



WSOP CIRCUIT 2018-19 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Rio (Las Vegas, Nev.)	Date:	27 February 2019
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em High Roller	Entries:	179
Buy-in:	\$2,200	Prizepool:	\$358,000

ALI IMSIROVIC WINS \$2,200 RIO HIGH ROLLER

Seven bullets lead to High Roller victory and first WSOP Circuit gold ring for Ali Imsirovic.

Ali Imsirovic fired his way to victory at the World Series of Poker Circuit Rio Las Vegas. The 24-year-old, originally from Bosnia, emerged a champion in Event #14: \$2,200 No-Limit Hold'em High Roller, which took two days to complete.

The Rio High Roller implemented a big blind ante structure, as well as a 30 second shot clock. Players were provided with 30,000 in chips to start and four time bank chips worth an extra 30 seconds a piece.

However, the most prominent feature of the tournament for Imsirovic was the unlimited re-entry and late registration, which remained open till the start of Day 2.

"I fired six [bullets] yesterday, and then busted on the stone last hand," mentioned Imsirovic. "Then, I fired one more today and this one worked out... The heart of commitment, you know?" he added with a smile.

Imsirovic went all out on Day 1, and narrowly missed out on making it through. There were 164 entrants on stemming from Day 1 and 46 found a bag at the end of the night. Beginning Day 2, 15 players jumped in the mix with a last ditch buy-in, including Imsirovic.

When the prizepool was finally complete, it was revealed that Imsirovic had to finish in at least 6th place to turn a profit. It turned out that he was up for the challenge. Imsirovic caught fire at the beginning of Day 2, quickly climbing up the counts.

Later on, when play was down to two tables, Imsirovic secured a couple big knockouts in a row. First, he eliminated three-time gold ring winner Dylan Wilkerson in 14th place. Next, Imsirovic took out Hernan Crespin in 13th place. The two knockouts pushed him to nearly one million in chips.

Going into the unofficial final table of nine, Imsirovic held a solid chip lead over his opponents with just over a million in chips. The final table proved to be more fun and less serious than most, and an experience Imsirovic enjoyed.

“It was pretty up there. Generally, final tables are very serious. But, most of the guys new each other at the final table, so we were all having drinks, having a great time. Yeah, it was a lot of fun,” Imsirovic stated.

The lightheartedness even went as far as an agreement to show at least one [card] after every hand. All the players abided by the pact throughout the final table.

Imsirovic held the chip lead throughout nearly the entire final stretch.

“Most of the time there was at least one or two short stacks, so everybody was kind of handcuffed. So, I got to just like raise a bunch and win a lot of small pots and that just allowed me to kind of maintain building the whole time.

Eventually he found himself heads up against 30-year-old Poke Pro Asher Conniff. The two did battle for a while, both striving for their first Circuit title. Although Conniff did overtake the lead for a spell, Imsirovic doubled back and then took down the final pot of the tournament, claiming \$96,659 and a debut WSOP gold ring.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name:	Ali Imsirovic	Age:	24
Nationality:	BIH/USA	Occupation:	Poker Pro
Birthplace:	Bosnia	WSOP Bracelets:	0
Current Residence:	Portland, Ore.	Previous WSOP Circuit Rings:	0

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