



JW MARRIOTT

MARCO ISLAND

**JW Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort Named Golf Property of the Year by Marriott Golf**  
*Global Golf Division of Marriott International, Inc. Recognizes Resort for Outstanding Performance*

**MARCO ISLAND, Fla. (March 1, 2018)**—Marriott Golf, the Global Golf Division of Marriott International, Inc., has celebrated the JW Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort with two distinguished honors for its annual awards for golf excellence across the Company's portfolio of properties. The resort was named Golf Property of the Year, and Todd Evans, the Director of Grounds Operations at the resort, was recognized as Golf Grounds Manager of the Year.

As a highlight of the award, the JW Marriott Marco Island boasts a successful, fully subscribed Membership Program and earned the highest guest satisfaction rating in Marriott International's Global Golf Division. The property was also recognized for its prompt response following Hurricane Irma, quickly completing extensive renovations in order to re-open for guests and operate its business. The resort is consistently seen as a leader of the competitive Southwest Florida/Greater Naples resort and club market, leading the pack in the award criteria categories including performance excellence for golf sales, round improvements, turf grass conditions, innovative program development, customer satisfaction, and personnel training & leadership.

Recognized as the Golf Grounds Manager of the Year, Evans has spent the last 10 years with the resort achieving record scores in associate satisfaction, an accident free workplace, charitable fundraising and course conditioning measures. He continually produces consistent championship tier playing conditions for his guests and members, delivering a quality round of golf for each and every tee time. Evans also was instrumental in guiding the property through the preparation and significant recovery for Hurricane Irma, which made landfall directly on Marco Island. He excelled through the criteria for this award, including items such as overall turf grass condition, successful large-scale renovation or construction projects, member and guest satisfaction scores, employee satisfaction scores, staff development and more.

"We are so honored by these prestigious awards from Marriott Golf," said Chris Major, General Manager of Golf for the JW Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort. "To have our courses and our Director of Grounds Operations selected over so many other distinguished resorts and course professionals is truly an honor and a privilege. We are extremely dedicated to the guest and member experience here, and to see the results of our hard work recognized is very rewarding."

The award-winning resort offers guests two private golf courses - the recently renovated Rookery and Hammock Bay, a world-class, Audubon gold signature, par-72 course. Both courses have earned Marriott's Environment Sustainability Performance Award (ESPA).

The Rookery, recently redesigned by acclaimed golf course designers Peter Jacobsen and Jim Hardy, now features wall-to-wall Platinum Paspalum turf, enhancing visual appeal and overall playability;

newly designed bunker complexes and upgraded clubhouse with an “Old Florida” interior theme. Appropriately named The Rookery, meaning bird sanctuary, the golf course is nestled in shallow wetlands that attract many bird species.

The Hammock Bay course is designed to provide an enjoyable challenge for golfers of all levels. Designed by Peter Jacobsen and Jim Hardy, the contours, shape and orientation of the course greens are designed with the approach shot in mind and present golfers with a range of shot options. Hammock Bay is recognized as a “Gold Certified Signature Sanctuary” by Audubon International, one of only 45 designated in the world. The gold certification is the highest level of the Audubon Signature Programs, recognizing sustainable communities within the natural environment.

#### **About JW Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort**

Like no other resort in Southwest Florida, JW Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort is the perfect island within an island escape. The Balinese-styled resort evokes complete tranquility and harmony; featuring four pools, an exclusive SPA by JW, inspired restaurants with indoor and outdoor dining as well as event space and two Championship golf courses - the Rookery at Marco and Hammock Bay Golf & Country Club. In 2018, the resort will complete a \$330 Million renovation project welcoming a new 93-room adults-exclusive tower with rooftop pool, award-winning chef helmed restaurant and 12,000 sq. ft. entertainment center. Following the completion of the tower, the resort will boast 100,000 square feet of innovative event space and 809 finely appointed rooms and suites. Located 20 minutes south of Naples and just a 50-minute drive from Southwest Florida International Airport; JW Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort is the ultimate sanctuary for relaxation and rejuvenation. For additional information and reservations please visit [www.JWMarriottMarcoIsland.com](http://www.JWMarriottMarcoIsland.com) or call 1.800. GET. HERE ([1.800.437.4373](tel:18004374373)). To stay up to date on the latest news and happenings follow us on Twitter and Instagram at @JWMarcoIsland and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/JWMarriottMarcoIsland>.

#### **About Marriott Golf**

Marriott's Global Golf Division manages over 50 courses in 15 countries across 5 continents, offering nearly 1,000 holes of championship golf for Marriott International lodging brands, including The Ritz-Carlton, Luxury Collection, JW Marriott, Westin, Sheraton, Gaylord Hotels, Le Meridien, Renaissance Hotels, Protea Hotels, and Marriott Golf Academy. Since 1971, Marriott has been a recognized leader of integrated resort and golf operations, through its award winning business results and renowned service culture. Marriott provides golf development expertise, golf management, and consulting services to a unique variety of hospitality environments including resorts, private membership clubs, daily fee courses, golf schools, and franchises. For more information, visit [marriott.com/explore-and-plan/golf.mi](http://marriott.com/explore-and-plan/golf.mi).