

Press Release

Excitement builds for the first Messinia Pro Am, an international golf tournament taking place at Costa Navarino in February 2017

Athens, 3rd November 2016 – The countdown to the inaugural **Messinia Pro Am**, is underway with extensive interest from golf teams both in Greece and abroad.

The event is set to take place from February 21-24, 2016 at Costa Navarino, the prime sustainable golf destination in the Mediterranean, with many professional and amateur golfers already forming the first Pro Am teams set to participate.

The event will celebrate its inaugural year with the presence of former professional basketball player **Joe Arlauckas**. Commenting on his participation, the great basketball player stated: *"It feels great to be able to visit one of my favorite countries, Greece and I am really looking forward to spending time playing at the two great signature designed golf courses as well as enjoying all of the amenities Costa Navarino has to offer"*.

Each team participating in the tournament consists of **one professional and three amateur golfers**. The event will kick off on February 21st with a practice day for all teams followed by the main competition taking place between February 22nd and 24th.

The focal point of the action will be Costa Navarino's two award-winning golf courses, The Dunes Course and The Bay Course. **The Dunes Course** opened as the **first signature 18 hole golf course in Greece**, followed by **The Bay Course**, another **18 hole seaside golf course**.

Both golf courses received the accolades of **Best Newcomers** by the **World of Leading Golf Association** in 2014, while in 2016 the courses were recognised by the internationally renowned magazine **Golf World** as number 6 in a list of the **Top 100 European Golf Resorts**. Further accolades include placing within **Robb Report's "Best of the Best Golf Courses"**, while **1Golf.eu** named The Dunes Course in second place in a round-up of **Europe's Most Popular Golf Courses 2016**.

The Director of Local Operations, Navarino Dunes, Costa Navarino, Mr. **George Hadjosif** highlighted: *"Golf has again become an Olympic sport for the first time since 1904. In Costa Navarino, we are proud to launch the Messinia Pro-Am, an international golf tournament aiming to become an established institution hosting the golfing elite from around the globe and promoting golf and golf tourism in Greece. Being under the auspices of the PGAs of Europe is an honour for us and we look forward to a successful event."*

Registrations and participation forms for the **1st Messinia Pro Am** continue at a quick pace at the **official page of the event**: <http://messiniaproam.costanavarino.com/registration.html>. For those who are interested in staying at **The Westin Resort Costa Navarino** and enjoy the full experience of the Messinia Pro Am 2017, special accommodation packages are available: <http://messiniaproam.costanavarino.com/travel/accomodation-packages.html>

AEGEAN, member of STAR ALLIANCE, the leading global aviation alliance will be the **official airline partner** of the event, while the company **Kyvernitis Travel** is the **official supporter** of the event.

The **1st Messinia Pro Am** will be held **under the auspices** of the **PGAs of Europe**, the **PGA of Greece**, the **Hellenic Golf Federation** and the **Hellenic Olympic Academy**.

New Teaser Video: <https://youtu.be/jaijSEdV6Rk>

Official Airline Partner: AEGEAN

Official Supporter: Kyvernitis Travel

Organizer: Costa Navarino

Website: messiniaproam.costanavarino.com

Hashtag: #messiniaproam

Official Airline Partner



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Under The Auspices of the PGAs of Europe, the PGA of Greece, the Hellenic Golf Federation and the Hellenic Olympic Academy



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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.