

Fifth Chukker

Adventures in Luxury

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OF KINGS
GIVES BACK
International
Pink Polo

Ahmed
Seddiqi
& Sons

Souk to
Successful Shops

Formula 1
& Today's Biggest Star



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UNICEF MESSAGE

UNICEF has been partnering with Access Bank and Fika Children for the past nine years. I appreciate the support that UNICEF has received over these years and the support has been this partnership has brought to the lives of many Nigerian children. I commit to our mission to consistently, strategically and judiciously utilize the around \$10 million (about 20,000 USD) donation to achieve greater results for the less advantaged children in Nigeria.

UNICEF works with a wide range of development partners, governments, academia, businesses, foundations and civil society organizations to help children realize their full potential. In Nigeria, UNICEF supports the government of Nigeria and its partners to protect the rights of all children across the country and help Nigeria achieve the Sustainable Development Goals for children.

Over the past five years, this partnership has helped UNICEF to support approximately over 7,500 OVC's with scholarships. Construction of bore holes in communities, toilet facilities in schools for girls and boys and renovated dilapidated classrooms. Furniture and instructional materials among other interventions - supports an increased enrollment of children. Support was also provided to small scale women entrepreneurs in four communities to help them with a variety of income to support orphaned children. The partnership has generated public awareness on issues affecting children, and created space for community members to discuss issues that affect children especially the orphans and vulnerable children. UNICEF appreciates Access Bank and Fika Children for helping us to deliver such lasting interventions.

Moving forward, UNICEF intends our mission to expand the scale of this partnership - making education the central theme, more specifically focusing on girls' education, and also collaborate with institutions to an all year long collaboration and partnership including volunteering, and staff participation in events. This can be achieved through some innovative ways of collaboration, including increased community participation to create an environment of inclusion and inclusion.

We take this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to our donors and partners for providing financial and other forms of support for our work in Nigeria. With your kind and support we make a difference with equal opportunities to the lives of children in Nigeria.

Once again I hereby reaffirm UNICEF's commitment to promote the rights of children in Nigeria and globally. Give all children, all over the world, a better life.

Emmanuel Ogunyinka, Representative, UNICEF Nigeria

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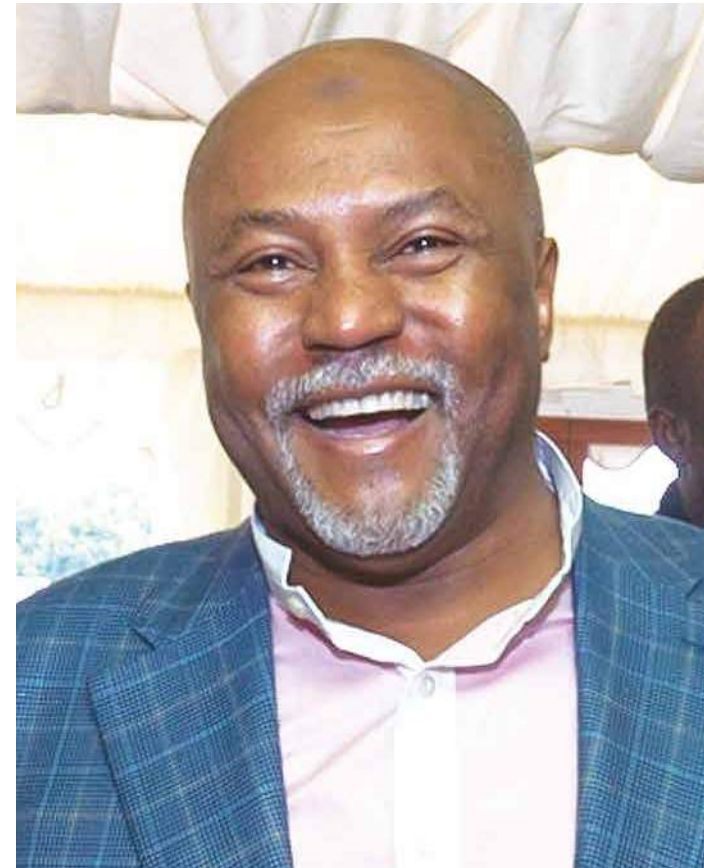


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“be inspired to join in the adventure
of the international polo scene.”

As always I am delighted to welcome you all to Fifth Chukker as we kick off another exciting polo season beginning with the Access Bank Charity Shield Tournament in May. Needless to say our partnership with Access Bank and their commitment to the continued sponsorship of the Charity Shield Tournament, which supports UNICEF projects here in Nigeria, is one that we hold dear to our hearts. To know that Fifth Chukker, with the support of so many, has been able to make a difference in so many lives over the years is not only gratifying but humbling as well. If you haven't already heard we are delighted to announce that this year's UK Access Bank day, on June 13th, will be held at the prestigious Guards Polo Club! We are thrilled to be able to bring the Fifth Chukker experience to Guards.

The team at Fifth Chukker took in the international polo scene starting in Argentina along with stops in Dubai and Cape Town. We hope that as you globe-trot with us through the pages of this 8th edition, you will be inspired to join in the adventure of the international polo scene. Having returned to Fifth Chukker we cannot wait to welcome you all back and show off the new amenities at the club. Here's to a fantastic season, wishing you all the very best.

AHMED DASUKI

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

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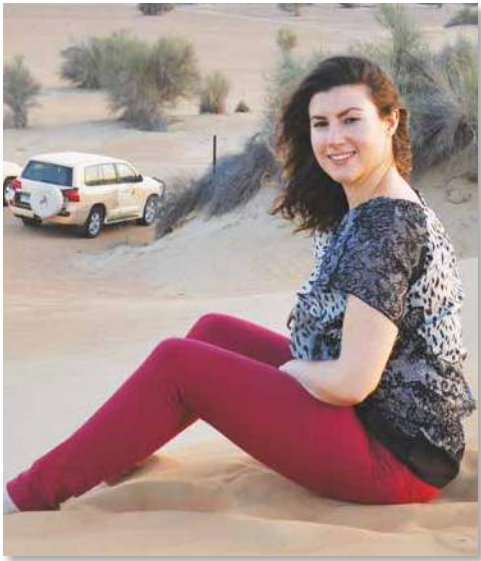
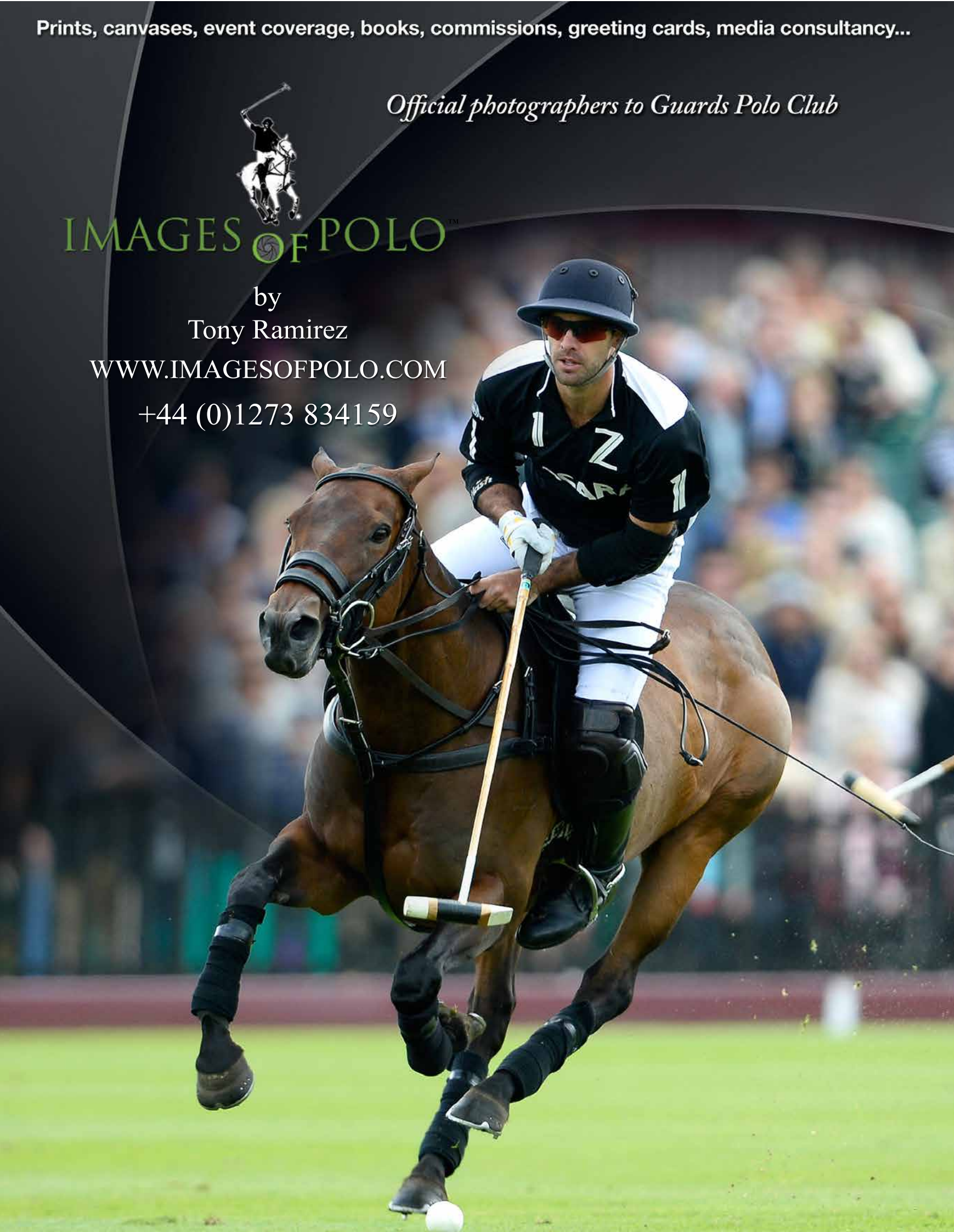


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As I welcome you to the eighth edition of Fifth Chukker, the recent trips I took with the team to Dubai and South Africa are at the forefront of my mind. Not only did we watch fantastic polo, which you can read about within, we soaked up the diversity of our surroundings. For me, cuisine is synonymous with getting to grips with a culture. Paradigms are revealed with eating habits, and local produce project a habitat's uniqueness. I am thrilled to be able to share my findings of South Africa and Dubai's eateries with you. I've done all the hard work and eating so you don't have to, but I hope after reading my accounts, you'll be inspired to!

Formula One, which is naturally a current hot topic, is covered here by an authority on the sport – Joe Saward, who gives a great overriding account from its past, to its 'Hamilton heavy' present. However, we are not neglecting our polo heroes, where this time the spotlight is on David Sterling, or as he is more commonly know - 'Pelon'. The World Wide Sports Directory will enable you to keep up to date with what's going on round the globe in the sporting world, be certain to make sure you don't miss out. If you're thinking where to go for your next holiday destination, Sam Cowie - a long-term Brazilian resident, will walk you through with an up-to-date guide on where to go and what to do. Africa is another sound option, as revealed in the Business Section, it is increasingly a hotspot for luxury hospitality. Make sure when you travel you pack a good read,

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“the recent trips I took with the team to Dubai and South Africa are at the forefront of my mind”

Frances White offers a review of two very different books, suffice to say, I myself am very inspired to seek out and read 'Half of a Yellow Sun', or if you're up for it, you could opt for the weightier 'The Occult'.

As well as Dubai's foodie and polo accounts, art is also put in focus. I had the pleasure to spend time with Michael Arnold, an architect turned artist, in his enviable studio, found in the beautiful Bastakiya area in Old Dubai. My exploratory experience of the creekside historical district, takes you from his studio, to a coffee museum, fantastic courtyard cafe and ending up in the oud filled souks. I'm passionate about meeting as many people as possible, the more I meet, the more I learn, everyone has a story, and the tale of the Seddiqi family's journey from a tiny souk counter to a chain of successful shops, is a good example. The watches found in the Adventures In Luxury section are exquisite. I was further pleased to learn that watch super hero Richard Mille, close friend of the family, is a polo enthusiast. Be sure to take a look at the RM 053 Tourbillon Pablo Mac Donough watch, specifically designed for his Ambassador, Pablo. Simply stunning.

In the spirit of not taking life too seriously, I hope our cute customised cartoon gives you a giggle!

With warmest wishes,

YASEMEN KANER-WHITE
Editor-in-Chief

Fifth Chukker Magazine is a publication of Fifth Chukker Polo & Country Club
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MTN AFRICAN PATRONS CUP

After three days of furious polo action, title holders Fifth Chukker successfully defended the 2014 African Patrons Cup by defeating Max Air in a tense final at Fifth Chukker Lawns, Kangimi Resorts, Kaduna, Nigeria. Displaying their trademark attacking polo, Fifth Chukker (Adamu Atta 3; Santiago Solari 6; Benjamin Araya 5 and Mohammad Babangida 3) rallied from the first bell to hunt down Max Air (Dikko Mangal 0; Lawal Mangal 1; Gonzalo Bourdieu 6; Pepe Bourdieu 5) who enjoyed an initial three-goal handicap advantage.

Rasheed Vangelos

But the challengers, who were eyeing their first title in Fifth Chukker after coming so close on three previous occasions, held on to their lead until the penultimate chukka when Fifth Chukker finally drew level. Despite waning horsepower, the tenacious Max Air squad fought desperately to contain Fifth Chukker but the champions inched ahead 10 –9 for the first time in the match before closing out the game at 11-9 in the last chukka. Atta, Babangida, Solari and Araya all scored for Fifth Chukker in the gripping encounter, with Araya accounting for five of the goals.

Watched by a large crowd that included the Kaduna State First Lady, Hajia Fatima Yero, the Argentine Ambassador to Nigeria, Gustavo Dzugala and top officials of MTN, The African Patrons Cup decider was only one of three great finals in the tournament which has been described as one of the most exciting of the African Patrons Cup series.

In testimony, a reporter for Daily Trust, a Nigerian Newspaper wrote: “In hindsight, I feel I should have recommended the African Patrons Cup final between Fifth Chukker and Max Air for non-polo lovers contemplating becoming fans of the sport...it was an amazing advertisement for the sport, with end to end action from both teams who fielded some of the best gifted players in the world. It was definitely one of the best sporting actions I have seen this year, because up until the last seconds of the game the tide could have turned against eventual winners Fifth Chukker.”

After receiving the Patrons cup, Fifth Chukker team captain Mohammed Babangida expressed his delight at retaining the prestigious prize: “It was a fantastic campaign, but in the final game Max Air was so difficult. We were perhaps too determined to just let it slip by and I want to thank my teammates for their concentration and our numerous fans for their very vocal support.”

In a feisty MTN Grand Prix played on the last day of the tournament in the presence of Kaduna State Governor Alh. Ramallan Yero, MTN Nigeria Vice Chairman Alh. Sani Bello and several other dignitaries, Keffi Ponys survived a last minute rush by Max Air to escape with an 8-7 victory. And to cap a glittering day for Keffi Pony’s patron, Ahmed Wadada, was also presented with the Patron of the Year award by the president of the Nigerian Polo Association Alh. Bashir Dantata.

GENERAL HASSAN CUP
Deebee Farms Flattens All Opposition to Win General Hassan Cup

The first week of the MTN African Patrons Cup tournament saw eight teams battle for the General Hassan Katsina Cup. Very robust performances by Pers Oil, Maigari Farms, Trade Mark, Aero Vote, Yula Farms, Deebee Farms, Nadabo Farms and Keffi Ponys tightened the race for semi-final places after two rounds of matches.

Ultimately, Aero Vote defeated Maigari Farms in the first semi-final while DeeBee Farms overwhelmed Nadabo Farms in the second to set up a rousing final in which Deebee Farms (Abdulrahman Sirika, Ibrahim Dawule, Bello Buba, Abdulmalik Badamasi) lived up to expectations as firm favourites by defeating Aero Vote (Isa Bakori, Yerima Yusuf, Babangida Hassan, Ibrahim Babangida) .

The final score line of 7-3 somewhat flatters the winners but there is no diminishing the awesomeness of Bello Buba, who pivoted Deebee Farms all through the championship, scoring five of their goals in the final and winning the MVP along with the \$2,000 cash prize that went with it.









Herbet Wigwe

Herbert Wigwe is the CEO of Access Bank, one of Nigeria’s top five banking institutions, which has set itself the goal of becoming the world’s most respected African bank. Following a career spanning more than 25 years in financial services including over a decade as Deputy Managing Director, Herbert was appointed CEO and Group Managing Director in January 2014.

CAREER

Herbert Wigwe began his career at Coopers & Lybrand, Lagos as a management Consultant later qualifying as a Chartered Accountant. After a stint at Capital Bank, he joined GT Bank where he spent over a decade working in corporate and institutional banking, rising to become the Executive Director in charge of institutional banking. In 2002 Herbert together with his partner, Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, saw a unique opportunity and led a small investor group to acquire what was then a small commercial bank, Access Bank – at the time, the 65th largest of the 89 banks in the country. Thirteen years later, Access Bank is now one of the top 5 banks in Nigeria, serving over 6.5m individual and corporate account holders, through 350 branches and with more than 1,500 ATMs in major centres across Nigeria, Sub-Saharan Africa and the UK. As Managing Director, Herbert has responsibility for providing strategic direction for the bank and for increasing market share in strategic growth sectors. During his tenure the bank has helped develop some of Africa’s biggest companies in Oil and Gas, Cement Construction, Telecommunications and Electricity using a unique

model which involves understanding and providing financial support and expertise throughout a company’s value chain. Herbert also served as the Chairman of Access Bank (Ghana) Limited, Access Investment & Securities Limited, Central Securities and Clearing System (CSCS) and is the current Chairman of Access Bank (UK) Limited. Herbert also serves on the board of the Nigerian Mortgage Refinance Company and on the advisory Board for Friends Africa, a volunteering programme promoting sustainability in African communities. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, a Fellow of The Institute of Credit Administration, and an Honorary Member of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria.

PERSONAL

Herbert has a degree in accountancy from the University of Nigeria, an MA in Banking and Finance from the University College of North Wales (now Bangor), an MSc in Financial Economics from the University of London, and is an Alumnus of the Harvard Business School Executive Management Programme.

Corporate Profile

Access Bank Plc is a full service commercial bank operating through a network of over 366 branches and service outlets located in major centres across Nigeria, Sub Saharan Africa and the United Kingdom. Listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange in 1998, the bank serves its various markets through 4 business segments: Personal, Business, Commercial and Corporate & Investment Banking. The bank has over 830,000 shareholders including several Nigerian and International Institutional Investors and has enjoyed what is arguably Africa’s most successful banking growth trajectory in the last ten years ranking amongst Africa’s top 20 banks by total assets and capital in 2011. As part of its continued growth strategy, Access Bank is focussed on mainstreaming sustainable business practices into its operations. The bank strives to

deliver sustainable economic growth that is profitable, environmentally responsible and socially relevant. In honour of its defining roles across the African continent, Access Bank has been accorded recognition by reputable domestic and global organisations. The recognitions include: 2014 Risk Management Award, 2014 Credit Card of the Year; 2013 AA- credit rating from S&P; 2012 Africa’s top M&A Deal of the Year, 2011 FT/IFC Sustainable Bank Award (Middle East and Africa Category); 2011 Business in Community Big Tick Award, for contributions to Sustainability through Innovation; African Banker Magazine’s 2010 “Most Socially Responsible Bank” and 2010 International Finance Corporation (IFC) “Most Active Issuing Bank in Africa” Award.

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La Dolfina

makes history with back-to-back Triple Crown Wins

The Triple Crown is the holy grail of polo. The Tortugas, Hurlingham and Argentine Opens are the biggest and most coveted polo titles in the world, and taking all three in one season guarantees the winner entry into the most exclusive club in world polo.

Rasheed Vangelos

With a run of twenty-four consecutive high-goal wins over the last two years, La Dolfina (Adolfo Cambiaso Jr 10, David Stirling Jr 10, Pablo Mac Donough 10, Juan M. Nero 10) swept through Tortugas, Hurlingham and Palermo to equal the back-to-back Triple Crown wins by the legendary Juan Carlos Harriott and his 40-goal Coronel Suarez team in 1974 and 1975.

In 122 years of the Hurlingham and Argentine Opens, and 80 years of Tortugas, only five teams have won the triple crown: Coronel Suarez (1972, 1974, 1975, 1977), Santa Ana (1973), Ellerstina (1994, 2010), La Aguada (2003) and La Dolfina (2013, 2014).

ROAD TO GLORY

TORTUGAS (OCTOBER 13TH 2014)

La Dolfina began their quest for a second Triple Crown in Tortugas last September where they progressed to the Monday, October 13th final following several delays due to heavy rain. The match seemed to be a repetition of the 2013 final as the champions faced Ellerstina once again. The resulting score : La Dolfina defeated Ellerstina 14-8 and won the first title of the 2014 Argentine Triple Crown.

La Dolfina managed to defend its title successfully having won the tournament at the Tortugas Country Club for the first time in 2013. In the previous years, Ellerstina had won the prestigious tournament six times in a row.

HURLINGHAM (NOVEMBER 1st 2014)

The second round of the Triple Crown, the Hurlingham Open is the oldest polo tournament in Argentina. The 121st Hurlingham Open final was played November 1st and was all about the Adolfo Cambiaso and Facundo Pieres rivalry. But not before La Dolfina were made to work very

hard for a final berth, narrowly beating Allegría (Pablo Pieres 9, Hilario Ulloa 9, Lucas Monteverde Jr 9, Frederick Mannix Jr 9.) 13 -12 in the semis. As much as Pieres tried, Cambiaso came out on top in some style as his imperious quartet, La Dolfina, defended their title to keep their Triple Crown hopes alive.

La Dolfina, led by Cambiaso, held off rivals Ellerstina (Facundo Pieres 10, Gonzalo Pieres Jr 10, Mariano Aguerre 9, Nicolás Pieres 9) 18-15 in the final to move one step away from their second Triple. Although Cambiaso scored 11 times while Pieres notched up nine goals in the final, Nero was awarded the man of the match. “We are looking forward to trying to win the second Triple Crown in a row,” Nero told reporters afterwards, “We want to make history, and La Dolfina is ready for this.”

ARGENTINE OPEN (DECEMBER 6th 2014)

In their fourteenth (tenth consecutive) final in 15 years, La Dolfina duly overpowered Ellerstina (Facundo Pieres 10, Gonzalito Pieres 10, Nico Pieres 9 and Nachi du Plessis 8) 14-12 to win their 8th title and equal North Santa Fe and El Trébol in third place for most Open wins. Only Colonel Suárez (25 titles) and Hurlingham (15) have more. In what perhaps was the least exciting of the Triple Crown finals, the eagerly anticipated Palermo showdown quickly descended into an anti climax with the Buenos Aires Herald describing it as the “worst Argentine Open final in the last 30 years – a boring, messy and flat encounter.” Largely due to player protests, fouls, cramps and interruptions, the world’s biggest polo match quickly turned into a dreary tango of stops and starts alternating with the magic of Adolfo Cambiaso and Facundo Pieres, who executed most of the goals for their respective teams.

Perlon Stirling got La Dolfina off the blocks with a first minute goal from the throw-in. The two teams traded goals and leads and were locked at 4-4 after two chukkas. La Dolfina opened a two-goal lead in the third, extending it to a three-goal advantage at half time, 9-6.





It looked like Cambiaso & Co were beginning to get a tighter handle on the encounter which seemed to have panicked Ellerstina into stalling their own attack and concentrating mainly on stopping their rivals from playing while trying to catch up at the same time.

Nonetheless La Dolfina largely maintained their three-goal advantage with robust defending until Facundo converted a penalty midway through the final chukka. Ellerstina pressed on even harder but ultimately failed to convert any of the several scoring opportunities from well executed efforts that could have changed the outcome of the game. It was La Dolfina's 11th win in their last 19 finals against Ellerstina.

Facundo Pieres topped the scoring chart with ten goals nine of which were on penalty shots. Gonzalito Pieres and Nico Pieres added single goals in the loss. Cambiaso's nine goals (eight on penalty conversions) set the pace for La Dolfina with Stirling scoring four times. Nero added a goal for the victory.

Cambiaso, the 39-year-old maestro who had battled with hospital visits and shoulder problems in the lead-up to the final, told reporters afterwards: "This second Triple Crown is incredible; the truth is that it's a real and enormous emotion because it's an aim we've achieved. I'm thinking of the many incredible people who have helped me reach this, so I'm happy for them."

Pelon Stirling, named MVP for his assertive display was humble in his moment of greatest triumph: "I try to do my bit so that the team as a whole can reach its objectives, just like my three team mates. In all honesty, I never imagined this could happen when I started playing. One can dream about playing on the number one ground at Palermo and playing the Argentine Open, but winning two consecutive Triple Crowns is just too much! One has to be grateful for the people who help make this happen, especially the family."

Match Stats : 2-2; 4-4; 7-5; 9-6; 11-8; 12-9; 14-11; 14-12.





10TH ANNIVERSARY

Cartier International Dubai Polo Challenge

The Cartier International Dubai Polo Challenge dazzles on its Tenth Anniversary Soiree at Desert Palm.

Rasheed Vangelos



The 10th anniversary Cartier International Dubai Polo Challenge was held at the Desert Palm Resort & Polo Club. The event was graced by the Patron, HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, wife of HRH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. Also present were HRH Prince Abbas bin Ali bin Nayef of Jordan, accompanied by his wife HRH Princess Sima Al Abbas and HRH Princess Yasmine Bint Asem bin Nayef. The Marquess of Blandford Lord George Spencer-Churchill, American socialite, actress and model Olivia Palermo and Lebanon's top entertainer Ragheb Alama attended as well.

This annual event is organised by Guards Polo Club with the active sponsorship of polo clothier La Martina. Desert Palm, the chic luxury oasis of lush green polo estate with four championship fields and stabling facilities for over 300 horses is owned by Ali Saeed Albwardy who routinely played the quintessential host.

Six teams participated in the 12-goal championship which featured Argentine luminaries such as 10-goaler Pablo McDonough, Lucas Monteverde and Diego Cavanagh. Prince Abbas of Jordan led the Guards team while HH Sheikha Maitha Al Maktoum stepped out with her usual UAE Polo Team. Albwardy's sons, Tariq and Rashid played for Teams Cartier Red and Desert Palm respectively. Abu Dhabi and Cartier White completed the line-up.

Opening with customary Arabian pomp, complete with UAE Bagpipes, the tournament quickly progressed into a theatre of awesome polo, full of fast, physical and skilful display. Then with a day to go, a sandstorm engulfed the UAE, conditions were particularly poor in Dubai where 70km per hour wind gusts battered the city blowing dust and sand which reduced visibility to as low as 200m. That meant the subsidiary Desert Palm Trophy between Cartier Red and Abu Dhabi for third and fourth places had to be cancelled as both teams agreed to tie for third place.



The showpiece final on Saturday, 21st February had to be pushed back by 30 minutes on the advice of the Dubai Meteorological Office to allow for the winds and sand to settle. The polo action finally started after the vet decisively confirmed that there was no possibility of the horses getting sand into their lungs. After four fast-paced chukkas, Desert Palm defeated UAE Polo Team 10-4 to win the 10th anniversary title. The victory margin was surprisingly large considering that the UAE Polo Team had done superbly to overcome the previously unbeaten Cartier Red 6-5 in a thrilling semi-final two days before.

At prize-giving, HRH Princess Haya, accompanied by Olivia Palermo, presented the winners’ trophy to Desert Palm’s Rashid Albwardy and the La Martina Most Valuable Player of the Tournament Award to Amr Zedan of the Guards team. The La Martina Best Playing Pony Rug was won by Ali Albwardy’s Castora, who was played by Desert Palm’s Diego Cavanagh.

Neil Hobday, Chief Executive Officer of event organisers, Guards Polo Club, hailed the anniversary tournament as the best ever. “From day one it’s been brilliant,” he said. “We’ve seen some out-of-this-world polo and it was a really fantastic final. It’s arguably been the best tournament we’ve seen in the 10-year history.”

An ecstatic Albwardy commended the sponsors for their decade long commitment: “I am indebted to Cartier for its long standing support for this tournament which has allowed us to continually improve the event. Our aim over the past decade has been to create a premier polo event at Desert Palm offering first class sport and hospitality.”

Following the game, guests continued to enjoy and delight in Cartier’s exquisite hospitality, including an invitation to view Cartier’s latest collection, Clé de Cartier, in the beautifully styled Villa Layali. The collection was being presented in the UAE for the first time following its global premiere at the Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie (SIHH), Geneva in January. It became available in boutiques worldwide in April 2015.

Laurent Gaborit, Managing Director of Cartier Middle East, India and Africa expressed elation that the partnership with Desert Palm has created and sustained one of the most celebrated events on the UAE social calendar: “Cartier is known as ‘the King of jewelers and jeweler of Kings’ and its long standing association with polo combines elegance, passion and tradition, values which reflect the lifestyle symbolised by Cartier.”

TEAM CADILLAC CROWNED CHAMPIONS OF THE BEACH POLO CUP DUBAI 2015

Monica Tomar

In a spectacular finale, Team Cadillac was crowned the champion of the 2015 edition of the Beach Polo Cup Dubai (BPCD) after defeating Team VistaJet Bombardier in the final 13 – 9 in a spectacular closing day at the Skydive Dubai stadium.

The Beach Polo Cup Dubai 2015 was held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Sports Council. The Grand Finale was attended by H.E. Mattar Al-Tayer, Deputy Chairman of Dubai Sports Council, H.E. Saeed Hareb, Secretary General of Dubai Sports Council and Sam Katiela, BPCD Founder & Organiser.

Team Cadillac (Tariq Albwardy, Sam Instone and Matías Machado) played a great final against the defending champions Team VistaJet Bombardier (Rashid Albwardy, Jan Bladen and Martín Valent) who battled until the end in a very thrilling match.

Team Cadillac had a great start taking a quick lead by 4-0 in the first chukka, with Matías Machado outstanding and Tarik Albwardy and Sam Instone making great team work.

Team VistaJet Bombardier reacted strongly in the third chukka and managed to close the gap in the score. Time and again a battling Martín Valent combined play effectively with Rashid Albwardy to put Team VistaJet Bombardier back in the game.

However in the last chukka, Machado’s talent prevailed again in the match to give Team Cadillac the victory by 13-9 and the 2015 Beach Polo Cup Dubai championship title.

It was the best possible outcome for a great day, full of enthralling polo action and entertainment.

Matías Machado, the Team Cadillac’s Argentinian professional was named MVP of the tournament.

Earlier, Team Autism Rocks (Stuart Wrigley, Saoud Khoory and Maxi Malacalza) defeated 8-7 Team Lindt (Piero Dillier, Uwe Zimmermann and Lucas Labat) in the Semi-final.

CARTIER INTERNATIONAL DUBAI POLO TEAMS

Cartier Red

Clive Reid (0)
Martín Valent (2)
Tariq Albwardy (1)
Matías Zavaleta (7)

Cartier White

Ahmed Al Habtoor (-1)
Rashid Al Habtoor (0)
Joaquín Pittaluga (7)
Nacho González (6)

Desert Palm

Alan Meeker (0)
Rashid Albwardy (2)
Tom Brodie (2)
Diego Cavanagh (8)

Guards

HRH Prince Abbas (0)
Amr Zedan (0)
Pablo Casero (2)
Pablo MacDonough (10)

UAE Polo Team

Sandra Schneider (-1)
HH Sheikha Maitha Al Maktoum (0)
Santiago Stirling (4)
Lucas Monteverde (9)

Abu Dhabi

Faris Al Yabhouni (0)
Nasser Al Shamsi (1)
Ernesto Oscar Trotz (4)
Alfredo Cappella (7)





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VEUVE CLICQUOT

Polo Masters

With Audacious Splendour, Val de Vie’s Picture Perfect World
Showcases the Best of Polo Lifestyle.

Rasheed Vangelos



Steeped in tradition and perpetuated by luxury accoutrements, polo, more than any other sport, is best savoured live. At the March 7th, 2015 Veuve Clicquot Polo Masters finale, spectators gathered to enjoy polo matches and take part in an elaborate and alluring afternoon celebrating the game. With dedicated butlers and luxurious viewing lounges and enclosures overlooking the polo pitch, guests were not only delighted by the enthralling polo action but also enjoyed the lavish food, décor and champagne on offer. Now acclaimed as one of the most glamorous events of the Cape Town season and a highlight of the South African social calendar, the Veuve Clicquot Polo Masters presents Polo aficionados with a platform to step out in traditional polo style and create unforgettable fashion-forward moments. Val de Vie Estate, in Cape Town’s Paarl, Franschhoek valley, provides the impressive setting for this audacious day filled with couture, beautiful guests and exhilarating polo.

For the first time in the history of the Veuve Clicquot Masters, fans were treated to a high-goal tournament with talented South African and international players. Shimmy Beach Club won the opening match against Team Nigus in the final of a four-day championship that also featured Teams Fifth Chukker and Quattro. Teams Julius Bär and Veuve Clicquot drew in the riveting main game. Bentley was there to not only throw in the ball at the start of the game, but to entertain guests with their magnificent vehicles during the traditional divot stomping at half time. The Bentley car display has become a tradition at this exciting event. It provides a unique experience for the spectators who desire some serious torque. As Associate Sponsor and Official Vehicle Partner, Bentley unveiled their brand new Continental GT V8 for the first time in South Africa, making it to the country only days before the big event. The luxury performance automobile manufacturer also chauffeured





Lagos goes BIG on Beach Polo

Ernest Ekpennyong



History was made when Nigeria's largest city and financial hub, Lagos, hosted the first ever Beach Polo Tournament in Africa at the Event Centre grounds of Eko Atlantic City, the multi-billion dollar development off the Lagos coastline. Although Beach Polo debuted in 2004 {check date may have been earlier}, after first being played in Dubai, the "Sport of Kings" has been played in Nigeria for over a century, first being played in Lagos in 1904. Thus it is only fitting that Lagos was at the forefront of this new polo adventure.

The Eko Atlantic Beach Polo Tournament was exciting for both participants and an appreciative audience, not only because it was the first of its kind in the country, but also because the four day event featured top players with teams drawn from Nigeria's thriving polo community.

The event featured seven teams; Access Bank, Lagos Polo Club, Veuve Clicquot, Power Horse, Azuri Peninsula, Caverton and Subs. The semi-finalists played for the event's biggest prize, the Access Bank Cup while the runners-up played for the Eko Pearl Cup.

The 4-day event brought the signature blend of fun in the sun combined with laid-back polo; the benchmarks of Beach Polo from

Miami to Dubai, Milan to Brazil {confirmed played there, or Australia} and now to Lagos. Polo buffs and beach aficionados had the opportunity to rub shoulders with industry professionals, politicians and socialites while sipping on Veuve Clicquot champagne, nibbling canapés and enjoying a thrilling day of polo.

Spectators and players alike bathed in the lavish hospitality whilst soaking up the ambiance of the exquisite environment. Not only did spectators mingle with some of the best polo players, they also had the opportunity to test drive the luxury cars on display.

In a flourishing finale the Lagos Polo Club team showcased a commanding performance that fetched them the inaugural beach polo title, the Access Bank Cup. The winners showed their champions' stuff with a narrow 5-4 defeat of the Power Horse team in a tense final to write their names in gold as the continent's first beach polo kings.

Horse Power team looked the favourites for the win after getting off to a fast start, up 1-0 in the first minute of the final. Their line-up, featuring Musty Fashinro (1), Kwame Isa (1), and Seyi Oyinola (-1), kept the momentum going with a second goal by Musty to close the opening chukka two goals up.

guests who arrived via helicopter from the Val de Vie Estate landing strip to the chic clubhouse. Other vehicles on display included the Bentley Flying Spur V8, the Mulsanne and the Continental GT.

Veuve Clicquot is internationally recognised for its long association with Polo and has sponsored some of the world's leading polo events such as the UK's Gold Cup, USA's Manhattan Polo Classic and LA Polo Classic. The Veuve Clicquot Masters Polo was inaugurated in 2011 supporting the growing love for the sport in South Africa. Drawing inspiration from polo's global presence, the tournament is now one of Cape Town's most anticipated events and the only one of its kind on the African continent.

The official fashion partners at the 2015 event, Jenni Button and Hilton Weiner, showcased their latest couture collection and quintessential looks on the catwalk with some surprising and evocative pieces. The show also flaunted some of the finest international models provided by the event's model agency; 3D. Moroccan Oil, the Official Hair Sponsor of the event reflected the latest international hair trends on the runway, with two of their top international runway stylists flown out especially for the event.

'The Best Dressed of the Day' competition, judged by Elle magazine, was another highlight in the action-packed programme of events. BestDressed Female, Best Dressed Couple and Best Dressed Male Awards were handed out, a difficult choice given the high level of style and sophistication displayed at the event.

As the day drew to a close and the sun set behind the magical pink mountains, guests strolled over to the after party, hosted by Shimmy Beach Club, where they danced the night away, the perfect ending to an incredible day.



However the Lagos Polo Club team line-up of Ayo Olasoju (0), Abdulrahman (1) and Habeeb Fashinro (0), stormed back in the second chukka with the first goal coming from Abdulrahman and by the end of the bell they had evened the score at 2-2. Despite Musty turning up the heat as Horse Power pressed, the third chukka had much the same outcome as the second with Seyi scoring for Horse Power and Habeeb striking for Lagos Polo. The fiercely fought chukka ended 3-3.

The real nail-biting moment came in the final chukka. Isa Kwame put Horse Power in front, before Ayo replied to make it 4-4. With the clock ticking, Lagos Polo controlled the ball on the final throw-in, with Abdulrahman leading the charge and scoring the decisive goal with only 25 seconds left to play.

“We are absolutely thrilled, things didn’t go our way in the opening chukka, but we surely rallied back against Power Horse. It was a massive performance by our players and I couldn’t be more proud that we are

champions of the first ever beach polo tournament in Nigeria” said Hebeeb, captain of the winning team.

It’s tough to explain how Lagos Polo sneaked from behind to snatch the title. “I am not really pleased with the result. We felt like we could keep the tempo and contain the game. It was their day so congrats Lagos Polo,” Power Horse’s captain, Musty Fashinro rued.

Habeeb, who is also the President of the Lagos Polo Club, received the event’s biggest prize, the Access Bank Cup from the Executive Director Access Bank Plc, Roosevelt Ogbonna, while Victor Etuokwu presented the runners-up prize to Power Horse.

Former Defence Minister, General Theophilous Danjuma and his wife, Senator Daisy were on hand to present Abdulrahman with the Most Valuable Player for the Access Bank Cup. While Baba Dangote, who pivoted the Caverton team to victory in the subsidiary finals, was named the Most Valuable Player in the Eko Pearl Cup.



LAGOS BEACH POLO TEAMS

Lagos Polo Club (2)

Habeeb Fashinro 0
Ayo Olasoju 0
Abdulrahman Mohammed 2

Power Horse (2)

Kunle Tinubu| Musty Fashinro 1
Isa Kwame 1
Seyi Oyinola 0

Caverton (2)

Baba Dangote 0
Rotimi Makanjuola 0
Ali Saffeidine 0

Veuve Cliquot (2)

Osama Debbs 0
Ahmadu Umar 2
Bode Makanjuola 0

Access Bank (2)

Mohammed Mdeihli 1
Kareem Mdeihli 0
Funsho George -1

Azuri Peninsula (2)

Tunde Kareem 1
Glory Ebano 1
Kenny Aliu -2



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Valiente

Gets Vindication in the 2015 US Open Championship

Valiente won the 111th U.S. Open Polo Championship in the final match on Engel & Völkers field Sunday, April 20th, at the International Polo Club Palm Beach (IPC), defeating Orchard Hill 11-9.

Darlene Ricker

| Valiente | Orchard Hill |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Bob Jornayvaz 2 | Steve Van Andel A |
| Alejo Taranco 6 | Facundo Pieres 10 |
| Guillermo Terrera 8 | Polito Pieres 9 |
| Adolfo Cambiaso 10 | Ezequiel Ferrario 7 |

When it came to the 111th U.S. Open Final, the third time was a charm for Valiente. For the first time ever, and after an extraordinarily challenging season, the team won the golden key it had lost twice before.

If you ask Adolfo Cambiaso, the game was won in the last three minutes. “That’s what made the difference,” he said.

To no-one’s surprise, Cambiaso was the linchpin. Facundo Pieres had just scored from the penalty line, giving Orchard Hill a two-point lead in what looked to be the last gasp of the game. But then Orchard Hill lost a challenge to a penalty one awarded to Valiente, and Guille Terrera scored, tying the game 9-all. The hint of an overtime chukker hovering on the horizon, Valiente kicked its “Comeback Kid” routine into high gear. MVP Alejo Taranco scored from the penalty line, starting a seismic shift that became insurmountable.

With just a minute left in regulation play, Valiente had a choice to make: Let the clock run down and bank on taking a one point win (while running the risk of one of the Pieres’ tying the game), or just go for it. Cambiaso removed the question mark with a sudden do-or-die move that took the field by surprise. He snatched the ball from the pack and made a flat-out gallop for goal, the gap between him and his defenders increasing exponentially. With one huge swing of the mallet, it was game over.

Valiente played a clean game, making 12 fouls to Orchard Hill’s 18.

And to no-one’s surprise, Polito and Facundo Pieres made a string of amazing plays throughout the match. Polito Pieres brought Orchard Hill to a two point lead at the end of the first chukker as he fought off two defenders (one of them Cambiaso).

The rest of the first half played more like an extended practice round than a final. Orchard Hill held a slim lead, with Valiente intermittently tying the score. The first half ended with Orchard Hill ahead 5-4.

The real game began in the fourth chukker. Cambiaso came firing right out of the gate for a hat trick, slamming in three successive field goals and moving Valiente into the lead for the first time. A stunned Orchard Hill was scoreless in the chukker, which ended 7-5 for Valiente. The fifth chukker saw a temporary reversal of fortune, with Valiente scoreless and Orchard Hill making three goals courtesy of the Pieres cousins (two by Polito and one by Facundo). One of Facundo Pieres’ goals came when Cambiaso was off the field changing horses. Pieres took advantage of the four-against-three scenario, making a sweeping run all the way to goal.

With astoundingly agile, cat-like play, Polito Pieres reached way back to take a pass from his cousin and then surged forward. With two players on his hip, Polito Pieres ran the ball straight into goal. Orchard Hill regained a tight lead, 8-7.

A reaching foul gave Orchard Hill a spot hit, which Facundo Pieres turned into the long shot of the day. From 135 yards out, he took the free hit and barreled down the field to score and move Orchard Hill into a two-point lead. Things were looking up for the team in red, until Cambiaso & Company stopped Orchard Hill in its tracks and claimed the game.

All of Valiente’s players acknowledged it had been an extremely difficult game. “You know, it’s just a huge honour,” said patron Bob Jornayvaz after the win. “I hate to call it getting a monkey off our back, but we’ve been working at it a long time. We were the underdogs today, and having the organisational bench strength and the horses really made a difference.



©Liz Lamont Images/Phelps Media Group

I mean, I wish people could see the grooms and the vets and the farriers and what everyone does as an organisation to make it happen because they truly brought us here today.”

“We persevered through a lot of injuries, and it’s been a rough season. We didn’t look very good in the C.V. Whitney Cup or the Gold Cup, and we just persevered. We kept at it and we knew we had the horses to get us to the end if we could get ourselves to the end. And that’s where I’ve got to give Adolfo credit – going to the gym, working through his injuries, keeping our spirits up and making us all believe that it was possible. And at the end, the guy’s just amazing.”

Pulling his boots off in the team tent, Cambiaso said, “It was a really tight game. They are a really great team. We’re happy to win it. I like to win any tournament – the U.S. Open, even better. And the good thing about it is that I won it with Valiente, and that was something that I needed to do. Bob believed in me, he gave all the organisation to me, so we did it.”

Knowing they would be facing an uphill battle in the final, the Valiente players dug in deep the day before, devoting several hours to watching Horseplay.tv footage of their previous encounters this season with Orchard Hill. Saturday morning after working their mounts, Valiente teammates sat on chairs in the barn aisle with Cambiaso as he stared intently at game replays on his tablet.

“See, there!” said Cambiaso, freezing the gameplay on his screen as he pointed to a Facundo Pieres move filmed from above by the Horseplay.tv drone.

Standing behind Cambiaso, teammate Jejo Taranco – whose second child, a boy, had been born less than 24 hours before – leaned his tall frame down to view the screen. Guille Terrera joined in on the quiet, deep-thought moment. Cambiaso replayed the clip again and again until satisfied he had a handle on it.

“The tapes are good for everybody,” said Cambiaso afterward. “We watch some plays – not a lot, because I don’t like to watch myself. But I like to watch a couple of plays to see more or less how they play.”

Looking ahead to Sunday’s final, he said, “When we played Orchard Hill before this season, they beat us twice. So it will be a tough game for us, but a final is a final, and we are there. I’m just happy to be there.”

Taranco was like-minded. “Tomorrow will be a good game. I think it’s going to be a really hard game for us, and even for them. Finals are finals – there’s nothing to say about the games before. Attitude and motivation are very important, more than the plays and the tactics you can use,” he said.

“Orchard Hill plays very well. They’ve had an amazing season, they’re well organised and have excellent horses. They have two very good, talented players (Facundo and Polito Pieres) who can do a lot of damage with the ball. It will be very difficult to beat them. But we are very motivated for the game tomorrow, so let’s see.”

After the win, Taranco said, “I have nothing else to ask for. It was a great game, the best one by far that I’ve won. For me, playing with Cambiaso, Terrera and Bob against these two animals (Polito and Facundo Pieres) is something I think will never happen again. I’m very happy to be here. We did everything to win today.”



Aspen Valley Polo Club wins Hall of Fame Cup



Adolfo Cambiaso reviews plays



Adolfo Cambiaso, Polito Pieres, Guillermo Terrera and Bob Jornayvaz

Terrera said he was “thankful and grateful for the team,” adding, “We were not winning, and things were not happening the way we wanted. Everyone was pushing forward, and that’s what’s called team spirit. We didn’t change anything. We did the same the whole season. The only thing is that in the beginning, luck was not on our side. That’s not very good for your brain, your mind. And then when things begin to happen the way you want, everything goes forward.”

Cambiaso complimented IPC, which drew eight 26-goal teams and a dozen 20-goal teams in this year’s 16-week high-goal season. “I think they’re doing a great job,” he said. “It’s always great to play at a club of this level.”

The U.S. Open Championship Final was an exciting end to a magnificent season of polo at IPC. John Wash, President of Club Operations at IPC shared his thoughts about the 2015 season.

“At the beginning of the season we predicted this would be the finest season of polo ever,” said Wash. “We hosted new teams, had record-breaking spectator numbers and expanded, exciting coverage from the media. It has been an incredible season. We want to thank all the sponsors, patrons, teams and members for a great, if not the best, season of polo ever.”

ASPEN VALLEY WINS HALL OF FAME CUP

Aspen Valley defeated FlexJet 11-8 in the Hall of Fame Cup on Sunday. The 111th U.S. Open Polo Championship subsidiary, presented by the Polo Museum and Hall of Fame, was hosted by International Polo Club. Juancito Bollini scored three of Aspen Valley’s goals and was named Most Valuable Player of the match. His fourth chukker mount was awarded Best Playing Pony.

| Aspen Valley Polo Club | FlexJet |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Grant Ganzi 1 | Leo Mandelbaum 3 |
| Juancito Bollini 2 | Kris Kampsen 6 |
| Miguel N Astrada 9 | Piki Diaz Alberdi 7 |
| Nic Roldan 8 | Juan Bollini 5 |

AWARDS

Guillermo Terrera, who contributed two of the four Valiente goals in the pivotal sixth chukker, was named Most Valuable Player of the Final.

Adolfo Cambiaso’s mare Romana earned the coveted Willis Hartman Trophy for the Best Playing Pony of the U.S. Open Championship.

The Argentine Best Playing Pony was awarded to Boeing, a polo stallion owned by Bob Jornayvaz and played by Adolfo Cambiaso.

Facundo Pieres’ Frenchita won Best Playing Pony of the U.S. Open Championship Final.

Ronnie Hayes was honored with the USPA 2015 Umpire of the Year Award Julian Mannix earned the Patron Sentient Jet Challenge with a huge 41 goals earned during the season.



Ezequiel Martinez Ferrario, Alejo Taranco, Adolfo Cambiaso, Bob Jornayvaz and Facundo Pieres



Polito Pieres



Romana earned the coveted Willis Hartman Trophy for the Best Playing Pony of the U.S. Open

The Sport of Kings Gives Back IN PINK

Wilhem Van Zyk

Polo clubs around the world not only provide polo matches for the crowd to enjoy, but they also give back to the community. ‘The sport of kings’ is an excellent way for people to get together and raise money and attention for charitable causes. One worthy cause that has attracted polo’s global interest is breast cancer awareness.

Every October, pretty pastels and a medley of pink shades are the order of the day at several polo clubs around the world where events are held in support of breast cancer awareness and fundraising. These activities are ultimately structured around polo, either an exhibition game or a title match.

The focal point in most Pink Polo programmes is the Pink Clinic, a center point where guests have the opportunity to talk to medical experts, meet breast cancer survivors, learn self-examination techniques and undergo free screenings at the mobile mammography unit. Funds raised by Pink Polo are used to assist women with their medical as well as practical needs in their fight and recovery from the disease.

We scoured the polo world to pick three of the most illustrious Pink Polo events...

1 Polo Gives Back UAE

In the United Arab Emirates, Pink Polo is hosted by the Ghantoot Racing & Polo Club under the patronage of club Chairman, HH Sheikh Falah bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB) is the title sponsor and the Abu Dhabi Health Authority (ADHA) is the major partner amongst several supporting organisations including Maserati, Universal Hospital, Abu Dhabi Country Club and Etihad Airways.

The UAE Pink Polo Day is a family oriented fun day out and access is free. The event also represents the commencement of the sports season for Ghantoot Racing and Polo Club, a world-class polo and equestrian facility, an oasis of splendour and tranquility, amid the hustle and bustle of desert life. There are varieties of entertainment options for the entire family including camel and pony rides, falcon shows, golf lessons, camel polo, arts and crafts, University Art Competition Corner, photo sessions with polo players and reserved picnic areas.

The latest event, held November 7th, attracted well over 5,000 people who also watched the Pink Polo match between Teams Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB) and Maserati. HH Sheika Maitha bint Mohammed Rashid Al Maktoum led the ADCB team to win 6-4 and retain the Golden Title. Maserati player Abdulla bin Desmal was particularly delighted by the big audience at the event, saying his team was “proud to play a part in such a charity game that was honoured by the participation of Sheikha Maitha.”



Polo Gives Back NIGERIA

Consistent with its year-round corporate social responsibility commitment, Fifth Chukker Polo and Country Club ties in Pink Polo Day with the African Patrons Cup whose traditional October date makes it the most auspicious platform to project the breast cancer awareness and fundraising campaign in Nigeria. The 2014 Pink Polo Day, on 25th October, was one of the major highlights of this massive tournament played over two weekends under the sponsorship of Africa’s telecom giant, MTN.

The First Lady of Kaduna State, Mrs Fatima Yero and about two hundred guests attended the event where a professional breast cancer clinic was conducted by a medical consultant, Dr Amina Abdulsalami Bello who is now the First Lady of Niger State. Mrs Yero expressed profound gratitude to Fifth Chukker and MTN for being “pro-active and staying in the front-line in the fight against breast cancer,” and urged other corporate bodies to emulate them. She also said the Ministry of Women Affairs would be working in closer collaboration with Fifth Chukker to achieve better service delivery in the breast cancer awareness campaign.

The clinic was followed by a delicious buffet in the Clubhouse with outstanding views of the polo field, and goody bags by fashion house Daviva were distributed. Thereafter, the ladies gathered for the customary pink balloon release pitch-side before the First Lady threw in the first ball to start the African Patrons Cup final match between Fifth Chukker and Max Air. Fifth Chukker won the nail-biting encounter 11-9 to retain the cup.



Polo Gives Back SOUTH AFRICA

The picturesque Val de Vie Estate is home to the Cintron Pink Polo extravaganza, now in its sixth year and very well established in the event calendar of Cape Town and South Africa as a meeting point for high society. Guests of this annual fundraiser for the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSa) enjoy a glorious afternoon of world-class polo, up to the minute fashion, and mouthwatering Cintron cocktails on the lawns of the country’s only wine and polo estate.

The Cintron Pink Polo trophy is also a high-goal challenge that serves as the official kick-off for the South African polo season. The latest event was held 25th October and the Pink Polo match featured Teams Cintron and Gaggenau. South Africa’s leading network Vodacom was another big sponsor of the event and kept everyone updated on social media by encouraging guests to upload their selfies and tweet their pictures to #Cintronpinkpolo and #VodacomCPP. In the end, Team Cintron walked away with the trophy with a riveting 6 -5 score.



Asides from Cintron, the headline sponsor, and Vodacom, Pink Polo’s impressive brand in South Africa is also shored up by Julius Baer, the leading Swiss private banking group while Gaggenau was the event’s sub sponsor for the third year running. Aston Martin was the official vehicle partner, showcasing their splendorous flagship luxury performance automobile. Jenni Button, the official fashion partner for the day presented their latest ready-to-wear designs in the official fashion show. Drawing inspiration from the fashion element of the day, Elle magazine awarded prizes to the Best Dressed at the end of the glorious afternoon.





David 'Pelon' Stirling

Currently rated No. 3 in the world, after Cambiaso and Facundo, the 10-goal Uruguayan sensation is the most talked about player right now after his Argentine Open MVP award

Wilhem Van Zyk

David 'Pelon' Stirling comes from a perfect polo bloodline. His grandfather was a 10-goal player and his father a 7-goaler who played and managed the polo club in Sotogrande where he moved his family when David was just six. But you would be wrong to assume young David took to polo like a fish to water.

"I had no interest in polo and preferred football like all the other Spanish kids I was hanging out with. It wasn't until I was fourteen that I really began to enjoy the sport!" Pelon once told PlanSouthAmerica.com while recounting the hard daily slug that would totally surprise many people who often assume that the life of a polo player is all fun and glamour. "It might seem like an easy life but polo is hard work and you have to be totally devoted and sacrifice so many things to get ahead. But what it really comes down to is time – the time you spend at the stables, the time you spend riding and stick and balling. You can have a lot of fun, but it requires huge discipline to make a living out of polo," he stated.

Like every ambitious professional, Stirling diligently toiled his way up the polo hierarchy - handicap by handicap - until, sixteen years later, it all paid off with his elevation to the maximum 10 goals after he won the Argentine Open with La Dolfina in 2011.

The Uruguayan may be based in Argentina but he has an established off-season overseas schedule playing for patrons such as Amr Zedan in Dubai, Iñigo Zobel in Sorogrande and Christopher Hanbury in England. In September he heads back to Argentina to prepare for the high goal season with La Dolfina.

PLAYING FOR LA DOLFINA

When Stirling joined La Dolfina in 2010, his role in the team was secondary to the one he plays today; it was more about him using his talent and effort to support his teammates and being where they needed him to be. As the seasons have progressed, his role as a player has become more refined. Pelon is now a pivot in his own right – goal maker,

defender, play maker, scorer – playing everywhere and anywhere, and always with the same objective - to be useful to the team and perform beyond his 10-goal handicap. Very few were surprised, therefore, when he was named MVP of the 2014 Argentine Open Final.

Stirling voices nothing but respect and admiration for his La Dolfina team mates: "I am very grateful to have my three team mates who are out of this world! I always say that I'm in the position that any polo player would like to be in - having the best polo players in the world as team mates", (Adolfo Cambiaso-10, Juan Martin Nero-10, Pablo MacDonough-10), he told a Uruguayan online publication. On Cambiaso, he's even more effusive: "Adolfo's achievements are incredible! I've known him since 2007 and I only have great things to say about him; I'm very grateful to have his support. He has always helped me and given me opportunities to grow. I also have a great relationship with him, we are neighbours and we spend a lot of time together. He's a great friend!".

STAYING POWER

La Dolfina is acclaimed as one of the best five polo teams of all time and Stirling accepts that being part of the squad comes with an even bigger responsibility and motivation to remain at the top and keep the trophies coming in. So where is the pressure point? "At this high level of polo the most important part of the game is the horses and that's what I concentrate on. It's about trying to find that exceptional horse that will give you the edge," he says.

Unsurprisingly, there is constant exchange of horses among La Dolfina team members and every player does his utmost to find the best horses that will enable him play at his optimum. As the number 2 and midfield marshal, Pelon looks for the extra power and stamina in his horses to go with speed, comfort, and a good mouth. Stirling also confessed that the biggest motivation for the team is the Argentine Open which, for good or for bad, remains in every player's psyche the whole year.

GIVING BACK
Stirling is married to Chilean-born Maria Jose and they have a son, Vincente. Despite living the majority of his life in Spain, he is very attached to Uruguay and tries to support Uruguayan polo as much as possible from his Argentina base. The polo scene in Uruguay is largely farm-based and amateur where people mostly play for fun. Pelon is now striving to raise the standard of the national game, even inviting the Uruguayan national team to La Dolfina to practice and train in preparation for the classification stages of the Polo World Cup. He is also working with a lot of Uruguayan children, trying to bring them over to Argentina to take part in the excellent Pony Club system there. “I’m trying to help as much as I can. I love being in a position to help polo grow in Uruguay and to encourage young talent,” says the La Dolfina enforcer.

Stirling’s achievements in the last few years with La Dolfina are more than enviable: two triple crowns, three Argentine Opens, four- time Hurlingham champion, Tortugas champion twice over, and not forgetting all of the titles won abroad. Undoubtedly, he is one of the best polo players in the world and considering his 2014 season, there’s no stopping him.



Chain Reaction

The world’s biggest hospitality brands have Africa in their sights, as the continent becomes the latest battleground for the luxury hotel industry.

Andrea Ashfield



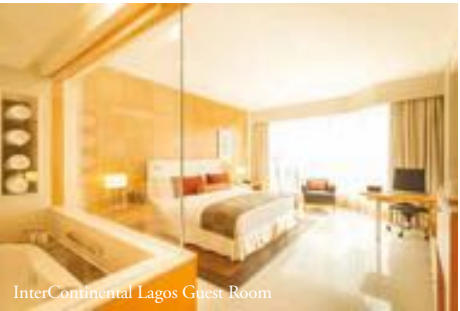
InterContinental Lagos Bar and Lounge



Park-Hyatt Zanzibar Deluxe King Bathroom



Park-Hyatt Zanzibar Deluxe King Terrace



InterContinental Lagos Guest Room

With its stunning sea views and stylish interiors, the new Park Hyatt Zanzibar looks set to become a major destination for holidaymakers in search of peace, tranquility and culture. It’s not hard to see the appeal of this beautiful five star paradise, which promises to deliver on every level. The hotel, which opened in March, became the fifth Park Hyatt in operation on the continent, and the company has further projects in the pipeline, located in Senegal, Tanzania and Morocco. The chain’s ambitious expansion is one of a raft of new openings in the region this year, with other well-known brands including Marriott, Four Seasons, InterContinental, Fairmont and The Address all focusing their attentions on the area. Africa, it seems, is fast becoming the new success story for the global hospitality industry.

Park Hyatt Zanzibar offers its guests an eclectic mix of old and new. “The hotel is situated on the archipelago jewel in the Indian Ocean, in the historic Stone Town,” says Marcela Herrendoerfer, the property’s general manager. “The ambiance and design of the hotel reflects the Omani and Indian influence with a contemporary touch. Everywhere you go, you are embraced by the fresh breeze from the ocean, and everywhere you look, you are welcomed by an array of hanging arabesque lamps. There is an easy feel throughout the entire hotel, and a feeling of intimacy and familiarity”. The hotel is already proving popular with travellers. “We have had some excellent feedback so far, which I must admit is the most gratifying part for us,” continues Marcela. “Now that our doors are open we feel complete. All the hard work that was undertaken to put together our hotel is done and we can focus solely on our guests and our team.”

This high profile opening is just one of many planned for 2015, and PricewaterhouseCoopers has predicted a big year for the continent’s hotel industry. In Passport to Africa, the firm’s hospitality outlook for 2014 to 2018, the accountancy giant reported that the market in Nigeria grew by 9% in 2013 and by a cumulative 59% over the past four years, partly due to the rapidly growing economy. In Mauritius, room rates were expected to grow at 4.6% annually until 2018, and in South Africa, overall spending on rooms rose by 14% in 2013 to R17.3 billion.

GROWING MARKETPLACE

There is plenty to attract investors, considers Trevor Ward, managing director of Lagos-based consultancy, W Hospitality Group. “Many markets are lacking in quality hotel rooms, which means those destinations do not receive the many benefits that tourism can bring, particularly foreign exchange earnings and job creations,” he explains. “Without exception, big brands are focusing their attention on Africa, with several, such as Hilton, Marriott and Radisson establishing offices in the region. The latest is Hyatt, which opened an office in Nairobi last year.” Funding these new projects is not always easy. “Whilst the brands are very actively signing deals, it is more difficult to find the finance, primarily because foreign investors perceive the risk to be too high, so the majority of deals are financed locally,” adds Trevor. “There are some exceptions, however, with an increasing number of projects funded by investors from the Middle East.”

One major brand currently shaking up the market is Marriott, which purchased the African hotel chain Protea in 2014, in a deal worth more than \$200 million. The new acquisition consisted of more than 10,000 rooms across seven countries including Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, and included hotels, resorts and an award-winning boutique brand. The upscale operator now has 30 hotels set to open in Africa by 2020, nine of which are expected to be ready this year. There will also be a focus on extended stay accommodation, including a luxurious Residence Inn by Marriott in Uganda and Marriott Executive Apartments in Ethiopia. The expansion will also provide plenty of job opportunities, with the company’s workforce expected to jump from 21,000 to 31,000 employees. “The potential of the African market is awe-inspiring,” said Alex Kyriakidis, president and managing director for Marriott International Middle East and Africa, at the launch. “Over the next few years we plan to expand our presence even further from 10 countries to 17, with a capital investment by Marriott’s real estate partners of \$1.5 billion across the continent.”

Another upscale operator, InterContinental (IHG), recently opened its sixth hotel in Sub-Saharan Africa. Located on Victoria Island, the 358-bedroom property in Lagos is right at the heart of the city’s business and commercial centre, and is aimed at both local residents



InterContinental Lagos

and international visitors. Guests at the hotel can enjoy stunning views over the Gulf of Guinea, as well as four stylish restaurants and bars. Food on offer ranges from traditional Nigerian to Italian and Chinese, and visitors can dine at the side of the swimming pool, next to the hotel’s Zen garden. There is also a grand ballroom that can seat up to 1,400 people, a range of business and meeting facilities, and a sauna and steam room. “With its thriving economy and abundant natural beauty, Nigeria is an ever-growing business and tourism destination,” said Pascal Gauvin, chief operating officer for India, Middle East and Africa, at the opening. “We look forward to further expanding our presence in the region as part of our continued growth.” IHG plans two more openings in Senegal and Uganda within the next five years.

HOT SPOTS

Until recently it has been North Africa, with its well-established tourist markets, which has seen the largest numbers of new hotels, but now, Sub-Saharan Africa tops the list. According to W Hospitality’s annual pipeline survey, published in April, Nigeria currently has the most activity, with 51 hotels set to open in the near future. South Africa, Kenya, Libya and Uganda also made the top 10, with capital cities and commercial centres favoured as locations. Radisson Blu has the largest pipeline, while other major brands focusing on the region include Hilton, Park Inn, Four Points by Sheraton and Golden Tulip.

Ghana is also a focus for development, including a new project by Kempinski, Europe’s oldest luxury hotel group. The Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast City in Accra will blend European traditions with African hospitality, offering all that guests would expect from a five star hotel. The property will be the centrepiece of a new downtown area for the capital, which has been conceived as a fully planned community and a model of sustainable design and development. “We will offer 269 rooms, including 22 luxury suites and two presidential suites, advanced event and conferencing facilities and the largest and most luxurious ballroom in West Africa,” says Ana Pinto, the hotel’s PR manager. It will also be home to two restaurants, bars and a lobby lounge, 7,000 square metres of retail space, a 3,000 square metre spa, a 25 metre infinity rooftop pool, fitness centre and tennis court. The hotel will be Kempinski’s sixth in Africa, and the continent is right at the heart of the group’s future plans. “Fast and sustainable growth combined with stable governance in some countries leads us to believe that there is still large potential,”



Park-Hyatt Zanzibar Exterior

continues Ana. “In the recent past, Africa has become a key destination for new business opportunities and foreign investment diversifications. Any international company looking at new markets and growth has to consider it as part of its development strategy.”

With plenty more openings planned, the future certainly looks bright for Africa’s hotel industry. “There are still markets where chains like Four Seasons, Fairmont and Kempinski want to have a presence,” says Trevor Ward. “Economic growth, which leads to greater wealth of a country’s citizens, is forecast to continue increasing at levels above the global average. With human and natural resources, Africa can become the manufacturing centre of the world, rivalling China.” For business travellers and pleasure seekers this is great news, as the choice of luxury hotels looks set to continue expanding for some time yet.



Radisson South Sudan

Coming soon

- Dubai-based operator The Address Hotels + Resorts is set to open a five star hotel in Abuja Century City in Nigeria. The property will form part of a new 1,300 hectare planned community, and will include leisure and retail opportunities.
- In 2016, Fairmont will open a 220 room hotel in Lagos. The development will also include 50 residences and an art gallery, as well as meeting and conference facilities and a spa.
- Opening later this year, the new Four Seasons Casablanca will form part of the planned Anfa Place community. The 183 bedroom hotel will mix French and Arabic style, with stunning outdoor terraces to take advantage of the city’s warm sunshine.
- Hilton Worldwide is planning to open two Hilton Garden Inn hotels in Nigeria. The upscale yet affordable properties will open their doors in 2017.
- Carlson Rezidor is due to open Radisson Blu in Juba, South Sudan, in 2017, adding to the group’s growing African portfolio, which also includes hotels in Uganda and Ghana.

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DAVID GREENHILL

President & Co-owner of Satcom Direct

Interview by Yasemen Kaner-White



Tell us a little about your various business ventures:

We founded Satcom Direct in 1997 with the purpose of providing global communications to Business Aviation and government customers – including Heads of State aircraft. The company also provides land mobile and handheld satellite equipment to emergency response and media outlets as well as recreational users travelling to remote locations with limited cellular and data network coverage. The company has grown to over 180 employees with its Headquarters in Satellite Beach, Florida and with other offices globally: Canada, Brazil, United Kingdom, Switzerland, UAE, Hong Kong, Russia, Australia and South Africa.

When was your first business investment in Africa, what was it and where?

We have been doing business in Africa for over 15 years providing connectivity and support to various VIP and heads of state customers predominately in South Africa, Nigeria, Angola, Morocco and Egypt. For the last couple of years we have been focused on investing in education through our Satcom Direct Training programme and expanding our hardware dealers so customers can be supported and their assets maintained by local companies. We are also proud to be a founding member of AfBAA (African Business Aviation Association) a non profit organisation solely setup to represent and develop the African private aviation market.

What do you think is the draw for people/companies to invest in Africa?

Our business philosophy has always been to invest our business revenue back into supporting our customers. Five years ago we recognised that we needed to expand our support, sales and training capabilities globally. Africa is a big part of our future growth plans with over 2,000 private

jets expected to enter the market by 2020. Hence, we have begun to invest a lot in Africa for our customers and partners.

Tell us about your most recent investment in Africa

We are just opening an office in Cape Town, South Africa and will be expanding our presence throughout the region, most notably Nigeria. We are also running satellite communications aviation training in the region starting in May, so our customers will have the opportunity to be certified in Aero IT and avionics, with courses specifically designed by Satcom Direct for the aviation community.

Why did you decide on targeting an African market, in particular Nigeria?

As a founding member of AfBAA, we have participated in the annual Nigerian Business Aviation conference in Lagos for the past couple of years. We serve many Nigerian VIP customers, and it's quickly becoming an expanding market with investments in new FBO and MRO facilities by companies, such as Execujet and Nigerian Evergreen Apple – which are key partners of ours in the country.

How do you view the future potential for investors interested in investing in Africa and specifically Nigeria?

You have to be fully committed to the market and establish the right partnerships. Nigeria is an exciting market for Business Aviation; however, for you to flourish you have to invest at the local level in training and support.

What advice would you give someone considering investing in Africa?

Hire good people who are committed to your business philosophy and make sure you look after your customers through key investments and partnerships.

What areas in Africa will you be targeting next, to increase your business expansion?

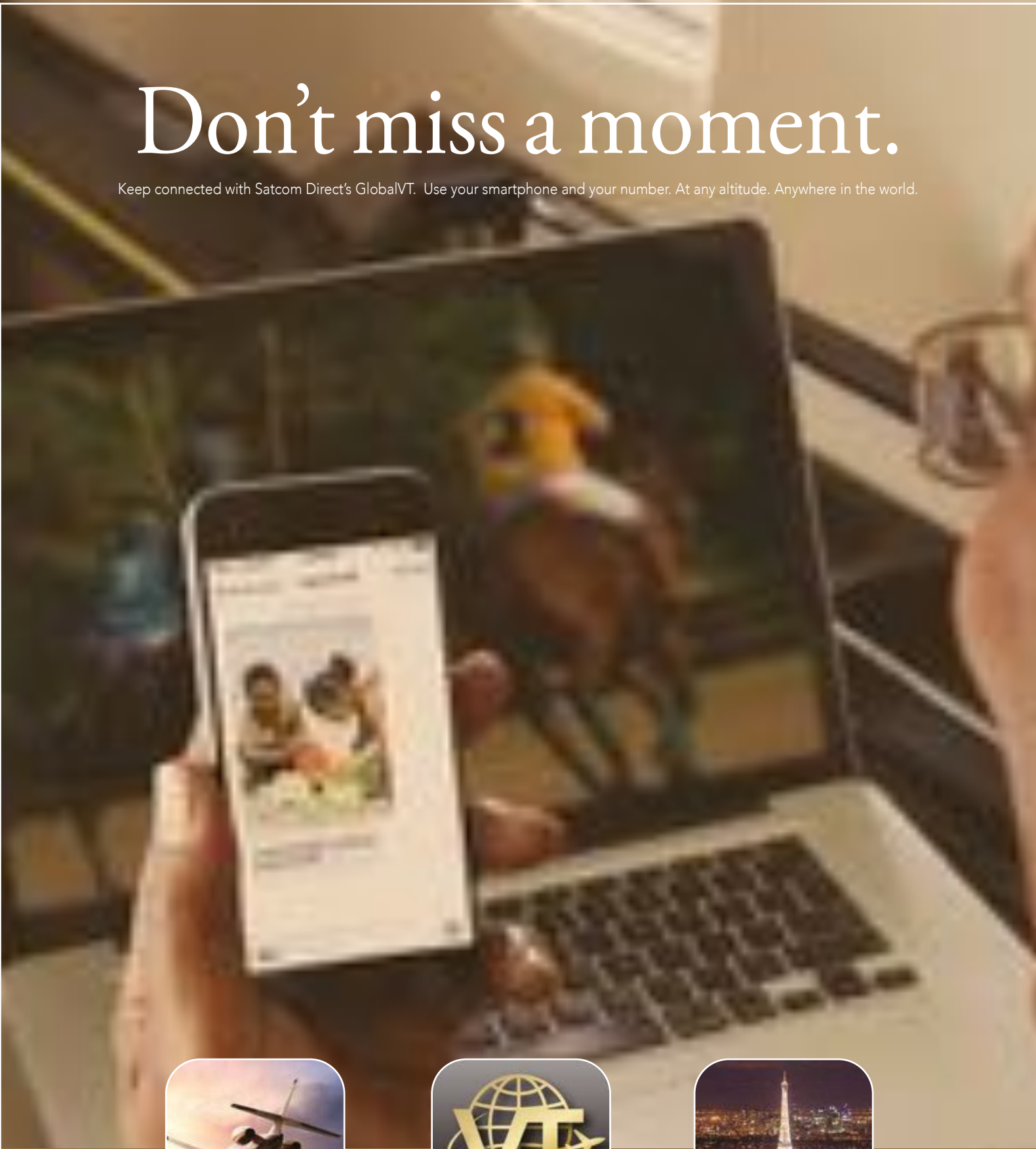
Setting up our South African operation was our first step, and we will now be expanding our African presence in Nigeria, then most likely Morocco and Angola

I'm delighted that you have started to play polo and intrigued as to what brought you to the game?

I too am delighted to be part of polo. It's just one of those things in life that grabs hold of you unexpectedly and without rhyme or reason you are hooked, and you want it to be a big part of your life. I played for the first time only a few months ago and I haven't been able to stop thinking about it since! – with the exception, of course, of when I'm planning and executing the Satcom Direct African strategy!...

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AHMED SEDDIQI & SONS

Souk To Huge Success – A Family Business Grown With Time

Yasemen Kaner-White

Wearing a Rolex dating 1978, the year his was born, Mohammed A M Seddiqi, grandson of the late founder Mr. Ahmed Seddiqi, took the time to speak with me in their Dubai Mall outlet. The watch industry being part of his DNA, he started off in the company as a shop floor salesman, whilst he still makes shop visits, he now holds the title of Chief Commercial Officer, with his main role being to oversee the sales and retail of the company. Enthusiastically, he divulged the Seddiqi history, “the company started in 1940 by my grandfather, initially only a souk counter in Bur Dubai, by 1956, my late uncle joined my grandfather with the aim to increase the brands coming to Dubai”. Their first trip together was to Switzerland in 1958, together with a required letter confirming they were ‘kosher’ – their letter was from the ruling Sheik of the time no less, it was there where they acquired the distribution deal that was the making of the business; Rolex, still continuing today. “Rolex will always have a special place within the Seddiqi group”. However the first brand they ever distributed was Westend, coming from Kuwait, “for nostalgic reasons, we still carry it” he said.

Acknowledging Switzerland, as the crème de la crème of the global watch industry, his father and late uncle spent a decade there between the 60’s to 70’s acquiring the business acumen needed to further their success, whilst also becoming fluent in French and expanding accumulation of brands to bring to Dubai. In the late 90’s his cousin and sister joined the

family company as sales reps in the showroom but in 2004 they moved to the headquarters in Sheik Zaid road, it was then, that he joined. Now in 2015, seven members of the third generation and one of the fourth, all work together with the same vision, “to grow Ahmed Seddiqi & Sons... it is a one hundred percent family run business which is represented in all the Emirates, with 65 stores, holding more than 50 brands”. Brands such as Richard Mille, Patek Philippe, Chopard, Harry Winston, Audemars Piguet, Hublot, Tag Heuer and Baume & Mercier ensure any watch aficionado would feel at home in a Seddiqi store.

When asked if they are thinking to expand globally, he said, “Dubai keeps us very busy, it’s similar to London with lots of tourists, but in Dubai, we know how to handle local relationships both with clients and the government”. Knowing their local market inside out, means Seddiqi is culturally aware, for instance they “wouldn’t have a watch advert with a lady showing too much skin”, insights like this, gives them an advantage and more reason to focus on expanding locally. Although 50% of their clients are locals, with 50% tourists, they concentrate on the local market, as it’s a loyal steadier stream, who keep in touch regularly. “The tourists who buy our watches tend to be Russians, Nigerians, Chinese and Indians but even people from Brazil come to Dubai specifically to buy from us”. In the future they may expand into the GCC region but not Europe, not for now. “We know the Arab market very well, it’s our niche, so why would we go to Europe where other agents are already present and covering it so well?”



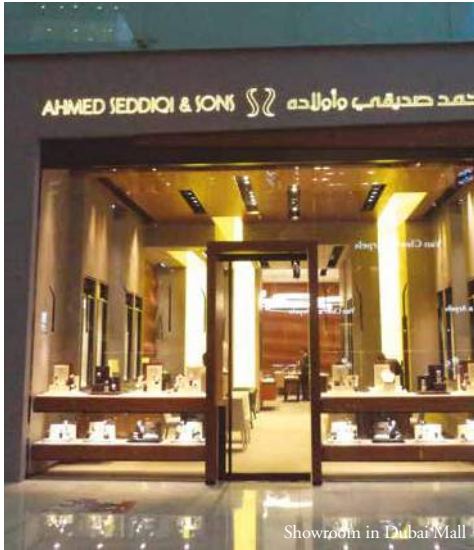
Showroom in Dubai Mall



First showroom of Ahmed Seddiqi & Sons in the 60's



Showroom in Mall of Emirates



Showroom in Dubai Mall



Dubai Edition watches

“we sell time but we never have enough time”...



Prices range vastly, with Westend being the entry level watch to a coveted Richard Mille at the other end of the spectrum. “Most popular for us are Rolex, Chopard and Tag Heuer”. Richard Mille, whom they have a personal relationship with, being a close friend of Mohammed’s father, had one of his first boutiques opened by them. The friendship was sparked by a mutual love of polo. “Initially, we thought the £200,000 price tag of a Mille watch was a joke, but sales have proven us wrong, due to its popularity”. Mille created a limited edition watch for the Middle East – the first brand to do so, with only seven pieces, it represents the seven Emirates. Seddiqi has collaborated with other leading watch makers too, such as Hublot, to create a special range of limited edition watches called ‘Dubai Edition’. “They are all custom made and designed by Seddiqi & Sons”. Mille, who is a polo enthusiast, has the 10-goal Argentinian player Pablo Mac Donough as an ambassador for his brand. He and Seddiqi & Sons have joined forces previously hosting polo tournaments and continue to do so, creating an affiliation between their brands and polo. “We even thought of hosting camel polo, but quickly realised the camels would be far too unwilling and impossible to control, making it unfeasible”.

Seddiqi don’t have their own brand, as retailers they didn’t think to produce their own, however they advise brands on their concepts. “We’re not ready to produce our own brand, but perhaps one day”. In addition to watches, they sell jewellery but only if it coincides with their watches, for example Van Cleef Arples, as well mobile phone covers, cuff links, and of course watch humidifiers and winders to keep precious purchases perfectly kept.

“The trend is changing, a watch is no more a luxury product, it is a necessity, a statement, a tool to open conversations with people, particularly the limited editions...with the internet, for example Instagram, everyone is more aware of brands”. Keeping up with modern times, they have their own department taking care of social media and soon will have a blog. Another thing to keep them busy, to which he says – “we sell time but we never have enough time”...

RM 053 Tourbillon Pablo Mac Donough – Designed specifically for Pablo



RM 003 Tourbillon Yas Marina – only available in the Middle East; a 5 piece limited edition

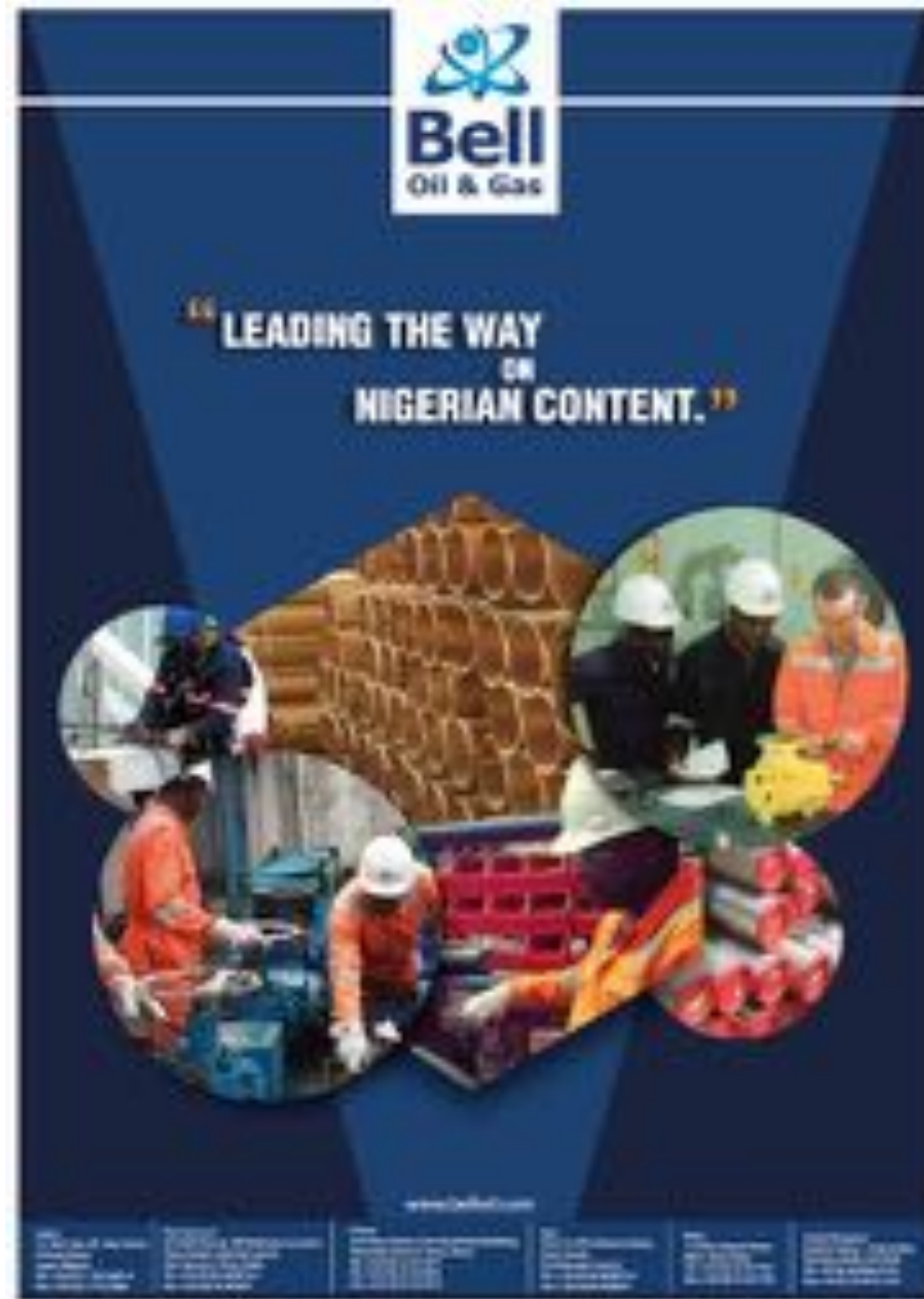


Limited editions – the RM 011 Black Nigh & RM 030 St Tropez both of which are only available in the EMEA region



MEETING MICHAEL

an artist in Dubai



Michael in his studio

Late February, during my Dubai trip with the Fifth Chukker team, in-between polo tournaments and tasting divine local cuisine, I had the pleasure to meet with Michael Arnold. Arnold, who started out as an architect, is now a fully fledged full-time artist and altruistically volunteers as an art teacher at Mawaheb from Beautiful People art studio.

Yasemen Kaner-White



Yasmen meets Michael

Energetically he gave me a tour of Bastakiya, home to his studio, nestled in Dubai's old town – a place so rich in history, one almost forgets they are in a country famed for sky scrapers and swish sushi joints. Despite the tour having a feisty sandstorm backdrop – the worst in 20 years, I appreciated a whole new side of Dubai – the original one. The nearby creek is where the city emerged, it was from this import-export hub, that huge wealth lead to creating newer, more renowned developments such as DIFC, Dubai Marina and Downtown Dubai. A visit to neighbouring Dubai museum, found in the city's oldest building; Al Fahidi Fort, dating from 1800, is crucial, there you can watch a video succinctly summing up Dubai's lifespan from before the discovery of oil to present day. Afterwards, I would recommend doing as I did, hop onto a wooden abra to cross the creek and delve into the oud soaked souks to snap up spices, gold and textiles galore.

Back to art...when art-spotting in Dubai, if you can't make 'Art Dubai' in March – the leading international art fair in the Middle East, Africa and Southern Asia, remember a visit to Bastakiya cannot be overlooked. Housing the oldest art gallery around – The Majlis, just exploring the heritage style studios and breathing in a time gone by, is an experience within itself. Sikka Art Fair takes place here, ironically showcasing the newest artwork on offer within the oldest architecture of Dubai. For more contemporary galleries, head to DIFC and Al Quoz.

Arnold, who has lived and worked in the Middle East for nearly a decade, reveals why Dubai is so significant to him and his work, to my delight, he is also an equine enthusiast...

In what way does having a studio based in Dubai, shape your works?
Having a studio in Dubai has had a profound and inspiring impact on my career transition from architect to artist.

Dubai is emerging as an internationally influential art community and hub for art creation and art dialogue and the interface of artists, gallerists, scholars and collectors.

To be absolutely open minded about the artwork created, presented, admired and enjoyed, an evolving form of a new breed of Middle Eastern creative minds and artists are being influenced by the rich and storied history of the region, layered with present day challenges and unlimited new opportunities.

I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to commence and continue my fine arts career in the GCC region. The region and the UAE specifically, continues to attract established artists from around the world. New Orientalist artists (as is my mentor Trevor Waugh), Modernist, Contemporary, Classical and visionary artists of all genres, travel to and through Dubai, the UAE and the GCC region. The masters take those opportunities to share, exhibit,

**Artist's Statement from
2014 first solo Exhibition
held in Dubai, UAE**

As a young child I was enthralled with the magic of a simple tool – the paint brush. I was mesmerised by the idea of creating an imagined reality with colourful strokes on canvas. I studied the masters through my youth with the intention of spending a career in front of my easel. As decisions and transitions set our paths, I took a right turn and became an architect. My paint brush aside, I created structural realities with construction materials rather than paints. I now enter a new phase and return to my passion – paint and canvas.

My first solo exhibition in the Fall of 2014 marked my transition from architect to artist as it revealed the interpretation of architectural images and the individual meanings and shapes evoked by the elements they contain. Living and working in the Middle East has exposed me to the inspiring architecture of the region, both old and new. In this body of work I explored iconic structures and their shapes of purpose and meaning.

The process I use in creating the works for this exhibition is a mono-print technique. Each mono-print work is the combination and interaction of layers of pencil drawing over oil paper, over an oil painted foil on glass. The result of this interconnecting play of paint, pressure and plates creates only one (mono) positive and negative print.

The intended and unintended pressure and energy of my hand and pencil, augmented by specialised transposing tools, helps me transform an architectural perspective and idea into an individualised interpretation of the connective forms of captured spaces.

Explore the visual experience of discovered layers of imagery, structure and spirit, created by the interaction of pencil, paint, paper and foil and the free spirited movement of a new artist's hand.

Running Wild

interact, instruct and explore with emerging artists an interchange of ideas and perspectives that will result in an advanced understanding and appreciation of the regional creative arts. Coupled with the UAE investment in art venues for the display, performance and appreciation of arts of all kind, I believe there is no finer venue or location to craft an art foundation and career.

If you had to pick one subject to paint, what would you say is your favourite and why?
I find extreme satisfaction in the challenge of trying to capture on canvas the beauty, magic and energy of a horse or horses in motion. I have been drawn to the unharnessed power and gracefulness of movement of the wild horse. A horse's complex form in motion, accentuated by direct or reflective sunlight in a remote natural setting, that is an inspiring equine image I enjoy capturing in a compelling play of paint, brush and canvas.

When did you create your first artwork based on a horse?
When I was in my initial art learning phase as a 12 year old, I had created an oil painting of a black Arabian Stallion in a sandstorm at the Philadelphia Museum Art School in the USA.

Would you say your interest in equine subjects has been influenced by living in Dubai, a country synonymous with horses?
No doubt, the love of horses of all types by the UAE and GCC Royals, Nationals and many international residents, whether the horses are in the wild, endurance, polo, racing or recreational, this region creates the perfect environment to enjoy, observe and capture on canvas the finest and most beautiful horses in the world.

What is it about the horse, that enthuses you most?
The unpredictability of the power of the horse.

You mentioned you are starting a polo series, what aspects do you hope to capture in particular, compared to, for instance, your series on horse racing?
The singular connectivity between horse and rider. Combine that grace in motion with the intensive powerful and at times chaotic interplay and commotion of competing polo sides.

Are you planning to experiment with different mediums in the future?
As a 'Young-at-Heart' artist, I will continue to learn about and experiment with all mediums in the fine arts world. I will attempt to push the limits of the mono-printing process, combining the unpredictable interaction of the transfer of oil paints on metal, layered with different types of textured paper. I have an intense drive to learn and expand my understanding and experiences in the creation of form, shape and colour, in both oil and watercolour painting. Whether capturing horses in motion, a mountain village and resident musicians at sunset, or depicting a wind hurled sailing vessel viewed from the depths of a crystal clear Mediterranean lagoon, visually capturing and creatively representing these images in my evolving artistic style provides great motivation of forever expanding my craft and hand as an artist.

After your polo series, what else would you like to focus on?
I will continue to reach back to my architectural foundation, to explore and discover a creative process of capturing the unforeseen vibrational energy in building structures and landscapes and the interconnectivity between animals, humans, nature and the built Middle East environment.



Formula 1

Joe Seward

Today Lewis Hamilton is the biggest star of Formula 1. He's in the process of negotiating a new contract with Mercedes-Benz that could be worth as much as \$50 million a year. The price tag is what comes from being the best in a sport that is watched across the world. The best drivers haven't always been paid as well as Hamilton, but racing stardom has always been a lucrative business. Lucrative and risky. No one in F1 races for the money. They race because they like going fast and like winning. The money, and the kudos that comes with it, are the perks of the job.

Hamilton is the next link in a chain of Formula 1 drivers that goes back more almost 60 years to names who are not so well known today: Giuseppe Farina, Juan Manuel Fangio and Alberto Ascari.

Formula 1 was born out of a post-war desire to change the structures of motor racing. Before the war there was simply Grand Prix racing and a smaller class called 'Voiturettes'. In 1946 the The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA, English: International Automobile Federation) decided to redefine its categories and came up with rules for a Formula A and a Formula B. The Formula A cars would be bigger and faster than the Formula B's.

In the 18 months that followed the names somehow changed into Formula 1 and Formula 2. No one is quite sure why. It is claimed that the first Formula 1 race was in Nice in the summer of 1946, but this was simply because the rules for the race happened to correspond to the new formula. The first proper F1 race was in March 1948, at Pau. Two years later, after the formula had been proved a little, a World Championship was launched. It was somewhat inevitable that the first years of the series were dominated by Alfa Romeo, which had developed versions of the pre-war 158 model with teammates Giuseppe Farina and Juan Manuel Fangio fighting for the title. The Italian Farina was the first World Champion. Fangio, from Argentina, won the second in 1951. The Alfa Romeo domination was such that the FIA decided to change the rules and in 1952 and 1953 the World Championship was run for cars that complied with Formula 2 regulations. The result was two years of Ferrari domination but then a new set of rules in 1954 opened up the competition. Maserati and Ferrari were joined by Mercedes-Benz and the German marque, with Fangio driving, winning the titles in 1954 and 1955 before the firm withdrew after a terrible sports car accident at Le Mans that killed more than 80 people. Fangio, the sport's biggest star in the early years, switched to Ferrari and won a fourth title in 1956 and then jumped to Maserati to take a fifth in 1957.

However by then a revolution was underway in the sport. British teams began to emerge to beat the continental teams. This was due largely to the fact that young British engineers built their own cars because of high import duties at home. They raced them on the many deserted aerodromes that had been built during the war. The first efforts with Vanwall were moderately successful in 1957 but the big breakthrough came a year later when John Cooper's rear-engined cars took F1 by storm. The rising tide of British involvement led to Ferrari signing two young British rising stars Mike Hawthorn and Peter Collins. Hawthorn was the first British World Champion in 1958, driving for Ferrari.



The Ferrari pits before practice for the 1962 Monaco Grand Prix. Photo: Grand Prix Photo

In the years that followed it was Cooper that dominated with Australian Jack Brabham, but then the rules changed and Ferrari fought back and America got its first World Champion in Phil Hill in 1961. In the early 1960s, however, it was British marques BRM and Lotus that dominated thanks to innovations from brilliant engineers such as Colin Chapman of Lotus. Scotland's Jim Clark won the World Championship in 1963 and 1965 and should have won as well in 1964 but a mechanical failure handed the title to Ferrari's John Surtees in the last race.

Another rule change in 1967 changed the F1 landscape and Brabham took advantage of this to become the first (and thus far only) driver to win the World Championship with a car bearing his own name. Brabham's genius was not to over-complicate. His Repco engines were simple and effective, while his rivals strove more complicated solutions.

The arrival of the Cosworth DFV engine in 1967 provided what amounted to a standard engine, which allowed new teams to enter the sport. McLaren quickly grew to be a force to be reckoned with, while BRM faded away. The death of Jim Clark in 1968 shocked the sport, as it showed in chilling terms that no-one was invulnerable. The emphasis remained on new technology with gas turbines, four-wheel-drive, advanced aerodynamics and much more beside all being tried. The impact of television began to be felt and racing stars began to move into the world of celebrity, notably Graham Hill, who became something of a national figure in the UK. Money became more and more important and teams turned to commercial sponsors. The French began to arrive in F1 with the Elf Oil company funding Matra, providing Ken Tyrrell with a competitive chassis to mate with a Cosworth engine and Jackie Stewart won his first of three titles with Tyrrell in 1969. The team would build its own cars for Stewart to win titles in 1971 and 1973. Lotus won in 1970, but the dangers of the sport were highlighted with the death of Jochen Rindt, who would become the sport's first and only posthumous World Champion.

While Stewart would start a campaign to improve safety, at the same time Bernie Ecclestone took over the Brabham team, whilst beginning his campaigns to develop the commercial rights of Formula One. In the same era the battle for the 1976 World Championship became international news as the wayward James Hunt fought for the title with Niki Lauda, the Austrian fighting back from a near-fatal accident that left him badly scarred.

New stars emerged in the exciting Gilles Villeneuve, although he was killed in 1982 – France's Alain Prost and Nelson Piquet from Brazil.



Niki Lauda (Ferrari) and James Hunt (McLaren-Ford) in the pits before the 1976 Brazilian Grand Prix at Interlagos. Photo: Grand Prix Photo



Niki Lauda (Ferrari) leads James Hunt (McLaren-Ford) in the 1976 Spanish Grand Prix at Jarama. Photo: Grand Prix Photo



Michael Schumacher (Ferrari) crosses the line to win the 2001 San Marino Grand Prix at Imola. Photo: Grand Prix Photo



Lorenzo Bandini (Ferrari) at Casino Square during practice for the 1962 Monaco Grand Prix. Photo: Grand Prix Photo

Local police watch the start of the 1964 Belgian Grand Prix in Spa-Francorchamps. On the front row are Dan Gurney (Brabham-Climax - 15), Graham Hill (BRM - 1) and Jack Brabham (Brabham-Climax - 14). Second row is Peter Arundell (Lotus-Climax - 24) and John Surtees (Ferrari - 10) while Jim Clark (Lotus-Climax - 23) is on the outside of row three. Photo: Grand Prix Photo





Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) in the 2015 Australian Grand Prix in Albert Park, Melbourne. Photo: Grand Prix Photo

The FIA reacted to Ecclestone’s commercial moves and there was an unsettled period that would lead to the Concorde Agreement, a deal between the teams and the FIA. The teams won the right to negotiate television deals on behalf of FIA and the governing body.

The increasing importance of aerodynamics was highlighted by Team Lotus’s ground-effect cars in 1978 but then Williams became the dominant force in the early 1980s. By then, however, turbocharged engines, which Renault had introduced in 1977, became more and more successful and by the mid-1980s these were producing as much as 1500hp. The FIA fought back, limiting horsepower by restricting the amount of fuel allowed. This was the era in which McLaren-TAG, Williams-Honda and ultimately McLaren-Honda were dominant.

Eventually, to cut costs and make the sport safer, turbo engines were banned. Other bans would follow to stop the development of electronic systems such as traction-control, active suspension and semi-automatic gearboxes which were reckoned to be reducing the importance of the drivers. The new era of normally-aspirated engines resulted in the arrival of the V10 engine and the domination of the ‘Williams-Renault’ in the 1990’s. The rivalry between Ayrton Senna and Prost became F1’s central focus in 1988, and continued until Prost retired at the end of 1993. Senna died at the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix, another huge shock to the sport and the FIA under Max Mosley began a safety crusade that would take the sport to new levels.



Nico Rosberg and Lewis Hamilton take selfie photos of the new Mercedes at the launch before the Formula 1 test in Jerez in early February 2015. Photo: Grand Prix Photo



Giuseppe Farina and Toule de Graffenried watch as test driver Consalvo Sanes enters an Alfa Romeo during a test at Monza in ca. 1951. Photo: Grand Prix Photo



Alan Jones (Williams-Ford) in the 1980 United States Grand Prix East in Watkins Glen. Photo: Grand Prix Photo



Giuseppe Farina (Ferrari) enters the Karussell corner in the 1952 German Grand Prix at the Nurburgring. Photo: Grand Prix Photo



Jochen Rindt (Lotus-Ford), Jackie Stewart (Tyrrell Matra-Ford) and Graham Hill (Lotus-Ford) on the front row before the 1969 Dutch Grand Prix in Zandvoort. Photo: Grand Prix Photo



Alain Prost leads McLaren-Honda team-mate Ayrton Senna in the 1987 Japanese Grand Prix in Suzuka. Photo: Grand Prix Photo



Ayrton Senna (McLaren-Ford) takes the lead from Alain Prost (Williams-Renault) on the first lap of the 1993 European Grand Prix at Donington Park. Behind them is Damon Hill. Photo: Grand Prix Photo



The start of the 1957 French Grand Prix in Rouen. On the first row: Juan-Manul Fangio (Maserati number 4), Jean Behra (Maserati 4) and Luigi Musso (Ferrari -10). Photo: Grand Prix Photo



Nico Rosberg and Lewis Hamilton (both Mercedes) and Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari) on the podium after the 2015 Australian Grand Prix in Albert Park, Melbourne. Photo: Grand Prix Photo



Nico Rosberg and Lewis Hamilton (both Mercedes) on the podium after the 2015 Australian Grand Prix in Albert Park, Melbourne. Photo: Grand Prix Photo



High drama in F1. Felipe Massa (Ferrari) sprays the champagne while in tears on the podium after the 2008 championship finale, the Brazilian Grand Prix at Interlagos in Sao Paulo. Massa won the race but had lost the title. Photo: Grand Prix Photo



Nico Rosberg and Lewis Hamilton (both Mercedes) spray champagne on the podium after the 2015 Australian Grand Prix in Albert Park, Melbourne. Photo: Grand Prix Photo

Sebastian Vettel (Red Bull-Renault) celebrates his eighth win in a row after the 2013 United States Grand Prix in Austin, Texas in front of TV camera photographer. Photo: Grand Prix Photo



Because of the technology involved, the cost of competing in Formula One rose dramatically and the car manufacturers began to buy into the team to protect their investments, forcing the smaller teams to struggle. Several well known names – notably Lotus and Tyrrell – disappeared and a large number of new teams failed as well. By the end of the 1990s, after a period of success for McLaren with Mika Hakkinen, Ferrari became the dominant force with Michael Schumacher, who had previously won titles in 1994 and 1995 with Benetton. Schumacher and Ferrari smashed all the F1 records between 1999 and 2004 but then Renault emerged with Spaniard Fernando Alonso becoming the youngest Formula One World Champion in 2005 and then winning again in 2006. There were titles for Kimi Raikkonen in 2007 and Jenson Button in 2009 and then Red Bull became the force with Adrian Newey's dominant cars, with which Sebastian Vettel won four titles from 2010-2013. It took them six years to get up to speed, having taken over the Jaguar F1 Team from the Ford Motor Company in 2004. The pressure for success became intense and the

general standard of morality dropped and F1 was beset by scandals over the manipulation of race results and industrial espionage. There was also poor publicity resulting from the fights over the control of the commercial rights as the teams demanded a better share of the revenues from Bernie Ecclestone.

But the racing goes on, the small specialist teams survive and continue to try to beat the goliaths. The job is not getting any easier but the passion continues to drive them on. Big sponsors and manufacturers come and go but the sport lives on with or without them. And it remains as popular as ever, even if pay-TV has cut into the audience.

F1 stars come and go and right now we have Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg in the leading roles. Hamilton won three of the four opening races of the year... but Vettel has won a race for a Ferrari and seems to be a threat for further success.

Drama is never far away. The history and emotion of F1 adds a new chapter every year...



2013 Vettel bows down in homage before his Red Bull Renault Indian GP 2013. Grand Prix Photo



Felipe Massa crashes his Williams at the start of the German GP 2014 Grand Prix Photo

F1 Race List

| | |
|--------|--------------------------|
| Mar 15 | Australian Grand Prix |
| Mar 29 | Malaysia Grand Prix |
| Apr 12 | Chinese Grand Prix |
| Apr 19 | Bahrain Grand Prix |
| May 10 | Spanish Grand Prix |
| May 24 | Monaco Grand Prix |
| Jun 7 | Canadian Grand Prix |
| Jun 21 | Austrian Grand Prix |
| Jul 5 | British Grand Prix |
| Jul 19 | German Grand Prix |
| Jul 26 | Hungarian Grand Prix |
| Aug 23 | Belgian Grand Prix |
| Sep 6 | Italian Grand Prix |
| Sep 20 | Singapore Grand Prix |
| Sep 27 | Japanese Grand Prix16 |
| Oct 11 | Russian Grand Prix |
| Oct 25 | United States Grand Prix |
| Nov 1 | Mexican Grand Prix |
| Nov 15 | Brazilian Grand Prix |
| Nov 29 | Abu Dhabi Grand Prix |

Ayrton Senna (Williams-Renault) on the grid before the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix in Imola. He was killed in the event. Photo: Grand Prix Photo



New Year's Eve Party on Copacabana Beach

Brazil is a prime luxury holiday destination that boasts breathtaking natural beauty, scenic city beaches, first class hotels and world famous cultural events and tourist attractions.

Rio de Janeiro nicknamed ‘cidade maravilhosa’ – the marvellous city – should be your base and starting point. The city has a fine array of luxury hotels that line the world famous beaches of Copacabana and Ipanema, as well as some of the world’s most recognised tourist attractions.

The Copacabana Palace in the city’s South Zone is probably the city’s most famous hotel. Staff at your hotel will be able to arrange English speaking drivers and guides to show you the city and its variety of spectacular attractions.

Rio hosted the 2014 football World Cup, which was widely regarded the most successful in years and is now gearing up to host the 2016 Olympics, as a result the city is seeing huge investment and crime rates have fallen dramatically in recent years, although are still far higher than European capitals. The two biggest annual events in Rio’s calendar are the world famous carnival, which happens in February and New Year’s Eve, known as ‘Réveillon’. Both events attract millions of foreign and domestic tourists.

Rio’s Itanhangá Club host regular polo matches and year round horse racing can be found at the Jockey Club, which is home to Brazil’s most distinguished race.

However no trip to Brazil is complete without a visit to Rio’s sophisticated sister city São Paulo – the financial capital of Latin America, just an hour from Rio by plane - which lacks Rio’s natural beauty but makes up for it with style and attitude.

São Paulo’s style and attitude are on display at distinguished annual events such as Brazil’s most prestigious polo tournament, the São Jose Gold Cup, held in May, as well as the Brazilian Grand Prix and the São Paulo fashion week, which is the fifth largest in the world.

Summers are the opposite to Europe and between November and March are the best times to visit weather wise with long days on the beach stretching out until 9pm. Rio boasts all year round good weather except the rainy season in October, while São Paulo’s temperatures drift between that of a European summer and autumn.

February

Carnival in Rio



Rio de Janeiro’s world famous street carnival is described as ‘the greatest show on earth’ and attracts millions of foreign and domestic tourists. Party goers in fancy dress congregate at various points across the city where sound systems and live bands thump out Rio’s traditional samba music.

During the day, the hillside Santa Teresa neighbourhood hosts the best of the traditional ‘blocos’ or street parties such as Carmelitas and Céu na Terra.

‘Blocos’ are hectic, high energy affairs with live drums and raucous dancing, not for the faint hearted, but if you’re feeling boisterous, buy a mask, grab a caipirinha – Brazil’s signature cocktail made from sugar cane rum and lime and let it all hang loose.

In the evenings, Rio’s numerous samba schools converge at the Sambódromo stadium for the competition parade. Expect elaborate floats, dance routines and acrobatics in a jaw dropping display that the schools practice all year for.

March

Football Derby at the Carioca Cup in Rio



Rio’s legendary Carioca Cup Championship is one of the oldest and most prestigious football tournaments in Brazil, ‘país do futebol’ – the land of football. Top local teams include Flamengo, Botafogo, Vasco da Gama and Fluminenses, who are all fierce

rivals and will have all to play for come March.

Rio’s Maracanã stadium is widely considered the mecca of South American football and was recently refurbished for the 2014 world cup where the final was played. It is also the ground where Brazil suffered their most painful defeat, apart from the 7-1 against Germany, when they lost to Uruguay in the 1950 World Cup final.

April

São Paulo Fashion week

São Paulo Fashion Week is Latin America’s most highly regarded fashion event and it is considered the fifth largest fashion week, behind New York, London, Paris and Milan when it comes to business volume, influence and style.

More than a million people visited São Paulo Fashion Week in 2014, compared to one hundred thousand in 1996 - its first year. The event is held each year in the Bienal building in Ibirapuera park, designed by Brazil’s most loved modernist architect Oscar Niemeyer.

International designer labels like Gucci, Chanel and Versace can be seen alongside high-end Brazilian brands like Cavaleira, Ellus, Triton and Colcci. Brazilian supermodels like Gisele Bundchen, Isabeli Fontana, Ana Claudia Michels and Alessandra Ambrosio began their careers here.

May

Polo in São Paulo

The São Jose Gold cup is Brazil’s most prestigious polo tournament and brings together the country’s ten best polo teams, over 15 days. The event is held at the São Jose Polo grounds in Campinas, which is a satellite town of São Paulo.

São Jose Gold cup began in 2010 and today the event receives wide media coverage, attracting on average over 2000 guests. The event is sponsored by several luxury brands and acts as a platform for doing business in Brazil.

June

Horse racing in Rio – Grande Prêmio Brasil

The Grande Prêmio Brasil is Brazil’s most important horse race held at Hipódromo da Gávea – known locally as ‘Jockey Club.’

The gruelling 2.4km race has been held every summer since 1933 – thoroughbred horses, jockeys and trainers compete throughout the year to qualify. The race is world renowned, often featuring participants from racing powerhouses such as United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, France, South Africa, Australia and Argentina.

Festas Juninas in Rio

Happening throughout June, Festa Junina celebrations are like carnival ‘blocos’ but on a smaller scale and many Brazilian’s prefer the event to carnival due to its more laid back intimate atmosphere.

Festa Junina is a traditional festival celebrated in honour of Saint John the Baptist and some of the best parties take place in Rio’s Santa Teresa neighbourhood.

July

Paraty Literature Festival

Paraty is a fully conserved 18th century colonial town and UNESCO world heritage site, hidden by tall jungle covered mountains. The town is located just a few hours outside of Rio on the ‘Costa Verde’, or known as the ‘Green Coast’ because of the lush, green corridor that runs along the coastline of Rio state.

Each July, it holds a Literary Festival attended by some of the best national authors and guest international writers. The festival was devised by English publisher Liz Calder, co-founder of Bloomsbury Publishing, who lived in Brazil and was the literary agent for several Brazilian authors.

Away from the festival, there are many outdoor attractions such as stand-up paddle, diving, snorkelling, kayaking and hiking.



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FEATURE DESTINATION



August

Olympics and Paralympics

The 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held in Rio and is the first tournament to be held in South America. While spread over three venues, the majority of games will be happening at the Olympic Park in the upscale Barra Da Tijuca neighbourhood.

After the internationally recognised success of the 2014 Football World Cup, there are high hopes for the Olympics. Book well in advance as hotel rooms are expected to go fast.

September

Rio Film Festival

Rio Film Festival is the oldest and most distinguished film festival in Latin America. Brazil has one of the strongest film industries in the world outside Hollywood, producing classics such as City of God, Elite Squad and Central Station.

The festival airs the best local and international films and takes place at different venues across the city each year.

October

Oktober Fest, Blumenau Santa Catarina

Blumenau in the Southern Brazil state of Santa Catarina, holds the largest Oktober Fest celebrations in the America's and the second largest after the original Oktober Fest in Munich, attracting over one million tourists over sixteen days.

The nearest airport is Ministro Victor Konder International Airport, which is about a two hour flight from Rio de Janeiro.

November

São Paulo Grand Prix



The São Paulo Grand Prix is one of Brazil's best loved sporting events if for no other reason than it gives them a chance to reminisce about Artyon Senna, one of Brazil's favourite sporting sons. Today Senna is fondly remembered as a passionate and patriotic Brazilian. The race takes place at the thunderous Autódromo José Carlos Pace in the Interlagos neighbourhood.

December

Réveillon – New Year's

New Years in Rio is one of the most spectacular in the world and Rio's second biggest event after carnival. Millions of revellers dressed in white, head to Copacabana beach as navy cruisers fire fireworks from the sea in a tremendous 30 minute long display when the clock reaches midnight. You can either watch the display from the roof of your hotel, or get involved with the action on the beach. After the fireworks, there is a ritual tradition of throwing flowers into the sea and jumping the waves to please the Gods of the sea. Entire families set up on the beach with drinks coolers, barbecues and deck chairs, camping until the sun comes up the next day. There are several live music stages, past acts have included international stars such as David Guetta. If you are looking for something more laid back head to neighbouring Ipanema.

Places to visit

Christ the Redeemer statue

Widely considered the eighth wonder of the world, ‘Cristo Redentor’ or Christ the Redeemer is undoubtedly Brazil’s most iconic landmark. Standing nearly 40m tall, the statue overlooks the city from the 700m tall Corcovado mountain in the Tijuca Forest National Park. Use the monorail service to access the statue, which is available in the Cosme Velho neighbourhood.

Copacabana and Ipanema beach

Rio de Janeiro’s South Zone is home to perhaps the world’s finest city beaches Copacabana and Ipanema which are separated by an idyllic rocky peninsula known as Arpoador. After a hard day’s sightseeing, sip on a fresh coconut or maybe a caipirinha, until the sun sets. Stand-up paddle and surfing options are also available and deck chairs and umbrellas can be rented.

Sugarloaf Mountain

Pão de Açúcar or ‘Sugarloaf Mountain’, is a peak situated at the mouth of Guanabara Bay on a peninsula that sticks out into the Atlantic Ocean. Nearly 400m above the harbour, a cable car runs along a 1400m route between the peaks of Pão de Açúcar and Morro da Urca, every 20 minutes.

Botanical Gardens

Founded in 1808 by King John VI of Portugal, the Botanical Gardens have a diverse mixture of Brazilian and foreign flora with around 6,500 species (some endangered) distributed throughout an area of 54 hectares. The Garden also houses monuments of historical, artistic and archaeological significance.

Ilha Grande

Ilha Grande, literally meaning ‘large island’, is a stunning tropical island paradise of fauna and breathtaking beaches about 150km from Rio’s city centre. The island’s Lopes Mendes beach is consistently voted one of the best beaches in the world, with many activities on offer, including boat trips, hiking, surfing and snorkelling.

Santa Teresa

Santa Teresa is Rio’s oldest neighbourhood, originally an 18th Century hillside convent. Today it is the city’s most bohemian neighbourhood, home to some of the city’s best ‘boteccos’ or bars such as Simplimente, Bar do Minero or Bar do Gomes – a favourite hangout of great train robber Ronnie Biggs. Aprazivel is the neighbourhood’s best restaurant, serving modern Brazilian cuisine, while The Santa Teresa Hotel has a swimming pool and is a great chill-out spot.



Christ the Redeemer Statue

Jockey Club Rio

The Hipódromo da Gávea, or ‘Jockey Club’ as known locally in Rio, is one of the most visually stunning horse racing tracks in the world, with the panoramic view of the Lagoa Lagoon as a backdrop. The complex hosts numerous festivals, exhibitions and music concerts throughout the year. Racing is held four times a week on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays.

Niterói Contemporary Art Museum

Just a short boat-ride across Rio’s Guanabara Bay, the Niterói Contemporary Art Museum is a modernist structure that looks like a UFO, designed by Brazil’s beloved architect Oscar Niemeyer.

Búzios

About a two hour drive from downtown Rio, Buzio’s is a small peninsula quintessential holiday destination, for affluent Rio locals, that has several beautiful beaches, an abundance of night clubs and is popular with upper class Brazilian youth.

Petropolis

Petropolis is a historic colonial town in the mountains that was the summer residence of the Brazilian Emperors and aristocrats in the 19th century giving it the nickname ‘Imperial City.’

Floresta da Tijuca

Floresta da Tijuca is the world’s largest urban rain forest, home to hundreds of species of plants and wildlife, many threatened by extinction.

São Paulo

While São Paulo lacks Rio’s beaches and natural beauty, it is one of Latin America’s most important cultural capitals and is also the richest city in the region. The city has multiple classic luxury five star hotels and great shopping options; especially the Shopping Iguatemi mall, which hosts São Paulo’s most sophisticated shopping centre for decades, with 360 chic boutiques from international brands such as Burberry and Tiffany & Co.

São Paulo is world renowned for its dining options and is home to Brazil’s and South America’s finest restaurant – D.O.M. which has two Michelin Stars. The city houses the largest Japanese population outside of Japan, and as such great sushi options are a plenty.

The city has a plethora of cultural options such as the gallery Galeria Luciana Brito and museums like Museu Paulista. The Municipal Theatre is a great place to take in a show in the evening. ‘Paulistanos’ – as the locals are commonly referred to as, are work hard/party hard people, so it is fitting that São Paulo is famous for its nightlife with thousands of bars and discotheques, with D Edge being one of the best.



Ipanema Beach in the evening



Paraty Town at Paraty, Rio do Janeiro, Brazil



São Paulo



Rio de Janeiro and Sugarloaf Mountain from Corcovado

Restaurants, Museums, Galleries & Nightclubs

While Rio’s strongest asset is undoubtedly its natural beauty, the city is considered along with Cape Town in South Africa, to be one of the most stunning cities in the world. It boasts world class restaurants, museums, galleries and nightclubs. Brazil’s diverse immigrant and indigenous populations (Europeans, Africans, Arabs, Japanese, Indians) have given it a wide and eclectic cuisine which ranges from European styles in the South, to more African flavours in the arid North East, to the tropical fruity delights of the Amazon region.

‘Arroz e feijão’ – rice and beans, are Brazilian staples served with most dishes, as are meat and fish, and with Brazil being one of the world’s largest producers of both, the quality is generally superb. Some signature Brazilian dishes well worth checking out include ‘feijoada’ – a pork and black bean stew – and ‘moqueca’, a spicy fish and seafood stew made with coconut milk. Rio has six Michelin star restaurants – Lasai (Brazilian), Mee (pan Asian), Olympe (international), Oro (Brazilian), Le Pré Catelan (French) and Roberta Sudbrack (international). Other great options include dining at the Copacabana Palace, Espirito Santo in Santa Teresa

– which serves Amazonian food – and Mamma Jamma Pizzeria, the best pizza place in Rio.

For cultural options, catch a show at downtown’s Municipal Theatre, one of the most beautiful and important theatres in the country. Rio’s Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil (CCBB) is one of the most visited art museums in the world. The beautifully restored neoclassical building housing Rio’s Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil is itself a work of art and definitely worth a visit.

Rio’s traditional and cultural music centre is the Lapa neighbourhood which is situated close to the city centre. Carioca da Gema is widely considered the city’s best venue for live Samba music – Rio’s signature sound.

The Rio Scenarium is Rio’s mecca for Brazilian pop music, playing classic and contemporary tracks from local legends Tim Maia, Seu Jorge and Roberto Carlos, amongst others. For a more international clubbing experience, head to Barra Music in the upscale Barra da Tijuca neighbourhood.





A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white long-sleeved top and blue trousers, is looking at a mannequin. The mannequin is wearing a long, patterned dress with a blue and orange geometric design. The scene is set in a clothing store with other garments visible in the background.

Look forward
to finding a new
style in Dubai



DINING IN Dubai

For me, when packing important items for trips, on par with my passport, is a pre-written ‘To Eat List’. A product of rigorous research and ‘phone calls with indigenous chums, my Dubai list stood me in good stead, so I’m delighted to share it with you...

Yasemen Kaner-White



Chebab – Mama Tani



XVA Gallery



Cheese & Dibs – Mama Tani



Tomato Consomme – Al Maha



Trio of Creme Brulee – Al Maha

- * **Khameer Breads** – Bedouin inspired round puffy breads – fillings vary
- * **Chebabs** – Emirati pancake, often served with creamy laban & date syrup
- * **Balateet** – sweet noodles with raisins, pine nuts and omelette pieces
- * **Al Machboos** – rice based meaty feast, infused with dried lemons
- * **Camel** – soup, burger, steak, you name it, try it!
- * **Camelcino** – cappuccino made with camel milk
- * **Ligamat** – syrupy doughnuts
- * **Arabic coffee** – traditionally served with halwa (dense date sweet)
- * **Harees** – wheaty-meaty ‘porridge’ textured, hearty dish
- * **Bathith** – crumbly pudding made with dates
- * **Khabisah** – another date dessert, looks dense but surprisingly light
- * **Dates** – dates and more dates (local of course)
- * **Omani chips** – essentially spiced crisps
- * **Vimto drink** – originated in England, now a local staple

Determined to determine what authentic aliment in Dubai entails, I delved into local offerings from old Dubai to new Dubai – coffee shop to restaurant to food festival – to interviews with locals and celebrity chefs alike. Here is what I found:

DUBAI FOOD FESTIVAL AND MEETING CELEBRITY CHEF SILVENA ROWE

Luckily, Dubai Food Festival coincided with my trip. Mirroring the vast array of cuisines available in Dubai itself, the festival featured stands of food from all four corners of the world. Again, a true reflection of the city’s offerings – just a tiny proportion was local Emirati – which is where I tasted my first gooey sugary hit from a ligamat – local doughnut dowsed in syrup. Here I met up with celebrity chef Silvena Rowe, author of several cookbooks and founder of Quince restaurant in Mayfair, London. A fan of the authentic, Rowe gave me her insightful insight into what Emirati cuisine really is. “Emirati cuisine is a very small, limited cuisine, it is only 123 recipes, if that. Most food you eat in Dubai, is not cooked by a UAE or Emirati, it’s cooked by a Bangladeshi or Philippino...it’s very heavy, fried and fatty, cooked with ghee and oils”. Omnia, her local restaurant, is paving the way for creating a healthy Emirati alternative – gluten, sugar and diary free. She takes local staples for example harees, and creates a ‘superfood’ version called ‘Marry Me Harees’, “because when you eat it, it is so delicious, you want to marry me when you taste it, it is very light and healthy, without the fat and butter”. Her idea was that her food “should be palatable to western taste but still recongisable to local Emirati flavours”. For her latest project she is excited to partner with Emirates airline, as they have asked her to devise a menu for their first and business class, “they have a very strong identity with Emirati cuisine, for me the association with them is really great...my idea was that I always wanted an Emirati cuisine, just like Zuma/Nobu represents Japanese cuisine, why can’t I do the same for Emirati?”

NEXT BIG FOODIE FESTIVAL
Put the Gulf Food 8-12th Feb, 2016, Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC), in your diary. Celebrating the 20th edition of ‘Gulfood’: The world’s biggest annual food & hospitality show.

DINING OUTDOORS

Al Maha Resort
Soak up the desert atmosphere over a leisurely lunch, with a backdrop of sumptuous sand dunes. This resort screams luxury and lunch lived up to the expectation. I particularly liked the Umm Ali pudding, made with camel milk, best described as a nutty, fruity indulgent bread-pudding. Legend has it, a famished Sultan, whilst on a hunting trip in the



Yasemen Kaner-White with Celebrity Chef Silvena Rowe



Insalata Caprese – Al Maha



Trio of Market Tomato Salad – Al Maha

Nile delta, stopped for food at a village en-route. Locals urged the best chef – Umm Ali, to feed him. Using all she could find, later a pudding appeared, made from scraps of stale wheat leftovers, nuts, sultanas, coconut, milk and sugar. The Sultan’s delight made the pudding forever famous.
Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve, Dubai, Al Ain Road, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club
If a game of polo leaves you peckish, ask for the aptly named Groom’s Salad or a perfectly executed steak. Whether a game or practice is scheduled or not, the setting and high standard of food, makes for a lovely luncheon.
Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Road, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

EXPLORING THE EMIRATI DISHES IN LOCAL EATERIES – NEW DUBAI



Al Fanaar
A fascinating place. Not only is the food loyal to its city routes, the bona fide antique and convincing surroundings, throw you back to the inception of Dubai – to a home in the days when it was merely a

fishing village. Here, I had harees, a hearty dish of porridge texture, made from cracked wheat and meat – traditionally venison or lamb. Whilst pleasant, you can feel it literally sticking to your bones, exuding enough energy to set you up for the day, understandable then, why its a favourite after a day of fasting in Ramadan, before morning prayers. I particularly liked the Machboos Samak – fish and omani lemon infused rice and the vegetable heavy Margougat Laham – essentially lamb with veg. Whatever you order here, you can be sure it is faithful Emirati food, “all our dishes come from ancient recipes”, Ahmed Hassan, the Restaurant Manager assures me. “80% of our customers are local, coming from the GCC, only 20% are tourists”, and he appears to be right, for my American dinner companion and I, were indeed the only non-locals around. Every now and then the restaurant is cleared, for the ruling Sheikh himself, who comes often with international diplomatic and political guests – to showcase official Emirati cuisine; if it is good enough for the ruler...

DUBAI FESTIVAL CITY – DUBAI UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Mama Tani
Co-founder Maitha Al Shamsi, saw a gap in the market, she told me, “we saw so many eateries in Dubai, but nothing to represent the Emirati food, for that, you had to go home or to a very small cafe...it wasn’t just creating something for the tourists, it was also focussed on creating for the locals”. You can’t leave Dubai without eating a Khameer. (Bedouin inspired round flatbread), and Mama Tani is a specialist, moving with the times – gluten free is also available. The most traditional dishes are Khameer Chips Oman and The Cheese & Dibs – a locals favourite. Lex Stephen Moreno, the restaurant Manager divulged to me, “locals always ask for extra ingredients and are not satisfied unless their khameer oozes when bitten into”. When selecting your beverages, I would highly recommend a saffron/cardamom infused hot Karak tea, or to cool down, a prettily scented, almond ‘milkshake’ Rose Pista.
P.O. Box 4221, Dubai, UAE



Machboos Samak – Al Fanaar



Lemon Pound Cake – XVA Gallery



XVA Gallery



Camelino – The Majlis



Rose Cheesecake – Mama Tani



The Coffee Museum

The Majlis Dubai
Fulfilling all your camel milk desires – if you had any – and if you don’t – you should! every table gets an i-pad, advocating via numerous videos, the health benefits, ranging from suppressing diabetes to the huge Vit C content. Creamy, yet low fat, camel milk is the latest rage. Treat yourself to a Camelcino (cappuccino made with camel milk), camel halwa (sticky date pudding), camel chocolate bar – or indeed, as I did, to all three. The list goes on and they are all as expected – cameliscious.
Located in ‘The Souk’ of The Dubai Mall

Zuma
I don’t think I have ever visited Dubai without coming here. The internationally famous Japanese food is always exceptional, whilst not locally authentic, if a chic buzzy atmosphere is what you are after, then you won’t be let down.
Gate Village 6, Podium Level, Sheikh Zayed Road

La Petite Maison
Is one of the most popular restaurants in Dubai. Memories of coming here during my last trip, are still vivid, thanks to the exquisite culinary skills and combined flavour of French Mediterranean and Ligurian Italian.
Gate Village No, 8, Dubai International Financial Center, 312th Road

Old Dubai
As new Dubai boasts beautiful sleek, modern eateries, by contrast old Dubai stands for affordable authentic, without compromising on quality. Michelin starred chef Atul Kochhar is a renowned fan, noting the vast South Asian community in Bur Dubai, he acknowledges the celebration of their cuisine, saying it is here “some of the best Indian restaurants outside India” can be found. For me, I love the fact you can go back in time and cross the Dubai Creek to get to Grand Souq in Bur Dubai, built around 1830 AD, it is one of the oldest souks in the city. Foodies should bypass the gold and mattress souks and head for the herb souk (souq al-doweyyat) for all your spice and herbal medicine requirements, for instance pollen water – a ‘tonic for the heart’, zamooth water – ‘natural pain killer’ or royal palm water – ‘thirst quenching’. Whatever your ailment; vendors are on hand with a cure. I stock up on dried lemon powder, saffron and copious tea blends, difficult to find elsewhere.

XVA Gallery, old Dubai
This courtyard gem of a restaurant and art gallery, found within the famed arty area of Bastikiya, with its fresh colourful, crisp Mediterranean inspired meals, is a real catch. Make sure you start with a fresh mint and lemon smoothie, finishing with a slice of owner – Mona Hauser’s lovingly made lemon pound cake. Knowing I’m a citrus fan, she insisted I try a slice – the best lemon pound cake yet!
Al Fahidi St, Bur Dubai, Al Fahidi Neighbourhood (formerly Bastakiya)

The Coffee Museum
Taken on a caffeine-induced journey from the legend of Kaldi – the Ethiopian goatherd, who noted how his flock ate some ‘unknown’ berries and stayed alert throughout the night, later inspiring a drink to be prepared using them, by worshippers in a local monastery – aiding their long hours of prayers – to tracing the spread of this wondrous drink from the Arabian peninsula to the rest of the world. Serving as a platform exhibiting regional styles of coffee from Ethiopian, Arabic to Japanese, it’s worth a visit.
69 - 69 Al Faheide, Dubai

EXPERIENCE...

Brunch
Synonymous with Dubai, is the Dubai brunch. Most hotels offer a version but shortlisted in Dubai’s Time-Out 2015 guide – ‘10th Annual Dubai Restaurant Awards’ are – Al Qasr, Madinat Jumeirah, Bubblicious, The Westin Dubai Mina Seyahi Beach Resort & Marina and Crescendo, Anantara Dubai The Palm Resort & Spa.

Global Village



When I heard there was a place offering a host of food and products from all over the globe, my feet didn’t touch the ground – I had to visit. Best described as a fun family day out, a plethora of fairground rides keeping the kiddiewinks happy, whilst adults can indulge in a rich cultural experience. As their site states ‘serving in the respective country’s culinary tradition... you can feast and dine from a different country, for a lasting memory’. Great for shopping, it was Global Village where I found the best priced (after a little haggling) and richest variety of Zataar – local spice staple.
Sheik Mohammed Bin Zayed Rd, Exit No. 37

STAYING IN – BORED OF ROOM SERVICE?

Notoriously late-night eaters, the locals have a number of 24 hour on-call deliveries, from more food outlets than imaginable. ‘Talabat’ is the number one online food delivery in Dubai.

SAMPLING South Africa's FAMED FOODS

Yasemen Kaner-White



Boerewors



Gold



Baobab, coconut, honeybush, caramel – The Tasting Room



Snow Globe – The Tasting Room



Snoek

- * **Bobotie** – considered the national dish, fruity curried mince with an egg custard topping
- * **Braai** – South African for BBQ – synonymous with their culture
- * **Biltong** – cured dried raw meat
- * **Boerewors** – sausages
- * **Pap** – mielie-meal, similar to polenta, crumbly harder version; Krummelpap
- * **Chakalaka** – spicy vegetables
- * **Bunny Chow** – a bread loaf filled with meat curry
- * **Vetkoek** – fried dough bread filled with beef mince
- * **Koeksister** – doughnuts soaked in lemony syrup
- * **Springbok & Kudu** – interestingly even though indigenous, when the health benefits came to light – prices went up – now pricer than lamb and beef!
- * **Snoek** – popular fish – hard to find elsewhere, so get it while you can!
- * **Seafood**
- * **Rooibus** – caffeine free tea, grown locally
- * **Buchu** – leaves are used to make a tea
- * **Num Num** – Carissa macrocarpa – Natal Plum
- * **Sour Fig** – often used to make a conserve
- * **Wine** – if you drink alcohol, this is one of the best countries to sample local wines
- * **Amasi** – popular fermented milk drink
- * **Mrs Balls Peach Chutney** – in every SA household, the ‘to go to’ condiment

FOOD MARKETS

Villa Zille Oranjezicht City Farm

Oranjezicht City Farm (OZCF) is a neighbourhood non-profit project embracing local produce, culture and the community in Cape Town. On a sunny day in early March this year, I would not have wanted to be anywhere else. It's a great opportunity to get to grips with the latest Cape Town food scene, to sample and buy locally grown harvests, that have been inflicted with traditional South African cooking methods. The perfect place to sit and sip on a cooling Buchu lemonade...

Villa Zille, Upper Orange Street, Corner Sidmouth Avenue in Oranjezicht

The Old Biscuit Mill

I was told this is where the locals come to shop – what better recommendation could you ask for? it was here, that I picked up an array of biltong (as long as it's vacuum packed, it's fine to fly with) from beef to springbok to tuna. To my delight I spotted jars of Mrs Balls chutney, sadly no socks to wrap them in due to the sunny climate, however, where there's a will there's a way, so with strategic packing – I managed to bring home a few jars – worth the effort! I would suggest going early, to miss the morning traffic of locals out to grab a bargain.

375 Albert Road, Woodstock, Cape Town, 7915, South Africa

*Don't Forget to Eat Local Fresh Fish,
Try – Kalk Bay, Waterfront & Die Strandloper*

Due to logistics, fresh seafood is very accessible. Lunch consisting of a huge seafood sharing platter in Cape Town Fish Market restaurant in V & A Waterfront, fulfills all your fish desires, with a backdrop of Table Mountain, it's very special. Kalk Bay is worth visiting to see the boats coming in and locals buying fish straight from them, the dock is quaint and sells the freshest fish and chips around – Hake, Yellow Tail or Snoek are the ones to go for, calamari is also a good bet. Die Strandloper is arguably the best for seafood, go on Sunday for pots of everything 'seafood', from calamari to crab.

LUNCHEON AT A VINEYARD

La Petite Ferme



Listed by Conde Nast Traveller as one of the top 15 'Best Value' establishments in the world, owner Mark Dendy Young, proudly gave me a tour of his wine cellar, located beneath his raved about restaurant, nestled in the hills overlooking the Franschhoek Valley. "In the wine industry, having a cellar or a farm is like breeding horses, where you can have the best mare, the best stallion, the best jockey, the best stabling, everything, but as with wine, where you can have the best vineyards, soils, winemaker and barrels – you don't necessarily always have a winner". That said, his winery is award winning and the food furthers its renowned reputation.

Lambrechts Road, Franschhoek, 7690, South Africa

Grande Provence Heritage Wine Estate

Simply a stunning property in a gorgeous setting, a meal here is bound to give a lasting memory. Executive Chef Darren Badenhorst talked with me about the importance of it's location, "a lot of the influence comes from the fact that we are in the winelands, within my cooking I use the grape skins to add tartness, the juice for pickling and the staves and vine trimmings for smoking." Foraging, which is becoming big in South Africa, also plays a big role on his menu, with "edible flowers, berries and an array of seasonal mushrooms from the nearby pine forests". When asked why he focusses on French/Asian cuisine, he says, "there are so many influences in the South African cuisine, it's acceptable to mix, the cuisine ranges from Cape Malay in Cape Town to Indian in Durban, it's impossible to put your finger on what is South African, the diversity



of it, is a good thing but it's not quite as flashy as other cuisines, so for example Asian cuisine, you can play with it a lot, the French side reflects the culinary building blocks – I was trained the classical French way, so I use that to build on". To really capture the surrounding area, I would recommend the Beetroot cured Franschhoek Smoked Trout Gravlax. *Main Road, Franschhoek, 7690, South Africa*

RESTAURANTS

The Quarterdeck; inside the Portsworld Hotel
Chef talk with Executive Chef Craig Paulse
Brought up in Indian influenced Durban, Paulse has found himself now specialising in Cape Malay cuisine, heading what used to be a prison – The Quaterdeck Restaurant, “in–fact Nelson Mandela was held here before being sent to Robben Island”. Far from a ‘prison sentence’, I had the pleasure of eating the famed Chef’s Feast with the Chef himself. What struck me most, was that each curry tasted completely different, due to the fact that they don’t use one base sauce – like many Asian restaurants do for convenience, instead, they are all made from scratch. It was here that I had bobotie, “essentially meat with an egg custard top, like most European countries, this used to be popular, but now it has the Malay twist, with chutney, nuts and apricots, it has become a national dish”. Cape Malay came from the Malaysian slaves who were bought to the Cape to work for the Dutch at that time, they ate whatever their slave masters had, but brought with them spices, to make it more palatable for them, resulting in the current Cape Malay fusion. Likewise, similarly Indonesians who came to work in South Africa, have brought with them dishes such as Laksa and Sambal (spicy condiment) which is served with most dishes. “As well as tourists, we have a local following, people come in for our Chef’s Feast and on Sunday we do a spit braai, it’s nice to see we are attracting them too – its a compliment”. To leave South Africa without tasting Cape Malay food would be a shame, I highly recommend the Chef’s Feast, or if you would rather something in–situ, head to the pastel coloured town of Bo Kaap, where you will find an array of Cape Malay restaurants, note no alcohol is served, as it is a Muslim area. Be sure to take your camera, it’s a pretty spot. *Portsworld Road | Victoria and Alfred Waterfront area, Cape Town Central, South Africa*

Gold



If you have a big family or indeed are travelling with your colleagues, Gold not only offers a tantalising 14 dish, tasty trip all around Africa, but also drumming classes and a moving Cape Malay puppet theatre, interweaving the restaurant tables, set to a lively African musical beat. Marketing Manager Richard Burdon tells me, “we are still the only award winning South African restaurant in South Africa, one of the winning international fine diners for the last 6 years running and rate highly on Trip Advisor”. So why did they decide to follow this ‘all over Africa’ concept? “South African food, when you look at it, is very Dutch, it doesn’t have a great African feel to it, a lot of heavy pastries and heavy starches, so we decided to do something a bit more palatable for everyone to enjoy, and working with Africa gives us a large variety to choose from”.



Variety is the key word, fun and food under one roof, be sure to book your table the next time you’re in Cape Town. *15 Bennett Street, Cape Town, 8005, South Africa*

Le Quartier Français
Chef talk with ‘The Tasting Room’ Executive Chef Margot Janse



“What we do in the The Tasting Room, is we really tell the story of South Africa, very much based on indigenous ingredients, that you won’t know and would not eat at home”. So what are they? “If you walk out of here there is a red fruit growing on the bush on the terrace, it’s called a num num – an acidic type of crunchy plum. I really like it, and it’s ripe now, now is the time, so we harvest lots of them, we use it in one of our desserts.” Later that day, I was lucky enough (normally a 3 month waiting list to get a seat here) to eat my very first num num, and it was exactly as Janse described. “Eugenia, is a small sort of cherry red type thing, they have a similar flavour and texture profile as the num num, we make a granita with them, peppery and sour, its superb”, and indeed it is – later I had the granita with another local flavour – amasi (soured milk) ricotta, but my favourite, and what I bought a jar of to take home, is the crazily unique tasting sour fig. “Also now is sour fig time, but it’s not a fig at all, it’s a succulent that grows along the ground, it has bright flowers in the Spring – pink, yellow and purple; when the flower is dead, behind it is the seed, there is a gel inside it – very floral, as it dries out in the sun, it’s perfect gel turns brown,

salty and sour, it’s intense”, to me, this South African umami, is akin to a salty tamarind. Janse, who was born in Holland, takes a little piece of South Africa with her whenever she travels. “When I travel, I travel with indigenous ingredients, that’s how we tell our story, for example Buchu is an indigenous bush and very good for you, it’s detoxing, great mixed with Rooibos”. I hasten to add, I have been drinking it everyday since returning to the UK, sadly, as it’s unavailable here, I would highly recommend stocking up when in South Africa.

South Africa doesn’t have a Michelin star rating, although The Tasting Room included, many would deserve one, so how does this award winning restaurant differ from the others in South Africa? “I think what we do here, is very specific – unique, what we do is offer a surprise, there is no menu, from the moment you sit down, we entertain you, as you don’t know what you are getting, when we serve it to you, we tell you a story, the staff are brilliant, they are very proud, as if they made it”. She is right, when my Buchu infused dish came along, the waiter told me “now I’m going to tell you about Buchu – my grandmother used to make me tea with Buchu when I was sick, so when I think of Buchu it reminds me of when I was sick, but Chef uses it because she thinks of it differently, due to its special properties”. As Janse puts it “I can put stories in my food but I need ambassadors to get that across to people”. Another story I was told related to my salt crusted peach, the waiter advised, “the salt we use comes from the northern province, a hot spring, for religious reasons only women can harvest it, after making an offering to a nearby tree, nobody uses this salt apart from us”. I liked the fact I knew the name of the cow, Daisy, responsible for supplying the very milk that made the delicious caramelised ‘salty Dulce de leche’ tasting butter served with warm home–made corn bread. Further adding to the involvement of the diner, I loved the fact I could crack my own ‘snow globe’ revealing a mound of fairytale pink num num dust for dessert. Just how a fine man stands out from the crowd if he has a sense of humour to boot, so does the experience at The Tasting Room. It’s been a while since I giggled with so much joy from a menu. Highlights included being asked to eat a whole mussel – including the shell and having salt and pepper sprinkled before your eyes all over your precious food, as your heart sinks, but is it salt & pepper?

Unlike Reuben’s, a restaurant headed by another renowned South African Chef Reuben Riffel, Janse has no plans to open another, however, she has her heart set on publishing a cookbook, “it’s not so much about what my percentage would be, this would be my 20th year, this year at The Tasting Room, so I really have my story to tell, I came here as a sous Chef and only 3 months later, the head Chef was on his way out, the owner asked me to stay. At 23, I had only been cooking for three and a half years, and wasn’t sure if it was what I really wanted – I loved it but it’s tough, but you get an inner knowing of what is right and what is wrong, so I stayed”. And I am delighted she did, her energy and fabulous food, have provided me with a lasting memory.

Be sure to book ahead for the 3 hour long, 8 course African inspired surprise tasting menu, with the option of wine pairing. At least pop by for a delightful lunch at the The Living Room, for a lighter tapas style menu – having eaten there too, I can vouch for the divine Pâté and captivating Kombucha strawberry drink... *Cnr Berg & Wilhelmina Streets, Franschhoek, 7690, South Africa*

Bo Kaap, formerly known as the Malay Quarter



Pepe Charlot bouche affinee – The Tasting Room



Waterfront, head to Cape Town Fish Market restaurant to eat fresh fish with incredible views



The Occult

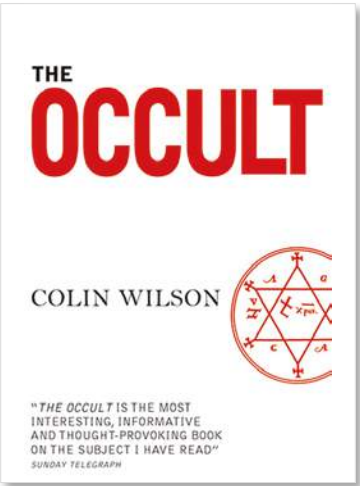
Colin Wilson

by Frances K. White

This weighty literary work, published in 1971, was the beginning of Wilson's canon exploring the field of the occult, occult loosely translating as: 'hidden from view'. His work correlates the occult with philosophy, existentialism, magic, et al...and could be considered a classic of its time. Wilson starts his book with the statement "A single obsessional idea runs through all my work: the paradoxical nature of freedom". This was his first commission, having previously written always as he pleased and whilst the intervening decades have muted some of what he posited at the time, Wilson's exploration of this genre has mainly held its own. His blanket paradigm is that we all suffer from a "narrowness of consciousness" preventing us accessing what he terms 'Faculty X'; a latent "sixth sense" which he declares we all possess, but once mankind comprehends it, the sixth sense will be a portal combining intelligence, emotions and instinct, to reach beyond the present, enabling one to discover the purpose of life; an unseen reality, via a new expanded consciousness. Before developing this sixth sense, he submits we all have a narrow vista of why we exist; once acknowledged and present, that view would become panoramic, and, according to Wilson, would be the "key...to the whole future evolution of the human race...that distinguishes man from all other animals".

To appreciate what Wilson expounds, the reader has to have an open mind to all things paranormal, and look beyond the parameters enshrined by scientific cognoscenti. That said, a large tranche of his book relies on the re-telling of stories from aeons past to his present. One example being Wilson relating, in his chapter entitled 'The Realm of Spirits', as a truism, the story of Daniel Dunglas Home, in 1852, initially sitting in a circle holding the hands of neighbours, who then had to release their grip as he levitated until his head touched the ceiling, yet, Wilson doesn't probe further as to the probability or possibility of that happening, so it is hard to learn from Wilson what he truly believes, and what he is merely recounting, seemingly leaving it up to the reader to decide whether the anecdotes are credible, or not.

In conclusion, The Occult is an entertaining narrative initiating the reader into the history of magic, taking them along a journey of examination of perceived latent powers, alongside much enlightenment into the worlds of, for example, witchcraft, lycanthropy; the ability to assume the form and characteristics of a wolf, or other animal; tarot readings, philosophical considerations, existentialism, satanism, the paranormal, wizardry, devil worshippers, ghosts, telepathy and spiritualism, all explained in an accessible vernacular. Wilson's broad coverage to this body of work covers such a plethora of subdivisions, that it is impossible to encapsulate them all here, save to say, he takes us from the Russian magician Rasputin, to the evolution of man, to the poet as occultist, to the philosophy of Pythagoras, to nineteenth century romanticism, to the world of the Kabbalists, to the dark side of the moon...to name but a few.



Half of a Yellow Sun

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

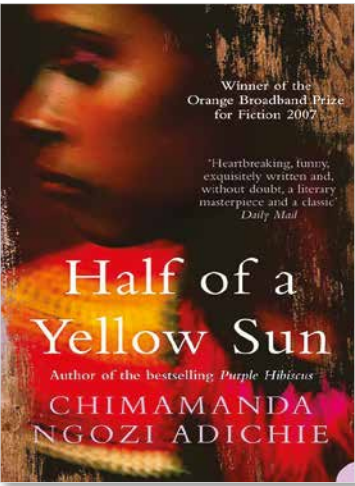
by Frances K. White

Following on from Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's acclaimed debut novel, 'Purple Hibiscus', Adichie's powerful second novel is a skilfully written narrative interweaving the horrors of the civil war started in the late 1960's, conveying strong imagery of the political conflict and religious divide between the Muslims in the north and Christians in the south, the ethnic cleansing and massacre of Biafrans and their attempt to secede from Nigeria. Linking the foregoing, we read of the brutal colonial legacy, the ensuing ethnic division and callous nonchalant air of men causing the deaths of men, women and children, tearing families apart...contrasting with the ebb and flow of the loves and loyalties of its main characters, ensuring that this young Nigerian author's work will become a magnum opus classic of the future. 'Half of a Yellow Sun' therefore, takes the reader on a tsunami of emotions with a clarity of writing that is astonishing for one born years after the civil war started.

Without giving too much of the story away, there are five main protagonists, twin sisters; Olanna, who left her privileged life to become Odenigbo's mistress, her polemical sister Kainene, in love with Richard, an English writer, and the teenage Ugwu, who is employed as Professor Odenigbo's houseboy. Adichie pulls the reader along the tortuous path of these characters lives, their strengths and weaknesses, their victories and their downfalls, the central theme throughout being the strength of the human spirit to embrace and endure. We learn that Ugwu's position is the opposite to what one would expect, in that, rather than Odenigbo 'owning' him, Ugwu himself, feels possessive about his Master, Madam and Baby, a cultural norm for houseboys at that time. The sisters, previously oftentimes at loggerheads, discover a renewed warmth of relationship born out of enduring the terror of war, whilst Richard nurtures a deep desire to be accepted as belonging to Biafra, an emotion he unwittingly shared with the Igbo, but never has that wish fulfilled. Throughout it all, Odenigbo, the scholarly mathematical University professor, exuding a deep-rooted anti-colonial ideology.

Adichie's consummate skill is to paint convincing three-dimensional portraits of her characters and their developing dispositions, whilst atmospherically conveying the horror of the Nigeria-Biafra war. Albeit, at its core, this is a fictional novel, 'Half of a Yellow Sun' refers to the short lived emblem of Biafra, and the historical facts contained within this tome, leave many questions still needing answers... something Adichie doesn't shy away from, such as (to quote Adichie) why do "many of the issues that led to the war remain unresolved in Nigeria today".

One senses the trauma and personal loss Adichie's own family suffered, is one of many conspicuous reasons for this young woman to have written this book, as well as her pride in being "insistently and consciously" an Igbo. Whilst some of the passages pull at the reader's heart strings on so many levels, once started, it is impossible to put down, leaving one with a real sense of sadness at its deeply moving, albeit ambiguous, conclusion.



2015 Sporting Events

Around the World

JANUARY

Australia Open, Melbourne, Australia

Played in the intense heat of the down under summer the Australia Open is one of tennis’ Grand Slam Tournaments and sets the stage for who to watch for in the following Grand Slams.

Snow Polo World Cup, St. Moritz, Switzerland

St. Moritz is the birthplace of Snow Polo. In 1985, the very first tournament was played here and still today, the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz is the world’s most important Snow Polo tournament. Four high goal teams of world-class players offer a unique spectacle on the frozen lake of St. Moritz, a true winter highlight for both sports and social life.

FEBRUARY

The Super Bowl, United States

One of the most celebrated one-game professional championships it concludes a 16 game regular season plus 3 post season play-off rounds. A Sunday afternoon when everything, bar football, in the US is put on hold.

FIS Alpine World Ski Championships

First held in 1931 in Switzerland, they were held in Vail this year, catch the next world championship in St. Moritz.

MARCH

U.S. Open Polo Championship, United States

Considered one of the three great polo tournaments it begins end of March and runs through April. The U.S. Open was first played in 1904 at Van Cortlandt Park in New York City and now is played at the International Polo Club in Palm Beach, the winter home of polo on the east coast of the US.

APRIL

The Grand National, England

Stamina and speed make the Grand National’s steeplechase the world’s most renowned horse race. First run in 1839, the 3-day event is held at Britain’s Aintree Racecourse in Liverpool

The Masters, United States

Played at one of the world’s finest golf courses, the Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia, it was first held in 1934. The scene of some of the most famous wins by golfing legends such as Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Ben Hogan to name a few.

MAY

Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix

Since 1929 this most prestigious race continues to challenge the world’s top Formula 1 drivers on it’s high risk narrow course including racing’s most famous ‘Hairpin’.

Kentucky Derby, United States

Billed as the ‘Greatest Two Minutes in Sports’ this most iconic of horse races will be run for the 141st time this year when a field of 20 entrants have a once in a lifetime chance to wear the roses in the Winner’s Circle.

French Open; Roland-Garros, France

Named after the aviator Roland-Garros, the first man to fly over the Mediterranean, the Open is one of tennis’ four Grand Slam events and has become one of the greatest clay court championships to be played.

JUNE

The 24 Hours of Le Mans, France

First held in 1923, it is run at the Circuit del la Sarthe. The race begins

at 4pm and runs for 24 hours; the winner is the car, driven by a team of three drivers, which covers the greatest distance in that time. The cars come from a diversified mix of high performance vehicles to dedicated race cars to street cars.

Stanley Cup Finals, US

The Cup itself dates back to the 1890’s and is the symbol of ice hockey’s champion pitting the Eastern and Western Conferences against each other.

Royal Ascot, England

Since 1711 this five day event attracts the top thoroughbred racehorses from around the world and is unparalleled in terms of pageantry, elegance and style.

National Basketball Association Finals, United States

After a long of season of almost 100 games, including the play-offs it takes just four games in the finals to become the world champions.

FIFA Women’s World Cup, Canada

Beginning 6th of June with the finals to be played 5th of July, the games will be played across the breadth of Canada. Nigeria, US, Australia and Sweden will face off against each other in Group D.

Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships, England

Starting the 29th of June and running through to July 12th this Grand Slam event is held at the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club in southwest London. It is the oldest tennis tournament in the world having first been played in 1877.

Beach Volleyball World Championships, Netherlands

From June 26th through July 5th the FIVB World Championships will be

held in four cities in the Netherlands, bringing together top professionals from 40 different countries to vie for the men and women’s championship titles.

JULY

Henley Royal Regatta, UK

First held in 1839, this regatta is not only one of the best-known regattas it is one of the highlights of the British social season – Pimms anyone?!

Tour de France, France

The 102nd Tour de France will be made up of 21 stages, from gruelling hill and mountain stages to time trials, it will have covered a distance of 3,344km by the time the cyclists reach the streets of Paris.

The British Open, Scotland

The 144th Open will be played at historic St. Andrews; this will be the 29th time the Club has hosted golf’s oldest championship, one of the top four international golfing competitions.

Running of the Bulls, Spain

The highlight of the San Fermin Festival, in the region of Navarra, attracts people from all over the world, an adrenaline rush for runners and spectators alike.

AUGUST

BMX World Championships, Zolder, Belgium

2015 sees the return to an outdoor venue at Heusden-Zolder and is in fact located on the former F1 track Circuit Zolder.

World Rowing Championships, Aiguebelette, France

The annual week long rowing regatta in a pre-Olympic year is the main qualification event for the following year’s Olympics. In any year it is the highlight of the international rowing calendar.

SEPTEMBER

The Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials, Stamford, UK

The annual event brings top riders from around the world to compete in the three-day CCI**** (four star)level event, considered to be one of the three events in the Grand Slam of eventing.

Singapore Grand Prix, Singapore

Not only was this race the inaugural F1 night race it was the first street circuit in Asia. The race is run on the Marian Bay Street Circuit, a circuit length of 5.065 km with 61 laps till the podium.

Men’s World Amateur Boxing Championships, Doha, Qatar

Together with the Olympic boxing programme this event is considered the highest level of competition for the sport. Entrants from 51 countries compete across eleven weight categories. Cuba leads the medal count with 121 over the years with Russia a close second with 104 medals and the US a distant third with 41 medals.

OCTOBER

Qatar Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe, Longchamp, France

The world’s richest turf race was first run in 1920. Often referred to as the Arc’ the first weekend in October boasts 17 thoroughbred races of which 13 have Group 1 status as well as the Arabian World Cup, the world’s richest race for pure bred Arabian horses.

World Series, United States

The end of baseball’s 162 game season culminates in the best team from each league making it through three play-off rounds then going head to head in a best-of-seven game series for the title of World Champion.

NOVEMBER

New York City Marathon, United States

With the world’s top long distance runners vying for the crown there are over 50,000 entrants from over 50

different countries, running through the streets of New York City the first Sunday in November.

Brazilian Grand Prix, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Drivers are put to the challenge with an anti-clockwise mix of bumps, long straights and undulating corners. The fanatic fans of Sao Paulo turn this F1 weekend into a festival and carnival atmosphere.

DP World Tour Championship, Dubai

The Tour’s 60 leading players contest the season ending tournament of the European Tour the ‘Race to Dubai’. It is played at the Jumeirah Golf Estates, on the ‘Earth’ course, designed by the legendary Australian golfer Greg Norman.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

The Argentine Polo Open at Palermo, Argentina

The tournament, first held in 1893, was known as the River Plata Polo Championship until 1923. Arguably the most important international polo championship it takes place between late November and early December. For any true polo fan’s ‘bucket list’ the Campeonato Argentino Abierto de Polo should be at the top.

DECEMBER

King George VI Chase, Kempton Park

First held in 1937 and named in honour of King George VI this Grade 1 National Hunt chase, held on Boxing Day, it is run over 3 miles and includes 18 jumps and is one of the most prestigious races of the season.

Cricket, Durban, South Africa

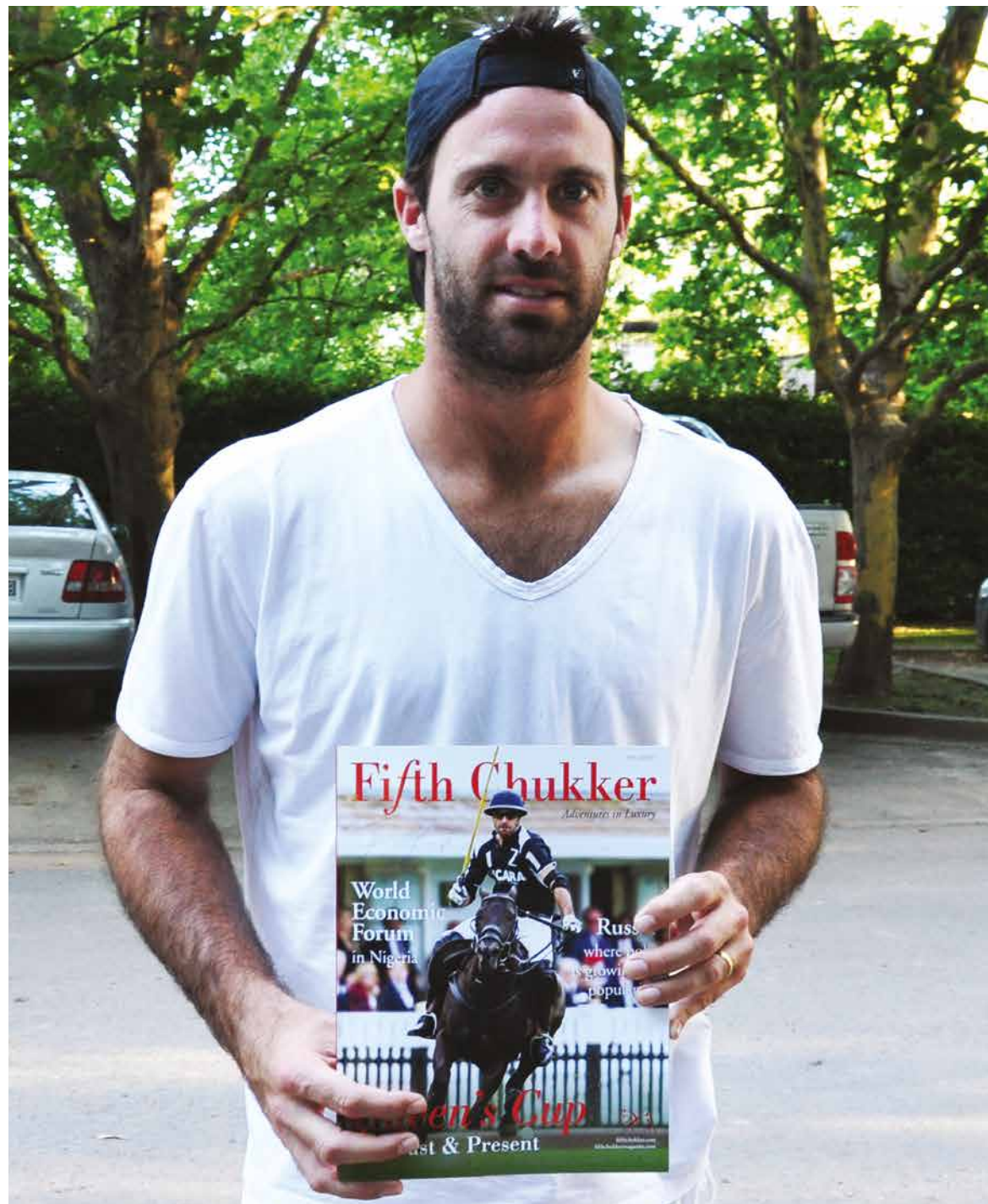
The year closes out as Durban hosts four Test matches beginning with the Boxing Day Test, five One-Day Internationals and two Twenty20 Internationals as England takes on South Africa.



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THE INTERNATIONAL POLO CLUB DIRECTORY

Guards may be the most distinguished of clubs primarily because of its strong royal links, but it is Cowdray Park that hosts the British Open, one of polo's three Grand Slam events. The other top two tournaments are the Argentine US Opens respectively.

The English clubs; Cowdray, Guards, Cirencester and Royal Berkshire are venues for seven of the world's top 30 tournaments. Deauville, Chantilly and St. Tropez combine to make France the second most popular grand prix polo destination in Europe.

Spain boasts a modest eight clubs but its main entry on the International polo schedule is one of the biggest draws for the world's biggest players, patrons and sponsors: The Santa Maria Polo Club, Sotogrande.

Despite its numerous number of clubs, Germany is yet to register big on the tour, but Switzerland, with only four clubs, has St Moritz and Gstaad hosting two of the most attractive events in world polo with St. Moritz the undisputed capital of snow polo.

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- 2. Hurlingham Club, Buenos Aires
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genghiskhanpoloclub@gmail.com

NEW ZEALAND

1. Auckland Polo Club
www.aucklandpolo.co.nz openmanager@aucklandpolo.co.nz

PHILIPPINES

1. Manila Polo Club
63 2 817 0951 www.manilapolo.com ogm@manilapolo.com.ph

PORTUGAL

1. Polo Estancia Santo Estavao
Tel: 351 63 949 634 info@poloestancia.com; www.poloestancia.comt

RUSSIA

1. "Tseleevo Golf and Polo Club", Tseleevo Village, 56th kilometer
of Dmitrovskoe Shosse, Dmitrovskij Area, Moscow Region
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SAN MARINO

1. Titano Polo Club, Tel: 378 990 454 email:editano@omniway.sm

SCOTLAND

1. Dundee and Pert Polo Club, Perthshire, Tel: 07831 365 194
2. Edinburgh Polo Club, Mid Lothiam
Tel: 131 449 66965, jdpolo@tinyonline.co.uk,
www.eteamz.com/edinburghpolo

SINGAPORE

1. Singapore Polo Club, Singapore
(65) 6854 3999 www.singaporepoloclub.org
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SOUTH AFRICA

1. Kurland Polo Club, Plettenberg Bay, Western Cape
27 (44) 534 8082 www.kurland.co.za info@kurland.co.za
2. Val de Vie
27 21 863 6100 www.valdevie.co.za info@valdevie.co.za

3. Jurassic Park Polo Club
27 39 747 4401 www.jurassicparkpolo.co.za
mail@jurassicparkpolo.co.za

SPAIN

1. Andés Polo Club, Tel: 34 676097374; Email, Andés Navia 33700,
2. Club de Campo Villa de Madrid,
Tel: 357.21.32, Tel: 91 550 20 10; Fax: 915 50 20 31;
www.clubvillademadrid.com
3. Club de Polo Cal Picasal-- Barcelona, Tel: 93-478.23.46.
4. Club de Polo de Mallorca y Baleares,
Email: info@poloclubmallorca.com; www.poloclubmallorca.com
5. Club de Polo Santa Antoni De Viladrau, Barcelona.
Tel. +34 607 557 288 Email: info@santantonipoloclub.com
6. Club de Polo Soto Mozanaque, Tel: 91 350 16 62 - 28.036
7. Polo del Sol, Finca Burlanguilla, Cádiz, Spain,
Tel: +34 856030042 Mobile: +34 60003694,

8. Real Club de Polo de Barcelona, Tel: 93-402.93.00.

9. Real Club de la Puerta de Hierro, Madrid, Tel: 316 - 17 45 28 035

10. Ampurdan Polo Club,
Tel. +34 639 548 69; www.clubdepoloampurdan.com

11. Real Club de la Puerta de Hierro, www.rcphierro.com

12. Soto Mozanaque Polo Club, Madrid, Tel: 91 350 16 62 - 28.036

13. Santa Maria Polo Club, Sotogrande
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SWEDEN

1. Almare Starket Polo and Country Club, Kungsangem
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SWITZERLAND

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3. Gstaad Polo Cub, Tel: +41 33 744 07 40 Mail info@pologstaad.ch
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THAILAND

1. Thai Polo and Equestrian Club
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UAE

1. Dubai Polo and Equestrian Club, Dubai, UAE
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2. Dubai Polo Club, Desert Palm, Dubai, UAE
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UNITED STATES

1. Aiken Polo Club, Aiken SC
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2. Country Farms Polo Club, Medford, NY
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3. Eldorado Polo Club, Indio, CA
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eldorado@eldoradopoloclub.com
4. Gulfstream Polo Club, Lake Worth, FL
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5. Greenwich Polo Club, Greenwich, CT
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6. International Polo Club Palm Beach, West Palm Beach, FL
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7. Santa Barbara Polo Club, Carpinteria, CA
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8. Saratoga Polo Association, LLC; Saratoga Springs, NY
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9. Southampton Polo Club, Water Mill, NY
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10. Aspen Valley Polo Club, Aspen, CO
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aspensvalleypolo@bellsouth.net
11. Meadowbrook Polo Club, Old Westbury, NY
(631) 345-9585 www.meadowbrookpolo.com
12. Myopia Polo Club, Hamilton, MA
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WALES

1. Monmouthshire Polo Club, Lower Machen, Tel: 01633 441322



The Wheatbaker

Located in the residential heart of Ikoyi is ‘The Wheatbaker’ destined to become Lagos’s premier luxury boutique hotel. The hotel is targeted at entrenching itself as the top entertainment, lifestyle and contemporary art destination hotel in Lagos. The Hotel features 65 luxury hotel rooms and suites with world class technology including multi-functional video conferencing facilities, WIFI and a 200 seater conference room. The hotel is equipped with a private membership gymnasium. The hotel has an internationally rated restaurant which offers a high class grill house menu and unique delicatessen which will spoil your taste buds with home cooked meals and freshly baked cakes, pastries and breads.

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