

**2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 12
Bicycle Hotel and Casino
Bell Gardens, Ca.
Event #12
No-Limit Hold'em Bounty
Buy-In: \$500 (+\$80)
Total Entries: 115
Prize Pool: \$57,500
March 30, 2016**



Valentin Vornicu Wins Eighth Ring in Turbo Finale

Southern California poker pro wins eighth ring to win Casino Champion title at the Bike.

Bell Gardens, Ca. (March 30, 2016) — Valentin Vornicu saw Ari Engel and Chris Reslock win their eighth ring in Atlantic City and decided that he didn't want to fall behind in the all-time ring leaderboard. He won his eighth ring on Wednesday to put himself back into a three-way tie for second on that leaderboard.

Vornicu topped a field of 115 players in the \$580 no-limit hold'em turbo re-entry to take down the ring and \$17,255. The trio that Vornicu kept pace with is still one ring behind Alex Masek for the all-time lead. Vornicu wants the top spot for himself one day.

"I want to be that guy that has the most rings," said Vornicu. "It's up there on my priority list."

As well as keeping pace with Engel and Reslock, Vornicu's victory gave him the Casino Champion title for the Bike. The Casino Champion at every spot gets an automatic berth into the Global Casino Championship, but Vornicu already has a spot locked up after winning the main event at the Bike last December. This opens up one more at-large bid to qualify through accumulation of points.

Double qualifying for the Championship event puts Vornicu in a small, elite group of poker players. He joins bracelet winners Jonathan Taylor and Matt Waxman, as well as reigning Main Event champion Joe McKeehen as those who have qualified twice in the same season.

Exactly half of his eight rings come from Circuit stops in Southern California. He feels that he has an edge when there are stops in this neck of the woods because he is able to spend each night in his own home in San Diego.

"It's just different when you get to sleep in your own bed. It's better," said Vornicu. "I had a lot of success at [Harrah's] Rincon [now known as Harrah's Southern California] and had a lot of success here in L.A and I think most of that is because of that. I think it's because I sleep nights at home. I'm a big fan of the home turf."

All of the aforementioned significance of the ring wasn't the only thing that Vornicu walked away with. This win also earned him a prop bet win against Cord Garcia and Ray Henson.

"I actually had a points bet for the series," said Vornicu. "It was me and Alex [Masek] vs. Ray and Cord. Alex ran pretty bad and didn't do much, but Ray and Cord both made final tables. I needed fifth in this to actually beat them. I was going for that initially and then I was like 'Ok. Let's go.'"

This was the last of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Bicycle Hotel and Casino. The \$580 no-limit hold'em turbo re-entry event attracted 115 players. The total prize pool came to \$57,500 and the top 12 finishers were paid.

The tournament began on Wednesday, March 30 at noon and the final table was reached around 9:00 p.m. Vornicu had secured another win at 11:00 p.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
EVENT #8: Bert Beavers defeated 413 players (\$365 NLH Monster Stack) for \$27,275
EVENT #9: Antonio Esfandiari defeated 756 players (\$1,675 NLH Main Event) for \$226,785
EVENT #10: David Malka defeated 67 players (\$3,250 NLH High Roller) for \$70,355
EVENT #11: Benjamin Bover defeated 146 players (\$365 NLH Bounty) for \$8,155
EVENT #12: Valentin Vornicu defeated 115 players (\$580 NLH Turbo Re-Entry) for \$17,255

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.

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.

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