

Andalucía Costa del Golf

Azahara Muñoz out for an Open de España treble

The golfer from Marbella has confirmed she will take part in the tournament on home soil at the end of the month [P4]



TOURISM

Golf takes centre stage in London

The Costa del Sol has been promoting its facilities at the World Travel Market [P2&3]



CHAMPIONS TOUR

Wind and rain can't stop Jiménez

'El Pisha' fought back against the elements to win in Virginia on the seniors' tour [P5]

Peak golf season tees off in Marbella

The western Costa del Sol is home to the largest concentration of courses in the region [P6]



Juanma Moreno and Francis Salado, enjoying the facilities to promote golf on the Costa del Sol. :: SALVADOR SALAS

Golf tourism a top priority for the Costa at the World Travel Market

With Brexit in mind, the tourist board wanted to boost confidence in the destination, which has always been a firm favourite for British visitors

Golf continues to be a major attraction on the Costa del Sol. This month the area was well represented at the World Travel Market, one of the most important tourism fairs in the world, to promote its golf facilities, leisure options and gastronomy.

This year's event was marked by Britain's withdrawal from the European Union, although the president of Turismo Costa del Sol, Francisco Salado, said there are "no signs" that Brexit is having a negative effect on the number of British visitors to the area. Despite this, however, he warned the tourism sector that it should not be over-confident.

An unprecedented number of representatives attended the WTM to promote the Costa del Sol this year and boost confidence in the market, bearing in mind the uncertainty caused by the UK's present turbulent political and economic situation.

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

The destination had its own stand, more than 200 square metres in size, as well as a presence on the Turismo Andaluz stand. Around 300,000 euros were invested in this, which was 80,000 euros more than last year.

Under the slogan 'Costa del Sol, now more than ever', tourism experts aimed to "reach the heart of the generations who have come to visit this area year after year," explained Salado, who is also the president of the Malaga provincial government, the Diputación.

With regard to Brexit, he referred to the "umbilical cord" which joins the UK and the Costa del Sol, and said that the electoral perspective in Britain "is opening a new stage". In his opinion, if Britain



Moreno and Marín, at the WTM in London. :: SALVADOR SALAS

does leave the EU, "everything will depend" on the exchange rate between sterling and the euro. However, even if it drops, he said, the purchasing power of British people in Spain will always be greater than in their own country.

Two out of every three British visitors who stay in hotels in Andalucía choose the Costa del Sol, and Andalucía also receives more tourists from this market than anywhere else in Spain. The Costa del Sol's objective at the WTM

was to continue working to attract year-round tourism, by focusing on the golf sector and the attractions of the area out of season, and to try to attract more customers for local businesses.

As well as holding more than 30 meetings, and making hundreds of contacts, Turismo Costa del Sol carried out a publicity campaign at the WTM and some of London's underground stations, as this means of transport is used by five millions of travellers every day.

This year representatives of 60 businesses in the Costa del Sol tourism sector attended the World Travel Market.

Between January and September there were 4.1 million overnight stays by British visitors in Malaga province (up by 0.6 per cent) and the number of passengers from the UK arriving at Malaga Airport reached 2.37 million, which is 30 per cent of the total. British tourists stay on the Costa del Sol for an average of 8.4 days



The Costa del Sol was well represented in London. :: SALVADOR SALAS

and spend around 100 euros a day and, as well as the sunshine and beaches, they are interested in excursions into the countryside, visits to historical buildings and monuments, and gastronomy.

Promoting Marbella

Golf and gastronomy were also the attractions that Marbella wanted to promote at the World Travel Market, which is 40 years old this year and began on 4 November. The mayor of Marbella, Ángeles Muñoz, said that tourism reports "are showing a trend among clients from the UK, Germany and France to choose destinations because of their gastronomy, sports, culture and nature", rather than the more traditional attractions of sunshine, beaches and nightlife. She explained that the council is taking action to boost the golf and gastronomy sector in Marbella, "and they are key to our promotion in London".

Juan Marin, the vice-president of the Junta de Andalucía and also its minister for Tourism, said the WTM seemed "totally normal" despite Brexit. He pointed out that the Andalucía stand was one of the biggest, at over 500 square metres. This year the regional government has focused on promoting Andalucía in Germany and other markets in northern Europe, as well as the UK, "because they interest us a great deal and they can counterbalance Britain's decision to leave the EU". However, he insisted that "we are prepared for the hardest type of Brexit", referring to the 112 measures put into effect by the Junta in a plan which aims "to reduce the impact Brexit could have on the region".



Malaga council had its own space at the WTM. :: SALVADOR SALAS

ve the EU". However, he insisted that "we are prepared for the hardest type of Brexit", referring to the 112 measures put into effect by the Junta in a plan which aims "to reduce the impact Brexit could have on the region".

The president of the Junta de Andalucía, Juanma Moreno, also attended the WTM, as did the mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, and many representatives of the tourism sector in Malaga and Andalucía as a whole.

Malaga keeps its finger on the pulse at the IGTM

Turismo Costa del Sol was present at this famous golf fair held in Marrakech

:: A. GÓMEZ

MALAGA. Representatives from Turismo Costa del Sol held around 50 meetings with tour operators, travel agents and specialist organisers in the golf sector at the 22nd International Golf Travel Market (IGTM) in Marrakech, which took place from 14 to 17 October. Their aim was to keep raising awareness and improving the reputation of the Costa del Golf, and to make new contacts and opportunities to promote and sell the destination in traditional and strategic markets.

The president of Turismo Costa del Sol, Francisco Salado, stressed the interest shown in the Costa del Sol at the IGTM by emerging markets such as the USA and India, "which have already seen other destinations like Scotland and Ireland, and were looking for warmer places where playing golf is easier because of the temperature and the absence of rain".

The representatives also organised lunches and networking dinners, gave talks and held technical discussions upon subjects which are important to the Costa del Sol.

Salado said the agencies and tour

operators were not just interested in golf courses but also the complementary facilities such as women's golf, family golf and children's golf, as well as experiences and the gastronomy.

"The Costa del Sol meets all the requirements for this type of tourist who wants to play golf but is also interested in other attractions," Salado said. He also explained that agencies which only used to work in the UK are now also interested in the Costa del Sol-Costa del Golf "because their clients are asking for that, and because we have a powerful name in the sector thanks to the IAGTO award and all our promotional work".

The IGTM is a famous event, bringing together 1,300 tourism professionals and 500 suppliers from over 50 countries, more than 400 golf tourism operators who collectively control 80 per cent of the world market and around 100 international journalists. Turismo Costa del Sol believes it is important to have a presence at the fair every year, to promote its own facilities and also to keep up-to-date with what is new.



Representatives from Malaga at the IGTM. :: SUR





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"Playing at home always motivates me"

Azahara Muñoz, from Marbella, confirms that she will be taking part in the Open de España, which she has already won on two occasions, at Aloha Golf later this month

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MÁLAGA. There is great news for the Women's Open de España. Azahara Muñoz has confirmed that she will be taking part in this tournament on the European Tour, which she won in 2016 and 2017.

This year it will take place at Aloha Golf in Málaga province, from 28 November to 1 December. It will be the sixth time the Costa del Sol has hosted the championship after those held at Flamingos (2010), La Quinta (2011 and 2018), Guadalmina (2015) and Aloha (2016). The event is sponsored by the Junta de Andalucía's Ministry of Tourism, the provincial government's Turismo Costa del Sol and the Mancomunidad de Municipios of the western Costa del Sol.

The tournament is part of the Ladies European Tour, which takes place on five continents, with 23 tournaments in 18 countries which bring together 325 professional players of 42 different nationalities. The coverage for this prestigious event reaches 500 million homes. Last year, over 22,000 people went to watch the competition in person.

The confirmation from Muñoz, who has just had one of the best seasons of her career after overcoming physical and technical problems which had affected her in recent years, is great news for the tournament. The golfer from Marbella, who has great support among the public, was part of the European Solheim Cup team which recently reclaimed the trophy after two consecutive victories for the Americans.

Muñoz, who is one of the world's best players and among the top 50 in the ranking, will be the focus of attention for two reasons: she is local, trained at the nearby

golf school at Guadalmina, and is the first Spanish female player in history not only to win the Open de España, which she achieved in 2016 with an exceptional performance, but for repeating that triumph in 2017 with an admirable demonstration of how golf should be played.

"I'm very excited about playing in the Open de España again, because it is a very special tournament for me for many reasons. Playing at home always motivates me because I know I'm surrounded by my people and my family, and that gives me an incentive to do as well as I possibly can," she says. "And also, it is a competition where the results you achieve tend to be good. I have won the Women's Open de España twice now and that is an additional attraction for me. It is the final tournament of the season and I'm really looking forward to finishing the year at home."

A member of the European team which recently won the Solheim Cup, which the Europeans had previously won in 2011 and 2013, Muñoz will be facing up to the challenge of a third win at an Open de España, something no other female player has done in the history of the tournament.

First golfer in the Olympics

The Spanish player has been in the Top 10 on the American and European tours this year, with a special mention for her second place in the Kia Classic and her third at the LPGA's Women's World Championship. Muñoz beat Beth Allen on the final day of the tournament in 2016.

In the same year she also became the first woman to hit a golf ball at an Olympic Games, which occurred in Rio de Janeiro. Months later she repeated her victory at the Andalucía Costa del Sol Open de España in 2017, thanks to another fabulous performance from the first day, a spectacular start, progression and finish which enabled her to follow in the footsteps of legendary players like Laura Davies, with two victories under her belt (1986 and 2010), and Marie Laure de Lorenzi (1988 and 1994).

Muñoz is a player forged in the USA, where the universities offer many more facilities for elite sportsmen and women than those in Europe. During her first years as a professional golfer, she divided her time between Spain and America, and then decided to settle in Florida, where she lives with Tim Vickers, who she married in 2015.

The golfer from Marbella, who has great local support, was recently part of the European team which won the Solheim Cup

"It's the last tournament of the season and I'm looking forward to ending the year at home," says Muñoz



Muñoz will be a major attraction at the Open de España, which takes place from 28 November. :: SUR

Jiménez wins against all odds

The Malaga-born player won in Virginia, the veterans' tournament marked by rain, with an amazing comeback and nine birdies in a day

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MALAGA. He is still hungry for titles. Nothing can stop Miguel Ángel Jiménez, who in October added the trophy from the Dominion Energy Charity Classic at Richmond, Virginia, to his display case. The Malaga player, who will be 56 in January, has accumulated eight wins on the Champions Tour, which is for veterans, although he continues to make incursions on the European Tour to battle against the best players in the world, as he demonstrated at the last Spanish Open.

'El Pisha', as he is nicknamed, ended with an incredible card of 63 strokes on the final day of the tournament, which was held on the Monday because of the weather. But the wait didn't bother him. He started at a three stroke disadvantage to Tommy Tolles and Scott Parel but managed to get ahead, first passing Bernhard Langer and Colin Montgomerie.



Jiménez poses with the trophy after his unexpected victory. :: SUR

All eyes were on Monty to win, but the player from Churriana was having an excellent day, with nine

birdies and not even one bogey, and he won with a two-stroke advantage over Tolles, who produced an

extraordinary eagle out of the hat to come second in the championship. Jiménez finished the first nine holes at four under par, but the festival didn't arrive until the second half, when he made five birdies with no errors to end five under par and an accumulated nine under par.

Jiménez had already won two majors on the senior tour (Tradition 2018 and the British Open 2018); his last victory was in the Chubb Classic, in February this year. Now as a member of the European Tour, he aspires to be the player who has taken part in the most tournaments on that tour. At present, only Sam Torrance has played in more.

Jiménez, who still gives some of the younger players a scare in ordinary championships, has focused his career on the Champions Tour, which is for PGA veterans. He says he "loves" the format, which con-

sists of three rounds with no cut per tournament. Aware that a major victory in the Champions opens the doors to playing in the majors again, Jiménez set himself the objective of winning one of the big tournaments on this tour. And now he has done that, twice. He is satisfied with the results. "I still feel competitive," he says.

Despite his incursion onto the tour for veterans, Jiménez still plays his best golf in the regular championships. "I'm in the same physical condition as I was years ago. I haven't lost distance and I still want to play, I'm always excited about playing tournaments on the regular tour. Obviously I focus on the Champions, but I take part in four or five professional tournaments as well and really enjoy them," he says.

After more than 30 years on the European Tour and playing in 700 tournaments, 'El Pisha' has no intention of giving up. "Golf is what I like best and I found out years ago it is the only thing I know how to do well. And it's my way of life. Physically, I still look after myself and what is most important is that I like what I do," he explains.

He has often said that age is in the mind. "I don't care what my ID card says, I feel young," he says, and he is determined to demonstrate that at top level. Despite his 55 years and his relaxed and hedonistic image, he maintains his competitiveness in professional golf, gained over years of discipline and training. Jiménez isn't going anywhere any time soon.

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The high season for golf begins and the weather is looking good

The Marbella area on the western Costa del Sol has the highest concentration of well-established golf courses in Andalucía

**ALEJANDRO
DÍAZ**

For sports tourists, which includes those who come to play golf, Marbella is a winter destination which meets every requirement of this demanding and at the same time attractive traveller profile: quality infrastructures and a lovely climate. This is why the town is increasingly popular to welcome these players of different types from all over the world, including golfers, for whom this is the start of the high season, and professional football clubs who come here to train.

Marbella stands out above other destinations for the quality of its golf courses, which makes it a firm favourite all year round. There are some emblematic clubs such as Río Real, nestling in the most privileged enclave of Marbella, just five minutes from the town centre and inaugurated in 1965. The course runs alongside the Río Real, from which it gets its name, and the river is an integral part of the course, which accompanies it to the point where it flows into the Mediterranean Sea.

Another famous club is Aloha, which has hosted the Open de Andalucía on three occasions. In parkland style and par 72, it has a traditional design with four par-five holes, ten par-four and four par-three, spread uniformly between the two rounds.

The two courses at the Real Club de Guadalmina are an important part of the history of the Costa del Golf. Some of the best Spanish players and famous figures from all over the world have played here. One of the keys to its popularity is its location, beside the town of San Pedro Alcántara and strategically close to Marbella, at the heart of the Costa del Golf. The topography of the original estate was perfect for its facilities. Guadalmina has two 18-hole courses and one which is nine holes par-three. There is also a practice course for 40 players with an indoor platform and 21 places, chipping, a practice bunker and putting green.

Meanwhile, Los Naranjos is one of the best golf courses on the Costa del Sol and is situated in the heart of Marbella. Since being created in the mid-1970s, a significant number of professional and amateur championships have been played at Los Naranjos. For example, in 1988 it hosted



Marbella has good weather all year, and winter is the start of high season for European tourists. :: SUR

Some of the most luxurious brands in the world are to be found on the four kilometre-long Golden Mile

part of the Ladies European Tour, in which Laurette Maritz from South Africa, who won the tournament, played. In 1989 the club was also the venue for the PGA Campeonato de España in which José Rivero and Severiano Ballesteros both played.

Another jewel of this sport in Marbella is Cabopino Golf, which is on the western side of Marbella and opposite Cabopino marina. It has one 18-hole course, designed by architect Juan Ligués Creus, with spectacular views of the Mediterranean and a lovely profusion of magnificent wide-topped pine trees.

Not far from Marbella there is also the Villa Padierna Golf Resort. Its courses are an important part of the Costa del Golf and some of the best players in the world have played here. The courses at Villa Padierna are famous for being suited to experienced golfers and also beginners. One of their many attractions is being able to offer three different courses, suitable for any level of handicap, high or low. All players enjoy themselves here and find the course which best adapts to their standard of play. It is



There are luxury brands galore on the Golden Mile. :: SUR



Puerto Banús, an iconic location in Marbella. :: SUR

also a unique location, with no noise and away from the bustle of the urban areas of the Costa del Sol.

La Quinta Golf is also nearby, and last year it hosted the Open de España in which some legendary players took part including Laura Davies, up-and-coming stars like Georgia Hall and the winner, Anne Van Dam, as well as the most internationally-known player from Malaga, Azahara Muñoz.

These are just some examples of a destination which has 25 kilometres of coastline, four marinas and a wonderful climate. Marbella is the second-most populated town in Malaga province and the eighth in Andalucía. It can boast a microclimate with a privileged average temperature. Its beaches of white sand are another of its attractions and as a shopping centre, Marbella is a very special destination on the Costa del Sol, with some of the most luxury brands on the market. In fact, the Golden Mile is world famous: four kilometres between the oldest part of the town and Puerto Banús, home to some of the most luxurious residences in Marbella and hotels such as the Puente Romano and Marbella Club.

The Plaza de los Naranjos, the public square designed after the Christian conquest of Marbella, lies between the Santiago church, the town hall and the Casa del Corregidor, all built between the 15th and 16th centuries. They are in the very centre of the town, with its white-washed houses and balconies filled with flowers. Close to the square is the chapel of San Juan de Dios and the church of Santo Cristo de la Vera Cruz, built in the 16th century, and the 17th century church of La Encarnación. The latter has three naves and its main entrance, carved in ochre stone in Rococo style, is a real marvel.

Historic town

The historic town centre also has remains of a wall which used to surround the town and a castle, both dating back to Moorish times. On one tower you can see inset Roman chapters, which shows that they used materials from older constructions to build the defensive system. The nearby Hospital Bazán is now the Contemporary Print Museum, with works by Picasso, Miró, Tàpies and Chillida.

Marbella also has fine sand beaches, beautiful mountains and parks and an infinite range of restaurants and leisure options, everything to make it the epicentre of the most coveted tourism in the whole of Europe and now, also, America. Nor should we forget that the 'Costa del Sol' (meaning Sun Coast) is so named thanks to the fact that it enjoys 3,000 hours of sunshine a year.

"If there is anywhere that golf is a majority sport, it's Malaga"

Pablo Mansilla President of the **Federación de Golf de Andalucía.**

In this interview, he takes a look at the current situation of the sector



Pablo Mansilla, president of the RFAG. :: SUR

**ALEJANDRO
DÍAZ**

Pablo Mansilla is the president of the Real Federación de Golf de Andalucía. He knows the federated golf scene in Spain very well, but it is in Andalucía that he is totally involved. This has been a year of excellent results, and in this interview he takes a look at golf in the region and, specifically, in Malaga province. Major events, encouraging women's golf and live broadcasts of championships are some of the subjects we covered.

–How would you describe the past year?

–Very positive. Fantastic, from a federation and regional point of view. As a federation, we took part in five amateur tournaments against other regional federations: two senior inter-regional ones, two in the under-18s and one junior. In the senior category, we were runners-up in both. In the under-18s for girls we were champions and runners-up for boys. We were champions in the juniors. It will be a difficult year to repeat. Completely extraordinary. Andalucía

has a great future with players like Álvaro Müller. At a university level, we also have a girl from Huelva who is the European champion of university golf.

–What does Andalucía have that makes its young players give so much to the world of golf?

–Well, where there is an orchard, there will be fruit. Andalucía has some of the best and biggest golf courses and a high concentration in areas like Malaga province, especially between Malaga city and Sotogrande. That makes things much easier. And we will always be there as a federation to provide support in any way we can, to continue the success and encourage young players in Andalucía.

–Do you see this as normal?

–I see it as logical. If there is anywhere in Spain where golf is a majority sport, it is Malaga.

–For some years now, the Andalusian Federation has been committed to initiatives that make golf more popular such as the Pequecircuito and Golf Joven. How do they work?

–They have been in operation for years and function very well. I would like to emphasise the Golf Joven project. For three euros we are attracting a growing number of youngsters to the associated courses, of which

there are more than 50. This multiplies the options of capturing talent and promoting golf, opening it up to more fans. It helps us to promote golf as a 'normal' sport, and that can attract a great many people.

–In fact, there is a pay TV programme dedicated exclusively to golf and even Andalucía Radio Television has decided to show professional tournaments in the region...

–Yes, indeed. I have always thought golf has the possibility of attracting a great many people. Obviously, they have to be important tournaments. It's true to say that I talk to people who a priori have nothing to do with this sport, but they are up-to-date about what is happening. That wasn't always the case.

–What would you say is the state of health of the Costa del Golf?

–Right now the Costa del Golf is in good condition. Although we always

have to remember that, despite being consolidated, there are always risks that have to be controlled and worked on.

–What are those?

–Golf is closely linked with the tourism sector. There are markets like Tunisia and Turkey which are stabilising and have good facilities. How can we compete with them? Not via prices, anyway. But we can compete via the quality of all our courses, and the added value that they are located in traditionally tourist places with great infrastructure and good services. On the other hand we also have Brexit, which is something that could affect us a great deal. But there is no reason to be alarmist: right now golf in Andalucía is very healthy indeed.

–How can you maintain that?

–We have to keep growing, in terms of infrastructure, quality, and spe-

QUOTES

"The 'Golf Joven' project is successful and is attracting more youngsters to golf"

"The Costa del Golf is in good health right now, but we need to do our homework with regard to the future"

"We need to continue growing in terms of infrastructure and projects in the world of golf"

cialisation. Those are our strengths and we must not forget them. We have to be even better.

–When problems seem imminent, do you look at medium and long-term solutions?

–It's the only form of prevention: looking to the medium and long term. Never short term. Remember that current legislation makes it difficult to create and expand new golf projects.

–What do you think about the major events which have been coming to Andalucía in recent years?

–They are absolutely essential. We want the women's Spanish Open to always take place on the Costa del Sol. And we are trying to attract more events, such as the Solheim Cup.

–And what else are you doing to help golf to grow in this destination?

–We are committed to women's golf. Only 27 per cent of people with licences are women. Mind you, that's not bad compared with other sports, but we need to work on reducing the gap. So to sum up: the challenge is to get more women playing. We are the third federation in terms of female members, but that's not enough. We are going to work hard to improve the women's golf scene.

–How do you hope to achieve that?

–Apart from specific initiatives, I believe that if a sport is to grow, it needs role models. We have to create those through major tournaments for women's golf. And in Andalucía, we already have plenty of role models, such as Azahara Muñoz, Noemí Jiménez, María Parra... they will make many more girls think about taking up golf.

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The European Tour brings the Andalucía Masters forward

There are changes to the 2020 tour calendar because of the Olympic Games in Tokyo and the Open de España will be moved slightly to 15 to 18 October

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

The European Tour is already warming up for 2020 and there is a new look to the calendar for next year, an atypical one because as well as the Ryder Cup (25-27 September in Wisconsin, USA) there will be the Olympic Games from 30 July to 2 August.

The Andalucía Masters at Valderrama, which normally takes place in June, has been brought forward to 30 April to 2 May, and the Open de España will be slightly later in October, from the 15th to the 18th. This two-week difference should improve its chances of attracting top players.

In total, there will be at least 46 tournaments, eight of them in the Rolex Series, the highest category of tournament on the European tour: those will be the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship (16 to 19 January), the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open (28 to 31 May), the Aberdeen Standard Investments Scottish Open (9 to 12 July), the BMW PGA Championship (10 to 13 September), the Italian Open (8 to 11 October), the Turkish Airlines Open (5 to 8 November), the Nedbank Golf Challenge (12 to 15 November) and the DP World Tour Championship (19 to 22 November), the last stop on the Race to Dubai.

However, the Tour is also in the eye of the hurricane for the latest criticisms from Rory McIlroy, former world number one, who is calling for the courses to be more difficult. After finishing in 26th place in the Al-



The Andalucía Masters will take place in April instead of June next year. :: SUR

fred Dunhill Links 'pro-am' at St Andrews, Carnoustie and Kingsbarns, he said: "I'm sort of honestly sick of coming back over to the European Tour and shooting 15 under par and finishing 30th. I don't think the courses are set up hard enough. There's

no penalties for bad shots. It's not a good test," he said. Hours later he softened his approach: "I was venting yesterday, but I can assure you it came from the right place. I understand voicing concerns about golf course set-ups in Europe to the media at a

pro-am event on benign links courses wasn't the right place to do it, or the right people to talk to about it."

The Hong Kong Open, and the Alfred Dunhill Championship, in Leopard Creek, South Africa, will be the two first events of the new season on

the European Tour and the Race to Dubai, from 28 November to 1 December. After these two tournaments there will be the AfrAsia Bank Mauritius Open, from 5 to 8 December, and the Australian PGA Championship, from 19 to 22 December. The South Africa Open in Johannesburg, from 9 to 12 January, will be the first event on the 2020 calendar and the tournament prior to the first stop on the fourth edition of the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship presented by EGA, from 16 to 19 January.

Then will come the Omega Dubai Desert Classic, 23 to 26 January, and the Saudi International Powered by SBIA, 30 January to 2 February. From 6 to 9 February it will be the ISPS Handa Vic Open, where men and women will once again share a base. And from there, the tour's first shared tournament with the PGA at the start of the world championships with WGC Mexico, from 20 to 23 February, and after that there will be plenty more to keep golf fans happy, all through the year.

A MIXED TOURNAMENT ON THE AGENDA

Men and women are set to play in the same tournament next year. This mixed competition will take place in Stockholm in June 2020,

and has been organised by two Swedish golf stars, Henrik Stenson and Annika Sorenstam.

"Having men and women playing against each other shows how great our game is," says Stenson. "I really think this is a format that could become one of the ways in which golf is played in the future".

The winner of the British Open 2016 and the Ryder Cup has

committed to playing in the three first editions of the tournament, called Scandinavian Mixed Hosted by Henrik and Annika.

The first one will take place from 11 to 14 June at the Bro Hof Slott Golf Club. There will be 156 competitors, 78 men and 78 women, with a prize of 1.5 million euros. The venue will change for the 2021 and 2022 editions.

2019/20 AGENDA

16 November

Aloha Golf
Final del Ranking Nacional de Pitch & Putt 2019
Open tournament

9 January

Atalaya Park
Copa de Andalucía Femenina 2020
Open tournament
Guadalmina
Copa de Andalucía (Punt) 2020
Open tournament

6 June

Mijas Golf
Gran Premio AFA
Open tournament

13 June

Mijas Golf
Gran Premio Memorial Blas Fernández
Open tournament

27 June

Mijas Golf
Gran Premio Virgen de la Cruz

Open tournament

4 July

Mijas Golf
Gran Premio Grupo Juma
Open tournament

11 July

Mijas Golf
Copa de Golf San Miguel
Open tournament

25 July

Mijas Golf

Gran premio Club de golf Tamisuel
Open tournament

1 August

Mijas Golf
Gran premio en favor de la Asociación Española de Lucha contra el Cáncer
Open tournament

Costa del Golf

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

Andalucía Costa del Golf
is a Diario SUR publication

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