



Château de la Messardière  
Hôtel & Spa ★★★★★ Saint-Tropez  
PALACE

Press release

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## MESSARDIERE GOLF CUP Race to Saint-Tropez 2015 The final cut

The Château de la Messardière enjoys a long-standing reputation as a showcase for hotels and culture in Saint-Tropez. Last Friday night, it also became a key venue in the sporting calendar, when it fêted the winners of its own international golf tournament.

The closing event of the 2015 Messardière Golf Cup Race to Saint-Tropez on Friday, 16 October was a relaxed, convivial evening attended by around 180 people. The world of sport was represented by pro champions Mélodie Bourdy and Romain Béchu and tourism professionals by Magali Devouge, 'golf sector' programme manager for the Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur (PACA) Regional Tourist Board, representing her Director, Bruno James, together with Emmanuel Bertrand, Director of Tourism for the Gulf of Saint-Tropez.

The winners and all the partners in the circuit were received in fitting style by Château de la Messardière General Manager **Alexandre Durand-Viel** and his team in the magnificent setting of this five-star luxury hotel.

The final of this third, 2015 Messardière Golf Cup Race to Saint-Tropez certainly lived up to expectations, hosting around sixty players who had made it through the thirty or so qualifying stages in France, Belgium and Luxembourg. Golf fans were rewarded with a truly stunning spectacle in the majestic setting of the Saint-Endréol course.

The final of the Decayeux Golf Cup was held on the same day, at the same location—the culmination of this ‘sister’ competition, which also takes place over around thirty dates in the 2015 season.

The evening saw a suitably superb celebration of this final, put together by Château de la Messardière executive chef Pierrick Berthier and his teams, where light, delicate dishes were enjoyed by all.

A number of awards were presented, thanks to the generosity of partners including Bertaud Belieu, 5 Mondes, Italia Independent, luxe-magazine.com, and Château de la Messardière.

Magali Devouge, from the PACA Tourist Board, took the opportunity to introduce and promote our beautiful region, together with its golf pass.



*From left to right: Stéphane Decayeux (CEO, Decayeux Golf), Alexandra de la Vaissiere (Italia Independent eyewear), Philippe Soleillant (organiser of the Messardière Golf Cup Race to Saint-Tropez), Magali Devouge (programme manager, PACA Regional Tourist Board), Alexandre Durand-Viel (General Manager, Château de la Messardière), Emmanuel Bertrand (Director of Tourism, Gulf of Saint-Tropez), Michaël André (SHF Golf Events, MGC circuit in Belgium), Romain Béchu (pro player and French men’s golf champion), Mélodie Bourdy (pro player and French women’s golf champion)*



*Alexandre Durand-Viel, General Manager, Château de la Messardière, delighted to welcome so many participants*

### The Decayeux vs. Messardière Challenge

The day after this wonderful celebration, the six best finalists from the 3,000 players who had pitted themselves in the two amateur circuits (the Messardière Golf Cup and the Decayeux Golf Cup) leading to the 'Race to Saint-Tropez' were offered the chance to compete in a play-off, on **Saturday, 17 October**, on Sainte-Maxime's Blue Green golf course.



Therefore only the very best players were selected to make up the two sides for this final contest, with all the hallmarks of a grand challenge between two highly ranked teams, on the shores of the Mediterranean. These golfers play at a standard very close to that of the professionals who led the way, and to whom the two luxury brands represented are very grateful. The scores registered in this play-off were indeed exceptional. The two teams of four, each consisting of one pro and three amateurs, competed in the popular format of a 4-ball scramble.

## The forces at play

Team Messardière, led by French professional golfer **Mérodie Bourdy**, consisted of **Gérard Kempf**, the local boy on the team (from la Grande Bastide golf course), with a handicap of 4.3, together with the winner of our final, **Olivier Eildesberg**, and his fellow golfer from the Barrière Group courses in Deauville, **Stéphane Waldisberg**. A strong, close-knit team, highly motivated by this unique challenge!



*Olivier Eildesberg / Gérard Kempf / Mérodie Bourdy (Pro) / Stéphane Waldisberg*

Although slightly younger, Team Decayeux, led by pro player **Romain Béchu**, was the clear favourite on paper, with three very talented players. First in line was **Scott Neau**, with a handicap of -1, a member of the Golf du Lys in Chantilly; the young **Mathieu Monnier** from Rennes in Brittany (Golf de Cicé-Blossac), with a handicap of 1.5; and **Frédéric Melesse**, playing off 3.9, from the Golf de Béthemont in the Paris region.



Mérodie Bourdy's team had the honour of leading off from the first tee on Sainte-Maxime's Blue Green course, a loyal partner for the past three years, and managed by Stéphane Hassler. The first nine holes saw a consistently strong performance, with six birdies and three pars registered in two hours of highly accurate play.

With **Team Decayeux** shooting no fewer than five birdies, it was a close-fought match.



*Stéphane Waldisberg/ Mérodie Bourdy (Pro)*

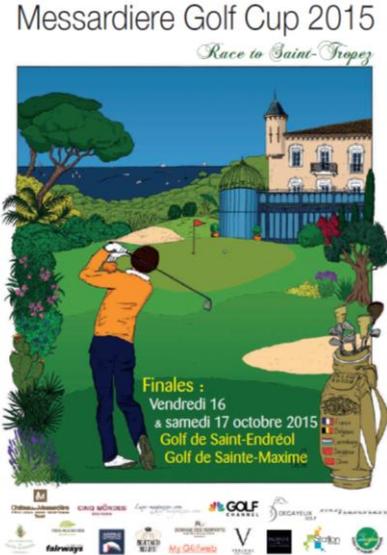
Already one point ahead at the ninth, **Team Messardière** edged into the lead as they headed into the back nine, consolidating their advantage with two eagles.

Taking their foot off the pedal just slightly, they then gave their opponents a chance to regroup and find their way back into this fine contest, and the teams were neck and neck for a few holes as they approached the 16th.

It was Team Messardière who finally claimed victory, with a score of **-15** to their opponents' **-13**, and with a mere three eagles, nine birdies, and six pars! The Château de la Messardière has asked Decayeux Golf to produce a fine trophy and a gold-plated score card to mark the event.

We look forward to the fourth Messardière Golf Cup Race to Saint-Tropez and the second Decayeux vs Messardière Grand Challenge next year.

Official poster  
By Charlotte Galloux





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