

PRESS RELEASE

THAI ACE THONGCHAI PLANS TO BE VICTORIOUS AT VENETIAN MACAU OPEN

Macau, October 22: Decorated Thai star Thongchai Jaidee intends to add the Venetian Macau Open title to his impressive collection of victories to complete the best year of his life.

The three-time Asian Tour number one is amongst the top contenders at the Macau Golf and Country Club starting on Thursday where the stellar field includes Ernie Els of South Africa, Spaniard Miguel Angel Jimenez, defending champion Scott Hend of Australia and 17 of the top-20 players from the Order of Merit.

American David Lipsky and Anirban Lahiri of India, the top-two ranked players on the Order of Merit, are tipped to challenge along with China's Liang Wen-chong and Filipino Angelo Que, who finished second in Hong Kong last week.

The 44-year-old Thongchai, currently 42nd in the world, is enjoying another stellar season and hopes to cap it with a winning week at the Venetian Macau Open. "I'm very happy with my game. I've won once but my game is very consistent. This year is the best year of my life for sure," said Thongchai, who won in Sweden in June and has not missed a single cut in Europe.

"It's nice to be back in Macau. I've not had a chance to spend too much time on the Asian Tour this year, so it's good to be back," added the Thai, who will play the opening two rounds with Els and Hend, who won the Hong Kong Open last week.

Former paratrooper Thongchai, who finished tied eighth in Macau two years ago, believes the work he has put in with long-time coach Peter Wolfenstetter has reaped its rewards. "I've worked hard on my swing. I've had injuries in the past and we've changed my swing a bit and adjusted it. I have also switched to the normal length putter and it's been consistent. Everything has clicked this year," he said.

"I want to get higher on the world ranking. I'll keep improving and will train more. Age can slow things down. I know I am getting older, and losing some distance but I am improving on the consistency. I don't think about age. Training is very important and I will keep working hard."

Que hopes to ride on his good form after finishing second to Hend in Hong Kong. While he lost in a play-off, he earned many new fans with his bubbly personality and no-holds-barred approach on the course.

“After a good week, your confidence will be high. I don’t want to get ahead of myself as I just want to enjoy it. I’ve done well a few times here, hopefully I can do that again,” said Que, who finished tied sixth here in 2012.

“I really enjoyed myself last week. I was smiling and laughing on the course pretty much every day, every shot. My mind was also very clear when I was playing. I made the right decision which was crucial.”

China’s Liang hopes a new putting method will lead him to a first Venetian Macau Open title. For longer putts, the 2007 Asian Tour number one putts with the standard grip but switches to the cross-handed for shorter attempts.

“There are many strong players but I’m happy with my game. My short game has been good, especially my putting. I managed to find something. I changed to a fatter grip and I use the cross handed for short putts and the normal grip for longer putts. I started about a month ago, and started playing well with a couple of top-10s in Japan,” he said.

With swirling winds expected to throw the field off course, Liang believes it will be important to be committed to a shot. “Here, you have to be defensive and aggressive when you have the chance. You need to make good decisions and be patient,” he said.

After missing his first cut of the season on the Asian Tour in Hong Kong, the 27-year-old Lahiri is eager to repeat last year’s final round heroics in Macau where he shot a course record equalling 62 for second place.

“It’s nice to be back to a course where you’ve done well. I’m excited to be here as the course is playing great,” said the Indian star, a four-time winner in Asia.

“I think every tournament is a learning lesson, even if you play well or don’t play your best. For me I think it was a good wake-up call (last week). Certain areas of my game needed to be looked at. My game is good and I feel confident with how I’m hitting it. A couple of scoring aspects were probably a bit off. I’ve been working on my short game and putts from inside 10 to 12 feet and just need to make some more of those.”

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.

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

For more details on the Venetian Macau Open, please visit www.thevenetianmacauopen.com

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 cities, 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 www.sport.gov.mo.

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[®] Macao-Resort-Hotel

Opened in 2007, The Venetian[®] 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 www.venetianmacao.com.

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[®] Macao-Resort-Hotel; The Plaza[™] Macao, featuring the Four Seasons Hotel Macao; and Sands[®] 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.

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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), PRG (Official Accessories Supplier), Saxo Capital Markets (Official Statistics Partner), Srixon (Official Ball), Titleist (Official Web Partner) 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.

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