

**Press release
July 2012**



Emperors Palace gains international recognition for South Africa with World Poker Tour

Emperors Palace will proudly host the World Poker Tour (WPT) for the first-ever WPT visit to the southern hemisphere in October 2012. Not only will Emperors Palace represent a major milestone in the continued growth of high-stakes tournament poker in all corners of the world, but will also assist with increasing the local poker market while enticing international players to visit South Africa.

Taking place from 19 to 26 October, Emperors Palace will welcome some of the biggest names in the game. Players will be provided with the full WPT experience by offering seven world-class poker tournaments coupled with the unique opportunity to meet and interact with WPT cast members at exclusive dinners and parties. There will be [events](#) to suit all local poker enthusiasts and entry fee's range from \$550 right up to a High Roller \$10,500 entry. The main WPT event will cost \$3,600 and official satellites will start at Emperors Palace on 12 October. Satellite entry will start at \$200 for the main event and there will also be satellites into the High Roller event.

A prestigious charity tournament will take place on 21 October that will see all proceeds donated to charity. The event will attract both local and international celebrities, poker players and business people who will put on their poker faces in aid of charity.

This will be the first opportunity for South African's to win a full WPT Tournament on their home soil. The winner of the main event will enjoy automatic entry into the 2013 WPT World Championship that will be held in Las Vegas. Entry into this exclusive tournament costs a whopping \$25,000!

The usual mix of poker professionals, beginners, local and international celebrities will turn out in their droves during the week-long event as this promises to be a poker extravaganza like nothing ever experienced before in the southern hemisphere. But it will not only be about the poker as international players and visitors will be encouraged to explore South African tourist attractions after the tournament. Breathtaking African experiences will be offered at special rates for all the players.

Expanding on its mission to introduce world-class tournament poker to new players and markets around the globe, WPT will not only visit Johannesburg, South Africa, but also include Montreal to the Season XI schedule. From 23 – 26 November the international event returns to the popular Playground Poker Club in Quebec.

With the addition of the new events, WPT will now make 13 stops on three continents in the first half of Season XI, which runs from August to December 2012.

Guests will be spoiled for choice with accommodation at Emperors Palace with three impressive hotels to choose from. Special rates and accommodation packages have been created for all visitors to enjoy the WPT from beginning to end. Enjoy the luxury of the award winning five star Peermont D'oreale Grande or relax in the stunning four star Peermont Mondior hotel. The exquisite Peermont Metcourt hotel provides guests with a new contemporary-styled, extremely convenient and "operationally smart" three star hotel. Bookings can be made through the Emperors Palace website on www.emperorspalace.com.

Just a quick stroll away is the Entertainment Emporium which leads to an array of entertainment and restaurants, including Tribes African Grill and Steakhouse, Greek taverna Platia, Indian restaurant Taste of Mumbai and Italian pizzeria Col'Cacchio, to name a few. Whether WPT guests wish to wine and dine, meet and greet, or stay and play, Emperors Palace has it all and it's just a short complimentary shuttle ride from the O.R. Tambo International Airport.

For further WPT information or bookings contact Mary Pitsillides on 082 786 5383 or via email to mary@shuffleuppoker.com.

Emperors Palace supports the National Responsible Gambling Programme. Problem Gambling Counselling Toll-Free Helpline 0800 006 008. Players must be 18 years or older. Winners know when to stop.

Emperors Palace is a Peermont resort. For more information visit www.emperorspalace.com or call +27 (0)11 928 1000. Visit us on FACEBOOK or follow us on Twitter @emperorspalace.

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*Conveniently situated alongside O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, South Africa, **Emperors Palace Hotel Casino Convention Resort** combines timeless classical elegance and sheer excitement. With luxurious **accommodation** in four unique hotels, a glorious health and beauty **spa**, a magnificent **casino** with unparalleled gaming enjoyment, the finest in **dining** options, spectacular **entertainment** choices, a revamped Entertainment Emporium including state-of-the-art Nu Metro cinemas, world-class **conference** facilities, and **impeccable service**. Emperors Palace is the ultimate family destination.*

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