

# **Press Release**

### EURASIA CUP CAPTAINS RENEW BATTLE IN MACAU

Miguel Angel Jiménez and Thongchai Jaidee Challenge for Venetian Macau Open Title

**Macau, 22 July 2014:** Miguel Angel Jiménez of Spain and Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee have announced they will be competing at this year's US\$900,000 Venetian Macau Open at the Macau Golf and Country Club from October 23-26, 2014.

The two venerated stars of the game recently captained their respective continents to a dramatic tie at the inaugural EurAsia Cup in Malaysia earlier this year, with Thongchai dragging Team Asia back from the brink of defeat to claim an extraordinary draw against Miguel's men on the final hole of the match.

Jiménez and Jaidee are both multiple winners on the European and Asian Tours with an incredible 36 titles between them. The Tour veterans are showing no signs slowing down with both having won already this year. In May, Jiménez claimed his national Open, the Open de España for the first time in 27 attempts, in the process breaking his own record as the oldest ever winner on the European Tour at 50 years and 133 days. Not to be outdone, Thongchai clinching his second European Tour title at the Nordea Masters in June, fending off EurAsia Cup foes Victor Dubuisson and Stephen Gallacher in a play-off.

Jiménez is no stranger to golf fans in Asia and enjoys an almost cult following thanks to his love of fast cars and fine Rioja. 'The Mechanic', as he is also known, is a four time winner of the Hong Kong Open (2004, 2007, 2012 and 2013). Despite being a familiar face in the region, he will be making his debut in Macau this year;

"I love playing in Asia and I've enjoyed great success in the region. I am really excited about coming to Macau and playing the event for the first time. I have heard a lot of great reviews of the tournament from my fellow pros, how much fun the city is and how beautiful the

course is. It is time for me to experience it all first hand and I'm really looking forward to it."

"It is going to be very competitive,' continued Jiménez, who is currently ranked 27<sup>th</sup> in the world. "There is a great field of international and Asian golfers assembled, not to mention old friends like Thongchai and Ernie. I really look forward to playing with Thongchai again. He is one of the best players in Asia and it is always enjoyable to play alongside players like him."

Six years Jiménez's junior, at a sprightly 44, Thongchai currently ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> in the world and is a three-time Asian Tour Order of Merit winner (2001, 2004 and 2009) with 13 Asian Tour wins on his CV since he turned professional in 1999.

"The Venetian Macau Open is one of the most popular events on the Asian Tour and I really enjoyed myself here," said Thongchai, who finished 16<sup>th</sup> last year. "Macau is a great place to come and play golf. Fantastic city, picturesque golf course and a competitive field. I am excited that Miguel will be joining the field this year. We shared an incredible experience at the EurAsia Cup and after the draw, I'm certainly keen to come out on top in this tournament! I am sure he will enjoy it and come back next year like Ernie has."

The Venetian Macau Open is jointly organised by Macau Sport Development Board of Macau SAR Government (MSDB) and Golf Association of Macau. It is sanctioned by both the Asian Tour and the Golf Association of Macau, and promoted by IMG. The Venetian Macao is the title sponsor of the event for a third successive year.

Entry to the Venetian Macau Open is free so golf fans from around the region can enjoy live, world class golf by Els and many leading Asian Tour players, in one of the best loved destinations for leisure and entertainment travel in Asia.

Since its inauguration in 1998, the tournament has been graced by the presence of some of the best golfers the world has ever seen, including Lee Westwood, Colin Montgomerie, Nick Faldo, Padraig Harrington, Fred Couples, Ian Woosnam and Mark O'Meara. This year's event boasts a total prize fund of US\$900,000, an increase of 12.5% compared to last year.

Sponsors joining The Venetian Macao in support of the tournament include Rolex, Srixon, Air Macau, Blue Girl, Bonaqua, Lamborghini and Hong Kong Descente, which carries both the Le Coq Sportif Golf Collection and Munsingwear.

For more details on the Venetian Macau Open, please visit <u>www.thevenetianmacauopen.com</u>

## About Macau Sport Development Board of the Macau Special Administrative Region Government

Macau Sport Development Board, under the capacity of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of the Macau SAR Government, is a public organization of administration autonomy. The organization is responsible for the implementation of sport strategy and policy formulated by the Macau SAR Government. Its objective is to stimulate, encourage, and promote all kind of sports in Macau, also to create an essential condition for sport development.

For the development of competitive sports and 'Sport for all', the Macau Sport Development Board organizes various high level international sport competitions as well as recreational classes and thematic 'Sport for all' activities each year, in an endeavor to promote the international status of Macau, reinforce communication and co-operation with other countries and cites, enhance citizens' quality of life and arouse their interest in sport, so as to accelerate and facilitate the enhancement of the level of sport in Macau.

For more information, please visit <u>www.sport.gov.mo</u>.

#### About Golf Association of Macau

Founded in 2000, the Golf Association of Macau is a non-profit organization, with the mission to promote, support and ensure the quality, traditions and development of the game of golf in Macau.

With the mission to encourage and promote golf in Macau, it provides coaching, training and selection of the Macau teams for participation in international events at all levels, and promotes and runs appropriate international and domestic golfing events in Macau, which helps to represent Macau in the golfing world and be a member of appropriate regional and world governing bodies.

#### About The Venetian<sup>®</sup> Macao-Resort-Hotel

Opened in 2007, The Venetian<sup>®</sup> Macao-Resort-Hotel is Macao's first integrated resort featuring stunning replicas of the famous canals and architectural icons of Venice, Italy. The Venetian Macao features 3,000 suites, 1.2 million square feet (111,000 square metres) of convention and meeting facilities as well as a 15,000-seat Cotai Arena designed for world-class sports events and electrifying entertainment. The Venetian Macao is also home to the unique, 1,800-seat luxury Venetian Theatre, hosting the best in international and Chinese entertainment; more than 30 renowned restaurants; TAIVEXMALO Day Hospital & Spa; the incredibly fun QUBE indoor playground and more than 300 retailers at Shoppes at Venetian. Outdoor recreation areas include swimming pools and cabanas and a mini-golf course.

For more information, please visit <u>www.venetianmacao.com</u>.

#### About Cotai Strip Resorts Macao – Macao's Integrated Resort City

Sands China Ltd. is the leading developer, owner and operator of integrated resorts in Macao. The befittingly named Cotai Strip Resorts Macao, situated on reclaimed land between the islands of Coloane and Taipa, is the one destination that provides a stunning array of experiences at the heart of Cotai. Cotai Strip Resorts Macao has transformed a gaming-centric day-trip market into an integrated resort city and international hub for business and leisure travellers.

Pulsating with life, both night and day, Cotai Strip Resorts Macao features an expansive offering of affordable luxury available nowhere else in Macao, with approximately 9,000 hotel rooms and suites, international superstar live entertainment, duty-free shopping with 600 retailers offering an unparalleled array of name brands, 1.3 million square feet (120,000 square metres) of meeting and exhibition space for Asia's leading conferences and exhibitions, gaming excitement, transportation offerings and well over 100 dining options, including international restaurants, bars and lounges. Cotai Strip Resorts Macao is a must-see destination providing every guest with an unforgettable experience and unparalleled excitement.

Comprised of The Venetian<sup>®</sup> Macao-Resort-Hotel; The Plaza<sup>™</sup> Macao, featuring the Four Seasons Hotel Macao; and Sands<sup>®</sup> Cotai Central, featuring the world's largest Conrad, Sheraton, and Holiday Inn hotels, Cotai Strip Resorts Macao is where Asia's ultimate destination is all within reach.

Cotai Strip Resorts Macao....Macao Starts Here. For more information, please visit <u>http://en.cotaistrip.com</u>.

#### About the Asian Tour

As the official sanctioning body for professional golf in Asia, the Asian Tour leads the development of golf across the region, enhancing the careers of its members while maintaining a commitment to the integrity of the game. The Asian Tour, through its membership of the International Federation of PGA Tours, is the only recognised pan-Asian professional golf tour in Asia. This unique feature positions the Asian Tour at the pinnacle of professional golf in Asia; providing its events with Official World Ranking status. Tour Partners include Abacus (Official Apparel Partner), Inetol Headwear (Official Headwear Sponsor), Oakley (Official Eyewear and Footwear Sponsor), Saxo Capital Markets (Official Statistics Partner), Singha Beer (Official Beer), Srixon (Official Ball) and Rolex (Official Timekeeper). The Asian Tour has offices in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. Also, visit us at www.asiantour.com, www.facebook.com/asiantourgolf, www.twitter.com/asiantourgolf, www.youtube.com/theasiantour and www.weibo.com/asiantourgolf

#### About IMG

IMG Worldwide is a global sports, fashion and media business, with nearly 3,000 employees operating in more than 30 countries around the globe. IMG's areas of expertise are diverse and wide ranging: IMG College; IMG's Joint Ventures in India, China, Brazil and Turkey; IMG Media; IMG Events and Federations; IMG Fashion; IMG Models; IMG Art+Commerce; IMG

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