



Andalucía Costa del Golf

The Costa tees off again

Malaga province steps up the promotion of its 70 courses and signs deals with Movistar and Audi to organise tournaments **[P2&3]**



SENIOR TOUR

Jiménez finishes third in Washington

The Malaga golfer maintained his recent good form at the Boeing Classic **[P11]**



EUROPEAN TOUR

Valderrama prepares for the Masters

The San Roque course, scene of many historic duels, is gearing up for the Andalucía Masters **[P6]**

Huelva, where golf and nature unite

This Andalusian province brings together golf, nature, beaches and leisure for an all-round experience **[P7]**

The Costa del Sol intensifies promotion of its 70 golf courses

The area is making a major investment to organise new amateur and professional tournaments and is joining forces with Audi and Movistar for the next four years

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

The Costa del Sol is to become a strategic partner to the Audi Movistar+ Golf Tour for the next four years. This is one of the region's most important sports investment projects, worth 40,000 euros a year: in other words, 160,000 euros of sponsorship over the four years of the contract.

Arturo Bernal, the general director of the Turismo Costa del Sol organisation, says this is an important campaign which aims to promote the Costa del Sol "as a benchmark destination in the golf sector", because the province, with more than 70 golf courses, "is the finest destination for tourists of this type".

In return, the Tour will be named 'Race to Costa del Sol' and Movistar Golf will be issuing summaries of all the matches on the Tour: inaugural tournaments, regular tournaments, the Spanish final and the international final, via 17 different programmes.

The agreement also includes the Costa del Sol being mentioned and appearing on golf programmes, and a special programme dedicated to the tour and its sponsors. The plan includes an advertising package valued at 37,600 euros; a guaranteed representation on 17 special programmes dedicated to the tour; a space within the 'tour' classification; the initial broadcasting and playbacks of each programme up to six times; 40 seconds of guaranteed visibility for the Costa del Sol on each broadcast; 150 seconds of exposure on every golf course in the area and promotion for areas of the Costa del Sol such as Malaga, Marbella, Estepona and Sotogrande up to four times in the Golf Trips section, on the 'Verde, te quiero verde' programme.

Sources at the Malaga provincial government say this tour is part of the Movistar+ plan to promote golf as a sport of interest and publicise its Movistar Golf channel, a TV channel designed for golf fans which broadcasts the principal tournaments in the world live; four majors, the Ryder Cup, European Tour, PGA Tour and women's majors.

The channel broadcasts 24 hours a day and has the best broadcasting



Marbella is one of the towns with the most golf courses, such as Villa Padierna. :: SUR

A MOBILE APP WITH A MILLION GOLFERS

A mobile phone app created for the Turismo Costa del Sol organisation is aiming to promote the local golf sector in Europe, the USA and Canada. The platform already has a million registered golfers and the idea is to expand the possibilities of this tourist destination by offering more personalised services.

This platform, dedicated to professionals and fans of this sport, is an "effective tool for the promotion of the Costa del Sol as a benchmark destination in this sector: it is one of the very best, because it has over 70 golf courses," say sources at the Malaga provincial government.

Arturo Bernal says this app is a commitment to sectors which help to promote the area as "the best destination not only in the summer, but all year round".

Although alliances with intermediaries and professionals

in the golf industry are crucial in attracting tourists to this sector, this is an attempt to "reach the final consumer directly", through a communication strategy directed at active professionals.

About 35,000 euros have been invested in creating a platform which offers over 40,000 golf courses all over the world and offers the consumer personalised services such as finding, organising and booking golf courses before travelling, following the play during the round and comparing results.

rights in the world with all the big tournaments and tours and its own production content. It is potentially available in hundreds of thousands of homes which have access to the package which includes the channel. The format of play, the prizes and Movistar Golf coverage "make it essential for players and sponsors," says Arturo Bernal.

The Audi Movistar+ Tour is supported by three partners: Audi, Movistar and Olagolf. Movistar+ and Audi each used to organise their own tours but with the same audience in common. Then in 2013 Movistar+ joined the Audi golf tour together with the Olagolf company, which contributed its experience in organising sports competitions, bring together what were two tours to create the Audi Movistar+ Tour.

Costa del Sol Cup

For the next four years, the Costa del Sol will be a strategic partner on the tour. This year there will be two tournaments in the area as part of the Costa del Sol Cup (the Ryder Cup-style competition in which the 12 best Audi golfers play the best Movistar+ 12); it will take place just before the Spanish final in Tenerife. In 2019, there will be two tournaments on the Costa del Sol as well as the Spanish final, in the same area. In 2020 a tournament will be organised alongside the Costa del Sol Cup in addition to the Spanish final, also played on some of the courses in the area, and in 2021 there will be two tournaments and the Spanish final.

The principal objective of this agreement is to link the Costa del Sol brand with those of recognised prestige such as Movistar+ and Audi, but above all "to raise awareness of the destination among a target audience of golf lovers, attract more golfers to the destination, generate a demand for golf in the summer season through participation in these tournaments and communicate the advantages of the Costa del Sol to the Spanish market," say sources at the provincial government.

At present the Costa del Sol is expecting a large number of golf fans for the tournament which will take place on 25 and 26 September at Atalaya Golf and Country Resort in Malaga.

The Costa del Sol will also be promoting its benefits as a winter destination during the fourth quarter of this year, with about 50 activities being planned. These are mainly



The Costa del Sol has 70% of the golf courses in Andalucía. :: SUR



La Costa del Sol will 'partner' Audi and Movistar. :: SUR

The aim is to raise awareness of the destination among golf fans and attract more amateur players to the area

aimed at all golf sectors, rural tourism and MICE (the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions sector). Around a dozen activities have been planned in the golf sector, ten as part of MICE, a dozen multi-section activities and the remainder includes cruises, health and wellness, languages and culture.

Among the golf elements there will be different matches on the Corporate Tour, a presence at the

IGTM, the Costa del Golf Tourism 'pro-am' and a presence in the final of the France Golf Tour and the Women's Open.

There are more than 70 golf courses on the Costa del Sol, which is nearly 70 per cent of all those existing in Andalucía, where the golf sector generates an economic impact of 900 million euros a year.

This is a sector to which Turismo Costa del Sol is paying special attention this year because it is one of those with the most potential to attract year-round tourism, and a budget of about 700,000 euros has been allocated. The destination attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists every year, and they have greater purchasing power than average.

Andalucía designs a plan to attract British and German tourists

The region's golf facilities will be promoted together with other attractions in campaigns carried out in both countries

■ ALEJANDO DÍAZ

Andalucía is to spend 2.2 million euros to attract visitors from the UK and Germany during the rest of this year. The money will be used on 50 campaigns in both countries and on social media, and there will be a focus on new sectors such as language tourism and golf tourism.

The Junta de Andalucía's Minister of Tourism, Francisco Javier Fernández, said last month that this campaign aims to reinforce the others which have been carried out during the year.

"The emphasis will be on all the things that visitors have yet to see," he explained, and the campaign will run alongside others which are scheduled in the forthcoming months, including those aimed at visitors from other parts of Spain. "Andalucía can provide anything a tourist wants," he stressed.

To attract visitors from the UK, there will be 26 promotional actions costing 1.66 million euros, including participation in the Elite congress in Granada and the British Tourism Agency in Seville on 8 October; the idea is that travel agents come to the region and are in direct contact with local professionals.

Language tourism will also be promoted in London, with an "important participation" in The Language Show "to make the sport one of the greatest attractions this autumn," says Fernández. He points out that 30 per cent of the British market comes to Spain on package holidays, so the regional tourism authorities plan to renew the agreements with tour operators such as Side Tour.

Between now and November



Golf attracts numerous visitors to Andalucía. :: SUR

there will also be campaigns on television, in the press and specialist British media. The actions in the UK will not take place exclusively in London: Andalucía's cultural tourism is also to be promoted in Manchester, which is "the destination with the best air connections with Andalucía," he says.

One of the objectives of the campaign is to attract young tourists to the region, and this will be achieved by a "permanent presence" on social media in the UK. There will also be conferences for tourism intermediaries in the luxury and cultural sectors, organised in collaboration with Tour España, and advertising on the edges of the tourist areas in London and Manchester to reach people in the peripheral and commercial centres of the area.

Meanwhile, 25 actions have also been planned in Germany, costing 614,000 euros. These will "follow

the model which has been so successful before, especially on the Costa del Sol, which is that of language tourism", explains Fernández. Andalucía will also have a presence in Berlin and at the German travel agents conference.

Tour operators

Figures show that 40 per cent of German tourists use tour operator packages when they travel, so the contracts with TSS Group and Thomas Cook are to be extended, with Andalucía being strongly featured in the Thomas Cook catalogues.

There will also be adverts on TV, in the digital media and specialist magazines, and special campaigns with SMEs in Frankfurt, Hamburg and Stuttgart, "with a focus on family, cultural and senior tourism".

In addition there will be a specific campaign on social media for the 19 cities which have direct flights to Andalucía.

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Jiménez continues to shine on the seniors tour with third-place finish in Washington

The Malaga golfer remains in fine form after winning the Senior Open and the Regions Tradition, his first two majors

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

Miguel Ángel Jiménez's superb run on the PGA Tour Champions continues. After winning his second major on the tour, in August the Malaga golfer finished in third at the Boeing Classic in Washington. 'El Pisha' finished the third round with a scorecard of 67, including five birdies, finishing on 13 under, five off the eventual winner, the American Scott Parel.

A fight for the leadership was never really on the cards on the final day after Parel recorded a 63 during after a first round which started with seven birdies on the first nine holes and, on the second, after a bogey on the tenth, he secured three more birdies. Three off the champion in second place came Kevin Sutherland.

The golfer from Churriana is in fine form and followed this up with a fifth-place finish at the Shaw Char-



Jiménez hits a shot at the Boeing Classic where he finished third. :: PHIL INGLIS

ity Classic at the start of the month. These follow on from his latest major triumph, at the Senior Open Championship at St Andrews in July.

Jiménez became the first Spaniard to win the iconic Claret Jug, edging defending champion Bernhard Langer by one shot on the legendary Old Course, some 34 years after his friend Severiano Ballesteros won his second British Open on the same course.

Jiménez recorded a final card of 69 (three below par) for a total of 276 (-12) to maintain his advantage over German, Bernhard Langer, a great adversary in his day.

This was Jiménez's second victory on the PGA Tour Champions, the seniors tour, following his triumph in Alabama in May at the Regions Tradition.

Despite his incursion onto the tour for veterans, Jiménez still takes part in ordinary tournaments and saved some of his best play for the Dubai Desert Classic. Though he finished in 19th place, his first-round score of 66 was extraordinary: "I've been competing very well. I feel at a high level and I am still hitting long shots as I have been for many years. I haven't lost any distance and I still have fight left in me. I am always excited to play in ordinary tournaments but of course I am concentrating on the Champions [Tour]."

Carlota Ciganda comes seventh at the Women's British Open

ALEJANDRO DÍAZ

MALAGA. Spaniard Carlota Ciganda capped off a good tournament at the recent Women's British Open at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club in Lancashire. With a fourth card of 70 (-2), including four birdies and two bogeys, Ciganda finished up in seventh place with a total score of 280, nine off eventual winner, Briton Georgia Hall, with 271 (-17).

The remainder of the Spanish contingent included Azahara Muñoz, who finished in 47th position, on 290, and Nuria Iturrios, 57th with 294.

Hall, who started the fourth round one behind then leader Pornanong Phatlum, gained two shots on the Thai golfer who eventually finished second.

Georgia Hall, born 22 years ago in Bournemouth, curiously, had already won the British Open in



Ciganda in action in Lancashire. :: GETTY

2013, but in the amateur category.

Now a professional (she has been since she was 18), Hall won the Open Generali in Strasbourg in 2014, on the LET Access Series, and the Oates

Victorian, an ALPG tournament.

With victory, Hall was able to erase memories of the disappointment of her third-place finish in the same competition last year.



SERGIO GARCÍA MAKES RYDER CUP TEAM

Despite a disappointing year, Spanish golfer Sergio García will compete in this year's Ryder Cup. The 2017 winner of the Masters at Augusta received one of four invitations from Team Europe captain Thomas Björn for the competition which gets under way at the end of the month.



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THE GREATEST BATTLES AT VALDERRAMA



▲ **A Scottish play-off.** The first major battle at Valderrama was between Sandy Lyle and Colin Montgomerie in the Volvo Masters in 1992. It was Lyle's last professional victory. :: SUR



▲ **The 2002 Volvo, a shared victory.** The play-off between Bernhard Langer and Colin Montgomerie in the Volvo Masters in 2002 made history, when the players agreed to share the victory as night fell at Valderrama. :: SUR



▲ **The joy of a very young Poulter.** A youthful Ian Poulter celebrating with his daughter, then aged two, after his triumph at the 2004 Volvo Masters Andalucía, when he beat Sergio García in a play-off after they both finished at seven strokes below par. :: SUR

▶ **The birth of a star.** Valderrama was almost the birthplace of a player who went on to dominate world golf. Tiger Woods achieved victory here in 1999. :: SUR



three-stroke advantage with three holes to go. It looked as if nothing could stop his eighth triumph of the season, but he then played a bogey at the 16th and 17th and needed eight strokes to complete the hole. That triple 'bogey' in the legendary par five at Valderrama turned the tournament around and placed Miguel Ángel Jiménez back in the fight. He took the lead at the 18th tee, with a one-stroke advantage. The Málaga player, who had won the Volvo Masters the previous week at Montecastillo, failed at the final hole and the number one in the world didn't forgive him in the play-off (278 strokes for -6). He played an impeccable stroke and won the tournament with a birdie which left the thousands of watching Spanish fans open-mouthed.

The play-off between Bernhard Langer and Colin Montgomerie at the Volvo Masters in 2002 made history because the players agreed to share the victory as night fell at Valderrama. Langer and Montgomerie ended the tournament with 281 strokes (-3) after presenting cards with 67 and 70 strokes respectively, but the play-off was delayed because a video had to be reviewed to clarify an incident involving Montgomerie at the 10th hole. It was thought that he had hit a ball while moving, which would have meant a two-stroke penalty, but it was finally decided that he hadn't, so the tournament should be decided with a play-off.

They both made par at the first extra hole and played the second in poor visibility. The two heavyweights of European golf drew again, so the game continued. Once again at 18th tee, the executive director of the European Circuit, Ken Schofield, suggested that they share the prize. After a brief conversation and a handshake, they sealed the deal, which curiously was the second of Langer's career. He had previously shared a victory with Severiano Ballesteros, for similar reasons, in the Lancôme Trophy in 1986, after four holes of the play-off.

Rain

A year later, in the 2003 Volvo Masters, Swedish player Fredrik Jacobson and Carlos Rodiles, from Spain, had the longest and most agonising battle ever seen at Valderrama. They played 28 holes: six from the third day which had been suspended because of the rain, 18 for the fourth and four more during the play-off. It was an epic fight which ended with disappointment for the Spanish player and fans.

The next edition was also decided in a play-off, between Sergio García and Ian Poulter (277 strokes for -11). It appeared that García had victory in the bag, but he missed two putts for birdies at the 17th and 18th which would have given him a win. At the first and last holes of the play-off, García could only play a bogey. Poulter won on that occasion, but years later the Spanish player took his revenge by winning the Andalucía Masters in 2011 and 2017.

Valderrama warms up for the Andalucía Masters

The golf course in San Roque, which hosts the European Tour tournament in October, has witnessed some epic play-offs

**ALBERTO
GÓMEZ**

Preparations are well under way for the Andalucía Masters. The tournament will take place from 18 to 21 October at Valderrama, one of the most historic golf courses in Andalucía, which hosted the Ryder Cup in 1997. Its narrow fairways, flanked by cork oak trees, and its small, firm and fast

greens pose an enormous challenge for the players, who will also have to deal with the habitual wind in the area, aware that until the final stroke at the final hole victory is never assured on this extraordinary course.

The difficulties of Valderrama, in the municipality of San Roque, have made it the scene of some of the most exciting battles in world golf over the years, especially when the road to glory extended beyond the regulatory 72 holes. Only on six occasions, in the 21 tournaments which have taken place at the Real Club Valderrama, as well as the Ryder Cup, has

victory been decided by a play-off.

The first of these epic situations was between Sandy Lyle and Colin Montgomerie in the 1992 Volvo Masters. Lyle was in the lead at the start of the last day, with four advantage strokes over 'Monty', who forced a play-off with a card showing 69 strokes. The Scottish players shared the lead until the 14th hole, where Lyle three-putted for a bogey. He recovered with birdies at the 15th and 17th, where a stroke of luck saw his ball hit a tree outside the limits and return to the rough. At the 18th, parity resumed (287 strokes, +3) and at

the first hole of the play-off Lyle began with a perfect drive. Monty tried to hit a stroke to the fade with the wind blowing from left to right, but the ball hit a tree and stopped in its tracks. He couldn't overcome the error and ended up with a bogey. It was Lyle's last victory on the European Circuit.

Another memorable play-off at Valderrama was between Miguel Ángel Jiménez and Tiger Woods in the 1999 American Express Championship, when the local hero had the absolute king of world golf in his reach. In the final round, Tiger had a

Huelva's sport and nature facilities make it an ideal golf destination

The authorities expect a considerable increase in visitors this year and are promoting the golf courses at international tourism fairs and events

ALEJANDRO
DÍAZ

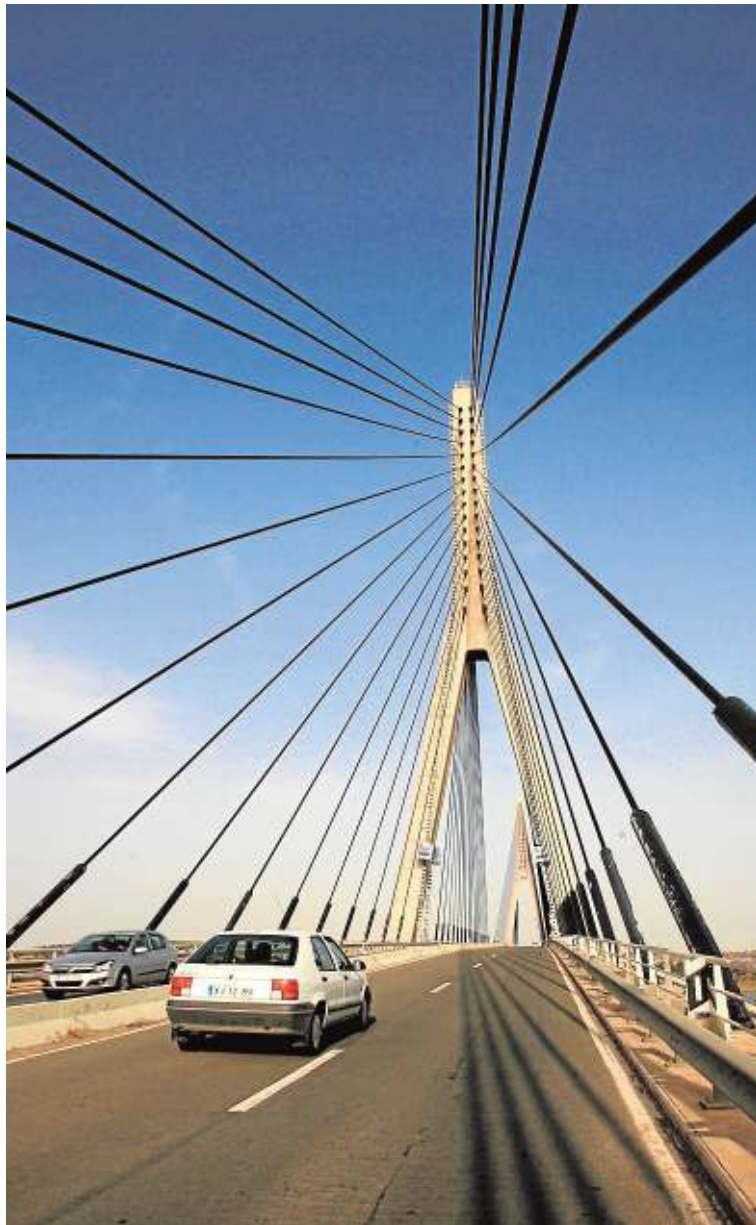
Two years ago marked the centenary of the time when the miners in Riotinto, in Huelva province, established the bases for what would become the first golf course in Andalucía. The Huelva Golf Club was created at that time on land ceded by the British 'Minas de Riotinto' company, and it was close to the Royal Clay Pigeon Shooting Club in the 'Recinto Columbiano', where in August 1968 the Huelva bullring was to open for the first time. That was later demolished, and the Real Club Recreativa now stands on the same site. However, the sports complex and new golf facilities in Huelva which bears the name Club de Golf Bellavista is considered the oldest golf course in Andalucía: it was officially inaugurated on 25 October 1976.

Today Huelva city and province bear little resemblance to those times. Although the productive and economic framework has modernised, and so has the infrastructure, it is generally the valuable natural environment which continues to attract thousands of tourists every year who come to this area to play golf.

This is quality tourism and it has positive results: the Junta de Andalucía's tourism ministry expects there to be a 4.1 per cent rise in overnight stays in the area this month, the second highest increase in the region after Seville, where a 4.5 per cent rise is forecast. In July, hotel occupancy was over 70 per cent, according to figures from the National Institute of Statistics, and there was a notable recovery in the number of Spanish tourists.

One of the main source markets for Huelva is Andalucía itself; it has become a favourite destination among visitors from other provinces in the region. The possibilities it offers, especially in terms of nature, golf and, of course, its beaches, have helped to consolidate Huelva as one of the preferred destinations for people in other parts of Andalucía.

The golf facilities are unbeatable, thanks to courses such as Isla Canela. Located near Ayamonte, and close to the sea, this is a comfortable course to walk, and the slopes, formed by sand dunes, are not a hindrance. There are numerous broom bushes, but also plenty of orange, olive and eucalyptus trees, which at times are strate-



Bridge over the Guadiana. :: SUR

gically situated on the fairways to make the game more difficult.

The variety of tees and the generous greens which are highly protected by bunkers, define this course, and at many of the holes there are 'esteros', or tributaries of the sea, which in some places form lakes of salt water. Among the holes, numbers 2 and 5 are outstanding for their beauty and also their difficulty, due to the 'esteros'. Also the 7th hole, another par 5 which can be played two to green, but with a risk because the ball could fly over a river which borders it.

The Bellavista golf course is three kilometres from the sea, which can be seen as you play the round. It has narrow fairways, several dog-legs and numerous challenges in the first part. Among its most difficult holes is the 7th, a par 4 which needs a good drive

The province has become a favourite among visitors from other parts of Andalucía, which is its main source market

to hit, in good conditions, the second to green. In contrast, the second nine-hole course, which opened in 1995, has very wide greens and long and wide fairways. Of the three courses in Huelva province, this is the nearest to the city, which is just six kilometres away.

In addition to Club Bellavista and Isla Canela, Huelva province has a number of other golf courses. For example, Corta Atalaya, at the start of



Huelva, home to the oldest golf course in the region. :: SUR



Nature tourism. :: SUR

the Sierra de Huelva mountains, has a fantastic view of the same and of the Riotinto Mines. El Rompido Golf Club, which is beside the Marismas del Río Piedra beauty spot and 'La Flecha' in El Rompido, has magnificent views over the Atlantic Ocean. There are plenty of options for enjoying golf in a destination like this, which is becoming increasingly popular and which can be enjoyed at any time of year.

Another reason that Huelva is one of the most attractive places for tourists in Andalucía is the beaches. For example, the municipality of Ayamonte has some glorious beaches which draw thousands of visitors every summer.

Beaches of fine sand

One of the best known is Isla Canela, the most westerly beach in Huelva

province and Andalucía, which is beside the mouth of the Guadiana river and faces neighbouring Portugal. It can be reached easily from Ayamonte, by taking the A-49 or N-431 and, after passing through the town, along the H-9021. An extensive promenade lined with palm trees, beside the golf course, leads to the Isla Canela beach, which is on the right-hand side.

The beach at Isla Canela is 5.5 kilometres long, stretching past the three main coastal areas of Ayamonte. To the east is Los Jaraganes beach, the middle one is Isla Canela, and then in the direction of the Guadiana river is San Bruno beach, beside extensive marshes and dunes. The fine, cinnamon-coloured sand, the calm waters for swimming and numerous hotels and restaurants are just a few of many reasons this is a favourite holiday destination for golfers and others alike.

THE MONTH IN PHOTOS



▲ **Youth development.** Spanish golfer Jon Rahm (pictured) along with the children of Seve Ballesteros, Javier, Miguel and Carmen, have launched a tour for under 16s called 'Seve & Jon Golf for Kids'. The final will take place in December. :: SUR



◀ **Spanish icon.** Cristina Marsans, one of Spain's most well-known amateur golfers, has died at the age of 72. Marsans in later life served as the Spanish Golf Federation's president and vicepresident. :: SUR



▲ **PGA Tour.** American golfer Justin Thomas picked up his tenth title, his ninth on the PGA Tour, at the recent the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational. The world number three finished on 265 (15 under par). :: EFE



▲ **European Games.** Spanish pair Pedro Oriol (left) and Scott Fernández (right) took home gold from the recent European Games in Glasgow. The golf, included for the first time at these games, was held at Gleneagles where Oriol and Fernández saw off Icelandic pair Birgir Hafthorsson and Axel Boasson in the final. :: SUR

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2018/19 AGENDA

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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

25 November 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

10 April Sotogrande

Copa RCG Sotogrande
Open tournament

8 May San Roque

Campeonato de España de Dobles

e Individuales Senior Masculino
Open tournament

17 June Lauro

Interatonómico Abosluto
Femenino
Open tournament

24 June Antequera

Campeonato de Europa
Universitario
Open tournament