

# POLO +10 WORLD

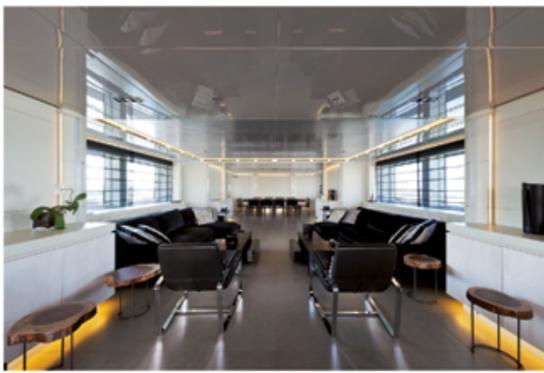
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# POLO+10 JUBILEE

The first edition of POLO+10 was published in spring 2004. Ten years during which the sport has developed at an astonishing rate.



As was the case last year, POLO+10 is once again present at the most important tournament in the polo world – the Palermo Open. The feedback from Argentina was overwhelmingly positive last year and reassured that we want to offer a communicative platform for the polo community that also comprises international editions, not just those that focus on European regions. But this is just one aspect of our current plans. Plenty of new countries are just starting to embark on their polo careers, including Kazakhstan and Monaco, and we have devoted some space in this edition to highlighting these countries.

We published the first edition of our POLO+10 magazine at the start of 2004. Back then, we confronted some doubt as some in Germany and Europe did not consider the sport important enough for it to have its own publication. Ten years later, we are all better informed – including the naysayers. For our tenth anniversary, we would like to thank you for your generous support, friendly communication and your many new visions about the sport! POLO+10 has made friends and partners across the world and follows the sport from an unrivalled international perspective. As usual we look forward to your feedback and comments in future and hope you enjoy reading the current issue of POLO+10 World. •

**STEFANIE STÜTING**  
Chief Editor POLO+10 World

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# LET'S CELEBRATE THE 10

2004 – ten years ago – POLO+10 published the first issue of the magazine, which nowadays also has got its international version with POLO+10 World. A big and warm thank you for all the congratulations from all over the world.

**NINA CLARKIN, POLO PLAYER (4, BEST FEMALE POLO PLAYER IN THE WORLD)**  
I hope the POLO+10 magazine continues to go from strength to strength and manages to cover more events and reaches more people. I think there is a lot more to happen within polo in the next 10 years and I look forward to seeing the new and improved ways people find to compete to higher levels in the sport. I also hope that polo continues to grow from country to country and keeps improving at the impressive rate that we have witnessed in the last 10 years.

**JAMIE MORRISON, BERKSHIRE POLO CLUB**  
*I would like to wish POLO+10 magazine a very happy 10th birthday and congratulate them on a very successful decade in polo. It is a great achievement for a publication in a sport such as ours to be a success and I'm sure that the next 10 years will be even better. I hope we can all see positive and big strides forward in polo and that POLO+10 magazine is there to report on it every step of the way!!*

**KLAUS WINTER, HAMBURGER POLO GESTÜT, HAMBURG**  
*POLO+ 10 has developed incredibly fast and has long been required reading for all polo players. We hope that POLO+10 is with us for a long time to come and continues to provide us with such interesting reading.*

**JEAN-YVES DELFOSSE**  
I support this magazine for the interest that it brings to this sport, which is still fairly unknown and I congratulate them for their longevity and their top quality articles. I hope that this magazine will have a larger distribution and will be supported by its advertisers. Despite of the luxury image of polo, will it be able to draw the attention of a larger audience due to its large media coverage? Let's hope that French polo has the same success as Argentinian polo and that the French Open works as well as the Palermo Open. Tournaments such as the Polo Masters contribute to making the sport known and recognized by bringing it closer to the public eye.

**CLAUDE SOLARZ, VICE PRÉSIDENT DU GROUPE PAPREC**  
Pour votre revue je souhaite des pages en français, des tournois décrits avec plus de détails, parler et faire parler des joueurs, des petiseros, et tous ceux qui contribuent au succès des tournois. Je vous souhaite du succès.

**“FIP SENDS ITS CONGRATULATIONS TO POLO+10 ON THEIR 10TH JUBILEE. ALL POLO AFICIONADOS BENEFIT FROM THE MAGAZINE'S OUTSTANDING GLOBAL REPORTING. WE LOOK FORWARD TO MANY MORE JUBILEES.”**

**DR. RICHARD T. CALEEL,**  
PRESIDENT FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL POLO (FIP)

**RAUL LAPLACETTE (6) AND SANTIAGO MARAMBIO (5), POLO PLAYERS**  
*Congratulations, and go for 10 years more, and many more too!*

**PRINCESS ANNA ZU OETTINGEN-WALLERSTEIN, WALLERSTEIN**  
*Thank you for the wonderful information you give and the anticipation we experience on seeing every new cover and issue! I am grateful that POLO+10 exists and supports our amazing polo community. I look forward to many more years together.*

**ADRIAN LAPLACETTE,**  
POLO PLAYER (6)  
A big hug, congratulations and happy birthday.

**“HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO POLO+10 FOR REACHING ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY!”**

**TOM HUDSON, FOUNDER AND CEO BRITISH POLO DAY, DUBAI**

**GONZALO ETCHEVERRY, SANTA MARIA POLO CLUB, SOTOGRANDE**  
My best wishes for POLO+10 for the next 10, 20 and 100 years! Keep on with the great work you do, giving the chance to all polo and sport lovers to know more and better about the great game of Polo. For sure a 10 goal magazine!

**ANDRÉS LAPLACETTE,**  
POLO PLAYER (5)  
*My birthday wish for you is that you keep on reaching the five continents.*

**KARSTEN WEHMEIER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION AT BERENBERG**  
I have read POLO+10 since the first issue and am delighted that that first edition of 32 pages is now a proper magazine with a 100-page anniversary special. POLO+10 has developed into a strong brand that is indispensable to the German-speaking polo community. The current aim of establishing a worldwide presence with POLO+10 International shows entrepreneurial courage and farsightedness. I wish you lots of success – and well done!

**PASCAL RENAULDON, POLO JOURNALIST AND PHOTOGRAPHER, CHANTILLY**  
*Le polo est le plus visuel des sports équestres et mérite de beaux magazines comme POLO+10 qui depuis dix met en valeur le côté esthétique de ce sport ! Pour les 10 ans à venir, mon souhait serait que la version française de POLO+10 puisse se développer et s'installer en France, deuxième nation du polo en Europe.*

**THOMAS FEDIER, PRESIDENT SWISS POLO ASSOCIATION, ZÜRICH**  
*I can only congratulate POLO+10 on its 10th anniversary. A lot has happened in ten years and I'm pleased that POLO+10 has managed to firmly establish itself as a magazine for the European polo community. The Swiss Polo Association – us, in other words – were one of the first to set up a partnership with POLO+10. Our visionary mindset has proven to be absolutely justified.*

**LOUISE SANDBERG**  
I love POLO+10, the magazine is very well presented and has huge respect within the polo community and shows the real genuine sporting side of polo as well as reporting on significant developments within the sport that are of current and newsworthy interest. POLO+10 also keeps its finger on the pulse regarding the social side of polo and due to its high print quality it remains the only magazine that I consider a 'Coffee Table' magazine, one that you keep for years. I see POLO+10 continuing to be the polo world's premier publication over the next 10 years and it will grow hand in hand as polo as a sport develops further and further.

**RETO GAUDENZI, WORLD POLO AND HONORARY PRESIDENT POLO CLUB ST. MORITZ**  
*Polo must be communicated in the right and sport-focused way, POLO+10 has done this superbly for the past 10 years! Congratulations! I would like POLO+10 and all polo fans to continue discussing the sport rather than the POLOTICS!*

**MAURICIO FUNEZ, PRESIDENT ARGENTINE ASSOCIATION OF POLO**  
First of all I would like this opportunity, which in any case can only be explained by these ten years of work with the Argentine Polo Association, to, on behalf of its President Francisco Dorignac and its Board of Directors, express all the people of POLO+10 my congratulations on your tenth anniversary. We are pleased with the path you have chosen to become one of the great polo magazines in the world and it only takes to have a number of POLO+10 in hand to be sure that this is a clear evidence of reality. Finally, please receive our best wishes to continue confirming your success and to enhance the reputation of POLO+10 in the world of our exciting sport in the years to come.

**VALENTÍN NOVILLO ASTRADA (5), GONZALO BERNAL (4), POLO PLAYERS**  
*Happy happy birthday, the magazine is amazing! We send our best wishes to you!*

**“PRESS HAS BEEN A BIG HELP FOR POLO IN THE LAST 10 YEARS, WE APPRECIATE AND THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR WORK IN PROMOTING THE SPORT AROUND THE WORLD. GOOD LUCK !! FOR 10 MORE YEARS.”**

**FRANCISCO LAVALLE COBO, PRESIDENT OF THE HURLINGHAM CLUB**

**PIERO DILLIER, FIP EUROPEAN ZONE DIRECTOR**  
10 years of POLO+10! Congratulations! In 10 years, you have managed to become an institution whose information I rely on and hopefully will never have to do without in the future!

**UWE SCHRÖDER, FOUNDER TOM TAILOR AND INT. POLO PLAYER, HAMBURG**  
*When I was asked if I would like to contribute a few words to mark the POLO +10 anniversary, I had two things to say straightaway: 1. Of course I'd love to write about a successful company! and 2. , What, you've already been on the market for 10 years?' The challenges of the media world – which are like walking on hot coals – have not diminished in recent years and yet you have successfully held your own. Your close relationship to the players, organisers, sponsors and companies make you unique in the reporting world and you present everything in a high-quality and appealing format. You are one of the few magazines that has been successful at developing and innovating itself. Congratulations on this excellent achievement and I wish you lots of success for the future!*

**JAN ERIK FRANCK, POLO COMMENTATOR AND PLAYER (0)**  
I wish the magazine happy birthday and 10 years more.

**SANTOS ANCA, POLO PLAYER (6)**  
My best birthday wishes to POLO+10, simply that!

**MANUEL FERNÁNDEZ LLORENTE,**  
POLO PLAYER (6)  
*Congratulations for the 10th anniversary, it's not easy to have a magazine for such a long time!*

# NEWS

Current news and facts from the world of european and international polo.



## FINAL OF THE WATSONS AND SPILSBURYS

A total of 20 teams battled it out in four different categories at the South African Championships at the Karkloof Polo Club.

Five Watsons and two Spilsburys were pitted against each other in the final of the South African Championships 2013 for the Beresford Cup. Father Russell Watson (5) played with his son Duncan (5) and nephew Byron (2) in team Mawele. Nephews Lance (+5) and Brett (4) sat in the saddle with the two brothers Gary and Terence Spilsbury (both 4) as part of team Hogspear. The family-oriented final was rounded off by Mike Osborn (4). Although Mawele was the only one of the four teams with a handicap of 16 goals – the three other teams had a handicap of 17 goals – it was able to win against its opponents in the preliminary rounds on Friday and Saturday and also produced an impressive performance in the final against Hogspear.

In team Hogspear, the brothers Brett and Lance Watson produced a particularly sparkling performance, being perfectly attuned to one another: Brett set up the shots while Lance scored the goals. By the end of the match the teams had equalised at 11:11 and it was the number of scored goals that determined the decision: Hogspear had 11 goals to its name, while Mawele had only ten goals because of the goal handicap. And so team Hogspear won the coveted Beresford Cup.



## POLO IN BRAZIL

The São José Audi Polo Gold Cup is one of Brazil's most important tournaments.

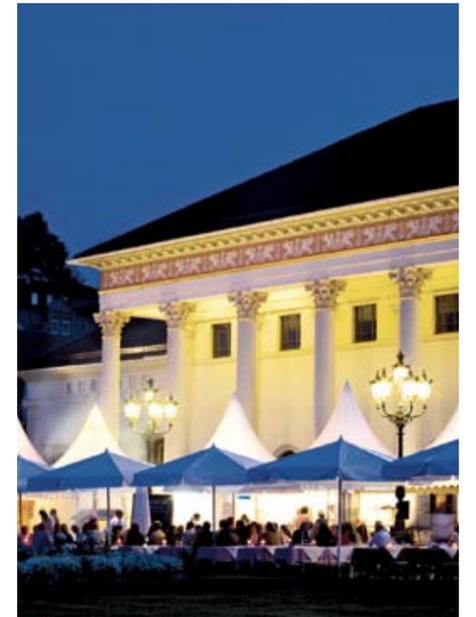
Both teams Itanhangá Brasil Insurance and São José Polo-Audi had won all their previous matches when they met in the final of the São José Audi Polo Gold Cup. Right from the start, the quartet Gustavo Garcia (4), William Rodrigues (6), Jose Eduardo Kalil (5) and Guilherme Ribeiro (3) dominated the game and were always a step ahead of Itanhangá Brasil Insurance. Their victory was never in doubt and São José Polo-Audi secured one of the most coveted trophies in Brazil with a 14:10 triumph. Sylvinho Coutinho (4), Aluísio Villela (7), João Paulo Ganon (8) and Igor Pinheiro (3) had to be content with second place. The São José Audi Polo Gold Cup is one of the highest handicapped competitions in Brazil.



## TAPING IN POLO – FACT OR FICTION?

Does taping ensure more strength, less pain, greater precision and quicker healing following competitions? Dr. Andreas Krüger from Zurich explains.

Medical science finds it difficult to prove the positive effect of elastic taping for muscle, tendon and ligament injuries. Injuries such as these are common, particularly in polo and especially in the arm used for hitting. In addition duels and falls can cause soft tissue injuries. Back problems during tough battles where you are sitting in a position over the pony's neck that you wouldn't normally be in take their toll. If applied before matches, tapes can stabilise, stimulate the muscles and later support regeneration – according to the manufacturers anyway. They can also help to reduce the pain from bruises and swelling. In the last chukka, when strength is needed above all else, an upper or forearm tape can influence the well-being of the player. In acute ligamentous injuries a stabilizing tape can relieve the pain and reduce felt instability. Player Andres "LaLa" Laplacette is convinced by the effect: "I injured my back and it was very painful. The tapes really relieved the pain. It seemed like somebody was holding the muscles of my back. I was able to continue playing with no problems. I would have liked tapes all over my body". Tito Gaudenzi has also used the tapes successfully: "I can fully recommend taping. A simple and very effective solution". Science doubts it, athletes love it – 1:1.



## BADEN-BADEN

Always worth a visit: the world-famous spa town in the heart of the Black Forest.

The elegant spa town with international flair offers health and relaxation of the finest kind with its modern Caracalla Spa, the historic Friedrichsbad and its numerous spa hotels. Located at the heart of the Black Forest, the picturesque town impresses with its wide ranging, top quality offer: wellness and beauty, the magnificent gardens of the "Lichtentaler Allee", exclusive shopping, a host of museums and events such as the world famous international horse races at the nearby Iffezheim Racecourse. In the evening, the first-class restaurants, the world-famous casino, Europe's second largest concert hall & opera house, the Festspielhaus, as well as the Theater and Kurhaus entice holidaymakers to round off a fulfilling day in style.

# ALL EYES ON MEXICO

A new addition to the POLO+10 family: the Federación Mexicana de Polo (FMP) has agreed to become our partner. The association has a long-standing tradition of horse riding and polo in México continues to grow in popularity.

BY MARÍA PAULA FERNÁNDEZ





Charrería is part of Mexico's culture, tradition and history and is a national sport in Mexico. The matches on horseback originated in the Mexican haciendas where the workers put their skills in riding and lasso throwing to the test.



The archaeological area of Teotihuacán. Between 100 and 650 A.D., Teotihuacán was the dominant cultural, scientific and military centre in Mesoamerica. It has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1987.



The owner of the Careyes Polo Club and Private Resort Giorgio Brignone at the annual Copa Agua Alta, one of the most important polo tournaments in Mexico.



Images (2): Federación Mexicana de Polo

View from the Campo Marte in Mexico D.F., main polo field in the main center of the City of Mexico, where the most important polo finals are played.

When one thinks of Mexico, the first things that come to mind are paradise-like landscapes, its people's ancient, intriguing and interesting ancestors, the Aztecs, who made amazing discoveries in the fields of nature and astrology, and of course the country's impressive recent economical growth, offering interesting new opportunities. But the land that produced Carlos Gracida, one of the best players of all time, and taught him to ride his first horses has had a deep relationship with horses since the Charros (Mexican cowboys) ruled the land. It was this tradition of riding that developed into an interest in the sport of polo. POLO+10 noticed how this nation was becoming more and more interested in polo and wanted to dig a little deeper to offer its readers an insight into an alternative polo country that readers may not be familiar with.

**Charros: a true symbol of authentic "Mexicanness"**

There is a genuine reason why Mexicans are so fond of equestrian sports: the Charros. To better understand this term you could compare them to American Cowboys or Argentinian Gauchos. But the Charros are still very different to them. Charrería is part of Mexico's culture, tradition and history and is a national sport in Mexico. Starting in colonial times, this sport, which has developed into the country's national sport, was first played by the workers of the great landlords in the region who developed a new equestrian style adapted to the region's territorial characteristics. The landlords picked up this peculiar sport, and started playing it themselves, adding spectacular embroidered costumes and showing off their wealth. These spectacular horse riders were then called up to join the army and faced several wars with an astonishing braveness that was complemented by their abilities with the machete, pistol, spear and bow.



Polo Clubs in Mexico



By 1930, there was widespread migration to Mexico City and the Charrería became a sport in its own right with its own rules. Women also take part in the ceremony around the sport; every year, the Charro associations choose a Charrería Queen, a young woman belonging to a Charro association whose social function is to open the season or celebrations. And more importantly the Escaramuzas, who are amazing horse women, also get on their horses to showcase their astonishing skills whilst wearing the most colourful and beautiful costumes. Ever since its beginnings, the Charrería has been one of the quintessential symbols of "Mexicanness". Moreover, the image of the Charro unifies Mexico as it does not distinguish genre, social status or ethnicity. All Mexicans have the same heritage and every year, countless tournaments and shows gather the people of this country together in the form of unique and lively traditional events to celebrate their true spirit.

**POLO+10 discovers Mexico**

We started by contacting the Federación Mexicana de Polo (FMP) to find out more. Ever since we made that first call, Lic. Guillermo Steta Mondragón, the president, and an active player himself both in his own country and in the US, has welcomed us and told us about the hard work every polo club and the Federation are doing

to keep spreading the word in their country. Eager to show the world how Mexican polo is in constant development and to present the outstanding facilities of the country, the President and one of the members of the board, as well as the proud owner of one of the best and most beautiful polo clubs in the region, Mr Giorgio Brignone of Careyes Polo Club, actively helped us to write this article, giving us an in-depth insight into what is going on across the Atlantic Ocean.

Polo is deeply rooted in the history of Mexican sport. Polo was first introduced to the country by the Escandón y Barrón family from Newport in the US in the later part of the 19th century. The first polo club in the country, a polo section in the Mexican Jockey Club, was founded in 1881. It did not take the players long to achieve their first Olympic medal in Paris in 1900, thereby providing their country with one of its first Olympic triumphs. The three Escandón y Barrón brothers together with Guillermo Hayden were the first Mexican medallists in the history of the Olympic Games. At the Berlin games in 1936, the Mexican polo team won the bronze medal. After the 1940s, Mexican polo enjoyed an upsurge in popularity thanks to its promotion by General Manuel Ávila Camacho, an avid fan of the sport.



Valerio Aguilar, Memo Gracida, Carlos Gracida and Alvaro Fernández at the Audi Polo Cup.



At the top: The Constelación Aries is just one of many places in the Careyes resort where you can find astonishing and colourful views such as this one; bottom: A fast match at La Patrona Polo Club.

There are certainly some remarkable players in Mexico's polo history, but there are two brothers in particular who have left their mark on polo history worldwide. They are still active players both in Mexico and the US, proving once again that polo is a lifetime sport. The Gracida brothers, Carlos and Guillermo, are two exceptional players who have reached the highest echelons of polo with handicaps of 10 goals. Carlos is considered the best polo player in the history of Mexico and is one of the best players in the world. He has won the coveted Argentine Open five times. He was a member of the second of five teams that won the Open while rated at a team handicap of 40 goals. This was in 1989 and 1990 with La Espadaña. Gracida won the Triple Crown in Argentina in 1994 playing with Ellerstina. He also is the only player in polo history to have won the Grand Slam of Polo (US Open, British Open and the Argentine Open in one calendar year), a feat that he accomplished three times in 1988, 1989 and 1994. But he has even more achievements than that under his belt, including winner of the British Open for ten times and Most Valuable Player in the Argentine Open five times. The Gracidas are also well-known for being top-notch trainers. Carlos has trained celebrities such as Prince William and Prince Harry of England and Queen Elizabeth II has even stated that Carlos is her favourite polo player. Nowadays, they continue to play at a high level, training several teams all around the world and keeping the Gracida name as a trademark of world class polo.

**The fast-growing Mexican polo community**

The country hosts high level tournaments that are beautiful events known for their focus on fine detail, such as the Abierto Mexicano de Polo in Mexico City, the Audi Polo Cup and the Copa Agua Alta in Careyes Polo Club and a British Polo Day, which is hosted by a



Xcaret beaches and its surrounding pre-colonial ruins, located in the Yucatán Peninsula, next to El Rey and Mérida Polo Clubs.

different club every year, all of which attract first-rate polo players. As this country is almost completely surrounded by some of the most beautiful beaches you can find, Mexico makes a perfect choice for those who want to combine polo with a getaway to amazing attractions such as ancient civilization ruins and pyramids, tropical jungles, perfect beaches and cities of historical interest.

Visit this polo country, enjoy its paradise-like beaches, discover its rich history, take your family with you to astonish them and get the chance to play world class polo combined with a getaway to Eden. The doors of Mexico are open to the worldwide polo community!

# FEDERACIÓN MEXICANA DE POLO

With the object of cultivating and fomenting the sport of polo in the country, the Mexican Polo Federation is working at full speed and effort.

PHOTOGRAPHY FEDERACIÓN MEXICANA DE POLO



Guillermo Steta Mondragón, President of the Mexican Polo Federation.

POLO+10 had the opportunity to speak to Lic. Guillermo Steta Mondragón, President of the Federation and a polo player at Tecamac Polo Club. He explained his goals and visions for the future of Mexican polo:

“The polo standards in Mexico are of high quality. Even though we have just 300 registered polo players, we participated in the last world championships and in the championships that took place in Mexico in 2008, we managed to achieve 3rd place. In 2011, we achieved 7th place out of 80 countries that were participating.

The Federación Mexicana de Polo (FMP) is supporting the first polo school in Mexico with the aim of training up-and-coming polo players and encouraging the Mexican Army to return to playing polo as they did in the 1950s and 60s. The FMP coordinates and supports all national and international polo events and we believe that Mexico is an extraordinary polo destination that offers destinations such as beaches, colonial cities, archaeological and cultural areas that have a long-lasting equestrian tradition. Thanks to the good communication and relationships that exist between polo players in Mexico, official tournaments will take place every weekend of the season from October-December 2013 and January-June 2014. The FMP also encourages children and teens to participate in the various junior tournaments in Central and South America. We are certain that Mexico will continue to be in the vanguard of international polo over the coming years”.

Find out more at their webpage: [www.fmp.org.mx](http://www.fmp.org.mx)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011 – 2015

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#### THE MEXICAN POLO FEDERATION CURRENTLY HAS 285 PLAYERS AND 15 CLUBS LISTED ON ITS RECORDS:

- Asociación de Polo de Jalisco: located in Guadalajara, one of the most developed states in the country in terms of economical, commercial and cultural activities.
- Club de Polo Las Anitas: located in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua and comprises one playing field of official proportions and two practice fields.
- Centro Ecuestre y Polo La Constancia: situated in Pachuca, Hidalgo, also has a playing field of official FMP proportions.
- Club de Polo Tecamac: one hour away from Mexico D.F., one of the most important clubs with players such as Carlos Gracida (6) and his cousin Roberto González Gracida who also has a very successful career, as well as the brothers Valerio (5) and Pancho (3) Aguilar and the President of the Federation himself with a 1 goal handicap. This polo club has the highest number of associates and best quality players as well as three official-sized playing fields and one indoor field.
- Club de Polo Costa Careyes: home of one of the most important polo tournaments, the Copa Agua Alta from November to April, this polo club is one of the most beautiful polo locations in the world. In addition to the beautiful landscape and a world-class resort, Costa Careyes has first-rate polo facilities, with two regulatory fields developed in collaboration with the ultimate polo field expert, Alejandro Battro.
- Centro Ecuestre y Polo Monterrey: located among the mountains in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon has over 50 years of experience and one official-sized playing field.
- Club de Polo Balvanera: this club is one of the pioneers of the sport in Mexico. Has two regulation polo fields, a stable for 300 horses, a golf course and a beautiful club house.
- Asociación de Polo de Querétaro, El Marqués: this club, located within the premises of the peaceful El Marqués Country Club, also has two polo fields developed with Alejandro Battro, thus ensuring the quality of the premises.
- Centro Ecuestre y Polo de Guadalajara “El Molino”: located 20 minutes away from the city of Guadalajara, this equestrian centre not only offers one official-sized polo field.
- Club de Polo Bahía de Banderas “La Patrona”: on the Rivera Nayarit, there is a new spot in the middle of the jungle where you will be able to find not just two polo fields built by Alejandro Battro, but also 150 stables, a breeding clinic and a tastefully decorated restaurant where you can enjoy Mexican cuisine once you finish your training session.
- Moranza Polo Club: hosting some exciting tournaments, this Guadalajara based club owns one polo field.
- Club de Polo El Rey: in the middle of the Caribbean beaches, El Rey promotes polo in Cancun, offering a tempting combination of turquoise and white sand beaches, interesting archaeological sites, museums and much more. Their polo field was also developed with the help of Battro Polo Fields.
- The Pacific Polo Country “Los Cabos”: a unique location in Baja California with beach polo and a polo club that will host its fifth annual Club Polo Baja Gold Cup in November.
- Club de Polo Todos los Santos: just across the frontier with the US is located the “gateway to Mexico” – the city of Tijuana – where the club is located.
- Club de Polo Yucatán: the Yucatán peninsula is not only the home of the intriguing ruins from Mayan culture, such as Chichen Itzá, but one can also enjoy world class polo at the Yucatán Polo Club, one of the two polo clubs in Mexico with both grass and sand playing fields, the first one entirely designed by Battro Polo Fields.



# Spectacular world-class horizons

The splendor of our jungle and beaches make the ideal surrounding for the dialogue between man and horse, in perfect balance with nature.

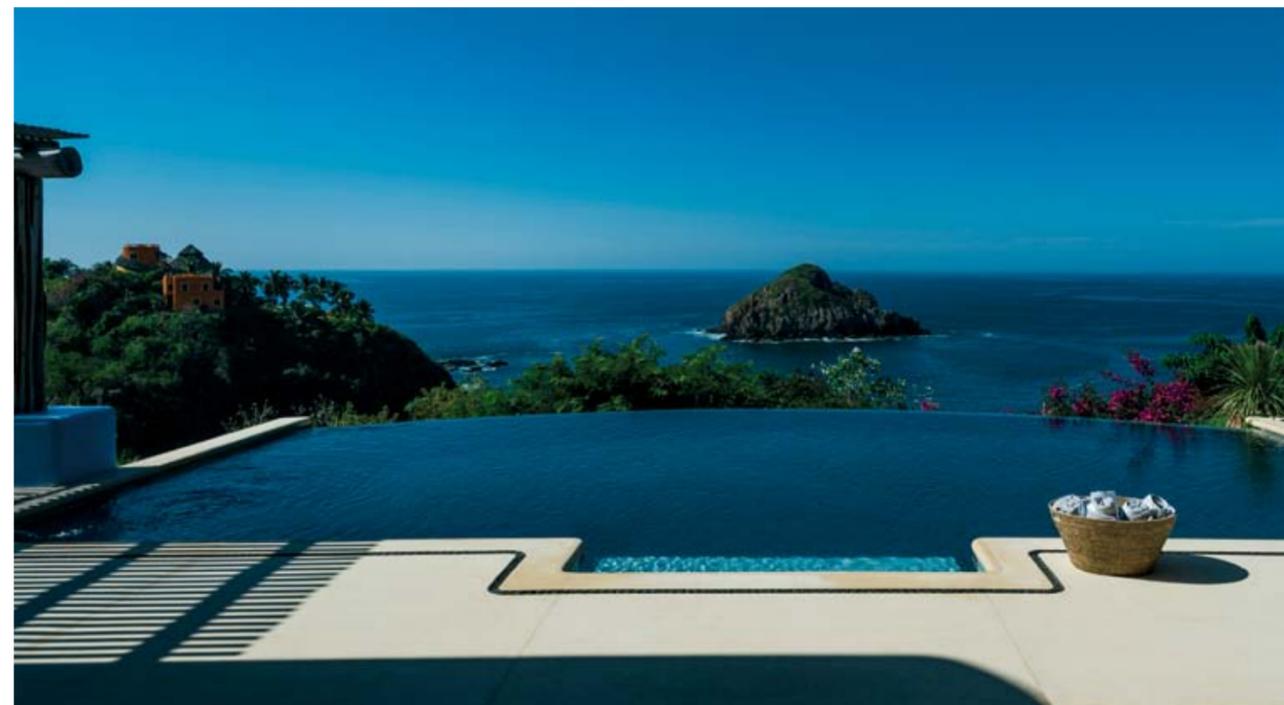


**TIERRA TROPICAL**  
POLO, BEACH & JUNGLE ECO RESORT  
[WWW.TIERRATROPICAL.COM.MX](http://WWW.TIERRATROPICAL.COM.MX)

**LA PATRONA**  
POLO CLUB  
[WWW.LAPATRONAPOLOCLUB.COM](http://WWW.LAPATRONAPOLOCLUB.COM)

Geographic Coords: 20°54'04.01" N 105°24'05.51" W

SAN FRANCISCO | RIVIERA NAYARIT | MEXICAN PACIFIC



## COSTA CAREYES PRIVATE RESORT AND POLO

The perfect combination of paradise and polo — founded by the Brignones, an Italian family of bankers, this is probably the most exotic resort in the Americas and has a world-class polo club that is home to some of the most important tournaments in Mexico.

PHOTOGRAPHY COSTA CAREYES

It is easy to make the choice to have an idyllic holiday in Costa Careyes. With accommodation ranging from tropical castles and villas to bungalows, all of which present you a different landscape as soon as you step out of the property, Costa Careyes not only offers all year round holiday accommodation, but it is also the ideal place for weddings, parties, art events and of course the sport of polo.



Located on Mexico's Pacific Coast in the south of Puerto Vallarta, Careyes has been a trendsetting destination for thirty years and has succeeded in retaining its exclusive and unique character. Costa Careyes has also been an ocean residence for many well-known figures, including the late Sir James Goldsmith, whose family's Cuixmala estate to the south is part of a protected reserve of some 14,000 hectares that is shared with Careyes. The Costa Careyes Polo Club includes two first-rate polo fields, which were developed under the technical consultancy of famous polo field expert Alejandro Battro, ensuring the quality of the premises and stables which house more than 60 horses and employ professional polo coaches on site. At the Costa Careyes Polo Club, which was founded in 1990, games are played four times a week from November to April. In 2008, the Federation of International Polo chose this splendid club to host the practice matches for the World Championship taking place in Mexico City.

Every year, the club hosts the Copa Agua Alta, which is one of the three most important polo tournaments in Mexico and part of the country's equestrian festival. This means that from 12 to 19 April 2014, Careyes will be the place to be to enjoy quality polo, combined with fun and elegant social events such as opening night dinners in private villas, beach barbecues, a moon party and even broadcasts from the Abierto Argentino in the dreamy landscapes.

For more details please visit the website: [www.careyes.com](http://www.careyes.com)



# LA PATRONA

Combining paradise with high-class polo, LA PATRONA POLO CLUB was founded in 2000 and is located in a beautiful mango orchard in the charming fishing town of San Francisco on the Riviera Nayarit – a place not to be missed. An interview with Gabrielle Weber and Ivan Echeverria, the directors and founders of the club.

PHOTOGRAPHY GABRIELLE WEBER



1 The breeding paddocks are part of the astonishing scenery 2 The amazing beachfront of the resort 3 One of the beautiful Arab mares.

#### HOW DID LA PATRONA START?

As founders and directors, we are both artists and entrepreneurs, but first and foremost we are horse lovers. We have been riding since early childhood when we were first trained in jumping, dressage and other disciplines. Our passion for polo was first nurtured and demonstrated to us by our dearly departed friend Major Hugh Dawnay. As part of his legacy, Major Hugh gave us our start in this beautiful sport and we have been holding fast to the proverbial reins ever since.

#### HOW DID YOUR PASSION FOR POLO RESULT IN FOUNDING A POLO CLUB?

A track and exhibition polo field with its own state of the art equestrian facilities was built. The success of this venture led us to create a restaurant lounge where night-time matches and horse showing could be enjoyed from the comfort of a modern facility. The name of La Patrona gained prestige in the polo and equestrian sports world because of the high calibre of the horses and also due to the staff's focus on professionalism. It is both a privilege and part of our thrilling history for us to be able to state that many local and international polo players from all levels were introduced to polo on the fields of La Patrona, a place where we are all on an equal playing field.

#### NOW YOU HAVE FULLY DEVELOPED THE PLACE, WE KNOW OUR READERS WOULD LOVE TO KNOW MORE...

We are pleased to open the doors to our new facilities and land, the TIERRA TROPICAL POLO, BEACH & JUNGLE ECO RESORT, comprised of 500 acres (of which 4% has been devoted to sustainable development), including 150 stables, grass fields designed and built by Battro and two jumping tracks (sand and grass). We have special breeding paddocks for the foals, as well as an equine clinic with a swimming pool for the rehabilitation of injured horses. In addition, La Patrona also offers a Restaurant and Club

House with delicious Mexican cuisine and indoor night entertainment that includes evening games and equestrian shows. It took La Patrona and its owners ten years to realise this dream. We have created a little piece of heaven right here on Earth in the Valley of San Francisco or, as we fondly refer to it, San Pancho. The facility boasts an orchard, an exotic bird aviary and a greenhouse with pre-Columbian medicinal plants. Visitors to La Patrona are awestruck not only by its magnificent natural beauty, but also because of the quality of our horses. La Patrona has 110 horses, half of which are Arabian thoroughbreds. Today, we are the only polo club in the world with a prestigious stable comprised of Arabian thoroughbreds. Our thoroughbred stallion Song Shan from Kentucky has an incredible character and bloodlines. He is already producing Anglo-Arab horses, one of the finest and most versatile breeds and one of the coveted trademarks of our ranch.

#### YOU MENTIONED THE HORSES – DOES LA PATRONA CONCENTRATE ON HORSE BREEDING?

La Patrona is a prestigious and important horse-breeding centre in this country for polo and other equestrian disciplines. It has 10 thoroughbred stallions, including Arab, English and Friesian. All of them have an excellent character and are the descendants of champions. We utilise Friesian percherons imported from Holland for driving, thoroughbreds for jumping, Arabians for endurance and polo, and other specialist breeds for vaulting and equinotherapy. Each discipline has its own impeccably-kept stables and attentive, professional staff to attend to the horses' needs. Everything is situated within easy reach for people who love horses and their sports within a unique environment that is surrounded by its own beaches, rivers, crystal-clear streams and majestic tropical forests next to the lovely Mexican town of San Pancho and the Jaguar Reserve. ●

# SANTA MARIA

A polo gem in Andalucía. The Santa María Polo Club in Sotogrande played host to the 2012 European Polo Championship and has long been one of the most important and beautiful polo locations in the world. The international polo elite often comes here.

BY STEFANIE STÜTING PHOTOGRAPHY GONZALO ECHEVERRY/SMPC





Caption left:  
Adolfo Cambiasso is also  
a regular player at the  
Santa María Polo Club.  
Top right: World-class  
chukka – team Ellerston  
against the United Arab  
Emirates. Bottom right:  
the spectators' stands in  
Sotogrande.



A seemingly endless strip of land on the coast of Andalucía with no inhabitants and very few people. This picture from the early 1960s has changed somewhat. Today, Sotogrande is one of the most prestigious and luxurious regions in Europe. In 1965, the legendary field “La Playa” was located directly on the beach – the first playing field at the Santa María Polo Club Sotogrande was created with the support of the famous Enrique Zobel, the polo-playing non-conformist, multi-millionaire and foundation founder from the Zobel-Ayala clan. Just two years later in 1967, the first polo match took place in Sotogrande. This first chukka was a very traditional and friendly game on today’s world-renowned playing field “La Playa”.

The “Golden Cup of Sotogrande” was played for the first time in 1971 and is today one of the most important tournaments in Europe. World-famous teams and players have played at the Santa María Polo Club Sotogrande ever since and the 2012 European Championship was hosted here. The venue is currently in talks to host the World Championship 2014. Personalities such as Hap Sharp (James R. Sharp), who won for the first time in 1971 with an international team and repeated his success in 1975 and 1976, have made a considerable contribution to the success of the club. In 1973, the Silver Cup was established and is still played today. In 2006, Sotogrande achieved a record with 31 teams participating in the Gold Cup and two years later it opened its extended club facilities. Two years later in 2010, additional event facilities were built and opened and then in 2011, the complex celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Gold Cup with the international BMW Polo Tournament.

Today, the nine fields of the Santa María Polo Club are located in three different places: Los Pinos, Rio Sotogrande and Puente de Hierro. Los Pinos is the club’s main field. This is where the Gold Cup and the spring season is played. The Los Pinos fields are specially equipped, prepared and maintained for intense play and can also withstand severe weather conditions. The two playing fields in Rio Sotogrande are used mainly for the medium goal tournaments of the season. In Puente de Hierro, there are three fields available where the low goal tournaments are played and where training and teaching takes place throughout the season. New stall facilities on a total of 6,500 sq.m. were opened in 2010 in Puente de Hierro. Not only do these provide the best facilities for horses, but also for grooms, professionals and Polo Club employees. The boxes are open and there is a spacious training track with excellent soil quality in front of the stalls. Luis Estrada, Vice President of Santa María Polo Club: “With the decision to raise the handicap of the Land Rover International Polo Tournament we’ve gotten better results than expected as the sports, promotional, commercial, media and club image balance was spectacular. We made a very important step and from now on everything will go forward, so the challenge is also greater. There are always things to improve, of course, but both, teams and sponsors, where very satisfied and will return next year. I think we have made the tournament even more international than it already was. The Land Rover International Tournament was a record season in every aspect. We had more visitors than ever, record in teams attendance, many games, commercial opening days, the balance has been with record numbers in every aspect.” ●



# ASCONA

The Polo Cup Ascona is counted among the most beautiful and spectacular venues of arena polo in Europe. The Ticino polo days honoured the guests from India with an atmospheric Players' Party on Lake Maggiore.

BY STEFANIE STÜTING PHOTOGRAPHY ASCONA POLO CUP

The prickly summer climate of Ticino, an international line-up of high-quality polo players and the unique backdrop of Ascona make the Polo Cup Ascona on Lake Maggiore one of the most beautiful arena polo events in Europe. Uwe Zimmermann and his team won the Polo Cup for the third time this July – 3,500 guests attended and were captivated. There was also huge interest from the media with six TV broadcasters and various newspapers in attendance. Event organiser Uwe Zimmermann who won the – quite literally – hotly contested final in temperatures of 35 degrees with his team Styger Partner-Podium Swiss was pleased with the “beautiful, fast-paced and accident-free polo” on all playing days. Team Andermatt Swiss Alps – Bentley Lugano was in second place, while last year's winner Julius Bär achieved third place against Giordano – Poroli Special Boats.

The highlight of the Ticino polo days in Ascona was the atmospheric Players' Party on Lake Maggiore which had an Indian theme to honour guests from India. Most of the decoration, such as on the entrance gate, used material shipped directly from Jaipur. Decorative elephants and lamps were contributed by Globus Schweiz, while original Indian food was created by Giordano. Unfortunately the Maharajah of Jaipur had to cancel his attendance at short notice, but a representative from the Indian embassy in Bern as well as the FIP Ambassador for India, Vikram Rathore – who played as team-captain for team Giardino-Poroli – attended. Well-known faces from radio and television have been amongst the fans and visitors to the Polo Cup in Ascona since its very beginnings.

A falcon display on the polo field and firework display in the darkened arena were some of the other highlights of the programme. Uwe Zimmermann: “What we value and look for in all events is a cosy and friendly atmosphere. This is something we saw so successfully created in Ascona and we're very happy about this”. The little ones also got in the saddle in aid of a charity project in India. On Saturday morning, players met to take part in the traditional parade in the picturesque town of Ascona. Uwe Zimmermann,



1 Dr Piero Dillier has been involved since the first time the Ascona Polo Cup took place 2 The little ones also took part once again in a show match 3 Philipp Zimmermann (left) with guests from India.

who has long been known for his international polo visions, still has a lot of plans. One of his new events was the Viareggio Beach Polo Cup in October and 2014 he plans to set up further new polo tournaments in Sweden, Germany and Brazil.

[www.poloclubascona.com](http://www.poloclubascona.com).



# A DREAM OF MONACO

Francesco Mitrano has a dream. The Italian polo player and businessman, who lives in Monaco, has always wanted to bring polo to the sparkling kingdom on the Cote d'Azur. In 2013, his dream became reality.

PHOTOGRAPHY MARINA MISSBACH

# HEAR THEIR STORIES. YOU'LL KNOW WHY YOU SIGNED.

*THE THREAT IS REAL. THE TIME IS NOW.*

You play polo for the wind in your hair, the sun on your face, the speed, the power and the thrill of competition. It is a passion that drives your life. But it is at risk. As long as nations continue to test, develop and stockpile nuclear weapons, all of our passions will exist under the cloud of the nuclear threat. A civilized world should be moving away from nuclear disaster, not towards it. And now you can help create a nuclear-weapons-free world by lending your voice to The ATOM Project.

Sign the petition at [theATOMproject.org](http://theATOMproject.org) and tell the world's leaders you demand a world free from nuclear weapons, a world free to wake up to dew-covered pitches, to the power of an ancient game and to the passions that drive us all.



**UNITED WE COUNT**

✕ [theATOMproject.org](http://theATOMproject.org)



1 VIPs at the new pologround in Monaco 2 Breathtaking fashion statements 3 Fast polo was guaranteed through the high quality of soil and grass 4 Title sponsor Marina Missbach 5 Organiser and polo player Francesco Mitrano 6 Happy end of a competitive day and the polo première in Monaco.

"It seemed obvious to me that Monaco was the perfect venue to stage this glamorous and prestigious event. We will be bringing a very high-end sport and supporters to the Principality which will benefit every-one", said Francesco, who has played polo across the world. In Monaco he found the perfect place for polo in Beausoleil, just five minutes away from Monte Carlo. Not an easy task in Monaco.

The construction of the playing field took place almost overnight – lawns and an infrastructure for horses, players and spectators was created in record time. Gazebos, stands, lodges and tents for VIPs, sponsors and their guests were also built. Many areas in the stadium are reserved for the public, who had free access to attend the matches. "For this first 3-day match in Monaco we had four teams with handicap 6/8, competing for the Missbach Diamond Cup. The players from Italy, France, England and Argentina were all of international standard". When Francesco Mitrano talks about the preparations for the first polo tournament in Monaco, it sounds almost like a mystery story. After the preparations for the tournament were successfully completed in the shortest possible time, there was a problem: a number of wild pigs descended on the fresh green lawn shortly before the big day at the beginning of August. An electric fence now separates the hungry wild pigs from

the polo complex. "A disaster, we weren't sure if we could repair the damage in time". But they did not only accomplish this mission, they also managed to get Prince Albert of Monaco as patron for the first polo tournament in Monaco, and he approved the closure of the traditional square in front of the casino for a large parade of polo players in the heart of Monte Carlo. "We are deeply honoured that HSH Prince Albert has given us his High Patronage", says Francesco, President of the Monte Carlo Polo Club.

As suggested by HSH Prince Albert of Monaco, the Charity Association Ecoute Cancer Reconfort was associated with the Monte-Carlo Polo Tournament. "In 1992 Martine Vaccarezza, Mado Small, Theresa Menclaraglia and Philippe Ballerio established the Ecoute Cancer Reconfort Association under the Honorary Presidency of HSH Princess Stephanie to provide support and care to people with cancer", says the president of the association, Ms Adeline Garino. Francesco Mitrano wants to continue making his dreams of international polo in Monaco a reality in future. Preparations are already underway for one or even several tournaments in 2014 and together with Benjamin Polledo from Milan he is about to establish a polo school in Monaco.

[www.montecarlopoloclub.mc](http://www.montecarlopoloclub.mc)

# WORLD CUP BAKU

M. Ahadpur Khangah certainly had an ambitious idea when he began to plan the first professional polo event in Azerbaijan. He has a clear vision of the future of polo in Azerbaijan and plans to build a new polo club with at least two fields.

BY STEFANIE STÜTING PHOTOGRAPHY WORLD POLO/IRIS HADRAT



M. Ahadpur Khangah certainly had an ambitious idea when he began to plan the first professional polo event in Azerbaijan. The vibrant city on the Caspian Sea is one of the places where an ancient form of polo called "chovgan" was played 3,000 years ago. Under the motto "Bringing Polo Home", M. Ahadpur Khangah, an Azerbaijani entrepreneur and owner of the title sponsor Milla, has shown in an impressive way that Azerbaijan is ready to play the modern version of the fast-paced sport.

And the weekend proved it: polo has come home to Baku – and Azerbaijan celebrated it in style. A total of 250,000 euros prize money was up for grabs at the Arena Polo World Cup Azerbaijan – much more than any other tournament on the European continent. There's no question about it: this incentive certainly increased the competitiveness of the matches. The enthusiastic spectators (10,000 visitors on three days) supported the teams loudly and saw world-class matches. Baku produced the finest polo. Reto Gaudenzi (World Polo), the polo visionary from Switzerland, organised the major polo debut in Baku in cooperation with the respective teams from World Polo and local partners perfectly. He has already organised tournaments all over the world. The three-day tournament was financed by Azerbaijan food firm Milla and team sponsors Chopard, Bentley, Montblanc and Baltika 7. World Polo and its local partners Tatyana Sulzenbacher (event organiser from Milla Az FPCo.), Etibar Quliyev (Managing Director Elite Horse Club) and Bahruz Nabiyev (General Secretary ARAF) were responsible for the implementation and organisation of the event. Reto Gaudenzi has years of experience in the world of polo and drafted the entire concept and planning for the tournament. 520 TV stations across the world reported from the first Arena Polo World Cup Azerbaijan. And all the players agreed on one thing: the conditions for playing polo were ideal, on the one hand for the players as they had a perfectly maintained field at their disposal and on the other hand for the visitors as they could follow the matches closely and see each individual move at close quarters. The view of the playing field was perfect as the spectators were sitting on stands directly above the arena.

Shortly before the big final on Sunday, the spectators were witness to an historic moment. Two teams, comprising of polo players and chovgan players from Azerbaijan, played a friendly match and combined the old and new version of traditional polo. M. Ahadpur Khangah has a clear vision of the future of polo in Azerbaijan: he plans to build a new polo club with at least two fields. "We have the 48 hectares we need to build the club complex. This year, we will set up a national team that will be trained in Argentina as well as here in Baku by professional coaches". He is very quick to say where he wants to see his polo team in a few years. "The Azerbaijan people have the sport, horses and ambition for competition in their genes. My aim is to make the Azerbaijan polo team the top team in the world. We were very restricted by the Soviets – and now the country is returning to its traditional roots and passions such as polo, which we have known as chovgan for hundreds of years". Baku is ready to play an important role in the world of polo. And the adventurous spirit of modern Baku suits this game to a tee. Representatives from other sponsors of the first Arena Polo World Cup Azerbaijan are inspired by the facility Reto Gaudenzi has created in Baku. Xavier Lasserre, Manager at Chopard



A total of 250,000 euros prize money was up for grabs at the Arena Polo World Cup Azerbaijan. Left: Organiser Reto Gaudenzi. Right bottom: Team Europe won the final with a golden goal of Thomas Winter from Hamburg/Germany.

Europe, headquartered in Geneva: "We expected decent organisation, but we're very impressed at how perfectly the tournament and programme have been organised". Chopard presented four Mille Miglia watches to the winning team. "Following this great success, we are very positive about continuing to play a part in the Arena Polo World Cup Azerbaijan", says Lasserre. Richard Caleel, President of the Federation of International Polo (FIP), was also inspired by the polo debut in Baku: "I'm really impressed at the high standard of the whole tournament". There was excitement in the air as the Teams Europe with Thomas Winter (6), Heinrich Dumrath (4) and Raul Laplacette (7) and Argentina with Adrian Laplacette (6), Manolo Fernandez Llorente (7) and Agustin Kronhaus (4) took part in the historic final of the Arena Polo World Cup Azerbaijan and the 100,000 euro prize money. Such an exciting final does not come along very often, with both teams chasing goals as though their lives depended on it. The battle for victory ended with an extra chukka and "sudden death". Thomas Winter from Hamburg scored the golden goal for Europe/Baltika. The spectators celebrated the team's success over the excellent players from Team Argentina/Chopard.

# POLO HISTORY IN KAZAKHSTAN

As polo game continues being the pinnacle of sport, Kazakhstan which is known for its nomadic past has established Presidential Professional Sport Club "Astana" offering comprehensive program of activities and among them polo.

BY JULIA RUTZ



The grand opening ceremony took place in Astana on the 4th of June 2012. Supported by "Samruk-Kazyna" National Welfare Fund, the Club united the best Kazakhstani sports clubs under its brand, including "ProTeamAstana" cycling team, "Barys" hockey club, "Astana Dakar Team" rally team, as well as boxers of "Astana Arlans". Listed among such renowned names of Kazakhstan sports, Kazakhstan Polo Federation seems to be a worthy member of the Presidential Professional Sport Club "Astana" family. According to the head of Kazakhstan Polo Federation, Mr. Daniyar Kikbayev polo became part of the President's Club not only because of the importance and prestige this sport gained in the world but also because of the encouraging perspectives Kazakhstan has in this sport. "Kazakhstan is historically known as a nomadic nation and horses played a key role in our life. We want to join world polo industry in order to develop the potential we have and provide the possibility for young Kazakhstani people who live in rural areas to improve their social status by competing with Argentinean and British grooms.", Mr Kikbayev explained.

"At the moment, the process of formation the federation as a unified structure is not completed yet, this is due to the creation of our



Kazakhstan is historically known as a nomadic nation and horses played a key role in life.

own sports training facilities and finding coaching staff to work there which means that the federation should be regarded as a promising social and sport project. We have held numerous meetings with regional authorities and sports organizations representatives who have supported the project and expressed their willingness to work in this direction," Mr Kikbayev said. Creation of at least six regional polo clubs and schools, ongoing negotiations with experienced coaches and instructors as well as professional training of polo players are the high-priority tasks for Kazakhstan Polo Federation at the moment.

"As the training process is a crucial issue for us we are going to negotiate with polo clubs abroad in order to train our sportsmen there. However, once we establish our own polo clubs all the training courses will be held in Kazakhstan," Mr. Kikbayev added. The head of the Kazakhstan polo federation expressed his hopes about a good influence the development of polo will have on tourism in Kazakhstan. "We have quite good resort areas where we would like to establish the first polo clubs. Polo players use to be adventurous people who are open for explorations. I am sure we will attract many well-known polo players to try playing polo in

the steppes of Kazakhstan and get to know this unique and picturesque country." Looking back in history, Kazakhs have domesticated horses as far back as approximately four thousand years ago. The legend says that the wild horse was first domesticated by the ancestors of modern Kazakhs. Moreover, in order to ride a horse, the ancient nomads have invented stirrups and the saddle. There are dozens of traditional Kazakh horse games, with deep histories. The rules of the games used to describe the challenges and hardships of nomadic life on the Kazakh land.

One of the most favourites are Bayga and Kokpar. Bayga is a long distance horse riding to demonstrate the stamina of both the horse and the horseman. Kokpar was the main attraction of any important event, like Nauryz, which is also known as the New Year celebrated on March 22nd among Central Asian nations. The main idea of the game is to fend off opponents and carry the beheaded goat carcass into your own goal. It is worthy to note that some historian do not rule out the fact that polo, which is now widely spread in the Western world, has its origins in Central Asia. So that the nomadic past and sufficient human resources seem to be a formula of success Kazakhstan will use on its way to the world of polo. ●



The Kazakh people paid dearly for their Soviet arsenal. The 18,500 square kilometre Semipalatinsk Test Site in eastern Kazakhstan was Moscow's main nuclear testing ground for decades. More than 450 nuclear tests were conducted over 40 years, casting nuclear fallout across a huge swathe of the Kazakh steppe.

# HOPE FOR THE WORLD

After suffering more than 450 nuclear explosions on their land and inheriting the terrible fruits of that violence – a nuclear treasure chest bigger than the combined arsenals of China, France and the U.K. at the time – the people of Kazakhstan chose to be an example of humanity rather than cynicism or vengeance.

BY MICHELLE WITTE PHOTOGRAPHY KAZAKHSTAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



“LET US NOT REPEAT THE MISTAKES OF THE PAST! I CALL ON ALL PEOPLE TO HELP STOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING AROUND THE WORLD!”

KARIPBEK KUYUKOV, artist and anti-nuclear weapons activist

With the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991, Kazakhstan came into being, complete with a collapsed economy, but more than 1,400 nuclear warheads plus the delivery systems to use them, a valuable commodity for a new and impoverished nation. Yet under the leadership of President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan chose instead to reach out to the international community and begin, almost from the moment of its independence, the process of ridding the country of all its nuclear warheads over a period of four years. “In the entire world, there is only one politician who is really credible in terms of nuclear disarmament and that’s Nazarbayev”, said the German Ambassador to Kazakhstan Guido Herz earlier this year. “Because he has acted – he has had nuclear arms and he has given them up completely”.

Not only did Kazakhstan have weapons in its possession, but also nuclear material; in particular, enough poorly stored weapons-grade uranium to make two dozen more nuclear weapons. The existence of this volatile uranium was largely unknown to the international community. However, through Kazakhstan’s efforts with international partners, the dangerous material was quietly safeguarded and removed for downblending and use in peaceful nuclear energy production in the United States.

The Kazakh people have paid dearly for their Soviet arsenal. The 18,500 square kilometre Semipalatinsk Test Site in eastern Kazakhstan was Moscow’s main nuclear testing ground for decades. More than 450 nuclear tests were conducted over 40 years, casting nuclear fallout across a huge swathe of the Kazakh steppe. These fireworks came at a terrible price. More than 20 years since the last test was conducted, the people of Semey, as Semipalatinsk is now called, and the surrounding region still suffer from high rates of cancers, other diseases and birth defects, all of which are recurring generation after generation in those who were exposed and now also in their children. Today, the government of Kazakhstan invests in on-going testing of the ground and water to assess what areas might be or become safe for agricultural use in the ecologically shattered region.

From among those who have suffered the most from the era of Soviet nuclear testing has risen one of the heroes of the anti-nuclear-testing and proliferation movement in Kazakhstan, the artist and activist Karipbek Kuyukov. Kuyukov was born in Yegyndybulak Village, about 60 miles from the Semipalatinsk Test Site, to parents who used to climb up the hill near their village to better see the beautiful explosions the tests created. Born without arms, his parents sent him away to a special school for disabled children in Russia, hoping he could get prosthetics. But Kuyukov could never get used to the prosthetic arms. He studied finance, using his mouth, feet and legs to write – and began to paint. ‘I’ve loved to draw since my early childhood’, Kuyukov says. However, overcoming his own physical limitations and fulfilling his own creative drive was not enough for him. Kuyukov returned to Kazakhstan and in 1989, at age 21, joined the ground-breaking Nevada-Semipalatinsk movement started by Kazakh poet Olzhas Suleimenov, who interrupted a televised reading of his poetry to break the news to his countrymen about what was being done in their midst. Two days later, 5,000 people gathered for the first meeting of the movement. Nevada-Semipalatinsk made it its mission to seek an end to nuclear tests at both the Semipalatinsk Test Site and the Nevada Test Site, the United States’ major nuclear testing ground, stop weapons production, study the human and environmental damage done by the



Honorary ATOM Project Ambassador, artist and anti-nuclear weapons activist Karipbek Kuyukov was named one of the 100 most influential people in armed violence reduction by the British organisation Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) in 2013. “I think it is important to show people the dreadful consequences of nuclear testing. But honestly, I don’t like to show this pain and horror. I would rather paint our stunning nature, endless steppe and beautiful mountains”.

tests and act in solidarity with other anti-nuclear movements. Two years later on 29 August 1991, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, bolstered by the voices of that movement and of the desires of his country’s citizens, made the courageous decision to stand up to the still powerful Soviet government in Moscow and close the Semipalatinsk Test Site. It was the first nuclear test site anywhere on the planet to be closed.

But Nazarbayev and the people of Kazakhstan didn’t stop with their own nation, their own stockpile and just their own well-being. Instead, over the past 20 years, the country has been a major force for anti-nuclear-testing efforts and anti-proliferation measures around the world. Kazakhstan has ratified the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and, in September 1996, became one of the first signatories to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. In July 2006, Kazakhstan also became one of the founding members, along with the U.S. and Russia, of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. And in September 2006, with Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan created the Central Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (CANWFZ).

In 2009, on Kazakhstan’s initiative, the UN International Day Against Nuclear Tests was established on 29 August, a date chosen to mark the closure of the Semipalatinsk site. Kazakhstan’s path from independence toward prosperity has also been a march in support of peace, rational thinking and rapprochement. In addition to its leadership in anti-proliferation treaties and organizations, the country seeks to address the causes of violence, hatred and fear. Kazakhstan convened the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions for the first time in 2003 to promote dialogue among world religions. The congress now meets at least every three years in an effort to deepen their communication and oppose those who commit violence in the name of faith. The Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, initiated by Kazakhstan, also brings together Asian and Middle Eastern countries, including Israel, in an equal format to enhance cooperation in promoting peace, security and stability in Asia in recognition of that region’s impact on the world.

#### THE ATOM PROJECT

Kazakhstan’s most recent peace initiative is The ATOM Project (“Abolish Testing. Our Mission.”), an international petition campaign launched by President Nazarbayev to unify global opinion against nuclear weapons testing and seek the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The initiative hopes to permanently end nuclear testing and ultimately rid the planet of nuclear weapons arsenals.

“We have an opportunity to once more remind the world about the tragic consequences of nuclear testing, and push the global community towards more decisive actions to achieve a final and definitive ban of such testing”, President Nazarbayev said at the launch of the initiative on 29 August 2012. “Under the project, any human being on Earth who is opposed to nuclear weapons can sign an online petition urging governments of the world to abandon nuclear tests forever and ensure the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.”

Kuyukov, honorary ambassador of The ATOM Project and just one of the many inspiring human beings indelibly marked by nuclear testing, gave an emotional speech to launch the new international initiative. “Let us not repeat the mistakes of the past! I call on all people to help stop nuclear weapons testing around the world! Nuclear test sites must be closed! Let our sky be clean and our children be healthy! I do not have arms to hug all of you and to express my gratitude for your participation in this conference, but I have a heart, and it belongs to you! Let your families live in peace and serenity!”

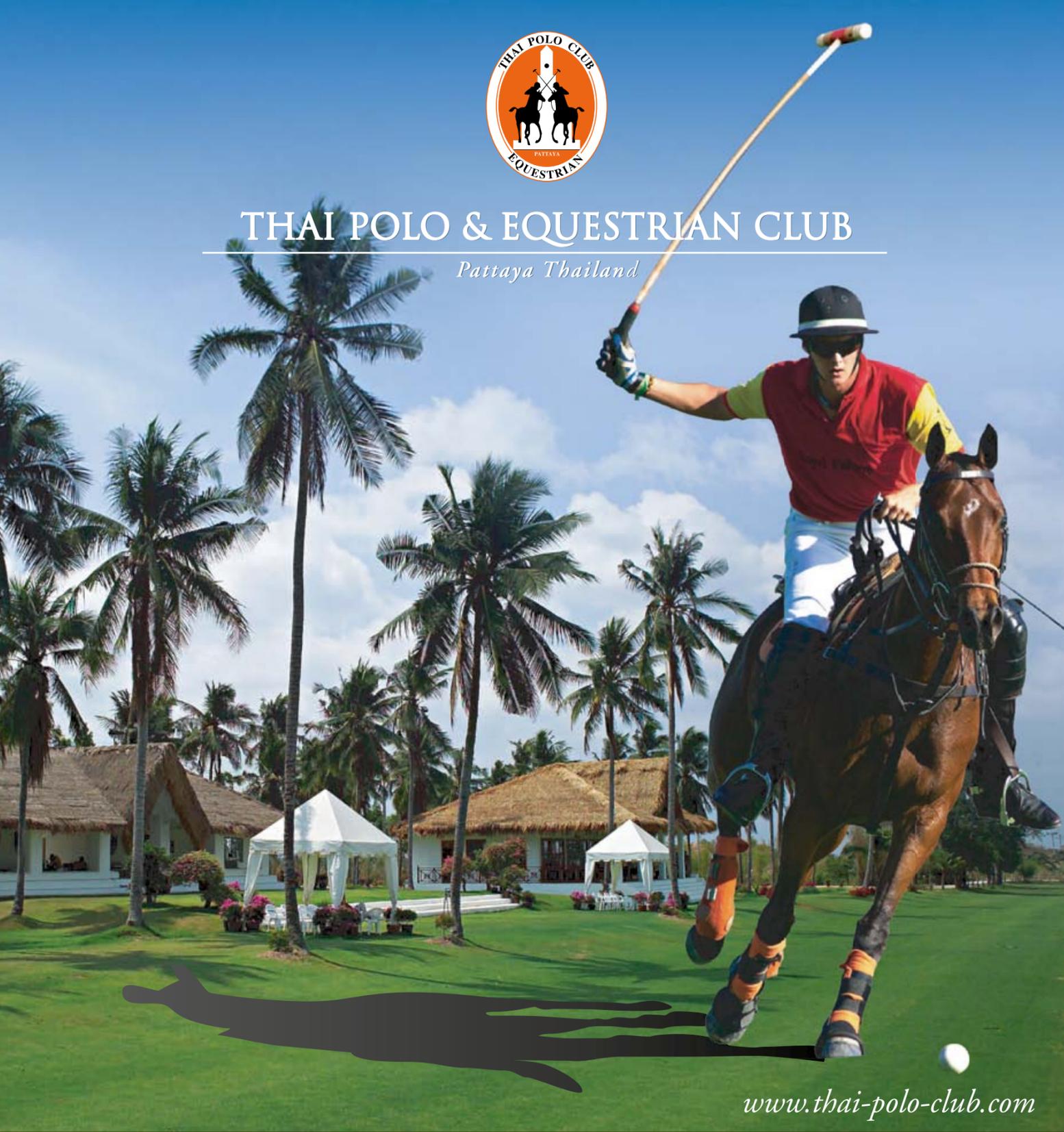


The “Astana Tower” on the waterfront of the river Yessil in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan. The country’s new capital and political center is attracting young families and returning students looking to build their careers in the up-and-coming new city.



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Astana's cultural scene is growing along with its skyline, as unusual and iconic buildings rise to house the influx of shops, pubs and international restaurants that cater to the capital's increasingly cosmopolitan population.

Kazakhstan has also hosted the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Forum on Inter-religious, Interethnic and Intercultural Understanding, the Common World: Progress Through Diversity Ministerial Conference, which brought together ministers from 65 different nations for inter-citizenship dialogue, and other events promoting peace through understanding. Most recently, Kazakhstan has been the site of talks between global powers and Iran about the latter's nuclear program, serving as a host and as a moral authority on nuclear issues. In April 2010, on a visit to Ground Zero of the closed Semipalatinsk site, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon spoke about the closure of the site and the decision of the country to voluntarily abandon weapons of mass destruction. "It was a visionary step, a true declaration of independence", he said. A small population in the middle of an overlooked region had become a source of hope for the world. "Here in Semipalatinsk, I call on all nuclear weapons states to follow suit of Kazakhstan. For inspiration, they can look to Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan has led by example."

### KAZAKHSTAN BY THE NUMBERS

- Youth employment for 2012:** 94.5 %
- Change in per cent of population living on the poverty line, 2003-2011:** -32.2 %
- Number of universities:** 53
- Number of students in universities, 2012-2013:** 571,091
- Literacy rate:** 99.7 %
- Percentage of population under 14:** 25.5 %
- Labour participation rate, women aged 15 and older:** 66.6 %
- Ratio of female to male secondary school enrolment:** 97.2
- Percentage of secondary school finishers who go on to tertiary education:** 43.2 %
- Percent of girls in primary education who go on to secondary education:** 100 %
- Number of tourists in 2012, according to travel documents:** 20,000
- Urban population, 2012:** 53.5 %
- World Bank Ease of Doing Business ranking, 2013:** 50
- Start up procedures to register a business:** 6
- Proportion of seats held by women in parliament, 2012:** 24.3 %

### **ECONOMY: AN INDEPENDENT ECONOMY THRIVES**

After 20 years of hard work at home and abroad, 20 years of President Nursultan Nazarbayev's multi-vector foreign policy, Kazakhstan has transformed itself from a vast resources warehouse to one of the world's most dynamic economies. The poverty rate has fallen from more than 45 % in 2001 to 5.3 % in 2011 and the country's new Strategy Kazakhstan 2050 programme aims to make Kazakhstan one of the world's top 30 most developed states by 2050. Per capita income in the country is expected to reach \$ 15,000 in 2016, making it a high-income country by World Bank standards.

Kazakhstan's current development and eye to the future were recently recognised with a victory for its bid to host the international specialist exhibition EXPO 2017 in Astana. With a theme of "Future Energy", Kazakhstan's capital is preparing to create the first neighbourhood in the world to embody all the pillars of the third industrial revolution: using renewable energy, using buildings as power plants, using storage technologies to use intermittent energy sources, using the Internet to transform the power grid and using plug-in vehicles for transport.

### **RICH HISTORY, MODERN CULTURE**

Kazakhstan is a huge country and ways of life differ across its thousands of miles. Though proud of their nomadic heritage, urban Kazakhstan long ago traded horses for horsepower and high-rise apartments with a view of the steppe. In Almaty, Kazakhstan's largest city, designers including Dolce and Gabbana, Dior, Louis Vuitton, Prada, Zegna and others have come to stay and supply fashion-conscious residents with the brands they've come to love and which will get them past the velvet ropes at the city's most exclusive clubs. Suits and ponytails, high heels and the occasional hijab rub shoulders on the city's streets. The nation's cultural heart, nestled under snow-capped mountains, teems with coffee shops, pubs, boutiques and museums, plus hiking, swimming and climbing opportunities and a new world-class ski resort a short drive away.



Left: Uwe Schröder, founder of the fashion brand TOM TAILOR and patron of the successful TOM TAILOR Polo Team at Kitzbuehel 2013.

# POLO TEAM TOM TAILOR

As one of the first German teams, the TOM TAILOR Polo Team has been an unwavering presence in polo for years – and has enjoyed resounding success. TOM TAILOR won the German Polo Tour for the third successive time in 2013 and has also enjoyed international victories.

BY STEFANIE STÜTING PHOTOGRAPHY TOM TAILOR/ROLF SIMON

The idea was actually one that came to Uwe Schröder as he sat in the saddle. “These polo kits are a bit boring really. I wanted my own kit – my own TOM TAILOR polo kit”. His in-house designer didn’t have to be asked twice and the first TOM TAILOR polo kit was soon ready. “You can’t buy them, of course. We made them for our team and private usage”. But it didn’t take long for the demand to grow. At every tournament, the team was besieged with questions on where people could buy the TOM TAILOR polo kits with skull and the catchy Indian battle cry “Hoka Hey – today is a good day to die”. Answer? Nowhere! Much to the disappointment of the fans.

But things have now changed and it’s not just its polo collections that the TOM TAILOR Polo Team wants to sell. In accordance with the philosophy of the founder Uwe Schröder (“always think big”), a number of TOM TAILOR polo stores will open their doors in autumn 2014. “For us, this is the next logical step. The brand TOM TAILOR has been linked with polo for years. We will be playing a lot abroad both this and next season. Chantilly, Barcelona and Rome are on the agenda”. TOM TAILOR is also a promoter of polo in Germany. The brand supports up-and-coming talent and supplies youth polo camps and the German youth team with kits. “As

demand for our polo designs goes beyond the polo-going public, we will be able to ensure greater visibility and availability with the new TOM TAILOR polo stores”.

Uwe Schröder is one of the premier proponents of polo in Germany along with his daughters Tahnee and Naomi, as well as Argentinian pros Eduardo and Santos Anca. The coming season sees them enjoy a jam-packed schedule. “We’ll be giving it our all. The girls want to play 12 goal and they’ve become extraordinarily good over the past few years”. For Uwe Schröder, who spends three hours a day training his horses, the unique polo way of life has it all. “When we sit around all muddy on the straw discussing the day after working with the horses, that’s pure happiness for me. Polo is adrenaline and strategy, but also means spending time with international friends. In the winter months, we’ll train in Argentina again and also take our horses to make sure that we stay competitive for the coming season”. The TOM TAILOR Polo Team is at the very heart of polo – and is on the cusp of a new and fashionable era. •

[www.tom-tailor-group.com](http://www.tom-tailor-group.com)  
[www.youtube.com/tomtailor](http://www.youtube.com/tomtailor); [www.facebook.com/tomtailorpoloteam](http://www.facebook.com/tomtailorpoloteam)



# ALL ASIA CUP 2014

After last 2012's successful première, the All Asia Cup takes place for the second time from 9-18 January 2014. A total of eight teams has signed up and will fight for victory at the VR Sports Club in Bangkok, Thailand.

BY KATRIN LANGEMANN PHOTOGRAPHY THAILAND POLO ASSOCIATION



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*Polo escape*



1 Polo action: The 2012 All Asia Cup came up with fast chukkers and exciting matches 2 The winners of the 2012 All Asia Cup: Team Thailand with Nattapong Pratumlee, Top Aiyawatt Raksriaksorn, Tal Apichet Raksriaksorn and Tsu Thanasin Chuawangkhram 3 India and Thailand faced each other in 2012's final match 4 Mr Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, former president of the Thailand Polo Association (TPA).

In 2007, the 24th Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) took place in Thailand and polo was part of the competition for the first time in its history, with five national teams from Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines officially competing against each other on an inter-Asian level. The tournament was a huge success. Polo has not been part of subsequent SEA Games, but there was still a desire to set up a polo tournament for national teams to compete against each other. Under the direction of Mr Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, founder and former president of the Thailand Polo Association (TPA), the All Asia Cup was initiated. Four teams from China, India, Thailand and Mongolia came to the launch of the event in Thailand, where the winning team was the quartet from Thailand.

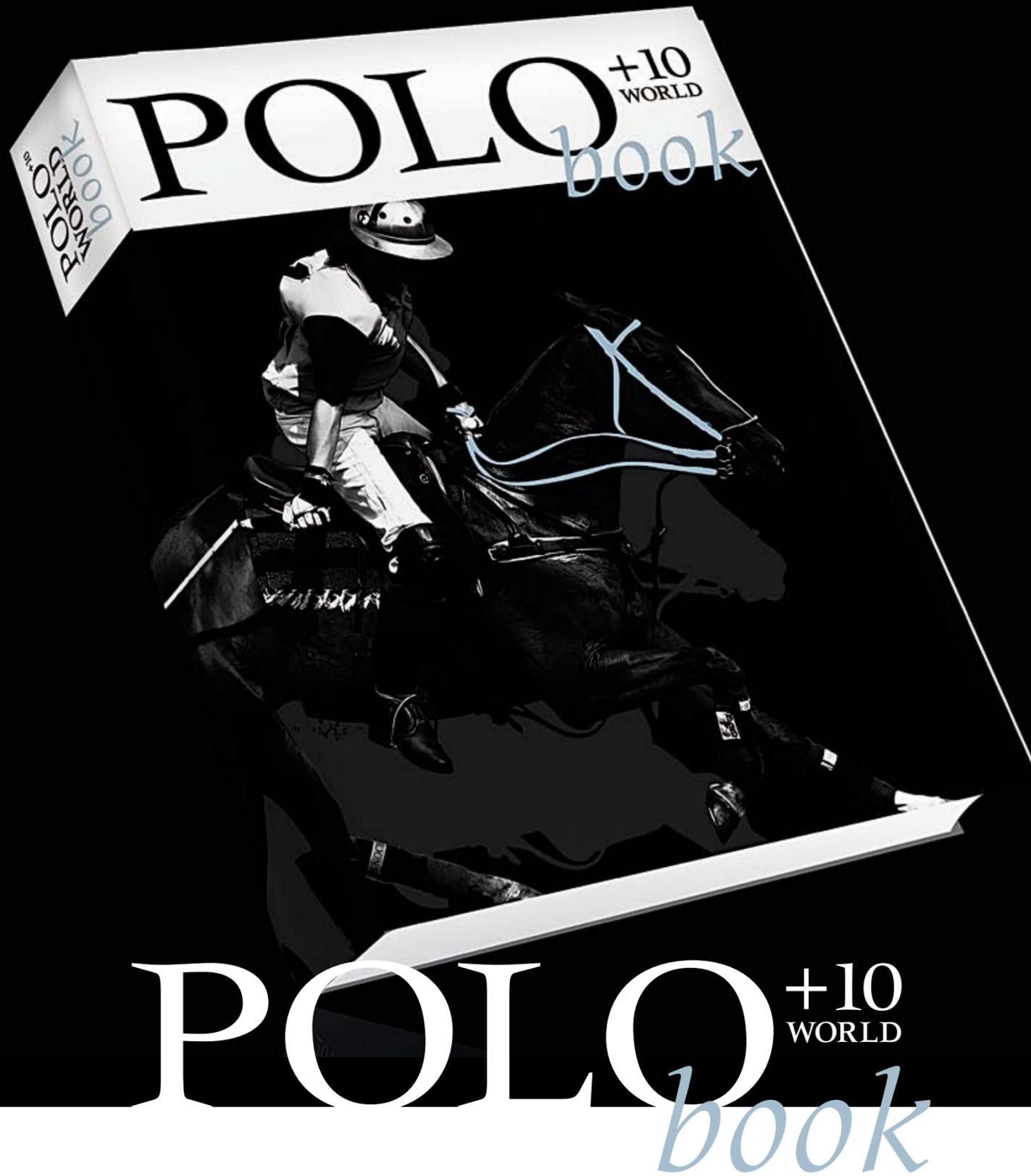
After last year's successful première, the All Asia Cup will take place for the second time from 9-18 January 2014, led by the newly appointed TPA President, Mr Kanoksakdi Bhinsaeng. Eight teams have announced their participation in this year's tournament. As was the case last time, India, China and Mongolia, as well as defending champion Thailand, will take part. Furthermore, Brunei, Indonesia, Korea and the Philippines will also be coming to the VR Sports Club and the Siam Polo Park in Bangkok. In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Thailand Polo Association in 2014 the All Asia Cup is set to be bigger and better for sponsors. As the All Asia Cup was very well received worldwide, the second edition awaits an increased international visibility. On Saturday, 18 January 2014, the final will be played under the lights and promises to become an outstanding event and social spectacle. Since its inaugural event in 2012, the All Asia Cup has built up a reputation as a fair and transparent tournament. In 2014, the English Senior HPA umpires will once again ensure fair play according to HPA rules. The system of assigning

the polo ponies has proved to be particularly successful. The ponies are organised by the Thailand Polo Association and are evenly distributed to all participating teams. There will be a horse draw monitored by a Senior HPA umpire.

The All Asia Cup takes place every two years and is organised by the Thailand Polo Association. The Thailand Polo Association was founded by Mr Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha in August 1998 and in January 2004 it was established as the Thailand Polo Association under the Sports Authority of Thailand. From the very beginning, the Thailand Polo Association has supported and organised tournaments in Thailand and supports local players to international contests. One of the bigger national events is the King's Cup, which is held every two years on alternate years to the All Asia Cup. The King's Cup attracts international players on a regular basis, a major polo tournament and social event. The prize trophy bears the royal name of the current Thai monarch His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

2014 marks the 10th anniversary of the Thailand Polo Association. TPA founder Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha has said, "Since our establishment in the year 2004, Polo in Thailand has developed remarkably, not only from public awareness but also in the skills and ability of the players. TPA has had support from other international clubs and establishments in organizing competitions and tournaments, contributing to the strengthening of relationships and goodwill between other nations and the chance to increase the standard and skills of our athletes."

The Thailand Polo Association hosts two other main tournaments in 2014: the Ambassador Cup from 17-22 January 2014 and the International Club Series from 25-27 January 2014.



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DR. RICHARD T. CALEEL, President Federation of International Polo (FIP)

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# HIGH GOAL POLO ENGLAND

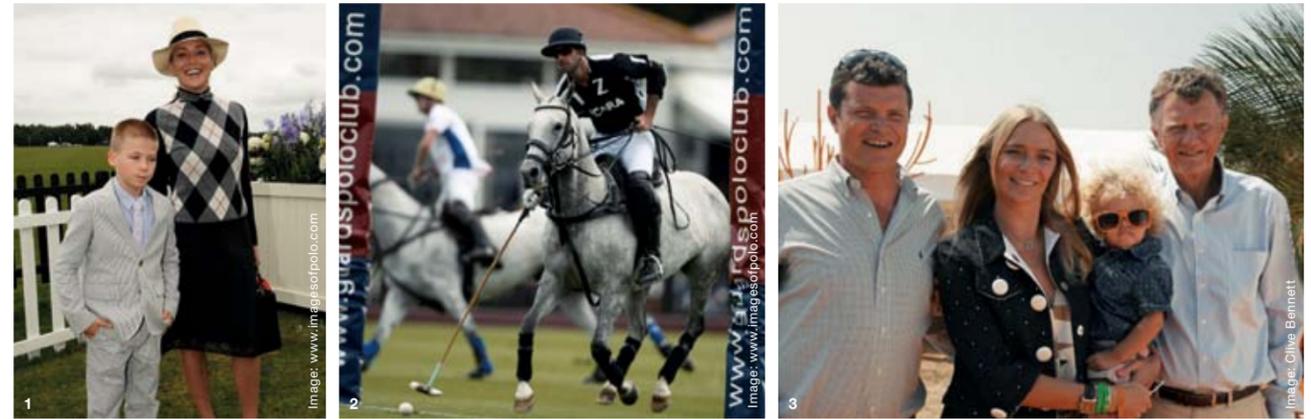
The best polo players in the world, highly exciting matches, British charm and royal style – the United Kingdom can look back on an excellent and exciting season. The high goal highlights.

BY KATRIN LANGEMANN





Queen Elizabeth II presents Zacara's team captain Lyndon Lea (1) with the Queen's Cup. In the background: Arnaud Baumberger (Executive Chairman Cartier).



1 Sharon Stone with her son Roan 2 Goals galore: Zacara scored a total of 15 times, securing victory in the Cartier Queen's Cup 3 Jack, Jodie (with baby son Indio in her arms) and Johnny Kidd 4 Joaquin Pittaluga (7) and Nacho Gonzalez (6) from Team Emlor celebrate winning the Prince of Wales Trophy 5 Charlotte Casiraghi, granddaughter of Prince Rainier of Monaco and Princess Gracia Patricia, with Arnaud Baumberger (Cartier) 6 Fans celebrate their team El Remanso 7 Adolfo Cambiasso (10, Team Dubai) and Rodrigo Andrade (8, Team Zacara) fight for the ball at the Veuve Clicquot Gold Cup 8 Lord and Lady Cowdray 9 Rodrigo Andrade (8), Lyndon Lea (1), Facundo Pieres (10) and Matt Perry (3) from Team Zacara are the winners of the Veuve Clicquot Gold Cup at the British Open Polo Championship.

www.imagesofpolo.com

He came, he saw, he conquered – Argentinian 10-goaler Facundo Pieres won both the renowned Cartier Queen's Cup and the prestigious Veuve Clicquot Gold Cup at the British Open Polo Championship with his team Zacara. No-one else was quite as dangerous to opposing teams in terms of scoring goals as Facundo Pieres was; he scored almost all his team's goals, while teammates Lyndon Lea (1), Rodrigo Andrade (8) and Matt Perry (3) gave him all the support he needed.

The Queen's Cup has been played at the Guards Polo Club since 1960 and the 2013 tournament marks the second time it has been sponsored by Cartier. The high goal tournament in Windsor Great Park is one of the absolute highlights of the British polo season. The Queen's Cup regularly attracts the best polo players in the world and the team line-up reads like a Who's Who of polo. This year, a total of 16 teams with team handicaps of 22 goals took part. Seven other players with a 10 goal handicap took part in addition to Facundo Pieres. Zacara's final opponent El Remanso also had a 10-goaler in their team in the form of David Stirling. Although El Remanso took an early lead, Zacara, particularly Facundo Pieres, quickly pulled out all the stops and had the match firmly in its grip by the third chukka. In the

end, Zacara beat El Remanso to the top spot with a score of 15:9 and lifted the coveted winners' trophy from the hands of Queen Elizabeth II.

Just one week later, the high-goal polo party moved on to Midhurst, where the Cowdray Park Polo Club played host to the Veuve Clicquot Gold Cup, marking the start of the British Open Polo Championship. Although there were a few small changes and an additional 17th team, the team line-up was almost exactly the same as for the Queen's Cup. After four exciting weeks, the two finalists were decided. Once again, Zacara reached the final two. This time, Facundo Pieres' opponent was his own brother Nico Pieres (7), who was in the saddle on behalf of team Dubai, as was 10-goaler Adolfo Cambiaso, who scored the first goal of the match. In the third chukka, Zacara conquered its opponent's lead for the first time and despite the iron will of team Dubai, it did not give up the lead from then on. Once the chukka bell sounded, the scoreboard showed a score of 11:8 in favour of Zacara. This saw Zacara at the top of the winners' podium once again after its triumph in the Cartier Queen's Cup. Facundo Pieres about the success of his team Zacara: "I managed to produce a good performance. From the first match onwards, we



The final of the Prince of Wales Trophy between the teams La Bamba and Emlor began in the pouring rain.



At the top: Despite an initial lead, El Remanso was beaten in the final of the Cartier Queen's Cup 15:9 by Zacara; bottom: The Welsh Guards open the final of the Cartier Queen's Cup Queen's Cup.

knew that Zacara could beat everyone. We won 13 games in succession and also won the final of the Queen's Cup (the second most important tournament) as well as the Open Championship against team Dubai with Cambiaso". David Woodd, Managing Director of the Hurlingham Polo Association (HPA) also seemed impressed with Zacara's performance in his brief analysis of the two tournaments: "This year, we were very lucky with the weather. With a few exceptions, the sun shone at most of the high goal tournaments. At Queen's Cup there were some surprising defeats, such as with the teams La Bamba and Black Bears, from whom we expected a better performance. The semi-final match was perhaps the best match of the season with two of the world's best players on the field. Facundo Pieres motivated his team – and himself – to produce a world-class performance. Many thought that El Remanso would win the final, but Zacara beat them. Facundo Pieres also put in an exemplary performance in the Gold Cup as player and captain. Team Dubai tried very hard against El Remanso in the semi-final but could not repeat its performance in the final and was beaten by Zacara. To win both tournaments – the Queen's Cup and Gold Cup – is a rare and exceptional achievement".

One of the highest handicapped tournaments in England is the St. James's Place Gloucestershire Cup with a team handicap of 24 goals to 26 goals. Two teams – El Remanso and Black Bears – took on the challenge at the end of July at Cirencester Park Polo Club. With his tactical playing, Eduardo Heguy (8) dominated the match and ensured that his team played in a well-coordinated way. Even after the end of the first chukka, El Remanso was ahead with 4.5:2 and simply could not be stopped. The Black Bears fought back time and again and were able to catch up a little by the end of the first half to 6.5:5. But luck was not on their side and several missed chances from Ignus du Plessis (8) and John Paul Clarkin (8) for the Black Bears meant that the final score was 10.5:7 in favour of George Hanbury (3), Eduardo Heguy (8), Juan Gris Zavaleta (7) and Joaquin Pittaluga (7) from team El Remanso.

The start of the British high goal season is traditionally the Prince of Wales Trophy. Right from the start, the eight teams taking part in the tournament in mid-June gave it their all: the Prince of Wales Trophy is played as a knock-out tournament; there are no preliminary rounds acting as warm-up rounds. Emlor and La Bamba took advantage of the chances that came their way and battled into the final. The final took place on a rainy and windy Saturday at the Royal County of Berkshire Polo Club – as soon as the ball was thrown into play, the heavens opened. But this didn't affect either of the finalists. After the first two chukkas, La Bamba had a comfortable lead of 7:1. Then Emlor embarked on a phenomenal fight to catch up and managed to equalise at 10:10, making it anybody's game again. The last chukka was hard fought. Goals were scored by both teams, equalising at 12:12 as Emlor was given a 40-yard penalty just eight seconds before the end. Joaquin Pittaluga (7) calmly took the penalty – and shot the ball perfectly between the two posts. Before La Bamba even had the chance to react, the chukka bell ended the final and Spencer McCarthy (2), Joaquin Pittaluga (7), Nacho Gonzalez (6) and Diego Cavanagh (7) left the field as winners with a score of 13:12.

There have been some changes to dates and playing categories for the coming season, which starts in May 2014. The details are still not completely finalised, but David Woodd is still able to give an overview of next year: "We plan to play the Prince of Wales Trophy as an independent tournament during the final week of the Queen's Cup. The Warwickshire Cup returns to the 22 goals playing category and its old date between the Queen's Cup and the Gold Cup but is limited to four teams. This means the tournament can be played and finished within a week. Some of the established 22 goal teams will play at a 18 goals level with a new calendar of five tournaments. This promises to be very competitive. There are also plans to launch the first inter-club league, the 'Polo Premier League', with a team handicap of 14 goals. However, the details are not yet finalised". In the Polo Premier League, eight leading English polo clubs will play each other as part of an inter-club league, including Guards, Beaufort, Cowdray Park, Royal County of Berkshire, Ham, Cirencester, Hurtwood and Kirtlington.

For all polo dates for the UK, please visit [www.hpa-polo.co.uk](http://www.hpa-polo.co.uk)



# PALERMO

## THE MECCA OF THE SPORT OF POLO

Palermo. Not Sicily, but rather a district in the city of Buenos Aires. It is here that the Club Hipico Militar is located. Of two fields, field one is known affectionately as “The Cathedral” to those passionate lovers of polo, Palermo is to polo as Wimbledon is to tennis or St. Andrews is to golf. It is the site of the most coveted tournament in polo, the Argentine Open. This year will be the 120th year of the tournament. It may come with some unusual surprises.

BY JOHN FRANCIS JACKSON

Polo may not have originated in Argentina, but it is here that the game has reached its pinnacle. Argentine teams have dominated the sport for the last 80 years, and today Argentina supplies the most talented players in the world. The Argentine Open, the Tortugas Open and the Hurlingham Open, the three tournaments of the Argentine Triple Crown, are the only tournaments in the world that allow the top teams of up to 40-goal handicaps to compete on an even basis. Because of this, the Open is the tournament to win.

The Argentine Open began in 1893 as the River Plate Polo Championship, a name it kept until 1923. It has been played continuously every year since its inception, despite two world wars. Only in 1985, due to an epizootic, was the final played in the following May (1986). There has been only one foreign team that has won this championship. That was in 1932 when Meadow Brook, the 30-goal American team, won. Certainly, non-Argentines have played in and won at the Argentine Open. The most notable was Carlos Gracida of Mexico, who won the Open six times. He was a member of the second of five teams that have won the Open while rated at a team handicap of 40-goals. This was in 1989 and 1990 with La Espadaña. Gracida won the Triple Crown in Argentina in 1994 playing with Ellerstina. He also is the only player in polo history to have won the Grand Slam of Polo (US Open, British Open and the Argentine Open in a calendar year) which he accomplished three times, in 1988, 1989 and 1994. The most dominant team in the history of the Argentine Open was Colonel Suarez, which won the title a total of 25 times. Twenty of those vic-

tories were led by perhaps the greatest player in polo history, Juan Carlitos Harriott. So dominant was Harriott and Colonel Suarez that they recorded twenty victories in 22 years (in 23 championships.) Harriott had different teammates along the way, including his father, Juan Carlos Harriott for his first seven victories. His regular teammates thereafter were his younger brother Alfredo (13 Open titles), and the brothers Horacio and Alberto Pedro Heguy, with 19 and 17 championships, respectively. This team was the first to be rated at 40-goals (all players carrying a 10-goal handicap, the maximum in polo) in 1975, 1977, 1978, and 1979, their last year playing together.

The 1980's saw the emergence of two teams that have since shaped the history of Argentine polo. The first was La Espadaña, led by Gonzalo Pieres. This team won a total of six Opens and was the second team to be rated at a 40-goal handicap. The other team of importance was Indios Chapaleufú. They recorded their first championship in 1986, beating the favoured La Espadaña. They did it with three brothers playing who were the sons of Horacio Heguy. The three were the two twins, Gonzalo and Horacio, and younger brother Marcos, alongside Alejandro Garrahan. In 1991, Indios Chapaleufú, replacing Garrahan with their youngest brother, Bautista, won again. They became the first team of four brothers to win this championship, which they repeated in 1992, 1993 and 1995. By 1992, they were the third team to be rated at 40-goals. The 1996 winners, Indios Chapaleufú II, included the three sons of Alfredo Pedro Heguy. All nine Haguys have been rated at 10-goals during their careers.



Palermo, Buenos Aires, is the place to be in November and December.

Meanwhile, during the 1990's, after La Espadaña had dissolved, their captain, Gonzalo Pieres, was forming a new team. He found two young players in Mariano Aguerre and Adolfo Cambiaso. Both were extremely talented. Gonzalo took Mariano, as a 17 year old 0 goal handicap player, with him to play in the United States. Later, he combined the talents of Aguerre with that of Adolfo, five years younger than Mariano, to form a new team, Ellerstina. They played the Triple Crown tournaments in 1992. By 1994, Ellerstina won the Open, which they repeated in 1997 and 1998. From 1991 through 2001, all the Argentine Open championships were won by either Indios Chapaleufú, Indios Chapaleufú II or Ellerstina. The new millennium saw the emergence of two new teams that have dominated the Open ever since. Adolfo Cambiaso created his own team, La Dolfina. After appearing in the finals of 2000 and 2001, he won in 2002. Mariano Aguerre played for a number of teams, winning the title with Indios Chapaleufú in 2001, replacing Gonzalo Heguy, who died in an auto accident in 2000. The year 2003 saw another four-brother combination win the title, with the Novillo Astrada brothers, Javier, Eduardo, Miguel and Ignacio. They won all three of the major Argentine titles that year. The Heguys were back in 2004 as Alfredo Pedro's sons, Alberto, Ignacio and Eduardo, playing once more for Indios Chapaleufú II, along with Milo Fernandez Araujo, won the Open. Gonzalo Pieres was not done yet in creating new teams. By now, two of his three sons were old enough, and talented enough, to play at the highest level of competition. They began playing at the Open under the name of Ellerstina, and reached the finals in 2005. Both boys, Gonzalito and Facundo, had their handicaps raised to 10-goals. They were defeated by Cambiaso's La Dolfina.

La Dolfina went on to win in 2006 and 2007, the last playing against Ellerstina. Finally, in 2008, Ellerstina beat La Dolfina in the finals. This continued a remarkable rivalry which has not stopped. These two teams have been facing each other in the finals every year since 2007. La Dolfina won in 2009 and 2011. Ellerstina won in 2010 and 2012. The last victory was with the youngest Pieres brother, Nicolas, and Mariano Aguerre, who is the brother-in-law of the three Pieres brothers. A number of these finals were decided in a sudden-death overtime. Both La Dolfina and Ellerstina have been rated at 40-goal handicaps. Which brings us to 2013 and a most unusual situation. Of all the players that have competed in the Argentine Open, three players are tied in 8th place for the most wins at nine apiece. Oddly enough, these three are Gonzalo Pieres, Mariano Aguerre and Adolfo Cambiaso. If history repeats itself this year, as it has for the past six titles, we can expect to see La Dolfina facing Ellerstina in the finals. Cambiaso will be competing against Mariano Aguerre once again. The 8th place tie will be broken. Many believe that Adolfo Cambiaso is the best player ever to have played this game. Although his teams were never as dominant as that of Harriott's Colonel Suárez, Cambiaso, as a player, dominates his opponents and has changed the style of play in polo so that one individual can offset an entire team's efforts. This year's Argentine Open will offer the possibility of seeing history in the making. Palermo, Buenos Aires, is the place to be in November and December.

#### ARGENTINE OPEN INDIVIDUAL WINS:

20	Juan Carlos Harriott (Jr)
19	Horacio Heguy
17	Alberto Pedro Heguy
13	Alfredo Harriott
12	Enrique Alberti
11	Juan A.E. Trail
10	Juan Carlos Alberdi
9	Gonzalo Pieres
9	Adolfo Cambiaso
9	Mariano Aguerre

#### TITLES BY CLUB:

Team	Titles
Coronel Suárez	25
Hurlingham	14
North Santa Fe	8
El Trébol	8
Venado Tuerto	7
La Espadaña	6
Indios Chapaleufú	6
La Dolfina	6
Ellerstina	6
Indios Chapaleufú II	4
The Casuals	3
Las Rosas	3
Santa Inés	3
Santa Paula	3
Santa Ana	3
Las Petacas	2
Western Camps	2
Flores	1
La Victoria	1
San Carlos	1
Palomar	1
Coronel Suárez-	
Los Indios	1
La Rinconada	1
Meadow Brook	1
Tortugas	1
Los Indios	1
Los Pingüinos	1
Coronel Suárez II	1
La Aguada	1

# 10-GOALER SERIES

# MARIANO AGUERRE

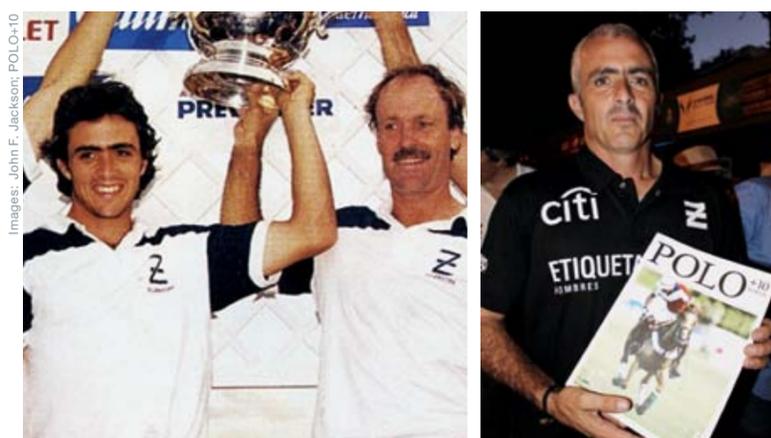
## THE PERENNIAL

POLO+10 continues the series of 10 Goal Players. Mariano Aguerre ranks among the most successful players.

BY JOHN FRANCIS JACKSON

Out on the Argentine plains, an invasive weed grows wild, named by Alexander von Humbolt as "Pampas Grass" (Cortaderia selloana.) It is hard to destroy and even fire does not necessary kill it. It just keeps coming back, year after year. So it is with the career of polo player Mariano Aguerre. He first achieved his 10 goal status in 1998, lost it, was named a 10 goal handicap player again in 2005 and won three Argentine Opens in a row with La Dolfina (2005, 2006, 2007), slipped back to a 9 goal status, and then, after winning Argentine Open title with Ellerstina in 2012, he was promoted back to a 10 goal ranking. With his 9 Argentine Open titles, only Adolfo Cambiaso is tied with him for the most Argentine Open wins among active players. Seven of those titles he won together with Cambiaso on the same team. Two he has won with different teams (Chapaleufu 1 in 2001 and Ellerstina in 2012), winning against Cambiaso in both of those finals. Gonzalo Pieres recognized Mariano's talent early and took the 17 year old, 0 goaler with him to the United States. Later, in Argentina, Pieres combined Mariano with a very young Adolfo Cambiaso to play on the original Ellerstina team, as both young players made their debut in the Argentine Triple Crown tournaments. They surprised everyone by making it to the Argentine Open Final.

Two years later, in 1994, Ellerstina won the three tournaments that comprised the Triple Crown (Tortugas Open, Hurlingham Open, Argentine Open), becoming only the third team in history to accomplish this feat. Ellerstina then won the Argentine Open, again in 1997 and 1998. Mariano's life, both polo and personal, seems to be inextricably linked to the Pieres family. Gonzalo "discovered" him and played on winning teams with him. Last year, in their first attempt together, Mariano won the Argentine Open with Gonzalo's three sons, Gonzalito, Facundo and Nicolas. And, somewhere along the way, Mariano married Gonzalo's daughter, Tatiana, with which he has three daughters. Argentine polo is all about family. Mariano Aguerre continues to make polo history. He is the only player, other than Daniel Gonzales, ever to have won the Argentine Open on three different teams. In actuality, the Ellerstina teams of the 1990's and that of the 21st century are distinct, and comprised of two, different generations. Furthermore, in the 120 years that the Argentine Open has been played, only five finals have gone into a supplementary (9th or overtime) chukka. Mariano has taken part on all five occasions and he always emerged victorious. Mariano can claim another first with the first ever cloning of a polo pony, a bay colt, from his prize winning gelding, Califa. The colt was born on April 22, 2010.



Mariano Aguerre (left) and Gonzalo Pieres. Right: Mariano 2012.

Now, at age 43, Mariano is playing at as high a level as he ever has in his career. With Ellerstina, he won two of the three Triple Crown tournaments last year, and had a successful US season playing for Alegria, winning the 2013 C.V. Whitney Cup, one of the tournaments that constitute the US's Triple Crown. With regards to his breeding program, Mariano's mare, Machitos Jackie, was awarded the best Polo Argentino Breed by the Argentine Polo Pony Breeders Association, presented to him, after the final of the 109th. US Open. It was the first time that the Association ever presented an award at an international competition.

This year he will return to the Argentine tournament season playing again for Ellerstina. In the past eight Argentine Opens either La Dolfina or Ellerstina has won, mainly playing against each other. The chances are good, therefore, that they may meet each other once more in the finals. At present, three players are tied in 8th place for total wins at the Argentine Open: Gonzalo Pieres, Adolfo Cambiaso and Mariano Aguerre. All have 9 wins. If Ellerstina meets La Dolfina in the finals, that tie will be broken. Mariano's career is still going strong. No one can tell for how much longer he will play a pivotal part in polo tournaments or in horse breeding, but one thing is certain: He is as perennial as the Pampas Grass that thrives on the Argentine steppes. We have yet to have seen the last of him.



# BRITISH POLO DAY

The British Polo Day has enjoyed success worldwide since 2009. A total of ten locations in China, Mexico, Singapore, India, the United Arab Emirates, England, France and Germany were on the 2013 agenda. Polo fun galore! Very British and just amazing.

PHOTOGRAPHY BRITISH POLO DAY



“THE BRITISH POLO DAY VISION HAS BEEN TO CREATE A GLOBAL PLATFORM THAT CELEBRATES POLO, HISTORY, HERITAGE, CULTURE AND TRADE BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND OUR HOST NATIONS, AND THAT ACTS AS A CONDUIT FOR THE EXCHANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES, IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES. WE ARE ENDEBTED TO OUR PARTNERS FOR HELPING US TRANSFORM THAT VISION INTO A REALITY AND FOR SUPPORTING US IN CREATING THIS NETWORK OF 10 BRITISH POLO DAYS IN SOME OF THE MOST STUNNING DESTINATIONS AROUND THE WORLD.”

TOM HUDSON Co-Founder of British Polo Day



British Polo Days include camel polo at HH Sheikh Falah bin Zayed al Nahyan's Ghantoot Racing & Polo Club at British Polo Day Abu Dhabi (top left) as well as polo in the shadow of the Great Wall at British Polo Day China (top right), while also celebrating the classic British style that is synonymous with polo, while embracing the local culture (other photos).

At the British Polo Day at Schloss Wallerstein, Princess Anna and Prince Carl-Eugen zu Oettingen-Wallerstein impressed their guests no end. “Just amazing” was the expression heard from the around 70 (mainly English) guests throughout the two days. “Just amazing” was a buzzword that imbued the exclusive polo meeting at Schloss Wallerstein – which the generous hosts made absolutely unforgettable for friends who had travelled from across the world to be there – with a sense of magic. At the two polo matches on Saturday, Team Wallerstein beat the British Exiles quartet to win the Hackett Trophy in a quick and dynamic match with a final score of 7:5. In addition to Yoanna Otto (-1) and Prince Carl-Eugen zu Oettingen-Wallerstein (0), the Hamburg-based Sven Schneider (3) and Argentinian Wallerstein coach Agustin Krohnhaus (3) scored the deciding goals. The British Exiles produced the “Most Valuable Player” of the tournament with the newly married Tristan “Philli” Phillimore who – despite receiving a chin injury the weekend before at the British Polo Day in England and losing two teeth – still got back into the saddle and set about scoring goals. The team from Wallerstein also achieved victory in the match before. With a lead of just 3.5:3, the team Girls Only with Clare Milford-Haven (0), Anna Oettingen-Wallerstein (-1), Christina Thomé (0) and Izzy Parsons (2) won against team GAM with Mexican siblings Juan José “JJ” (2) and Imelda de Alba, the organisers of the British Polo Day in Mexico, Nicky Sen (-1) and Christopher Thomé (1).

In addition to polo matches, guests also enjoyed an exciting programme of events that could hardly have been more varied. With BPD sponsor Land Rover, they were thrilled with an off-road Land Rover Challenge experience following a hearty Bavarian brunch

in the forest. The highlight of the British Polo Day was the elegant black tie dinner in the evening at Schloss Baldern where host Carl-Eugen zu Oettingen-Wallerstein welcomed his guests to a seemingly never-ending table and four-course menu in the Festsaal hall. Tom Hudson, who founded the British Polo Day together with Edward Olver in 2009 and currently realises ten BPDs a year across the world, was visibly impressed. “We have experienced an unforgettable time here and are utterly captivated by the fantastic hosts, lovely relaxed atmosphere, excellent polo and a backdrop that cannot be beaten – this was just amazing.”

The 3rd British Polo Day Singapore, presented by Land Rover, was held at The Singapore Polo Club on Saturday 28th September. The event, attended by around six hundred guests, has rapidly established itself as the paramount polo event for those local residents and British expats who wish to extend the good mood of the F1 weekend with a final gathering around a genuine horsepower based sport that is not less dangerous or exciting. The success of British Polo Day Singapore rested not just on the members and staff at The Singapore Polo Club but also on the support and backing of a range of remarkable partners – Land Rover, The Duxton Hotel, Johnnie Walker Blue Label, Charles Russell, Hackett, Taittinger, Justerini & Brooks, Savills, Princess Yachts, Abercrombie & Kent, Ettinger, Grosvenor Stationary Company, Pendragon Productions, 3rd Home, Billionaire, Petrie PR, Sipsmith, East Imperial, Zaem Jamal, Amouage and Baccanalia. About the return of British Polo Day to Singapore, His Excellency Anthony Phillipson – British High Commissioner to Singapore – said: “In just a few short years British Polo Day has evolved into a fantastic platform for promoting some of the very best of Britain’s luxury brands. At the same time



Top left: the host of the British Polo Day at Schloss Wallerstein in Germany, Princess Anna and Prince Carl-Eugen zu Oettingen-Wallerstein. Bottom left: Team Taittinger from the left Yoanna Otto, Agustin Kronhaus, Sven Schneider and Carl-Eugen zu Oettingen-Wallerstein.



From a Bavarian Schloss (top) to a Maharajas Rajastani Palace (bottom), these exquisite, exclusive events encapsulate all that is romantic and timeless about polo.

it celebrates the global reach of a sport that, for many, is uniquely associated with Britain and our heritage. BPD itself, and the success it has achieved around the world, shows what hard work, vision, enterprise and drive can do and it was a pleasure to once again support their efforts here in Singapore.”

The inaugural British Polo Day Russia, presented by Land Rover, took place on Saturday 7th September at The Moscow Polo Club. Players from three of Britain’s oldest and most renowned institutions – Eton, Oxford and Cambridge – came together from countries around the world (India, Great Britain, Dubai, Switzerland and Canada) to play against The Moscow Polo Club and Tselevo Golf & Polo & Club. Regarding the arrival of British Polo Day in Russia, Alex Rodsianko – host of British Polo Day Russia and President of The Moscow Polo Club – said: “A fantastic day for the Moscow Polo Club! The first ever British Polo Day in Russia. I believe this will be an incentive to improve polo in Russia – we look forward to more and even better British Polo Days in our future.”

The aim of British Polo Day is to continue the tradition of playing high quality polo against friends all around the world, while also acting as a platform for British entrepreneurs in emerging markets,

giving them them a unique access to the global elite. The founders Edward Olver and Tom Hudson have carried out British Polo Days in 10 different countries with the goal of opening doors and building a network of diplomatic and commercial opportunities to showcase great British brands. Attracting a selection of prestigious sponsors including Land Rover, GAM, Charles Russell, IHG Group, Abercrombie & Kent, Ettinger and Hackett, British Polo Days have hosted 12 royal families and over 10,000 guests in the last 12 months. International media coverage has included The Financial Times, The Robb Report, CNN, Harper’s Bazaar, China Central Television, Finches Quarterly Review and Vogue China; British identity has been celebrated with galas on The Great Wall of China and parties on the top of Rajastani Palaces as well as raising over £250,000 for Charity. British Polo Day also creates a bespoke itinerary for VIPs, partners and players in order to fully experience the culture and beauty each host country has to offer. The first British Polo Day Charity Cup in the UK took place in July 2011. The event was held at Watership Down Estate, the home and private polo ground of Lord and Lady Lloyd Webber, with players and an audience that included HRH Prince Henry of Wales and HRH Prince Rashid of Jordan.



# POLO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Uwe Seebacher, Austrian representative for polo, founder of A Quechua and president of the players' and trainers' association PIPA, is focusing on the sustainable of polo as a new trendy sport.

INTERVIEW KATRIN LANGEMANN PHOTOGRAPHY A QUECHUA

## DR. SEEBACHER, WHAT DOES A QUECHUA STAND FOR?

At A Quechua, sport is the focus. Our VIPs are the horses. We need to put more focus on the sporting components. Polo means action and has to present itself in a cool, stylish, dynamic and chic way. And it is working, as our tournaments are the ones that get the most press coverage compared to other polo tournaments, including the established ones.

## WHAT MAKES A QUECHUA TOURNAMENTS SO SUCCESSFUL?

Friendly local players with similar playing abilities, successful media and PR work, perfect event planning and spectators who enjoy following the matches because the explanations and commentators make it easy for them to understand, for a change. Emotion, excitement and atmosphere. Arena polo with a higher levels of intensity, moves, and turns is simply spectacular. Don't get me wrong, I love playing polo on grass passionately. As with any other sport, you have to develop skills

and work on them. So it makes little sense for us to start with polo on grass, the Formula 1 of polo. You're better off starting in the Formula 3000 series. Why do many grass polo enthusiasts spend years at the same level and come off second-best compared to arena polo players in terms of technical development? Because as a beginner or when you are making your way through the ranks in grass polo, you spend less time coming in touch with the ball compared to a player who trains in and plays arena polo intensively. We're often laughed at, but the developments, our strong brand partners and success of our players clearly prove we're on the right track.

## A QUECHUA GIVES GREAT IMPORTANCE ON IN-DEPTH TRAINING...

It's not just the events that are important. To inspire people to play polo is not enough. Anyone can set up a polo facility. But if you don't have the right training concept, a qualified trainer and the right players, you're missing the basics. We need ground-

work and we need to work with upcoming players. Teaching and training methods are always important for player improvement. Patron polo is fun but having tourists on the field does not contribute much to the sport in the long run. In other words: just because all Austrians can ski does not mean that we are all good at teaching it. Just because someone has a South American passport or can hit the ball is no guarantee that he or she is also a good trainer, methodologist or educator – on the contrary! A good skier is not necessarily always a good ski coach. An important component of sustainable development is well-equipped training centres. We are currently in the process of building a network of polo villages and resorts – all-year-round facilities that will teach the sport using A Quechua specialists knowledge via certified PIPA instructors. Our training centre prototype in Kumberg near Graz ([www.aquechua-kumberg.com](http://www.aquechua-kumberg.com)) already attracts clients from various different countries to its beginner, tactics and tournament preparation courses. The training centre will set up international standards in many aspects. We will gradually apply this concept to new locations. Over the next year, we will start up in Liechtenstein with a friendly team and will train and certify a young English professional via PIPA. For investors and interested parties, this village concept offers long-term attractive and profitable opportunities in the real estate sector. Chacras – houses with large rooms in South American/Italian style – can be bought in various sizes either as an investment, for your own usage or to let. A Quechua takes care of the management. And as an owner, you are also entitled to stable some of your ponies here, enabling you to play regularly and holiday here. They will be looked after and trained by qualified and specialized staff as part of a full-service package. There are also horses in the A Quechua pool ranked according to the four performance categories and precisely typed thanks to special pony profiling.

We have also developed trainer training courses with PIPA and sports scientists that go far beyond current standards. Our A Quechua polo book series has become an international benchmark. The first in the series is the best-selling beginner's book. The fourth book "The smart match" will be published shortly and we have received excellent reviews from our test readers.

## WHAT ARE YOUR VISIONS AND AIMS WITH A QUECHUA?

With A Quechua and the PIPA Association, which is now represented in twelve countries after just two years, I want to make a responsible contribution in turning polo into a trendy sport. Our international events help with this. The international tournament series starts with the International Beach Polo European Championship in Lignano ([www.beach-polo.org](http://www.beach-polo.org)) and the Snow Polo European Championship Tour which is already played in San Candido, Italy ([www.snowpolo.it](http://www.snowpolo.it)), Austria ([www.snowpolo.at](http://www.snowpolo.at)) and a completely new polo country. The Tur-rach is no longer played following its cancellation in 2012 and an unsuitable playing field in 2013 – too dangerous for the horses and lack of guarantee that it will be prepared professionally. The number of new requests we have received mean that we will be organising a PIPA ProAm Tour for 2014/15 with between six and eight events. All PIPA countries will be able to take part and compete for the European Championship title.



The chukka timer displays the 7 minutes and 30 seconds in color for stopping the time yourself and has its own goal counter for quick and easy counting.



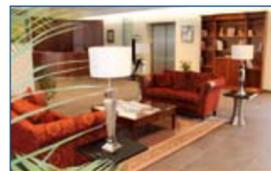
The A Quechua tournaments are popular with players, spectators and sponsors alike.

A QUECHUA HAS GROWN ENORMOUSLY RECENTLY. THE A QUECHUA WORLD NOT ONLY COMPRISES TOURNAMENTS AND POLO SCHOOLS, BUT ALSO PRODUCTS SUCH AS PERFUMES, WINES AND EVEN FURNITURE – THE HOME COLLECTION.

A Quechua is a story that is being written by more and more people as time goes by. Over the past few weeks, we have recruited around ten new employees. People do not just buy our products – they also buy our history of elegance, lifestyle, action and much more. And it is this that leads them to polo. Our product portfolio now comprises everything related to polo. We are proud to be the suppliers of the world's only "authentic" polo watch with a chukka timer that lights up at the 7 minute and 30 second point and a goal counter on the bezel for quick and easy counting when things get lively. The CEO of Jacques Lemans, Alfred Riedel, has also supplied us exclusively with 100 high-quality ETA Valjoux 7750 watches – connoisseurs will know what I am talking about. We are as well undergoing the construction of the world's first covered all-year grass polo facility. You can find more about this in the online shop on [www.myaquechua.com](http://www.myaquechua.com) or the A Quechua portal on [www.myaquechua.com](http://www.myaquechua.com). Direct requests can be sent to [info@aquechua.com](mailto:info@aquechua.com) •



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During the intensive course organised by the International Polo Academy, training sessions were precisely analysed using Dartfish technology.



# POLO COURSE IN INDIA

In September, the Indian Polo Association organised an intensive course for 50 Indian polo players in collaboration with the International Polo Academy (IPA). The results pleased everyone.

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNATIONAL POLO ACADEMY

The course took place in the country's elite riding centre in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Participants included some top players of the Indian national team, as well as several beginners who had not had much access to professional training before. The course was carried out by a team from the International Polo Academy comprising professional trainers and specialists. They were supported by a number of other polo experts, including employees from the company PoloCam which leads the world in the video analysis software Dartfish and the filming of polo matches.

The course included a thorough analysis of training sessions using the Dartfish technology. Another section of the course covered all elements to do with the game, from basic riding skills to performance on the playing field. As is standard for all IPA courses, players were taught conditioning programmes used for the Olympic Games. They were also given an insight into mental match preparation by IPA sports psychologist and IPA programme director Miranda Banks. Navjit Sandhu from the Indian Polo Association said, "The Indian Polo Association has grasped the initiative and familiarised our players with professional and internationally used training methods. With these efforts, we hope to reach a standard that will be internationally acceptable".

The Argentinian coach Eduardo Amaya is part of the training team and is very impressed with the standard of the Indian players: "We can see lots of potential and real talent here. I've seen polo make huge advances within a short space of time in India. Realistically speaking, our players are capable of playing against the leading polo nations in the world". Faiz Siddiqui (2), who took part in the intensive course as assistant coach to the Indian team, was also enthusiastic: "These ten days were the best investment I have ever made in my polo career."

The intensive polo course was also a great success for the International Polo Academy. Charlie Froggatt outlined its importance: "India now has a reliable online TV platform that contains analyses of the capabilities of all 50 players who took part in the course, from sports psychology and fitness tests to riding skills, ball and hitting techniques to performance on the field. Thanks to this, the Indians now know what their strengths and weaknesses are and can improve these in a targeted way. The video platform gives us the opportunity to carry out remote training very effectively. It means that we use the analyses to set individually tailored exercises. This way of approaching things is trailblazing and more advanced than anything we have seen in polo before. It has enabled coaching to reach a new, scientific level".



Image: Pablo Ramirez/www.lentigital.com.ar

# THE END OF THE GLORY DAYS

Are polo's glory days over? Have the highest echelons of the game lost their way? Have the new rules made it boring, arbitrary and commercial? Chris Ashton reviews Javier Tanoira's "Reflections on Argentine Polo".

BY CHRIS ASHTON

Javier Tanoira's "Reflections on Argentinian Polo", published in 2009, brings to mind the pithy observation of 18th century English poet Alexander Pope for: "What oft was thought but ne'er so well expressed". "Reflections" is a critical treatment of the disease that has befallen the highest echelons of polo, namely Argentinian high goal polo. It also contains suggestions as to how existing rules could be changed or brought back in their older form (before the era of "patron polo") to recapture what the game has lost according to Tanoira.

And he is more than qualified to address this issue. At the peak of his career, he played with a handicap of 8 goals and took part in tournaments such as the British and US Open, as well as the Argentine Open in 2001. Born in 1971, he criticises problems with modern polo not from the viewpoint of an ageing warrior that looks back with nostalgia on glorious times, but on an equal level with players who continue to dominate the high goal game today. Just as impressive is his origin: he is the son of Luisa Miguens de Tanoira, architect and author of "Passion & Glory: A Century of Argentine Polo" and Gonzalo Tanoira, a polo player who died in

2003, who was one of the best 10-goalers of his generation and President of the Argentine Polo Association (AAP) at the time of his passing. This book is required reading for all those who are of the opinion that polo has taken a negative turn. On around 90 pages, Tanoira pleads for a radical change in order to prevent his beloved game being consigned to history. In his book, he combines careful research with a passionate appeal to the Argentine polo community to support his endeavours.

Excerpt from the book: "In this country, which suffers from an evil that is endemic as well as chronic economic and political instability caused by corruption, where bribes are offered for votes and mistakes have been made in the state management of agriculture and livestock farming and where there is widespread poverty across the country, we have gold-dust in our hands in the form of a fundamental activity that provides many families with a livelihood and in which we without doubt are the best in the world. But we have not managed it ourselves; we inherited it from our parents, grandparents and all the polo lovers who are no longer with us. I believe it is our duty to preserve and protect it, for everyone to do the best he or she can to ensure that 'Polo Argentino' remains the best in the world for a long time to come. Thank you for your time, I embrace you all".

For Tanoira, the final of the Argentine Open 2008 between Ellerstina and La Dolfina was a "cut-up, slow game; fouls galore... I became aware that the players believed they were being more effici-

ent in forcing a slower game where the deciding factor is to have the ball in your possession, not to pass it on and achieve goals through penalties". Were the umpires to blame as so many polo aficionados insist? Tanoira says not: "It is the players who decide what the referee should whistle at and what not and that is wrong. It should be the Argentine Polo Association (AAP) that defines the criteria... Today it is almost impossible to see good refereeing because it is also impossible to watch a good match. The umpires have to be looking attentively not at the two or three players going towards the ball, but at the one who has the ball; the one who marks him; the one who blocks him; the one who counter-blocks him; the one coming up from behind; the one who attempts to block the one coming up from behind. The typical chain of events we see in a match is thus: This is the typical play we are likely to see: a gallop with five or six players heaped together in less than 24 square yards; one has the ball and he touches it with strokes that are not longer than 60 inches, and all the rest are playing each other off with their sticks raised. How can we expect the umpire to do a good job?"

Like many other polo enthusiasts, Tanoira finds that several whistles detract from the enjoyment of the spectators and the match is reduced to penalty shots. In his estimation, there are around 40 per cent more whistles in a match than 25 years ago with melees after throw-ins account for 20 per cent of all penalties. According to Tanoira, the penalties could be reduced by 95 per cent if players were rewarded for ball possession and not given to those who hit the ball out of play. Or if the team that had the goal scored against



Image: Nicolas Levin

“IT IS THE PLAYERS WHO DECIDE WHAT THE REFEREE SHOULD WHISTEL AT AND WHAT NOT AND THAT IS WRONG. IT SHOULD BE THE ARGENTINE POLO ASSOCIATION THAT DEFINES THE CRITERIA.”

JAVIER TANOIRA, author of "Reflections on Argentine Polo"



Image: Thomas Wirth/POLO+10

According to Tanoira, the biggest problem for the sport of polo is the deep-rooted mistrust of the polo community regarding changes. By way of comparison he cites the rules' committee of Rugby Union. Under pressure of the television channels, the rules' committee needs to stay dynamic.

it had to hit from the defence line instead of having to return to the middle line for the throw-in. The AAP and Hurlingham Polo Association has already implemented some of his suggestions but the others will never see the light of day, such as his suggestion that Argentinian high goal players should play only on a limited number of polo ponies during the high goal season that are clearly identified and cannot be swapped. This would encourage players to use the power of their pony sparingly by focusing more on playing as a team. According to Tanoira, the deep-rooted mistrust of the polo community regarding changes is the biggest obstacle in trying to rescue polo from itself. In order to once again make polo a true spectator sport, he suggests that the "Rules of the Game Sub-Committee" by the AAP should be ratified to enable changes to be made. The committee, which is authorised to make changes to polo rules, comprises a dozen former players who are mostly 10-goalers and winners of the Argentine Open.

By way of comparison he cites the rules' committee of Rugby Union, the British variation on football. Its governing body is the International Rugby Board (IRB) that represents almost 100 national rugby associations and achieved a turnover of 150 million dollars in the last Rugby World Cup in 2003. "The rugby boom worldwide as a spectacle coincided with the work done by this committee. Matches in European rugby leagues are broadcasted live by major sports channels and the IRB and its associations receive a huge amount of money for them. But the television channels also put them under pressure: they want a good show and everyone in the world of rugby understands this. As a result, the rules' committee is flexible – because as soon as they implement a rule, the players find a way to circumvent it. Or to put it another way, they

try to push the boundaries as much as possible and this often has a negative impact on the quality of the match. In rugby, continuous change is seen not only as a positive thing but also as a matter of course. Contrast this with polo – it would be a traumatic step to take and in some circumstances exacerbated by the conservative attitude that dominates polo. I insist: There are times in which you must dare to make changes to preserve what you have and I think this is such a time." The view of a polo historian on Tanoira's "Reflections" What does Tanoira say to us in his "Reflections"? What contribution does he make with his book to the debates within the polo community that take place behind closed doors? Will patron polo determine how polo is played in the future? Or is there another way? I ask Dr Horacio Laffaye about this. But before I reveal what Laffaye thinks about "Reflections", I'd just like to tell you a bit more about the polo historian. The native Argentinian with American citizenship has worked almost as a professional surgeon for almost 50 years, 22 years of which he has been Professor of Surgery at Yale Medical School. Ten years ago he wrote the first of several polo histories, "The Polo Encyclopaedia" (2004) and has also written contributions to the books "Profiles in Polo: The Players Who Changed the Game" (2008), "The Evolution of Polo" (2009), "Polo in England" (2010) and "Polo in the United States" (2011), which were all published by McFarland & Co. In spring 2014, the American publishers will also publish his book "Polo in Argentina: A History". He grew up on a cattle ranch in the province of Buenos Aires and his brothers, uncles, father and local gauchos introduced him to polo at the age of six. In his foreword for "Polo in Argentina", he explains: "I have had a lifelong love-affair with the game of polo as player, umpire, spectator or today as administrator and writer". Together with his Argentinian wife Martha,



The polo historian Horacio Laffaye agrees with Javier Tanoira that the development of the sport of polo is not for the benefit of the spectators: "The lack of combination play has eroded much of the thrill of the game, for both spectators and participants alike."

he moved to Southport, Connecticut in the late 1960s. There, he played polo every weekend at the Fairfield Country Hunt Club for 20 years until an accident forced his retirement. However, his passion for polo as a spectator has never waned. In 1992, he bought a second home in Wellington, Florida to escape the bitter winter in New England during the high goal season. In 2003 he was appointed to the board of the Museum of Polo and its Hall of Fame and is now chairman. He also serves on the executive committee of the International Polo Club Palm Beach and manages tournaments for the US Polo Association (USPA). Since 1977 he has written contributions to polo magazines about Argentinian and English high goal polo.

Laffaye describes Tanoira's "Reflections" as a "well-conceived dissertation of the decline of polo as practiced in the sport's premier nation" and as a "clear picture of the game at the beginning of the 21st century". The tract is well written and is based on his personal experience and observations. It reflects a lucid mind, capable of presenting an easily read text, basing his conclusions after some time of careful examination of the facts and an unbiased evaluation of current issues. As a child growing up in a family who had

been playing polo for three generations, Javier was brought up learning the traditional rules of the sport. He also played matches in the exclusive environment of high goal polo and in the open championship classes, which lends his conclusions particular weight. Tanoira carefully analyses the problems the game is currently suffering from. In comparison to previous eras, modern polo places higher demands on players' abilities. However, the lack of combination play has eroded much of the thrill of the game, for both spectators and participants alike.

Laffaye confirms Tanoira's view, that the main factors that influence the game in Argentina depend on how the rules are interpreted by individual players and sports associations. The rules as they were determined and publicised in the 19th century have served the sport well. Aside from some regulatory changes that mostly serve to take into account local or national conditions, the basic rules for fouls are the same: players must not cross an opponent's line, hook the mallet or ride dangerously. The historian confirms that since the start of modern polo in 1870, ...players have become very adept at circumventing the rules of the game by creating artificial fouls. In England and India, this tactic is known as the "old soldier's



trick": the player holds his horse back in order to give an opponent enough space to cross his line of the ball. Unfortunately, today's players have made this artificial foul standard practice. These fouls are not only a nightmare for referees and disrupt the flow of the game, but they also affect the outcome of the match. Many goals are scored through penalties which has a negative impact on excellent goals scored as part of the match. One example in high goal polo is a match from the Argentine Open where 53 fouls were recorded. By contrast, only three penalties were called during the second game of the Cup of the Americas in 1950 at Palermo. Laffaye also supports Tanoira in his opposition to the throw-in: "With a throw-in, more damage is caused than in any other standard situation during the match. If the number of throw-ins was reduced, the flow and excitement of the match could be increased". This was one of the main aims of the Federation of International Polo (FIP) when it was founded thirty years ago: "to standardize the rules of play and promote the game of polo on an international level". While these objectives were lofty, their attainment has been compromised by national self-interest and economic conditions. The development of a uniform rulebook has been hindered by the inflexibility of the three great powers, Argentina, England and the USA. But achieving uniform rules should be easy. Football is played across the world by millions of people according to the same rules. How can that not work with polo, given that it only has around 20,000 registered players around the globe?

In practice, the "Big Three" control how the game is played around the world. The regulatory committees in all three nations do not have much interest in changing the status quo for various reasons. As they are at the top, the AAP sees no reason to change the rules. Both in the USA and the UK, polo is hindered by a concept called the "three man polo" concept, whereby the team comprises three professional players and a sponsor. There are no short term or long term plans to change because without "patron sponsorship", there would be no high goal polo outside Argentina. Neither England nor the USA are satisfied with their own rules and the USPA rules enable unlimited changes to team members during a match or tournament. They do not allow 30-yard penalties to be defended and therefore make the match boring. The length and number of chukkas varies and the way they finish also varies. A lot of constructive work needs to be done. Rules aside, some changes do not seem to focus on whether polo, the fastest team sport in the world, offers a good view for spectators or is a fun way for players



Tanoira says nowadays it is nearly impossible to see good refereeing, because the umpires have to keep an eye on too many players at the same time.

to spend their time. The most notorious change was 2 points being awarded for a goal scored from 60 yards away. This practice only detracts from combination play and becomes an obsession with heavy hitters. This has a negative effect on team play. Polo is at a crossroads. It seems as though some regulatory committees have lost their way. There will always be amateur polo but the future of top players lies in the hands of professional institutions that are supported by commercial organisations. Javier Tanoira sounded the alarm with his book. The powers-that-be in polo should take a look at his book and bring polo back to its roots: it should be fun for players and an exciting event for spectators.

Horacio Laffaye is not just an important historian and worldwide spokesman for polo. Just like Tanoira, he is its conscience. He not only draws our attention to what modern polo has achieved in 140 years, but also to the threat it is now facing. The regulatory authorities are handing over control to commercial interests that have other intentions in mind. All those who remember how polo once was before "patron polo" took a foothold should thank Tanoira and Laffaye for the fact that they have sounded the warning and shown ways to make polo a spectator sport once again.

# DREAM YACHTS

The Italian Fipa Group is one of the world's leading yacht manufacturers. The group, which is headquartered in Viareggio, Tuscany, is active worldwide and also a committed sponsor of polo.

BY KATRIN LANGEMANN PHOTOGRAPHY FIPA GROUP





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Since 2012 Fipa is sponsoring the sport of polo and among other things hosts the Viareggio Polo Beach Cup in their home country. Top right: AB 140 Seafire 787: Saloon.



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Francesco Guidetti and his wife Mirna Santucci founded the company Fipa Italiana Yachts in 1980, thereby laying the foundation stone for the international group today. The young company made a name for itself primarily with the first motor yachts made from fibreglass – the glass-reinforced plastic was an innovative material for most shipbuilders back then. In 1985, Fipa Italiana Yachts acquired the Maiora brand and expanded its product portfolio with a symbol of impressive craftsmanship and artistry. In the Fipa shipyards, the expertise of Maiora found itself on fertile ground and the prestigious brand became an innovative one with a quest for perfection. The purchase of the historic shipyard Intermare at the beginning of the 1990s gave the Fipa Group the opportunity to expand its services with specialized mechanical assistance, stainless steel works, teak works and docks for final sea trial before the final delivery to the client. At the beginning of the new millennium, the Fipa Group recognised in the shipyard AB Yachts a leader in the planning and construction of fast open motor yachts with water jets. With this acquisition, they began renewing models and widening production. Further to an increase in the market demand, Fipa Italiana Yachts moved part of the Maiora production to the Massa facilities. Another important development in the group's history occurred in 2005 with the acquisition of the shipyard CBI Navi, where they inherited skills in the construction of metal yachts and enlarged the production areas in the Viareggio site with direct access to the sea. Its passion for yachts and quest for perfection are what has driven the Fipa Group right from the start. Today, the group is one of

the world's leading yacht manufacturers. The offer for boat experts ranges from fibreglass motor yachts up to 50 mt, to steel and light alloy motor yachts up to 80 mt, to open motor yachts up to 50 mt. The highest standards, best quality and perfect service are what characterize the Italian company.

And it is not just speedy horsepower on water that the Fipa Group loves, but also animal horsepower on land. Since 2012 Fipa is sponsoring the sport of polo and among other things hosts the Viareggio Polo Beach Cup in their home country. Furthermore Fipa supports the Hublot Polo Cup Ascona, the Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club in China, the Palm Beach Polo Club in Wellington / USA and the Royal Jaipur Polo Club in India. Next year the commitment is meant to be extended and the collaboration with Wellington and the Polo Club Saint-Tropez is meant to be intensified. Rudolf Berglehner: "The tournaments are the perfect platform for us to get to know our customers personally. The world of polo is marked by understatement and we really like that. We do not like to show off as well. But we have very special yachts in limited production for special customers and we offer a very personal service along with it. Polo is a gigantic sport with gorgeous horses which understand the game. Intelligence, speed, skills and beauty of the animals are united at the polo field – and this is the way we construct our yachts."

More information about the Fipa Group can be found on the Internet at [www.fipagroup.com](http://www.fipagroup.com)



# CHEVAL DES ANDES

Polo and wine are inspiring his life: in Mendoza/Argentina the French Nicolas Audebert combines his talents and passions surrounded by the terrific setting of the Andes.

BY STEFANIE STÜTING PHOTOGRAPHY CHEVAL DES ANDES



Polo at Cheval des Andes is familiar and easy. Nicolas calls it homemade polo because it is practiced at Cheval des Andes own polo field with people he trusts and without formalities.



Everyday work in the vineyards, with the horses and in the cellar.



Cheval des Andes is the first fusion of the Premier Grand Cru Classé A of Saint-Emilion-Cheval Blanc with its savoir-faire and Terrazas de los Andes. "The 2012/2013 cycle has been one of the most important harvests of the last decades in quantitative and qualitative terms."

A polo field amidst infinite vineyards, on the horizon the snow-covered Andes Mountains rise up to the sky. Here in Mendoza the Frenchman Nicolas Audebert has found a slice of heaven as a winemaker and polo player. The vineyard estate Cheval des Andes is located in Las Compuertas District which is one of the most prestigious and renowned regions of Luján de Cuyo in Mendoza. Here, the Grand Cru of the Andes' vines grow on a 125-acre field – a remarkable wine, which right now starts an international triumph. The pioneering joint venture between Chateau Cheval Blanc and Terrazas de los Andes is run by Nicolas Audebert. He works as a full-time winemaker for the alliance – working closely with Pierre Lurton, Winemaker of Chateau Cheval Blanc – and is charged with all aspects of winemaking. In this role, Nicolas leverages his world-class training in the French art of assemblage with a hands-on appreciation for the ideal elevation vineyards of Mendoza, Argentina, for seven years. Nicolas Audebert is not only very successful as an oenologist, he also participates in tournaments with his Cheval des Andes polo team. "Polo at Cheval des Andes is part of our passion; we call it homemade polo because we practice it at our own polo field with people we trust and without formalities. We handle ourselves with care of every single detail. We play with two teams, the players are close friends, some of whom are professionals and the rest (including myself and Cheval des Andes Head of viticulture: Gustavo Ursomarso) are just bon vivant, wine and polo fanatics. We have international guest players once in a while joining us in our trainings and friendly matches, who add a lot of value to our games (expertise and fun). They visit us especially during November and December – spring-summer time in the Southern Hemisphere – when all the important international matches happen in Argentina as Tortugas, Hurlingham and Palermo. Our goal is to make our guests enjoy the real Mendocinean lifestyle, submerged in its terroir and surrounded by the Cordillera de los Andes including the polo experience and the best food and wine."

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Nicolas was born in 1975 in the south of France, by the Mediterranean sea. As the son of an admiral in the French Navy, he had the opportunity to live throughout the world, developing an early love for international experiences until he finally anchor in Mendoza with the aim of taming this amazing project called Cheval des Andes. Gratiified by the results, he proudly shares: "The 2012/2013 cycle has been one of the most important harvests of the last decades in quantitative and qualitative terms thanks to the absence of climate risk factors. It was characterized by cool climate trends, excellent health conditions and scarce rain. Mild temperatures contributed to an extended ripeness and cool nights helped with keeping a great acidity and a right aromatic development. We expect Cheval des Andes 2013 to be released in at least four more years; we still have hard work ahead deciding the composition of this blend that will definitely be one of the best exponents of the last decade of this Grand Cru of the Andes."

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# WHERE -to- BUY

Every polo player knows how important the right equipment is to ensure safety and a successful play. But sometimes the best gear is not easy to find. The best retailers of polo equipment – POLO+10 has asked the experts and here they are: the best brands, and some new protagonists.

BY **MARÍA PAULA FERNÁNDEZ**



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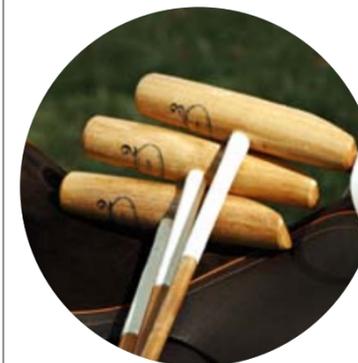
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A unique hotel for unique guests, the luxury boutique Hotel Madero is situated in the exclusive and modern Puerto Madero district and offers chic and contemporary comfort with a distinctive sense of style.

PHOTOGRAPHY HOTEL MADERO

Hotel Madero is truly different. The property is located on the trendy and exclusive Puerto Madero and just a short walk from the antique art galleries of San Telmo, the hip bars and restaurants, and the iconic Puente de la Mujer. The environment is warm and welcoming and the service is friendly yet top-notch. The décor is artistic and refined and the vibe is ultra-cool. Hotel Madero invites you to experience a new concept within the hotel industry. With a focus on style and design everywhere, the hotel has 197 spacious and innovative rooms. When you put your key card in the lock and open the door to your room or suite you will find a spacious, chic room – most of which have a private balcony – equipped with

everything you need to enjoy your stay, including an in-room safe that fits your laptop, WiFi, minibar, LCD TV, desk and more. You can also enjoy the complimentary buffet breakfast every morning.

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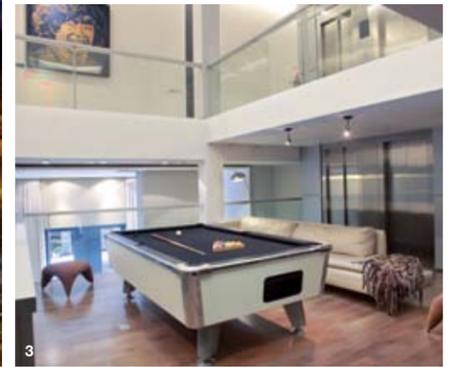
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# ESPLENDOR HOTEL BUENOS AIRES

Strategically located in the heart of Buenos Aires in the famous and traditional district of San Martín y Córdoba, the Esplendor Hotel Buenos Aires is an authentic urban spot.

PHOTOGRAPHY ESPLENDOR BUENOS AIRES

Combining a beautifully restored neo-Renaissance façade with cutting-edge interiors, this hotel has a rich history and is also home to a permanent art exhibition by the Argentinian art collective Mondongo. It is a perfect boutique hotel, located in the heart of exciting Buenos Aires. Strategically situated in the famous and traditional district of San Martín y Córdoba, the Esplendor Hotel Buenos Aires is an authentic urban spot that links the city's various different tourist attractions: the Microcentro, Puerto Madero, Corrientes Avenue, Retiro and Santa Fé Avenue. The hotel is located adjacent to the famous shopping mall Galerías Pacífico and the lively Florida Street and was originally designed by architects Agrelo and Le Vacher in 1889. It was one of the first hotels in Buenos Aires and the absolute favourite of English immigrants. Remodelled in 2005, it has retained its original character but now has a modern interior, meaning that the architectural interior is completely different to the exterior façade. A minimalist vertical structure was designed with the antique patios of the hotel acting as a centrepiece.

Inside the rooms, a wide range of innovative and interesting materials has been used. Designed by the renowned Argentinian designer Martin Churba for his label Tramando, they cover everything from the headboards of the bed to the pillows and even the lamps.

The very singular works of art from the art collective Mondongo decorate the hallways of Esplendor with contrasting and divergent materials ranging from play dough, cookies, threads, nails, crystals and even gold chains. Between these works are images of famous Argentine figures from the country's popular culture, such as Maradona, Gardel, Piazzolla, Evita and Borges.

This avant-garde hotel also offers several amenities, such as beauty treatments and massage therapists in your own room, a fully-equipped gym, playroom, business centre and the very attractive Mott restaurant which remains faithful to its concept of seasonal fresh market cuisine, thereby guaranteeing the freshness and quality of each dish. With three room categories, this unique hotel surprises guests with carefully designed rooms that are harmonious, modern and comfortable. The VIP suites also offer a premium option that encourages guests to enjoy their relaxation to the maximum with integrated double size jacuzzis, queen size beds, perfect mattresses and wide spaces that provide exactly the level of quality comfort the hotel wants to give its guests.

For more information, discover Esplendor at [www.esplendorbuenosaires.com](http://www.esplendorbuenosaires.com). Reservations: +54 115 256 8814 or [reservasbsas@esplendorbuenosaires.com](mailto:reservasbsas@esplendorbuenosaires.com).

# MOROCCAN BEAUTY

Fairy-tale-like: the exclusive Royal Mansour Marrakech in Morocco sets new benchmarks in the luxury hotel segment and entices its guests to discover the fascinating world of the Orient.

PHOTOGRAPHY ROYAL MANSOUR



The 2,500 square metre Moroccan spa is an oasis of calm in the middle of the bustling Marrakech medina. Guests can relax here or in the tea salon (image bottom right). Top right: A stylish end to the day in an elegant atmosphere at the bar.

The magic of the Orient surrounds guests at the Royal Mansour. The 35,000 square metre complex in the centre of Marrakech's old town replicates the construction styles used in ancient Moroccan cities and is largely integrated into the city walls. Splendid and imposing, the exclusive hotel embodies traditional Moroccan lifestyle in an artistic manner. Traditional architecture and craftsmanship go hand-in-hand with a new kind of luxury and unique service.

Guests stay in fully equipped private villas. 53 of these so-called riads with a size of 130-850 square metres are spread out across the complex. The riads are in the style of a traditional Moroccan home, with the rooms distributed across three floors. All riads have a private courtyard, their own pool on the roof terrace and a personal butler. The architectural style of the villas is traditionally oriental and completed by the lush gardens and typical Moroccan wells and waterfalls. All decorative elements and mosaics in the palace-like complex have been handmade in great detail by workers from the royal household. The Royal Mansour is a project by the King of Morocco Mohammed VI and does not just represent luxury of the highest level, but also a maximum of privacy. An underground service city has been established for discreet and optimal handling of all service processes.

Three exclusive restaurants managed by Michelin starred French chef Yannick Alleno, including a traditional Moroccan and a French restaurant, promise culinary enjoyment. The authentic Moroccan wellness and spa facility is an oasis of calm in the middle of the bustling Marrakech medina. The luxurious Moroccan spa is located in the middle of the idyllic hotel garden and comprises 2500 square metres, including a hammam, pool, fit-

ness studio, tea salon to relax in and private cabins for individual and comprehensive beauty treatments. The design of the whole spa appeals because of high-quality materials, colour-coordinated mosaic tiles and handmade woodwork and inlays. Lighting, steam, water and music effects transform the rooms into a refuge for the senses.

More information about the Royal Mansour Marrakech is available on the Internet at [www.royalmansour.com](http://www.royalmansour.com)



Fine materials, a luxurious interior and fine decorations and mosaics – the architectural style of the villas is traditionally oriental.

# POLO+10 WORLD



N° 5

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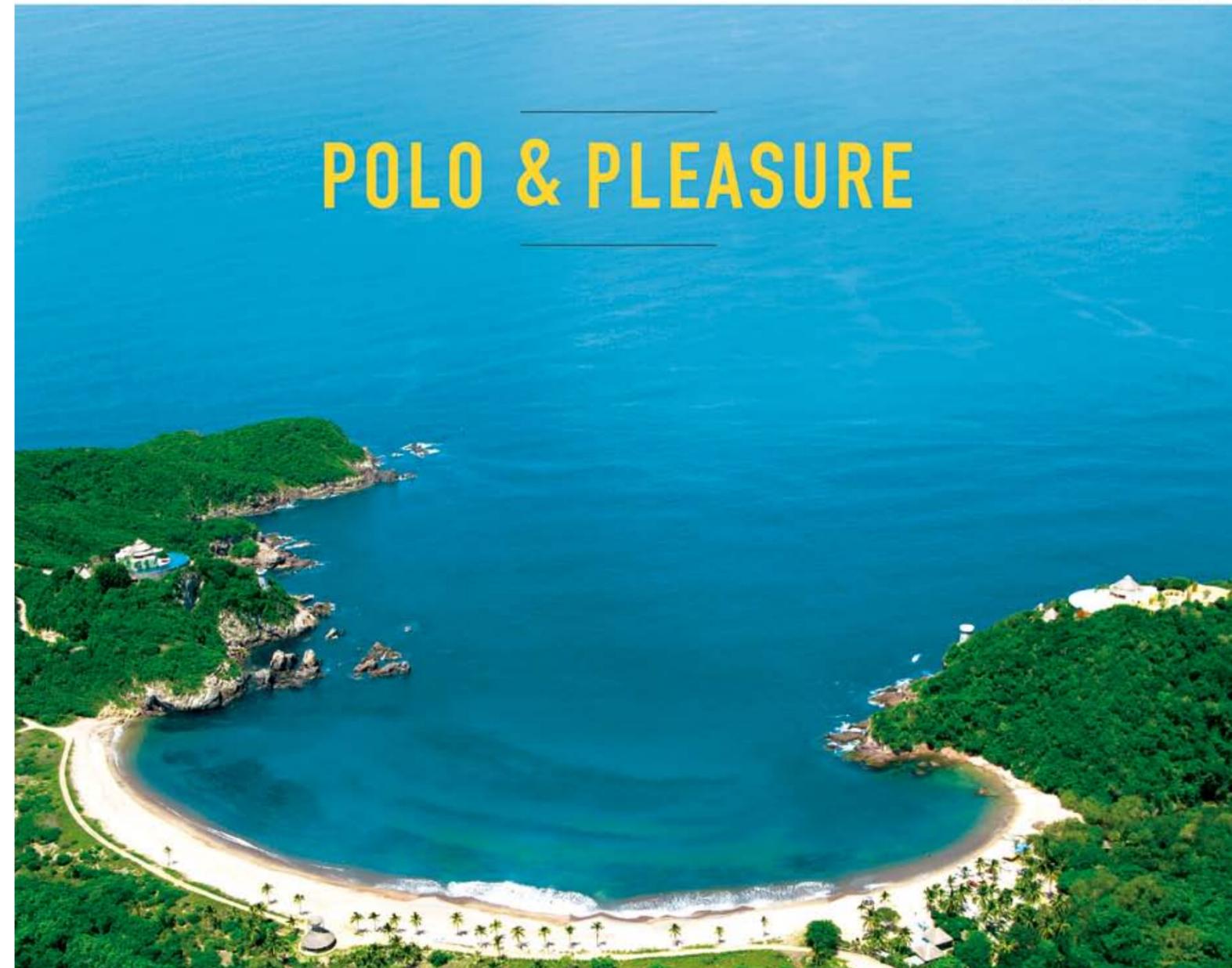


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