

# BMW International Open 2010



Press Release  
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## Rookie meets old masters.

Super talent Manassero, six-time major winner Faldo and darling of the crowds Jiménez strengthen the world class field at Eichenried.

**Munich.** Just two weeks to go until the start of the 22nd BMW International Open on 24 June. Anticipation is mounting in advance of Germany's only major tournament while intensive work is being carried out at Munich Eichenried. After all, some stellar golfers have promised to come. Matteo Manassero (Italy) is currently golf's biggest talent and he will go head-to-head with Sir Nick Faldo (England), Europe's most successful pro of all times. Miguel Ángel Jiménez (Spain), a three-time BMW title winner (BMW Asian Open 2004, BMW International 2004, BMW PGA Championship 2008) and darling of the crowds is also returning to Eichenried.

The three world-class entries round off the strongest field in the history of the tournament. Three-time major champion Ernie Els (South Africa) and English player Paul Casey will be teeing off as two players from the top ten in the world rankings. Martin Kaymer, winner of the anniversary BMW International Open in 2008, will be pulling out all the stops to notch up another triumph at Eichenried's Championship Course and gain a ranking among the top ten golfers in the world. Alongside him, other tour greats like Sergio García (Spain) and Robert Karlsson (Sweden) will be battling hard for the title – which would also entail important qualification points being gained under the eyes of Ryder Cup Captain Colin Montgomerie (Scotland) for the battle of the continents being held in Wales at the beginning of October.

"We are very proud to be in a position to present our spectators and all golfing fans with such an excellent field of players," commented tournament director Marco Kaussler at a press conference held at Munich Eichenried Golf Club. "Tournaments rarely offer the spectacle of such an exciting mix of experienced champions and ambitious young pros."

Italian golfer Manassero aged 17 is projected by golfing experts and fellow players alike to be golf's future number one. He was already making waves as an amateur when he took 13th place in the British Open at Turnberry in 2009. This April, he was the youngest player of all time to make the cut at the US Masters in Augusta. Manassero only subsequently turned pro at the BMW Italian Open one month ago.

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By comparison, six-time major champion Faldo and Jiménez have a wealth of experience on all the world's golf courses. They will be joined by local matador Bernhard Langer in attempting to match the superior physical strength of the younger players with their huge experience. After five second places, the Bavarian golfer is competing for the 20th time to achieve his first victory in the BMW International Open.

This year, players and spectators at the BMW International Open will notice a number of changes at the Eichenried championship course. The pond at the 12th fairway (par 3) has been moved closer to the green and extended backwards. "A green tongue of the green now extends into the pond," explains Korbinian Kofler, Managing Director of Munich Eichenried Golf Club. "This means that new flag positions are possible that allow some spectacular strikes. If a ball is pitched a little too short or struck with too much spin, it quickly lands in the water."

The fairway at the 15th hole has been redesigned to be a perfect match for the architecture of this fairway. The championship tee-off had already been moved 62 metres further back at the BMW International Open in 2009 – but poor weather made it impossible to play the extended version. The premiere of the new 15th fairway is therefore scheduled to take place one year later.

The quality of the landscaping at the course has also been much improved. New trees between the fairways, improved positioning of pathways and upgraded garden design around the club house and entrance area transform a visit to the BMW International Open into an even more attractive and enjoyable experience. A wide range of golfing events and entertainment in the Public Area will also enhance the enjoyment of more than 60,000 visitors expected to attend this event. The BMW Pro Youth Tournament on Tuesday is an initial highlight of the tournament week in Eichenried. This will be followed by the regular Pro Am event on Wednesday. The players are particularly looking forward to the traditional Players' Party at Munich's prestigious club P1 on Saturday.

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