



PRE-TOURNAMENT NOTES 2024 MEXICO OPEN at VIDANTA



TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

February 19-25 • 8th of 36 FedExCup Regular Season events
Vallarta, Mexico
Vidanta Vallarta • Par 71 • 7,456 yds.
Purse \$8.1 million • **Winner** \$ 1,458,000 + 500 FedExCup pts.
132 players • 72-hole stroke play
Defending champion Tony Finau

BROADCAST SCHEDULE (ET)

	ESPN+	GOLF	NBC
R1	9:15 a.m.-7 p.m.	4-7 p.m.	
R2	9:15 a.m.-7 p.m.	4-8 p.m.	
R3	8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.	1-3 p.m.	3-6 p.m.
R4	8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.	1-3 p.m.	3-6 p.m.

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2024 PGA TOUR SEASON

FedExCup Playoffs

TOUR Championship.....
BMW Championship.....
FedEx St. Jude Championship.....

FedExCup Regular Season

Wyndham Championship.....
Olympic Men's Golf Competition.....
3M Open.....
Barracuda Championship.....
The Open Championship.....
Genesis Scottish Open.....
John Deere Classic.....
Rocket Mortgage Classic.....
Travelers Championship.....
U.S. Open.....
the Memorial Tournament.....
RBC Canadian Open.....
Charles Schwab Challenge.....
PGA Championship.....
Myrtle Beach Classic.....
Wells Fargo Championship.....
THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson.....
Zurich Classic of New Orleans.....
Corales Puntacana Championship.....
RBC Heritage.....
Masters Tournament.....
Valero Texas Open.....
Texas Children's Houston Open.....
Valspar Championship.....
THE PLAYERS Championship.....
Puerto Rico Open.....
Arnold Palmer Invitational.....
Cognizant Classic.....
Mexico Open at Vidanta.....

Hideki Matsuyama.....
Nick Taylor.....
Wyndham Clark.....
Matthieu Pavon.....
Nick Dunlap.....
Grayson Murray.....
Chris Kirk.....

Italics First-time PGA TOUR winners

TOP STORYLINES

The Mexico Open at Vidanta is the first of two Full-Field Events leading up to the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard. The Aon Next 10 for the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard will be filled with the top 10 players in the FedExCup standings through the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches that did not finish in the top 50 of the 2022-23 FedExCup Playoffs and Eligibility Points List, while the Aon Swing 5 will be made up of the next five players earning the most points in the Mexico Open at Vidanta and the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches.

Only four players in the field at the Mexico Open at Vidanta have qualified for the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard: **Tony Finau**, **Emiliano Grillo**, **Mackenzie Hughes** and **Patrick Rodgers**. The winner of the Mexico Open at Vidanta will earn a spot in all five remaining Signature Events (if a non-member, must accept membership after the win), while other TOUR members are fighting for spots in the Aon Next 10 and the Aon Swing 5. Nos. 8-11 in the Aon Next 10 standings are all in the field: No. 8 **Thomas Detry**, No. 9 **Mark Hubbard**, No. 10 **Nicolai Højgaard** and No. 11 **Charley Hoffman**.

Tony Finau, the highest-ranked player in the field at No. 24 in the Official World Golf Ranking, is making his first of two starts this season as the defending champion (other: Texas Children's Houston Open). Finau, a seven-time PGA TOUR winner, has made three prior starts as the defending champion on TOUR, recording two top-10s. As part of the PGA TOUR's return to a calendar-year schedule, the Texas Children's Houston Open was moved from the fall portion of the season to March and will be played between the Valspar Championship and the Valero Texas Open this year.

Tony Finau results on the PGA TOUR as defending champion

Wins	Result as defending champion
2023 Mexico Open at Vidanta	TBD
2022 Texas Children's Houston Open	TBD (tournament not played in 2023)
2022 Rocket Mortgage Classic	MC
2022 3M Open	T7
2021 FedEx St. Jude Championship	T5
2016 Puerto Rico Open	DNP

26 players in the field have competed in both editions of the Mexico Open at Vidanta since its addition to the PGA TOUR schedule in 2022, including four that finished in the top 10 both years:

Players in the field that finished inside the top 10 at the 2022 and 2023 Mexico Open at Vidanta:

Player	2022	2023
Cameron Champ	T6	T8
Tony Finau	T2	Won
Patrick Rodgers	10th	T10
Brandon Wu	T2	3rd

Brandon Wu has finished in the top three in both years the Mexico Open at Vidanta has been on the PGA TOUR schedule, earning a T2 in 2022 and a solo-third in 2023. Wu has made one start in a Signature Event this season, qualifying for the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am via the "fill the field" category (T47), and is currently outside the top 20 in the Aon Next 10 standings.

There are eight players in the field from Mexico, including PGA TOUR rookie **Raul Pereda**, who earned PGA TOUR membership via his T4 at PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry (top-five finishers and ties received TOUR cards). He made 10 starts on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica in 2023 and earned four top-10s to finish No. 22 in the Totalplay Cup standings, granting him an exemption to Second Stage of Q-School A native of Cordoba, Veracruz, Mexico, Pereda received a sponsor exemption to the 2023 Mexico Open at Vidanta, his first career TOUR start. He sat T17 through three rounds following an opening 65 before a closing with a 76 to finish T60.

WINNERS

Year	Player
2023	Tony Finau
2022	Jon Rahm

bold in field

Players in the field that won the Mexico Open when it was sanctioned by PGA TOUR Latinoamerica:

Year	Player
2021	Alvaro Ortiz
2016	Sebastian Vazquez

ADDITIONAL STORYLINES

The seven other players in the field from Mexico received sponsor exemptions. 2024 Latin America Amateur Championship winner **Santiago De La Fuente**, who is currently a senior at the University of Houston, qualified for three majors in 2024 with his victory at the Latin America Amateur Championship (Masters Tournament, U.S. Open, The Open Championship). De La Fuente became the second player from Mexico to win the event, joining **Alvaro Ortiz**, who made the cut at the 2019 Masters and finished one stroke behind Viktor Hovland for low amateur honors. Ortiz is making his third consecutive start at the Mexico Open at Vidanta (T42/2022, MC/2023). Both Ortiz (2021) and **Sebastian Vazquez** (2016) won the Mexico Open when it was sanctioned by PGA TOUR Latinoamerica.

Players from Mexico in the field

Player	TOUR starts	Best result
Rodolfo Cazaubon	6	T3, 2016 Puerto Rico Open
Santiago De La Fuente	1	MC, 2022 Mexico Open
Roberto Diaz	62	T8, 2019 Travelers Championship
Omar Morales	2	MC (twice)
Alvaro Ortiz	9	T36, 2019 Masters Tournament
Raul Pereda	3	T60, 2023 Mexico Open
Jose Antonio Safa	1	MC, 2022 Mexico Open
Sebastian Vazquez	9	T38, 2023 World Wide Technology Championship

The 10th hole at Vidanta Vallarta was the third-hardest par 4 on the PGA TOUR schedule in 2022-23 (second-hardest in non-majors) and the 17th hole was the fifth-hardest par 3 last season (third-hardest in non-majors). Vidanta Vallarta and Los Angeles Country Club, which hosted the 2023 U.S. Open, were the only two courses on the 2022-23 PGA TOUR Schedule that featured one of the top-five hardest par 3s and top-five hardest par 4s.

Eight players in the field competed at The Genesis Invitational last week, with **Tony Finau** (T19) earning the best result. Others who made the cut include **Mackenzie Hughes** (T31), **Nicolai Højgaard** (T39), **Emiliano Grillo** (T44) and **Charley Hoffman** (50th), while **Patrick Rodgers**, **Alex Smalley** and **J.J. Spaun** missed the cut. **Padraig Harrington** is the only other player in the field that competed in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event last week, finishing T15 at the Chubb Classic, which was shortened to 36 holes due to weather.

PGA TOUR rookie **Alejandro Tosti** finished T10 at the Mexico Open at Vidanta last year after receiving the sponsor exemption designated for the player from Latin America that earned the most points in the three Latin American events on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2023. The top-10 earned him a spot in the following week's Wells Fargo Championship, where he finished T47. Tosti has made two cuts in three starts in his rookie campaign, with his best result coming at the Farmers Insurance Open (T43).

2023 LEADERBOARD

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Tony Finau	65	64	65	66	260 (-24)
2	Jon Rahm	67	68	61	67	263 (-21)
3	Brandon Wu	66	64	67	68	265 (-19)
4	Akshay Bhatia	68	65	63	70	266 (-18)
T5	Eric Cole	65	68	69	66	268 (-16)
T5	Emiliano Grillo	68	68	67	65	268 (-16)
T5	Austin Smotherman	63	70	68	67	268 (-16)
T8	2 players					270 (-14)

STRENGTH OF FIELD STATISTICS

Top 10 FedExCup	0
Top 30 FedExCup	4 Thomas Detry (27)
Top 10 OWGR	0
Top 50 OWGR	4 Tony Finau (24)
PGA TOUR winners	39 Most: Brandt Snedeker (9)
Past champions	1 Defending: Tony Finau (2023)
FedExCup Champions	1 Brandt Snedeker (2012)
PLAYERS winners	0
Major winners	2 Most: Padraig Harrington (3)

TOURNAMENT RECORDS

Category	Value	Player	Year
Low 18-hole score	61	Jon Rahm	2023
Low 36-hole score	129	Tony Finau	2023
Low 54-hole score	194	Tony Finau	2023
Low 72-hole score	260	Tony Finau	2023
Holes-in-one	2	Scott Gutschewski, Kiradech Aphibarnrat	2022
Largest 18-hole lead	1	Austin Smotherman	2023
Largest 36-hole lead	2	Jon Rahm	2022
Largest 54-hole lead	2	2 players; most recent: Tony Finau	2023
Best come-from-behind win	-	-	-
Largest margin of victory	3	Tony Finau	2023
Playoffs	-	-	-
Wire-to-wire winners	-	-	-