

PRESS RELEASE

MONACO WORLD SPORTS LEGENDS AWARD 2016

The Oscars of Sport

Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th October in the Principality of Monaco

The 1st edition of the Monaco World Sports Legends Award – the Oscars of Sport – took place with great success on Tuesday 25th, Media Day, and on Wednesday 26th October, 2016 for the Award Ceremony with Gala Dinner and Red Carpet in the Hotel de Paris's famous Salle Empire, facing onto the Casino Square in Monte Carlo.

This year the range of award winners featured the names of the world's greatest sporting stars, brought together for this extraordinary event:

Giacomo Agostini (Italy/ Motor cycle racing/ 15 times World Champion of Motor cycling GP);

Carl Fogarty (England/ Motor cycling Superbike- 4 times Superbike World Champion);

Mika Hakkinen (Finland/ Formula1 - 2 times Formula 1 World Champion);

Tia Hellebaut (Belgium/ Athletics - Olympic high-jump gold medal);

Jhong Ukh Kim (Korea/USA - Kung Fu GrandMaster)

Sir Anthony McCoy (Northern Ireland/ horse racing jockey - 20 times Jockey Champion, a record of 289 jump wins in 2001/2002 season and the most jump winners during his career, with 4,358 victories);

Jean-Marie Pfaff (Belgium/ Football - First winner of World's Best Goalkeeper);

Pernilla Wiberg (Sweden/ Alpine Ski Racer - 2 Olympic gold medals/ 4 World Championships/ 1 World Cup overall title);

"Best Values Award": Victor Tello (Mexico/ MonacoWSLA Best Values Award for community support)

"Posthumous Award": Antony Noghès (Monaco/ for having created the Monaco Grand Prix in 1929, the Rallye Monte-Carlo in 1911, the *checkered flag* used to end races in 1931.

The Prize has been received by Yann-Antony Noghès and Lionel Noghès.

The prestigious prize, the World Sports Legends Award is presented to top class sportsmen and sportswomen, whether they are still active or not, who have distinguished themselves not only in their sporting achievements but also in their role as inspiring role models for the younger generation.

The aim is to promote sport's ethical and moral values as an ideal to motivate people, especially the young, to excel.

The award winners gain entry to the Pantheon of World Sporting Legends by leaving their hand prints as a symbol of man and of all humanity.

Tuesday 25th October began with official interviews in the venues of the Hotel Fairmont Monte Carlo, a partner for the event. The Press Conference took place for all media representatives in the prestigious Monaco Automobile Club, followed by cocktails and VIP dinner.

Wednesday 26th October concluded with the Awards Ceremony with the Red Carpet and Gala Dinner in the Salle Empire at the Hotel de Paris.

The event was presented in 5 languages by the international star, Lorena Baricalla, Ambassador and Master of Ceremonies for the Monaco World Sports Legends Award.

A particular feature of the event, which was conceived and produced by Promo Art Monte-Carlo Production, is that of linking sport with entertainment, art, fashion and glamour, making WSLA a unique showcase on an international scale: the Oscars of Sport.

Consequently, during the two-day event the Master of Ceremonies, Lorena Baricalla, wore a series of exclusive outfits created by top-fashion stylists: Gianni Versace with iconic dresses from Antonio Caravano's unique and precious Private Collection, including the famous dress in metal mesh, highlight of the historic exhibition at the New York Metropolitan in 1997. This priceless garment was worn again at this exceptional occasion, and was revealed only at the closure of the Prize Giving Gala. It is worth noting that Gianni Versace only created a very limited number of garments in metal mesh. Genesis Walle, Brazilian stylist in this year of the Olympic Games in Brazil who has created some really spectacular outfits; Didimara, Franco-Portuguese stylist of particular note at Monaco Fashion Week 2016 who designed a gown in a fabric printed with the famous artist Marcos Marin's portrait of Bruce Lee; Eles Italia, with the preview of the 2017 S/S couture collection; Duccio Venturi, Italian luxury shoe designer who produced new creations especially for this event and Marina Corazzari Jewels with art pieces created for this event.

As Monte-Carlo has always been a venue for the most famous red carpets, there were special appearances by well-known people from the world of American cinema, sport champions and VIPs. Among the guests of honour were Louis Ducruet, the son of HSH Princess Stephanie of Monaco, who was on stage with the award winners and the American film producer, Julius R Nasso, who started his career as Sergio Leone's assistant in "Once upon a time in America" and following this became the creator of Hollywood action films with Steven Seagal. Incidentally, it was actually Gianni Versace who designed Julius R Nasso's ponytail hairstyle and outfits for Steven Seagal's character.

Young champions who attended included Charles Leclerc, GP3 pilot and Ferrari Driver Academy Member; Stephane Richelmi, 2016 winner of the 24 Heures du Mans LMP2 category; synchronized swimming competitors Linda Cerruti and Costanza Ferro, bronze medals at the 2016 European Championship in London, 6th at the 2016 Olympic Games.

The Gala, conceived as a great American-style show, featured entertainment with ballet and orchestra, including Offenbach's famous Cancan and a Charleston on the music of the Great Gatsby.

As well, Lorena Baricalla and the renowned baritone Armando Ariostini put in a surprise guest appearance during the Gala when they sang the famous duet from Phantom of the Opera, surrounded by ballerinas in gorgeous opera costumes.

Another unique feature of the event was the creation of the Oscar for the World Sports Legends Award. It is the work of the great international artist, Marcos Marin, who has painted the portraits of some of the world's most influential men and women. Marin created a sculpture which brings together all the symbolism and values of WSLA. He has also created the award winners handprints.

The event took place with the support of the Automobile Club de Monaco, the Hotel Fairmont Monte Carlo, the Department of Tourism and Congress and the SBM.

Radio Monte Carlo was the official radio of the WSLA.

THE WSLA AWARD

The sporting world's greatest champions, whether still active or not, are presented with the "World Sports Legends Award".

The special prize "Best Sports Values" is awarded to an athlete who stands out for an exemplary sporting gesture which embodies sport's ethical and moral values, or to well-known people for their community support through sport.

In addition, the "Posthumous Award" is conferred on great champions with legendary careers or to well-known people who operated in the sporting sector.

The 2016 MONACO WORLD SPORTS LEGENDS AWARD Official Program:

Tuesday 25th October

From 12am to 5pm: WSLA Official Interviews

Hotel Fairmont Monte Carlo

6pm: Official WSLA Press Conference

Cocktails to follow

Automobile Club de Monaco - Salon des Princes

8pm: VIP Dinner

Automobile Club de Monaco – Restaurant "Le Club"

Meet&Greet with the WSLA athletes, celebrities and ambassadors

Wednesday 26th October

WSLA AWARD CEREMONY and GALA DINNER

Salle Empire, Hotel de Paris

8pm: Red Carpet and Photo Call

9pm: Award Ceremony and Gala Dinner

11.30pm: Dance Floor

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