

IT'S TIME FOR SUNSHINE ON TOUR

The Forecaddie waxes nostalgic every February when the PGA Tour wraps up its West Coast Swing and prepares to head east.

Bermudagrass (OK, so it's dormant now and overseeded with rye) and plenty of sunshine (most years) helps pave the road to Augusta and the Masters. The PGA Tour's decision to introduce the playoffs in 2007 coincided with a makeover of the "Florida Swing," which will play its 10th edition in its latest format. There was something new with each of the four stops:

- The Honda Classic had a new home, PGA National Resort, after having been a gypsy at six other venues for the previous 34 years
- The annual stop at Doral became a World Golf Championship
- A tournament on the Copperhead Course at Innisbrook in Palm Harbor moved into the rotation, from its fall date
- The Bay Hill stop was named in honor of its esteemed host, the Arnold Palmer Invitational

Tiger Woods, who is recuperating from off-season back surgery, is not expected back on Tour for the '16 Florida Swing, but if recent history is any indication, it should be another exciting runup to the Masters. **Gwk**

ARNOLD PALMER INVITATIONAL
Bay Hill Club & Lodge
March 17-20 • Orlando

VALSPAR CHAMPIONSHIP
Innisbrook Resort (Copperhead)
March 10-13 • Palm Harbor

HONDA CLASSIC
PGA National Resort & Spa (Champion)
Feb. 25-28 • Palm Beach Gardens

WGC-CADILLAC CHAMPIONSHIP
Trump National Doral
March 3-6 • Doral

TIGER WOODS' FLORIDA ANNUITY

Woods has won 16 PGA Tour tournaments in his adopted home state: two at The Players Championship, four at Doral and eight at Bay Hill, and two at the former stop at Disney World. To put that in perspective, consider that Hall of Famer Fred Couples won 15 times in his entire career. Those 16 victories earned Woods \$15,306,000 in prize money, a figure that at the start of the 2015-16 PGA Tour season would have placed Woods 91st on the career money list. The breakdown for Woods' Florida victories:



TOURNAMENT	WINS	PRIZE MONEY
Players Championship	2	\$2,790,000
Doral*	4	\$4,830,000
Bay Hill	8	\$7,020,000
Disney**	2	\$666,000
TOTALS	16	\$15,306,000

* At Doral, two victories came in regular PGA Tour stops and two were in World Golf Championship events.

** Tournament no longer exists.

GOOD VIBES

Winning on the Florida Swing has proved fortuitous for these players, who went on to win a major championship in the same year:

2007 TIGER WOODS (Doral)
2008 TIGER WOODS (Bay Hill)
2009 Y.E. YANG (Honda)
2012 RORY MCILROY (Honda)
2015 JORDAN SPIETH (Valspar)

PGA Championship
U.S. Open
PGA Championship
PGA Championship
Masters, U.S. Open

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Number of different winners at The Honda Classic and what now is known as the Valspar Championship in the past nine years.

2012 A YEAR TO REMEMBER

For premier champions, it's hard to beat the 2012 Florida Swing. At the Honda, Rory McIlroy became world No. 1 for the first time, winning at PGA National and leapfrogging Luke Donald. At Doral, Justin Rose won to move to No. 7, and he's been a top-10 fixture ever since. The next week, Donald won at Valspar and re-took the No. 1 spot from McIlroy. Then at Bay Hill, a familiar face, Tiger Woods, won to move back into the top 10 (No. 6) for the first time since May 2011.

HOW THE WINNERS FARED (2007-15)

SITE	SCORE	TO PAR
PGA NATIONAL	271.2	8.8 under
DORAL	273.77	14.23 under
COPPERHEAD	274.0	10 under
BAY HILL	274.22	11.11 under

