

## EVENT-GOLF



BUSINESS TODAY HONDA PRO-AM OF CHAMPIONS GOLF EVENT

## Of Pars & High Rollers

The winners of the 2010 Business Today-Honda Pro-Am of Champions lived it up at The Venetian Macao, as potent a symbol as any of Asia's economic emergence.

**T**he recession of 2008-09 turned the global economy's axis on its head. Investors took their money eastwards.

Although it has been around for a while, in many ways The Venetian Macao-Resort-Hotel epitomises this shift. Located on the Cotai strip of Macao, The Venetian is Asia's answer to the bright lights of Vegas, Nevada. The Cotai, an area of reclaimed land between the islands of Taipa and Coloane, is a master-

planned development of resort casino properties.

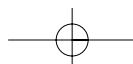
The Venetian Macao-Resort-Hotel and its new convention centre looks set to transform Macao into the continent's preferred destination for meetings, conventions and exhibitions. It's the sheer size and scale of The Venetian Macao convention and exhibition centre—1.2 million square feet of space—that sets it apart: with six adjacent halls and up to 108 concurrently available meeting rooms next to each other, The Venetian



**Winners on holiday (L-R):** Nikhil Poddar (Director, Poddar Udyog Ltd.), H.B.S Gill (Commissioner, IT Dept), Sanjeev Vaz (MD, Vevaa Business Solutions), Anil Mehra (MD, India Today Group) at the celebratory round played at Macau Golf & Country Club



**Taking a swing:** Mayur Kamdar (Director, Prasam Exports, second from R), receives his prize from (L-R) Gene Michael Capuano (Executive Director) and Faye Deloso (Director, Sales), both of The Venetian, Anil Mehra and Ashish Bagga (CEO, India Today Group)





**Bright lights:** (clockwise from left) The Venetian Macao  
**Misty greens:** The participants putting on the practice greens  
**Balancing act:** Acrobats performing at the ZAIA show—the first permanent show in Asia  
**A taste of Italy:** The Gondola ride in Grand Canal Shoppe—the shopping complex in The Venetian at the 3rd floor

boasts a capacity for some 50,000 people and 5,000 exhibitions booths.

Among the outdoor recreation facilities at The Venetian are a mini golf course, and a gondola ride in the outdoor lagoon.

In April, The Venetian Macao hosted the winners of the Business Today-Honda Pro-Am of Champions (which was played over three legs in Bengaluru, Kolkata and Mumbai, with the Finals held in Delhi). All guests arrived to a grand reception at the 3,000-suite, 10.5 million sq. feet mega resort featuring dazzling replicas of the famous architectural icons of Venice, Italy (her canals).

The group went on a tour of the still-charming Macau city, taking in such sights as the A-Ma temple, St. Paul's cathedral and Senado square.

After the welcome dinner on the first evening, a few headed off to try their luck at the casino tables (while the more serious golfers called it an early day to prepare for the big game

of golf the next morning). The gaming floor measures a staggering 5,50,000 sq. ft., and includes approximately 3,000 slot machines—specially designed for the Asian market—and over 750 gaming tables featuring Baccarat, Money Wheel, Blackjack, Craps, Caribbean stud poker, Roulette, Fan-tan, Sic Bo, Three Card Poker, Three Card Baccarat, and Casino War.

A cool (17 ° C) and misty morning greeted the seven fourballs, including the *BT*-Honda Pro-Am regional winners, as they teed off for the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration round at The Macau Golf and Country Club. Set amongst hills and valleys, the picturesque par-71 championship course at the Macau G&CC (it has beautiful vistas of Hac Sa beach and the South China Sea), with its narrow and undulating fairways, hosts the Macao Open, a regular date on the Asian Tour.

It made for a hugely enjoyable, but also very competitive, round of

golf, which was followed by cocktails and a lavish lunch at the clubhouse. The golf, played in two handicap categories (0-17 and 18-24) and on a Stableford format (where 75 per cent of the amateur's original handicap is taken into account), saw V.V.S. Naidu (0-17) and Mayur Kamdar (18-24) take the honours in their respective categories; Sanjeev Vaz (0-17) and Ajay Dadwal (18-24) were the runners-up.

While the golfers battled it out, the shoppers made their way to the one million sq. ft. of retail heaven, The Grand Canal Shoppes—with its three canals, authentic Italian gondolas and singing gondoliers!

The prize presentation took place at the glittering Gala dinner but not before the guests had enjoyed ZAIA, the first permanent Cirque du Soleil show in Asia written and directed by Gilles Maheu. It was presented in a custom-built 1,800-seat theatre at The Venetian.©

