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2018 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship - Tournament Notes

Dates: March 19-25, 2018
Where: Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
Course: Puntacana Resort & Club (Corales Course)
Par/Yards: 72/7,668
Designer: Tom Fazio/2010
Field: 132 players
2017 champion: New Event (Nate Lashley won 2017 Web.com Tour event)
Purse: \$3,000,000 (\$540,000/winner)
FedExCup: 300 points to the winner
Format: 72-hole stroke play competition with 36-hole cut.
Facebook: www.facebook.com/puntacanaresortandclub
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Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship History

The Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship becomes the first PGA TOUR event to be held in the Dominican Republic, making a transition after two years as a Web.com Tour event. Through a new four-year agreement, Grupo Puntacana, which owns and operates Puntacana Resort & Club, will serve as the host organization and the Corales course remains the tournament course. The winners of the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship as a Web.com Tour event were Dominic Bozzelli in 2016 and Nate Lashley in 2017.

Puntacana Resort & Club Championship (Corales Course)

Puntacana Resort & Club has 45 holes of golf, including the Tom Fazio-designed Corales course, which opened in 2010. The course plays along the cliffs, bays and coves of the Caribbean Sea, with six oceanside holes, and the inland holes dotted with lakes and coralina quarries. The course features ever-changing elevations, strategic bunkering and massive, elevated greens. The last three holes play toward or along the Bay of Corales and are called the Devil's Elbow. The 501-yard 18th wraps around the water, enticing players to bite off as much of a carry as they dare on the tee shot, but it was the 214-yard par-3 17th that ranked as the toughest hole in the Web.com Tour event in 2017. It plays along the coast to a narrow green guarded by bunkers on both sides.

The Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship and the FedExCup

- The PGA TOUR enters the fifth season featuring a wraparound schedule that bridges two years with 48 events. The 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season began with eight events during the fall of 2017, each of which awarded FedExCup points. After a six-week break, the season resumed with the Sentry Tournament of Champions, won by Dustin Johnson. The FedExCup Playoffs once again features four events and concludes in September with the TOUR Championship and the crowning of the FedExCup champion.
- The lone FedExCup champion in the field is Jim Furyk (2010) who is also this year's U.S. Ryder Cup Captain.
- Of the last eight winners of 'additional week' events that offer 300 FedExCup points to the champion, seven have advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs. Greg Chalmers finished No. 142 in the FedExCup after his 2016 Barracuda Championship win and failed to advance to the FedExCup Playoffs that season.

Player	Tournament Win	FedExCup Finish
Peter Malnati	2015 Sanderson Farms Championship	No. 104
Tony Finau	2016 Puerto Rico Open	No. 45
Greg Chalmers	2016 Barracuda Championship	No. 142

Aaron Baddeley	2016 Barbasol Championship	No. 69
Cody Gribble	2016 Sanderson Farms Championship	No. 87
D.A. Points	2017 Puerto Rico Open	No. 104
Grayson Murray	2017 Barbasol Championship	No. 66
Chris Stroud	2017 Barracuda Championship	No. 84

Glance at the Field

- Ten major champions: (Angel Cabrera/2, Retief Goosen/2, John Daly/2, Jim Furyk, Trevor Immelman, Davis Love III, Graeme McDowell, Shaun Micheel, Geoff Ogilvy, Mike Weir).
- Players in the field with the most PGA TOUR wins; Davis Love III (21), Jim Furyk (17), Stuart Appleby (9), K.J. Choi (8), Geoff Ogilvy (8), Mike Weir (8), Retief Goosen (7), Hunter Mahan (6), Rory Sabbatini (6), John Daly (5), Jonathan Byrd (5), Ben Crane (5), Carl Pettersson (5), Mark Wilson (5).
- With the top 64 players at the World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play this week, the four highest-ranked players in the Official World Golf Ranking scheduled to compete in Punta Cana are Emiliano Grillo (75), Paul Dunne (84) and Seungsu Han (85).

Select Player Notes

Emiliano Grillo

- After earning his first PGA TOUR win at the 2015 Safeway Open in his eighth start as a TOUR member, Emiliano Grillo ended the season as the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year. He also finished No. 11 in the FedExCup the same season.
- Grillo was a captain's pick, along with Anirban Lahiri, for the 2017 Presidents Cup International Team. He went 0-3-0 for the week, losing 6 and 4 to Rickie Fowler in Singles.
- Grillo, who represents the Puntacana Resort & Club, has posted two top-10 results on the PGA TOUR this season (T9/OHL Classic at Mayakoba, T8/The Honda Classic).

Nate Lashley

- Nate Lashley finished the 2017 Web.com Tour season with 24 starts, one win, four additional top-10s and 19 cuts made. The win came at the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship when he started the final round two back of Rafael Campos, before carding a flawless 66 to pick up the victory by one over Augusto Núñez.
- Lashley was the 2016 PGA TOUR Latinoamérica Player of the Year, and a three-time winner that season.
- Lashley was an outstanding high school student, an academic letter winner, won the United States National Mathematics Award and was a U.S. Army Scholar Athlete Award winner.
- As a PGA TOUR rookie, Lashley has made three cuts in 10 starts, all three in consecutive starts (T49/The RSM Classic, T39/Sony Open in Hawaii, T29/CareerBuilder Challenge).

Corey Connors

- Canada's Corey Connors finished T53 in the Web.com Tour event in Punta Cana last year.
- In his rookie season on the PGA TOUR, Connors has made 10 cuts in 11 events, with a T16 at the Valspar Championship two weeks ago being his best finish. Connors held the first-, second- and third-round leads at the Copperhead Course at Innisbrook Resort after coming into that week as third alternate. He received his spot in the field when Kyle Stanley withdrew. He learned of his spot in the field after shooting a 71 in the Monday Qualifier, which would not have been enough to play his way in. A final-round 77 contributed to the T16 finish.

Davis Love III and Dru Love

- 53-year-old Davis Love, a PGA TOUR Life Member and World Golf Hall of Fame member with 21 TOUR victories, played his 750th PGA TOUR event at the Valspar Championship two weeks ago. While he makes his 752nd career TOUR start at the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship, his son Dru will tee up in his ninth TOUR event. This week marks the eighth time the pair have competed in the same PGA TOUR event.
- Davis Love has been recovering from hip replacement surgery. Since turning 50, his PGA TOUR Champions career includes four top-10s in nine starts.
- Dru Love's 1-under 71 in the opening round of the 2017 Sanderson Farms Championship bettered the score of his father by a stroke, marking the first time that the younger Love had posted a score lower than his father when competing in the same event. Dru (67) again bettered his dad (72) in the second round.
- In eight previous starts on TOUR, Dru Love has made two cuts with a T30 at the 2017 Sanderson Farms Championship his best result.

Jim Furyk

- Winner of the FedExCup in 2010, Furyk is a 17-time PGA TOUR champion and the current U.S. Ryder Cup team captain. He makes his 580th career start on TOUR this week.

- A final-round 5-under 66 led to a seventh-place finish at the Valspar Championship, his best result in three starts this season.
- Shot 58 in the final round of the 2016 Travelers Championship, the lowest 18-hole score in PGA TOUR history.

Graeme McDowell

- When the Northern Irishman won the 2010 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, he ended a 40-year drought for Europeans at the championship.
- Owns three PGA TOUR titles and 10 European Tour wins.
- Competed as a European Team member in four Ryder Cup competitions with an 8-5-2 record (2008, 2010, 2012, 2014).
- In nine PGA TOUR starts this season his lone top-10 (T10) came at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

John Daly

- Famously won the 1991 PGA Championship after beginning the week as the ninth alternate and replacing Nick Price. The victory was the first of five PGA TOUR titles which include a second major championship win at The Open Championship in 1995.
- 51-year-old claimed his first PGA TOUR Champions title at the 2017 Insperity Invitational in Houston, Texas.
- In two PGA TOUR starts this season he's finished 72nd at the Safeway Open and missed the cut at the CareerBuilder Challenge.
- Daly is the only man from either Europe or the United States to win two major golf championships but not participate in the Ryder Cup.

Geoff Ogilvy

- Includes the 2006 U.S. Open amongst his eight PGA TOUR victories. The 40-year-old Australian has also claimed the 2008 Australian PGA Championship and the 2010 Australian Open title.
- Three-time member of the Presidents Cup International Team and one of the assistant captains for Nick Price at the 2017 Presidents Cup.
- In the first eight seasons of the FedExCup, which began in 2007, Ogilvy advanced to the season-finale TOUR Championship five times, with the most recent being 2014.

Angel Cabrera

- Angel Cabrera is a two-time major champion, with wins at the U.S. Open in 2007 and the Masters in 2009; he was the first (and only) Argentine to win either. He also lost in a sudden death playoff at the Masters in 2013.
- His last top-10 finish as an individual on TOUR was a win at The Greenbrier Classic in 2014. In 2017, he teamed with Julian Etulain to finish T5 in the Zurich Classic of New Orleans, an official event on the PGA TOUR that uses a two-man team format.
- In two starts this season, he's posted T34 at the Sanderson Farms Championship and WD from the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am after 78 in the opening round.

K.J. Choi

- K.J. Choi includes THE PLAYERS Championship in 2011 on his resume of eight PGA TOUR victories.
- Choi makes his 450th career start on the PGA TOUR in Punta Cana this week.
- In eight starts this season, T26 at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am is his best result.
- Choi advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs eight consecutive seasons since the competition began. His fifth-place finish in 2007, the first year of the season-long FedExCup, remains his best result.

Seungsu Han

- Last year, Seungsu Han won the Casio World Open on the Japan Golf Tour, one of seven top-five finishes that saw him finish No. 4 on the Japan Golf Tour money list.
- The 31-year-old recently recorded a T5 result at the European Tour's Oman Open, five shots behind winner Joost Luiten. He sits at No. 85 in the Official World Golf Ranking.
- Han, a former UNLV Rebel golfer, is also a black belt in tae kwon do. Although born in South Korea, he represents the United States. In 2010, he finished T39 in the Barracuda Championship in Reno-Tahoe.

Chris Wood

- Englishman Chris Wood has three European Tour wins and was low amateur (T5) at The Open in 2008 at Royal Birkdale and finished T3 the following year at Turnberry, the same year he was voted as the European Tour's Rookie of the Year.
- Wood owns three European Tour titles and played on the 2016 European Ryder Cup team, losing 1 up to Dustin Johnson in Singles.

- The 30-year-old has made 34 starts on the PGA TOUR, most recently the 2017 PGA Championship.
- Wood is No. 95 in the Official World Golf Ranking.

Paul Dunne

- Irishman Paul Dunne, 25, attended the University of Alabama - Birmingham where, as a senior, he finished fifth in the individual competition at the 2015 NCAA Division I Men's Golf Championship.
- Dunne first came to prominence at the 2015 Open Championship where, playing as an amateur, he was tied for the lead after three rounds, posting a final-round 78 to finish T30.
- Dunne turned professional later in 2015 and finished T19 at the Alfred Dunhill Championship, his first event as a pro.
- In 2017, Dunne claimed his first victory, taking the British Masters title by three strokes over Rory McIlroy, after a final-round 61.
- This will be his 11th PGA TOUR start, where his only top-25 finish came at the 2016 Farmers Insurance Open (T13).

Fabrizio Zanotti

- The 34-year old from Paraguay will be making his 14th career PGA TOUR start.
- Zanotti has competed full-time on European Tour since 2008, with a win at the 2014 BMW International Open and a second victory earlier this year at the Maybank Championship in Malaysia, where he began the final round six shots off the lead, but a final-round 63 earned the win. Coincidentally, he shot 19-under 269 for both victories.
- This season, Zanotti finished T50 at the WGC-HSBC Champions, his 13th start on TOUR.

Tony Romo

- Tony Romo, the former Dallas Cowboys quarterback and current lead analyst for the NFL ON CBS, will compete in the tournament as a sponsor exemption. Romo announced he was playing during a press conference at last month's AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am where he partnered Will Zalatoris.
- The Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship will be the first official PGA TOUR event in which Romo will compete as an individual against PGA TOUR professionals in the same competition.
- Romo, who carries a +0.3 handicap at Dallas National Golf Club, has attempted to qualify for the U.S. Open three times.
- In 2010, Romo advanced to the sectional stage of qualifying for the U.S. Open, but was forced to withdraw due to his practice schedule with the Cowboys. Last year he participated in the prestigious Western Amateur, where he was unable to advance to match play.
- In 2017, Romo finished T16 in the 89-player celebrity field at the American Century Championship, marking his return to the event in which he had played six consecutive years (2007-12), finishing runner-up three times in a row (2009-11).
- Romo, 37, signed as an undrafted free agent with the Cowboys in 2003 after playing collegiately at Eastern Illinois University. Beginning his career as a holder, Romo became the Cowboys' starting quarterback during the 2006 season. Serving as the team's primary starter from 2006 to 2015, he guided the Cowboys to four postseason appearances and was named to the Pro Bowl four times. Romo retired after the 2016 season and immediately was hired by CBS Sports to become the lead analyst for the NFL ON CBS, teaming with Jim Nantz in the broadcast booth.
- Romo holds several Cowboys team records, including passing touchdowns, passing yards, most games with at least 300 passing yards and games with three or more touchdown passes.

PGA TOUR Rookies

Nate Lashley, the winner in Punta Cana last year on the Web.com Tour, is one of 23 PGA TOUR rookies in the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season. Other 2017-18 PGA TOUR rookies who made the cut in Punta Cana last year were Tyler Duncan (T3), Matt Atkins (T12), Brandon Harkins (T12), Sam Ryder (T12), Adam Schenk (T12), Zecheng Dou (T12), Ethan Tracy (T16), Aaron Wise (T30), Ben Silverman (T41), Corey Connors (T53), Taylor Gooch (T60). Of the players listed, all but Harkins, Wise, Silverman and Gooch are scheduled to return.

Additional players to watch

Rafael Campos, the 29-year-old from Puerto Rico, finished T3, two shots behind winner Nate Lashley at the 2017 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship when it was a Web.com Tour event. Campos has played in 14 PGA TOUR events, including four last season. After a T10 finish at the 2017 Puerto Rico Open, Campos earned a spot in the Houston Open the following week and finished seventh. That gave him a spot in the field at the RBC Heritage where he posted a T32. His most recent event on TOUR was at the 2017 Valero Texas Open where he missed the cut.

Augusto Núñez, a 25-year-old from Argentina, won his first tournament on the PGA Tour Latinoamérica during the 2016 season at the Flor de Caña Open. He beat Emilio Puma Domínguez and Eric Steger in a playoff after finishing at 25-under. Núñez finished the 2016 PGA Tour Latinoamérica season in second place in the Order of

Merit, earning him a place in the Web.com Tour for the 2017 season. Núñez's best performance in 2017 was runner-up in the Corales Puntacana Resort and Club Championship, one stroke behind winner Nate Lashley.

Willy Pumarol started playing golf at the age of three, thanks to his dad and a couple of plastic clubs. Before turning professional in 2011 he played golf for four years at Barry University in the United States. The 29-year-old plays on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica where he's posted three top-10s in 72 career starts. With rounds of 71-68-75-74 at last year's Web.com Tour event at Puntacana, Pumarol became the first Dominican Republic player to make a cut on the Web.com Tour.

Julio Santos, 45, made history in Dominican golf by participating in the PGA TOUR's Puerto Rico Open in 2010 (MC). Santos won the right to represent the Dominican Republic on the PGA TOUR, after qualifying in the elimination tournament held by the Dominican Golf Federation (Fedogolf), at the end of December 2009 in La Estancia Golf Course in La Romana. He's posted one top-10 in 31 career starts on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica.

George Riley started playing golf at the age of seven and was introduced to the game by his father George Riley Sr. At age 12, he qualified for the first time to play in the Caribbean Amateur Junior Golf Championship, a feat that continued for the next five years. In 2010, Riley qualified to play in the Caribbean Amateur Golf Championships and kept doing so through 2014. Riley was the first amateur and second Dominican to play a PGA TOUR event (2011 Puerto Rico Open/MC).

As a tennis player, **Hiram Silfa** won 14 Davis Cup matches, was Dominican Republic national champion three times in a row and ranked 527 in the world rankings in 1995. As a baseball player, he was chosen best torpedo of the Sun Belt division in 1999, wearing the colors of the International University of Florida (FIU) between 1996-2000. He ranked third in the all-time list at FIU in bases reached (338), fifth in hits (226) and the fourth in turns (749). Currently, Silfa is the Golf Director for Puntacana Resort & Club.

As one of the best golfers in the Dominican Republic, **Radhamés Peña** received an invitation to compete as an amateur in the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship, where he will make his PGA TOUR debut.

Santiago Rivas has played 58 events on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, where his best result (T2) came in the 2015 Dominican Republic Open at Teeth of the Dog Casa de Campo, finishing three shots behind winner Rodolfo Cazaubon.

Monday Qualifiers

Four players Monday qualified the International Links Miami Melreese CC in Miami, Florida on March 12, 2018 – Tyler McCumber (67), Ryan Brehm (68), Vince India (68) and Zach Zaback (68).

- Former Florida Gator golfer **Tyler McCumber** is the son of 10-time PGA TOUR winner Mark McCumber. He turned professional in 2013 and owns three wins on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica. He played the Web.com Tour in 2015 where his lone top-10 was fifth in the Colombia Championship. This will be his PGA TOUR debut.
- Former Michigan State Golf Coach **Ryan Brehm** finished 24th and 25th on Mackenzie Tour Order of Merit in 2014 and 2015, respectively. As a PGA TOUR rookie in the 2016-17 season, he made 17 cuts in 25 starts to finish No. 164 in the FedExCup. His lone top-25 result was a T18 at the Sanderson Farms Championship. As an amateur, Brehm made the cut in the 2005 Buick Open, his PGA TOUR debut.
- **Vince India**, who has split time between the Web.com Tour and PGA TOUR Latinoamérica since the 2013 season, made his only previous start in a PGA TOUR event at Innisbrook Resort's famed Copperhead Course at the 2016 Valspar Championship (MC) after Monday qualifying. In 63 career events on the Web.com Tour, the former University of Iowa golfer has notched eight top-25 finishes.
- **Zach Zaback**, 24, went to high school in Farmington, Connecticut, and completed his college golf career at the University of Connecticut in 2016. He was the team's co-captain and the winner of the 2016 Connecticut Amateur. Zaback played 11 events on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica in 2017, posting two top-25 results. Zaback, who lost a playoff in the 2016 Monday qualifier for the Travelers Championship, returned to earn a spot in the 2017 tournament for his only PGA TOUR appearance, eventually missing the cut in the Hartford event where his family has been members at TPC River Highlands for seven years. The Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship will be his second PGA TOUR start.

Charity Benefit

Proceeds from the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship benefit the Grupo Puntacana Foundation, which supports programs that improve the health and wellbeing of the local communities of Punta Cana in basic areas of human development, environmental programs that protect and preserve the natural resources of the region while contributing to sustainable development and a junior golf program.

More on Grupo Puntacana

Grupo Puntacana dates back to 1969 when Dominican businessman Frank R. Rainieri and Theodore W. Kheel, the late prominent New York attorney and labor mediator, created a partnership to construct a resort and real

estate community that respects the natural habitat of Punta Cana while offering a world-class vacation experience. Maintaining a dedication to sustainable tourism, Puntacana Resort & Club has since grown to encompass over 26 square miles and now includes luxury boutique hotel Tortuga Bay; The Westin Puntacana Resort & Club; the Four Points by Sheraton Puntacana Village; the Six Senses Spa; newly inaugurated Oscar de la Renta Tennis Center; Puntacana Ecological Foundation; The Puntacana Foundation; five residential communities (Corales, Hacienda, Marina, Arrecife, and Tortuga); a full-service marina; eight restaurants; a shopping village; 45 holes of championship golf over two golf courses and Punta Cana International Airport, a modern facility that incorporates innovative and eco-friendly design. In 1997, Julio Iglesias and Oscar de la Renta joined the Group as co-investors and have made Puntacana Resort & Club their home. Currently, Punta Cana is the most highly visited Caribbean destination and is easily accessible from all over the globe. For more information on Puntacana Resort & Club, visit www.puntacana.com.

Golf in the Dominican Republic

Dominican Republic, a two-hour flight from Miami, is an easily accessible beach and golf paradise. For a country its size, it has an amazing number of great golf courses. There are 25 golf courses in stunning settings fashioned by top-notch designers like Jack Nicklaus, Pete Dye, Tom Fazio, Nick Price and Gary Player. On the eastern tip of the island, Punta Cana, an expansive resort complex with its own international airport and access to eight golf courses, is home to Corales Golf Club, a Tom Fazio stunner with six seaside holes. The Punta Cana International Airport provides easy access from all over the globe handling over 7.5 million passengers last year, from 28 countries and over 100 cities.