also participated in the tournament, such as top American basketball player **Joe Arlauckas** and German TV presenter, **Annica Hansen**.

The surprises did not stop there! In a special contest sponsored by **Intersys SA**, three lucky people won 3 unique TomTom Sports Runner 2 watches.

The 1st Messinia Pro-Am was a success because of the great support of many sponsors such as our **official airline partner** of the tournament, [AEGEAN](#), member of the global airline STAR ALLIANCE, the **official sponsor** [Loux](#), the largest soft drink and juice company in Greece, and the **official sponsors** [Vodafone](#), [Athens International Airport \(AIA\)](#), [Poseidonia](#), [MyTransfer](#) and **CU BOX**.

The company [J.VOURAKIS SONS EE](#), an **official supporter** of the tournament designed the awards for the Prize Giving Ceremony. Other **official supporters** of the tournament were [METAXA](#), the well-known companies [Kyvernitis Travel](#), [Heineken](#), [Ford Motor Hellas](#) and **TomTom Sports**.

Messinia Pro-Am was also supported by a number of **helpers**: [Kalamata Papadimitriou](#), the liquor and beverage brands of **Stolichnaya** and **Fever-Tree**, [Predaris](#) company with **Cu Wrap**, [Dimiourgies](#) company and the natural mineral water company [Hyas](#).

The **1st Messinia Pro-Am** was organized **under the auspices** of the [PGAs of Europe](#), the [PGA of Greece](#), the [Hellenic Golf Federation](#) and the [Hellenic Olympic Academy](#).

In the following link you can watch the video prepared by the organization with the **best moments** of the international tournament **Messinia Pro-Am**:
<https://youtu.be/JQ78epG05IE>

Website: 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, The Romanos, a Luxury Collection Resort and 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 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 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.