



Press Release No. 5

Hickory Golf Masters SA

The stars are ready: the first major tournament in the history of Hickory golf starts tomorrow

Lugano/Villa d'Este, 12-05-2026

The 2010 Hickory World Champion, Australian Perry Somers, will open the tournament on Wednesday, 13 May at 9:30 am. Thirty-seven gentlemen golfers from 16 countries will compete for the 'Silver Rake Niblick' at the Hickory Masters 2026.

This is Hickory Golf: knickerbockers, a shirt, a tie, classic golf shoes and a caddy carrying the slim golf bag. It is stylish and passionate, and despite the competition, it is fair and relaxed. From 13 to 14 May 2026, the world's top Hickory golfers will gather at the Villa d'Este Golf Club in Italy alongside a select group of tour professionals and ambitious amateurs, aiming to crown the inaugural Hickory Masters champion. They will compete on the 100-year-old Lake Como course using golf clubs handcrafted before 1935. Each club is unique and part of golfing history.

Fascinated by the history of golf

Hickory golfers are passionate about the sport and its history. There is no better place to experience and explore this history than at the Hickory Golf Masters Museum in Lugano, Switzerland. Spanning 380 square metres, the museum presents an extraordinary collection of golf clubs dating from 1850 to 1935. Particular focus is given to the work of Tom Stewart Jr., a Scotsman who was one of the most respected clubmakers of his time.

English tour professional and 2015 Hickory World Champion **Andrew Marshall** was in seventh heaven. "Just look at this – all unique pieces by Tom Stewart," he exclaimed on Monday evening as soon as he stepped into the museum. Over the next three hours, his eyes lit up time and again as he spotted items that made his heart beat faster. 'Congratulations on this amazing collection,' he later wrote in the museum's guest book.



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Love at first sight!

At the 2026 Hickory Masters, Marshall will be challenged not only by two other former Hickory World Champions, **Perry Somers** (Australia, 2010) and **Paolo Quirici** (Switzerland, 2013), and the former Hickory European Champion, **Iain Forrester** (2013 & 2018), but also by selected tour professionals competing in a Hickory tournament for the first time. Among these is the Frenchman **Jean-François Remésy**, winner of the French Open in 2004 and 2005, who took his first swings with a hickory club on the golf simulator at the Hickory Golf Masters Museum. Regarded as a player with great feel in his hands, Remésy showed great respect for the hickory clubs. "Brilliant, just brilliant," he exclaimed as the first ball flew towards the Eiffel Tower on the screen. "Thank you very much for giving me this unforgettable experience. It is a great pleasure to be here," he wrote in the museum's guest book.

'Silver Rake Niblick' for the winner of the Open category

Thirty-seven players from 16 countries, including Australia, Austria, China, Germany, England, Finland, France, Italy, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA, will compete for this prestigious prize. The winner of the Open category will have their name engraved on this newly created Challenge Cup, which holds great significance in golfing history. A total of €30,000 in prize money is also at stake for the 14 professionals in the field, who will be ranked exclusively in the Open category, with €10,000 going to the winner alone.

On Monday evening, the professionals had the opportunity to admire an original Rake Niblick in the museum – a club designed for use in sand and tall grass – and even hold it in their hands. Manufactured by Willie Aveston in 1895, the Rake Niblick was never marketed as its inventor decided against applying for a patent. Only a few were ever made, two of which are on display in Lugano.

Hickory Masters 2026

13th & 14th of May 2026

Circolo Golf Villa d'Este, Lake Como, Italy

Visitors are welcome. Free entry.

www.hgm.golf



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ABOUT HICKORY GOLF MASTERS SA

Hickory Golf Masters SA (HGM) is a Swiss company devoted to honouring golf's earliest traditions. From materials to etiquette, HGM upholds the authentic spirit of the game – without compromise. Through its four divisions (museum, tournaments, club, shop), HGM upholds hickory golf's rules of play, etiquette, materials, and cultural heritage, while building a global community that shares its devotion. We do not merely preserve history; we continue it.

HGM was co-founded by Paolo Quirici, Switzerland's most accomplished professional golfer and 2013 World Open Hickory Champion. His deep passion for hickory golf defines HGM's vision. Alongside him stands Sergey Sarkisants, fellow enthusiast and strategic mind behind the company's development. Together, they embody HGM's dual pursuits: heritage and excellence.

For further details and information, please visit the website of Hickory Golf Masters SA <https://hgm.golf/press> or contact:

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