

POLO +10 WORLD

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FRIENDS WORLDWIDE

Dear Polo Friends,

It is incredible how quickly time flies — and once again, a new issue of POLO+10 is now in your hands. Whether you are reading it digitally on your desktop, tablet, or smartphone, or enjoying the freshly printed edition delivered by mail the traditional way: every issue reminds us how many people have accompanied us on this journey for almost 25 years.

Today, on behalf of the many friends, partners, and companions around the globe, we would like to say thank you. It would be impossible to mention every single name, as the international polo world and the POLO+10 family have continued to grow over the years. These worldwide friendships, shared projects, tournaments, and encounters are exactly what make our sport — and our work — so special.

The cover of this issue takes us to Chantilly, one of the most important venues in international polo. The photograph was taken in 2020 on Field No. 1 of the Polo Club de Chantilly. In the background stands the famous Ferme d'Apremont, the historic heart of the grounds. This iconic club near Paris has been one of POLO+10's partners

from the very beginning. Over the years, we enjoyed a close friendship and a relationship of trust with its founder, Patrick Guerrand-Hermès. His commitment to the sport of polo has left a lasting mark on our journey.

We would also like to thank Morgan and Sébastien from Polo Park Zürich for their trust and longstanding partnership. For many years, we have had the pleasure of producing the Polo Park Zürich club magazine — a project that continues to bring us great joy. The latest edition has just gone to print, this time featuring an especially elegant cover with gold foil finishing.

And new friendships continue to emerge: POLO+10 is delighted about its exclusive partnership with the sports social media platform Buzzer. Together, we aim to further strengthen the digital visibility of polo and create new opportunities

for the international polo community.

Thank you very much for your support, your trust, and your friendship.

YOUR POLO+10 TEAM
Publisher, Thomas Wirth

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On the cover: Tommy Beresford won the 2020 French Open with The Lions at Polo Club de Chantilly.
© R&B Presse / Pascal Renaudon. Photography Editorial: Polo Park Zürich & Country Club © POLO+10

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From July 10 to 12, a very special kind of excitement will once again fill the air in Sylvenstal near Pfullendorf on Lake Constance: galloping horses, fast-paced plays, focused spectators along the boards, and that unique blend of elegance, speed, and emotion that makes polo so captivating.

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POLO+10 has entered into an exclusive partnership with the sports social media platform Buzzer. The aim of this collaboration is to further strengthen the digital visibility of polo and unlock new opportunities for the international polo community, brand partners, and sports fans.

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



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Argentine polo legend, Adolfo Cambiasso (50), made history at Cowdray Park Polo Club, West Sussex, winning the prestigious Gold Cup for a ninth time and for the first time with his daughter, Mia (23) playing alongside him.

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Team Dresden Polo Triumphs in a High-Class Final at PoloPark Berlin. An international field, perfect conditions, and an event that unites sport, lifestyle, and networking at the highest level

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The tradition-steeped event under the patronage of Berenberg, Germany's oldest private bank, will take place this year from July 29th to August 2nd.

PREVIEW: BENTLEY DRESDEN TROPHY 2026

9TH INTERNATIONAL GERMAN ARENA CHAMPIONSHIP



The Bentley Dresden Trophy returns to the historic Seidnitz Racecourse. From 11 to 13 September 2026, top-level sport will once again meet lifestyle, fine dining and social interaction.

BY BALTIC POLO EVENTS PHOTOGRAPHY DRESDEN POLO / THOMAS TÜRPE



Following the successful premiere last year, Dresden will once again host a major polo tournament in 2026. As announced by the organisers of the equestrian sporting event, Matteo Böhme and Gerd Göbelbecker, they are committed to continuing along the path they have set. From 11 to 13 September, Dresden-Seidnitz Racecourse will once again be dedicated entirely to the sport of polo. The Bentley Dresden Trophy 2026 – the 9th International German Arena Polo Championship – will be staged at the venue.

“Horses are simply part of Dresden and the region. With our racecourse, which is more than 135 years old, we have an outstanding venue that deserves to be revitalised through creative new events. Polo is perfectly suited to that,” explains Matteo Böhme.

However, polo is not only about sporting excellence. “As our debut event in 2025 demonstrated, polo is also a social occasion. It combines exciting competition with entertainment, culture and a sense of community,” adds Gerd Göbelbecker. The organisers are keen to further develop this concept this year. The tremendous response to Dresden’s polo premiere, together with the high quality of the event, attracted attention across Europe and generated lasting enthusiasm within the polo community – providing ideal conditions for a continuation.

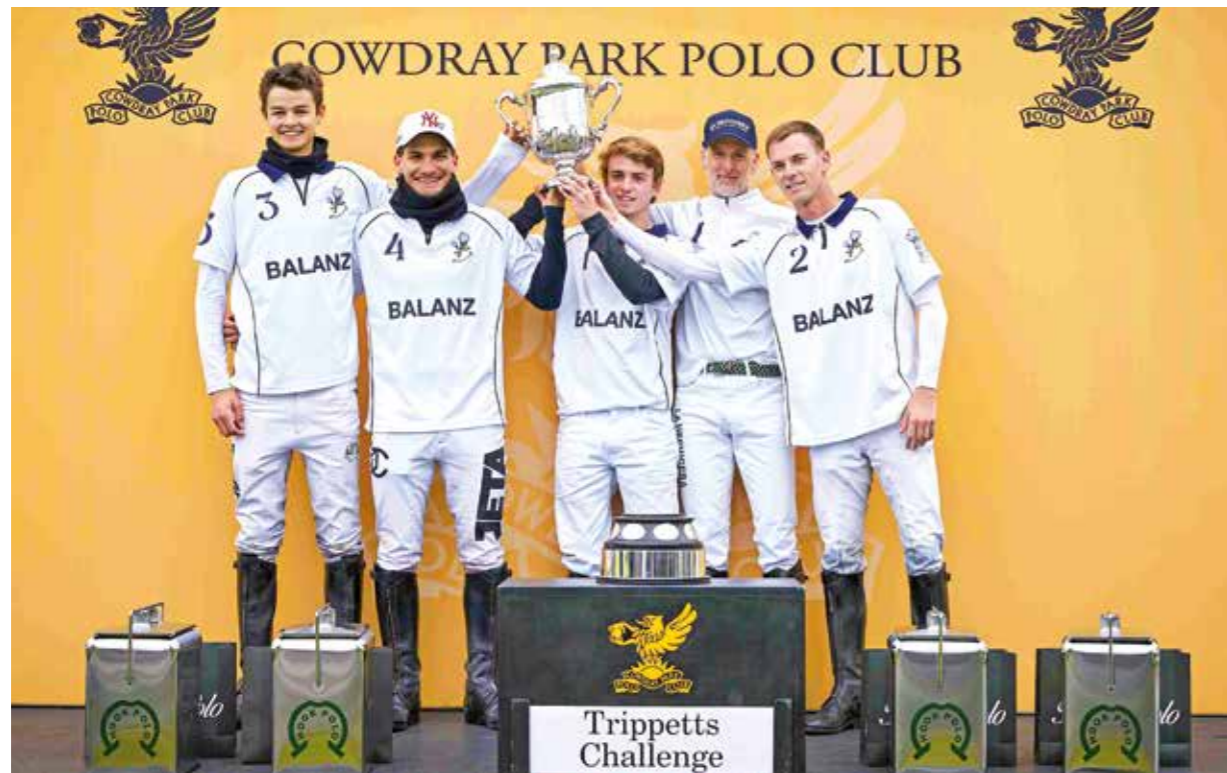
Preparations for the second edition of the event in the Saxon capital are already in full swing. The first teams have confirmed their participation, and the organisers expect at least as many competitors as attended the

inaugural tournament. In 2025, eight teams competed with a total of 96 horses.

The accompanying programme is also beginning to take shape. Once again, plans include an exclusive guest area at the Dresden Gallop Lounge as well as a spacious public area directly beside the arena. In addition, popular evening events will return, including the Argentine barbecue event “Great Asado” on Friday evening featuring Munich-based live band Soul Kitchen, as well as the “White Dinner”, offering excellent cuisine, a live DJ and a musical surprise.

Tickets are now available via the newly redesigned website at www.dresdenpolo.de.

www.dresdenpolo.de



BALANZ CAPITAL/LA HECHICERA CLAIM DOMINANT TRIPPETTS CHALLENGE VICTORY

Lorenzo Chavanne delivers a remarkable 12-goal performance as newcomers Balanz Capital/La Hechicera defeat reigning champions Gaston Polo Team 17-6 to claim the first high-goal title of the 2026 season.

BY SARAH HAMES/COWDRAY PHOTOGRAPHY COWDRAY PARK POLO CLUB/MARK BEAUMONT

Saturday, 16th May set the scene for the first high-goal final of the 2026 season, the Trippetts Challenge Cup. With the sidelines of Lawns 2 buzzing with excited spectators, reigning champions Gaston Polo Team rode onto the pitch to face newcomers Balanz Capital/La Hechicera.

Lining up for Gaston Polo Team were Jean Paul Luksic (0) at No.1, Beltran Lauhe (7) at No.2, David Stirling (8) at No.3, and 7-goaler Cruz Heguy at Back. For Balanz Capital/La Hechicera, Pablo Galante (0) started at No.1 for the first half before Felix Porcel (0) took over the position in the second half, at 2 was English 5-goaler Ned Hine, Lorenzo Chavanne (7) at 3, and 10-goaler Camilo Castagnola at Back.

The opening chukka proved evenly matched. An early foul awarded Heguy a spot hit, which he confidently converted, but a quick response from Castagnola levelled the scores at 1-1. A penalty one for La Hechicera, followed by an end-to-end goal from young Chavanne, pushed the newcomers ahead. However, a last-second penalty from Heguy left the score at 3-2 heading into the second chukka.

The second chukka saw fewer scoring opportunities, with only a 30-yard penalty from Chavanne extending La Hechicera's lead to 4-2. The third chukka marked a major turning point. Eighteen-year-old Chavanne produced a world-class display of polo, scoring four consecutive goals to double La Hechicera's tally. With Gaston managing just one goal in response, Balanz Capital/La Hechicera headed into halftime with a commanding 8-3 advantage.

The second half saw Balanz Capital/La Hechicera continue to showcase some of the finest high-goal polo in the world. Their strong defence prevented Gaston from scoring any field goals in the fourth chukka, while Chavanne added another and Porcel, having swapped in for Galante at halftime, struck an excellent goal of his own.

The fifth and sixth chukkas followed a similar pattern. Chavanne added five more goals to finish with an extraordinary 12-goal tally, while further goals from Hine and Castagnola completed their total. Gaston Polo Team, the 2025 champions, managed only three more goals as newcomers Balanz

Capital/La Hechicera secured an emphatic 17-6 victory.

The Trippetts Challenge Cup was presented to Pablo Galante and Felix Porcel by The Marchioness of Milford Haven, in memory of her son James. The St. James's Place Best Playing Pony Rug was awarded to V8 Back Home, played by Lorenzo and owned by Amanara Polo Team.

ABOUT COWDRAY PARK POLO CLUB

Founded in 1910, Cowdray Park Polo Club has been at the forefront of professional polo in the UK and internationally. The club hosts the prestigious British Open Polo Championship for the Cowdray Gold Cup, attracting top players and enthusiasts from around the world. Set within the picturesque South Downs National Park, the club offers ten pristine pitches and a calendar featuring over 30 competitions at various handicap levels.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit cowdraypolo.co.uk.



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POLOPARK BERLIN 2026

Team Dresden Polo Triumphs in a High-Class Final at PoloPark Berlin. An international field, perfect conditions, and an event that unites sport, lifestyle, and networking at the highest level

BY THOMAS WIRTH PHOTOGRAPHY BERNHARD LABECKI & BALTIC POLO EVENTS, POLO+10

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A season opener with real impact: the new polo season in Germany has been impressively launched at PoloPark Berlin – delivering top-level sport, a vibrant atmosphere, and an international flair that sets the tone for the months ahead.

From May 1 to 3, six international teams gathered for the first official tournament of the German Polo Association in 2026 – and, under near-perfect weather conditions, showcased exactly what defines this sport: speed, precision, and high-level excitement.

The preliminary rounds already developed into an intense competition that immediately captivated the many spectators in attendance. Even figures from the circle of the legendary St. Moritz Polo Tournament were spotted in Berlin – a subtle indication of the growing international appeal of PoloPark Berlin.

The highlight, of course, was the final between Dresden Polo and Team Ostseebad Sellin. What followed was a match defined by clear moments, tactical discipline,

and decisive individual plays. In the end, Dresden Polo secured a 9 : 4.5 victory – a result that reflects their superiority while not diminishing the fighting spirit of their opponents.

Off the field, the season opener proved to be a thoroughly successful event. “The Polo-speaker” Jan Zavazal, one of the most recognized voices in German polo, guided the audience through the matches with expertise and charm, while Polo DJ BastikSoul provided the perfect soundtrack. Culinary



RANKING

1. Dresden Polo (+1)
 Alessa Sdrenka (-2)
 Emily Hase-Looock (0)
 Lukas Sdrenka (+2)
 Ken Kawamoto (+1)

2. Ostseebad Sellin (-1)
 Toni Hammond (-2)
 Dele Iversen (-1)
 Bertý Zalazar (+2)
 Jeanette Diekmann (0)

3. Hotspring / POLO+10 (-1)
 Silvia und Jona Nutz (-1)
 Torsten Klein (-1)
 Tuky Caivano (+2)
 Gaspar Caivano (-1)

4. Baltic Polo Events (0)
 Seany Last (-1)
 Josef Fiebich (0)
 Pato Ford (+1)
 Thomas Strunck (0)

5. New Generation Polo Club (-1)
 Simona Joklova (-2)
 Pavel Kraus (-2)
 David Lagomarsino (+3)
 Mateo Jabif (0)

6. Gothaer by Karsten Topka (-1)
 Claudia Reichelt (-2)
 Sophie Schmidt (0)
 Johan Funk Gallardo (+1)
 Stefan Diepold (0)

highlights were delivered by Joel and his team from Forke & Knife, seamlessly combining sport and lifestyle.

A particular social highlight was hosted by Sylvia Senger, a long-time supporter of PoloPark Berlin, who attended the event together with around 95 guests and the RR-Bentley Club. Moments like these underline polo's strength as a platform for connection, networking, and shared experience.

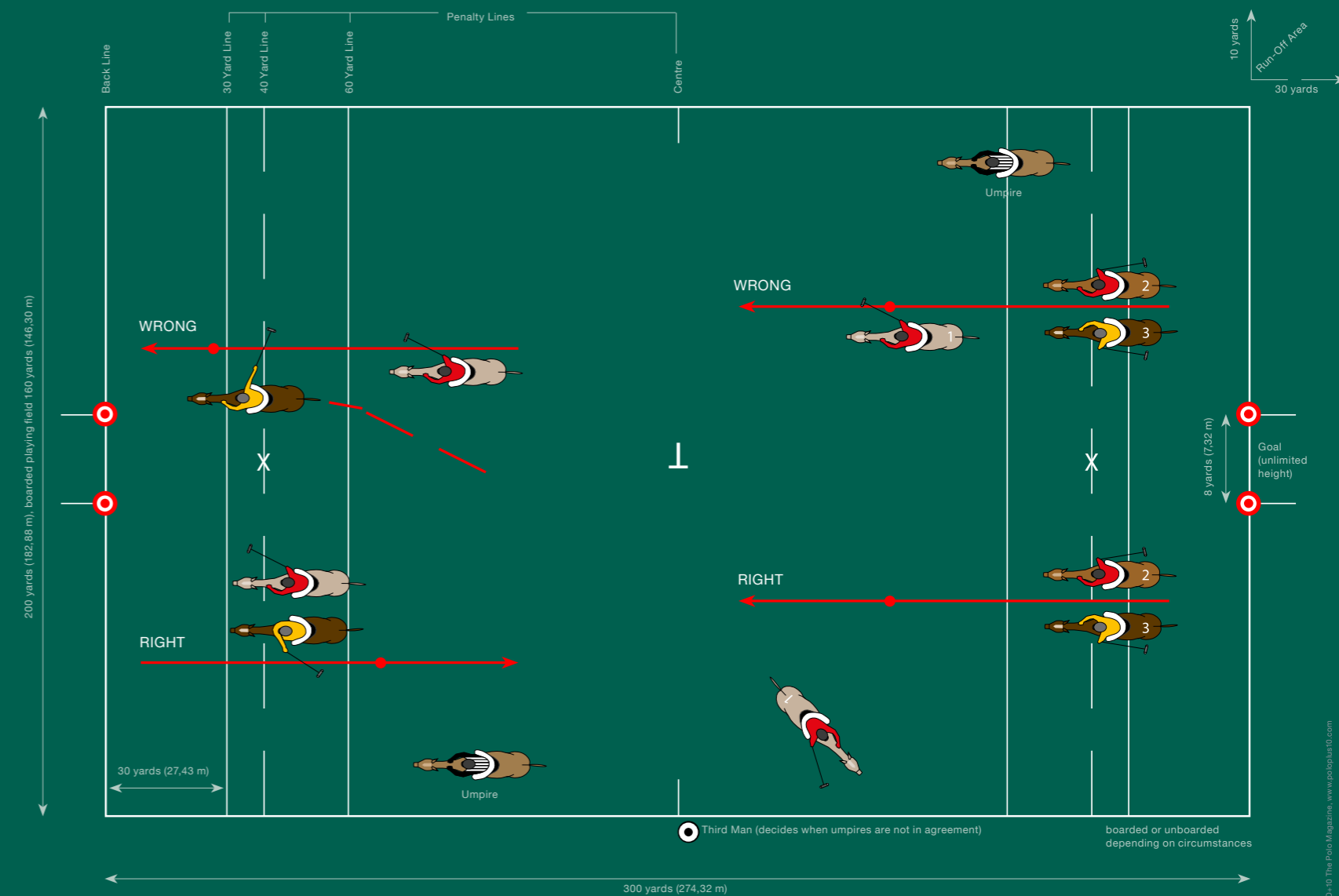
Lifestyle partners were also present: visitors had the opportunity not only to discover but also to test the latest whirlpools by Hotsprings – an element that further enhanced the event's character.

Sporting excellence was duly recognized: the MVP award went to the tournament's youngest player, Gaspar Caivano – a clear signal for the next generation in international polo. The Best Playing Pony, "Princesa," played by Bertý Carlos Zalazar, once again

demonstrated the decisive role of the horses at this level.

This season opener at PoloPark Berlin was more than just a tournament. It was a statement – for the quality of German polo, its international orientation, and the unique combination of sport, elegance, and experience that defines the game worldwide. •

Further information and upcoming events: www.baltic-polo-events.com



*The outdoor polo pitch is the largest pitch of any organised sport. The proportions shown here are not true to scale.

POLO RULES

RIGHT AND WRONG

Quick reaction and a near-reflex assessment of situations are of the essence of tactical play and safety. The next two examples highlight the right, and the wrong reactions in a given situation.

Situation 1 (left half of the field)
 A player doesn't hit the ball hard enough and tries to hit it again by slowing down, or abruptly changing directions. Another player is directly behind the first player in playing position.

Wrong because:
 A player hits the ball wrong and gives it a second try by slowing down or abruptly changing direction. There are other players right behind him in position to hit the ball.

Right:
 A player, having messed up a hit, should carry on at the same speed without attempting a second hit. He should let a teammate

take the next hit or, time allowing, go round and approach from the back of the field to attempt another hit.

Situation 2 (right half of the field)
 In an attempt to hit the ball back in an off-side-back-shot a player gets into the way of an opponent who is in possession of the ball on his offside.

Wrong Because:
 The defender infringes on the opponent's right-of-way in a manner that is not only dangerous but also unsportsmanlike. He has crossed the opponent's line leaving too little space between them and therefore puts himself and the other player in danger.

Right:
 In order to cover his opponent correctly and effectively, the defender must wait until he can overtake his opponent and hit the ball in the opposite direction of play.

The Chantilly Polo Club and its iconic Ferme d'Apremont (in the background) have welcomed many Argentine stars over the past 30 years (as well as some great English players), starting with the legendary Indios Chapaleufú II in 2002 (next page).

BY PASCAL RENAULDON
PHOTOGRAPHY PASCAL RENAULDON – R&B PRESSE, JUSTINE JACQUEMOT

THE LEGENDS

WHEN PALERMO
COMES TO
CHANTILLY





INDIOS CHAPALEUFÚ II



NICO PIERES



PEPE HEGUY, NACHI HEGUY, PELON STIRLING, FACUNDO PIERES, PABLO MCDONOUGH



TOMMY BERESFORD



A „100% Chantilly“ podium at Palermo in 2024. Facu Pieres, Pablo McDonough, Barto, and Jeta Castagnola have all passed through the Apremont Farm.



ANTONIO HEGUY

Image: Justine Jacquemot



LUCAS MONTEVERDE



BARTO CASTAGNOLA



JUAN MARTIN ZUBIA



ALE MUZZIO



FACUNDO LLORENTE

Antonio Heguy vs. Sapo Caset.



NACHI HEGUY

TEAMS THAT HAVE WON THE ARGENTINA OPEN WITH PLAYERS WHO HAVE PLAYED AT CHANTILLY:

La Dolfina

Lucas Monteverde (2005 to 2006 and 2009)
 Juan Martín Nero (2011, 2013 to 2020 and 2022)
 Pablo McDonough (2011, 2013 to 2020 and 2022)
 Pelón Stirling (2011, 2013 to 2020 and 2022)

Ellerstina

Facundo Pieres (2008, 2010 and 2012)
 Pablo McDonough (2008 and 2010)
 Juan Martín Nero (2008 and 2010)
 Nico Pieres (2012)

Indios Chapaleufu II

Ruso Heguy (1996, 1999, 2000 and 2004)
 Pepe Heguy (1996, 1999, 2000 and 2004)
 Nachi Heguy (1996, 1999, 2000 and 2004)
 Milo Fernández Araujo (1996, 1999, 2000 and 2004)

La Natividad

Polito Pieres (2021)
 Jeta Castagnola (2021, 2023 to 2025)
 Barto Castagnola (2021, 2023 to 2025)
 Pablo McDonough (2023, 2024)
 Facundo Pieres (2023, 2024)

All these players had a handicap of 10!



FRAN ELIZALDE



BARTO CASTAGNOLA



A duel in Chantilly that could have taken place in Palermo: Pelon Stirling vs. Fran Elizalde.



FACUNDO SOLA

A horseman and a traveller for whom the world was but a village, Patrick Guerrand-Hermès – a man who never thought small – had several visions when he founded the Polo Club du Domaine de Chantilly thirty years ago. Among them was the ambition to bring the world of polo to the Ferme d’Apremont, which at the time was still a vast, predominantly cereal-producing agricultural estate spanning 200 hectares.

Three decades later, the Polo Club de Chantilly has become one of the largest polo clubs in the world, with nine grass fields welcoming the world’s finest players, particularly each September for the Open de France.

After discovering polo during his military service in Morocco, Patrick Guerrand-Hermès caught the virus and travelled the world to indulge his passion. “I have so many unforgettable memories,” he told us a few years ago. “I’ll keep three: the first time I played among the oil derricks in Dallas with cowboys wearing chaps and Stetsons; playing among nomads in traditional dress in Mongolia’s mountains; and competing on magnificent grounds in a tropical garden in

Jamaica. As for encounters, the most recent one that stands out was playing with the great Adolfo Cambiaso, who sends the ball exactly where it cannot be stopped (I’m not sure about this translation; here PGH means that Cambiaso sent the ball to the exact spot where the player was standing and waiting for it). I’ve never seen anyone dominate a sport the way he dominates polo.”

PGH played alongside many of the game’s greats, notably when he won the Deauville Gold Cup at the age of 74 with Gonzalito Pieres. These were the players he always admired and whom he worked tirelessly to attract to “his” club at Chantilly.

From the outset, Guerrand-Hermès wanted Chantilly to have an international dimension, placing it firmly on the map of the world’s leading polo centres. After hosting its first European Championship in 1999, the club took a decisive step forward by launching the Open de France in 2001 under the umbrella of the French Polo Federation. In 2004, Chantilly hosted the FIP World Championship, won by Brazil.

By the second edition of the Open de France, a 21-year-old Argentine had already

made his mark, helping Grassfield-Talandracas capture the title. His name? Juan Martín Nero, who would go on to lift polo’s ultimate prize twelve times: the prestigious and imposing Argentine Open trophy (Campeonato Argentino Abierto de Polo), polo’s equivalent of Kitzbühel in alpine skiing or Wimbledon in tennis.

Since then, thirteen other Argentine Open winners, six other finalists and around twenty additional participants in the world’s most prestigious tournament, including Copa Cámara winners, have played at Chantilly.

In the early years, as Chantilly aimed to move closer to that elite level, it welcomed the legendary Indios Chapaleufú II in 2002 and 2003 for two exhibition matches. Between 1996 and 2004, Ruso, Pepe and Nachi Heguy, together with Milo Fernández Araujo, won the Argentine Open four times. Originally held in June, the Open de France moved to September in 2006 and was set at 16 goals, a level high enough to attract top players. It was the era of the duels between Castel and In The Wings, which brought players such as Matías McDonough (Argentine Open finalist) and Pancho Bensadón (semi-finalist and Copa Cámara winner).

Seen in Chantilly and Palermo: Diego Cavanagh and Nico Pieres.



JETA CASTAGNOLA



FRAN ELIZALDE



JUAN MARTÍN NERO



Podium of the 2023 French Open: French captain Sébastien Aguetant surrounded by three „Palermists,” Antonio Hegy, Nico Pieres, and Beltrán Lauhié.

Players Polito Pieres (left, with the Austrian team Power Horse) and Juanchi Ambroggio (right) also played in Chantilly in 2008.



PEPE HEGUY



PALERMO PLAYERS WHO HAVE WON THE FRENCH OPEN

- Juan Martín Nero (2002 - Talandracas – Grassfield)
- Matias McDonough (2003 – Castel)
- Lucas Monteverde (2005 – In The Wings)
- Juan Gris Zavaleta (2005 – In The Wings)
- Facundo Sola (2011 – Murus Sanctus)
- Alfredo Cappella (2011- Murus Sanctus and 2024 replacing Fran Elizalde, injured in the 4th chukker – La Fija Sandbox)
- Facundo Llorente (2013 - Tom Tailor and 2021 - La Magdeleine)
- Martin Aguerre (2015 and 2016 - La Victoire-Marquard Media)
- Toly Ulloa (2019 - Cibao La Pampa)
- Barto Castagnola (2020 - Lions Panarea)
- Tommy Beresford (2020 - Lions Panarea)
- Tito Guiñazú (2021- La Magdeleine)
- Jeta Castagnola (2022 – Talandracas)
- Juan Martín Zubia (2022 – Talandracas)
- Nico Pieres (2023 – Kazak)
- Fran Elizalde (2024- La Fija Sandbox)
- Rufino Bensadon (2022- Talandracas and 2024 - La Fija Sandbox)
- Pelón Stirling (2025 – Octogone)

All these players had a handicap between 8 and 10!



Captain André Fabre (right) has always surrounded himself with great players, as in 2005 for his victory in the French Open with Lucas Monteverde (left), four-time winner of the Argentine Open, and Juan-Gris Zavaleta. The young Pierre-Henri Ngoumou completed the quartet.

With In The Wings and thanks to his patron, renowned Thoroughbred trainer André Fabre, the public discovered a 14-year-old Facundo Pieres, who reached the 10-goal handicap five years later. In 2005, Fabre’s team captured the Open de France with Lucas Monteverde, who later won the Argentine Open four times between 2005 and 2009.

Other Argentine Open finalists and semi-finalists who have competed at Chantilly include Polito Pieres (one title and two finals at Palermo) with Austria’s Power Horse, Pablo McDonough (thirteen titles and four additional finals), Facundo Sola (two finals), Sapó Caset (two finals), Fran Elizalde (one final with La Dolfina), and Ale Muzzio (one final with La Dolfina).

The year 2020 marked another turning point in the history of the Open de France, with even more competitive line-ups,

notably Britain’s Lions Panarea and France’s Talandracas, both fielding the Castagnola brothers: Jeta for the French side and Barto for the British team.

After a thrilling preliminary-round match that produced 29 goals, including 17 scored by the two brothers, Barto led Lions Panarea to victory in the 20th Open de France. Two years later, Jeta returned without his brother to claim the title with Talandracas. Three months later, the brothers triumphed at Palermo for the first time and have since lifted the trophy three more times: a streak that is still ongoing.

In 2023, a third Pieres made his debut at Apremont. Nico Pieres became the first player to arrive in Chantilly, already an Argentine Open winner, representing the French team Kazak alongside Antonio Heguy, Pepe’s son and an Argentine Open finalist last December. Together, they secured the 23rd Open de France.

Finally, with ten Argentine Open titles won with La Dolfina, Uruguay’s Pelón Stirling also left his mark on the French Open, claiming victory with Octogone.

To this prestigious roll of honour must be added other “Palermists” who have competed at Chantilly: Tito Guiñazú, Alfredo Capella, Juan Martín Zubia, Jero del Carril, Facundo Llorente, Juan-Gris Zavaleta, Beltrán Lauhié, Lorenzo Chavanne, Kubi Toccalino, Guillermo Terrera, Diego Cavanagh, Bauti Bayugar, Benjamín and Tomás Panelo, Juan-Gris and Clemente Zavaleta, Toly Ulloa, Matías Torres Zavaleta, Gonzalo Ferrari, Rufino Bensadón, Martín Aguerre (Copa Cámara winner), Tommy Beresford (GBR) and Luke Tomlinson (GBR), all rated at 8 or 9 goals.

An extraordinary honour roll — missing only one name: Adolfo Cambiasso. When will that day come?

BERENBERG

GERMAN POLO MASTERS SYLT

The tradition-stepped event under the patronage of Berenberg, Germany's oldest private bank, will take place this year from July 29th to August 2nd.

BY STEFANIE STÜTING, KARSTEN WEHMEIER PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTOGRAPHY SYLT MEDIA & EVENTS / ROLF SIMON, BERENBERG / GEORG SUPANZ, KATHARINA DE WITT, BERTOLD FABRICIUS



Image: Georg Supanz



Image: Rolf Simon



Image: Rolf Simon



Image: Georg Szipanz



Image: Bernd Fabricius



Image: Rolf Simon



Image: Georg Szipanz



Image: Georg Szipanz

Hosts of the BERENBERG German Polo Masters: General partners Hendrik Riehmer (left) and Christian Kühn (right) with Chairman of the Board of Directors Dr. Hans-Walter Peters.



Image: Rolf Simon



Image: Georg Szipanz



Image: Rolf Simon



Image: Rolf Simon



Image: Katharina De Witt

The first rays of spring are already sparking anticipation for the Berenberg German Polo Masters – Sylt can hardly wait. Following an international tournament last year that enjoyed strong attendance despite challenging weather conditions, the event returns in 2026 with renewed energy.

“The Berenberg German Polo Masters remain what they have always been: top-level sport combined with a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere,” says Frederik Gottlob, Head of Corporate, Wealth and Asset Management at Berenberg. The Hamburg-based private bank has been the main sponsor of what is arguably Germany’s most renowned polo tournament since 2015. And the event continues to evolve. In 2026, BMW joins as a new automotive partner, perfectly matching the speed and elegance of the game.

Also new as a team sponsor is the legendary Pony Club in Kampen, continuing a long-standing tradition of Sylt-based restaurateurs supporting this important island event. The Pony will also host one of the most anticipated evenings: the Players Party. “This year it will take place at Tom Kinder’s Pony in Kampen – a premiere that promises to be truly memorable and make history,” says event organiser Kiki Schneider.

There will also be new faces on the field. A Swiss team, led by team captain Ann-Kathrin Braendle, will make its debut on Sylt. Joining her are Nicolas Rogerson and

Argentinian player Manuel Carranza, bringing international experience and fresh momentum to the polo grounds in Keitum. Far from new to Sylt, however, is Hamburg’s Lukas Sdrenka, who grew up in the saddle here and remains a formidable goal scorer. He has been working successfully as a coach at Düsseldorf Polo Club for years.

Sylt’s firm place in the international polo scene will once again be evident in 2026: the Berenberg German Polo Masters are once again part of the prestigious German Polo Tour, founded by accomplished player Christopher Kirsch. “This highlights the strong position and importance of the Berenberg German Polo Masters within the German tournament calendar. Players and teams from various countries come together here,” Schneider adds.

Connections this year extend beyond the island. The breathtaking Carlton Hotel St. Moritz returns as a valued partner, combining polo tradition with alpine elegance. Perched high above the lake, the hotel stands for privacy, style and a close connection to the sport of polo – a partnership that naturally links Sylt and St. Moritz as summer and winter destinations.

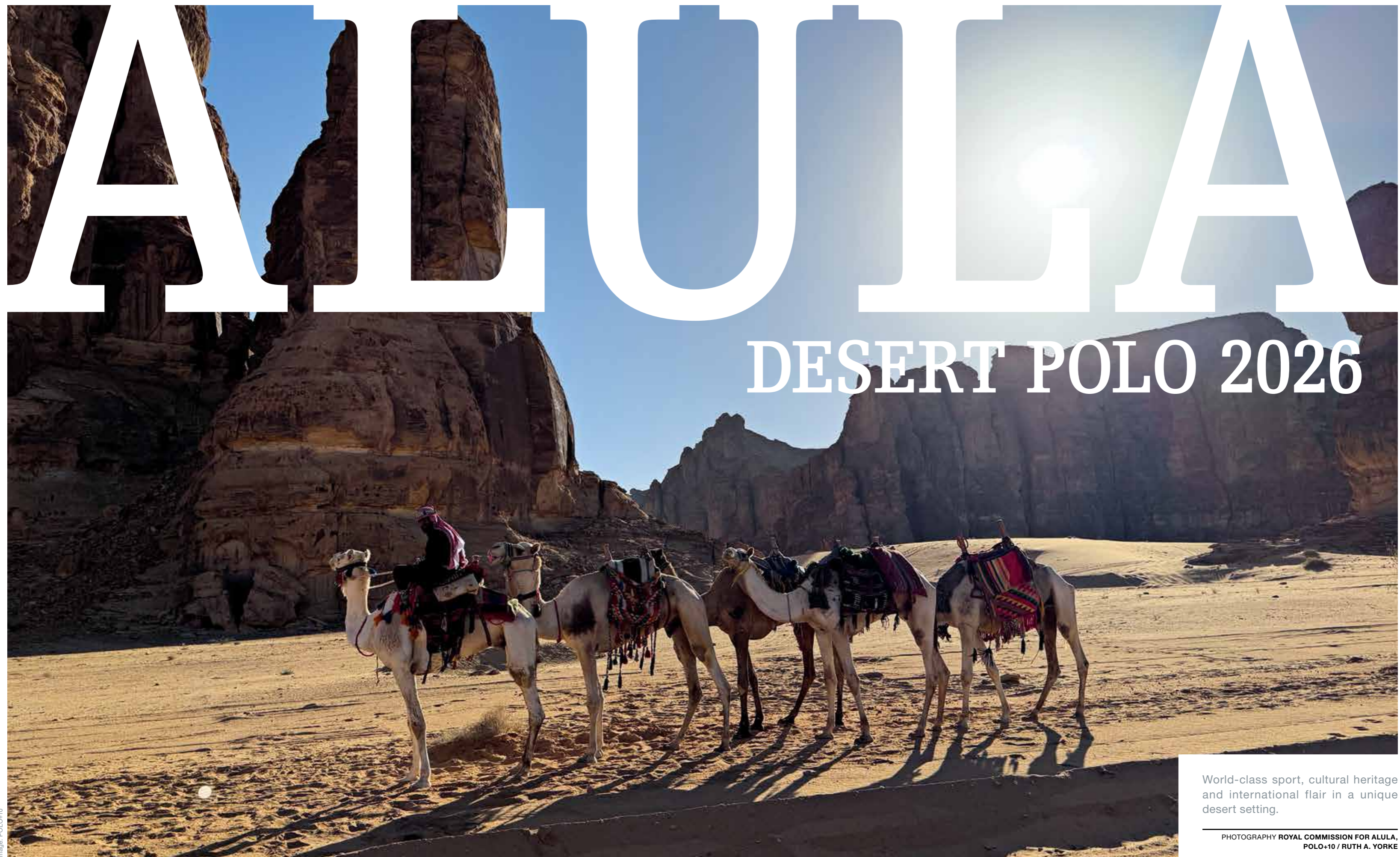
Beyond the sporting action, the overall event experience continues to develop. A diverse exhibitor village invites guests to explore, while breaks between matches offer time for conversation, encounters and

the unmistakable Sylt lifestyle – particularly vibrant in early August.

Review of the 2025 Tournament:
In a narrow 7–6 victory, the team of Californian electric car pioneer Lucid Motors triumphed in last year’s final against Zuckerrhut & Matterhorn – a match that could hardly have been more thrilling after four intense days of play. Led by Switzerland’s Philipp Müller, the young and highly talented British players Ralph Robson, Tom Brodie and Charles Cooney delivered a technically strong and exceptionally likeable performance. Fighting until the very last second, Patrick Maleitzke, Vanessa Schockemöhle, Sebastian Schnerberger and Cristobal Durrieu narrowly missed out on victory.

In the match for third place, Berenberg secured the bronze medal – as in the previous year, and in true Hanseatic fashion – with a clear 6–3.5 win against the cosmetics brand Clé de Peau Beauté. The match for fifth place ended in a 4–4 draw between Burckhardt’s Glide and defending champions König Sylt, making them joint fifth-place finishers.

Dunkelziffer e.V., the tournament’s long-standing charity partner, was once again present and raised valuable donations through the sale of specially designed bracelets.



ALULA

DESERT POLO 2026

World-class sport, cultural heritage and international flair in a unique desert setting.

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



AlUla is located around 1,100 kilometres north-west of Riyadh in Saudi Arabia and is considered a region of exceptional natural and cultural heritage. The vast area covers 22,561 square kilometres and combines a green oasis landscape, impressive sandstone mountains and numerous archaeological sites whose history dates back several thousand years – to the time of the Lihyanites and Nabataeans.



The 'AlUla Moments' events calendar was launched at the end of 2021 and brings together festivals and events that bring the region's history, culture and landscape to life. AlUla looks back on around 7,000 years of civilisation and was already an important meeting place for different cultures in ancient times.

The programme includes five major festivals focusing on art, culture, music, nature, wellness and gastronomy. These include the AlUla Wellness Festival, Winter at Tantora, the Ancient Kingdoms Festival, the AlUla Skies Festival with hot air balloons and stargazing, and the AlUla Arts Festival.

These festivals are complemented by international highlights such as AZIMUTH, the AlUla Desert Polo, traditional equestrian events such as the AlFursan Endurance Cup, and other events in the fields of fashion, adventure and top-class sport.



The most famous historical site in the region is Hegra, Saudi Arabia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site. The ancient city covers 52 hectares and was once the most important southern metropolis of the Nabataean Kingdom. Among the outstanding monuments are 111 exceptionally well-preserved rock tombs, many of which were carved directly out of the surrounding sandstone formations with ornate facades.

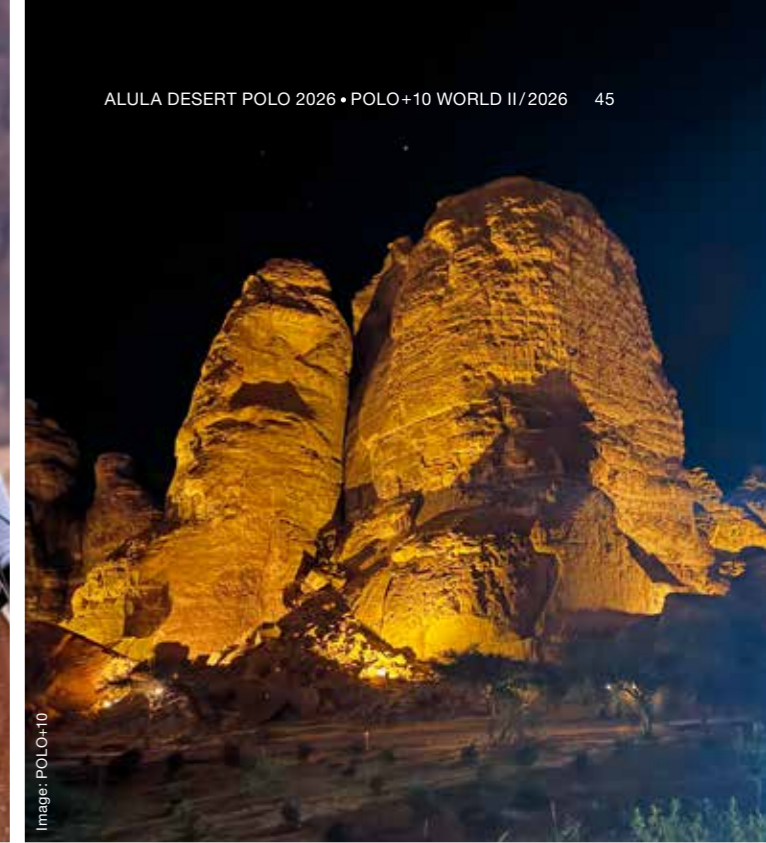
Recent research also suggests that Hegra may have been the southernmost outpost of the Roman Empire after the conquest of the Nabataean Empire in 106 AD.



In addition to Hegra, AlUla is home to other important historical sites. These include Dadan, the former capital of the kingdoms of Dadan and Liyan, which is considered one of the most developed cities on the Arabian Peninsula in the 1st millennium BC. Also of great importance is Jabal Ikmah, a kind of open-air library with hundreds of inscriptions and texts in various languages, which was recently added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.

Another cultural highlight is the old town of AlUla, a labyrinth of more than 900 mud-brick houses dating back to at least the 12th century. In 2022, the historic village was named one of the world's 'Best Tourism Villages' by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).





World-class polo in a spectacular desert setting: Team Defender triumphed in a dramatic final at the Alula Desert Polo 2026, once again underlining the growing importance of the tournament as an international highlight in the polo calendar.





AlUla, Saudi Arabia, January 2026: In just a few years, AlUla Desert Polo has become one of the most extraordinary tournaments on the international polo calendar. The 2026 edition once again impressively confirmed this status. After two days of high-class sport, impressive spectator response and a varied supporting programme, the event once again underlined AlUla's role as a first-class destination for top-class sport, culture and international tourism.

The event took place on 16 and 17 January 2026 in the spectacular **Mohammed Yousuf Naghi Equestrian Village – AlFursan**. Nestled in the dramatic desert landscape of the historic AlUla region, the tournament once again provided a unique stage where world-class polo, centuries-old equestrian traditions and modern event culture come together. The tournament is named after the founding partner of the Royal Commission for AlUla (RCU) in the field of heritage and equestrian sports and exemplifies the connection between history and international top-class sport.

A gathering of the international polo scene
As in previous years, the AlUla Desert Polo brought together some of the sport's most famous names as well as numerous personalities from politics, business and society. International polo stars, members of royal families, important patrons and guests from all over the world travelled to the Saudi desert region to experience an event that combines sporting excellence with the country's rich equestrian heritage.

The unique backdrop and exclusive atmosphere make the tournament one of the most fascinating stops on the global polo calendar. In AlUla, traditional desert flair meets modern sporting events – a combination that captivates both players and spectators alike.

Festival atmosphere around the playing field
But the AlUla Desert Polo is much more than just a sporting event. During the two days of the tournament, a lively festival atmosphere developed around the playing field. Thousands

of visitors took the opportunity to experience polo at the highest level while enjoying a varied supporting programme. Families, international guests and polo enthusiasts were treated to live entertainment, cultural presentations and exclusive shopping opportunities. Premium hospitality areas offered spectacular views of the surrounding rock formations and the iconic landscape of AlUla. This mix of sport, entertainment and culture has contributed significantly to the event becoming a crowd puller – both for local visitors and international guests.

Dramatic finale decides the tournament
In sporting terms, the tournament also offered everything you could hope for from a top-class polo event. Team Defender secured victory, beating Team AlUla 9-8 in an exciting final.

The winning team consisted of internationally renowned players Pablo MacDonough, Jenny Luttrell and HSH Prince Eugen zu Oettingen. They faced a high-calibre Team AlUla with HRH Prince Salman bin Mansour Al Saud, David Stirling and Naveen Jindal.

POLO⁺¹⁰



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TEAMS

DEFENDER

Pablo MacDonough (+3)
 Jenny Luttrell (+2)
 HSH Prince Eugen zu Oettingen (+1)

AIUIA

David Stirling (+3)
 Naveen Jindal (+2)
 HRH Prince Salman bin Mansour Al Saud (+1)

DADAN

Nacho Figueras (+3)
 Babar Naseem (+2)
 Faisaö AlSuDairy (+1)

BUDGET

Jejo Taranco (+3)
 Venkatesh Jindal (+2)
 Dr Hosam Zowawi (+1)

BFS

Lia Salvo (+3)
 Alejandro Poma (+2)
 Faisal Abunayyan (+1)

VISA

Cata Lavinia (+3)
 David Paradise (+2)
 Ibrahim AlHarbi (+1)

The final developed into a thrilling battle that remained open until the very end, treating spectators to a dramatic conclusion to an extraordinary tournament. Team Defender's narrow victory crowned a weekend that will be remembered as a complete success, both in terms of sport and atmosphere.

A key event in the AlUla Moments calendar

The AlUla Desert Polo is a central part of the AlUla Moments 2025/26 programme of events and plays an important role in positioning the region as an international stage for top-class sport. At the same time, the event conveys AlUla's deep historical connection to horses and equestrian culture – a tradition that has been rooted in the region for centuries.

The tournament impressively demonstrates how these traditions can be presented in a modern and internationally oriented form. The result is an event that is both authentic and globally relevant.

Organisation and international cooperation

The tournament is organised by the Royal Commission for AlUla (RCU), with the support of the Saudi Polo Federation and the Saudi Arabian Equestrian Federation. The sixth

edition of the tournament once again provided convincing proof of the region's organisational and infrastructural capabilities.

By successfully hosting an event of this magnitude, AlUla is underlining its position as a host for top international sporting events – not only in polo, but also in other disciplines.

Ziad Alsuhaibani, Chief Sports Officer of the Royal Commission for AlUla, said:

"AlUla Desert Polo has become a powerful expression of what AlUla stands for – a place where cultural heritage and sport come together in a truly unique setting.

The tremendous commitment we have seen again this year from players, partners and spectators demonstrates AlUla's growing reputation as a host for world-class sport and underlines our commitment to celebrating equestrian culture in a way that resonates globally."

Part of a diverse international sports programme

Desert Polo is just one of several major sporting events that take place in AlUla each year. The region has quickly developed into a versatile sporting destination and hosts a number of high-profile events.

These include the AlUla Tour, a professional cycling race that, after two successful editions, is now part of the UCI ProSeries. Also of international standing is the AlFursan Endurance AlUla, one of the most prestigious endurance races in the world.

In addition, the AlUla Trail Race attracts elite ultra-marathon runners and ambitious amateur athletes every year, who take on the extraordinary scenic challenges of the region.

Year-round destination for culture, sport and experiences

In addition to sporting events, AlUla also has a strong cultural focus. Festivals such as the Ancient Kingdoms Festival and Winter at Tantora attract visitors from all over the world. There is also the renowned Maraya Classical Concert Series, which regularly features well-known regional and international artists.

Together, these events showcase the region's ambitious vision: to establish AlUla as a year-round destination for sport, culture and extraordinary travel experiences.

For more information on events and activities in the region, visit: experiencealula.com.

PREVIEW: 1295 POLO MASTERS BODENSEE OPEN

CHUKKERS, CHARM & CHARITY AT LAKE CONSTANCE

From July 10 to 12, a very special kind of excitement will once again fill the air in Sylvenstal near Pfullendorf on Lake Constance: galloping horses, fast-paced plays, focused spectators along the boards, and that unique blend of elegance, speed, and emotion that makes polo so captivating.

BY BIBIANA REUTHER
PHOTOGRAPHY KATHRIN GRALLA - DER ROTE DRACHE FOTOGRAFIE





When the 1295 Polo Masters Bodensee OPEN once again transforms into a meeting place for international players, guests, partners, and friends of the sport, it is about far more than victory on the field. It is about encounters, style, unforgettable moments — and about a heartfelt project that will once again give the tournament its special significance in 2026.

In recent years, the tournament has inspired thousands of spectators and impressively demonstrated how closely sport and social commitment can be connected. Through raffles, auctions, donations, and the support of partners, sponsors, players, and spectators, a donation of €20,000 was presented to Lebens- und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Lautenbach e.V. The funds supported therapeutic riding programs and enabled many village residents with increased assistance needs to participate in this valuable activity.

Therapeutic riding can help improve motor, sensory, emotional, and social skills. The movement of the horse supports balance, posture, and coordination, while contact with the animal can strengthen self-confidence, concentration, communication, and emotional well-being. For hosts Martin and

Bibiana Reuther, this connection between horses, human interaction, and meaningful support is truly a matter close to their hearts.

In 2026, the tournament aims to build on this success story once again. The powerful sound of hooves, fast chukkers, the unmistakable crack of mallet and ball, and the



unique tension along the boards will once again make the 1295 Polo Masters a one-of-a-kind equestrian spectacle in the Lake Constance region — while also providing a special platform to raise funds for a good cause. International teams will compete for victory with elegance, skill, and team spirit, accompanied by expert commentary, passionate guests, and an atmosphere that makes polo accessible, vibrant, and thrilling.

Over the course of three days, players, guests, partners, and spectators can look forward to world-class polo, inspiring conversations by the sidelines, and memorable moments in an atmosphere that is both relaxed and exclusive. The 1295 Polo Masters are more than just a tournament: they are a place where sport, style, and humanity come together.

Anyone coming to Sylvenstal in July will experience not only polo in an extraordinary setting, but also become part of an event that stands for purpose and commitment. A weekend full of horsepower, emotions, and meaningful encounters — and a tournament that once again proves that polo can be elegant, exhilarating, and socially impactful at the same time.





10 YEARS

GERMAN BEACH POLO CHAMPIONSHIP ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED ON RÜGEN

Team Del Mare / Stralsunder Möbelwerke wins the 9th International German Beach Polo Championship in the Baltic seaside resort of Sellin, with Arlett Heinemann and Patrick Maleitzke.

BY BALTIC POLO EVENTS
PHOTOGRAPHY BALTIC POLO EVENT/KERSTIN,
BALTIC POLO EVENT/POLO SYLT,
BALTIC POLO EVENT/MAXI KAISER, POLO+10 / RUTH A. YORKE



Image: Baltic Polo Events, Polo Sylt



Image: Baltic Polo Events, Polo Sylt



Image: Baltic Polo Events, Maxi Kabeer



Image: Baltic Polo Events, Polo Sylt



Image: Baltic Polo Events, Polo Sylt



Image: Baltic Polo Events, Polo Sylt



Image: POLO+10 / Ruth A. Yorke



Image: Baltic Polo Events, Polo Sylt

RESULTS OF THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL GERMAN BEACH POLO CHAMPIONSHIP

1. **Del Mare/ Stralsunder Möbelwerke**
Deutscher Beach Polo Meister 2025
Arlett Heinemann
Patrick Maleitzke
2. **Land Mecklenburg-Vorpommern/ POLO+10/Black Forest**
2. Platz und Vizemeister
Silvia Nutz
Lukas Sdrenka
3. **Ostseebad Sellin/ Getränke Becker**
Ken Kawamoto
Johan Funk Gallardo
4. **Gothaer Versicherungen by Karsten Topka**
Jeanette Diekmann
Berty Zalazar
5. **Hotel Bernstein/Breuer**
Romy Schneider
Raphael Olivera
6. **Bar 24 / GAP / Bankai**
Claudia Drews
Svenja Höty

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When international polo players and more than 60 Argentine polo ponies gather once again on the beach of Sellin from 2 to 4 October 2026, a special milestone will be celebrated: the German Beach Polo Championship marks its tenth edition under the auspices of the German Polo Association. Over the years, the tournament on the island of Rügen has become a firmly established fixture in the European beach polo calendar, combining top-level sport with the unique backdrop of the Baltic Sea coast.

However, the history of beach polo in Germany dates back even further. As early as 2007, Baltic Polo Events introduced beach polo to Germany for the first time, organising the country's first tournaments of this kind at Timmendorfer Strand. In recognition of this initiative, the project was honoured in 2008 by the nationwide "Land of Ideas" initiative under the patronage of Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel and Federal President Horst Köhler. The first German Beach Polo Championship was also held at Timmendorfer Strand.

In 2010, the tournament moved for the first time to the island of Rügen, to the Baltic seaside resort of Sellin—a decision that proved to be a resounding success. The combination of polo, beach scenery and

maritime atmosphere quickly established Sellin as one of Europe's most renowned beach polo destinations.

A look back at the most recent tournament highlights why the event attracts thousands of spectators each year. In October 2025, six international teams once again transformed the fine Baltic beach into a spectacular polo arena. Around 20,000 visitors followed the exciting chukkas directly from the shoreline.

The title of the International German Beach Polo Championship was claimed by Team Del Mare / Stralsunder Möbelwerke, represented by Arlett Heinemann and Patrick Maleitzke. In the final, the duo defeated Silvia Nutz and Lukas Sdrenka of Team Land Mecklenburg-Vorpommern / POLO+10 / Black Forest.

Beyond the high-class sporting action, the unique atmosphere of the event once again shaped the weekend: the traditional polo parade along Sellin's Wilhelmstraße, a diverse culinary offering, and the sold-out Oktoberfest in the VIP tent made the tournament a social highlight on the Baltic coast.

Jeanette Diekmann was named Most Valuable Player, while the Best Playing Pony

award went to the ten-year-old mare "Eli," played by Lukas Sdrenka.

Tournament founder and organiser Thomas Strunck reflects on the development of the event:

"When we introduced beach polo in Germany in 2007, it was a completely new idea. Our goal was to take polo out of traditional club settings and bring it directly to the people—to places where sport, nature and audiences come together. The fact that we are now celebrating the tenth German Beach Polo Championship fills us with great pride."

In fact, all ten official German Beach Polo Championships of the German Polo Association have been organised by Baltic Polo Events. The anniversary tournament in October 2026 is therefore set not only to be a sporting highlight, but also a retrospective of nearly two decades of beach polo in Germany.

With its unique blend of international polo, Baltic Sea scenery and social flair, Beach Polo Sellin has long established itself as one of Europe's leading beach polo events—and the 2026 anniversary edition already promises to be a truly special highlight.

www.baltic-polo-events.de



Swiss Medium goal at Polo Park Zürich - always a party, always a pleasure and this year with an unexpected twist! The competition had started on the Thursday with the teams sorting themselves into slots for the finals day 22nd June. Sunday was set to be another hot day in this exceptional summer.

BY JAN-MARIE KIESEL PHOTOGRAPHY LUCA MORTARI,
KATHRIN GRALLA - DER ROTE DRACHE FOTOGRAFIE

SWISS MEDIUM GOAL

19 - 22
JUNE
2025





A report from the touchline by Jan-Marie Kiesel:

Super Finals, Surprise Finish

The game for third place started at 11am and spectators were able to check out quality cigars from Zigarren Kurier and grab a panama sun hat from Ecuadorian.ch as they entered the hospitality tent. Black Forest Polo displayed their sporting accessories alongside their unique gin, while Mövenpick Wines ,with a choice of over 3000 wines from around the world, was also a major sponsor. Almost a family reunion as we all get together while the staff of Tapas de Maria set up the paella-cooking facilities and pre-lunch finger food.

Out on the field Alpine Grace had a fast game against Gräff and Friends with Alpine Grace coming in at third place.

The two teams set for the finals were being called by the umpires, Martin Fewster and Ed Judge, to come to field center for the throw-in.

Equilibrium vs Polo Club Zug

Daniel Aegerter with his team, Equilibrium, had a master plan. They were the defending champions and had a lot going for them, experience, expertise and pony power.

Thomas Aegerter and his father had teamed up with Manuel Gonzalez, an athletic young player, and, as in previous years, with that magic man Francisco Fucci, engine room for the team. Their opponent - Polo Club Zug, also a 6 goal team and also superbly mounted. Norman Watson put his young 2-goalers, Janik Oertli and Fermin Bilbao, at mid-field and Patricio Gaynor with his intense focus and cunning defence ability at position 4.

Excitement crackling!! Two well-balanced teams one game away from a major trophy. For the first two chukkers all went well and as expected for Equilibrium. Francisco Fucci imposed himself on the game and established a predictable half-time score of 3 - 1. But what happened after half-time? Was it a pep-talk at the pony lines, a change of game plan? Whatever it was Team Zug came out of the break with an "all for one, one for all" attitude. Janik Oertli scored on Tormenta who's pace was phenomenal and slowly the game started to tilt in Team Zug's favor. Both teams within a goal of each other keeping the excitement levels fizzing. With Team Zug ahead, Daniel Aegerter broke away for a dash to goal. But the final whistle blew and Polo Club Zug was the unexpected winner of this year's Swiss Medium Goal.

WINNER OF SWISS MEDIUM GOAL

Polo Club Zug
Norman Watson
Janik Oertli
Fermin Bilbao
Patricio Gaynor

BPP's: Cheta played by Fermin Bilbao & Simon played and owned by Daniel Aegerter. MVP: Janik Oertli

Prize-giving was a relaxed affair with Swiss Polo Association's President, Morgan Van Overbroek giving a thank you speech and handing over the prizes. Horsepower is a big factor in polo and the umpires were so impressed by the quality of the ponies in this game that they decided to give Best Playing Pony to two of them.

There was still some paella left at the hospitality tent and so players, family and friends all settled down to a second sitting, toasting Polo Park Zürich for an enjoyable, well-run tournament.



ICEGUERRILLA BEACH POLO WORLD MASTERS

BY POLAR TWIST KÜHLUNGSBORN

With thrilling matches on the sand, a varied entertainment programme and successful charity initiatives, the inaugural event in Kühlungsborn delighted participants and spectators alike, making a strong impact far beyond the sporting arena.

BY POLO RIVERA DEUTSCHLAND PHOTOGRAPHY GUNNAR ROSENOW & MARC LUKAS MEYER

Image: Marc Lukas Meyer

From left to right:
Alexander Schwarz, Host
Victoria Herrmann, TV Presenter
Matthias Ludwig, Polo Riviera Deutschland
Mariella Ahrens, Actress.



ICEGUERILLA CUP (A-CUP):

1st Place – ICEGUERILLA
Max van Eupen & Chris van Eupen

2nd Place – ARGE HAUS
Markus Schreurs & Hardy Reuter

3rd Place – GRANINI / POLAR TWIST
Alexander Ludorf & Leopold Ludorf

4th Place – ALLIANZ KUNDLER
Leopold Cromm & Peter Cromm

POLAR TWIST CUP (B-CUP):

1st Place – SCHULZ BAU / HENRY WITT
Elektroanlagen
Svenja Hölty & Bea Pfister

2nd Place – OSTSEETRAUM FERIENIMMOBILIEN / SCAVY & RAY / STERNAUTO DEUTSCHLAND
Stefanie Fuchs & Rainer Reimann

3rd Place – EUROPA HOTEL KÜHLUNGSBORN / TRANSGOURMET / MECKATZER BREWERY
Martin Reuther & Lupita Fass

4th Place – Mecklenburgische Kanalbau GmbH / ETL Group
Clarissa Clavey & Claudia Reichelt

The first ICEGUERILLA Beach Polo World Masters by Polar Twist took place in Kühlungsborn from 15 to 17 May 2026, combining international polo, entertainment and charitable engagement. Eight teams from Germany, Luxembourg, France and South Africa competed against one another on the beach between the town's pier and marina.

The event was hosted by Alexander Schwarz, 22-time German Polo Champion and European Vice-Champion, alongside actress Mariella Ahrens and television presenter Victoria Herrmann. During the Players' Night at VIELMEER, Sidney King and DJ Houze Arrest ensured a lively atmosphere.

Charity also played a central role throughout the weekend. A sailing boat signed by

all players and presenters was auctioned for 1,000 euros in aid of Lunte e.V., with the winning bid placed by Marco Aust of OSTSEETRAUM Ferienimmobilien. On Saturday evening, Axel Matzkus, Managing Director of the Europa Hotel, purchased a painting by artist Harald K. Schulze for 5,000 euros, with proceeds supporting Noah, a young Kühlungsborn resident battling leukaemia. In total, more than 10,000 euros was raised for charitable causes.

The moving charity campaign, organised under the patronage of Mayor Olivia Arndt, received enthusiastic applause and highlighted that the event was about far more than sport alone.

Saturday evening also offered an impressive musical programme. Alongside Sidney

King, the show band Modern Talking Reloaded performed, while Houze Arrest kept the VIP area dancing late into the night.

The event was organised by Polo Riviera Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG from Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, led by Matthias Ludwig. The company has previously staged polo tournaments in Binz on the island of Rügen, Heiligendamm, Berlin-Köpenick and, for many years, in Warnemünde. In Kühlungsborn, the event celebrated its world premiere.

Combining beach polo, live music and charity, the inaugural ICEGUERILLA Beach Polo World Masters by Polar Twist set a powerful example of sport, entertainment and social commitment on Germany's Baltic coast.



STANDING ROCK DOUBLE VICTORY

Historic double victory on snow: By triumphing in both Kitzbühel and St. Moritz in 2026, Standing Rock sets a new milestone in international snow polo.

BY THOMAS WIRTH PHOTOGRAPHY LIFESTYLE EVENTS GMBH, TONY RAMIREZ / IMAGES OF POLO

With victories at Europe's most prestigious snow polo tournaments, Standing Rock has delivered an extraordinary start to the year. Following its triumph at the 23rd Bendura Bank Snow Polo World Cup in Kitzbühel, the team continued its remarkable winning streak just days later at the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz — making history in the process. Never before had a team managed to win both tournaments within the same season.

Standing Rock already appeared in outstanding form in Kitzbühel. Competing under the Allianz banner, the team of Philipp Müller, Nacho Gonzalez and Raul Laplacette faced strong international opposition and impressed from the very beginning with speed, precision and exceptional teamwork. After intense matches against AIX and S. Pellegrino, the team advanced confidently to the final, where Pommery — featuring James and Garvy Beh alongside Tomas Delfino — awaited as a formidable opponent.

Against the spectacular backdrop of the Tyrolean Alps, the final turned into a thrilling encounter in which Standing Rock stood out through its unity and determination. Raul Laplacette dominated offensively, scoring five goals, while the team remained composed defensively and made very few

mistakes. At the final whistle, Standing Rock celebrated a deserved victory, further highlighted by Laplacette receiving the MVP Award of the final.

But for Standing Rock, Kitzbühel was only the beginning.

Directly after the success in Austria, the team travelled to St. Moritz, where one of the most spectacular and demanding tournaments in international polo awaited. Set against the iconic scenery of the frozen lake of St. Moritz and accompanied by a record crowd of around 26,000 spectators, Standing Rock once again confirmed its exceptional form.

Featuring Philipp Müller, Max Charlton, Raul Laplacette and Nacho Gonzalez, Standing Rock delivered a dominant performance in its opening match against Investec and secured a controlled 6:4 victory to advance to the semi-finals. The following clash against Azerbaijan — Land of Fire turned into an intense and highly competitive battle, but Standing Rock demonstrated true fighting spirit and remarkable resilience to edge out another narrow victory.

The final then saw Standing Rock face the unbeaten Flexjet team led by polo legend

Pelon Stirling. In a fast-paced and tactical contest, Standing Rock once again displayed its outstanding quality. Max Charlton provided important attacking momentum, Nacho Gonzalez impressed with an exceptionally solid defensive performance and Raul Laplacette sealed the victory with a dramatic last-minute goal. The celebrations on the frozen lake of St. Moritz marked the culmination of a historic snow polo moment.

Beyond its sporting success, Standing Rock also represents a philosophy that extends far beyond the polo field. During the tournament in St. Moritz, the team welcomed friends and partners from the international polo community to the Kulm Hotel, where the organisation shared the vision and values behind Standing Rock. Inspired by the Seven Lakota Values, the team combines sporting ambition with respect, fairness and cultural responsibility — principles reflected not only in the team itself, but also in initiatives such as the Standing Rock Fair Play Award and the Standing Rock Foundation.

With victories in both Kitzbühel and St. Moritz, Standing Rock has not only secured two of the most important titles in snow polo, but has also firmly established itself as one of the defining teams on the international snow polo circuit.

Image: Bernhard Willroth (Dr. TCM Sebastian Stoldt mit Pferd)



MORE UNDERSTANDING INSTEAD OF MORE PRODUCTS: A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON DIFFERENT HORSE TYPES

BY VEYA® PHOTOGRAPHY BERNHARD WILLROTH, VEYA®

Anyone who spends a lot of time with horses quickly notices how different they are. Some react immediately, alert and highly responsive. Others appear calmer, observe longer, or need more time to adapt to new situations.

For most horse owners, these differences are self-evident. The challenge, however, lies in interpreting them correctly and drawing practical conclusions from them — especially when it comes to nutrition and support.

The market for feed supplements is vast, yet clear guidance on which product truly suits an individual horse is often lacking. As a result, many owners end up combining different supplements without a clear overall strategy.

One approach that aims to bring more structure to this process is based on a model from traditional Chinese medicine: the five elements — Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal, and Water. These elements describe different energetic patterns that can also be reflected in the behavior and expression of horses.

For example, active and forward-moving horses may correspond more closely to the Wood element, while sensitive or more reserved horses may align with Water. Others display balanced characteristics (Earth), clear structure and precision (Metal), or a particularly lively and expressive nature (Fire).

What is new here is not necessarily the model itself, but the way it has been made accessible for everyday use.

A type test based on the five elements allows horses to be categorized according to

easily observable traits. Within just a few minutes, it provides an initial orientation that can help owners make clearer decisions in both daily handling and feeding.

“The elements describe patterns that we repeatedly observe in everyday interaction with horses,” says Sebastian Stoldt, who has worked with the application of the five elements for many years and adapts this model to horse care. “Once we understand which element a horse corresponds to, it becomes much easier to choose the right kind of support.”

Rather than promoting increasingly complex combinations of different products, this approach intentionally focuses on clear classification. At its core is the question of what truly suits each individual horse.

For many horse owners, this can offer a new perspective — moving away from simply selecting products and toward a deeper understanding of their horse.

The type test is available online and can serve as an introduction to this model.

www.veya.de



Image: VEYA®



POLO+10 & BUZZER LAUNCH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

POLO+10 has entered into an exclusive partnership with the sports social media platform Buzzer. The aim of this collaboration is to further strengthen the digital visibility of polo and unlock new opportunities for the international polo community, brand partners, and sports fans.

BY POLO+10 PHOTOGRAPHY BENJAMIN SCHULZ

For nearly 25 years, POLO+10 has been reporting on the most important developments in international polo. With its magazine for the German-speaking market, the globally distributed POLO+10 WORLD edition, its online platform, and a worldwide network of players, clubs, tournament organizers, and brand partners, POLO+10 is one of the most established media platforms in the international polo scene.

This partnership brings together two worlds: POLO+10 as a leading and established international media authority in polo, and Buzzer as a next-generation digital platform.

“POLO+10 has stood for reliable, international polo coverage for over two decades. With Buzzer, we are now taking the next step by combining this strength with new digital opportunities,” says Thomas Wirth, Publisher of POLO+10.

Buzzer is not just an additional channel, but an independent social media platform dedicated to sports. It integrates content, community, and monetization within a single ecosystem.

“With Buzzer, we are building a platform where sports content is not only consumed but can also be monetized. This is exactly where we see enormous potential for polo and for our collaboration with POLO+10,” says Philippe Sommer, Head of Collaboration at Buzzer.

A key aspect of the platform is that content is designed not only to generate reach, but also to be monetizable—for clubs, players, organizers, and content creators. This clearly differentiates Buzzer from traditional social media platforms.

Already today, the platform offers scalable international reach, with live streams regularly attracting several thousand viewers. This creates new economic opportunities for the entire polo ecosystem.

Get the
Buzzer App



As part of the partnership, POLO+10 will act as the official global polo media partner of Buzzer. Both platforms plan to increasingly consolidate content, tournaments, and developments in international polo digitally, while also developing new formats.

For the polo community, this results in clear added value: increased visibility, new revenue streams, and stronger international connectivity.

“The combination of international reach, high-quality content, and new monetization models will significantly advance polo in the digital space,” adds Philippe Sommer.

For POLO+10, this cooperation is part of a long-term strategy to further expand its international coverage and strategically complement it with new digital formats.

With its decades-long international presence, POLO+10 remains the central media platform for polo and the global polo community.

HUBLLOT

POLO GOLD CUP GSTAAD 2026



Top-level polo set against the backdrop of the Swiss Alps, the Hublot Polo Gold Cup is one of the most prestigious tournaments on the European circuit.

BY PASCAL RENAULDON / R&B PRESSE
PHOTOGRAPHY JUSTINE JACQUEMOT,
PASCAL RENAULDON / R&B PRESSE,
KATHRIN GRALLA - DER ROTE DRACHE FOTOGRAFIE



Image: Justine Jacquemot

TEAMS, SCORES & STATS

FINAL 2025

GSTAAD PALACE

Markus Graeff (0)
 Thommy Graeff (3, 2 goals)
 Martin Podestá Jr. (7, 4 goals)
 Francisco Fucci (4, 1 goal)

ALBINATI AERONAUTICS

Luca Meier (1, 1 goal)
 Patricio Gaynor (2)
 Santiago Cernadas (7, 2 goals)
 Fabian Bolanterio (4, 1 goal)

Progression Gstaad Palace:

1-0 / 3-1 / 6-3 / 7-4

SUBSIDIARY FINAL

KIELDER AGRO GROUP

Antonio Manzano (0, 1 goal)
 Juan Pepa (2 penalty goals)
 Bautista Bello (4, 1 goal)
 Nicolás Pieres (8, 4 goals)

HUBLLOT

Jürgen Schröder (0)
 Antonio Grabosch (3)
 Adrian Laplacette Jr. (6, 5 goals)
 Juan Esteban Uribe (5)

Progression Kielder Agro Group:

1-2 / 4-3 / 6-6 / 8-7

Best Playing Pony:

Doma Simoca, 9-year-old grey mare bred by La Irenita, ridden by Martin Podestá Jr.

MVP:

Martin Podestá Jr.

Best Amateur Player of the Tournament:

Juan Pepa, Kielder Agro Group

Top Scorer of the Tournament:

Martin Podestá Jr. – 10 goals

Referees:

Charles Seavill and Oliver Ellis



Image: Justine Jacquemot

Image: Justine Jacquemot

Image: (4) Kathrin Graella - Der Rote Drache Fotografie

Image: Kathrin Graella - Der Rote Drache Fotografie

Some events no longer need to reinvent themselves to assert their place. In Gstaad, there is a moment each summer when even the planes fall silent. From 20 to 23 August 2026, the Hublot Polo Gold Cup will once again take possession of the magnificent grass field bordering the airport runway, offering a spectacle that has become truly unique in the world: top-level polo in the heart of the Swiss Alps.

For over two decades, the tournament has established itself as a fixture apart on the international circuit, built on a quiet consistency that has become its signature. The same sporting standards, the same loyal teams, the same elegance in organisation: in Gstaad, polo is played for the long game.

That commitment begins long before the first chukka. Pierre E. Genecand is one of those rare organisers who, days before the opening bell, still climbs onto a tractor to personally oversee the condition of the ground, a gesture that owes nothing to chance, coming from a man who knows the land in more than the figurative sense. He understands better than anyone what the turf demands to give horses a surface that is supple, safe and consistent, the essential foundation of their well-being and performance. Then comes

the moment when the tractor gives way to the dinner jacket, and the farmer-organiser becomes the host his guests have been waiting for: attentive, elegant, true to himself in both roles.

„For the twenty-first time, I am organising this tournament my way, with a loyal team and a spirit that is entirely our own,“ he says. „We do not seek to reinvent our model, but to hold ourselves to a constant standard of excellence, on the field and off it.“

Off the field, that standard is equally evident. From tractor to VIP enclosure, there are only a few steps in Gstaad, and a world apart. The tournament’s hospitality is widely regarded across the international circuit as among the most refined to be found: an atmosphere where elegance never tips into ostentation, where lunches linger naturally, and where guests return year after year not only for the polo, but for everything that surrounds it. VIP lunch tables are available throughout the tournament, while Saturday evening’s gala dinner, the unmissable highlight of the week, will once again be brought to life by the Dora Live Band, whose presence has itself become one of the most anticipated traditions on the calendar.

On the field, the tournament will welcome back its loyal team captains: Markus Gräff, Fabio and Luca Meier, Juan Pepa and Rupert Knauf, each committed to bringing to Gstaad some of the finest Argentine and English professionals on the circuit today. Their names will be announced in due course. Those who know this tournament already know what to expect.

The Hublot Polo Gold Cup Gstaad holds on to something rare: the quality of an event that is open and welcoming, where enthusiasts, aficionados and first-time visitors share the same space in an atmosphere that is at once refined and relaxed. Around the ground, the village, the festivities and the team parade through the streets of Gstaad extend an experience unlike any other, a high point of the summer season, where discerning fans and international figures come together in a setting where polo retains all its authenticity.

Here, the planes stay on the ground. And polo takes flight.

Free entry – Food available on site (including food trucks), children’s area

VIP reservations and gala dinner: www.polo-gstaad.ch/reservation

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BY POLO+10

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