

Andalucía Costa del Golf



Jiménez makes history again

The Malaga golfer has become the first Spaniard to win the Senior Open at St Andrews, the home of golf [P6&7]



TOURISM

Women's golf continues to get Costa's backing

The area is striving to promote the sport among women, boasting 30% of licences nationally [P3]



AMATEUR

The Costa del Golf Tour concludes

The tour, organised by SUR, has once again broken records for participation [P4]

Malaga's courses come together

A number of courses in the area are joining forces to put on special offers and organise professional and amateur events. [P2]



The Costa del Sol is famous for its variety of golf courses and modern facilities. :: SUR

Special offers to encourage more people to play golf this summer

The tourism authorities are placing a special focus on golf and the courses are hosting professional and amateur tournaments

**ALEJANDRO
DÍAZ**

Once again the golf courses on the Costa del Sol are playing a leading role in tourism this summer, with a whole range of different tournaments being organised for visitors and residents to enjoy at very competitive prices, including some of Spain's most famous professional championships.

This region already has a reputation as an outstanding destination for this type of event at both national and international level thanks to the number and quality of its golf courses, the ease of access and all the complementary facilities to provide everything which is needed to host important competitions of this type.

The creation of new professional and amateur tournaments in recent years has been vital in consolidating the growth in golf in one of



The special summer offers apply to everybody. :: SUR

Spain's most important tourist destinations. There are now more than 70 golf courses on the Costa del Sol, which is nearly 70 per cent of the total in Andalucía, and they generate an income of around 900 million euros a year, as the director of

the Costa del Sol Tourist Board, Arturo Bernal, explains.

The tourism authorities are also placing a special emphasis on golf this year, because it is "one of the sectors which has the most potential to attract year-round tourism,

so it has a budget of around 700,000 euros," says Bernal.

Events and special offers

La Cañada Golf Club, in the Soto-grande residential development, which specialises in children's golf and is a pioneer in Adapted Golf for disabled pupils, has already held its summer championships. They took place until July, and included the Andalusian Federation's Senior Championship and the Santa Bárbara Club Tournament, among others.

La Quinta Golf & Country Club is in Marbella's so-called 'Golf Valley', nestling between the sea and the mountains. It has 27 holes and between now and 13 September, golf fans can still take advantage of a special summer offer of a green fee, 18 holes and shared buggy for 69 euros.

The course at Baviera Golf is well-known because it has spacious greens and a great deal of movement. Designed by three-time world champion and Ryder Cup winner Manuel Piñero, its programme includes two championships this summer: the

Villa Moclinejo tournament, which took place in July, and the FMAEC Charity Tournament, which will be held on 25 August.

To encourage people to play more golf in the summer, the course has also introduced special seasonal offers for July, August and September, ranging from 35 to 100 euros. It also offers a 'SuperTwilight' rate from 3pm to 4pm until 31 August, which includes two green fees, 18 holes and a buggy for 70 euros.

Lauro 27 Golf, situated in lovely natural countryside in the Guadalhorce Valley, currently has 27 holes which can be played in combinations of nine. There is also a residential complex, with gardens and swimming pool. This summer it is hosting the final of the RFGA Pro-Am Professional Circuit. Its special summer offer includes two nights for two people in one of the apartments, with buffet breakfast and buggy for 375 euros.

El Chaparral Golf Club, which is situated in a unique setting close to the sea and amid a woodland of Canary Island pines and native Mediterranean trees, also has some special offers this summer. This course, which so far this season has already hosted the II Callaway Tournament, the I Ladies Open and the XII Anniversary Tournament, is offering special rates from 25 to 55 euros until 26 August.

Atalaya Golf & Country Club, in



The Costa del Sol is a quality destination for golfers. :: SUR

the foothills of the Sierra Blanca, has two exclusive 18-hole courses, the Atalaya Old Course and Atalaya New Course, and it is encouraging people to play more golf this summer with an offer of unlimited golf in the months of July and August and fees ranging from 280 to 510 euros.

San Roque Club offers its visitors a competitive range of facilities which include two golf courses, four haute cuisine restaurants, an equestrian centre, terraces, heated pool and beauty treatments. Its special summer offers, which can be found on its website, include prices from 67 to 138 euros.

The facilities at Benalmádena Golf are ideal for enjoying different activities and special offers. The Summer Campus, at which children can learn to play golf, runs from 2 July to 24 August and there are also different promotions such as two for one on green fees and BenalPack in July and August, the BenalPack and seven days of unlimited green fee for 50 euros or a 25 per cent discount on the Pack of five individual classes from 25 June.

The qualifying trial for the World Amateur Golfers Championship Spain will take place at Golf Torrequebrada, a benchmark course in

Europe which was designed by José Gancedo. This course has also introduced summer offers, with discounts on fees starting at 55 euros per player.

Río Real Golf includes a wide range of summer offers at its facilities which include an exclusive 30-room hotel, an academy, Pro Shop, tennis and padel courts.

The club has a special package of 14 green fees with no time restrictions, and has launched a new system of dynamic fees which is unique in Europe and rewards early booking and discounts depending on different variables, including how busy the course is, the time of play and prices of the competition. It also has a promotion called Hello Summer with special prices per person and shared buggy included.

Finally, on 11 August the Parador de Málaga Golf hosted the first regional trial to determine the five players from Andalucía who will take part in the National Final at La Manga Club. That in turn will decide which five players will be representing Spain at the World Final 2018 in Malaysia.

These are all examples of the different ways of ensuring that the Costa del Sol remains an unrivaled destination for golfers.

The Costa del Sol has plans to expand women's golf

The region believes it will continue to host the Spanish Open and the authorities want to encourage more women to take up the sport

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MÁLAGA. In recent years, women's golf has become more and more popular on the Costa del Sol and the region regularly hosts professional tournaments such as the Spanish Open.

In Spain as a whole, more than 80,000 women hold golf licences, and 12,151 of them are from Andalucía. In fact, women hold 29.5 per cent and 27.7 per cent of the national and regional totals respectively and in Málaga province the number is about 5,000, according to figures from the Royal Andalusian Golf Federation: that is about 58 per cent of the licences obtained by women in Andalucía.

Another figure to bear in mind as an indicator of the potential of the golf segment is the number of women's competitions which are held. The Royal Andalusian Golf Federation successfully organises over 100 tournaments for women every year. Some are exclusively for ladies, while others are mixed.

The figures show that 62 per cent of women's events held in Andalucía in recent years were on the Costa del Sol, which indicates that interest in golf is growing among women.

The Royal Federations also organises more women's competitions (120) than men's (110) even though 31,000 men hold licences in the region compared with 12,000 women.

The climate on the Costa del Sol and the infrastructure necessary for the most demanding and top level golf mean that organisers and professional players feel at home here, says the head of the Costa del

Sol Tourist Board, Arturo Bernal. He points out that the best female players in Europe took part in the Spanish Open, which was held for the second consecutive time in Málaga province last year. This is a top level sports event on the European circuit, and it was also won by a player from San Pedro Alcántara, Azahara Muñoz for the second year running.

Arturo Bernal says "we should be proud that the Costa del Sol has been chosen for two consecutive years as the venue for the Women's Open, first in 2016 at Aloha and then last year at Guadalmina, and we hope this will just be the beginning."

The choice of Málaga province as a base was part of the agreement between the Junta de Andalucía, the Málaga provincial government and the Mancomunidad de Municipios of the western

Costa del Sol to develop golf tourism and promote the region as a destination.

"These tournaments are very important to help women's sport to grow, and a major opportunity to promote tourism on the Costa del Sol because of their media impact," says Bernal. "Many women players on the European Tour saw the Costa del Sol as the ideal place to train, because the climate is perfect for playing golf and the temperatures are very good. In fact, many of them decided to come and live in Málaga province".

Nowadays golf is one of the Costa del Sol's principal attractions. The region has 70 golf courses and over 1,134 holes in 16 different municipalities, is home to 67 per cent of all the golf courses in Andalucía and as a destination it has become one of the jewels of the sector on a European level.



Muñoz, at the Spanish Open which she won again last year. :: SUR

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Group photo following the final, with the winners, organisers, sponsors and representatives from Real Club Guadalmina. :: JOSELE-LANZA

Record participation as the Costa del Golf Tour concludes at Guadalmina

Michele Sencillo and Guadalupe Hernández came out on top in their respective categories in the amateur tour organised by SUR

ALEJANDRO DÍAZ

The Costa del Golf Tour, organised by SUR and its specialist publication Costa del Golf, concluded at the start of August as more than 200 amateur golfers took to the greens at Guadalmina for the grand final in two rounds: one starting at 9am and the second at 3pm.

Michele Sencillo was crowned winner in the first men's category, joined on the podium by José Ramón Feito and Christian Far. In the second, Matías de los Ríos came out on top, finishing ahead of Sergio Orovio Borrego and Jorge Alonso Lopera, second and third, respectively. Among the women, Guadalupe Rodríguez was crowned champion with Rosa María Sánchez coming second and Irene García third.

As has been the case in all previous editions of the grand final, there was a special category for 'friends of SUR' which was won by Ute Hakman with Pedro Atienza coming in



Esther Ruiz, from Marcos Joyería, with winner Michele Sencillo. :: J.L.

second, followed by Iciar Camino and Mezquita Zurutúzar.

The technical director of the tour, Francisco Gómez, emphasised the high level of those competing, as well as "the excellent conditions of

the course".

The day's play took place in favourable conditions, with a good temperature and a light breeze. The amicable atmosphere among the players was also notable during a

day of high-level play, punctuated by a brief appearance by Azahara Muñoz, who was conducting a golf 'clinic' at the time, passing on her wisdom to the next generation of golfers.

In this latest edition of the tour, a total of 500 players participated, watched by SUR's head of New Business Ventures, Federico Moret; head of External Relations, Pilar Perea; and Marketing chief Pilar Alcalá.

Closing ceremony

During the evening a closing ceremony and prizegiving took place, attended by Real Club Guadalmina director, Ignacio del Cuvillo, and its president, Juan Ramón Martínez-Landazábal; as well as the head of Acosol, Manuel Cardena, who distributed the prizes.

This latest edition of the Costa del Golf Tour was sponsored by Acosol, Marcos Joyería, the Da Bruno restaurant group and the Junta de Andalucía regional government, in collaboration with the four hosting courses (Alcaidesa, Cabopino, El Paraíso and Guadalmina), Andalucía Golf Select, Copyrap, Golfriends and FC&CO.



Azahara Muñoz made a brief appearance. :: JOSELE-LANZA

FIRST CATEGORY MEN'S LEADERBOARD

1. Michele Sencillo
2. José Ramón Feito
3. Christian Far
4. Salvador Parra Morilla
5. Juan Grau Gómez

WOMEN'S LEADERBOARD

1. Guadalupe Hernández Rodríguez
2. Rosa María Sánchez
3. Irene García
4. María Remedio Muñoz
5. Rosa Risoto Luque



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MARCOS





Jiménez poses with the trophy at the home of golf, where his friend Seve Ballesteros also tasted victory. :: SUR

Miguel Ángel Jiménez makes history with Senior Open win

The Malaga golfer claimed his second tour major after seeing off Bernhard Langer by a single shot on the Old Course at St Andrews

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

Some 34 years after Severiano Ballesteros' second win in the British Open, his friend, Churriana golfer Miguel Ángel Jiménez, became the first Spaniard to win the Senior Open, edging defending champion Bernhard Langer by one shot on the legendary Old Course at St Andrews at the end of July.

Jiménez dropped only one stroke en route to a final round 3-under 69, ending on 12-under 276 to claim the historic Claret Jug, one of the majors on the 'veterans' tour, the PGA Tour Champions.

His final day performance, in which he effortlessly managed to keep his nerve, saw the Spaniard



The Malaga golfer, with his caddy, on his way to winning his second tour major. :: SUR

maintain his advantage over reigning champion Bernhard Langer.

Jiménez led coming into the Sunday, two ahead of a chasing quartet which included Langer, in his day a major adversary of Seve Ballesteros. Thanks to four birdies and a bogey (on hole 15), 'El Pisha' finished a shot ahead of the German, who managed to break away from the pack. With 278 shots apiece, Americans Scott McCarron and Kirk Triplett, and Canadian Stephen Ames tied in third.

"This is where Seve [Ballesteros] won his second Open. Winning at St Andrews is a dream for any golfer. I can't ask for any more," he said following his victory, his sixth in total on the PGA Tour Champions.

The first came on his first ever appearance in the Greater Gwinnett Championship in April 2014, followed by victory in the Mitsubishi Electric Championship in January 2015. In 2016 he added the Mississippi Golf Resort Classic to his list of honours before being denied victory at the last in the Chubb Classic in 2017 by a particularly inspired Fred Couples. Later

Victory in Scotland is Jiménez's second major victory on the PGA Tour Champions, following the Regions Tradition in May

Jiménez predominantly features on the 'seniors' tour but occasionally appears in European Tour competitions



A strike at St Andrews. :: SUR

that year he retained his Mississippi title before earlier this year claiming his first major on the tour in the Regions Tradition in May.

With this win at St Andrews, though, Jiménez has gained entry to the British Open in Northern Ireland next year (on the PGA Tour, not the 'veterans' tour) and officially became the best player over the age of 50.

"I'm happy and I'm moved," he said. "This is a very special victory, one of the biggest in my career. [It's my] second major of the year and to get it at St Andrews, the home of golf, is the most any golfer can hope for."

This is the latest in a long list of honours for the 54-year-old after winning three Ryder Cups (one as vicecaptain); a total of 21 victories on the European Tour; a second-place finish in the 2000 US Open; third in the British in 2001; and fourth in the Augusta Masters in 2014.

"I don't know if I've lost my enthusiasm for golf"

Sergio García failed to make the cut in the British Open and his results have put at risk his participation in the Ryder Cup

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MALAGA. The dark clouds are gathering again over the privileged, but vulnerable, head of Sergio García. His bad results this season have led the Spanish player to admit to the press, after failing to make the cut in the British Open: "I don't know if I have lost my enthusiasm for golf".

After his spectacular victory at the Masters in Augusta last year, García has failed to make the cut in seven of the ten tournaments he has played in, which is going to make it more difficult for him to be part of the European team in the Ryder Cup team, one of his favourite competitions.

He has experienced several major life changes in recent months, including his wedding, the birth of his first child and the ease with which he won the major tournament which had resisted him for so long, and apart from his triumphant performance at Valderrama last year, García has not exactly been playing at his best.

He presented a very poor card of 75 strokes (+4) on the first day of the British Open at Carnoustie, a course which he has repeatedly described as demanding, and he appeared resigned and frustrated, symptoms which he seemed to have left behind him after his success in Augusta.

"The course hasn't given me much despite several good strokes and putts that I made. Maybe it is the trend this year, but you have to keep going and tomorrow we will try to do better even though I'm finding it difficult to make the cut," he said after the first day.

It didn't work out like that. Three consecutive bogeys from the 10th hole held Sergio back after having bad luck potting the ball at the 9th.

"That could have changed the way the round was going because instead of having to play an easy stroke to the green, I had to do it from the rough," he said.

At the 10th hole his drive put the ball into the river. It landed nearby, but then rolled and rolled until it ended up in the water. "I never thought it would go that far, honestly," he said afterwards, sadly.

In the afternoon, which is when García played in the first round, the course was more complicated because of the wind and the greens, but the three bogeys and not making a

birdie at the 14th and 16th after running out of options, weighed him down. The final birdie at the 18th did little to sweeten the day. "It hasn't helped. We're far behind," said the champion of the 2017 Masters afterwards.

The British Open is the fourth consecutive major in which Sergio García was eliminated before time, before making the cut, and this is not a positive sign with only two months before the Ryder Cup in Paris, where he now depends on a wild card (invitation) to be part of the European team.

Failing to make the cut at Carnoustie and after admitting that he may have lost his enthusiasm for golf, García is now seeing a darker future as he did in 2010, when he retired temporarily and even lost the Ryder Cup.

At that time the Spanish player, through pure temperament, was able to recover the situation and return to play his best golf, which led him to a major win just over a year ago and take his place among the world's best players. He is now out of the top 20, despite starting the season among the first five.



García is no longer among the Top Twenty players in the world. :: SUR

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THE MONTH IN PHOTOS



▲ **The Open Championship.** Francesco Molinari made history last month by becoming the first Italian to win a major as he won the 2018 Open Championship at Carnoustie, seeing off a late challenge from Tiger Woods. :: **SUR**



◀ **European Ladies Amateur.** Celia Barquín is a European champion after coming out on top in what became a two-horse race with Esther Henseleit for the European Ladies Amateur trophy in Senica (Slovakia). Barquín is the third player from Spain to win the event in the last five years. :: **SUR**



▲ **European Young Masters.** Spain's under 16 team came away from the recent European Championship in Norway with silver medals. The standout star was Carolina López-Chacarra who also claimed silver in the individual category. :: **SUR**



▲ **Women's British Open.** English golfer Georgia Hall, 22, became the fourth youngest winner of the British Open at the start of the month, finishing 17 under, two ahead of Pornanong Phatlum at the Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club. Spaniard Carlota Ciganda (inset) finished seventh, moving her into the top 20 of the ranking table. :: **TWITTER / SUR**



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vocento

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Please send any golfing news
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MA- 343 96

2018 AGENDA

10 August

Mijas
Memorial Felipe Pérez
Open tournament

Playa Serena

Campeonato Mixto
Open tournament

18 August

Mijas
Gran Premio Sanitubo
Open tournament

25 August

Mijas
Asociación Tamisuel
Open tournament

30 August

Lauro
Campeonato Infantil Reale
Open tournament

2 September

Mijas
Asoc. clubes de golf de Andalucía
Open tournament

4, 5, 6 September

Villapadierna
Pro-Am Bola de oro y diamantes
Challenge MLW
Open tournament

6 September

La Cañada

Internacional Sub 18
Stroke and play
Open tournament

10 October

La Cañada
Interautonómico Infantil
Reale 2018
Open tournament

18 October

Valderrama
Andalucía Valderrama Masters
Open tournament

2 December

Playa Serena
Hoteles Neptuno Bahía Serena

Open tournament

Mijas

Gran Premio Marbella Open
Open tournament

7 December

Lauro
Campeonato Infantil Reale
Open tournament

15 December

Campanario
Final Nacional 'pitch and putt'
Open tournament