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## **FORE Tour signs Desert Springs deal**

*UK club golfers on Tour ... spaghetti western-style*

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**When golfers shout FORE! this Autumn, they may find themselves looking for their ball under a cactus bush.**

Or they may simply be playing on the hugely successful FORE Tour ([www.foretour.co.uk](http://www.foretour.co.uk)), which this year reaches its climax at the unique desert-style golf resort at Desert Springs, off the Mediterranean coast of South East Spain.

From 17-20 November 2005, 20 British club golfers will experience golf in spaghetti western-style surroundings, as spectacular Spanish golf resort Desert Springs ([www.almanzora.com](http://www.almanzora.com)) hosts The FORE Tour Masters, the season-ending finale to the FORE Tour, which is the UK's biggest amateur golf Tour.

And all FORE Tour and FORE Golf Society golfers will receive a special 30% off published prices for any golf holiday booking at Desert Springs until the end of March 2006.

The FORE Tour Masters is the annual tournament that decides the ultimate winner of the FORE Tour. Each year over 1,750 golfers play genuine Tour style golf in the FORE Tour's 35 events, held at a selection of the UK's finest golf courses. In 2005, the FORE Tour visits 25 golf courses in the UK's Top 100, including all four English Open Championship current venues.

Just like the professional Tours, the FORE Tour has its own Order of Merit. Golfers can play in as many or as few events as they like: their best five finishes count for Order of Merit purposes.

Each event is held in a very friendly atmosphere and first-time competitors get a special reception. In a 2004 survey, Tour organisers GMM asked 150 competitors at random for some thoughts on the FORE Tour. 100% of them said they would recommend the FORE Tour to a friend.

Any UK golfer can play on the FORE Tour, provided they can supply proof of handicap (maximum 24 for men, 30 for ladies). Sister organisation the FORE Golf Society can provide a handicap for those who don't yet have an official one.

At the end of the UK golf season 20 competitors – the leading finishers on the Tour's own Order Of Merit – get to play in the FORE Tour Masters, traditionally held at a sunshine golf venue in Europe.

In 2005, that venue will be Desert Springs in Spain. The new Official Golf Resort of the FORE Tour opened for play in 2001; designed by Walker Cup hero and golf architect Peter McEvoy OBE to full USGA specifications, Desert Springs – Europe's only desert golf course - takes its inspiration from the famous desert-style courses of Arizona and California.

Perched above the dry Almanzora river valley – which boasts the sunniest, warmest and driest climate on continental Europe – the Desert Springs resort is surrounded by Europe's only true desert landscape. But golfers play on immaculate fairways and emerald greens which blend with the natural environment, and the views from the golf course are spectacular, taking in the panoramic sweep of mountains that surround the valley.

McEvoy and his team wound the 18-hole, 6,751 yard Indiana golf course through massive rocky outcrops and dry river beds, and supervised the planting of over 600,000 indigenous plants to create an outstanding and memorably different golf experience.

Not far away, Clint Eastwood and Sergio Leone filmed the 'spaghetti western' series that created the cult of The Man With No Name. FORE Tour players have been known to play some good, some bad and some ugly golf shots in their time.

Commenting on the announcement, David Hughes, Managing Director at GMM Limited – who operate the FORE Tour - said: "We approached Desert Springs because we were attracted by its uniqueness, very high quality facilities and the memorable golfing challenge that it will set our competitors. We think it will become an exciting new home

for the FORE Tour Masters, and we look forward to a long association with the team there.”

Simon Coaker, Director of Golf at Desert Springs, said: "Desert Springs is delighted to have become the 'Official Golf Resort' of the FORE Tour 2005 and to be host to the season-ending FORE Tour Masters this November. The Indiana is Europe's only desert golf course and is a spectacular representation of how man can create a beautiful test of golf in true harmony with nature. The Indiana golf course guarantees a variety of shot-making challenges to test the skill level of every player, with each golf hole having been uniquely created to provide interest, drama and golfing enjoyment."

Designer Peter McEvoy OBE says of the golf course at Desert Springs: "Anyone who has played the wonderful course in Arizona and California will know the drama and spectacle of desert golf. Traditional golfing hazards such as lakes, springs, bunkers, humps and hollows are married with cactus, wadis, dry river beds and succulent ground cover. The course can be stretched to some 6,800 yards off the back tees, making it a genuine test of international standards. However, tee positions are plentiful and the course can be enjoyed at a more comfortable 6,200 yards for men and around 5,600 yards for ladies."

Golfers can enter the 2005 FORE Tour at [www.foretour.co.uk](http://www.foretour.co.uk), or by calling the organisers on **FREEFONE 0800 092 6379**.

Special Desert Springs golf holiday deals can be found on [www.almanzora.com](http://www.almanzora.com), or by calling 01242 680299.

#### **FORE TOUR – CONSUMER INFORMATION**

FORE Tour Schedule 2005: <http://www.foregolfsociety.com/tour/tour.asp>

FORE Tour FAQ: <http://www.foregolfsociety.com/tour/faq.htm>

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