

PQ *international*

POLO
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BREEZE OF POLO IN ITALY

PQ International was invited to attend and live this tournament in the exclusive and magical Costa Smeralda, an incredible place located in the north of the Italian island of Cerdeña.

THE COLOUR OF THE SEA ATTRACTS all those who visit this place of low mountains and heavenly beaches, the best of the Mediterranean and the reason why this place is one of the Italian jet set's favorite. The water and its very peculiar colour are the reasons of the name given to the place: Costa Smeralda.

Among its luxury mansions we find the house owned by the Prime Minister of Italy, Silvio Berlusconi, in Porto Rotondo. There are also super luxury hotels like the Cala di Volpe, run by Starwood Hotels & Resorts, where all polo players stay during the tournament.

Among the teams that took part

this year in Costa Smeralda Spring Gold Cup it was Sansui, the Italian team owned by Victoria and Costanza Marchiorello who, together with Paulo Bertola, the polo manager of the team, brought the star and top handicap polo player Nacho Novillo Astrada.

Between the classic Italian polo duets were, that day, Romi Gianni and Dario Musso, both under Audi's team, who have been playing together for the last seven years.

Besides, among the Italian teams there was one Italo-french: the Operae. Led by Frank Dubarry and the Italian Simone Chiarella, who played together with Pablo Jau-

retche and David Bernal, the Operae situated itself on second place after defeating Julius Baer by penalties.

Julius Baer, team of the Swiss Bank with the same name, had, among its professionals, the presence of Juan Jose Brane, and the young Martín Iturraspe and Manuel Carranza. At the semifinal stage, Villa a Sesta defeated them by 10 goals to 9.

Villa a Sesta is another team that worked hard to reach the final stage. Francisco and Eduardo Menedez led the team, together with their Italian owners, Ricardo Tattoni and Gualtiero Giori.

The only undefeated team, and



Costa Smeralda Spring Gold Cup

Zone A

Audi	15
Rommy Gianni	1
Juan Marambio	4
Dario Musso	6
Juan Manuel Gonzalez	4

Operae Polo Team	15
Frank Dubarry	0
Simone Chiarella	1
David Bernal	6
Pablo Jauretche	8

Cortina Polo Style	15
Dmitri Vozianov	0
Tatu Gomez Romero	5
Nicolás Espain	7
Goefredo Cutinelli	3

Zone B

Julius Baer	15
Luca d'Orazio	0
Martin Inchauspe	4
Juan José Brané	7
Manuel Carranza	4

Sansui	14
Constanza Marchiorello	0
Victoria Marchiorello	1
Ignacio Novillo Astrada	9
Paulo Bertola	4

Villa a Sesta	15
Gualtiero Giori	0
Eduardo Menéndez	7
Francisco Menéndez	7
Ricardo Tattoni	1

also graced with the presence of the well-known Nicolas Espain (figure of the moment and Champion of the USPA Gold Cup 2009 with Lechuza Caracas) was Cortina Polo Style, team recently owned by the Russian Dimitri Vozianov.

Unfortunately, rain would not miss a place at the tournament and was the main protagonist the day of the final match outshining what could have been a great closure.

Costa Smeralda Spring Gold first get into the WPT ranking (World Polo Tour) as Challenge Tournament, giving out 75 points and becoming that way the second Italian tournament of the circuit along with the one played over the frozen lake in Cortina D'Ampezzo.

Since rain was present and persistent during the whole day, that Monday the field did not withstand. For that reason, the organization

together with the players and the referee Federico Martelli decided that both Villa a Sesta and Cortina Polo Style, the two teams that had reached the final, should share the first place of the podium.

A happy ending where everybody celebrated on the podium with the Cup, contemplating the colour of that beautiful sea that, despite of the rain, still was "Smeralda". ■

Gualtiero Giori





Above: Eduardo Menendez and Dario Musso - Below: Ignacio Novillo Astrada and Juani Gonzalez

Costa Smeralda is situated in the north of Cerdeña. This enchanted place with 55 km long and more than 30 km², and white sand beaches, is one of the most exclusive places in the world. Among its principal cities and town are Arzachena, Olbia, Porto Cervo, Liscia di Vacca, Capriccioli and Romazzino. Cala di Volpe Hotel, Romazzino Hotel, Pitrizza Hotel and Cervo Hotel together are the nucleus of a luxury group of options of Starwood Luxury Collection's chain. Most of these hotels also have private moorings for the hostess' Yachts.



