

The Met Golfer

EXTRA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

MGAGOLF.ORG

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SAVE THE DATE

Circle Monday, May 13 – the Monday of PGA Championship week at Bethpage Black – as a can't-miss evening, as the Metropolitan Golf Writers Association's 68th National Awards Dinner returns to the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, N.Y.

As one of the Met Area's most highly anticipated golf events of the year, the dinner will once again feature a stellar lineup of honorees – including Gold Tee Award recipient Jim Furyk – as the MGWA recognizes the game's greatest players, contributors and organizations. Furyk's name will join the outstanding roster of Gold Tee Award winners. His record speaks for itself with 17 PGA TOUR victories and the lowest single-round score in PGA TOUR history (58), but he excels off the course as well, helping children and families in need through the Jim and Tabitha Furyk Foundation.

For tickets or additional information please contact Robin Sauerhaft at 914-347-4653 or rsauerhaft@mgagolf.org, plus keep watch for details on how to purchase raffle tickets from the MWGA website. Funds raised benefit area caddie scholarship funds, as well as the MGA Foundation and the Dave Marr Journalism Scholarship at Columbia University.



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Bocaire Country Club's golf course and practice facilities underwent a total transformation and looks nothing like its former self. What was once a relatively flat course has been transformed into a layout with lots of undulation in the fairways and mounding on the peripheries. Over 325,000 cubic yards of dirt were moved – and several new lakes created – to bring this new masterpiece together.



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Bocaire Country Club in Boca Raton, FL just opened **"The Challenge at Bocaire,"** their newly designed, \$8 million golf course by Kipp Schulties, named "the hottest golf course designer in South Florida" by *Boca Raton Magazine*. Schulties said, "We moved 350,000 cubic yards of dirt to make elevation changes and add contour. We lengthened the course to over 7,000 yards for championship play and made each hole unique for better variety."

The course has soared to new heights – literally – the tee box on the 3rd hole may well be the highest elevation point in the area. Holes have been eliminated, added, redesigned and reconfigured in order to create a course that is challenging, yet seven sets of tees make the course playable for every skill level. Thousands of red bougainvillea and oleander plants as well as stadium-like greens provide lush backdrops, and Bocaire is now the only South Florida course to feature TifGrand® fairways, a grass that is vibrantly green and lets the ball sit up nicely.

Also, Bocaire's world-class practice facility allows players to actually hit to greens, many fronted by rock bunkers to help zero in on distance and accuracy. There's also a separate short game area with multiple greens so players can experience what might await them on the course.

Bocaire is an exclusive private club with 238 custom-built private homes. There are no membership cards and members enjoy generous family golf privileges without tee times or greens fees for parents,



children or grandchildren. There are five Har-Tru tennis courts with a competitive tennis program as well as on-site pros for lessons and equipment repairs. The resort-style aquatic center features a beach entry, temperature-controlled pool with 2 lap lanes surrounded by a natural stone deck with spa as well as a fully-equipped fitness center and Pro Shop. Bocaire's renowned Executive Chef Kevin Marcelle and his talented culinary team provide exquisite cuisine in both casual and formal dining facilities.





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SHOWtime

Every January, the golf industry's focus dials in to the annual PGA Merchandise Show, as PGA Professionals and other industry leading professionals learn about the game's latest trends. Several MGA partners were part of the Show this year, sharing their products and services with the world.

With the PGA Show always serving as a prime opportunity for new products, **Callaway Golf** highlighted its latest releases, including the Epic Flash driver, Apex irons and all-new ERC Soft golf ball with Triple Track Technology (also featured on page 3).



Teaming up with legendary golf and sports commentator Jim Nantz led vineyard vines to its newest collection, Jim Nantz by **vineyard vines**, which offers "comfortable, sophisticated pieces for the course, clubhouse and beyond."



A pair of simulators on site allowed attendees to get firsthand experience with **GOLFZON** and their world-leading golf simulator. Renowned instructor David Leadbetter was also on hand, announcing his inclusion of GOLFZON simulators in his Academies worldwide.



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Cover Story

BY SCOTT KRAMER

No product can quite invigorate your game as quickly and inexpensively as a new golf ball. Which is why you may want to try one of the new 2019 premium models. Little surprise: Many promise to be longer and softer than their predecessors – in part thanks to new covers. Titleist's new Pro V1 and Pro V1x (\$48/dozen) are faster than ever in accelerating off the clubface at impact – delivering more ball speed and lower long game spin for extra distance, while providing outstanding short game control. Each has a thinner-than-before cast urethane elastomer cover that enhances ball speed but retains greenside control and soft feel. Callaway's ERC Soft (\$40) is billed as the brand's longest ball

with soft feel. A new soft cover promotes fast ball speeds on tee shots and higher spin around greens. A large graphene-infused dual core helps the distance cause. Three alignment lines wrap 160 degrees around the ball, helping you line up shots when you want but also letting you orient the ball with the lines hidden when you don't need them. TaylorMade's five-layer, soft-feeling TP5 and firmer-feeling TP5x (\$45/dozen) decouple speed and spin – the soft core is wrapped by increasingly stiff materials, including a new and fast high-flex component, that get progressively faster – translating to long drives and high-spinning wedge shots. Each has a dual-spin cover that's soft on the outside and more rigid inside.



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WINNING



Leaping into 2019

After notching her first career LPGA Tour victory in 2018, New Jersey's Marina Alex leapt into the 2019 season—literally, pictured here with LPGA commissioner Michael Whan—at the Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. The event also featured celebrities competing in a modified Stableford scoring format, with Alex playing alongside country artist Toby Keith (inset) and former pitcher Roger Clemens as the first group to tee off in round one.

Alex finished T-24 for the week and has plenty to build off following a career year in 2018. In addition to her first victory, Alex recorded her second straight season with six top-10 finishes. Her consistency – including a driving accuracy of 82.6% – helped her make 20 cuts in 24 starts and finish 17th on the money list behind a career-best \$901,322.



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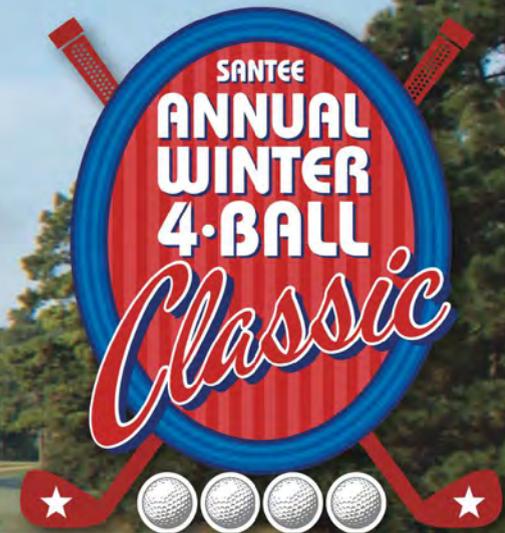
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Albuquerque



The Sandia Mountains present a stunning backdrop at Sandia Golf Club.

When planning a recreational trip in the winter months, you're likely looking to hit the slopes or tee it up. Why not do both? Albuquerque, New Mexico offers up the best of both worlds, as visitors can shred snow on one of multiple 10,000-plus foot peaks nearby, then later get into the swing of things on one of the region's many stellar golf courses.

Sandia Golf Club: Extending to 7,752 yards – the longest in the state – Sandia winds through the rugged desert at the Sandia Resort and Casino. As a resort course, it provides generous, albeit undulating fairways, but don't let that fool you. The desert landscape, well-placed bunkers and fast greens offer up plenty of challenge. Plus, its location offers pleasing views of both Albuquerque and the Sandia Mountains.

University of New Mexico Golf Course: The University of New Mexico's Championship Golf Course opened in 1967 and continues to stand among the country's top University courses according to *Golfweek*. Stretching to 7,248 yards, the layout features rolling fairways edged by natural sandy areas and desert scrub. In addition to outstanding value, it offers incredible convenience with its location next to Albuquerque International Sunport.

Paa-Ko Ridge Golf Club: Settled at the eastern foothills of the Sandia Mountains, Paa-Ko Ridge offers 27 holes of challenging golf. Native high-desert trees and rock outcroppings surround the layout's sweeping fairways and lush rough, with elevations ranging from 6,500 to 7,000 feet. The course's routing provides stunning panoramic vistas throughout the entire round.



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Now on the Tee: 2019

It may not quite feel like it, but with calendars flipped to 2019 the championship season stands well within sight. In fact, MGA, LIGA and WGA championships open for registration on March 1 – and offer outstanding host venues that will fuel your competitive fire. Here’s a taste of what’s on slate for 2019:



64th Ike MGA Stroke Play Championship Presented by Callaway Golf	June 25-26	Canoe Brook Country Club (North)
102nd Met Junior Championship Sponsored by MetLife	July 17-19	Southward Ho Country Club
117th Met Amateur Championship	August 1-4	Hudson National Golf Club
104th Met Open Championship Presented by Callaway Golf	August 20-22	Piping Rock Club



95th Long Island Open Championship	June 4-6	Hempstead Golf & Country Club
96th Long Island Amateur Championship Presented by Sterling National Bank	June 17-20	Brookville Country Club



97th Westchester Open Championship Presented by Callaway Golf	June 10-11	Country Club of Darien
100th Westchester Amateur Championship	July 9-11	Winged Foot Golf Club

For additional MGA, LIGA, and WGA schedule details please visit mgagolf.org.

Picturesque and challenging Hudson National Golf Club will test the Met Area’s top amateurs in the 117th Met Amateur Championship – the MGA’s oldest championship – this August.