

Press Release

26th Lalla Meryem Cup of Golf

7 Moroccan women in the European elite

Rabat, January 27, 2023

Under the High Patronage of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI, the Royal Moroccan Golf Federation and the Hassan II Golf Trophy, presided over by His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, are organizing the 26th edition of the Lalla Meryem Golf Cup, to be held on February 9-11, 2023 at the Royal Golf Dar Es Salam in Rabat.

The Lalla Meryem Golf Cup, created by the late King Hassan II in 1993, has always attracted the best women golfers in the world. Marie Laure de Lorenzi, Lady Laura Davies, Lora Fairclough, Annika Sörenstam, Sophie Gustafson, Trish Johnson, Gwladys Nocera, and Suzanne Petersen have all contributed to the international renown of this prestigious women's golf event.

This edition will host 96 players from the Ladies European Tour, including the top 5 of the 2022 Ranking. The Swedish players Linn Grant and Maja Stark, respectively European n°1 and n°2, will be present. We will also have the return of Nuria Iturrioz who will have the title to defend from 2019.

This 26th edition of the Lalla Meryem Golf Cup is unique due to the participation of 7 Moroccan players, which is a record. At the professional level, we will find Ines Laklalech, author of an exceptional 2022 season with her victory at the Lacoste Ladies Open de France, a tournament of the LET, and her historical ascent to the LPGA in 2023; Maha Haddioui, double representative of Morocco at the Olympics and a member of the LET for 10 years and Lina Belmati, Champion of Morocco 2022.

Among the amateurs, the Moroccan public will discover Malak Bouraeda, the first Moroccan and Arab woman to compete in the US Women Open, Intissar Rich, African Champion in individual, as well as Sofia Cherif Essakali who, at 13 years old, will be the youngest player on the field – last but not least, Rim Imni, Champion of Morocco 2022 in the Elite category, will also compete alongside this prestigious roster.



About the Moroccan Royal Golf Federation “FRMG”:

Chaired by **His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid** since January 2018, the Moroccan Royal Golf Federation “FRMG”, founded on March 12, 1960, is a sports association created to provide access to all to the practice of golf, in all of its forms. The Federation oversees the enforcement of standards and ethics drawn up by the international sporting movement, and in particular by the International Golf Federation and the African Golf Confederation.

The Federation’s missions are as follows:

- **The promotion and development of golf practice**
- **The organisation and management of competitions**
- **The rules of golf practice**
- **Training and professionalisation of golf careers**
- **Support for professional players**
- **Management of High-Level golfers**

About the Hassan II Golf Trophy Association “ATH”:

The Hassan II Golf Trophy Association (ATH) is a sports association recognised to be of public interest, created on September 4, 2002 and chaired by **His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid**, who is also the President of the Royal Moroccan Golf Federation (FRMG).

ATH’s mission is to organise national and international golf competitions on behalf of the Royal Moroccan Golf Federation, and to promote golf in Morocco by positioning the Kingdom as a premier international golf destination.

Mutual respect and innovation with authenticity are the values that define the process of progress toward excellence that ATH represents.