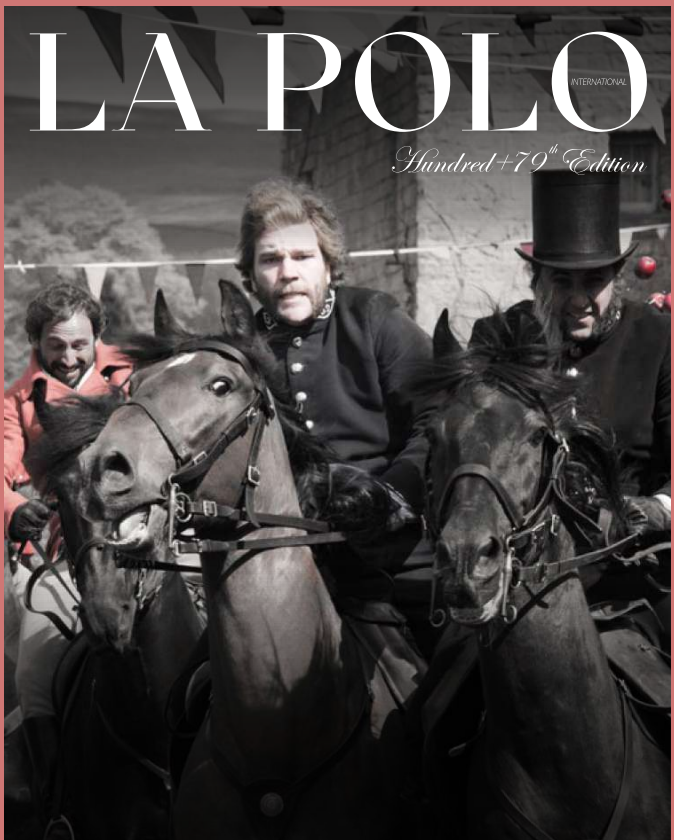
LA POLO

INTERNATIONAL

Hundred+79th Edition



THE NEW

SUPERSTARS

ON THE BLOCK: HORSES

VIRTUAL REALITY POLO / *EQUINE STYLED FINE DINING* / *REVOLUTIONIZING TIME*

Virtual Reality Polo

While other sports have gained popularity in the VR world, Polo remained distant from the scene until recently with the Piaget Polo Experience.

4

Equine Styled Fine Dining

As the world opens up in 2021, restaurants are elevating the dining experience to make customers feel comfortable and safe. LA POLO picks a few luxurious equestrian-themed restaurants.

8

The New Superstars On The Block: Horses

Horses are often used in stunt scenes in films. Conversing with experts, we dive into the intricate world of equine stunts.

12

Revolutionizing Time

Rolex has left its unmistakable mark beyond the sphere of horology into arts and sports.

16

#PostOfTheWeek

SWEEPING THROUGH THE TROPHIES IN THE 2021 DELHI POLO FALL SEASON, ACHIEVERS LIVE UP TO THEIR NAMESAKE!

The unstoppable quartet have made history by winning the Bhopal Pataudi Cup, Cavalry Gold Cup, Maharaja Hari Singh Cup, The Indian Open, Sir Pratap Singh Cup and the Baroda Cup.

Cavalry Gold Cup, October 24

Maharaja Hari Singh Cup, October 31

Indri Indian Open, November 7

Sir Pratap Singh Cup, November 14

Baroda Cup, November 21

A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF POLO

Technology has made unimaginable things possible, and given the world extraordinary inventions. While other sports have gained popularity in the VR world, Polo remained distant from the scene until recently with the Piaget Polo Experience.

The reigning popular concept of Virtual Reality (VR) can be simply explained as technology that enables users to immerse completely or partly in a computer-generated environment, which can be a depiction of the real world, or may be an imaginary world. What makes the virtual reality experience life-like is the fact that it provides for a two-way interaction. This means that the user can respond to what they experience in the virtual setting, and at the same time the computer-generated environment also reciprocates the actions of the users.

Virtual Reality has amplified the viewer's experience of spectating various sports. In many cases, the technology has gone as far as to become a part of the playing process

"It was a way for us to show that we can be really innovative and audacious and in tune with our time."
- Valerie Nowak, Piaget Global Communications Director

for athletes, helping in terms of training. The Sport of Kings, Polo, is an aspirational sport and remains inaccessible to many. It is interesting that it wasn't a VR company that first introduced virtual reality polo; rather, it was the Swiss watchmaker and jeweller, Piaget, that bridged the gap.

The brand unveiled the "Piaget Polo Experience" which consisted of a Virtual Reality Polo experience of about two minutes, that teleported the user to a game of Polo in France. The experience was not that of a spectator but took you onto the saddle itself. The VR was available in two formats--the first being the full-fledged three-dimensional setting and the other being the 360-degree video experience. Speaking about the unique space, global communications director Valerie Nowak reportedly said: "It was a way for us to show that we can be really innovative and audacious and in tune with our time."

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Image credit: Hermitage Farm, Barn8

BON APPÉTIT

As the world opens up in 2021, restaurants are elevating the dining experience to make customers feel comfortable and safe. Farms with horses cantering alongside restaurants, vintage brown decor, and walls decked with paintings and murals of horses… LA POLO picks a few equestrian-themed restaurants.

Restaurants

Image credit: Barn8 - Hermitage farm

BARN 8

Located at a massive 680-acre farm near Louisville, Barn8 is surrounded by hills, woods, and a creek. Says owner Steve Wilson: "Barn8 was originally an authentic horse barn, and architecturally we've left the bones of the barn evident." His inspiration for Barn8 came from the desire to save the farm from being developed. He says that with the tough situations that hit the hospitality industry, instead of opening the restaurant to a full dining room of guests, they had to turn focus to carry out instead. "We had barbecues where guests could pick up orders to go or enjoy at our outdoor picnic tables with umbrellas."

Image credit: Barn8 - Hermitage farm

"Barn8 was originally an authentic horse barn, and architecturally we've left the bones of the barn evident."
- Steve Wilson, Owner of Barn8

THE CHESTERFIELD MAYFAIR

In the heart of Mayfair London, experience exclusive British warmth at Chesterfield. The guests are allowed to feel luxurious comfort that goes beyond imagination, and the original taste of British cuisine, with équilbré wine. You get to discover the enticing cuisine, presented with creativity and seasonal British ingredients. From the warm welcome by the employees to the talented chefs, you can enjoy your tea with delicious chocolate scones and pastries.

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Image credit: The Chesterfield Mayfair

Image credit: Horse trainer at Steve Dent

EQUINES AS ACTORS

Horses are often used in stunt scenes in films. Conversing with experts, we dive into the intricate world of equine stunts.

Image Source: Horse training for films by Steve Dent

Often enough, in movies, we see our heroes hopping onto gallant horses and running off into the sunset, to protect the princess, or to bring justice in the world. But what you don't notice is the action behind-the-scenes. Making a horse perform takes a whole lot of plotting and preparations. The amount of time and patience invested in training a horse to do a stunt scene, involves endurance, courage, and above all, years of practice.

Today, the situation is different. Steve Dent, well-known stunt coordinator, mentions how the industry has developed. "The films we work on require a vet or an on-set welfare advisor to be on site, to ensure correct monitoring of animal welfare. As part of our prep, we recce locations and take time to discuss the safest and most welfare-friendly methods of achieving the Director's vision. The welfare and safety of our horses is top priority. We make sure we can achieve a shot without causing any pain, suffering or stress to any horse."

Directors are transitioning to animatronics and CGI (computer-generated imagery). Another development in the tech world, popularly used in films, is Animatronics, where you use a decoy of the original animal using mechatronic puppets which resembles a realistic robot. Says Dent: "It all depends on what the Director requires from the horses and actors throughout the shoot. Usually, we allow approximately three months prep prior to the first shoot date, particularly where scenes require larger numbers of horses or more complicated and intricate horse stunts."

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"There has been huge progress, in both the understanding and application of animal welfare standards whilst filming. We adhere to strict animal welfare standards throughout prep and shooting, and follow the guidelines and law."
- Steve Dent, Equine Stunt Coordinator

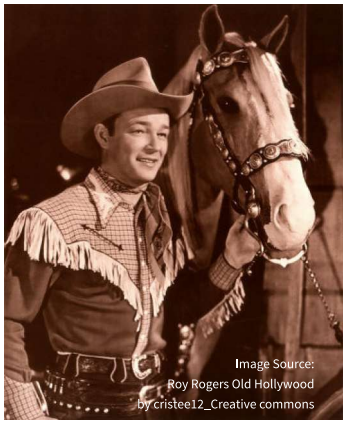

Image Source:
Roy Rogers Old Hollywood
by cristee12_Creative commons

Image Source: Silver and Johnny depp in the film
The Lone Ranger_ by Wonderlane_ Creative Commons

Image credit: Valletta's Siege Bell War Memorial, Rolex

MASTER OF SWISS ARTISTRY

Rolex has left its unmistakable mark in the sphere of horology. The CS10 Spruce Meadows Masters Tournament and the Middle Sea Race show the brand's commitment towards arts, refinement and sports.

Artie **III**, the first Maltese yacht to finish the 2021 Rolex Middle Sea Race, Rolex

Rolex has been an esteemed Swiss watch manufacturer for over a century. The brand has received recognition for its expertise and the supreme quality products that are symbols of excellence, elegance and prestige. Thus, the word "Perpetual" is inscribed on every Rolex Oyster watch—the philosophy of eternity or "perpetual" describes the company's vision and values. The brand actively supports arts, culture, sports, exploration and preservation of the planet.

Recently, the Rolex Testimonee Steve Guerdat, the Swiss champion, rendered an adroit display with his horse Venard de Cerisy on the final day of CSIO Spruce Meadows 'Masters' Tournament to capture the prestigious 5* Grand Prix. Rolex, the Presenting Sponsor of the CSIO Spruce Meadows Masters Tournament since 1989, has been a committed partner of equestrianism for more than 60 years, supporting the finest riders, competitions and institutions in the sport.

Likewise, Rolex Middle Sea Race, the foremost event for yachting enthusiasts took place between October 23- 30. The race encapsulates the qualities that define classic offshore racing. The 42nd edition of the race commences from the Maltese capital Valletta, a UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The attraction of this race aligns with the brand's values, like passion, teamwork and camaraderie, and, importantly, a commitment to testing oneself.

Click to read more >

Rolex has pioneered in developing innumerable watchmaking innovations and wristwatches such as the first waterproof watch (the Oyster) and the rotor self-winding mechanism (the Perpetual). The brand actively supports arts, culture, sports, exploration and preservation of the planet.

Rolex Testimonee Steve Guerdat riding Venard de Cerisy winners of the CP International, presented at the CS10 Spruce Meadows Masters 2021, Rolex

CINGARI CAVALRY GOLD CUP

With its final jousts happening, the Delhi Fall Polo Season is live. In five days, we observed five teams going head-to-head at the Cingari Cavalry Gold Cup. Starting off MAS played against Kibba and won by 5-4 goals in an outstanding match on November 16. Later that day, Sujan Indian Tigers and Vimal Arion Achievers grappled and Vimal Arion Achievers surprisingly won with the same score of 5-4 goals. On November 17, the second day of the tournament, MAS and 61 Cavalry clashed with each other where MAS won with 8- 2 goals.

On November 18, the first match played out between Kibba and 61 Cavalry, Kibba struck out 61 Cavalry, scoring 6- 4 goals. In the second, Vimal Arion Achievers pummelled Sujan Indian Tigers, scoring 5-3 goals.

Image credit: @Instagram_lapolo

On November 20, at the Cingari Cavalry Gold Cup, two teams stood the test of the semi-finals and emerged victorious. MAS first entered the finals with 7-4 goals against Sujan Indian Tigers and Vimal Arion Achievers, joined after beating Kibba, with 8-5 goals. On November 21, the tournament came to an end with Vimal Arion Achievers taking home the Gold Cup by scoring 4-3 goals against MAS.

MP CUP POLO CHAMPIONSHIP

Keeping up with the Delhi Fall Season three teams contended with each other for the MP Polo Cup. The epic battle began on November 11 with Vimal Arion Achievers and Jindal Panther going head-to-head. Vimal Arion Achievers won over Jindal Panther by 9-8 goals. Day 2 began on November 12, with a match between Sona Polo and Jindal Panther. Sono Polo remained unstoppable with their mallets, as they scored 13-8 goals against Jindal Panther.

On November 14, the day of the finals, the last two teams competing with each other were Sona Polo and Vimal Arion Achievers. Despite the setback of a draw in the first chukker, both teams displayed excellent skills. Vimal Arion Achiever took the lead by 7-6 goals against Sona Polo by the fourth chukker. Finally, they triumphed over Sona Polo by 11-9 goals becoming the champions of the MP Cup Polo Championship.

KOTA CUP

November 24, 2021

Sona Polo (7) vs Sujan Indian Tigers

Los Polistas(5) vs Achievers DB Realty

November 25 , 2021

Los Polistas(7) vs Horse&Wagon/Cavalry(6)

V Polo(9) vs Krishna Polo(6.5)

November 26, 2021

Sujan Indian Tigers(10) Vs Krishna Polo(4.5)

Sona Polo (8) V Polo(5)

Achievers DB Realty (7) vs

Horse&Wagon/Cavalry(4)

November 28, 2021

Sujan Indian Tigers(4) vs

Achievers DB Realty(9)

USPA OPEN WOMEN'S HANDICAP 2021

The first quarterfinal of the US Open Women Handicap 2021 commenced on November 10, between three teams — Macallan, Villa Ecleto and T Squared Energy. The first two teams confronting each other were Macallan and Villa Ecleto. Villa Ecleto won the first leg of the match with a score of 4-2. In the second leg of the match, Macallan took over the crown against T Squared Energy, with 2-1. In the third leg of the match, a very dynamic competition ensued. T Squared won against Villa Ecleto with 3-2.

The second quarter-final of the US Open Women Handicap began between three teams--Aspen Snowmass, Ketel One Botanical and Woody's Furs. The first two teams going up against each other were Aspen Snowmass and Ketel One Botanical. Ketel One's Tiamo Hudspeth and Carter Nix took the goals. Ketel One Botanical won with 4-2.

The two teams competing with each other next, were Woody's Furs and Aspen Snowmass. Both the teams drew a score of 2-2. They played out the tiebreaker, and by the one-player shootout, KC Krueger of Aspen Snowmass became victorious.

The last two teams going against each other were Woody's Furs and Ketel One Botanical. Ketel One Botanical ended with a winning goal of 4-2.

Image credit: @Instagram_uspoloassociation

The first semi-final on November 12 was between Whitehall Ranch and T Squared Energy. In the first chukker, Whitehall Ranch and T Squared Energy tied. Both teams worked their horses to win the semi-finals, although, in the last chukker, T Squared Energy triumphed the match with 4-2 goals.

The second semi-final began between Ketel One Botanical and Midstateroofing.com. Both struggled to win. Ketel One Botanical took the first goal in the first chukker and, Midstateroofing.com fought hard to draw with Ketel One Botanical. Eventually, Ketel One took the penalty shot and Tiamo Hudspeth the goal, and reached the finals by scoring 7 - 6.

November 15 was a golden day for Ketel One Botanical. They held the crown, after defeating 11 teams. Ketel One Botanical swerved their mallets to victory, defeating T Squared Energy, and scoring 5-0.

THE BARIA CUP

On 13th November 2021, the Baria Cup match took place in Delhi, a four goal competition with two teams V Polo/RVC and Col Girdhari Singh/ASC.V Polo/RVC struck out the team Col Girdhari Singh/ASC by scoring 9-8.5 goals.

Image credit: @Instagram_lapolo

2021 Spring Season at La Aguada Polo Club

Mark your calendars, the prestigious Julio Novillo Astrada Cup put up the dates of the premier tournament that will be conducted at the Novillo Astrada family's club. The first tournament started off this week on November 18.

La Aguada PC/VIII Argentine Amateur Championship

Results November 18-22, 2021

Thursday, November 18 : Don Augusto (7)vs. Las Betulas(5)

Saturday, November 20 : Martindale Bonalma(13) vs. Miralejos (11) | Trenque Lauquen (10)vs. Don Augusto(6)

Sunday, November 21 : Matindale Bonalma(9) vs. Core Capital (8) | Miralejos(11) vs. Trenque Lauquen(7)

Monday November 22 : Core Capital(8) vs. Las Betulas (7)

128th HSBC ARGENTINE POLO OPEN

The highly prestigious tournament commenced on 12 November, with 10 teams. On November 12, the first match of the Argentine Polo Open began between La Dolfina Saudi PT and Alegría Fish Creek where La Dolfina Saudi PT won by 18-3. The second match of the day played out between La Ensenada Brubank and La Irenita. La Ensenada Brubank emerged victorious, scoring 16-11 goals.

On November 13, at the first match, La Dolfina Brava took down Alegria Standard Wealth with a close score of 14-13 goals. The second day of the tournament finished on Palermo's famed first court with Chapaleufú beating La Natividad, by 17-16. On November 16, Ellerstina Johor won against La Irenita PT by a margin of 12 goals at 23-11. In the second match, Alegría Fish Creek surprisingly won over La Ensenada Brubank, scoring a close 13-12 goals.

On November 17, RS Murus Sanctus won by 18-7 against Alegria Standard Wealth. Ending the fourth day of the tournament, La Dolfina Brava PT triumphed over Chapaleufú by 17-10 goals. On November 20, winner of the Tortugas Open Ellerstina Johor beat Alegría Fish Creek by 22 - 7 goals. Later, a tight competition took place and La Ensenada Brubank beat La Dolfina Saudi PT by 12-11 goals.

Image credit: @instagram_asocdepolo

The horses going head to head in the magnificent opening match of the Kota Cup 2021.

Longines Global Champions Tour Super Grand Prix 2021

Image credit: @instagram_longinesglobalchampionstour

The third edition of the Longines Global Champions Tour (LGCT) Super Grand Prix took place on November 20. Fifteen riders faced off against each other to join the victory of Peder Fredericson, the LGCT 2021 season champion, in a glorious showcase of faultless equestrianism. Henrik Von Eckerman, alongside King Edward, his pony, took home the Cup while Sergio Alvarez Moya alongside Alamo finished second.

FEI AWARDS 2021

Image credit: @instagram_rehc_bahrain

The 13th edition of the FEI awards was announced on November 18. Peder Fredericson won the FEI Best Athlete Award. Alongside his many accomplishments, he helped Sweden win its first Team Jumping Olympic gold medal in over 100 years. Greta Busacker won the FEI Rising Star Award while Marie Johansson won the FEI Best Groom Award. The FEI Solidarity Award was given to Equuleus Charity, which supports young, under-privileged students to achieve their equestrian dreams. The FEI Against All Odds Award was given to Beatrice de Lavalette, who made her Paralympic debut in Tokyo, in the sport of Para Dressage. The awards were given with equal consideration, to the public votes and the panel of judges' choice. The glittering night of 300 guests was a truly remarkable way to celebrate equestrianism.

BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL TROPHY

The third race of the Bahrain International Trophy took place on November 19, with 14 riders on a 2000-metre turf of the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club. David O'Meara, in a surprising turn of events, won with a 40/1 on his horse Lord Glitters, after finishing at the bottom 10 in the Queen Elizabeth 2 stakes in Ascot. The race was a superb thrill, through and through. It seemed like the Godolphin duo Barney Roy and Magny Cours would win, but in the final furlong, Lord Glitters produced a stellar performance.

Image credit: @instagram_rehc_bahrain

Equestrian world mourns the passing of Leslie Fitzpatrick

Commonly known as 'Captain' by revered names like Tommy Brenan and Brian McNichol, Leslie Fitzpatrick was the show jumping champion of Ireland. He passed away on November 12. On his first attempt, he won the RDS Spring Show, and at each successive Show Jumping Association of Ireland Championships and the Pixie Cup, four years in a row, between 1955-1958. In 1959, he won the Dutch Nations Cup as well as the Grand Prix. Since his retirement in 1974, he had consistently trained and raised umpteen show jumping stars from Ireland and was a tireless member of the Royal Dublin Society. His legacy lives on!

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