



## **ERNIE ELS IS BACK ON TOP WITH A WIN**

### **AT THE 2008 HONDA CLASSIC**

#### **OPENING OF THE PGA TOUR'S FLORIDA SWING SHOWS THE RE-DESIGNED CHAMPION COURSE IS THE REAL WINNER**

**PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL (MARCH 3, 2008)** – South African Ernie Els took the trophy at the 2008 Honda Classic but he shared the stage with “The Champ” course at PGA National Resort & Spa. Els and his fellow PGA tour players battled one of the toughest courses on the PGA Tour as the famous “Bear Trap” took its toll on the best players from around the world.

The Champion Course received extensive renovations by Nicklaus Design and Superior Golf Concepts in preparation for this year’s tournament which also served as the opening of the Tour’s Florida Swing. In an exciting finale, Els finished at 6 under par to score his first PGA Tour win in more than three years.

Improvements to The Champion Course were part of an extensive, multi-million dollar resort-wide makeover that included a gorgeous new front entrance, lobby bar, steak and seafood grille, stunning freeform zero-entry pool and waterside bar and grill. The Champ’s re-shaped and expanded bunkers drew significant attention from players and spectators who commented on the course’s demand for a focused game.

Celebrated as one of the most illustrious golf and spa resorts in the Southeast – and host to more golf tournaments than any other resort in the country – PGA National successfully welcomed more than 120,000 spectators during The Honda Classic. While the world’s best golf professionals battled it out on the greens, The Honda Classic was also generating support for the Nicklaus Children’s Health Care Foundation.



Visitors to lush south Florida can stay and play where the pros compete and live. A variety of value spring and summer season packages are available on the resort's website at [www.pgaresort.com](http://www.pgaresort.com).

**About PGA National Resort and Spa**

Opened in 1981, PGA National Resort and Spa is a stunning South Florida vacation and meeting destination. The legendary 339-room resort has recently completed Phase 1 of multi-million dollar facelift that included a completely new front entrance, outdoor pool and pavilion as well as enhanced public areas, restaurants, golf courses and landscaping. PGA National Resort and Spa offers 90 holes of championship golf, including the famed Champion Course, new home to the PGA Tour's Honda Classic and past host of the 1983 Ryder Cup, the 1987 PGA Championship and a litany of other prized professional golf tournaments. Other distinguishing features include a 42,000 square foot European Spa with 56 treatments areas and the exclusive Waters of the World outdoor mineral pools, a world-class health and racquet club, 34,000 square feet of self-contained conference space and seven on-site restaurants and lounges. PGA National Resort is located in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. For more information call 800-633-9150 or visit [www.pgaresort.com](http://www.pgaresort.com)

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