

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
Rio
Las Vegas, Nevada
Event #8
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 376
Prize Pool: \$112,800
Feb. 23-24, 2017**



Chris Leong Wins His Fourth Career Gold Ring

Chris Leong goes wire-to-wire to win his fourth career WSOP Circuit gold ring.

LAS VEGAS (February 24, 2017) -- Chris Leong has defeated a 376-player field in Event #8: \$365 No-Limit Hold'em at the Rio Circuit for his fourth career WSOP Circuit gold ring and the top prize of \$24,812. This was Leong's second gold ring of the 2016/2017 season. He won the six max event at Foxwoods last August for \$19,665.

Leong now has accumulated 167.5 Global Casino Championship points on the Circuit this season, which should be enough points for him to finish as one of the top 50 point earners on the season. For finishing in top 50, Leong will earn a seat to the [2017 Global Casino Championship](#), where he will compete for a piece of the \$1 million guaranteed prizepool and a gold bracelet.

"I was thinking of going to NOLA if I didn't qualify, but now that I did, I might skip that," said Leong.

Leong plans on playing the \$1,675 Rio Main Event, which begins tomorrow. If [history](#) is any indicator of future performance, a bet on Leong would pay high dividends. In the past when Leong has won a gold ring, he has followed it up with another deep run later in the series.

Leong won his first gold ring at the 2013 Caesars Atlantic City stop. Just four days after the win, he won his second career gold ring and second of the series. Earlier this season Leong followed up his gold ring victory at Foxwoods with a runner-up finish the very next day.

"Every couple of months I'll go through a little heater," said Leong. "I'm a pretty lucky guy, I'm not gonna lie."

Leong was happy with the way he played this tournament. He said that it was possibly the best poker he had ever played. Leong maintained the chip lead through most of the tournament once the money was reached. He bagged as the end of Day 1 chip leader with 18 players remaining. Right behind Leong in the end of Day 1 chip counts was Jeremy Meacham.

"I was the clear chip leader at my table and Jeremy was the clear chip leader at his table," said Leong entering Day 2 with the chip lead. "I know Jeremy, not personally, but I know who he is. I know he is a competent player, so I knew it would probably be us two heads up at the end."

Leong was right about him and Meacham meeting heads up for the ring. Both players steadily grew their chip stacks throughout Day 2. When the unofficial final table of 10 players was reached, Leong was still first in chips and Meacham still second. The two players combined had nearly half of the chips in play with 10 players left.

Once heads up, Leong and Meacham battled for about an hour before Leong was able to deliver the final blow. Meacham earned \$15,335 for his runner-up finish.

Leong's impressive WSOP resume continues to grow with this win. He now has 18 WSOP cashes totaling more than \$185,000. Leong has reached seven WSOP final tables, including making the final table of a 2016 \$1k no-limit hold'em event at the summer series.

Event #8 was the eighth of 13 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Rio. The \$365 no-limit hold'em tournament attracted 376 players generating a \$112,800 prize pool. The top 45 players were paid.

Day 1 began Thursday at noon and lasted 20 levels. Day 2 began Friday at 1 p.m. with 18 players remaining. The tournament ended at about 8:45 p.m.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Rio twelve combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry in the WSOP Global Casino Championship set to take place at the end of the season.

All players who cash in ring events receive points that apply toward the Casino Championship race and the season-long race to claim one of 50 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.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from the Rio series:

EVENT #1: Nate Bandy defeated 1,498 players (\$365 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$75,364

EVENT #2: James Alexander defeated 255 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$18,744

EVENT #3: Mordechai Kirschenbaum defeated 180 players (\$365 NLHE/PLO 6 max) for \$15,124

EVENT #4: Chris Papastratis defeated 418 players (\$250 Seniors) for \$18,395

EVENT #5: Adam Ross defeated 300 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo) for \$21,595

EVENT #6: Kenny Nguyen defeated 329 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$23,196

EVENT #7: Seth Foster defeated 151 players (\$365 PLO) for \$12,231

EVENT #8: Chris Leong defeated 376 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$24,812

With eight tournaments wrapped up, only five more ring events remain at the Rio series.

All rings at the Rio series are furnished by Jostens, the official ring supplier of the 2016-2017 WSOP Circuit season.

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