



## **BIGGEST POKERSTARS LIVE EVENT TO DATE GETS UNDER WAY IN MALTA**

ONCHAN, Isle of Man – March 17, 2015 – A 12-day poker extravaganza begins today with the biggest European Poker Tour ever – the EPT Malta Poker Festival, presented by PokerStars, an Amaya Inc. (TSX: AYA) company, and Pagano Events. In addition to a packed schedule of 69 events plus 24-hour EPT-run cash games, there are several other high-profile events taking place during the festival, with plenty of local activities for those looking for action away from the tables.

### **HUNDREDS OF POKERSTARS QUALIFIERS**

There are already close to 280 PokerStars qualifiers for the €5,300 EPT Malta Main Event and more than 300 for the €1,100 IPT Malta Main Event. IPT Malta is the first major event of the festival and starts today. “The Italian Poker Tour has already held several very successful events in Malta and we are looking forward to joining the EPT for this record-breaking debut festival. Malta is a great destination for poker players. With so much going on, it will actually be hard for players to choose what to do but we hope they’ll have at least some time to explore the attractions that this beautiful island has to offer,” said Team PokerStars Pro Luca Pagano.

### **GLOBAL POKER MASTERS**

The Global Poker Masters, which is making its debut at Portomaso Casino on March 21 and 22, will involve some of the biggest names in poker – including numerous Team PokerStars Pros and EPT high stakes regulars. Among those competing in the eight national teams are Team PokerStars Pro George Danzer for Germany, Jonathan Duhamel and Team PokerStars Pro Online’s Marc-Andre Ladouceur for Canada, Vanessa Selbst and Ike Haxton for the USA and Team Pro Eugene Katchalov representing Ukraine. The entire Global Poker Masters event will be broadcast live on Twitch - great news for France team member Bertrand "ElkY" Gropellier who started his own Twitch stream just over two weeks ago.

### **EUROPEAN POKER AWARDS**

More than 20 EPT events and players are nominated for the European Poker Awards which take place on the evening of March 25 at Hilton Malta (next to the casino) straight after the inaugural European Poker Conference. EPT Barcelona, EPT Prague, EPT Vienna, Estrellas Barcelona and Eureka Prague are among the tournaments nominated, while EPT President Edgar Stuchly, 2014 PCA champ Dominik Panka, Team PokerStars Pro George Danzer, EPT photographer Neil Stoddart and EPTLive presenter Marc Convey are among the many EPT and PokerStars individuals

up for awards. The two GPI points-based award winners are Team PokerStars Pro Liv Boeree, who will receive the award for Female Player of the Year, and the current EPT Player of the Year, Ole Schemion, who will also win the European Player of the Year award.

## **PLAYER ACTIVITIES**

EPT Travel and VisitMalta.com will be helping players make the most of their visit with a host of activities available including tours round the ancient cities of Valletta and Mdina, boat trips to Gozo and Sicily, as well as horse-back riding, jeep safari and scuba diving.

Joining forces with the Italian Poker Tour, the EPT Malta Poker Festival will run March 17-28 at Portomaso Casino. To watch a short video about EPT Malta, go to: <http://psta.rs/1Gxs1TI>. For more info about the event, see <http://psta.rs/EPTMalta>.

For press enquiries, please contact [press@pokerstars.com](mailto:press@pokerstars.com).

### **About the European Poker Tour**

The European Poker Tour (EPT) is the world's richest and most popular poker tour. Since 2004, the EPT has paid out over €664 million in tournament prize pools and hosted successful festivals across Europe. The EPT also visits the PokerStars Caribbean Adventure (PCA), which takes place every January in the Bahamas, one of the richest poker festivals in the world.

Season 11 of the EPT builds on the success of a decade of world-class live poker events, and major poker festivals are being held in Barcelona (which celebrated the 100th EPT event) London, Prague, Deauville, and Malta, with the PokerStars and **Monte-Carlo** Casino EPT Grand Final to be held in Monaco.

The EPT is owned by Amaya Inc. (TSX: AYA). Further information on the EPT is available online at <http://www.ept.com/>.