

# Miguel Angel Jimenez Will Defend Championship at 2017 Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic

**Mississippi Gulf Coast** –The **Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic** (MGRC) announced that 2016 MGRC Champion **Miguel Angel Jimenez** will return to defend his title. In addition, the tournament announced the 2017 sponsor exemptions; **Jay Don Blake, Brian Henninger, Jim Gallagher Jr., Miguel Angel Martin** and **Rod Spittle**.

Jimenez, known as “the most interesting man in golf,” shot a tournament record final round 8-under 64, including four straight birdies from #10 to #13, to win by two strokes. He played the final 30 holes of the tournament without a bogey.

Jimenez and Martin join **Jose Maria Olazabal** in the field in a reunion of the 2000 Dunhill Cup champions. The trio, representing Spain, comprised the last winning team from the Alfred Dunhill Cup, which was played from 1985-2000 at the Old Course at St. Andrews in Scotland.

Tickets for the MGRC are just \$15 and may be purchased online at [www.2017MGRC.com](http://www.2017MGRC.com) or by calling the tournament office at (228) 896-6365. Children 16 and under are admitted free with a ticketed adult and all active and retired military and their families are admitted free with a military issued identification card.

The 2017 Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic will take place March 30 – April 2 at Fallen Oak in Biloxi. This will be the eighth year that the Mississippi Gulf Coast will host the best players on the PGA TOUR Champions. For the seventh consecutive year, the tournament will be broadcast live on the Golf Channel, with Saturday and Sunday’s rounds being aired to over 85 million households throughout the United States.

## **About The Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic**

The Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic is uniquely funded by a group of consortium partners, who see this event as an ideal way to promote the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The 2017 major contributing partners are: Mississippi Power, C Spire, IP Resort & Spa, F.E.B. Distributing, Hard Rock Biloxi, Harrah’s Gulf Coast, Hancock Bank, Coca-Cola and Beau Rivage Hotel & Resort-Fallen Oak. The tournament is administered through the MGRC Foundation, Inc. whose mission is to promote tourism on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

## **About PGA TOUR Champions**

PGA TOUR Champions is a membership organization of golf's most recognizable and accomplished players, age 50 and older, including 32 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame. The Tour's mission is to provide financial opportunities for its players, entertain and inspire its fans, deliver substantial value to its partners, create outlets for volunteers to give back and generate significant charitable and economic impact in tournament communities. In 2017, the PGA TOUR Champions schedule includes 26 tournaments in 18 states, Japan, Wales and Canada, with purses totaling more than \$55 million. The Charles Schwab Cup, which includes the Regular Season and the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs, is used to determine the season-long champion. All events are televised in the United States, with most receiving complete coverage on Golf Channel, the exclusive cable-television partner of PGA TOUR Champions. Internationally, telecasts air live, tape-delayed or in a highlights-package format in excess of 190 countries and territories, reaching more than 330 million potential households. The PGA TOUR's web site is PGATOUR.COM, the No. 1 site in golf, and the organization is headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Follow PGA TOUR Champions at [facebook.com/PGATOURChampions](https://www.facebook.com/PGATOURChampions), on Twitter @ChampionsTour and on Instagram @pgatourchampions.

## **About Bruno Event Team**

Bruno Event Team is the leader in delivering event excellence and is experienced in all facets of event management. Bruno Event Team services each client with expertise in strategic planning, marketing, advertising, public and media relations, ticket and merchandise sales, sponsor relations, hospitality consulting, event operations, event financial planning/accounting and volunteer coordination. Bruno Event Team employs a year-round staff of 80+ employees in 13 offices around the United States and Canada. For more information, please visit [www.brunoeventteam.com](http://www.brunoeventteam.com).