



THE STAR

Media Release

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## THE STAR GOLD COAST DEALS THE PERFECT HAND SECURING WPTDEEPSTACKS™ FESTIVAL

The Star Entertainment Group has further cemented its position as Australia's home of poker, announcing The Star Gold Coast will host the WPTDeepStacks™ Tournament in May this year.

The announcement will trigger waves of excitement with the 11-day event signifying the return of major poker tournaments in Australia – and the first to offer an estimated million-dollar-plus prize pool since the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions in early 2020.

The Gold Coast icon first rolled out the red carpet for the World Poker Tour® in October 2019, with the historic deal marking the first ever WPT® Australia event held in the country and the beginning of a monumental partnership.

Running from 21 - 31 May, WPTDeepStacks Gold Coast is tipped to generate an impressive \$1.8M in prizes and is expected to attract a pool of around 2,700 players, including Australian poker's finest, from Queensland and interstate.

The Star Gold Coast Chief Operating Officer, Jess Mellor, said WPTDeepStacks Gold Coast would provide a much-needed boost to the local economy. Around 50 per cent of players are expected to travel from interstate.

"While prestigious international tournaments like WPT Australia may not be on the cards just at the moment, securing WPTDeepStacks for the city is a really exciting step forward and a promising sign of brighter times to come," Ms Mellor said.

"May is a particularly stunning time of year on the Gold Coast – we are famed for being the go-to destination as southerners escape the chill for the warmth of our sub-tropical weather, so this tournament is more than just a competition, it's a chance for poker fans to stay, play and holiday in paradise."

The Star Gold Coast's state-of-the-art poker space boasts eight permanent tables and 16 tournament tables, all featuring bespoke technology that allows players to register for cash games via SMS.

With COVID-19 restrictions depriving Australia's poker stars of real competition, the stakes will be high with players hungry to return to the competitive arena and vie for the Main Event championship title which will be decided on 31 May.

Additional events on the schedule feature the \$750 Opener from 21 May, the \$2,000 single-day event on 23 May and the two-day \$5,000 High Roller from 30 - 31 May, while seven side events will have buy-ins ranging from \$330 - \$750.

VP of Global Tour Management for WPT, Angelica Hael, said the hugely successful 2019 WPT Australia international series undoubtedly put The Star Gold Coast on the poker map.

"The relationship between WPT and The Star Gold Coast continues to blossom, and the upcoming WPTDeepStacks Gold Coast series will be another phenomenal opportunity for Australian players to compete at one of the finest resorts in the world," Ms Hael said.

Registrations for WPTDeepStacks Gold Coast are now open. With limited seating available, players and fans are encouraged to get in early and ensure they register before booking flights and accommodation.

For more information: <https://www.star.com.au/goldcoast/whats-on/poker/wptdeepstacks>

## **About World Poker Tour**

World Poker Tour (WPT) is the premier name in internationally televised gaming and entertainment with brand presence in land-based tournaments, television, online, and mobile. Leading innovation in the sport of poker since 2002, WPT ignited the global poker boom with the creation of a unique television show based on a series of high-stakes poker tournaments. WPT has broadcast globally in more than 150 countries and territories, and is currently producing its 18th season, which airs on FOX Sports Regional Networks in the United States. Season XVIII of WPT is sponsored by ClubWPT.com. ClubWPT.com is a unique online membership site that offers inside access to the WPT, as well as a sweepstakes-based poker club available in 43 states and territories across the United States, Australia, Canada, France and the United Kingdom. WPT also participates in strategic brand license, partnership, and sponsorship opportunities. For more information, go to [WPT.com](http://WPT.com). WPT Enterprises Inc. is a subsidiary of Allied Esports Entertainment, Inc.

## **About The Star Gold Coast**

Located on Broadbeach Island, The Star Gold Coast offers a five-star hotel, The Star Grand, featuring a spectacular poolside experience; a luxury suite hotel, The Darling, complete with a rooftop infinity pool and award-winning restaurant and bar; a wealth of exciting food and beverage experiences; a relaxing day spa and fitness centre; state-of-the-art theatre; new events lawn; additional meeting room space and refreshed conference facilities in the Event Centre; and premium gaming facilities.

Works are currently underway on developing the resort's first hotel and apartment towers through a joint venture between parent company, The Star Entertainment Group, and its two Hong-Kong based partners, Chow Tai Fook Enterprises and Far East Consortium. The respective 53 and 63-storey towers will sit alongside The Star Grand and The Darling to eventually create four exciting hotel options.

Expected to open in 2022, the inaugural tower will introduce the first internationally-acclaimed Dorsett hotel to Australia. Planned to open by late 2024, the second tower will feature a five-star globally-renowned hotel brand. By then, The Star Gold Coast will offer close to 1200 hotel rooms and suites, plus nearly 900 apartments. Both towers will offer direct connectivity to The Star Gold Coast's other integrated resort offerings and will feature a total of more than 12,050sqm additional retail and resort facilities.