



**TROPHÉE  
HASSAN II  
DE GOLF**



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## Press release

### **European champions and Moroccan rising stars take center stage at the 28<sup>th</sup> Lalla Meryem Cup**

**Rabat, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** Under the High Patronage of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI** and the effective presidency of **His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid**, the Royal Moroccan Golf Federation (RMGF) and the Hassan II Golf Trophy Association announce the 28<sup>th</sup> edition of the Lalla Meryem Cup. This internationally acclaimed event will be held from February 6 to 8, 2025, at the iconic Royal Golf Dar Es Salam in Rabat.

Since its inception, the Lalla Meryem Cup has consistently attracted the crème de la crème of the golfing world. Legends such as Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, Dame Laura Davies, Gwladys Nocera, Annika Sörenstam, Sophie Gustafsson, and Suzann Pettersen have all graced this prestigious competition, solidifying its global stature in women's golf.

What sets the Lalla Meryem Cup apart is its unique tradition of running concurrently with the Hassan II Trophy at the same venue. This dual-gender format, a visionary legacy of **His Late Majesty King Hassan II** since 1993, continues to champion inclusivity in the sport.



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This year marks the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lalla Meryem Cup as a proud fixture on the Ladies European Tour (LET), serving as the season's inaugural event. Among the 108 competitors are Thailand's Trichat Cheenglab, the LET's top-ranked player of 2023, and Switzerland's Chiara Tamburlini, who clinched the 2024 LET Order of Merit and triumphed at the Joburg Ladies Open. Both are strong contenders for the coveted Minaudière trophy. The field also features past champions Klara Davidson Spilkova (2017), Nuria Iturrioz (2016, 2019), and reigning titleholder Bronte Law of England, who will return to defend her crown.

Morocco's representation shines brightly with five talented players. Leading the delegation is Ines Laklalech, who carried Morocco's flag at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and aims to build on her impressive 7th-place finish in last year's tournament. Maha Haddioui, a two-time Olympian (Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020), embarks on her 12th season on the LET, bringing a wealth of experience. Lina Belmati and Malak Bouraeda, competing on the LET Access Series (LETAS), bolster the professional contingent. Meanwhile, 16-year-old Sofia Cherif Essakali, the 2024 African Amateur Champion in both individual and team categories, exemplifies the future of Moroccan golf. Sofia, who made history by making the cut twice at this event, including once as a 13-year-old, continues to impress with her extraordinary talent and determination.

Year after year, the Lalla Meryem Cup reaffirms its position as a cornerstone of the global women's golf calendar. It provides an unparalleled platform for players to showcase their skills while offering fans the chance to witness world-class sporting excellence.



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### **About the Royal Moroccan Golf Federation (RMGF):**

Chaired since January 2018 by **His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid**, the Royal Moroccan Golf Federation (RMGF) was established on March 12, 1960. As a sports association, its mission is to democratize access to golf in all its forms while upholding the ethical principles of international sporting bodies, including the International Golf Federation and the African Golf Confederation.

The RMGF's key objectives include:

- Promoting and expanding access to golf
- Organizing and overseeing competitions
- Establishing regulations for the sport
- Training and professionalizing careers in golf
- Supporting professional golfers
- Managing high-performance athletes

### **About the Hassan II Golf Trophy Association (ATH):**

Founded on September 4, 2002, the Hassan II Golf Trophy Association (ATH) is a public utility sports organization chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, who also serves as President of the Royal Moroccan Golf Federation.



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The ATH is dedicated to organizing national and international golf competitions on behalf of the RMGF while positioning Morocco as a premier global golf destination.

Guided by the values of honoring tradition while embracing innovation, the ATH continually strives for excellence.

### **About the PGA Tour Champions:**

The PGA Tour Champions, often referred to as the Senior PGA Tour, is a professional golf series exclusively for players aged 50 and above.

This tour unites legendary golfers who have indelibly shaped the history of the sport. With their refined skill and unparalleled experience, they continue to captivate fans. The fairways and greens serve as the stage for unforgettable moments as these icons compete for coveted titles.

As a part of the PGA Tour Champions, the Hassan II Trophy perpetuates its illustrious tradition, offering golf enthusiasts of all generations the opportunity to see their heroes in action. It is a chance to create lasting memories and draw inspiration from their resilience and determination.

Every PGA Tour Champions event is characterized by a warm and respectful atmosphere, where fierce competition goes hand-in-hand with deep camaraderie among players.

This tour serves as a powerful reminder that talent and determination transcend age, as legends of the past continue to write new chapters on the course, much to the delight of golf fans worldwide.



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## About the Ladies European Tour (LET):

Founded in 1978, the Ladies European Tour (LET) has been instrumental in advancing and promoting women's golf across Europe and beyond. The tour encourages players to follow their passion and achieve their potential through the sport.

The LET showcases diversity, featuring 316 professional golfers from 36 countries competing at the highest levels.

Since 1993, the Lalla Meryem Cup has provided a prestigious platform for talented female golfers, offering them opportunities to shine and gain recognition.

In 2010, the LET joined forces with the Lalla Meryem Cup, uniting players from various nationalities and fostering strong connections among athletes, fans, and sponsors under the shared value of excellence.

This iconic event remains a cornerstone of the LET calendar, delivering exceptional sporting moments while celebrating the historic ties between European women's golf and Morocco.



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