



### 2021 Valero Texas Open pre-tournament notes

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**Dates:** March 29 – April 4, 2021

**Where:** San Antonio, Texas

**Course:** TPC San Antonio (The Oaks Course; 36-36—72/7,494 yards)

**Field size:** 144

**Defending champion:** Corey Connors

**Purse:** \$7,700,000 (\$1,386,000/winner)

**FedExCup:** 500 points (winner)

### Things to Know

- Due to COVID-19, Valero Texas Open was not held in 2020; 2019 winner Corey Connors returns as defending champion
- In 2019, Connors became the first Monday Qualifier to win on TOUR since 2010
- World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play runner-up Scottie Scheffler set to make second start at the event
- After top-five finishes in three of last five stroke-play events, Jordan Spieth will make his sixth Valero Texas Open start
- A Valero Texas Open victory is the final opportunity to earn a spot for next week's Masters Tournament
- Tournament being contested the week before the Masters for the third time in the last nine years (2013, 2019, 2021)
- 23 players in the field are also scheduled to compete in next week's Masters Tournament

### Field Notes

- Four of the top 30 in the FedExCup standings, led by No. 9 Tony Finau
- Eight of the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking, led by Finau (No. 13)
- 82 PGA TOUR winners combining for 318 total victories
- 15 major championship winners combining for 24 major victories, led by Phil Mickelson (5)
- Four FedExCup champions: Jim Furyk (2010), Brandt Snedeker (2012), Henrik Stenson (2013), Jordan Spieth (2015)
- Eight past champions: Zach Johnson (2008, 2009), Brendan Steele (2011), Martin Laird (2013), Jimmy Walker (2015), Charley Hoffman (2016), Kevin Chappell (2017), Andrew Landry (2018) and Corey Connors (2019)

### A look back at the 2019 Valero Texas Open

Pos.	Name	Score
1	Corey Connors	69-67-66-66—268 (-20)
2	Charley Hoffman	71-68-64-67—270 (-18)
3	Ryan Moore	68-70-69-64—271 (-17)
T4	Si Woo Kim	66-66-69-72—273 (-15)
T4	Brian Stuard	67-70-70-66—273 (-15)

- Corey Connors entered the final round trailing Si Woo Kim by one stroke before a 6-under 66 led to the win
- Connors became the first Monday Qualifier to win on the PGA TOUR since Arjun Atwal at the 2010 Wyndham Championship and the 15<sup>th</sup> Canadian to win on TOUR
- Si Woo Kim held the solo-lead after each of the first three rounds before finishing T4

### Valero Texas Open and the FedExCup

- The Valero Texas Open is the 27<sup>th</sup> of 50 events in the 2020-21 PGA TOUR Season
- Since 2009, five winners of the Valero Texas Open have qualified for the season-ending TOUR Championship: Zach Johnson (2009), Adam Scott (2010), Jimmy Walker (2015), Kevin Chappell (2017) and Corey Connors (2019)
- Zach Johnson owns the best finish in the FedExCup by a champion of Valero Texas Open in that season (No. 6, 2009)

### Current FedExCup standings:

Top 10 at the conclusion of the Wyndham Championship will be recognized through the Comcast Business TOUR Top 10. Updated standings are below:

Pos.	Player	Points	Wins	Top-10s	Pts. Behind	Starts
1	Bryson DeChambeau	1,565	2	5		9
2	Justin Thomas	1,508	1	5	57	11
3	Patrick Cantlay	1,280	1	4	285	11
4	Viktor Hovland	1,215	1	4	350	12
5	Xander Schauffele	1,155	0	5	410	11
6	Dustin Johnson	1,139	1	4	426	8
7	Billy Horschel	1,061	1	4	504	13
8	Harris English	1,011	1	5	554	13
9	Tony Finau	1,005	0	5	560	12
10	Joaquin Niemann	977	0	3	588	13

#### Players in the field at both the Valero Texas Open and next week's Masters Tournament (23)

Abraham Ancer	Zach Johnson	Sebastian Munoz	Jimmy Walker
Cameron Champ	Si Woo Kim	Ryan Palmer	Matt Wallace
Corey Connors	Matt Kuchar	Scottie Scheffler	Bernd Wiesberger
Tony Finau	Martin Laird	Charl Schwartzel	Danny Willett
Brian Gay	Hideki Matsuyama	Jordan Spieth	Gary Woodland
Lanto Griffin	Phil Mickelson	Henrik Stenson	

#### Player Notes

##### Scottie Scheffler

- Dallas, Texas native and 2018 University of Texas graduate (Finance)
- Scheduled to make his second start in the Valero Texas Open (2019/T20)
- Comes off a runner-up finish in last week's WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play, his best career finish on the PGA TOUR; lost 2 and 1 to Billy Horschel in the Championship Match
- Three top-10 finishes in 14 starts during in the 2020-21 season, including two top-fives in World Golf Championships events (T7/Waste Management Phoenix Open, 5<sup>th</sup>/WGC-Workday Championship at The Concession, 2<sup>nd</sup>/WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play)

##### Matt Kuchar

- Making his 16<sup>th</sup> start at the Valero Texas Open, and ninth straight; most recently, finished T7 in 2019
- Best finish at TPC San Antonio is a T4 in 2014 (finished T2 at La Cantera in 2001)
- Won the Consolation Match 2 and 1 over Victor Perez at last week's WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play to finish third
- Best finish among 11 prior starts on TOUR this season was T34/Shriners Hospitals for Children Open
- In search of his 10<sup>th</sup> career TOUR win and first since the 2019 Sony Open in Hawaii; has made 476 TOUR starts

##### Jordan Spieth

- 2015 FedExCup winner poised for sixth start in the event; two top 10 finishes (2<sup>nd</sup>/2015, 10<sup>th</sup>/2014)
- Three top-five finishes in last five stroke-play starts on TOUR: T4/Waste Management Phoenix Open, T3/AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, T4/Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard
- Former University of Texas player seeks a 12<sup>th</sup> career PGA TOUR title and first since The Open Championship in 2017

##### Charley Hoffman

- Winner of the 2016 Valero Texas Open returns following a runner-up finish in 2019
- Since 2006, leads all players at the Valero Texas Open in top-fives (4), top-10s (6), top-25s (11) and cuts made (14)
- In 17 starts this season on the PGA TOUR, has three top-10 finishes: T6/Sanderson Farms Championship, T7/AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, T10/Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard
- Most recent of four PGA TOUR titles was the 2016 Valero Texas Open

##### Abraham Ancer

- San Antonio resident scheduled to make his fourth start in the Valero Texas Open (T42/2016, T58/2018, T42/2019)
- Two top-fives in 13 starts this season: 4<sup>th</sup>/Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, T5/The American Express
- Looks to better three runner-up finishes with his first career TOUR title in his 111<sup>th</sup> start
- Attended Sharyland High School in Mission, Texas, where he was All-Valley four years and a three-time MVP

**Zach Johnson**

- Winner of the Valero Texas Open in his first two starts of 2008 and 2009 (La Cantera Golf Club)
- Two additional top-10 finishes in eight starts in the event: T6/2014, 5<sup>th</sup>/2018
- Winner of 12 PGA TOUR events, including the 2007 Masters Tournament and 2015 The Open Championship
- In 12 starts on TOUR this season, has posted three top-10 finishes: T8/U.S. Open, T6/The RSM Classic and T8/The Honda Classic

**Ryan Palmer**

- Four top-10 finishes in 17 Valero Texas Open starts (T9/2010, T6/2015, T4/2016, T6/2017)
- Winner of four PGA TOUR titles in 433 starts (most recent: 2019 Zurich Classic with Jon Rahm)
- Three top-five finishes in 11 starts on TOUR this season: T4/ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP, 4<sup>th</sup>/Sentry Tournament of Champions, T2/Farmers Insurance Open

**Rickie Fowler**

- Is not yet eligible for the 2021 Masters Tournament and can only get in with a win at the Valero Texas Open
- Has not missed a major championship since the 2010 U.S. Open
- No top-10s in his last 26 PGA TOUR starts; last top-10 on TOUR: 2020 The American Express (T10)

**Sam Bennett**

- Texas A&M junior making PGA TOUR debut playing on a sponsor exemption he earned by winning the Cabo Collegiate at TPC San Antonio (Oaks Course) in early March
- Closed the third (and final) round with a 5-under 67 to win the event
- Born and raised in Madisonville, Texas, a town of approximately 5,000 roughly 100 miles north of Houston

**Tournament notes**

- The 2021 Valero Texas Open marks the 11<sup>th</sup> year of the event being contested at TPC San Antonio, a Greg Norman design with Sergio Garcia serving as design consultant; Adam Scott won the first Valero Texas Open at TPC San Antonio in 2010
- Since 1970, there have only been five international winners of the Valero Texas Open, four of whom emerged since 2010: Adam Scott (2010), Martin Laird (2013), Steven Bowditch (2014) and Corey Connors (2019). In 1992, Nick Price defeated Steve Elkington in a playoff at Oak Hills CC
- Dating to 1922, the Valero Texas Open is the third-oldest non-major on the PGA TOUR calendar behind only the BMW Championship (1899) and RBC Canadian Open (1904). It is also the longest-running event on the PGA TOUR to be held in the same city