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## **Inaugural Champion Rocco Mediate Leads Big Guns into Stampede City for 2015 Shaw Charity Classic**

*Deep field taking shape with 10 new additions bringing 12 major championship titles to Calgary*

**CALGARY—Rocco Mediate** and a group of 10 major-winning cowboys will roll into Calgary for an old fashioned shootout when the 2015 Shaw Charity Classic squares off at Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club, August 5-9.

Mediate, who won the inaugural event in 2013, has confirmed he will be amongst 10 of the biggest guns on the PGA TOUR's Champions Tour who are saddled up and ready to fire at pins in hopes of racking up birdies with the goal of raising big money for youth-based charities, while also getting their hands on the winner's Smithbilt cowboy hat this summer.

"The crowds in Calgary are great every year, and as good as we have all year pretty much. Depending on the weather I know that will be the same again so it will be a lot of fun to play up there," said Mediate, who was sporting a Calgary Flames ball cap while trying to defend his title last year. "I loved the golf course as soon as I first saw it because of the little bitty fairways and lots of trees. It fits my eye and I'm excited to get back to Calgary."

Mediate ran away with an impressive seven-shot victory in 2013, tying the lowest 54-hole total at 22-under-par 191 on the Champions Tour. Likely remembered by golf fans most for taking Tiger Woods to 91 holes before succumbing in the epic 2008 U.S. Open, the colourful Mediate won six PGA TOUR events, and also won the 2013 Allianz Championship to go along with his Shaw Charity Classic title, marking his lone two victories on the senior circuit.

"In many respects Rocco has become an adopted Calgarian thanks to his entertaining personality and impressive victory two years ago," said Sean Van Kesteren, tournament director, Shaw Charity Classic. "He has already provided Calgary golf fans with memories for a lifetime. I know Calgary is a special place for him, and he will be looking to build on the history he has already created for our young tournament."

Mediate will need to be ready for a high-powered showdown as a gang of 10 players will be carrying 12 major titles (3 Masters, 4 U.S. Opens, 2 British Opens, and 3 PGA Championship titles) in their holsters when they arrive in Alberta. The list of major winners includes previously announced **Mark O'Meara** (1998 Masters and British Open), **Lee Janzen** (1998 and 1993 U.S. Opens), and **Ian Woosnam** (1991 Masters).

Other major title holders who booked their tickets to the Stampede City include: **Craig Stadler** (1982 Masters), **Bob Tway** (1986 PGA Championship), **Scott Simpson** (1987 U.S. Open), **Jeff Sluman** (1988 PGA Championship), **Mark Calcavecchia** (1989 British Open), **Corey Pavin** (1995 U.S. Open), and **Mark Brooks** (1996 PGA Championship).

"The Shaw Charity Classic has worked very hard to bring the biggest names on the Champions Tour to Calgary, and this stellar lineup of players certainly supports that mission," added Van Kesteren, tournament director, Shaw Charity Classic. "Not only is this group some of the most successful players on Tour, they are also among the most respected. They can still play at a very high level and I guarantee they will be ready to duel it out, and wanting to win at Canyon Meadows."

The impressive line-up of player announcements was made on Wednesday during the tournament's annual "Shootout at the Meadows" Stampede celebration. The fun promotional event brought together some of Alberta's finest named cowboys for a head-to-head par-3 closest to the pin contest against many Calgary-based NHL and CFL alumni, Olympic athletes and media celebrities.

A total of 81 Champions Tour professionals will play for a purse of \$2.35 million, an increase of \$100,000, when they return to Calgary's Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club from August 5-9. Tickets and



corporate packages for the Shaw Charity Classic are available online at [www.shawcharityclassic.com](http://www.shawcharityclassic.com). Youth 17 and under are admitted free with a ticketed adult.

### **About the Shaw Charity Classic**

The Shaw Charity Classic will host some of the greatest names in the game of golf in Calgary at the Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club, August 5-9, 2015. The field, which will consist of 81 stars on the Champions Tour, will compete for US \$2.35 million in a three-round, 54-hole stroke-play tournament. The winner will receive US \$337,500 and 300 Charles Schwab Cup Points. The Champions Tour stop in Western Canada will showcase Calgary to the world through its broadcast on the Golf Channel. Led by a philanthropic Patron Group including Tournament Chairman – Clay Riddell, Vice Chairman – Allan Markin, Keith MacPhail, Jim Riddell, Guy Turcotte and PGA Tour Professional – Stephen Ames, along with title sponsor, Shaw Communications, the Shaw Charity Classic won the PGA TOUR's prestigious President's Award in 2015. The Tournament has celebrated record setting charitable donations in each of its first two years by making a charitable donation of \$2,267,251 in its first year, and topped that mark in 2014 by raising \$2,406,610 for more than 20 youth-based charities in south-Alberta. For tickets, or more information on the event, please visit [www.shawcharityclassic.com](http://www.shawcharityclassic.com). Follow the Shaw Charity Classic at [facebook.com/shawcharityclassic](https://www.facebook.com/shawcharityclassic) and on Twitter @shawclassic. The Shaw Charity Classic is managed by the Bruno Event Team and Shaw Communications Inc.

### **About the Champions Tour**

Collectively, the Champions Tour has the most recognizable and accomplished players in the game, with many of its 32 members in the World Golf Hall of Fame competing regularly in its events. The Tour also counts numerous other major championship winners among its members. The Champions Tour is a membership organization of professional golfers age 50 and older. Conceived in 1980 as the Senior PGA Tour, it started with just four events and purses totaling \$475,000. The Champions Tour's primary purpose 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, protect the integrity of the game and generate significant charitable and economic impact in communities in which it plays. Points earned in official Charles Schwab Cup events in 2014 determined Bernhard Langer as the Charles Schwab Cup champion, the season-long competition designed to recognize the Champions Tour's leading player. The Commissioner of the PGA TOUR is Tim Finchem. Greg McLaughlin is President of the Champions Tour. The PGA TOUR's website is [pgatour.com](http://pgatour.com), the No. 1 site in golf, and the organization is headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Follow the Champions Tour at [facebook.com/ChampionsTour](https://www.facebook.com/ChampionsTour) and on Twitter @ChampionsTour.

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