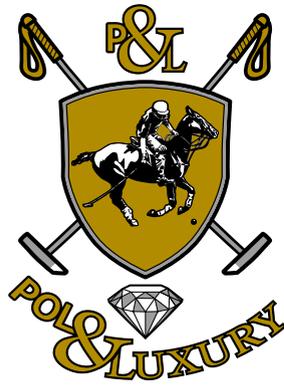


36TH

POLO & LUXURY[®]





Coffee-Table Book
for people with class and style



Dear Readers,

anyone that spends most of their time in Cape Town, South Africa, is certainly not a friend of winter temperatures. We are no exception! And yet to miss out on the Snow Polo World Cup in St. Moritz is unthinkable for us. A true polo enthusiast cannot resist the unique flair when the winter sun glistens over the snowfield of the frozen Lake St. Moritz and the polo teams deliver thrilling duels. For the first time the Turkish businessman Kutlay Yaprak takes up his duties as the captain of the 'de Grisogono' Team. We meet with him for an interview.

But before we dare to put on our winter clothes, we will write about the top summer tournaments in Europe. Our journey starts in Gstaad, continues with the Queen's Cup and finishes strong with the Triple Crown tournaments in France.

Cloning horses has become a very profitable but not undisputed business which has been proven by the one and only Adolfo Cambiaso in an impressive manner. We take a look behind the scenes.

In our investment section, we introduce you to the upcoming lifestyle and equestrian resort Darling Green (including polo) at the doorstep of Cape Town.

And our gourmets will not miss out either! We write about our experience at the Villa René Lalique and their restaurant Gault & Millau which has been awarded 2 Michelin stars as well as a report on the many delicious variations of tiramisu. We will also have a critical look at the not so animal-friendly production of the world's most expensive coffee.

Lastly, we will visit Tahiti, the largest island in French Polynesia, and the Ranthambore National Park in India. Two breathtaking travel destinations as our highlight of the Coffee-Table Book.

Birgit Hügli-Herrmann and Christoph Hügli
(Owner and publisher of POLO&LUXURY)

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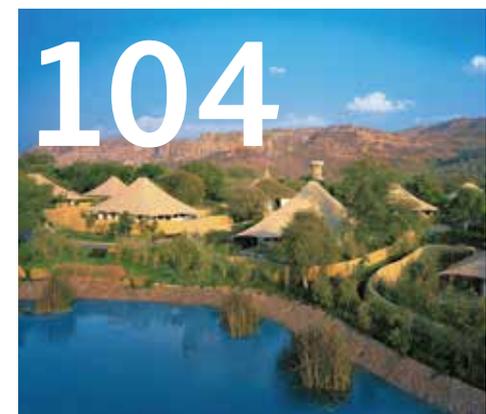
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Face to face with wild tigers



By Birgit Hügli-Herrmann

The conditions at the final of the 24th edition of the Hublot Polo Gold Cup Gstaad could not have been better. Bright sunshine and, as always, many enthusiastic spectators formed the backdrop for the amazing final day. In a high-class final, the Team Clinique La Prairie, led by captain Piero Dillier, beat the Team of the title sponsor Hublot surprisingly with 10-5 goals.

Argentine 6-goaler Lucas Labat

Team Clinique la Prairie wins the 24th Hublot Polo Cup in Gstaad

“For me, Gstaad is one of the best tournaments in Europe and to win here was for a long time on Piero’s and my bucket list”



Parade: Team Hublot with Marcel Elser, Marcos Antinori, Nicolas Antinori and Julio Novillo Astrada



The final between Team Clinique La Prairie and Team Hublot: Julio Novillo Astrada (+7), Lucas Labat (+4), Juan Manuel Gonzales (+3)

The joy of victory in Gstaad was written on Lucas Labat's face, when he, Piero Dillier, Andres Bihrer, Bautista Beguerie and Juan Manuel Gonzales standing on the podium, proudly holding up the Hublot watches donated by the title sponsor. Together with his long-term captain Piero Dillier the 43-years old Argentine 6-goaler had already taken several attempts, but now it has finally worked out for the victory in the most highly endowed Swiss summer polo event.

After winning the title in Gstaad, POLO&LUXURY met Lucas Labat. The Argentine 6-goaler spoke with the POLO&LUXURY editor-in-chief Birgit Hügli-Herrmann about his almost two decades relationship with Piero, his famous uncle and mentor, why he loves the Parana River and what plans he has for the time after his career as a polo professional.



Team Clinique La Prairie with Andres Bihrer, Bautista Beguerie, Piero Dillier, Juan Manuel Gonzales and Lucas Labat with the host of the Hublot Polo Gold Cup Pierre Genecand (left)

Lucas, first of all, congratulations on winning the Hublot Polo Gold Cup Gstaad. It was a great final and Piero Dillier earned a title which was missing in your long, successful time together. Could you please give our readers a short summary about this year's final in Gstaad? Thank you very much, Birgit. It was so great to win the title together with my patron Piero, Bautista Beguerie and Juan Manuel Gonzales here in the Swiss alps. This win wasn't complicated because we decided to return the ball from the first shot, and we didn't waste time dribbling. As I have a strong enough swing, my job was to send the ball to my forwards who could then make the goals. This is the type of polo I believe in, and I am convinced that in the future we must return to this kind of open game.

Our team worked together perfectly; I think this team is one of the best I've played with in Europe. On top the weather conditions in Gstaad were ideal, visitors cheered on the teams enthusiastically and the organisation team with president Pierre Genecand as its leader worked as a well-oiled top-machine. In a nutshell: For me, Gstaad is one of the best tournaments in Europe.

You've won so many big tournaments, listing them all is beyond the scope of this interview. Which successes are the most important for you personally? Is there one or more coveted trophies, you really want to add to your wish list?

Yes, it is true that in the course of my already long career I have been able to celebrate victories in important tournaments with many great teams. But believe it or not, the title in Gstaad came first on my wish list. And I do not say this out of courtesy or because we have won here in Gstaad. I am really happy to win this amazing tournament.

You are a world traveler in polo and have been at the forefront of international polo players for two decades. For the descendant of the two great Argentine polo dynasties, Pieres or Heguy, polo sport is in their blood, so to speak. How did you come to the polo and how did you manage to become such a great player? Was there a key experience and did you have mentors who promoted your talent?

I started playing polo on my dad's farm when I was a kid. Our farm was close to my uncle Daniel Gonzalez' farm. My uncle was a 10-goaler, one of the absolute top-players of his time. For example, Daniel won the Argentine Open seven times (between 1961 – 1973).

For nearly three decades he played in California and also worked as a coach there. During this time, Daniel has won many titles at all major high-goal tournaments in California. So, my uncle was one of the best liked and most popular players at the US West Coast.

Daniel was my most important mentor and a great player in every way that I wanted to emulate. Daniel took me to the Argentine polo selection in the World Polo Championship in Santa Barbara USA 1998. This was a milestone at the beginning of my career.

You've been playing as a professional for Piero Dillier for 20 years now. Piero jokingly told me, that no woman has ever endured him as long as you. How would you describe your relationship?

The relationship with Piero is first of all coined with a lot of respect and over the years Piero became one of the most important people in my life to me. We have played a lot of tournaments together and won many titles at international tournaments, but for me Piero is much more than a patron. He is a gentleman with a great personality, a great athlete and I am very happy and grateful for the great time we spend together. And I hope that many more years will follow.



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