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Jose Maria Olazabal and Miguel Angel Jimenez Set to Make Their Mark at 2017 Shaw Charity Classic

Award-winning tournament aims for strongest field yet to celebrate 5th year anniversary

CALGARY—Two of golf's greatest Spaniards are coming to Calgary!

World Golf Hall of Fame member, Jose Maria Olazabal, along with the most interesting man in golf, Miguel Angel Jimenez, are the first to confirm they will tee it up at Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club for the 2017 Shaw Charity Classic, August 30 – September 3

The 51 year-old Olazabal soared to the top of Spanish golf after racking up 30 wins worldwide while competing on both the European Tour and PGA TOUR. Olazabal's major breakthrough came at the 1994 Masters where he captured his first of two Green Jackets. Exploiting one of the best short games in the business – a skill learned playing alongside his legendary countryman Seve Ballesteros – Olazabal put on a second Green Jacket five years later.

Olazabal made his PGA TOUR Champions debut this February after being sidelined nearly four years while battling a severe form of arthritis that made it difficult for him to even walk.

"I have not been able to practice or play golf. I was in such pain I could not even leave my house for nearly two years so I feel very fortunate to be back out on TOUR. My goals have changed, and are focused now on staying healthy and just getting back in touch with competitive golf," said Olazabal.

"Golf aside, this tournament is known for its deep roots in the community, and its tremendous power to influence children's charities while making the world a better place for Canadian youth. As a player, hearing this charitable focus is very powerful, and that makes this an event you want to align yourself with."

Olazabal's short game propelled him to six victories on the PGA TOUR, but is most well known for his stellar 18-8-5 record while competing for Europe seven times at the Ryder Cup. His Ryder Cup career began in 1987 where he was paired with Ballesteros. The duo were hailed as the Spanish Armada for their dominance over the Americans. Olazabal also captained the biggest comeback in Ryder Cup history for the Europeans in 2012.

One of Olazabal's vice-captains at the Miracle at Medinah, Miguel Angel Jimenez, will make his return to the Shaw Charity Classic after a one-year hiatus.

Jimenez, who matched a course-record 61 in his second round of the 2015 event, will look for some redemption on the Canyon Meadows track after a disappointing final round dropped him to 12th place in his lone visit to Calgary.

Recognized by his trademark ponytail, and is often seen smoking a Cuban cigar and drinking fine wines after firing at flag sticks around the globe, the colourful Spaniard's game is as flashy as his personality.

Currently ranked third in the Charles Schwab Cup standings, Jimenez has won four times in his four years on the PGA TOUR Champions.



“I really enjoyed my time in Calgary and am very happy that my schedule allowed me to be back this year,” said Jimenez, who put on a chef coat and cooked up a serving of prawns for corporate guests in the Clubhouse following his second round in 2015.

“It is obviously very competitive out here on the PGA TOUR Champions. You have to respect the guys, but I feel I have the game to win any week. The goal every week is to win, and that will be the same in Calgary.”

Jimenez has won 21 times on the European Tour. He is a four-time member of the European Ryder Cup Team, and was also the vice-captain for Europe at the 2014 Ryder Cup at Gleneagles.

“The Shaw Charity Classic is committed to bringing the best names in the game to Calgary each summer, and I can’t think of a better way to kick off our fifth year anniversary then by bringing two of Spain’s greatest golfers to Calgary,” said Sean Van Kesteren, executive director, Shaw Charity Classic. “Jose is one of the most respected men in the game and we are thrilled he is now healthy to be back on Tour. Miguel did not disappoint our fans two years ago, and I know he will be looking to take care of some unfinished business this summer. They will certainly play a major part in making our fifth anniversary a memorable week.”

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 30 – September 3, 2017. The field, which will consist of 78 stars on the PGA TOUR Champions, will compete for US \$2.35 million in a three-round, 54-hole stroke-play tournament. The winner will receive US \$352,500 and 352 Charles Schwab Cup Points. The only annual PGA TOUR Champions stop in 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, Allan Markin, Keith MacPhail, Jim Riddell, Guy Turcotte, Gary Peddle and PGA Tour Professional – Stephen Ames, along with title sponsor, Shaw Communications Inc, the Shaw Charity Classic won the prestigious President’s Award as the top event on the PGA TOUR Champions in 2015 and 2014. The Tournament has raised more than \$13.8 million in its first four years, with a PGA TOUR Champions record setting donation of \$5,217,713 raised in 2016 that was distributed amongst 124 youth-based charities in Alberta. For more information on the event, please visit www.shawcharityclassic.com. Follow the Shaw Charity Classic at [facebook.com/shawcharityclassic](https://www.facebook.com/shawcharityclassic) and on Twitter [@shawclassic](https://twitter.com/shawclassic). The Shaw Charity Classic is managed by Bruno Event Team and Shaw Communications Inc.

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