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# ELEGANCE. EMOTION. EXCELLENCE. – CELEBRATING A SEASON LIKE NO OTHER



Dear readers,

A polo year has just passed that could hardly have been more diverse: from the glittering AlUla desert in Saudi Arabia to the venerable playing fields of Palermo in Buenos Aires – 2024 and the beginning of 2025 have offered everything that makes the sport of polo so unique.

In late summer 2024, we witnessed a tournament full of excitement and tactical brilliance in Switzerland. At the Hublot Polo Gold Cup Gstaad, Max Charlton proved himself to be a strategist with nerves of steel, securing the tournament victory for Great Britain. Although his team lost the final, Argentinian Raúl Laplacette was named MVP for his outstanding performance – a testament to the depth and excellence of top-level international polo.

Just a few months later, in January 2025, a tournament took place in Saudi Arabia that extended far beyond the boundaries of sport. The Richard Mille AlUla Desert Polo brought together elite players, sponsors, members of royalty, and polo enthusiasts in the heart of an awe-inspiring desert landscape. Hospitality, history, and high-performance sport came together in an unforgettable event – captured by a very special image on our cover: Adolfo Cambiaso, the living legend of the sport, with his daughter Mia, framed by the golden sands of AlUla.

Only weeks before, Cambiaso and his team La Dolfina had experienced a mixed season in Argentina. While they clinched the Copa Cámara, the final of the 131st Argentine Open ended in a clear and surprising defeat against La Natividad – a result that will be remembered not for the scoreline, but for the incredible level of play that once again defined this iconic tournament.

Another highlight was not a tournament, but an experience: Selman Marakech – a place devoted to the art of riding, Arabian horse breeding, and refined hospitality. Set against the backdrop of magnificent oriental architecture, Selman offers not only a luxurious retreat, but also an authentic experience for riders and horse lovers – a place where the spirit of polo can be felt in a truly unique way.

Warmest regards,

**THOMAS WIRTH**  
Founder and Publisher

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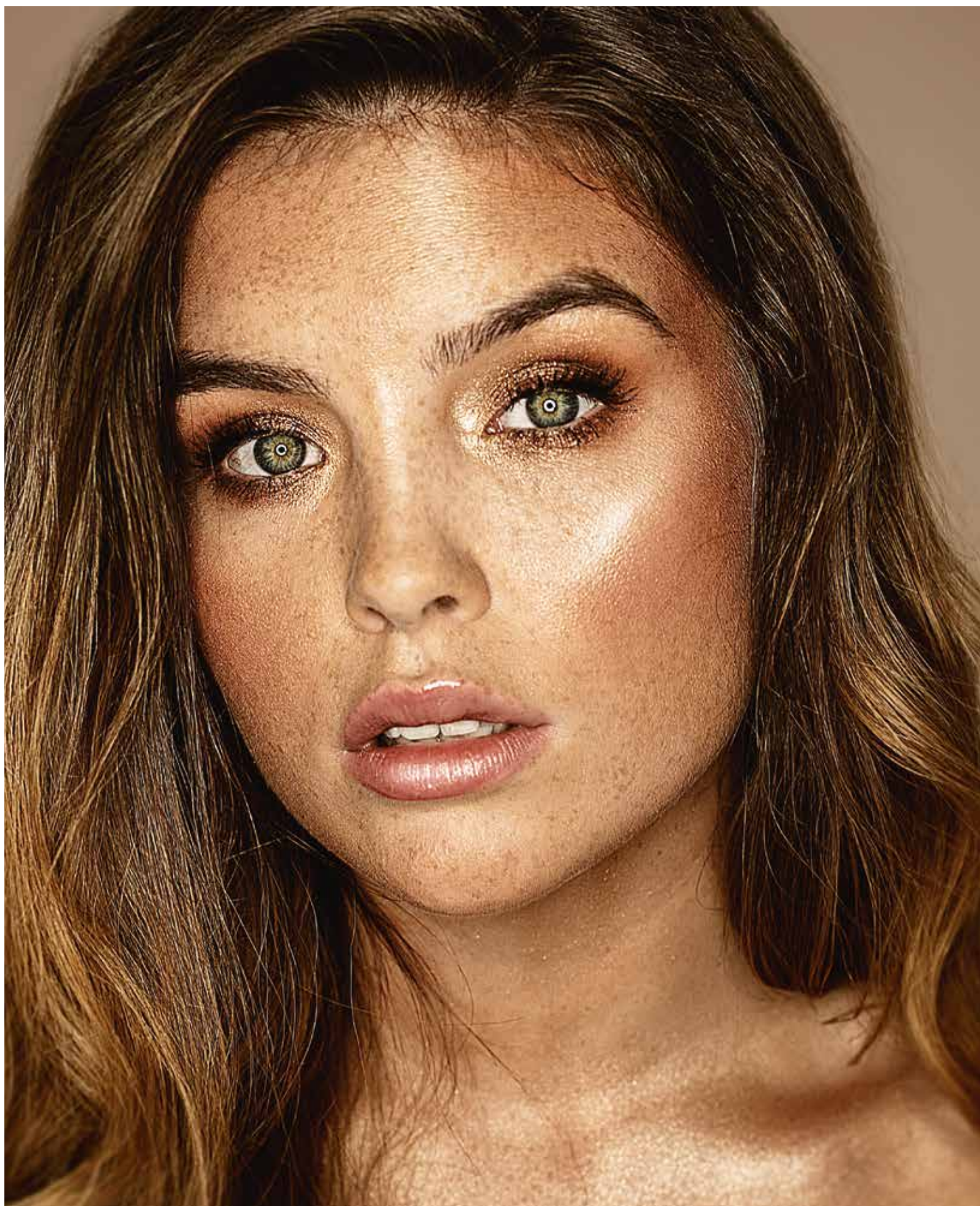
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It may not have been the most beautiful match of Hublot Polo Gold Cup 2024, but when the final is on the line the only appealing result is a win. During this final, polo was a sport of strategy, combat, and patience: and Britain's Max Charlton proved to be the strongest at this game. All the talent of Raul Laplacette could do nothing about it, despite being named best player of the match.

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Under the bright sun and in the presence of many enthusiastic guests, players showcased skill, determination, and true sportsmanship, embodying the spirit of the game. The event was a perfect celebration of teamwork, passion, and the enduring elegance of polo.

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Team POLO+10 came out on top in the final with a narrow 7-6 victory, crowning themselves champions of the last lawn tournament of the season.

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From 11 to 13 July 2025, PoloPark Berlin will be transformed into the centre of the first German Ladies' Polo Championship – the LIVING BERLIN Ladies Cup, presented by Radio Paradiso. This exciting event not only offers thrilling competitions, but also a platform to celebrate the passion and skill of women in the sport of polo.

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United by a passion for polo - experience the strength and reach of our global network.



# RICHARD MILLE ALULA<sup>DESERT</sup> POLO<sup>XO</sup>



Against the breathtaking desert backdrop of AlUla, the world's top polo players, royals, and patrons came together for two days of elite competition. Visitors experienced world-class polo, rich heritage, and unparalleled Arabian hospitality at this unique event.

PHOTOGRAPHY ROYAL COMMISSION FOR ALULA,  
POLO+10 / RUTH A. YORKE







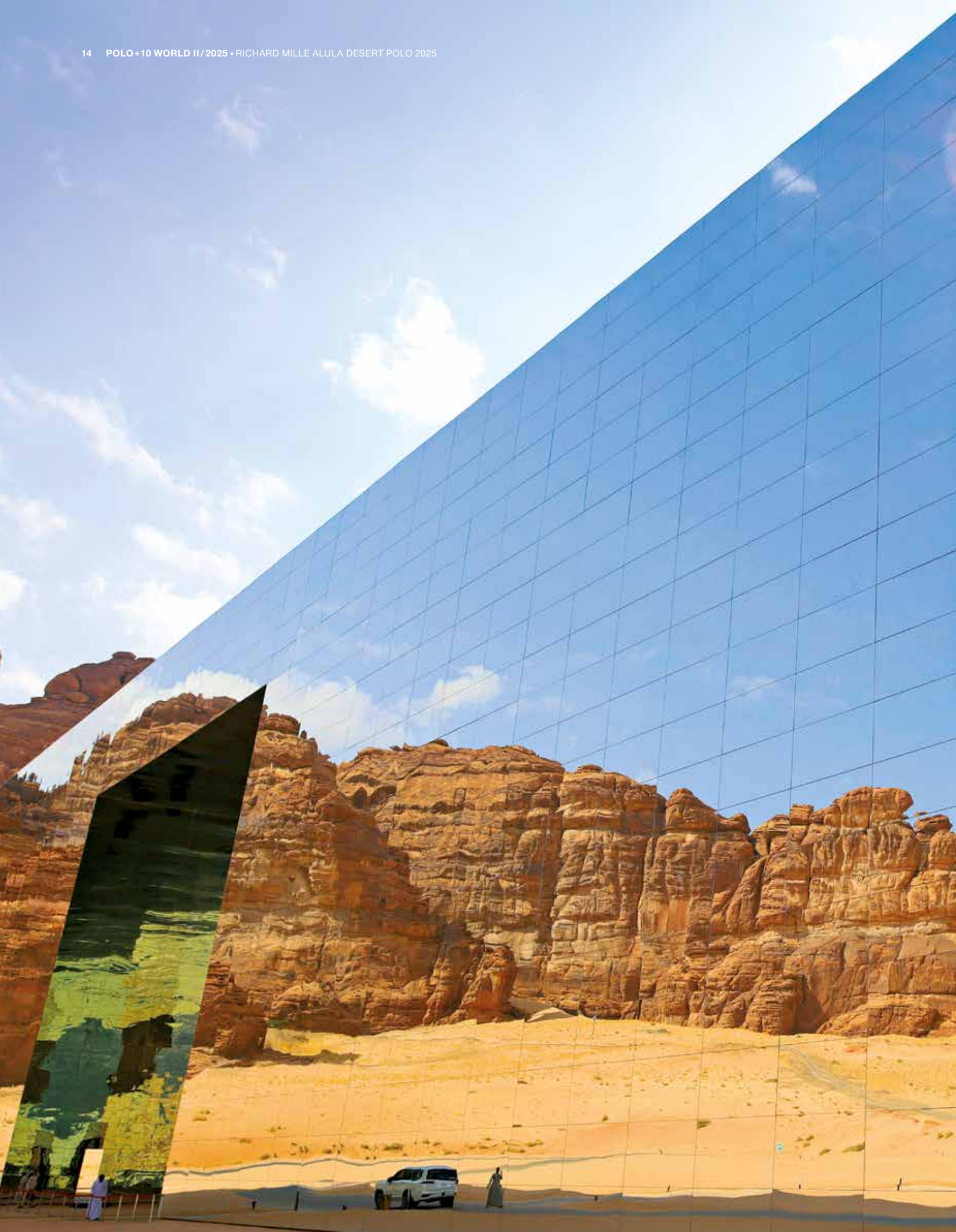
Mia Cambiaso and her father, Adolfo Cambiaso, compete on opposing teams in a high-stakes polo match. Riding alongside their teammates, they skillfully navigate the field, each striving for victory. The desert backdrop enhances the intensity of this unique family showdown.













The stunning Maraya Concert Hall in AlUla—the world's largest mirrored building—reflects the beauty of the desert while hosting world-class cultural events.







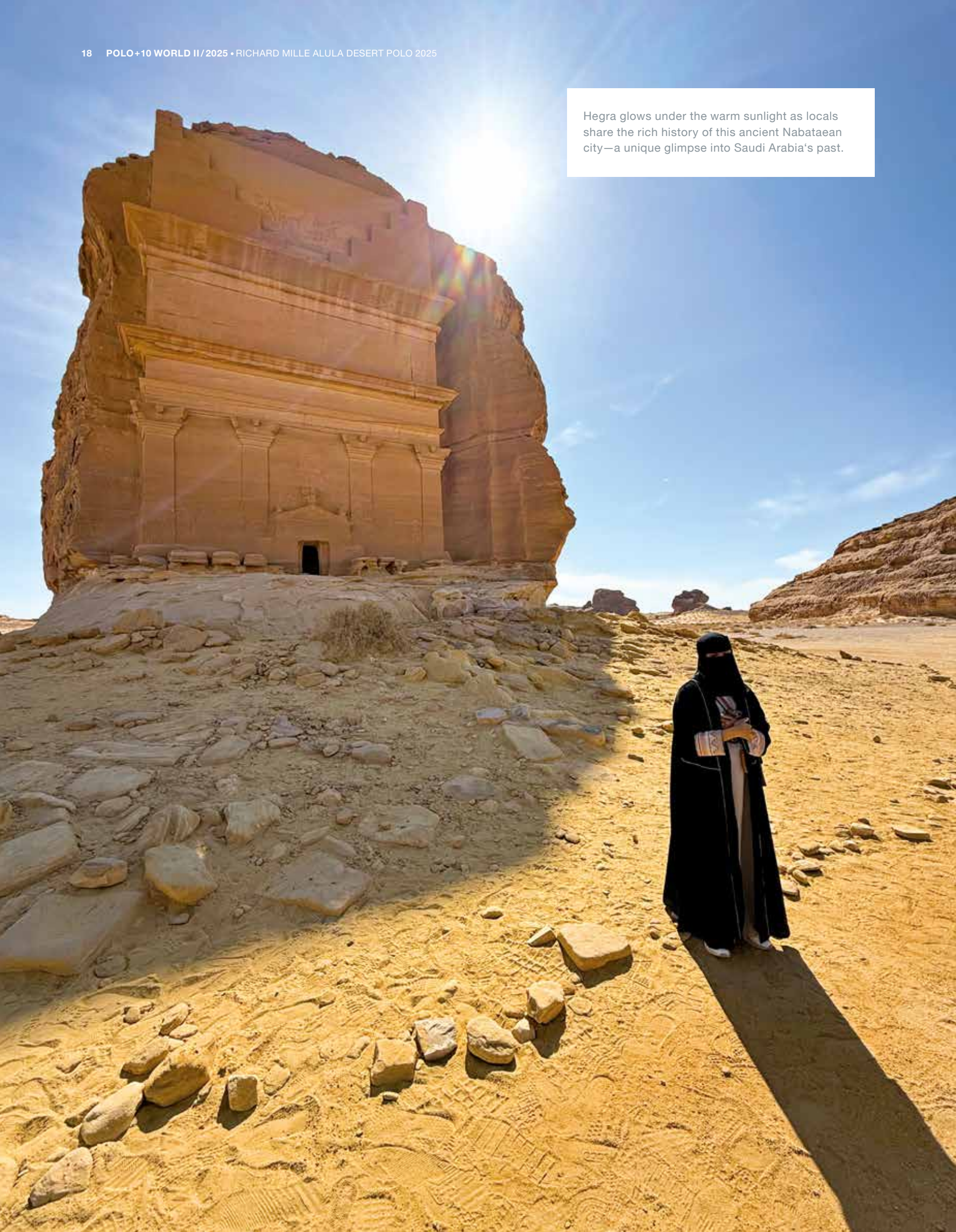


Adolfo Cambiaso in a duel with his son Poroto - an exciting polo match against the impressive desert backdrop of AlUla.





Hegra glows under the warm sunlight as locals share the rich history of this ancient Nabataean city—a unique glimpse into Saudi Arabia's past.







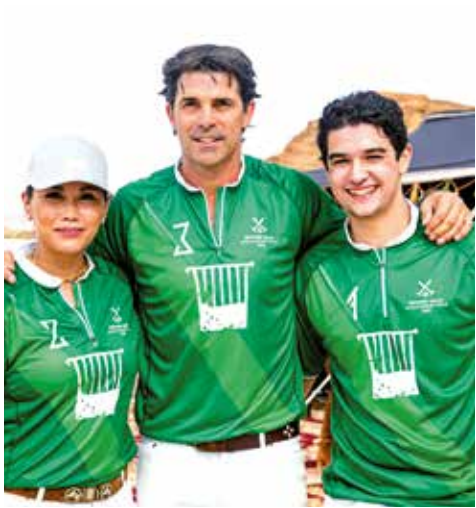
An Arab man in traditional attire stands amidst a dense palm grove, with the vast desert stretching into the background—a striking contrast between oasis and wilderness.





A glimpse into the Richard Mille AIUla Desert Polo—thrilling matches, an enthusiastic crowd, and rich Arabian heritage. Away from the field, a rider on a camel captures attention, adding an authentic desert charm to the vibrant atmosphere.













A vibrant scene at the Richard Mille AlUla Desert Polo—smiling staff, luxury Bentley cars, lively music, and an excited crowd. Polo legend Adolfo Cambiaso showcases his skill, while a traditional Arabian café off the field offers fragrant coffee and sweet treats for guests to enjoy.









Richard Mille Alula Desert Polo 2025—A spectacular tournament featuring world-class players, passionate crowds, and rich Arabian heritage, set against the breathtaking desert backdrop of Alula.



# POLO<sup>+10</sup>



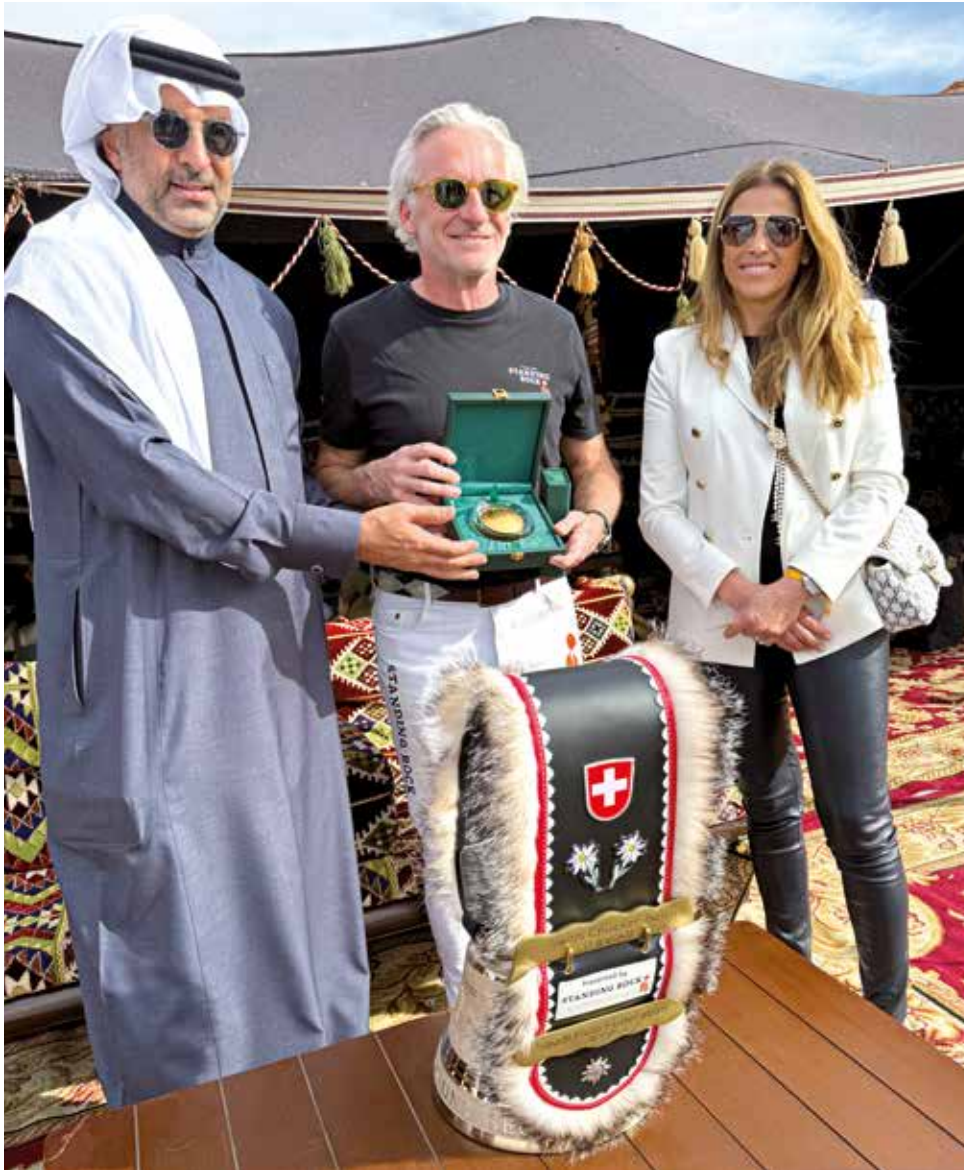
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**AlUla, Saudi Arabia, January 20, 2025 – The Richard Mille AlUla Desert Polo 2025 set new benchmarks. With a spectacular finale and a record-breaking number of spectators, this year's tournament became the largest in its history.**

Against the breathtaking desert backdrop of AlUla, six teams featuring world-class players, royals, and international patrons competed in two days of top-tier polo. Team Richard Mille, consisting of Pablo MacDonough, Mohammed AlSewedy, and Clare Milford Haven, secured the title with an 8-6 victory over Team Ikma. Team Bentley claimed the Subsidiary Cup, while Team Dadan won the Wooden Spoon Cup.

Attendance rose by 14 percent compared to the previous year, further establishing AlUla as an emerging global hotspot for sports and tourism. Ziad AlSuhaybani, Chief Sports Officer of the Royal Commission for AlUla, emphasized the growing

significance of the tournament and praised the high-quality matches and international appeal of the event.

With the participation of some of the world's best polo players, the tournament has solidified its place in the global polo calendar. Faisal Bin Doweies, CEO of the Saudi Polo Federation, highlighted the economic and social opportunities created by the event in alignment with Saudi Vision 2030.

As the world's first desert polo tournament, Richard Mille AlUla Desert Polo is a flagship event within the AlUla Moments calendar, which showcases sports, culture, and nature experiences. With ambitious plans for expansion, the tournament continues to grow and remains a key fixture on the international polo scene.



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

## DESERT POLO IN ALULA: WORLD-CLASS COMPETITION MEETS TIMELESS HERITAGE

At the 2025 Richard Mille Desert Polo in AlUla, top players like Pablo MacDonough and the Cambiasos competed against the stunning desert backdrop. Philipp Müller played for Team Budget Saudi, engaging in intense matches against the tournament's best teams.

Off the field, guests experienced AlUla's rich culture. Standing Rock presented Saudi Polo Federation Chairman Amr Zedan with a Swiss Chukker Bell as a symbol of friendship.

The tournament continues to gain global significance, with Saudi Arabia investing further in the future of polo.

“THIS EVENT IS SECOND TO NONE; BEING PART OF IT IS SIMPLY A PRIVILEGE.”

PHILIPP MÜLLER Standing Rock

### TEAMS

#### AlUla

Adolfo Cambiaso  
Clarinda Tija-Dharmadi  
Abdulmohsen Alkohair

#### Richard Mille

Pablo Mac Donough  
Mohammed AlSewedy  
Clare Milford Haven

#### Ikma

Nacho Figueras  
Ploy Bhinsaeng  
HRH Prince Hamza bin Abbas

#### Bentley

Poroto Cambiaso  
HRH Sultan bin Khaled Al Faisal  
Sarah Siegel-Magness

#### Dabas

Mia Cambiaso  
HRH Prince Abbas bin Ali  
Miguel Morel

#### Budget

Milly Hine  
Philipp Müller  
Harry Medina



# SPILANTHOX

NIKKI BENETT - THE QUEEN OF „ORGANIC BOTOX“ GOES USA. A UNIQUE SUCCESS STORY.



Spilanthox combines nature and science for visible anti-ageing results – founder Nikki Benett in a POLO+10 interview about her vision, the power of Spilanthol and the road to international success.



YOU HAVE DEVELOPED ONE OF THE FIRST NATURAL COSMETICS BRANDS WITH CLINICALLY PROVEN WRINKLE REDUCTION. WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO FOUND SPILANTHOX?

I have been using natural cosmetics all my life – not just out of conviction, but because I feel deeply connected to nature. My family and I live with many horses and dogs, and it was unthinkable for me to produce anything that would harm people, animals or the environment. At the same time, I wanted to create something meaningful. I firmly believe that with a clear vision and a genuine belief in an idea, you can achieve great things. And that's exactly how Spilanthox came about.

HOW DID IT COME ABOUT THAT YOU DISCOVERED SPILANTHOL AS THE MAIN ACTIVE INGREDIENT FOR YOUR PRODUCTS?

It was actually a lucky coincidence! After a cardiac arrest, I could no longer tolerate conventional anaesthetics and my dentist told me about spilanthol – a plant-based anaesthetic. In South America, the plant is traditionally chewed for toothache because it numbs the nerve receptors for a certain period of time. I then did some intensive research and found out that spilanthol not only acts as a painkiller, but also has a relaxing effect on the facial muscles. As my health history meant that I no longer looked quite so fresh myself, I thought to myself: this could be the perfect natural alternative to Botox!

THE EUROPEAN PRESS OFTEN CALLS SPILANTHOL "BIOBOTOX". IS THAT A SUITABLE TERM? Yes, I actually think it's very apt. It perfectly describes what spilanthol does: a natural, gentle smoothing of expression lines – without any mask effect and without the risks of injections. And best of all: the effect is reversible, so that the natural facial expression remains intact.



Image, left: Wael Hneini/unsplash.com  
Image, right: Venti Views/unsplash.com

WHAT MAKES YOUR PRODUCTS UNIQUE IN COMPARISON TO OTHER NATURAL COSMETICS?

Our biggest unique selling point is that we keep our promises. Our products are not only natural, they also have a visible effect – and this has been proven by independent clinical studies. After four weeks of use, we were able to demonstrate a reduction in wrinkles of up to 82%. As the founder, I am also involved in every stage of development, test all products extensively myself and only then release them for production. Our company is a genuine owner-managed family business that guarantees quality – and that's not just a marketing message, it's reality.

SPILANTHOL COMES FROM THE PARACRESS – BUT IS IT THE SAME?

Paracress, also known as jambú, is the plant from which spilanthol is extracted. This means that spilanthol is the active ingredient that provides the relaxing effect on the facial muscles.

ARE YOUR PRODUCTS MORE OF AN IMMEDIATE HELP OR DO THEY ACHIEVE LONG-TERM RESULTS?

Both! The effect is immediate: the skin immediately looks more relaxed. But with regular use, deeper wrinkles are also reduced because the muscles build up less and less tension. Over time, the skin acquires a smoother texture – without losing its natural expression.

SPILANTHOX IS GROWING STEADILY AND IS NOW EXPANDING TO THE USA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. DO YOU HAVE RESPECT FOR THIS NEXT STEP?

This is a huge milestone! And yes, I have respect and sometimes I'm surprised at my own courage – or madness, depending on how you look at it... Our products will be available in the US from this summer and I'm really looking forward to it. The US market offers a great opportunity because high-quality natural

cosmetics "Made in Germany" with proven promises of effectiveness are in demand there. We will also be pioneers in our field there. And pioneers are celebrated in the USA. Ideas and visions still have a chance there. Germany has long since ceased to be a country known for innovation or visionaries. That always makes me a little sad, but you have to accept it. I feel up to the task of expanding, but of course I also have a healthy respect for this milestone. There is a lot of hard work ahead of us and also certain risks. I hope that everything will go according to plan. And I see problems more as projects that need to be worked through. This attitude will help us to accomplish this major task. And I'm also really looking forward to the Middle East market from autumn 2025. It's an exciting, rapidly growing market.

WHY IS EXPANSION SO IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Germany is no longer a business-friendly country. It is becoming increasingly difficult for us to earn money and remain competitive due to constant new burdens and restrictions. Purchasing power in Germany is also falling. As an entrepreneur, you almost get the feeling that politicians want to abolish "Made in Germany"... German companies must now expand strongly and penetrate growth markets, otherwise we will face a difficult future.

BEING SELF-EMPLOYED AND THEN EXPANDING ALSO MEANS A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITY. HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO SWITCH OFF?

For me, there is only one real balance: nature, peace and quiet, animals and few people. Whether at my house by the Baltic Sea or in the stables with our horses – as soon as I'm outside, I can take a deep breath and recharge my batteries. As I prefer nature and our animals to people and jet-setting, you're less likely to see me on red carpets. I think I've realised what really counts: family, friends, health and slowing down. •



# 131<sup>ST</sup> ARGENTINE OPEN 2024

## ST CAMBIASO: ONE LAST DANCE IN 2025?







La Dolfina's 2024 season brought mixed results, including a Copa Cámara victory but a disappointing loss to La Natividad in the Argentine Open final.

BY PASCAL RENAULDON  
 PHOTOGRAPHY R&B PRESSE / PASCAL RENAULDON,  
 POLO+10

























#### FINAL 131<sup>ST</sup> ARGENTINE OPEN

##### **La Natividad (40)**

Jeta Castagnola 10  
(9, including 5 penalties)  
Facundo Pieres 10  
(3, including 1 penalty)  
Pablo Mac Donough 10 (1)  
Bartolo Castagnola 10

##### **La Dolfina Saudi (40)**

Adolfo Cambiaso 10  
(4, including 1 penalty)  
Pelon Stirling 10  
Poroto Cambiaso 10  
(5, including 3 penalties)  
Juan M. Nero 10 (2)

##### **La Natividad, Progression:**

1-1, 2-5, 3-5, 4-6, 8-6, 11-6, 12-7 and 13-11

#### FINAL 8<sup>TH</sup> ARGENTINE WOMEN'S OPEN

##### **El Overo Z7 UAE (36)**

Hope Arellano 10 (1 goal)  
Candelaria Fernández Araujo 9 (3)  
Hazel Jackson 9 (4)  
Millie Hine (1 penalty) 8

##### **La Dolfina (34)**

Lía Salvo 9 (2 penalties)  
Catalina Lavinia 8 (2)  
Mía Cambiaso 8 (3)  
Nina Clarkin 9

##### **El Overo Z7 UAE, Progression:**

1-1, 1-1, 4-1, 6-2, 7-5 and 10-7

#### REPECHAJE

##### **La Hache Cría y Polo (31)**

Facundo Sola 8 (6 goals)  
Carlos M. Ulloa 8 (4)  
Benjamín Panelo 7 (2)  
Joaquín Pittaluga 8  
(4, including 2 penalties and 1 corner)

##### **La Dolfina Valiente (28)**

Lucas Criado Jr. 7  
(7, including 3 penalties)  
Gonzalo Ferrari 7 (3)  
Mariano González Jr. 7 (1)  
Isidro Strada 7 (4)

##### **La Hache Cría y Polo, Progression:**

5-2, 7-4, 10-8, 12-9, 15-10, 15-12, 15-15 and 16-15







# 8<sup>TH</sup> ARGENTINE WOMEN'S OPEN







**La Dolfina's 2024 results were mixed, at least in terms of the legendary team's standing: Copa Cámara winners, Team III (Valiente) narrowly failed to qualify for the play-offs (outstanding game, by the way); Mía Cambiaso's women's team reached the final but lost to Overo Z7 and, above all, La Dolfina 1 failed to win a single Triple Crown trophy, losing again in the Abierto final to La Natividad. All this led to a transfer waltz for 2025 the very next week. Not a single 2025 team will resemble the 2024 line-up. Unheard of!**

There were two matches in this 131st final of the Argentine Open. In the first four chukkers, La Dolfina seemed to have the match in hand (6-4 in the fourth) before taking a scathing 7-0 over the next three periods. It wasn't an exciting encounter, and the result was largely down to individual actions, particularly those of Jeta Castagnola. The

conclusion is that La Dolfina (alone) will never win another sixteenth title, and that Adolfo Cambiaso is unlikely to equal the record of Juan C. Harriott Jr. who won the Abierto twenty times between 1957 and 1979 with Coronel Suarez's great team. But perhaps next year he'll join Harriott's teammate Horacio Heguy Sr. in second place with nineteen titles. To this end, Adolfo Cambiaso has managed to reach an agreement with his brother-in-law, Lolo Castagnola, to form the dream-team he has been fantasizing of for some time, with him alongside his son Poroto and his nephews, his sister Camila's sons Jeta and Barto Castagnola. In other words, an unbeatable team: we already know the name of the 2025 Argentine champion... And for Cambiaso, it will undoubtedly be the best outing at almost 50 years!

Behind this future Natividad-Dolfina is a whirlwind of transfers. Uruguayan Pelon

Stirling, Cambiaso's loyal lieutenant since 2011, has announced his retirement from the Abierto with nine titles under his belt, while Juan Martin Nero has signed for a new team, El Overo Z7, alongside Polito Pieres and Tomas Panelo (who are leaving La Hache) and Lukin Monerverde, promoted to handicap 9, who is leaving an Ellerstina that will clearly not be represented in 2025. Gonzalo and Facundo Pieres, on the other hand, will be reunited with the Heguy cousins at Indios Chapaleufu. Etc. etc. In short, there won't be a single 2024 line-up in 2025. An unprecedented upheaval in the history of the world's greatest tournament (see table).

**Women's Open: La Dolfina loses... and recruits two of their winners.**

No fifth title for Mía Cambiaso (despite a great match), her Dolfina having been led





from start to finish by titleholder El Overo Z7 UAE without the slightest debate. Hazel Jackson and, above all, Cande Araujo put in a great performance, with the latter producing some spectacular moves and finishing with some fine golazos. These performances earned both players a promotion to 10 goals, while their defender Millie Hine was upgraded from 8 to 9, as was Mía Cambiaso.

The debriefing and subsequent measures were swift on the La Dolfina side: exit Nina Clarkin, although she had been the main architect of La Dolfina's four victories; exit Lía Salvo, who didn't really get a chance to express herself within the team; and recruitment of American Hope Arellano and England's Millie Hine, the tournament's top scorer, thus stripping El Overo Z7 of two key players. It's a strategy not unlike that of Adolfo Cambiaso, who, after

being beaten by Ellerstina in 2010, "stole" Pablo McDonough and Juan Martin Nero from his opponents in order to win nine Abierto with them!

#### **The "repechaje", the match you had to see.**

The repechaje is the play-off between the Copa Cámara winner and the eighth-placed team in the Triple Crown standings (bearing in mind that the ninth and tenth-placed teams will have to qualify again in 2025). The Copa Cámara is to the Argentine Open what the Europa League is to the Champions League in soccer. The "second league" with teams of 24 to 31 goals, of which there were sixteen this year. Interesting matches to watch, often fierce as was the final between La Dolfina Valiente (La Dolfina team 3) and La Ensenada II. La Dolfina Valiente won the match, which

earned them the right to contest the repechaje against La Hache Cría y Polo. This was undoubtedly one of the finest matches of the Argentine high season. Open polo, first-strike balls, long flights, a few golazos, an exchange of attacks from home to home and perfect suspense. A match dominated and perfectly controlled by La Hache for 6 chukkers, and then La Dolfina's revolt in the seventh and (normally) last chukker. A 3-0 scoreline, including a goal in the dying seconds, sent La Hache into extra time. La Dolfina had their work cut out when they were awarded a 60-yard penalty which Luquitas Criado just missed, while another shot hit the post. Finally, Toly Ulloa broke free to score the only goal of the game. All in all, La Hache Cría y Polo logically saved its fine season, while La Dolfina will be absent from the 2025 Triple Crown for the first time in a quarter-century!



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# ARGENTINA 2024

## MILEI, INFLATION AND HORSE MARKET

A COMMENTARY PASCAL RENAULDON PHOTOGRAPHY R&B PRESSE / PASCAL RENAULDON

The Argentine Open final was played under the watchful eye of President Javier Milei, who is clearly very popular in the Argentine polo world. True to his slightly... off-beat image, Milei didn't deprive his audience of the kind of show he's known for, combining exuberance and rather pleasant gestures: warm hugs with the players, including of course Cambiaso, of whom he's a fan, during the prize-giving ceremony, where he clearly enjoyed lingering. All this under the worried gaze of sixty members of his security team, including a few snipers posted high up in the stands, it seems.

Clearly, Dr Javier Milei, the embodiment of hard-line liberalism, has turned Argentina's economy around, wiping out the country's debt. On the other hand, the poverty rate is no better than it was during the Kirchner Peronist era, rising from 44% to 53% of the population living below the poverty line. The only fly in the ointment.

He has also brought inflation under control, from 13% a month to less than 3% a month... after a surge of 25% the days after his election at the end of 2023. As a result, the cost of living in Argentina is now equivalent to that in Europe. For travelers, the bargains of the days when you could exchange euros and dollars at the "blue" rate on a parallel market with a 50% bonus on the official rate are over. The peso has stabilized, but at what price? Whereas in 2001, 100 pesos were equivalent to 100 dollars, today you need a big bag to carry the 100,000 pesos corresponding to the same sum (bearing in mind that the most common banknotes are 500 and 1,000 pesos and that very few new 10,000 peso banknotes - €10 - are in circulation).

These original 25% inflation figures have prompted several European polo players and aficionados to think again. Many have written off their travels. The fact that there were only four teams in the Women's Open was largely due to costs. The stands at

Palermo's "Cathedral" were virtually empty for the quarterfinals (the "popular" Dorego stand was a little fuller, as it was free to enter for the first time this year), they were half-empty for the semi-finals and not really full for the final. Just ten years ago, tickets were snapped up as early as the quarters. The polo horse trade, although still fairly active, has clearly slowed down: "When you were offered horses for \$50,000 at the beginning of the season, the sellers would call back at the end of the season, before everyone had left, to offer them for \$20,000 for fear of having them on their hands during the winter", confided one European professional player. Maintenance costs have also skyrocketed: "Last year, my stable of around thirty horses cost me around \$50,000. This year, I had to spend \$150,000 for those same thirty horses", revealed the father of a professional player. Because, of course, professional polo players count in the dollars they earn in tournaments abroad. And in this case, Javier Milei's economic policy has clearly not done them any favors. But they love him! •





It may not have been the most beautiful match of Hublot Polo Gold Cup 2024, but when the final is on the line the only appealing result is a win. During this final, polo was a sport of strategy, combat, and patience: and Britain's Max Charlton proved to be the strongest at this game. All the talent of Raul Laplacette could do nothing about it, despite being named best player of the match.

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BY PASCAL RENAULDON / R&B PRESSE  
PHOTOGRAPHY PASCAL RENAULDON / R&B PRESSE,  
KATHRIN GRALLA





# HUBLOT

## POLO GOLD CUP GSTAAD 2024

































Image: Pascal Renaudon / R&amp;B Presse



## RANKING

### 1. Kielder Agro Group

Philipp Mueller 0,  
Jaime Robert 3 (1 goal)  
Nacho Gonzales 4(1 goal)  
Max Charlton 6 (4 goals)

### 2. Gstaad Palace

Fabio Meier 1 (1 goal)  
Luca Meier 1  
Adrian Laplacette 6 (1 goal)  
Raul Laplacette 6 (3 goals)

### 3. J. Safra Sarasin

Françoise Okala 0  
Bautista Fanelli 3 (2 goals)  
Horacio Fernandez Llorente 6 (4 goals)  
Tete Fanelli 5 (2 goals)

### 4. Hublot

Jurgen Schröder 0 (1 goal)  
Juan Correa 3 (3 goals)  
Pedro Fernandez Llorente 5 (1 goal)  
Manuel Fernandez Llorente 6 (1 goal)

**Tournament top scorer:** Max Charlton (Kielder Agro Group) with 17 goals

**Best professional player of the final:** Raul Laplacette (Gstaad Palace)

**Best amateur player:** Luca Meier (Gstaad Palace)

**Best horse of the final:** Germania, a 9-year-old bay mare bred in Argentina by Colo Germano, owned by Fabio Meier and played by Raul Laplacette

It was a defensive final which, naturally, concluded with a low score of 6-5. It was unbearable suspense until the end, with each team returning goals blow for blow. With only two minutes left on the clock, a remarkable individual play by Raul Laplacette leveled the score once again, and with mere seconds to go, Max Charlton took advantage of another 60-yard penalty. It was the goal that ultimately determined the match.

“Yes, it was a tough fight played out on penalties,” the Briton admitted. “We won today because we were a little bit luckier than Gstaad Palace since both teams were on equal footing. But I’m particularly pleased to have won here, for Phillipp [Müller, his captain]. It’s amazing!”

J. Safra Sarasin landed on the third step of the podium.

Today’s opening match, the final for third place, was clinched by French captain François Okala’s team, donning the distinctive J.Safra Sarasin colors, after an action-packed second chukker. Argentinian hand-icap 6 Horacio Fernandez Llorente led the charge, capturing four goals. The “blues” dominated the match from start to finish, after measuring up the pitch they only discovered last Thursday.

“Actually...not quite,” Tete Fanelli was keen to point out. “This is the third time I’ve played here. I’ve been a finalist twice before but lost on both occasions. I thought this

would be my year, so I’m not completely satisfied with third place. That doesn’t stop me from enjoying this tournament enormously—the organization, the environment, the atmosphere. So I’m looking forward to coming back here and leaving with the watch!”

So, maybe this year from August 21-24. The date has already been set for this one-of-a-kind tournament, whose teams continuously express their satisfaction before they return home. This edition was no exception, an extraordinary celebration of polo that couldn’t possibly be spoiled by a little cold on Sunday. ●

[www.polo-gstaad.ch](http://www.polo-gstaad.ch)



# INTERVIEW WITH PIERRE GENECAND

## TWO EQUESTRIAN SPORTS AND ONE PASSION: ORGANIZATION.



Image: Kathrin Gralla

After reviving the Concours Hippique International de Genève and making it the most popular indoor event on the international circuit, Geneva-born Pierre Genecand took over the organization of the Hublot Polo Gold Cup in Gstaad 20 years ago and turned it into a jewel. The former boss of Gesrep, Switzerland's oldest insurance brokerage firm, now divides his time between Uruguay, where he lives, Argentina, where his polo farm is located, and Switzerland, between Gstaad and Geneva. An inveterate hard worker, he can be summed up in three words: rigor, humor, and loyalty.

WHAT IS YOUR HISTORY WITH HORSES, AND HOW DID YOU DISCOVER THEM? DID YOU GROW UP IN A RIDING FAMILY?

No one in my family was a rider. I started riding at the age of 9 and competed modestly at the national level in show-jumping competitions for 40 years. But there's no need to dwell on my career as a showjumper.

THERE WAS A TIME, NOT SO LONG AGO, WHEN YOU APPEARED IN VIRTUALLY EVERY CSI: WHY THIS PASSION FOR THIS DISCIPLINE? I chaired the CHI in Geneva for 18 years and was a member of the World Cup

committee. My travels enabled me to bring innovative ideas to Geneva, reinforcing the importance and reputation of this event, which has become a benchmark in the world of show jumping.

YOU RELAUNCHED THE CHI DE GENÈVE IN THE 1990S: WHY AND HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?

In 1987, the CHI de Genève, which was then held at Les Vernets on the site of an ice rink, lost its status as a World Cup stage because the facilities did not meet the criteria required to host such a competition. Yves G. Piaget, President at the





Images (2): Pascal Renaudon / R&amp;B Presse

Rodrigo (and Nelson) Pessoa and Poroto Cambiaso: riders Pierre Genecand admires for their human qualities.

time, wanted to step down. I submitted my candidacy and introduced a new project in the vast spaces of Palexpo-Genève. I insisted that our competition should be annual rather than biennial.

THEN YOU SWITCHED TO POLO. HOW DID YOU DISCOVER THIS SPORT?

After giving up show jumping, I discovered polo on a trip to Argentina in 2000 and immediately fell in love with the sport.

YOU'VE PLAYED IN TOURNAMENTS, ONCE AT PALERMO, I THINK. WHAT IS YOUR BEST MEMORY, YOUR GREATEST SUCCESS?

I was lucky enough to play in a small tournament where the final was held in Palermo. Having qualified for that final, I was able to play on Cancha 2. As for the rest, being a pure amateur, I play at a very average level and, as we say in Switzerland, 'badly but regularly.' Nevertheless, despite my age, I still participate in practice games and small tournaments in Argentina.

YOU'VE MET SOME OF THE GREATEST SHOW-JUMPING RIDERS AND POLO PLAYERS: WHO HAS MADE THE BIGGEST IMPRESSION ON YOU, IN TERMS OF PERSONALITY, IN EACH OF THE TWO DISCIPLINES?

In show jumping, I consider the Pessoa family—father and son, Nelson and Rodrigo—to be the best riders. Beyond their talent, they possess a class and education that many jumping riders unfortunately lack, despite their equestrian excellence. In polo, I think Poroto Cambiaso has the most style and efficiency, despite his very young age. What's more, he has been fortunate to receive a strict upbringing, which makes him appreciated by everyone, especially sponsors.

YOUR LOVE OF POLO LED YOU TO ESTABLISH A POLO HORSE STUD IN ARGENTINA, THE ESTANCIA EL MIRASOL. CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THIS STUD FARM?

In 2001, we built a modest campo in the province of Entre Ríos, with two polo fields and a good hundred horses in the meadows. Every year, we breed between ten and fourteen foals. We breed with our own two in-house stallions. One of our best mares was called In Class, with whom I participated in several seasons of tournaments in Switzerland, France, and Argentina. Unfortunately, we never managed to breed her. Two years ago, I entrusted the management of the campo to Hector Salvo, the father of Lia, whom everyone knows. He is particularly responsible for our breeding program and runs it efficiently.

YOU NOW HAVE URUGUAYAN NATIONALITY, WHICH IS NO COINCIDENCE, SINCE ONE OF YOUR ACTIVITIES IS AGRICULTURE IN THAT COUNTRY. CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT KIELDER AGRO GROUP?

I don't have Uruguayan nationality; I have a residence permit. Kielder Agro Group is a family company active in agriculture and the production of specialty foods (olive oil and coffee) in South America, the USA, and Africa.

AND FINALLY, WHILE YOU HAVE ENTRUSTED THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHI IN GENEVA TO SOPHIE MOTTU, YOU HAVE TAKEN OVER THE ORGANIZATION OF THE HUBLOT POLO GOLD CUP IN GSTAAD. WHY THIS ENTHUSIASM FOR EVENT ORGANIZATION?

Sophie Mottu-Morel was my assistant when I was President of the CHI de Genève. It was natural for her to take over, and I admire the work she does and the development of the event. Unlike many other show-jumping organizers, she has managed to retain a certain

tradition and class. The size of the track and the spirit that reigns at CHI Genève have won over riders who prefer not to participate in other events taking place on the same weekend, even if they offer better prize money. Geneva allows horses and riders to compete without being forced to jump the same obstacles in identical sandboxes every weekend, motivated solely by prize money.

I've always had a passion for organizing events, whether sporting or commercial. With my experience as the organizer of the CHI-W in Geneva for several years, taking over Gstaad Polo was an easy decision, especially as I also live in this charming village in German-speaking Switzerland.

I have been organizing Gstaad for 20 years now, and we've had HUBLOT as our main sponsor for 18 years. All our other very loyal partners have also become friends. We start this event from scratch each year, as we play in the middle of the runway at Gstaad airport. We need to build the VIP tents (1,350 VIP meals served in 2024), the stables (120 boxes), the exhibitors' village, and the Kinder Paradies (children's paradise/play area). The goal is to organize an event at a level that our sponsors deserve.

WHAT DOES THE 2025 EDITION OF THIS MAJOR TOURNAMENT IN SWITZERLAND AND EUROPE HAVE IN STORE FOR US?

We already know the four team managers for the 2025 edition, which will take place from August 21 to 24. They are Switzerland's Fabio Meier and Markus Graff, Germany's Juergen Schroeder, a finalist in 2023, and Argentina's Juan Pepa, who won the Silver and Gold Cups in Deauville and the French Open in Chantilly in 2017. All in all, it promises to be a highly competitive event. •



# POLO<sup>+10</sup>



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# ISLAND POLO

Island Polo Club Malta – Where passion for polo meets the beauty of the Mediterranean. Established in January 2015 by Steve Vassallo and affiliated with the Hurlingham Polo Association as overseas arena polo club.

BY JOSEPHIN LORENZ PHOTOGRAPHY ALDO SCICLUNA

Nestled on the sunlit Mediterranean island of Malta, Island Polo Club offers a unique polo experience for players of all levels. With a mission to make polo accessible to everyone, Island Polo Club is the perfect destination to learn, practice, and enjoy the thrilling sport of polo in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Island Polo Club is based at Montekristo Estate, a location that blends traditional Maltese architecture with scenic countryside views in the southern half of the island. The club's founder, Steve Vassallo, brings nearly 40 years of polo experience, having represented Malta in tournaments across the globe. His dedication to the sport and passion for teaching have made Island Polo a welcoming place for equestrian enthusiasts, seasoned players, and newcomers alike—welcoming non-members and international visitors who wish to experience the thrill of the Sport of Kings. The club runs chukkas four times a week, offering a vibrant schedule that caters to various playing levels. The instructional chukkas provide the perfect opportunity for those looking to learn the game or refine their skills in a supportive environment. For more tailored coaching, it is possible to book lessons and dedicated training days to help players progress at their own pace. There are two arenas available; a big outside arena is used for chukkas and tournaments, while the smaller, roofed arena is ideal for lessons

and training sessions. 300 days of sunshine allow you to play nearly every day. The outdoor arena features floodlights, offering the opportunity to enjoy evening chukkas.

The club takes pride in its diverse community of members, ranging from high school students to seasoned players, representing many different countries. United by their passion for polo and horsemanship, the 40-50 active members share a love for the sport that transcends borders and generations. The club's primary focus is rent-to-play, providing a range of well-trained ponies for every level of rider—whether you're a confident rider or stepping into the stirrups for the first time. Their season runs from September to end of June, with practice sessions during the summer months. The focus at Island Polo Club is more than just polo—it's about camaraderie and creating lasting memories and friendships. After chukkas, the players often gather at the Montekristo Brewery to unwind with a drink or a meal. The estate also offers a gym with indoor pool and restaurants, making it a wonderful place to enjoy both sport and social events. Malta is a hidden gem, a unique destination for polo that continues to shine brighter each year. With a passionate and ever-growing polo community, the club is committed to constantly improving and expanding the sport on the island. Stunning beaches, crystal-clear waters, and

world-class diving spots make it a dream destination for those who love the sea, while sailing offers the perfect way to explore the coastline.

Beyond the water, Malta is rich in history, with centuries-old architecture, fascinating cultural sites, and a vibrant mix of influences from across the Mediterranean. Food lovers will enjoy an incredible selection of restaurants, from traditional Maltese cuisine to international fine dining. And when the sun sets, the island comes alive with an exciting nightlife scene, offering everything from relaxed seaside bars to lively clubs.

Thanks to its small size, everything is just a short distance away, meaning you can easily combine a morning of polo with an afternoon at the beach or a night out in the city. Whether you're here for sport, relaxation, or adventure, Malta offers an unforgettable experience that never gets boring!

For a glimpse into the vibrant polo community, beautiful ponies, and what your first lesson will look like, follow Island Polo Club Malta on Instagram and Facebook.

Come and be part of the Island Polo Club family—where passion for polo meets Maltese hospitality. •

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



Under the bright sun and in the presence of many enthusiastic guests, players showcased skill, determination, and true sportsmanship, embodying the spirit of the game. The event was a perfect celebration of teamwork, passion, and the enduring elegance of polo.

BY PPZ  
PHOTOGRAPHY KATHRIN GRALLA, LUCA MORTARI



# VECINOS





# CUP 2024

















Image: Luca Mortari











Image: Luca Mortari

The last medium goal of the season will take place over three days, with the first day serving as a warm-up. The competition began with a tightly contested game between Polo You and Naoo, marking Mark Hänni's return to polo. Naoo emerged victorious in the end. In the second game, Equilibrium fell behind Los Lobos initially but managed to rally and secure a win against the team led by Sébastien Le Page.

On Saturday, the low-goal tournament began with two teams competing against each other. PPZ White took an early 1-0 lead against M&E. The game will resume on the second day.

In the medium goal category, teams are competing for a spot in the final, and the rivalry is intense. Los Lobos emerged victorious over Naoo in the first game. Meanwhile, Equilibrium and Polo You engaged in a hard-fought match, with Janik Oertli and Pedro Fernandez Llorente demonstrating excellent teamwork and winning at the last minute against Equilibrium.

All teams were ready early on Sunday morning as the club prepared to welcome many guests for the last big event of the season.

There was a turnaround in the situation in the low-goal game, as M&E, who were trailing by a goal yesterday, managed to shift the odds and make their way back to victory.

Naoo had a good night's rest and performed wonderfully. However, Equilibrium once again prevailed and won shortly before the end of the last chukka.

The final started wonderfully for Polo You, as they scored 5 goals in the first chukka, taking a comfortable lead. However, the situation changed when Pedro Fernandez Llorente missed a penalty in the second chukka, and slowly the victory turned in favor of Los Lobos, who, after a historic comeback, won 9 to 6. •

[www.polopark.ch](http://www.polopark.ch)

## VECINOS CUP 2024 29.08. - 01.09.2024

### MEDIUM GOAL

#### Equilibrium (+7)

Daniel Aegerter (0)  
Manuel Maria Bereterbide (+3)  
David Kalberer (0)  
Francisco Fucci (+4T)

#### Polo You (+6)

Mark Hänni (0)  
Michael Fass (-1)  
Pedro Fernandez Llorente (+5)  
Janik Oertli (+2)

#### Los Lobos (+6)

Sébastien Le Page / Armand Le Page (0)  
Martin Luginbühl (+2)  
Facundo Kelly (+4)  
Morgan Van Overbroek(0)

#### Naoo (+6)

Thomas Wolfensberger (+1)  
Manuel Carranza (+4)  
Stefan Roth (0)  
Andrew Guthrie (+1)

### LOW GOAL

#### M&E

Maximiliano Gnesi  
Remi Dudler / Beata Dudler  
Sue-Ann Strub / Antonia Sturzeis  
Alex Roudneva

#### PPZ White

Sammy-Joe & Shiva Cosma Strub  
Franziska Fuhrer  
Anja Gutbrot  
Lucas Bscher



# TEAM POLO+10

WINS THE SEASON-ENDING TOURNAMENT 2024 AT THE POLOPARK BERLIN



Team POLO+10 came out on top in the final with a narrow 7-6 victory, crowning themselves champions of the last lawn tournament of the season.

TEXT & PHOTOGRAPHY POLO+10





Team POLO+10 crowned the 2024 polo season with a hard-fought victory at the season-ending tournament at Polopark Berlin, securing first place in a thrilling final. From 18 to 20 October, four international teams presented high-class chukkas in sunny autumn weather and thrilled the audience, who did not want to miss this last opportunity for lawn polo this year. The lively atmosphere was rounded off by culinary delicacies from Californian chef Joel and musical accompaniment from DJ BastikSoul Sebastian, while Thomas Strunck moderated the games.

The final, which was opened by the traditional throw-in from Prince Eduard Duke of Anhalt and Henry de Winter, turned out to be a real thriller. In the end, the POLO+10 team with players Alessa Eckhard and Claudia Drews, as well as Torsten Klein and Lukas Sdrenka, narrowly beat the Clavey team (Clarissa Clavey, Heidi Silvey, Johan Funk Gallardo and Berty Zalazar) 7-6.

Third place went to Team Polopark Berlin with Andre and Julia Hiebeler, Chris van Eupen and Max van Eupen, while Team Baltic Polo BPE Baltic Polo Events with Dele Iversen, Fabienne Last, Jeanette Diekmann and Marie Haupt came in fourth.

Another highlight was Torsten Klein's award as MVP (Most Valuable Player). The award for Best Playing Pony went to Taita Jazmin, who was ridden by Lukas Sdrenka and impressed the spectators with his stamina and enthusiasm. Referee Gabor Szegedi from Budapest ensured adherence to the rules and ran the tournament with aplomb.

The end-of-season tournament at Polopark Berlin was a brilliant finale to the 2020 polo season and promised an exciting new year for German polo.

[www.berlin-polo.de](http://www.berlin-polo.de)

## RANKING

### 1. POLO+10

- Alessa Eckhard
- Claudia Drews
- Torsten Klein
- Lukas Sdrenka

### 2. Clavey

- Clarissa Clavey
- Heidi Silvey
- Johan Funk Gallardo
- Berty Zalazar

### 3. Polopark Berlin

- Andre Hiebeler
- Julia Hiebeler
- Chris van Super
- Max van Eupen

### 4. BPE Baltic Polo Events

- Dele Iversen
- Fabienne Last
- Jeanette Diekmann
- Marie Haupt



# 1<sup>ST</sup> INTERNATIONAL GERMAN LADIES' CHAMPIONSHIP

From 11 to 13 July 2025, PoloPark Berlin will be transformed into the centre of the first German Ladies' Polo Championship – the LIVING BERLIN Ladies Cup, presented by Radio Paradiso. This exciting event not only offers thrilling competitions, but also a platform to celebrate the passion and skill of women in the sport of polo.

BY BALTIC POLO EVENTS PHOTOGRAPHY AEDT, JAN JÜRGES / POLO SYLT, BALTIC POLO EVENTS



The amazing polo player  
Isabella Kössler.

## RANKING 2024

### 1. POLO+10 / Radio Paradiso (+9)

- Silvia & Jona Nutz (0)
- Megan Manubay (+1)
- Milagros Sanchez (+8)
- Isabella Koessler (0)

### 2. Ingo Pyko Immobilien (+6)

- Dele Iversen (0)
- Jeanette Diekmann (+2)
- Siobhan Herbst (+4)
- Mona Scharf (0)

### 3. Dermanoller / Skinlifter (+7)

- Philippa Luserke (+2)
- Anne Grossmann (-1)
- Clarissa Markgraf (+3)
- Marie Haupt (+3)

### 4. Merkatzer / Berlin Cocktail (+6)

- Nina Frühauf (0)
- Annalena Plickert (0)
- Svenja Hölty (+4)
- Katy McKegney (+2)

### 5. Polo Sylt (+5)

- Josepha Schmidt / Megan Kawohl (0)
- Ida Gaarz (+1)
- Patricia Rohde (+1)
- Sophie Schmidt (+3)

### 6. Blanche (+7)

- Veronika Svobodova (0)
- Jolie Lange (+1)
- Alex Jacob (+5)
- Emily Hase Looock (+1)

The awards for the two MVP players went to Isa Kössler and Sophie Schmidt.

The awards for the two best playing ponies, presented by Autohaus Mecklenborg, went to Jeanette Diekmann with the polo pony 'Princessa' and Milagros Sanchez with the polo pony 'Porsche'.

The umpire of the 4th Ladies Cup was the Hamburg national polo player Christopher Kirsch.





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„The LIVING BERLIN Ladies Cup is more than just a competition. It strengthens the community of polo enthusiasts and promotes awareness of the sport of ladies' polo," explains polo expert Thomas Strunck, founder of PoloPark Berlin and Managing Director of Baltic Polo Events GmbH. "We invite everyone to become part of this unique experience and experience the fascination of polo up close."

The team polo shirt presentation will take place on the Thursday evening before the championship at the title sponsor 'LIVING BERLIN'. The iconic store, which is home to more than 40 renowned stores

and showrooms from all areas of living and lifestyle in Kantstraße, is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

Six international women's teams with over 100 polo horses are expected to attend the premiere of this 1st German Women's Polo Championship. The defending champion Milli Sanchez from Argentina will also be there.

All matches will be presented by Jan-Erik Franck, "the voice of polo", and the LIVING BERLIN Ladies Cup is an event for the whole family – whether you are a polo fan or a newcomer, everyone is welcome. •

#### BACKGROUND:

Baltic Polo Events has organised the biggest ladies' polo tournaments in Germany and even in Europe at PoloPark Berlin over the past five years. Six international ladies' teams from five nations were on site. This prompted the German Polo Association e.V. to consider organising a German Ladies' Championship. And Baltic Polo Events was awarded the contract for this Ladies' Championship.

[www.baltic-polo-events.de](http://www.baltic-polo-events.de)



# INGO





# PYKO

THE SPONSOR OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S POLO TEAMS





# GERMAN ARENA CHAMPIONSHIP DRESDEN

The excitement is building as the 8th International German Arena Championships 2025 will take place from 12 to 14 September at the historic racecourse in Dresden-Seidnitz. This venue, steeped in tradition and over 135 years old, offers the perfect infrastructure for an unforgettable polo experience.

BY THOMAS STRUNCK, MATTEO BÖHME PHOTOGRAPHY GALOPPFOTO.DE, POLO SYLT FOR POLOPARK BERLIN



Image: Polo Sylt for PoloPark Berlin





Image: galoppfoto.de



Images, 3 (v.l.n.r.): David Hertle, Fusheng Zhao, Tim Hüfner / www.unsplash.com



For the first time in 2025, the International German Arena Championships will be held in the Saxon state capital of Dresden, at the historic Dresden-Seidnitz racecourse. "The 8<sup>th</sup> International German Arena Championships at the Dresden racecourse promise to be an exciting tournament, with fast and dynamic play. Arena polo brings the sport closer to spectators and delivers thrilling moments. With seven teams confirmed, we are looking forward to a high-calibre championship. A big thank you to everyone making this event possible!" says Oliver Winter, President of the German Polo Association, who gave the go-ahead for this sporting highlight to be held in 2025. We invite all equestrian sports enthusiasts to experience the fascination of polo in an inspiring setting. ([www.dpv-poloverband.de](http://www.dpv-poloverband.de))

**THOMAS**  
EXCLUSIVE CARS

The 8<sup>th</sup> International German Arena Championships will be organised by the new event company Exclusive Experience Dresden GmbH, managed by Gerd Göbelbecker and Matteo Böhme. The sporting side lies in the proven hands of Baltic Polo Events GmbH.

**The accompanying programme promises special highlights:**

The spectacle will begin on 11 September with a grand Polo Players' Welcome Party. Polo horses in Dresden's city centre, set against the impressive silhouette of the Frauenkirche – a sight sure to surprise and delight.

On 12 September, following the matches, guests can look forward to the exclusive Great Polo Asado in the VIP area of the Dresden Galopp Lounge, followed by the stylish White Afternoon Lunch – All in White, Please amid the polo action.

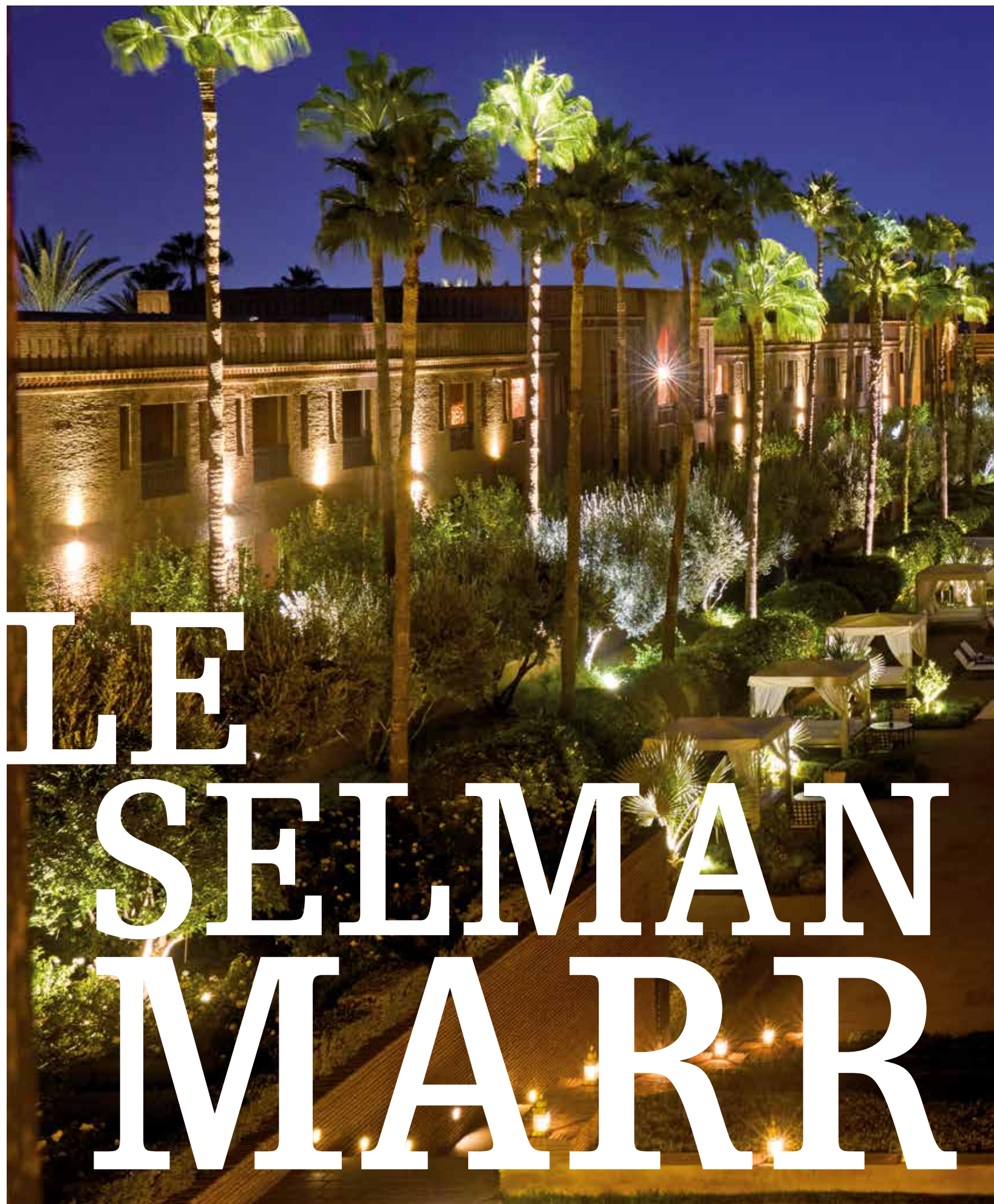
Jan-Erik Franck, The Voice of Polo, and polo speaker Jan Zavazal will host this Saxon polo premiere in Dresden. Up to eight international polo teams with over 100 Argentinian polo horses are expected, including the reigning seven-time German Arena Champion, Patrick Maleitzke.

The first sponsors have already been confirmed: Thomas Exclusive Cars, Engelstädter Joinery, men's outfitters Prüssing & Köll, jewellers Leicht, ARTE Generali, Geiger Edelmetalle, and well-known real estate service providers.

The 8th International German Arena Championships promise a weekend full of excitement, elegance, and top-class sporting performance. Tradition meets the spirit of polo in Dresden. •

[www.dresdenpolo.de](http://www.dresdenpolo.de)



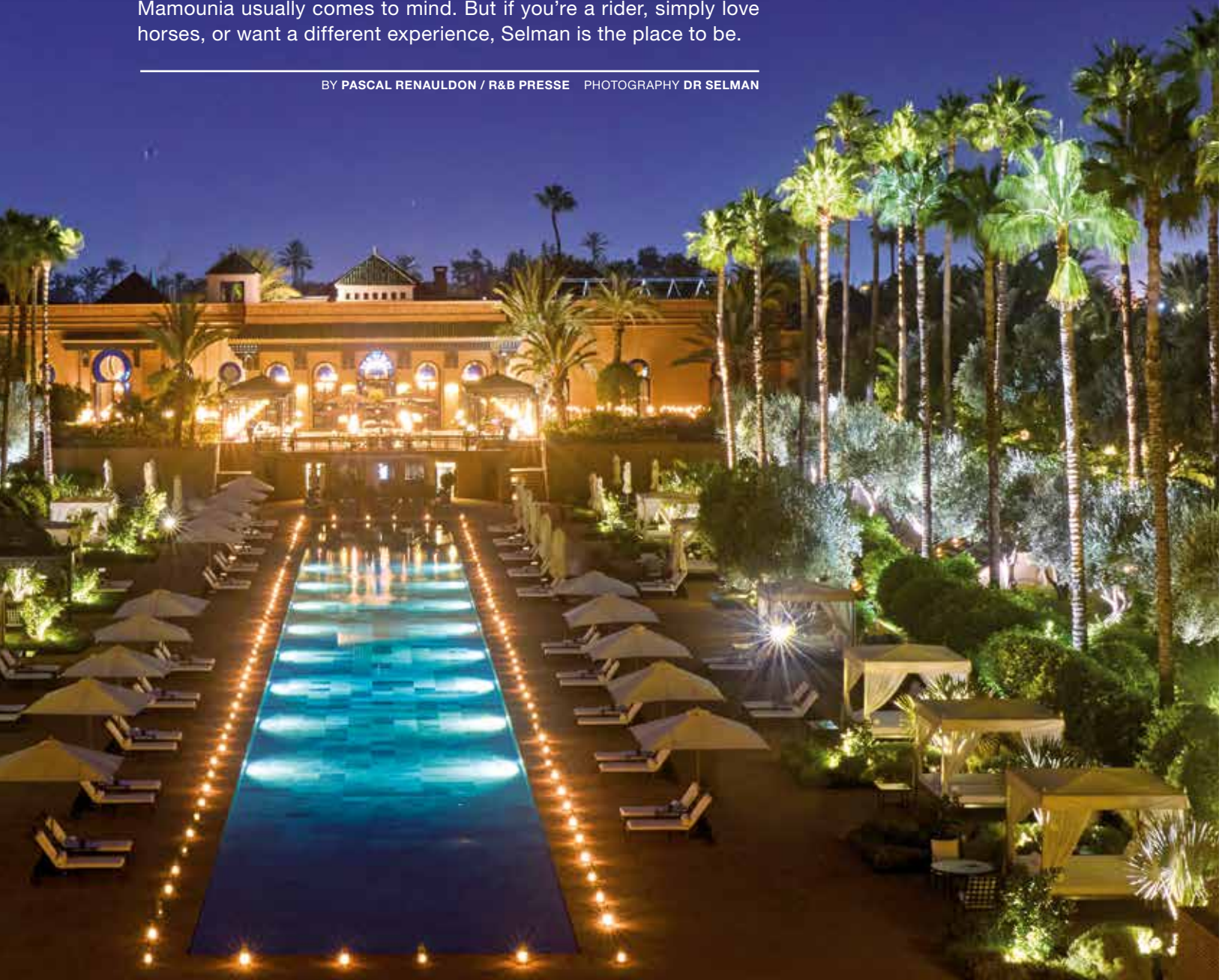


# LE SELMAN IVARR



When we think of Marrakech and palaces, the centuries-old Mamounia usually comes to mind. But if you're a rider, simply love horses, or want a different experience, Selman is the place to be.

BY PASCAL RENAULDON / R&B PRESSE PHOTOGRAPHY DR SELMAN



A PALACE WITH AN EQUESTRIAN SOUL

# MARRAKECH

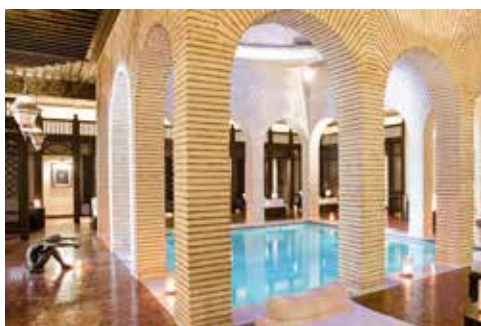
















Educated at the prestigious EHL Hospitality Business School of Lausanne, Abdeslam Bennani Smires is a well-known rider on the international show jumping circuit. He represented Morocco at the World Equestrian Games in Caen, and he was favored to represent his country at the Olympic Games in Tokyo. Yet, it was the trying time of Covid. His priority was to take care of his “baby”, the hotel he founded some twenty years ago with his sister, the Selman, and to look after its two hundred unemployed staff.

Although Abdeslam is an accomplished show jumper, he and his family are equally passionate about Arabian thoroughbreds. It’s a passion he wanted to incorporate into the vision of his palace: the stud farm and the hotel are uniquely one and the same. Both were designed by the famous French architect and decorator Jacques Garcia: “I wanted him to create the exterior and interior architecture of the Selman because Garcia has an orientalist culture. However, when I made up my mind, I learned that La Mamounia had just asked him to do their renovations, and I thought he wouldn’t agree to design two hotels in the same city at the same time. Nevertheless, I picked up the phone, and his assistant immediately made an appointment for me. It was a great meeting, and Jacques Garcia accepted the challenge immediately, which was essentially to do something completely different from La Mamounia. From that first meeting, he picked up his pencil and offered me his first

sketches. He was already full of ideas, inspired by the Moorish period and the first Arab invasions in the middle of the 7th century, which left us with some of the most beautiful monuments in Morocco”.

“Sublime” is a rather weak word to describe the result. As soon as you enter, you feel at home, captivated by the instantly recognizable Garcia signature and enchanted by the subtle scent of oriental perfume.

Nothing is missing to enjoy carefree days in the most chic and sophisticated luxury: Chenot Spa, gastronomy by Jean-François Piège, swimming pools (one of which is an infinity), lush gardens, endless kindness of the staff, spacious rooms and suites, private villas, signature experiences, and much more.

We come to Selman for this impeccable luxury, but it’s the horses that set this place apart from other palaces. From the moment you sit down for breakfast, you’ll be surrounded by horses in green paddocks. We’re just a few steps away from the stables, designed by Jacques Garcia, which is also a 5-star hotel for horses. The guests, of course, are Arabian thoroughbreds, but also the haute-école horses of Catherine, the hotel’s Belgian trainer, who offers Selman guests equestrian experiences (dressage, free riding) and shows during brunch. The thoroughbred Arabian horses are privately bred by the Abdeslam family. Many of these horses have won prestigious beauty prizes. The Bennani Smires family breeding farm, known as Selman Arabians, has been regularly voted the best Arabian thoroughbred breeding farm in the Kingdom of Morocco since 2014.

Some of these horses are showcased at Moroccan dinners in a local setting during a magnificent parade that concludes the evening. It’s also possible to dine tête-à-tête in these incredible stables, one of the hotel’s singular signature experiences. In short, it’s the perfect way to relax, and you must force yourself to have the desire and courage to leave this piece of paradise to visit, for example, the Marrakech medina, just ten minutes away, with its famous souk and the equally famous Jemaa El Fna square. ●

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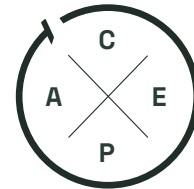
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