



2021 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship Pre-Tournament Notes

On-site Media Contact: Mark Williams, 904-655-5380, markwilliams@pgatourhq.com

Dates: March 22-28, 2021

Where: Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

Course: Puntacana Resort & Club (Corales Course)

Par/Yards: 72/7,670

Designer: Tom Fazio/2010

Field: 132 players

2020 champion: Hudson Swafford

Purse: \$3,000,000 (\$540,000/winner)

FedExCup: 300 points to the winner

Format: 72-hole stroke play competition with 36-hole cut

Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship History

The Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship is the first PGA TOUR event to be held in the Dominican Republic, with Brice Garnett claiming victory in its inaugural year of 2018, Graeme McDowell in 2019 and Hudson Swafford winning in 2020. Prior to 2018, the tournament had a two-year stint on the Korn Ferry Tour schedule where the winners were Dominic Bozzelli in 2016 and Nate Lashley in 2017. Grupo Puntacana, which owns and operates Puntacana Resort & Club, serves as the host organization while the Corales Course is the tournament venue.

Things to Know

- First of three tournaments (U.S. Open, Masters Tournament) to be contested twice in the 2020-21 PGA TOUR Season; marks first time an event has been played twice in the same season in the last 70 years
- 182 days between crowning champions in 2020 to 2021; since 1970, only two events on the PGA TOUR have had a shorter time between crowning a tournament winner (133 days/Valspar Championship/2006-2007, 175 days/WGC-Workday Championship/2006-2007)
- All three tournament champions (Hudson Swafford/2020, Graeme McDowell/2019, Brice Garnett/2018) have posted 18-under (270) en route to victory
- Defending champion Hudson Swafford is the only player in tournament history to record all four rounds in the 60s
- The field includes each of the five players who have victories at the Corales Golf Course, including Nate Lashley/2017 and Dominic Bozzelli/2016, who won the tournament as a Korn Ferry Tour title
- Brandon Hagy, who made the largest jump in the FedExCup (No. 178 to No. 77; 101 spots) with his runner-up at last week's Honda Classic, will make his second start in the event (MC/2020)

Field Notes

- World Golf Hall of Fame members: **Retief Goosen**, **Davis Love III**
- Five major champions: **Retief Goosen** (2001 & 2004 U.S. Open), **Padraig Harrington** (2007 & 2008 The Open Championship, 2008 PGA Championship), **Davis Love III** (1997 PGA Championship), **Graeme McDowell** (2010 U.S. Open), **Charl Schwartzel** (2011 Masters Championship), **Danny Willett** (2016 Masters Tournament)
- 56 PGA TOUR winners
- Three players who finished in the top five in the 2020 event: Hudson Swafford (1st), Tyler McCumber (T2), Nate Lashley (4th)
- The 2021 field was expanded from 120 to 132 to include a new Korn Ferry Tour category. The top 10 from the Korn Ferry Tour points list following the conclusion of the 2020 Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance in September gained access into all PGA TOUR additional events in the 2020-21 PGA TOUR Season. Six of the ten are in the field this week (**Lee Hodges**, **Taylor Pendrith**, **Brandon Wu**, **Greyson Sigg**, **Paul Barjon**, **Stephan Jaeger**)

Current FedExCup standings

Position	Player	Points	Points Behind
----------	--------	--------	---------------

1	Bryson DeChambeau	1,555	--
2	Justin Thomas	1,497	58
3	Patrick Cantlay	1,234	321
4	Viktor Hovland	1,204	351
5	Dustin Johnson	1,114	441
6	Xander Schauffele	1,110	445
7	Harris English	1,000	555
8	Tony Finau	980	575
9	Brooks Koepka	960	595
10	Joaquin Niemann	932	623

The Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship and the FedExCup

- Two winners of the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs in the year of their victory – Brice Garnett/2018/No. 61 in FedExCup, Graeme McDowell/2019/No. 68 in FedExCup
- 2020 winner Hudson Swafford is currently No. 35 in the FedExCup and seeks to qualify for the FedExCup Playoffs for the first time since 2017
- FedExCup Champion in the field: Bill Haas (2011)

A look back at 2020 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship

Position	Player	Results
1	Hudson Swafford	65-67-69-69—270 (-18)
2	Tyler McCumber	65-71-69-66—271 (-17)
3	Mackenzie Hughes	68-67-67-70—272 (-16)
4	Nate Lashley	68-71-65-69—273 (-15)
5	Adam Long	70-65-64-75—274 (-14)

Player Notes

Hudson Swafford

- No. 35 in the FedExCup
- Shot 31 on the front nine of the final round at the 2020 tournament; held a four-stroke lead with six holes to play, eventually winning by one stroke; Played 72 holes without a three-putt
- Only player in tournament history to post all four rounds in the 60s
- Two PGA TOUR victories: 2017 The American Express, 2020 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship
- Third champion in as many years to win with 18-under 270 score (Brice Garnett/2018, Graeme McDowell/2019)
- Makes third start in the event (Won/2020, MC/2019)
- Enters the week off five consecutive missed cuts

Charley Hoffman

- No. 52 in the FedExCup
- Four-time PGA TOUR winner makes second appearance at Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship (T14/2020)
- One of nine players to have advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs every season since its introduction in 2007
- Seeks 300th made cut in 423rd career PGA TOUR start
- Three top-10s in 16 starts this season, including two in his last four starts (T7/AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, T10/Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard)

Tyler McCumber

- No. 53 in the FedExCup
- Finished a career-best solo second at the 2020 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship
- Went on to finish T6 in his next start at the Sanderson Farms Championship
- Monday qualified to advance to the 2018 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship, his PGA TOUR debut; sat third through 54 holes before posting a final-round 75 en route to a T19 finish

Lucas Herbert

- Australian player makes 10th PGA TOUR start; previous nine included five majors and three World Golf Championships events, and last week's The Honda Classic (T46)
- 25-year-old claimed first title on European Tour in 2020, on Australia Day, defeating Christiaan Bezuidenhout in a playoff for the Omega Dubai Desert Classic
- At No. 72 in the Official World Golf Ranking, highest ranked player in the field

Danny Willett

- 2016 Masters Tournament champion makes first appearance at Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship
- Makes seventh start of season and first since the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard; T25 at the 2020 Masters Tournament marks best result
- Owns seven European Tour wins (most recent: 2019 BMW PGA Championship)
- At No. 75 in the OWGR, second-highest ranked player in the field

Thomas Pieters

- 29-year-old former University of Illinois standout owns four European Tour titles and is currently No. 76 in the world
- Teamed with Thomas Detry (also in the field) to win the 2018 ISPS Handa World Cup of Golf for Belgium
- Makes 37th career PGA TOUR start (best finish: T2/2017 The Genesis Invitational)
- Posted T23/2020 U.S. Open and T15/2021 Puerto Rico Open in two starts on TOUR this season
- Finished 13th at 2021 Commercial Bank Qatar Masters two weeks ago on European Tour

Miscellaneous Notes

- Following a career-best runner-up at last week's Honda Classic, **Brandon Hagy**, who posted a career-low 8-under 62 in the second round, will make his second start in the event (MC/2021)
- PGA TOUR Life Member and World Golf Hall of Fame member **Davis Love III** is among several PGA TOUR Champions members in the field, including **K.J. Choi**, **Retief Goosen** and **Miguel Angel Jimenez**; makes third appearance in Punta Cana (T70/2018, MC/2019); lone TOUR start this season was Sony Open in Hawaii (MC)
- **Charles Howell III**, currently No. 104 in the FedExCup, owns 97 career top-10s (most recent: T9/2020 PLAYERS Championship) missed the cut with rounds of 69-75 in his first appearance in 2020
- **Sam Ryder** enters this week off a T8 at The Honda Classic; finished T2/2016 and T12/2017 when the event was on the Korn Ferry Tour schedule,, but has yet to post a sub-70 score in six rounds in the event
- **Peter Uihlein** enters this week off a runner-up finish at last week's Korn Ferry Tour event, the Chitimacha Louisiana Open; posted nine top-10s in 104 PGA TOUR starts, highlighted by six top-fives
- Puntacana Resort ambassador **Emiliano Grillo** makes third start in the event (T50/2018, T21/2020); one top-10 in 16 starts this season: T8/Mayakoba Golf Classic
- **Kelly Kraft** is the only player with three top-25s at this event; has a streak of 12 rounds of par or better
- PGA TOUR winner Nate Lashley (2019 Rocket Mortgage Classic) won the 2017 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship on the Korn Ferry Tour, and finished fourth at the 2020 event
- **Thomas Detry**, who teamed with Thomas Pieters to win the 2018 ISPS Handa World Cup of Golf in Australia, makes third appearance (T33/2019, T33/2020) and fifth PGA TOUR start; TOUR debut came at 2019 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship, a venue he has played several times while on vacation

Tournament records and history

- 18-hole score: 63 (**Brice Garnett**/R1/2018, **Chip McDaniel**/R4/2019)
- 36-hole score: 131 (**Brice Garnett**/2018)
- 54-hole score: 199 (**Adam Long**/2020)
- 72-hole score: 270 (**Brice Garnett**/2018, **Graeme McDowell**/2019, **Hudson Swafford**/2020)
- Largest margin of victory: 4 (**Brice Garnett**/2018)
- Wire-to-wire winner: 1 (**Brice Garnett**/2018)
- Holes-in-one: 4 (**Augusto Nunez**/R1/No. 17/2018, **Shawn Stefani**/R2/No. 17/2018, **Harris English**/R2/No. 17/2018, **Kelly Kraft**/R1/No. 9/2020)

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.

Charity Benefit

Proceeds from the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship benefit the Grupo Puntacana Foundation, formed to improve the health and wellbeing of the local communities of Punta Cana in basic areas of human development.