



## WSOP ANNOUNCES 2016-2017 WSOP CIRCUIT SCHEDULE

### Global Casino Championship Returns with its \$1 Million Added Prize Pool

### New Domestic Schedule Features First Stop in Wisconsin; Adds New Stop in Oklahoma

### Up to 14 International Stops on Tap; New Stops in Berlin, Paris, St. Maarten & Uruguay

**LAS VEGAS – July 5, 2016** – The thirteenth season of the World Series of Poker Circuit will be the biggest in its history and officially kick off August 4 at Harrah’s Cherokee in western North Carolina. The upcoming season features 22 confirmed U.S. Circuit stops, plus six international stops will commence by the end of the calendar year with up to eight more expected by the end of the 2016-17 circuit season.

There are two new stops on the domestic WSOP Circuit schedule – Potawatomi (Milwaukee) which runs from February 2-13, 2017 and Hard Rock (Tulsa) from March 16-27. Returning to the schedule after a year off is the IP stop in Biloxi, Mississippi. The IP series is scheduled for September 8-19, 2016. The tour continues almost non-stop from August through May, with Harrah’s New Orleans returning as the ending point in the U.S. from May 11-22, 2017.

Just like last season, there are two stops in Las Vegas (*Planet Hollywood and Balby’s*), Los Angeles and West Palm Beach. As host of the Global Casino Championship, Harrah’s Cherokee has been bumped up to three and is the only stop on the Circuit hosting three different events over the season.

Harrah’s Cherokee is not only opening the 2016-17 Circuit season, but it is also putting a close to the 2015-16 Circuit season. The 2016 Global Casino Championship is part of the Cherokee series and it wraps up the 2015-16 season by awarding the winner a gold bracelet and paying out at least \$1 million in prize money to the top Circuit players of the 2015-16 season. The Global Casino Championship is scheduled for August 9-11 and will be filmed by ESPN as part of their annual coverage of the World Series of Poker. As this is an official WSOP gold bracelet event, the 15% of entries prize structure will be utilized.

The Harrah’s Cherokee series schedule can be found on [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com). The other stops will release their series’ event schedules as they get closer. Two things are known for sure about every stop. First, every stop will offer several gold ring events starting at the \$365 buy-in level and second, every stop will conclude with a \$1,675 Main Event. (Exception is March for Los Angeles) which offers the most direct route of qualification to the Global Casino Championship. The Main Events allows re-entry and feature two starting flights. Players are allowed to re-enter one time/flight for a maximum of four entries between the two starting flights. Registration will remain open until the start of Level 13 for all Main Event’s.

Players can qualify for the 2016/17 Global Casino Championship several ways (a.) win a Circuit Main Event at any domestic or international stop (b.) win a “Casino Championship,” which is defined as the player at each stop who accumulates the most points throughout the 12-event gold ring schedule at any domestic or international stop (c.) be one of the top 50 cumulative point earners over the entire season who hasn’t otherwise qualified (Domestic tour only). Each of these projected 122 players will receive a “free roll” seat into the culminating event.

Another way to enter the 2016-17 Global Casino Championship during the Circuit Season is to win any official “ring event”. Anyone who doesn’t otherwise qualify for entry due to an automatic invite or cumulative standings will be eligible to buy-in to the *WSOP Global Casino Championship* for \$10,000. Likewise, the top 100 ranked players from the previous year’s WSOP Player of the Year, may also buy in for \$10,000 (thus the 2016 WSOP POY Standings in this case). Every penny of all additional \$10,000 buy-ins will be added to the \$1 million the WSOP is putting into the prize pool.

The “12 Rings in 12 Days” remains, with most stops beginning on a Thursday, and the four-day Main Event beginning on the second Friday, thereby encompassing a total of 12 official WSOP gold ring events over 12 days, and offering players non-stop poker action at the regional level. (Note: the March stop in Los Angeles starts on a Saturday and ends on a Wednesday.) Each stop will be encouraged to add Seniors and Ladies events, which will also award a ring but will not count in the Global Casino Championship standings. New this year, any Seniors or Ladies event on the Circuit that surpasses 100 entries, will make those event winners eligible to buy into the Global Casino Championship for \$10,000 if they don’t otherwise qualify.

Last season saw the emergence of the “High Roller” events on the Circuit. Six different properties, including the Bicycle Casino twice, opted to include a high roller event into their series’ schedule. All high-roller events had \$3,250 buy-ins except for the Horseshoe Hammond High Roller, which had a \$5,300 buy-in and was the biggest buy-in on the Circuit of the year. The high roller events are typically two-day tournaments. They award a gold ring to the winner and Global Casino Championship points just like any other open gold ring event. It is expected that more local venues will organize \$3250 buy-in events in 2016-17.

“We are excited to be adding a couple new stops to the domestic tour this year, expanding the international tour and continuing to refine each stop to make them bigger and better,” said WSOP Executive Director Ty Stewart. “We want to continue to provide the opportunity for everyone to take a shot at becoming a World Series of Poker champion.”

*WSOP Circuit Event* stops feature standardized tournament structures and payouts, so players going from stop to stop will be treated in a consistent manner at each of the stops – (barring any regulatory or local law differences).

On the heels of successful events that saw a high of 715 runners in Rozvadov and an average Main Event attendance across all the stops at 536 entries, the International Circuit is rapidly expanding. Six initial dates have been confirmed for the 2016 portion of the calendar, and WSOP staff expects to add up to eight events in the 2017 calendar portion to be announced at a later date.

Like the domestic circuit, the International track will feature two qualifiers per stop for the *WSOP Global Casino Championship*. A Main Event winner and the Casino Champion will each win automatic entry into the season-culminating event, in addition to the gold WSOP Circuit ring and prize money from that event. The International and Domestic tours collide in the season-culminating Global Casino Championship in the summer of 2017. There are no “at-large” qualifications on the International stops.

Below are the current versions of both the domestic and international circuit schedules as confirmed as of the date of this announcement. Stops may be added, subtracted or adjusted, both in time and duration. Please review WSOP.com for the latest news and information related to these events. Until actual event-by-event schedules are posted on the WSOP’s website, these events are not official. Each stop requires its own regulatory approval in its own jurisdiction, and the timing of all approvals is uncertain.

The WSOP reserves the right at any time to make changes to any and all events related to the WSOP Circuit.

The 2016-17 tentative schedules are as follows:

## WORLD SERIES OF POKER 2016-2017 CIRCUIT U.S. *DOMESTIC* TOUR SCHEDULE

	<u>TOURNAMENT DATES</u>	<u>TOURNAMENT LOCATION</u>	<u>MAIN EVENT</u>
1.	August 4-16, 2016	<i>Harrah's Cherokee (North Carolina)</i>	August 12-15
2.	August 18-29, 2016	<i>Foxwoods Resorts (Connecticut)</i>	August 26-29
3.	August 25 – September 5, 2016	<i>Planet Hollywood (Las Vegas Strip)</i>	September 2-5
4.	September 8-19, 2016	<i>IP (Biloxi, Mississippi)</i>	September 16-19
5.	September 29 – October 10, 2016	<i>Horseshoe S. Indiana (Louisville)</i>	October 7-10
6.	October 13-24, 2016	<i>Horseshoe Hammond (Chicago)</i>	October 21-24
7.	October 27 – November 7, 2016	<i>Harveys Lake Tahoe (Nevada)</i>	November 4-7
8.	November 10-21, 2016	<i>Palm Beach Kennel Club (Florida)</i>	November 18-21
9.	November 24 – December 5, 2016	<i>Harrah's Cherokee (North Carolina)</i>	December 2-5
10.	December 1-12, 2016	<i>The Bicycle Casino (Los Angeles)</i>	December 9-12
11.	January 5-16, 2017	<i>Choctaw Durant (Dallas/Oklahoma)</i>	January 13-16
12.	January 19-30, 2017	<i>Horseshoe Tunica (Mississippi)</i>	January 27-30
13.	February 2-13, 2017	<i>Potawatomi (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)</i>	February 10-13
14.	February 9-20, 2017	<i>Palm Beach Kennel Club (Florida)</i>	February 17-20
15.	February 23 – March 6, 2017	<i>Bally's Las Vegas</i>	March 3-6
16.	March 4-15, 2017	<i>The Bicycle Casino (Los Angeles)</i>	March 11-14
17.	March 9-20, 2017	<i>Harrah's Atlantic City (New Jersey)</i>	March 17-20
18.	March 16-27, 2017	<i>Hard Rock (Tulsa, Oklahoma)</i>	March 24-27
19.	March 30 – April 10, 2017	<i>Horseshoe Council Bluffs (Omaha/Iowa)</i>	April 7-10
20.	April 13-24, 2017	<i>Harrah's Cherokee (North Carolina)</i>	April 21-24
21.	April 27 – May 8, 2017	<i>Horseshoe Baltimore (Maryland)</i>	May 5-8
22.	May 11-22, 2017	<i>Harrah's New Orleans (Louisiana)</i>	May 19-22
	TBD	<i>WSOP Global Casino Championship</i>	TBD

## WORLD SERIES OF POKER 2016-2017 CIRCUIT *INTERNATIONAL* TOUR SCHEDULE

<u>TOURNAMENT DATES</u>	<u>TOURNAMENT LOCATION</u>	<u>MAIN EVENT</u>
September 8-20	<i>CASINO CAMPIONE Campione, Italy</i>	Sept. 16-20
September 29 – October 9	<i>SPIELBANK BERLIN, Berlin, Germany</i>	Oct. 6-9
October 27 – November 14	<i>KING'S CASINO, Rozvadov, Czech Republic</i>	Nov. 10-14
November 3-16	<i>SONESTA MAHO BEACH RESORT &amp; CASINO, St Maarten, Caribbean</i>	Nov. 12-15
November 11-27	<i>CERCLE CLICHY MONTMARTRE, Paris, France</i>	Nov. 23-27
December 2-11	<i>ENJOY CONRAD PUNTA DEL ESTE, Punta del Este, Uruguay</i>	Dec. 8-11

Circuit schedules are subject to change. Stops may be added or removed. For more information on individual circuit events, including event schedules and structure sheets, can be found at each property website or by visiting [www.WSOP.com](http://www.WSOP.com)

\*The WSOP Circuit Events and culminating championship are subject to tournament rules and restrictions to be released at a later date. The timing, number and location of events are subject to change and all applicable gaming regulations.

### **ABOUT THE WSOP CIRCUIT**

The World Series of Poker (WSOP) Circuit Events are a series of poker tournaments hosted throughout the United States and throughout the world beginning in early August each year, and culminating the following Summer with a \$1,000,000 Global Casino Championship where the victor earns a WSOP gold bracelet as well. WSOP Circuit Events are designed to give the recreational and amateur player an opportunity to participate in the WSOP experience at a more affordable price point and with less of a time commitment than the traditional WSOP in Las Vegas. Each stop typically features 12 official events in 12 days, including a \$1,675 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em Main Event. Official WSOP Circuit events range in buy-in from \$365-\$5,300 and award a prestigious WSOP gold ring to each victor. These poker tournaments are designed to reach a winner within two playing days, with some events even structured to complete in one day. In 2016-17, the WSOP Circuit domestic season consists of 22 stops all tied together by a cumulative points system that awards points

based on finish in individual events. A season-ending *WSOP Global Casino Championship* is held each Summer. The winner of each stop's Main Event (the only four-day structured event) gains automatic entry into the season-ending WSOP Global Casino Championship, as does each stop's Casino Champion – the person who accumulates the most points throughout the 12 official events at a stop. Two players at each stop earn automatic entries into the season-ending championship, with the remaining players being made up of at large qualifiers whom have accumulated the most points throughout the Circuit season. Players who finish within the top ten percent of the field are typically awarded prize money on an escalating scale until there is one player who has captured all the chips. That victor wins the largest share of the prize pool, a WSOP Circuit gold ring and points toward the Global Casino Championship qualification. The WSOP Circuit Events are a regional and international offshoot of the longest-running, largest, richest and most prestigious gaming event in the world, dating back 46 years to 1970 – the famous World Series of Poker. This marks the thirteenth year the WSOP Circuit Events have been held. They were initially established by Caesars Entertainment (then Harrah's Entertainment) after its purchase of the WSOP brand in 2004 as a way to bring the WSOP experience to Caesars-owned properties throughout the U.S. In the inaugural season (2004-05), the WSOP Circuit featured five stops – Atlantic City, Lake Tahoe, Las Vegas, San Diego and New Orleans. Now, with 22 stops domestically, the WSOP Circuit visits 12 U.S. states and cumulatively features more entrants than the Las Vegas version of the WSOP. Caesars Interactive Entertainment, Inc., (CIE) owns the WSOP and the WSOP Circuit Events. Visit us at <http://www.wsop.com/2016/Circuit/> or [www.twitter.com/wsop](http://www.twitter.com/wsop)

This release includes “forward-looking statements” intended to qualify for the safe harbor from liability established by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. You can identify these statements by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. These statements contain words such as “may,” “will,” “project,” “might,” “expect,” “believe,” “anticipate,” “intend,” “could,” “would,” “estimate,” “continue” or “pursue,” or the negative or other variations thereof or comparable terminology. In particular, they include statements relating to, among other things, future actions, strategies, future performance, and the outcomes of contingencies of Caesars Entertainment and the WSOP Circuit Events. These forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and projections about future events.

Investors are cautioned that forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future events or results and involve risks and uncertainties that cannot be predicted or quantified and, consequently, the actual events described herein may differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the following factors:

- our ability to secure all of the locations of the WSOP Circuit Events and the time and place of such events;
- rules and regulations of the gaming and other regulatory agencies that govern the WSOP Circuit Events; and
- our ability to secure a party to produce and televise the WSOP Circuit Events, and or the Global Casino Championship.

Any forward-looking statements are made pursuant to the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and, as such, speak only as of the date made. Caesars disclaims any obligation to update the forward-looking statements. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date stated, or if no date is stated, as of the date of this press release.

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