

POLO WITH AN OCEAN VIEW

Beach Polo World Cup



Tito Gaudenzi

Polo ponies are versatile creatures. We've seen them compete on fields all over the world and even snow, but how about sand? Fans had the unique pleasure of seeing them in action in front of W South Beach at the Beach Polo World Cup held in January.

Replace the traditional ball with its colorful beach ball cousin, create a smaller, more intimate arena, pair it with luxury brand sponsors and a hopping VIP tent, then top it off with Shark Tank's Kevin O'Leary and Daymond John tossing out the opening balls. This is not your ordinary sandbox.

Tito Gaudenzi, Founder of Beach Polo and President of Lifestyle Companies comments,

“PLAYERS, PONIES AND SPECTATORS SEEMED TO REALLY ENJOY THE SPECTACULAR SETTING.

THERE WAS CERTAINLY SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT HAVING THE OLDEST AND MOST PRESTIGIOUS TEAM SPORT IN THE WORLD BEING PLAYED ON ONE OF THE MOST BREATHTAKING BEACHES IN THE WORLD.”

Six teams comprised of some of the world's top players, including Nic Roldan, Ricardo Mansur, Rommy Gianni and Juan Bollini Sr., competed throughout the weekend for Beach Polo World Cup. The tournament also hosted the Bal Harbour Village Women's Cup on Saturday, featuring the Bal Harbour Village and Peoples From Barbados's women's teams along with a charity match on Sunday supporting Beach Polo's official charity partner, The Bass Museum.



Photo credit: Daniel Oyvetsky





Ultimately, the La Martina team featuring Riley Ganzi, Juan Bollini Sr. and Jesse Bray was the winner of Beach Polo World Cup while Nic Roldan of the Macallan team was named MVP.

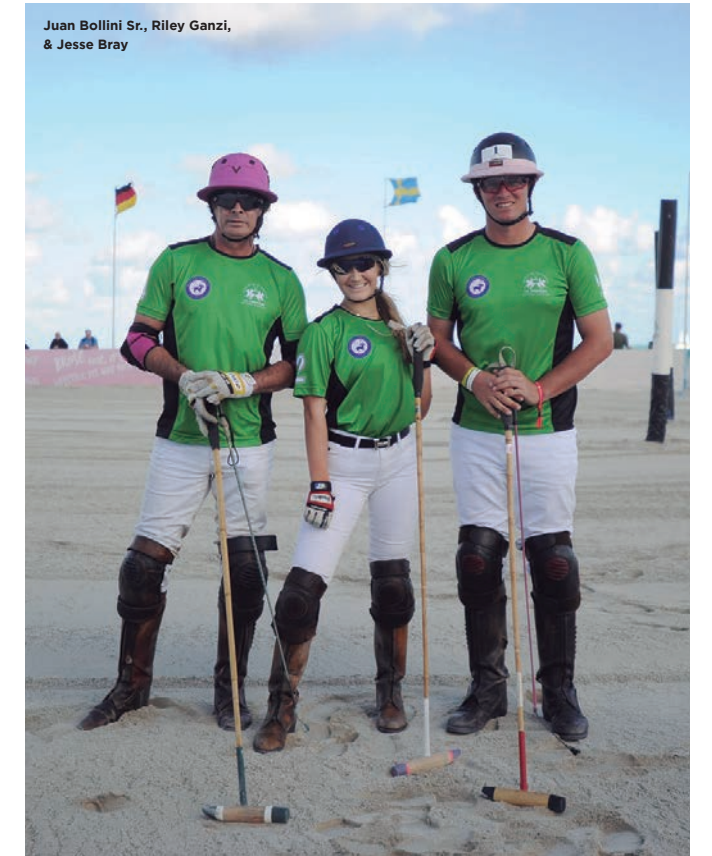
Gaudenzi talks about his inspiration to start this event, "Miami is my home. It was very personal for me to revive this project after having started it in 2005 and operating it through 2008 with my father. My team and I have been working very hard for the past five years to bring this event back, and can gladly say it was a true success. We are looking forward to working with our sponsors and the City of Miami Beach in growing this event annually. And last but certainly not least, anything for the sport of polo, which I so dearly love, is all the inspiration I need."

The four-day event ensured great play on and off the sand with special entertainment to enjoy the full Miami experience. Gaudenzi comments on some of the highlights, "Guests really enjoyed the VIP tent experience, which was completely packed on both Saturday and Sunday. We are already planning to expand next year as well as adding some more attractions that are free to the general public. My personal highlights were surely the opening players presentation at W South Beach and the David Yurman Cocktail event in their Bal Harbour Shops boutique."

He sums up the experience, "Only in a city as magical as Miami can you have so many amazing components perfectly come together for such a unique event."



Photo credit: Seth Browarnik WorldRedEye



Joyce Bonelli, Caroline Vreeland & Jason Odio

Juan Bollini Sr., Riley Ganzi, & Jesse Bray