

Costa del Golf



Europe reclaim the Ryder Cup in style

Thomas Bjorn's team exceeded all expectations and sealed a historic victory over the United States in Paris [\[P2&3\]](#)



Basque player Jon Rahm gets himself noticed

The golfer has been named Sports Newcomer of the Year in the National Awards [\[P4\]](#)



Spanish golf mourns the loss of Celia Barquín

Players react to the murder on an Iowa course of the promising young Spanish golfer [\[P4\]](#)

Jaén, one of Europe's most spectacular destinations

This Andalusian province brings together nature, gastronomy and sport as part of an all-round experience [\[P6\]](#)



The 12 members of the European team and their captain, Thomas Bjorn, posing with the trophy. :: AFP

Europe fight back to beat the USA and reclaim the Ryder Cup in Paris

Thomas Bjorn's team proved the predictions wrong by winning against the strongest American team in the history of the competition

The Ryder Cup will be staying in Europe for the next two years. Against all expectations, the blue team wiped the floor with the USA at Le Golf National, despite this being what some have called the strongest American team ever.

The crushing seven-point victory in Paris at the end of September (17.5 - 10.5) was a tribute to the strategy of European captain Thomas Bjorn, as Sergio Garcia meanwhile became the best player in the competition's history, competing nine times and totalling 25.5 points.

The sporting resurrection of Tiger Woods counted for nothing, nor did the fact that the Americans started as the firm favourites, because they never had control of this edition. Jim

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

Furyk's team couldn't even mount a comeback, overwhelmed by the European solidarity, enthusiastic spectators and the extremely complicated course.

Europe began with a clear disadvantage in the betting for the 42nd edition of the Ryder Cup, but overturned all predictions by winning their 12th title. The USA brought a dangerous army to this biannual competition between the two powers, with 11 of its 12 golfers among the top 17 in the world ranking, compa-

red with just five of the Europeans, and a Tiger Woods back on form after winning his first tournament in five years a week earlier. However, all these factors in their favour counted for nothing in Saint Quentin en Yvelines, near Paris, to the great disappointment of the Americans, who had been dreaming of breaking the trend as visitors in Europe, where they have not won since 1993.

The European team won with the third-best ever margin in their favour, with seven points, close to the nine with which they won in 2004 and 2006. One of the main figures in the European triumph was Italian Francesco Molinari, who won his five matches, becoming the first European to achieve something which three Americans had done before: Arnold Pal-



Tiger Woods ended with zero points. :: AFP

The European team achieved their third best win with seven points, not far off their nine-point victories in 2004 and 2006

mer and Gardner Dickinson (both in 1969) and Larry Nelson (1979).

Molinari closed his fantastic run on Sunday by beating veteran Phil Mickelson, winning four and two. The Italian well and truly made up for his two previous participations in the Ryder Cup, where he lost his six matches. "I couldn't have dreamed of a better summer," said Molinari, who this year became the first Italian to win the British Open.

Sergio García also had a great deal to contribute. He was playing in his ninth Ryder Cup and won three of his four matches, beating American Rickie Fowler, who was second in the Augusta Masters this year, by two and one on Sunday. "I don't normally cry, but this time I couldn't help it. What a week!" said García. This was his sixth Ryder Cup title and he achieved the highest number of points in the history of the competition with 25.5, beating Faldo's 24.5. He also came close to another of Faldo's records, the number of games won in this competition (Faldo 23, García 22).

Debuts

Young British player Tommy Fleetwood, who won his doubles with Molinari, became the first golfer making his European debut to achieve four consecutive wins, but he couldn't keep it up on Sunday and lost to Tony Finau by six and four.

Another newcomer, Spaniard Jon Rahm, who was keen to contribute at least one point for the European team, did very well after losing his two doubles matches, beating the legendary Tiger Woods, the winner of 14 major tournaments, by two and one. Woods, 42, who has only won one title in his eight times at the Ryder Cup, ended with four defeats and zero points.

American captain Jim Furyk proved to be a sporting loser. "Their captain did better than me. Their players did better. I take my hat off to them," he said, following the US defeat.

The Spanish contingent's influence on the team continues to grow

Sergio García and Jon Rahm contributed to Europe's historic win against the USA

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MALAGA. Spain showed what it was made of in the Ryder Cup, a competition in which Spanish golfers have participated since the time when Severiano Ballesteros and José María Olazabal first proved an unbeatable pair. Sergio García's motivation in this tournament, and the performance by newcomer Jon Rahm, have made Spain one of the countries which contributes most to the European team, despite the exclusion of Rafa Cabrera-Bello.

Now aged 38, Sergio García was chosen for the Ryder Cup team by captain, Danish Thomas Bjorn, despite being 28th in the world ranking, for his transformation in this tournament and the positive atmosphere he creates in the changing room. García lived up to expectations and won three of his four matches (two doubles and one individual), only losing on Saturday with Sweden's Alex Noren in a four-some (both players alternating with the same ball).

"I think Sergio's history in the Ryder Cup speaks for itself. It is a great achievement. He is at the heart of our team and what we do, and I have always said that," said captain Thomas Bjorn.

García thanked him for his words. "It has been a hard year, but I have fought hard too. I want to thank Thomas for selecting me and believing in me," he said.

García made his debut in the Ryder Cup in 1999, when he was just 19, and became the youngest player ever to take part. Always showing great promise, he comes into his own during this competition, but failed to do as well in major individual tournaments. In the 2016 Ryder Cup, which was held in the USA, the American spectators tried to put him off by chanting: "You've never won a major tournament." In 2017, when he won the August Masters, he finally broke the trend and a year later he beat the records of Severiano and Faldo in the competition.

Now the future of Spanish golf also includes John Rahm, who at the age of 23 contributed one point to the final victory in the individual match with Tiger Woods.

"Playing with Jon, being Spanish and being the present and the future of Spain, is important for me. He is a fantastic player and a great member of the team. He was another piece of the puzzle that helped," said García.

Rahm said that in the match against Tiger Woods, he felt he was back on form. "I was playing like Jon Rahm again and was able to control my emotions. I think I was quite balanced all day. You could say I have played the most frightening golfer, the best one in history, who is still doing well. I couldn't be happier to have been able to help the team," he said.



The Ryder Cup has a Spanish accent again, thanks this time to Sergio García and Jon Rahm's contribution to the European team. :: EFE



A hug for García and Rahm after playing in the Ryder Cup together for the first time. :: AFP

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Spanish golf mourns Celia Barquín

The promising young player was murdered last month in Iowa, where she was studying and training

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MALAGA. On 18 September Spanish golf woke up to devastating news: Celia Barquín had been killed on a golf course in Ames, Iowa, where she was studying and training. Aged just 22, Barquín was one of the most promising players of her generation. Her body had been found in a pond and, hours later, the police announced that the suspected killer, Collin Daniel Richards, had been arrested. Story county attorney Jessica Reynolds confirmed that the murder had been “a random act of violence” and revealed that, judging from scratches on his face and a deep cut in his left hand, Barquín had fought back even though she couldn’t avoid being stabbed to death. Richards now faces life imprisonment for first degree murder.

The Spanish player, who was born in Puente San Miguel (Cantabria), was the current European amateur champion and considered one of the best golfers of the ‘Cyclones’, as the members of her team are known, in the history of Iowa university, where she was studying Civil Engineering at the same time as she focused on her meteoric sporting career.

University president Wendy Wintersteen sent her condolences to Celia’s family in a statement, in which she lamented the “tragic and senseless loss of a talented young woman and acclaimed student”. The university’s sports director, Jamie Pollard, also paid tribute to the young woman,

who he said had a “contagious smile and happy personality”. The president of the Spanish Olympic Committee, Alejandro Blanco, said: “We are deeply upset by this tragedy in the United States. All our support and solidarity goes to the family of Celia Barquín and Spanish golf at such a very hard time.”

Barquín was born on 6 July 1996. She greatly admired Severiano Ballesteros and Sergio Garcia. In the last photo she posted on social media she was showing, smiling as always, the ring she had received as the winner of the Big 12 tournament.

García was, in fact, one of the first golfers to react to the tragic news: “We were very sad when we heard. For many reasons, not just because she was so young. She was a wonderful person. All we can do is pay tribute to her and ensure that her family feels proud of us and we are proud of her,” he said. García urged the rest of the European team for the Ryder Cup, Celia’s favourite competition, to “make an extra effort” and dedicate their victory to her.

A “huge loss”

Azahara Muñoz also paid tribute to Barquín, posting a photo of them together on her Instagram account: “Waking up to the news that Celia is no longer with us broke my heart. This world is so wonderful and so hard at the same time. We will never forget you, and one day we’ll see each



Barquín, 22, was European amateur champion. :: SUR

other again,” she said.

The Estrella Damm Mediterranean Ladies Open, which took place a week after the killing, became a constant reminder of Celia. “She was one of my best friends in golf,” said Andrea Jonama, her voice shaking. “It is just

crazy. It is a huge loss, too much to bear,” said the Spanish number one, Carlota Ciganda. The veteran Marta Figueras-Dotti, one of Spain’s first women golfers and ambassador of the championship, admitted that the tournament “is proving especially

60,000 PEOPLE
TURNED OUT FOR
UNIVERSITY TRIBUTE

As well as holding a vigil in her memory, the University of Iowa paid tribute to Celia Barquín at a crowded ceremony before a football match in which the Cyclones, the university team, were playing.

The university band formed Celia’s initials on the pitch before approximately 60,000 spectators, and both teams wore a picture of her on their helmets, in her memory. A video of Celia was screened, the Spanish flag was flown and team followers had been asked to wear yellow, one of the university colours and a tribute to her origins.

This was on the same day that the university had planned to award Celia Barquín the title of Sportswoman of the Year for having won the Big 12 tournament.

Celia, who was in her fifth year of studying Civil Engineering and was due to graduate next spring, was a leading figure in the university’s sports team.

hard and I know they [the players] are thinking of her all the time, especially the Spanish ladies”.

The head coach of the Iowa golf team, Christie Martens, said: “We are devastated because Celia was a good person and loved by all her colleagues”. Celia’s mother, María Ángeles Arozamena, said she had loved being in the USA and, despite the terrible thing which has happened, doesn’t regret letting her go there. “It was her dream,” she said.

Jon Rahm, sports newcomer of the year

The Basque golfer has been selected for one of the National Sport Prizes together with Rafa Nadal, Sandra Sánchez and Juan Mata

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MALAGA. Spanish golfer Jon Rahm is one of the winners of the National Sport Prizes, which were announced in September. The number eight in the world has been designated Sports Newcomer of the Year.

For Rahm, this is a reward for a truly impressive career which kicked off last year with his vic-

tory in the Farmers Insurance Open, on the PGA Tour, and ended with a win at the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai. Between these successes he also won the Irish Open, on the European Tour, and achieved numerous good results in the USA.

Other prize winners include tennis player Rafa Nadal, karate champion Sandra Sánchez, footballers

Keylor Navas and Juan Mata and athlete María Vicente, as well as the male and female national ice hockey teams.

The prizes, which will be presented by King Felipe and Queen Letizia, were decided by the National Sports Council (CSD). The panel of judges, whose president is Mariano Soriano, general director of the CSD, included Isabel Fer-



Rahm, after winning the Farmers Insurance Open. :: SUR

nández of the Spanish Olympic Committee; SER sports director Laura Martínez; RTVE journalist

María Escario and Ana Ruth Domínguez, also of the CSD, among others.



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Jaén: nature and sport in one of Europe's most spectacular areas

This province in Andalucía, home to Cazorla and emblematic landscapes of olive groves, recently hosted the second Open at La Garza in Linares

ALEJANDRO
DÍAZ

Jaén, the city and the province of the same name, has become a favourite destination for nature lovers and those keen on outdoor sports. This part of Andalucía combines emblematic landscapes of olive groves with beautiful protected areas such as the Natural Park of Cazorla, Las Villas y Segura.

It is also home to the source of the Guadalquivir river, which is one of the most popular walking routes in Andalucía. So much so, in fact, that if you are going to do the walk it is best to go on a weekday rather than a weekend or public holiday, but in any case it is well worth a visit.

Golf also has a presence here thanks to La Garza, a course in the sports park in the town of Linares; it is owned by the Junta de Andalucía, and has just been completely modernised. Pepe Gancedo designed the nine-hole course, which follows the original layout although the original golf course only had five holes.

The fairways at La Garza are bordered by different types of oak and pine trees, and cypresses. There are also trees inside the greens, and in the centre of eight of the nine fairways. Four of the holes are affected by water.

The idea for this course originated 40 years ago and some of the holes were even planned then, but it was not until 1994 that five were created. The course is perfectly integrated with the surrounding area, reflecting Jaén's attraction as a destination for nature tourism.

Benchmark in rural tourism

One of the reasons Jaén is so attractive to tourists is its biodiversity. The Jaén provincial government recently presented the 'Jaén, rural paradise' awards, in recognition of the work of individuals, institutions, companies and entities in promoting the province as a tourist destination.

The artist Belin, who is from Linares, nine entrepreneurs in the extra virgin olive oil sector, the Paradores group and seven rural development associations received their awards at a special gala cele-



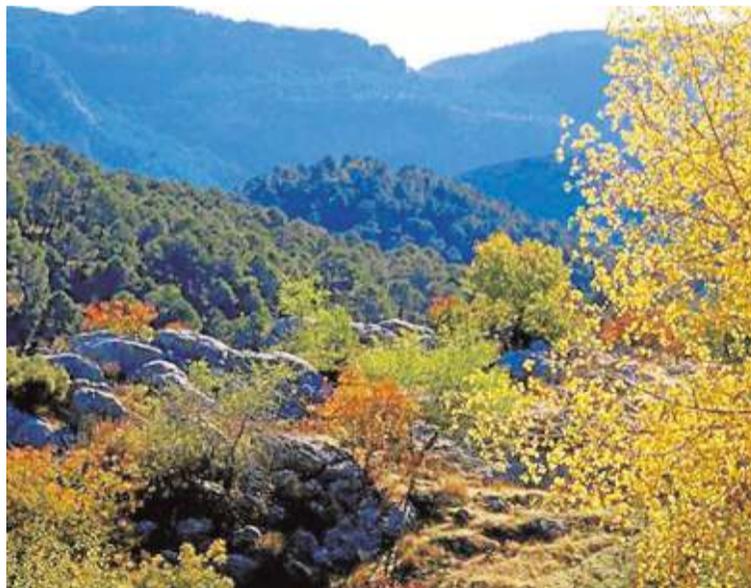
The nine-hole La Garza golf course is perfectly integrated into the countryside. :: SUR

La Garza, in Linares, originally had five holes but it has recently been completely modernised by Pepe Gancedo

bration held in the cloisters of the Old University of Baeza, which was organised to coincide with World Tourism Day.

The president of the provincial government, Francisco Reyes, who presented the awards together with the mayor of Baeza, Lola Marín, and the Junta de Andalucía's General Secretary for Tourism, Susana Ibáñez, said at the time that "we all have a clear objective: for Jaén to be a benchmark in rural tourism. We need to work unstintingly towards that, and based on a common thread: our extra virgin olive oil and our 66 million olive trees which provide us with remarkable products that are well-known in this region and all over Spain".

In his speech, Francisco Reyes also stressed that "we are proud of the tourism opportunities in Jaén because they have increased exponentially over the years. This is no



A route through the Sierra de Cazorla. :: SUR

longer a province that people pass through on their way to somewhere else: it has become a destination in its own right".

He also congratulated Úbeda and Baeza, as this year marks the 15th anniversary of their designation as World Heritage Sites. "They are the perfect example of the possibilities which our Jaén, a rural paradise, offers its visitors," he said.

The president of the provincial government also paid tribute to the efforts made by councils and the provincial government during the 40 years of Spain's democracy: "Working together with other entities, they put their shoulder to the wheel to show off the splendour of the enormous quantity of natural, cultural and historical resources we have in this province,"

he said.

Francisco Reyes also pointed out that "over the years the the 97 municipalities in Jaén province have become 97 destinations. There isn't a single village in Jaén, no matter how small, that doesn't have hotel beds, self-catering accommodation and tourism facilities. And behind all these lie opportunities for business and employment".

He also mentioned the role of the rural development associations in the province, saying that they are "a fundamental instrument for the development of tourism in Jaén, and they have ensured that it remains territorially balanced".

History and nature

In addition to its ecological value, the province of Jaén has a huge range of attractions for visitors. It is home to some of the Iberian peninsula's most important Iberian art and has monuments and buildings of great historical value.

Úbeda and Baeza, in particular, are essential destinations for any visitors who are fascinated by history and heritage, while the provincial capital, Jaén city, is overlooked by its renaissance cathedral, and has what are considered the loveliest Arab baths in Spain, which have been restored during the past ten years.

One of the treasures which no visitors interested in nature and golf should miss is the natural park of Las Villas, Cazorla y Segura, which has been a Unesco Biosphere Reserve since 1983. A former inland maritime area with two of the most significant rivers in Spain running through it, it was once a medieval bastion of the Church in Toledo and the Knights of Santiago. Cazorla, Segura y las Villas is home to one of the most spectacular natural areas in Europe.

In the north-east corner, rising like a gigantic and impregnable colossus, there is an endless succession of rugged mountains and solid massifs. The Guadalquivir river runs through a wide, deep valley, while off to the side its tributaries carve out remarkable ravines with vertical or closed walls, like the Elías ravine along the Borosa river. There are also some spectacular waterfalls.

To sum up, then, anyone who loves nature and golf should consider the province of Jaén because it is now is one of the finest destinations in Andalucía.

Greater backing for the Andalucía Masters

The tournament at Valderrama will celebrate its fourth edition next week and now has new sponsors

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MÁLAGA. The forthcoming Andalucía Valderrama Masters, which is organised by the Sergio García Foundation, will be the fourth edition and it is becoming increasingly consolidated with new sponsors, more institutional support and improvements to the golf course.

This is now one of the most important golfing competitions of the year and there are plans to make it even bigger, better and more successful in the future.

From 19 to 21 October the eyes of world golf will be fixed firmly on the Real Club Valderrama, in the Campo de Gibraltar area of Cadiz province, and the course will be at its best following the completion of an ambitious improvement plan.

The main sponsor of the Andalucía Valderrama Masters is the regional government's Ministry of Tourism and Sport, but the event is also supported by other institutions: the Cadiz provincial government, San Roque council and the Royal Andalusian Golf Federation.

Business sponsors include Santander Private Banking, La Reserva de Sotogrande, Rolex, Heineken, Dubai Duty Free, Shell, Exterior Plus, Samsic Iberia, Only Water, Grupo Hospitalario Quirónsalud, Coca-Cola, Varma and the Korporate Technologies Group.

Sergio García will be competing in the event, defending the title

he won in 2017. Over 400 million people are expected to watch the Masters on television and around 40,000 will be at the course to watch.

In recent months the course, which hosted the Ryder Cup in 1998, has been revamped, especially the nine holes of the second round which have been completely remodelled. The first nine underwent similar improvements last year. All the greens have been renewed and, among other improvements, at the 17th hole the path for the buggies has been moved from its previous location near the lake to make room for more players.

The presentation last month was attended by the Junta de Andalucía's general secretary for sport, Antonio Fernández; the mayor of San Roque, Juan Carlos Ruiz; and the presidents of the Real Club Valderrama, Nuno de Brito, and the Royal Andalusian Golf Federation, Pablo Mansilla.

"Last year, over 400 million homes on the five continents were able to enjoy watching the tournament and members of the public who were at the course were thrilled to see Sergio García win. I would like to thank all the institutions and sponsors who make it possible for Andalucía to host this major golf event, here at home, and I urge everyone who loves golf to come and watch in person, and make this year's edition another success," said the president of the course, Javier Reviriego.



Simon Alliss, Juan Carlos Ruiz, Antonio Fernández, Nuno de Brito, Pablo Mansilla and Javier Reviriego. :: SUR

The PGA pays tribute to Seve Ballesteros

A. GÓMEZ

MÁLAGA. Playa de Somo in Cantabria was recently the setting for a touching tribute to Severiano Ballesteros, organised by the Spanish Association of Golf Professionals (PGA) and attended by a large group of professionals who are playing on the national tour this year.

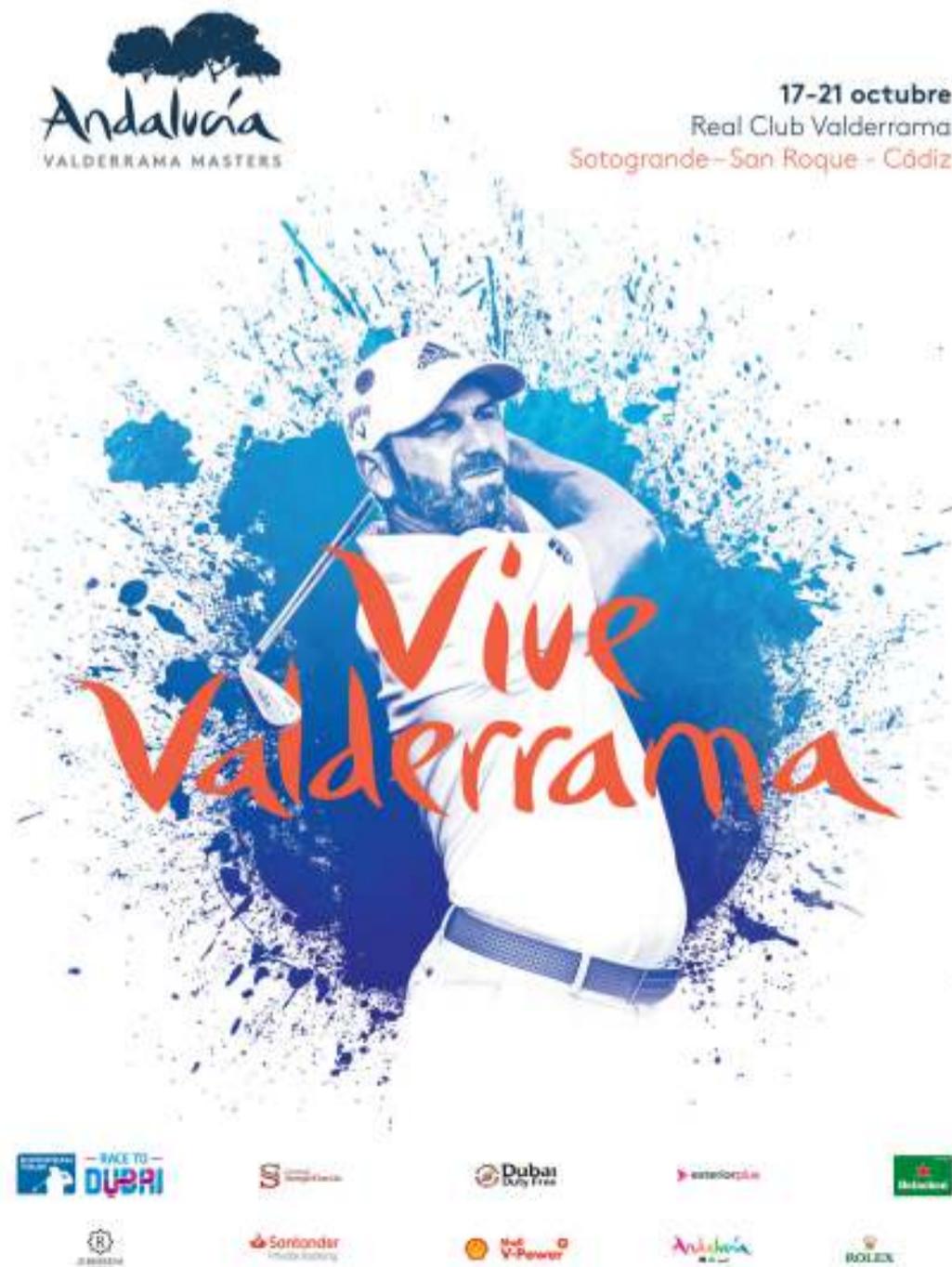
This tour, which in September celebrated the sixth tournament of the year at Pedreña, where Seve Ballesteros considered "home", now bears the name of this Cantabrian golfer who died from a brain tumor in 2011.

It was on Somo beach that the young Seve began to play golf, using a 3 iron made by one of his brothers, before he became a legend in this sport. Besides dozens of golfers from what he now called the Seve Ballesteros PGA Golf Tour 2018, friends and family members were also at

the tribute, including his sons Miguel and Javier.

Javier Ballesteros said he was "very pleased" that so many professionals had come to pay tribute to his father, and that they were all carrying a 3 iron, which was the first club Seve had ever used. "It makes me very proud when I go to a golf course or when there is a tribute to my father that people always respond so well, whether it is here in Spain or abroad," he said.

With regard to his own career, he says he has never tried to compete with his father and he thinks that works in his favour, because otherwise "it would be an error" because Seve was "incomparable". He also explained that he is working hard to achieve his objectives in professional golf, as his father always told him to, although he is still "far" from where he eventually wants to be.



THE MONTH IN PICTURES



▲ **Mediterranean Ladies Open.** Dutch golfer Anne van Dam saw off the challenge of Spaniards Azahara Muñoz and Carlota Ciganda to claim her second victory on the European Tour. Her victory was toasted by tournament host Marta Figueras (l). :: **PGA**



▲ **World Championships.** Spanish golf claimed its fourth medal in the men's World Amateur Team Championship with a third-placed finish at the Carton House Golf Club in Maynooth (Ireland) last month. :: **SUR**



▲ **Madrid Open.** Malaga golfer Ana Peláez has been crowned champion of the Women's Madrid Open, played at Golf Santander. She finished three shots ahead of Basque player Natalia Aseguinolaza. :: **SUR**



▲ **Tour Championship.** Tiger Woods claimed his first victory in five years in Atlanta last month, a week before the start of the Ryder Cup. The 42-year-old won the Tour Championship by two shots, sealing his 80th PGA Tour victory and pulling him within two wins of Sam Snead's record. This came a year after Woods feared he would never play golf again. :: **REUTERS**



◀ **Evian Championship.** American Angela Stanford ended her long wait for a first major title when her three-under 68 secured the Evian Championship by one shot, taking advantage of long-time leader Amy Olson's double bogey on the 18th. It had been six years since Stanford's last title. :: **EFE**

Costa del
Golf

Published by Prensa
Malagueña, S.A.
Director General
José Luis Romero

Andalucía Costa del Golf
is a Diario SUR publication

Editor in chief
Manuel Castillo
Director of publications
Pedro Luis Gómez
Production
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Advertising
Corporación de Medios
del Sur, S.L.

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2018/19 AGENDA

18 October
Valderrama
Andalucía Valderrama Masters
Open tournament

19-25 November
La Quinta
Ladies' Andalucía Costa del Sol
Open de España
Open tournament

25 November
Mijas
Asociación de clubes
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

8 May
San Roque
Campeonato de España Dobles e
Individual Senior Masculino 20
Open tournament

17 June
Lauro
Interautonómico Absoluto
Femenino
Open tournament

24 June

Antequera
Campeonato de Europa
Universitario
Open tournament

22 August
Bil Bil Golf
Campeonato de Europa
Universitario
Open tournament

5 September
Sherry
Internacional de España Sub 18
Masculino Stroke Play 2019
Open tournament