



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

Press release
Paris, April 2016

MESSARDIERE GOLF CUP *Race to Saint-Tropez 2016*

First stages: Sunday 17 April

The fourth edition of the **MESSARDIERE GOLF CUP, Race to Saint-Tropez** launched its new season on Sunday 17 April in both France and Italy, building on its growing success.

The 2016 opening round was held in Sainte-Maxime, as in the previous two years, and in Modena (this year there are three tournaments in Italy, the latest country to fall for the format). It marks the start of an event that includes around thirty competitive challenges, scheduled in France and abroad, confirming the success of this prestige competition that follows in the tradition of the world's great Amateur Golf tournaments.

This international amateur circuit that takes place in France, Belgium, and Italy is a must for all amateur golfers, male or female, whatever their nationality or level.

The first balls were struck at the Blue Green golf club in Sainte-Maxime and the Modena Golf Country Club on Sunday 17 April, on the Mediterranean and Emilia Romagna courses.

We feel it is now a tradition to launch the MESSARDIERE GOLF CUP Race to Saint-Tropez competition at two different courses in two neighbouring countries, with a start and finish in the Var region.

Numerous wild cards are up for grabs for the winners from each stage, giving them the chance to take part in the final rounds to be held on Friday, 14 October at the Saint-Endréol and Sainte-Maxime courses, the latter for the third year running.

Amateur golf's elite players will be under the spotlight, but to ensure a level playing field throughout the season, golfers with the highest net and gross score plus several players selected at random will also have the opportunity of playing in the...

Race to Saint-Tropez

...whatever their playing level. Female players can expect special treatment and will be warmly welcomed at all our competitions.

For the second year running, they will each receive a welcome gift from our loyal partner Cinq Mondes, also in attendance at the Château de la Messardière Spa, the five star Palace in Saint-Tropez.

Just like last year, 6 wild cards will be awarded after the Final to players with the highest gross score from each series, including a double 'Messardière & Decayeux Golf' challenge. This gives them the chance to participate in the play-off on Saturday 15 October, and naturally also to enjoy the festivities and VIP accommodation (with their choice of partner) at the magnificent Château de la Messardière, sponsor of the event.

The exceptional and highly coveted finish in Saint-Tropez will once again host the best players from the Decayeux Golf Cup partner circuit, covering around fifty courses, largely in France with some stages in Switzerland and Germany.

After the Final come the traditional Play-offs, promising some great surprises for our winners, including a friendly against professional players, who included Mélodie Bourdy and Romain Béchu in 2015. The title currently held by TEAM MESSARDIERE will be up for grabs, and will almost certainly be awarded to new players.

Managing Director Alexandre Durand-Viel and his team will join in celebration with the 2016 winners at the closing event on Friday 14 October in the magnificent **Château de la Messardière**, the luxurious hotel & spa and five-star Palace in Saint-Tropez that gives the circuit its name.

Once again, **Domaine Bertaud Belieu** will be providing the wine for the winners' tables on the Messardière Golf Cup, Race to Saint-Tropez circuit, and the prize-giving cocktail receptions for each of the stages from April to October,

including the final and the traditional end of season closing evening event at **Château de la Messardière**.



The World Corporate Golf Challenge

The various stages of the MESSARDIERE GOLF CUP, Race to Saint-Tropez Circuit produce not only a General Ranking, but also a specific Corporate Ranking (at the Prieuré and Barrière Group courses in particular) that is part of the 'World Corporate Golf Challenge France' title race, exclusive to French Businesses. In fact, four Corporate Pro-Ams have been officially incorporated into the 2016 Calendar. One of these challenges will no doubt confirm which French WCGC team goes on to take part in the 23rd Final of the World Corporate Golf Challenge from 21 to 26 June on the magnificent 'Oitavos Les Dunes' golf course in Cascais, Portugal.

Final Stages: places of character

Two Var golf courses, the Saint-Endréol and Sainte-Maxime courses, will host participants in the final stages of the fourth Messardière Golf Cup, Race to Saint-Tropez on Friday, 14 and Saturday, 15 October 2016.

These excellent golf courses offer spectacular playing conditions with a very steep terrain (the former is inland, while the latter is located on the seafront).

Saint-Endréol Golf Course

Inaugurated in 1992, this multi-faceted 6,169-metre course adapts to the variable contours of the land. Dominated by the imposing Rock of Roquebrune, which blazes in the setting sun, the river and the water features unfold among century-old umbrella pines. Designed by Michael Gayon, every fairway of this 18-hole golf course is unique in character and the thirteenth hole, in particular,

is one to remember, with a spectacular and impressive plunge towards a waterside green. This hole has, nonetheless, been conquered by players at all levels.



Sainte-Maxime Golf Course

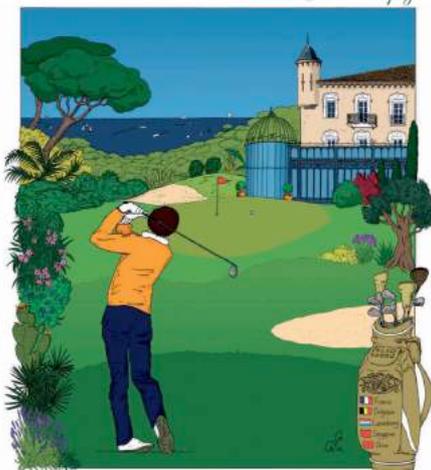
Above Saint-Tropez, at the heart of the Var hinterland, the Sainte-Maxime golf course offers exceptional views over the Mediterranean and the Massif des Maures. On steep ground, this 18-hole, par-72, 6,023-metre golf course presents a balanced golfing challenge, with something for all playing styles. On the outbound journey, the narrow, twisted fairways advise caution, particularly during the drive, where golfers should be on their guard against some tricky slopes. The return leg is kinder, allowing golfers to breathe a little and really let go.



**Official poster
By Charlotte Galloux**

Messardiere Golf Cup 2016

Race to Saint-Tropez



Château de la Messardière is perched on the hilltop like a jewel at the heart of the Saint-Tropez village. Awarded 'palace' status in 2012, this outstanding Saint-Tropez establishment offers a superb welcome in its 57 suites and 60 rooms, each with a terrace or private garden to allow guests to enjoy spectacular views.

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