

**2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season 12  
Bicycle Hotel and Casino  
Bell Gardens, Ca.  
Event #7  
No-Limit Hold'em  
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)  
Total Entries: 145  
Prize Pool: \$43,500  
March 24, 2016**



## **Robert Gil Wins First Ring in \$365 Turbo Event**

**Los Angeles native and professional musician wins \$12,255 in \$365 no-limit hold'em turbo.**

**Bell Gardens, Ca. (March 25, 2016)** — Robert Gil won his first gold ring in the early hours of Friday morning by taking down the \$365 no-limit hold'em turbo event. He bested a field of 145 players to take home \$12,255.

“It feels great,” said Gil. “I haven’t won all year, so it’s a good start to my March.”

Gil is an East Los Angeles native and a professional musician away from the felt. The music studio is how he makes his living, but Gil has been a fixture in the area card rooms for a couple decades.

“I started playing poker when I was 21,” said Gil. “I went to Commerce and was playing \$2/4 stud because that’s all they had back then. I started playing no-limit [hold'em] when it became popular.”

Gil’s passion is poker, but away from the felt, he is usually found in the music studio, earning his living playing the saxophone. Most of his music career is done by making “studio stuff,” but he also plays some live concerts as well.

Gil is married with three kids and treats poker as a side business and a way to supplement his income. When he first started playing poker, most of his action was in cash games, but as hold'em became more popular, Gil began to work on his tournament game.

“I used to play a ton of cash,” said Gil. “But now I’ve become more of a tournament player. It’s just a different type of game.”

The final table was a roller coaster for Gil. Gil started the unofficial final table of 10 with one of the shortest stacks in the tournament, but by the time Gil was down to three-handed play, he had taken the chip lead. He never relinquished the lead and used those chips to take an even bigger chip advantage to heads-up play against Yotam Shmuelov.

Gil quickly disposed of Shmuelov and took home the title and the first place money.

“I was just waiting for a big hand,” said Gil about his run from the short stack to chip leader. “I had taken a lot of bad beats and I was just hoping that it would turn around. It just did. I was just waiting for hands and they came. I just got lucky. You know how poker is.”

This was the seventh of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Bicycle Hotel and Casino. The \$365 no-limit hold'em turbo event attracted 145 players. The total prize pool came to \$45,500 and the top 15 finishers were paid.

The tournament began on Thursday, March 24 at noon. The final table was reached at 11:40 p.m. and a winner was crowned at 1:30 a.m. The entire duration of the final table lasted about two hours.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from the Bicycle Hotel and Casino:

EVENT #1: Truong Nguyen defeated 995 players (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$55,200  
EVENT #2: Jose Ramirez defeated 158 players (\$365 NLH) for \$12,795  
EVENT #3: Eshed Hadaya defeated 130 players (\$365 NLH) for \$10,915  
EVENT #4: Susie Genard defeated 125 players (\$365 Omaha 8 or Better) for \$10,490  
EVENT #5: Zahi Bahar defeated 117 players (\$365 NLH) for \$10,520  
EVENT #6: Bob Bounahra defeated 83 players (\$1,125 NLH) for \$26,555  
EVENT #7: Robert Gil defeated 145 players (\$365 NLH Turbo) for \$12,255

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Bicycle Hotel and Casino's 12 combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP Global Casino Championship. Additionally, all players who cash in ring events earn points that apply toward the season-long race to claim one of the at-large Global Casino Championship bids awarded to the top point earners throughout the season. More information on the points system is available on [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com).

For more information about the WSOP Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter at [@WSOP](https://twitter.com/WSOP) or check out [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com).

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