



2nd Aegean Airlines Pro-Am An International Golf Tournament With The Support of the PGAs of Europe

On 9th May a press conference was held at the Grande Bretagne Hotel in Athens to introduce the 2nd Aegean Airlines Pro-Am to the media. The guest panel included Mr Theodore Vassilakis, President of the Aegean Airlines S.A., Mr Andreas Metaxas, Crete Golf Club, Mr Achilleas Konstandakopoulos, Navarino Resorts and the mediator was Mr George Drakopoulos, Manager of S ETE. Mr Ian Randell, Chief Executive of the PGAs of Europe, sent his apologies.

For the second year running, the Aegean Airlines Pro-Am will be held, at the Crete Golf Club in Hersonissos between 1st and 3rd June. The Crete Golf Club is designed by Bob Hunt and is an 18-hole Desert Course which combines modern infrastructure, international playing standards and the naturally enhance environment of the island of Crete. It is only the second time that an international golf event is taking place in Greece under the auspices of the PGAs of Europe and the PGA of Greece.

This year 16 countries are participating from Greece, Cyprus, Germany, Ireland, UK, Italy, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Turkey, Israel, Portugal, Holland and United Arab Emirates. The 46th team is Ian Wright's former Arsenal and England International. The 46 teams will be made up by one professional golfer and three amateurs players. The winners will share a purse of 60,000 euros. The first Professional winner will receive a prize of 7,000 euros.

It is worth mentioning, that 12,000 euros from the sponsorship funds will be donated to **Iliaxtida** a local charity based in Crete. **Iliaxtida** was founded in 1992 by a group of concerned citizens in Heraklion, in order to offer their support both financial and psychological to families with children suffering from cancer.

The young artist **Hermes Sambanopoulos** will also strengthen the donation of Aegean Airlines to Iliaxtida by giving away part of his earnings from the sale of his series of golf paintings, which will be exhibited at the Crete Golf Club during the 2nd Aegean Airlines Pro-Am.

Priority of the 2nd Aegean Airlines Pro-Am is to showcase this popular sport to Greek fans. The announcement that 16 new golf courses will be constructed (7 in Messinia-Navarino Resorts, 5 in Cavo Sidero by the Minoan Group, 1 in Porto Carras, 1 in Killada Hills and 2 in Atalandi Hills, etc) will strengthen the golf development in our country with contemporary infrastructure similar to if not better than our neighboring countries.

The initiative of Aegean Airlines to establish the Pro-Am as an annual golf event, contributes to the strategic development and enrichment of the Greek tourism product and to the alternative forms of tourism.

The Aegean Airlines Pro-Am is sponsored by Aegean Airlines S.A. which is the founder and title sponsor, Navarino Resorts (Presenting Sponsor), Alpha Bank-American Express Cards, Authellas-Hertz, Maris Hotels, Athens International Airport, Vacar-Saab, Coca Cola 3E, Puma, the local authorities of Crete and others. Communication sponsor is NET.

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