

For more information, please contact:

Mr Michael Khodarkovsky
Grand Chess Tour Spokesperson
Phone: +1 201 317 8581
Email: press@grandchesstour.org

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For Immediate Release

2017 GCT – Event Wildcards announced for GCT Rapid events in Paris and Leuven

The Grand Chess Tour is pleased to announce the event level wildcards for the 2017 Grand Chess Tour events in Paris and Leuven.

The GCT Advisory Board considered both the players URS™ standings as well as recent exceptional performances to finalise the selection of these 8 wildcards. The board also considered local sponsor preferences while seeking to invite players who will bring a dynamic and exciting element to the respective tournaments in which they will be participating.

The four event level wildcards in each tournament will join the six full tour participants to complete the ten player fields that will fight for the US\$150,000 prize fund in each event. The wildcards and full tournament fields for the two tournaments are as follows:

#	Paris GCT Rapid (Paris, France) 21 - 25 June, 2017	YourNextMove Rapid (Leuven, Belgium) 28 June - 2 July, 2017
TP	Magnus Carlsen (NOR)	Magnus Carlsen (NOR)
TP	Hikaru Nakamura (USA)	Wesley So (USA)
TP	Wesley So (USA)	Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (FRA)
TP	Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (FRA)	Viswanathan Anand (IND)
TP	Sergey Karjakin (RUS)	Ian Nepomniachtchi (RUS)
TP	Fabiano Caruana (USA)	Levon Aronian (ARM)
WC	Alexander Grischuk (RUS)	Vladimir Kramnik (RUS)
WC	Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (AZE)	Anish Giri (NED)
WC	Veselin Topalov (BUL)	Vassily Ivanchuk (UKR)
WC	Etienne Bacrot (FRA)	Baadur Jobava (GEO)

TP = Tour Participant; WC = Wildcard

The event level wildcards for the remaining three events will be announced in due course.

About the Grand Chess Tour (<http://grandchesstour.org>)

The Grand Chess Tour is a circuit of international events, each demonstrating the highest level of organization for the world's best players. The Tour was created in partnership between the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (Sinquefeld Cup) and Chess Promotions, Ltd. (London Chess Classic). The legendary Garry Kasparov, one of the world's greatest ambassadors for chess, inspired the Grand Chess Tour and helped solidify the partnership between the organizers.

Grand Chess Tour



325 N. Euclid Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63108, USA

info@grandchesstour.org
