



# KPMG LEGENDS TENNIS

Presented by The Residences At The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Tony Blair Attending the 2011 KPMG Legends Championships**

*Highly-anticipated tournament returns to The Residences at The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman with KPMG on board as title sponsor and guest speaker Tony Blair*

GRAND CAYMAN – (Tuesday, September 20, 2011) – Tony Blair shall be joining some of the world’s best tennis players of all time converging in Grand Cayman for the 2011 KPMG Legends Tennis Championships from 16 to 19 November, all battling for supremacy in this highly-anticipated annual tournament with proceeds going to support local junior tennis programmes and the Cayman Islands Crisis Centre.

The player line up competing for the 2011 KPMG Legends Tennis Championships includes Grand Slam tournament winners Martina Hingis, Jennifer Capriati, Mark Philippoussis, Wayne Ferreira, Chanda Rubin, Jimmy Arias, Stephen Huss and Murphy Jensen.

Mike Ryan, developer of The Residences at The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman, is pleased to be hosting the event: “Having run the event for the past ten years it was doubtful, given the current tough economic times, if we could afford to do an event this year, but we thought it important to try and I am especially proud of our sponsors like KPMG and the Cayman Islands



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Government whose support has enabled the event to take place and allow us the opportunity to continue to give back to the community”, he said.

In addition to the impressive roster of tennis talent competing this year, a fund-raising gala dinner has been added to the event schedule featuring guest speaker Tony Blair – former Prime Minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from May 1997 to June 2007. He was also the leader of Britain’s Labour Party (1994 to 2007) and the Member of Parliament for Sedgefield, England (1993 to 2007). He is widely credited for his contribution towards assisting the Northern Ireland Peace Process by helping jointly to negotiate the Good Friday Agreement and deliver a power-sharing government. Mr. Blair will be the keynote speaker on Wednesday, 16 November at Blue by Eric Ripert at The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman. Tickets for the exclusive gala dinner event, which offers very limited seating, are being offered as part of the tournament’s Pro-Am package.

At a press conference to announce the event details, the Hon. Premier McKeever Bush expressed the Cayman Islands Government’s support for the event: “I’m very pleased to see the continued development of this event. KPMG Legends Tennis is a great contributor to the Cayman Islands tourism product. Bringing internationally recognized names to the tennis courts of Grand Cayman is a contribution to tourism of the highest order,” he said.

Pointing out the community benefits of the tournament, Mr. Bush said, “The benefits of Legends Tennis go beyond tourism of course, as this tournament is also a fundraiser that helps women in distress and supports young tennis players.”



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“The biggest announcement this year that really underpins the crossover between sports, tourism and our finance sector is combining the event with having a great world leader and speaker coming down as part of the event,” Mike said.

He continued, “It really helps the finance community engage and says in the broadest possible way that this is a world-class event that has something that appeals to all different aspects of Cayman’s society and Cayman’s economy.”

The Premier added his congratulations, saying: “Congratulations on gaining the participation of Tony Blair. Such a distinguished guest speaker can only add another dimension and prestige to an already celebrated event.”

Mike also announced that there are more significant changes to the established annual tournament.

“What we tried to do this year was listen to the feedback that we’ve had over the various years about what were the things that people particularly liked and what were some things that we could improve on and how we could really make it a broader event that engaged more of the community,” he said.

One change is the addition of female players on the roster, the tournament will consist of both men’s single tennis and mixed doubles tennis. Also for the first time, local players will be included – with four Cayman players getting wildcards into the draw and two Cayman amateurs.



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“An important part of the 2011 KPMG Legends Tennis Championships is to ensure that Cayman’s best juniors, amateurs and pros get a chance to play alongside and on the court with some of the world’s greatest tennis players,” Mike said.

In further support for the development of local tennis, the Tennis Federation of the Cayman Islands’ Junior Tennis programme will be a recipient charity of the non-profit event’s proceeds along with the tournament’s longstanding charity – the Cayman Islands Crisis Centre which offers assistance to victims of domestic abuse. Last year the 2010 Legends Championships raised over \$63,000 to benefit the Centre’s programs.

Tennis Federation Secretary Geraldine Duckworth said, “The Tennis Federation of the Cayman Islands is delighted to be involved with this year’s event. Our Board Members have already started assisting with the arrangements and recruiting volunteers to help out. It is wonderful that we will be able to share in the benefits too, namely funds to help with our tennis development programmes. Some of our juniors will play in the event and many other young players will be able to watch.”

In addition to over \$12,000 worth of tennis equipment being donated to the Tennis Federation’s Government school programme, local junior players will be in the competitive spotlight for the tournament. This year, as part of the KPMG Legends Tennis Championships, there will also be a KPMG Junior Legends tournament taking place, with the Junior Finals being played as the first match on each evening of the pro Championships.



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“For the junior players to be able to play in front of all-time greats such as Hingis, Capriati and Philippousis will be a great boost and inspiration to them, and hopefully encourage them to go further in the sport,” said event organizer Dan Kneipp.

Executive Director of the Cayman Islands Crisis Centre Renee Carroll-Grate said of being a part of the event: “It is a feeling of elation and gratitude. The economic downturn affects our ability to raise funds, and to be able to be a part of this event is wonderful and we appreciate it very much.”

The Premier noted the charity component of the tournament in his remarks, saying, “One aspect of this tournament that we can all appreciate is that it is a non-profit event, produced in the spirit of giving back to our community. The benefits of Legends Tennis go beyond tourism. This tournament is also a fundraiser that helps women in distress and supports young tennis players.”

The Tennis Federation of the Cayman Islands will be more directly involved with the tournament than ever before this year, hosting a junior tournament as part of the overall event – the Junior KPMG Legends.

To make the event more inclusive and accessible, organisers have expanded the seating and reduced match ticket prices. Over 5,500 tickets for the event will be offered, with prices starting at \$5. A 3-day pass to attend each night of play will cost \$45. VIP packages are also available, as is participation in the fund-raising Pro Am portion of the tournament.



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In a major boost for the event's charity recipients, KPMG has signed on as the event's title sponsor.

"We are delighted to have KPMG on board as the event's title sponsor," said Dan. "Their participation in this non-profit event allows us to raise more funds for charity, include more local player participation, and make the event more accessible and affordable to attend for local tennis fans."

Anthony Cowell, Partner and Head of Community, at KPMG in the Cayman Islands, said, "KPMG is excited to be the title sponsor for the 2011 KPMG Legends Championship. Knowing that the proceeds from this event will go towards the development of our youth and supporting the Cayman Crisis Centre, is a key factor in our decision to support this. We're looking forward to taking part in this great initiative and we are passionate about making a difference in our community."

The Premier thanked KPMG for the company's support of the event; "It's great to see a company like KPMG associated with the tournament. We know that without sponsors such as KPMG such a big event may very well not be possible. KPMG sets and excellent example of good corporate citizenship."

Mr. Bush also extended thanks to the event hosts and organizers: "Mike, thank you for having the vision and the passion to bring Legends Tennis to the Cayman Islands. Not only have you brought the stars of tennis to the Cayman Islands, you have made the event accessible to just about everyone who wishes to enjoy a great tennis match. You make it possible for whole



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families to enjoy this event and stimulate the interest of youngsters in this fantastic sport,” he said.

The 2011 KPMG Legends Tennis Championships will begin with the gala dinner featuring Tony Blair on Wednesday, 16 November followed by the First Round matches on Thursday, 17 November, the Semi-Finals on Friday, 18 November and the Finals on Saturday, 19 November followed by the festive Whites Party at The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman.

All matches will be played at The Courts at The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman.

For more information on the Legends Championships 2011 or to reserve tickets, visit [www.compasscayman.com/tennis](http://www.compasscayman.com/tennis)

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## **About The Residences at The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman**

The Residences at The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman have set a lavish new standard of living on the Caribbean’s most prosperous, cosmopolitan and safe island – Grand Cayman. These exceptional properties are distinguished by an unparalleled lifestyle experience enhanced by the legendary service and amenities of the \$650 million Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman resort. For more information, visit [www.residences-cayman.com](http://www.residences-cayman.com)

## **About KPMG in the Cayman Islands**

KPMG in the Cayman Islands was one of the first international accounting firms to establish an office on the island in 1966 and is currently the largest accounting firm on island with over 230 staff. Our high performing people are our greatest asset. We use our expertise and insight to cut through complexity and deliver informed perspectives and clear solutions that our clients and stakeholders value.

We are proud to have received a Top Employer award and be the first in the Caribbean to receive the Investor in People award. Our main industries include alternative investments, banking, captive insurance and reinsurance, and structured finance, visit [www.kpmg.ky](http://www.kpmg.ky) for further information about our community involvement.