



Sovereign Bank Charity Golf Classic

NEWS RELEASE

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PGA TOUR Fan-Favorite Rocco Mediate and LPGA Sensation Natalie Gulbis To Headline Sovereign Bank Charity Golf Classic -- Former Pro Football Greats To Join in the Festivities --

Monroe Township, N.J.--The Sovereign Bank Charity Golf Classic, the most highly anticipated charitable golf and entertainment event in Central New Jersey, will take center stage at the renowned Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township, N.J., Oct. 5-6, 2009. The event raises funds for The Forsgate Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting worthwhile causes throughout New Jersey.

PGA TOUR Professional Rocco Mediate will be making his first appearance at this event. A 24-year veteran of the TOUR, Mediate won the hearts of golf fans all over the world when he went toe-to-toe with Tiger Woods during at one-day playoff at the 2008 U.S. Open. Mediate's quick wit and relaxed attitude will surely delight the Charity Classic's fans and participants.

Mediate will be joined by LPGA Tour winner Natalie Gulbis, who is making her second appearance at **The Sovereign Bank Charity Golf Classic**. Gulbis continues to be one of the most popular players on the LPGA tour, and her broad appeal has even transcended the game of golf with her appearance on last season's "The Celebrity Apprentice."

In addition, a number of former National Football League (NFL) players, including such well-known veterans as Irving Fryar and Otis Anderson, will mingle with Charity Classic participants during the golf tournament on Oct. 6.

The Sovereign Bank Charity Golf Classic is the signature event of the Forsgate Foundation and its primary source of fundraising. Since the event began in 2003, the Charity Classic has raised nearly \$200,000 for The Forsgate Foundation, which has distributed the funds to a variety of charitable organizations including: March of Dimes, Special Olympics, Make a Wish, P.L.A.Y. for PINK and the Robert Wood Johnson Hospital Foundation, among others.

"The support from the Membership and the community is uplifting. They clearly participate to support the charities involved, but they also enjoy the interaction with the great personalities that are attracted to the event year after year," said Forsgate Country Club General Manager Det Williams.

“We are delighted to once again serve as the title sponsor of the Sovereign Bank Charity Golf Classic. Through our sponsorship, the Forsgate Foundation is able to provide much needed financial support to several local charities in our service area,” said Terry D’Alessandro, executive vice president & senior retail market executive for PA East and NJ Central.

In addition to Sovereign, other Charity Classic sponsors include Bud Light and Affinity Insurance.

The Event

On Oct. 5, **The Sovereign Bank Charity Golf Classic** will kick-off with a **VIP Reception** and a **Live and Silent Auction** in the stately clubhouse at Forsgate Country Club. Charity Classic participants and sponsors will mingle with the celebrities and bid on such unique auction items as the opportunity to caddy for one of the celebrities or serve as a playing partner with one of the celebrities.

For the first time in Charity Classic history, The Forsgate Foundation will raffle off a **2009 Mercedes SLK 300 Hardtop Convertible** courtesy of Mercedes Benz of Princeton! Raffle tickets are currently being sold for \$100 (and include admission to the auction), and the winner will be announced at the conclusion of the evening on Oct. 5. All monies raised will benefit The Forsgate Foundation and its benefactors. For information or to purchase raffle tickets, call **732-656-8911**.

The following day on Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 8:30 a.m., event participants will compete in an 18-hole golf tournament on Forsgate Country Club’s award-winning Banks Course, named one of the tri-state area’s Top 50 golf courses by the prestigious *Met Golfer* magazine. Both Mediate and Gulbis, along with some former NFL players, will chat with each foursome throughout the day’s tournament.

At 2 p.m., the general public is welcome to attend the hour-long **Celebrity Skills Exhibition** where **Mediate and Gulbis** will display their skills, answer questions from the gallery and amuse the crowd with funny anecdotes from their experiences on and off the links. Forsgate Golf Professional Gia Bocra-Liwski, formerly the anchor of The Fine Living Network’s travel show “The Wandering Golfer” will serve as the Celebrity Skills Exhibition’s mistress of ceremonies.

At 3 p.m., **The Charity Classic Skins Game** will begin on hole No. 1 of the famed Banks Course. Fans can follow Mediate and Gulbis as they wage a friendly “Battle of the Sexes,” competing over nine holes for a total purse of \$9,000.

Participation in Event

A limited number of tournament playing positions are still available on the classic Banks Course for \$1,000 (individual) and \$4,000 (foursome). For those who have participated in past Charity Classic events, discounted prices \$900 (individual) and \$3,600 (foursome) are available.

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In addition to playing 18 holes on Forsgate's legendary Banks Course, tournament participant privileges also include the opportunity to meet and take photos with Mediate and Gulbis; preferred admission to the Live and Silent Auction and Reception on Oct. 5; all of the Oct. 6 events; an exclusive gift package and a VIP parking pass.

In addition, sponsorships are available at all levels of participation. For more information, please call **732-656-8911**.

[Gallery Tickets](#)

Gallery Participant tickets for **The Sovereign Bank Charity Golf Classic** are **\$15** and include admission to both the **Celebrity Skills Exhibition** and the **Skins Game**. Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling **732-656-8911** or may be purchased on-site on Oct.6.

[Information](#)

To learn more about **The Sovereign Bank Charity Golf Classic** and the celebrity guests, visit www.forsgatefoundation.org or call **732-656-8911**.

ABOUT SOVEREIGN

*Sovereign Bank is a financial institution with principal markets in the Northeastern United States and is a subsidiary of Banco Santander, S.A. Sovereign Bank has 754 community banking offices, more than 2,300 ATMs and approximately 10,000 team members. Sovereign Bank offers a broad array of financial services and products including retail banking, business and corporate banking, cash management, capital markets and wealth management. Banco Santander, S.A., is an international financial services company based in Madrid, Spain. For more information on Sovereign Bank, visit <<http://www.sovereignbank.com>> or call **1-877-SOV-BANK**.*

ABOUT THE FORSGATE FOUNDATION

The Forsgate Foundation (www.forsgatefoundation.org) was launched in 2003 as a non-profit organization with the mission of providing support to worthwhile causes located within New Jersey through use of the renowned and historic Forsgate Country Club. The Forsgate Foundation Charity Golf Classic, which was established in 2003, will be an annual event of the foundation. All profits from it and future foundation event proceeds will benefit New Jersey charities.

ABOUT FORSGATE COUNTRY CLUB

Forsgate Country Club (www.forsgatecc.com) is an exclusive, full service, family-oriented private country club located in the heart of New Jersey. Forsgate offers permanent golf, sports and social memberships for individuals, families and corporations. Established in 1931, Forsgate Country Club features 36 holes of world-class golf, including the renowned Banks Course, designed to recreate historic holes throughout Europe, and the Palmer Course, which is a traditional American course with challenging water hazards on ten of its scenic holes. The country club also offers facilities for banquet events and corporate meetings as well as a new state-of-the-art sports complex that includes a fitness center, pool and cabana cafe. Forsgate Country Club, which is located midway between New York City and Philadelphia at Exit 8A of the NJ Turnpike, is owned and operated by RDC Golf Group, Inc.

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