

**PRESS RELEASE**

**International players and celebrities join forces at the  
2nd Messinia Pro-Am**

**The golf tournament taking place at Costa Navarino 21-24 February 2018,  
will be supporting the "SOS Children's Villages" Charity Association**

**Athens, January 31 2018** – Less than a month to go until the international golf tournament [Messinia Pro-Am](#) organized by [Costa Navarino](#), takes place **21-24 February** in Messinia, Greece.

Amateurs and professionals from **21 countries** and four different continents are joining the competition, which is expected to be higher than last year, as more than half of the participants are **European Tour Players**.

Besides top professional golfers participating, three names will draw the attention at the tournament. Scottish golfer **Gordon Brand Jr**, former basketball legend **Joe Arlauckas** and one of Scotland's former rugby players and golf enthusiast **Thom Evans**, will join the event.

Gordon Brand Jr belongs to the golfing elite with many tournament entries, counting 8 wins at the European Tour, 2 wins at the European Senior Tour and 2 wins at the Ryder Cup. Former basketball star Joe Arlauckas enjoys golf as an amateur player and counts many titles in his basketball career, a highlight being the European Championship in 1995 with Real Madrid.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Messinia Pro-Am will be supporting the **SOS Children's Villages Greece Charity Association**, in two ways: a) On the second day of the tournament, the charity Bowling game "A good cause to STRIKE", will offer players of the tournament the opportunity to play twice. For the total number of pins knocked down, an equal amount of money will be donated to the "SOS Children's Villages" by Captain Vassilis & Carmen Konstantakopoulos Foundation; b) Throughout the tournament, online donations can be made through the [website](#) of the Messinia Pro-Am.

The teams will be competing for the **2<sup>nd</sup> biggest prize fund given in golf tournaments in Europe**. The total amount to be distributed is €50,000. The tournament will also award the top 5 best-performing teams, the 3 best professional golfers, while a hole-in-one award will also be given this year. Moreover, for the first time this year, golfers will be able to get real-time updates on team and individual scores, even on their golf buggies, with the Messinia Pro-Am new **live score** service.

This year's event programme has numerous surprises for the golfers, including three thematic social events with live music. The "All That Jazz" Welcome Cocktail Reception, the "Rock 'n' Roll" Charity Night as well as the "Shiny" Gala Dinner and Prize Giving Ceremony presented by two actors of Greek origin enjoying an international career, Manos Gavras and Elena Charbila.

The **official airline partner** of the tournament is [Aegean Airlines](#), member of the world's largest global airline alliance **Star Alliance**.

[Vodafone](#), [Athens International Airport](#) and [MyTransfer](#) are the **official sponsors** and [Kyvernitis Travel](#) is the **official travel partner** coordinating and ensuring a smooth registration & accommodation process.

The tournament is supported for the first time by the innovative services of the **sports science partner** [Fysiotek](#) and the **Official supporters** of the tournament include [J.VOURAKIS SONS EE](#), [Poseidonia](#), [Luc Belaire](#), [Stoli](#), [Paulaner](#), [METAXA](#), [Kir-Yianni](#), [Marendry](#), [Nescafé Alegria](#), [Kalamata Papadimitriou](#) and [Siampis](#).

Lastly, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Messinia Pro-Am is **assisted by** [ECOLAB](#), [Kayak](#), [Stefanouris](#), [Messiniaki Paradosi](#), [Dimiourgies](#), [Fever-Tree](#) and [Avanti](#).

Special accommodation packages are available at **The Westin Resort Costa Navarino**: [messiniaproam.costanavarino.com](http://messiniaproam.costanavarino.com).

Messinia Pro-Am is organized in cooperation with the [PGAs of Europe](#), under the auspices of [PGA of Greece](#), the [Hellenic Golf Federation](#) and the [Hellenic Olympic Academy](#).

**Website:** [messiniaproam.costanavarino.com](http://messiniaproam.costanavarino.com)

Hashtag: #messiniaproam

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**Contact Email:** [MessiniaProAm2018@kyvernitis.gr](mailto:MessiniaProAm2018@kyvernitis.gr)

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the Hellenic Golf Federation and the Hellenic Olympic Academy



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### **About 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](http://www.costanavarino.com), using the password Nestor.

### **About SOS Children's Villages Greece**

The SOS Children's Villages of Greece is a member of the International Organization SOS Children's Villages, which is active in 134 countries and whose main objective is to protect children who, for serious social reasons, are in permanent need of care because they are missing their natural parents care. At the same time, due to the ongoing crisis, SOS

Children's Villages operate as Centers for the Support of Children and Families in ten locations across Greece, aiming to help families confront difficulties with dignity and remain united, offering counseling, psychological support, material help and educational services for children.