

OLAZÁBAL & FRIENDS CHARITY PRO-AM CONCLUDES A GOLF YEAR TO REMEMBER AT COSTA NAVARINO

December 1, 2022 – Professional and amateurs from around the golfing world joined José María Olazábal, the two-time Masters champion, in the inaugural [Olazábal and Friends Charity Pro-Am](#) that took place from November 24-27 at [Costa Navarino](#). The pro-am brought the destination's golfing season to a fitting finale of an exciting year, during which it was named as the 'World's Best Emerging Golf Destination' at the 2022 World Golf Awards.

Global golf icon Miguel Ángel Jiménez, the winner of 34 titles worldwide and who has appeared in four Ryder Cups, was among the players who joined the three days of the premium golfing event at the Mediterranean's prime sustainable destination.

Amateurs had the exclusive opportunity to join Olazábal and his professional friends in an up-close and intimate experience, playing at Costa Navarino's two new courses at [Navarino Hills](#), which were designed by him and opened last February.

Featuring 14 teams, with each team comprising one professional and three amateurs, the pro-am included a practice round and two separate 18-hole competitions on the world's first International Olympic Academy Golf Course – voted the 'World's Best New Golf Course' at the 2022 World Golf Awards – and The Hills Course.

The impressive line-up of professionals featured the winners of a combined total of 68 European Tour titles including Spain's Gonzalo Fernández-Castaño, Santiago Luna and José Manuel Lara; Emanuele Canonica from Italy; France's Christian Cevaer; 2021 Senior Open champion Stephen Dodd and Welsh compatriot Phillip Price, a member of Europe's victorious 2002 Ryder Cup side.

Olazábal took the top spot in a head-to-head team competition with Jiménez with a winning score of -59, while Lara claimed the top honours in the individual professional competition ahead of Portugal's Ricardo Santos and Lorenzo Gagli from Italy with a 36-hole total of four-under-par.

Olazábal said: "Our goal was to raise money for children in need and at the same time offer our guests a great time. I am so happy we achieved that and I would like to thank the Costa Navarino team and also my dear friend Miguel Ángel Jiménez and our fellow pros for helping us deliver a successful premiere. We can't wait to return again in 2023. Thank you all for your generosity."

Jiménez said: "When José María calls, you know it is going to be something special. It truly was - a spectacular region, great golf courses, amazing guests, perfect organisation and all this for a good cause. Congratulations to all involved. My wife, Susanne, and I loved our time here and we already look forward to coming back to Costa Navarino."

Social events including two dinners, a prize-giving lunch and post-event party and a golf clinic with Jiménez were also part of the event, with all proceeds being donated to Sport Mundi (www.sportmundi.es), the Spanish non-profit organisation chaired by José María Olazábal, which supports children in need.

In addition, the tournament supported the "Clean Messinia" initiative, led by the Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos Foundation and Costa Navarino, which aims to support and engage the local communities in a more sustainable way of waste management.

For more information about the Olazábal and Friends Charity Pro-Am, please visit www.olazabalandfriends.com

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Information for journalists:

About José María Olazábal

José María Olazábal is regarded among Europe's best golfers of all time. His victories as a professional golfer include two Masters titles (1994 and 1999), 33 professional tournament wins worldwide and legendary Ryder Cup performances, both as a player and as the winning captain of the spectacular 2012 Ryder Cup known as the "Miracle at Medinah". He is a Member of the World Golf Hall of Fame and currently plays on the Champions Tour. In addition to his playing career, José María has established Olazabal Design as a highly respected international golf course design practice with currently 23 courses opened - among them the two brand new courses at Costa Navarino, the International Olympic Academy Golf Course and the Hills Course which will take center stage in the inaugural Olazábal & Friends Charity ProAm this November.

About Costa Navarino

Costa Navarino is the prime, sustainable destination in the Mediterranean, located in the Greek region of Messinia in the southwest Peloponnese. One of the most unspoiled and breath-taking seaside Mediterranean landscapes, this area has been shaped by 4,500 years of history. Its philosophy is driven by a genuine desire to promote Messinia, while protecting and preserving its natural beauty and heritage. It comprises five distinct sites featuring five-star deluxe hotels, luxury private residences, and a total of four signature golf courses. Navarino Dunes, the first area, is home to The Romanos, a Luxury Collection Resort, and The Westin Resort Costa Navarino, as well as to Costa Navarino Residences. Navarino Bay, the second area, is set to welcome the Mandarin Oriental, Costa Navarino in 2023. At the nearby site Navarino Waterfront, the upscale, vibrant W Costa Navarino is open as of August 2022.

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For media enquiries please contact:

Pete Simm, Account Manager, The Azalea Group

Tel: +44 1730 711 920

Email: petes@theazaleagroup.com

www.theazaleagroup.com

Valia Vanezi, Communications Director, TEMES SA – Developers of Costa Navarino

Tel: +30 211 0160 0152

Email: vvanezi@temes.gr