



## Europe's best casino dealer in 2018 comes from Finland

*In a tense final at Maestral Resort & Casino in Montenegro the Finnish dealer champion Matti Kankainen triumphed at the European Dealer Championship 2018.*



Brussels/Budva, 11 May 2018 – Matti Kankainen from Veikkaus Casino Helsinki in Finland was crowned winner of the European Dealer Championship 2018 at Maestral Resort & Casino on 9 May 2018. After competing for the fifth time and finishing runner-up in 2009 and 2012, Kankainen succeeded in confirming his position as firm favourite by impressing the judges throughout the competition with great character and skill on Blackjack and American Roulette. He narrowly beat Tamas Adam from Swiss Casinos Pfäffikon and Gilbert Ho Kang Jou from Holland Casino Scheveningen in a captivating final. After the competition, Kankainen said *“After coming second and third in previous years, it feels great to finally get the gold medal. It was an amazing trip and competition. I encourage everybody to take part in the Championship in the future, it is*

*a great way to learn from colleagues around Europe and experience new things.”*

The 2018 EDC, held for the first time in Montenegro, at the stunning Maestral Resort & Casino brought together a record number of 37 participants from 20 European countries to compete for the title of best European dealer. Judges scored competitors on technical skill, game control and hospitality in Blackjack and American Roulette over the 2-day event. Besides the main competition, a number of side events tested the skill and finesse of dealers with the following winners:

- Best chipper: Tamas Adam – Switzerland – Swiss Casinos Pfäffikon
- Best mathematician: Dušan Jovanović – Serbia – Grand Casino Beograd
- Best pushing stacks: Antone Grauss – Monaco – Casino Monte Carlo
- Best cutting chips: Edgars Siņausks – Latvia – Olympic Voodoo Casino Riga
- Best card handler: Carmen de Lange – The Netherlands – Holland Casino Rotterdam

Per Jaldung, ECA chairman said: *“The growing number of participants at the European Dealer Championship and their ever-improving level made it a very challenging final. Congratulations to Matti for winning the competition, he is a real testament to the great customer service and skill of our industry across Europe. Thank you to Maestral Resort & Casino for providing such a great location.”*

Christos Tsemperas, CEO of Maestral Resort & Casino added *“The competition brought together a very talented group of competitors that competed at their highest level. Maestral Resort & Casino is proud to have hosted the European Dealer Championship and made some great friends for Montenegro.*



*Personally, I am delighted to have had the opportunity to host the competition for the third time after hosting in Serbia"*

Kate Chambers, Managing Director of long-term sponsor Clarion Gaming commented *"First of all, and on behalf of the entire team at Clarion Gaming, I would like to extend our congratulations to all of this year's finalists and in particular to Matti Kankainen the eventual winner. As sponsors we are delighted to be associated with such a prestigious event which champions the unique skills and talents that are required to work in a customer facing role within a casino.*

*"While our primary role is to provide a modern environment for international gaming organisations to conduct business, courtesy of events such as ICE London and ICE Africa, our remit is to also recognise excellence and the exceptionally high standards of professionalism that exist within gaming. The European Dealer Championship does exactly that and the ECA is to be congratulated on organising such a professional and fitting celebration of the casino industry."*

Special thanks go to the long-term supporters of the 2018 EDC: Clarion Gaming, Scientific Games, ICSE, CLS, Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers (AGEM), GPI Gaming, Abbiati and CTC.

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### **About the ECA**

The European Casino Association (ECA) represents licensed land-based casinos in Europe, with 28 members and over 70,000 direct employees supporting local economies across Europe. It has members from nearly all EU Member States, as well as non-EU countries. The main purpose and objective of the ECA is to address and promote issues related to casinos and promote the positive contribution of the industry. To find out more about the ECA, please click [here](#).

For more information or to enquire about interview opportunities, please contact: Hermann Pamminger, ECA Press Coordinator: [info@europeancasinoassociation.org](mailto:info@europeancasinoassociation.org)

### **About the EDC**

The European Dealer Championship (EDC) is the long-running competition organised by the ECA that takes place yearly at an ECA member casino. Croupiers chosen at national level compete against each other in a competition that involves technical skill, control of the game and hospitality. Also taking place are competitions to find the best chipper, best card handler, best cutting chips, best pushing stacks and best mathematician.

More pictures from the 2018 European Dealer Championship can be found [here](#).

### **About Maestral Resort & Casino**



Maestral Resort & Casino is a luxury, contemporary and modern hotel, situated in a unique and attractive location in Pržno, only 8 km away from Budva. This five-star hotel is one of the most attractive vacation spots on the Montenegrin coast, and rewarded with the prize “Best hotel in Montenegro”. Its architecture and design follow current fashion trends in hotel industry architecture in its class, while the atmosphere keeps the spirit of Montenegrin clear sea, and famous domestic hospitality, in whose many amenities you will find your own private beach. There are 181 comfortable rooms and 22 luxury suites with radiating comfort and style, where rooms with direct views of the warm sea colours, carefully selected details and comfortable king size beds make you always want to stay here forever. The gastronomic offer of the Hotel has been designed to be provided in several restaurants and bars with spectacular views of the Adriatic Sea and enables ultimate pleasure even to real hedonists. Guests have at their disposal a luxurious Wellness & Spa Centre which holds title of the Best Spa Centre in Montenegro, and one of the best Casinos in Montenegro, equipped with state-of-the-art modern equipment.

Staying at Hotel Maestral is a special experience that you wish to repeat. From waking up “by the very sea” to having fun deep into the night, a full sense of rest, amusement, hedonism and relaxation is found here. This is a unique place where you really experience the connection between the tradition and modernity you leave with a full heart, rich memories, feeling that you leave a perfect own home to which you have to return at least once again.

To find out more about Maestral Resort & Casino, please click [here](#).