OLAZABAL
D E S I G N

JOSÉ MARÍA OLAZÁBAL AWARDED 2020 GOLF COURSE DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

- The two-time Major champion secures one of golf's most illustrious titles at the World Golf Awards –

It has been announced today that two-time Major champion José María Olazábal and his golf course design studio, Olazabal Design, have been named Golf Course Designer of the Year at this year's World Golf Awards.

The World Golf Awards serves to celebrate and reward excellence in golf tourism, world-class courses and golf destinations, with votes being registered by leading golf tourism professionals as well as thousands of golf consumers from a record 129 countries worldwide.

Olazabal has been involved in golf course design for nearly thirty years since the 1990s with his first design being at La Sella Golf in Spain. To date, he has designed and opened 21 golf courses around the world.

Among them are several award-winning courses that have hosted top international competitions over the years. These include courses such as the Royal Sevilla Golf Club in Spain, the Olazabal Course in Mission Hills, China, and most recently the brand-new Education City Golf Club in Doha that received highest acclaim as a European Tour venue earlier this year.

Olazabal Design is currently working on new golf course design works and renovations in Asia, the Middle East and Europe, with its next upcoming opening being the new 18-hole courses at Costa Navarino in Greece.

As a player, he was often regarded amongst Europe's greatest ever players, having won numerous titles throughout his career including two green jackets at The Masters in 1994 and 1999. He was also victorious 23 times on The European Tour, placing him 9th in the all-time list of most wins, and was part of Europe's Ryder Cup team seven times between 1987 and 2006, whilst in 2012 he captained the team to one of the largest ever comebacks in the 'Miracle at Medinah'.

José María Olazábal, speaking after the award was announced, said "*It is a privilege to be named Designer of the Year and I am happy to accept this honour on behalf of our team. Let me dedicate this award to my late friend and long-time manager Sergio Gomez who sadly passed away earlier this year and who I know would be very proud today.*"

Matthias Nemes, Managing Partner of Olazabal Design, added "*I want to use this opportunity to thank the whole team, and in particular our partner Franco Bianchi and our lead golf course architect Toni Ortner. All of us cherish this recognition as a huge motivation for the future*".

Chris Frost, Managing Director of World Golf Awards, further added "*It is a great honour for the World Golf Awards to name Jose Maria Olazabal and Olazabal Design - Golf Course Designer of the Year for 2020. Jose has been involved in golf course design for over 30 years and has had a hand in producing some of the world's best golf courses and we cannot wait for him to reveal his next up-and-coming projects in the near future.*"

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About Olazábal Design

José María Olazábal ranks among the greatest European golfers of all time with two Masters victories (1994, 1999), 33 titles around the world and legendary performances in the Ryder Cup both as a player and a captain. The European Ryder Cup victory in 2012 under his captaincy, labelled the "Miracle at Medinah", is rated as one of the most spectacular comeback victories ever in sports.

With his golf-course design studio, Olazabal Design, José María has created several high-profile tournament courses, such as Royal Sevilla Golf Club in Spain and the Olazabal Course at Mission Hills in China, both hosts to World Cups of Golf and World Golf Championships. His boutique studio has additionally designed extraordinary works like the ultra-exclusive Velaa Golf Academy in the Maldives and the just-completed Education City Golf Club in Doha.

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