

# Unleashing the Thrilling History of Polo in Argentina



Polo, often referred to as the "Sport of Kings," has a majestic history deeply woven into the culture of Argentina. Renowned for its passionate players, skilled horsemanship, and adrenaline-pumping matches, Argentina stands at the forefront of international polo. This article unravels the fascinating journey of how polo became a national obsession in Argentina and its enduring legacy.

## Early Origins

The origins of polo in Argentina trace back to the late 19th century when British immigrants introduced the sport to the vast Pampas grasslands. Their passion for polo quickly caught on with the Argentine population, as they embraced the sport wholeheartedly.



## Polo in Argentina: A History

by Horace A. Laffaye (Illustrated Edition, Kindle Edition)

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In 1875, the first official polo club was established in Argentina, the Hurlingham Polo Club. Its founding marked the beginning of an era that would revolutionize polo in the country. Polo clubs multiplied rapidly, attracting both locals and international players, and providing a platform for the sport to flourish.

### Golden Era of Argentine Polo

By the early 20th century, Argentina had emerged as an international powerhouse in polo. The country's natural horsemanship skills and competitive spirit propelled them to dominate the sport on a global stage. Argentine polo players such as Juan and Carlos Harriott, Eduardo and Julio Heguy, and Adolfo Cambiaso became legendary figures, captivating audiences with their exceptional talent.

During this golden era, Argentina produced extraordinary polo horses renowned for their strength, agility, and intelligence. These majestic creatures, known as "polo ponies," became synonymous with the sport and played a crucial role in the success of Argentine polo teams.

### The Copa Campeonato and International Success

One of the most prestigious tournaments in the polo world is the Copa Campeonato, also known as the Argentine Open. Since its inception in 1893, this tournament has been the pinnacle of polo excellence, attracting the best players and teams from around the world. Held annually at the famous Campo Argentino de Polo in Buenos Aires, the Copa Campeonato showcases the true spirit and passion of Argentine polo.

Throughout the 20th century, Argentina consistently achieved remarkable success in international competitions. The nation's polo team, famously known as "La Dolfina," has won the Argentine Open a record number of times, solidifying their reputation as masters of the sport. The team's captain, Adolfo Cambiaso, is widely regarded as the world's greatest polo player, with an incomparable skill set that continues to astound spectators.

## **New Horizons and Polo Legends**

As polo in Argentina continued to evolve, so did the pursuit of pushing boundaries and creating new legends. The emergence of talented young players has kept the sport fresh and captivating, with inherited legacies combined with modern techniques.

One such rising star is Facundo Pieres, a player widely regarded as the future of Argentine polo. The son of legendary polo player Gonzalo Pieres, Facundo represents the next generation of elite polo talent. His remarkable agility, strategic mindset, and exceptional horsemanship make him a force to be reckoned with on the polo field.

## **Preserving Tradition and Ensuring the Future**

Argentina's passion for polo goes beyond mere competition. It is deeply rooted in preserving tradition and ensuring the sport's future generations have the

opportunity to experience its extraordinary beauty.

The Argentine Polo Association plays a crucial role in organizing tournaments, promoting the sport, and protecting the welfare of horses. By enforcing strict regulations and endorsing responsible horsemanship practices, the Association ensures that the legacy of Argentine polo remains unblemished and the sport thrives for years to come.

Polo in Argentina is not just a sport; it is a way of life, a testament to the country's rich culture and love for horsemanship. From its humble beginnings to becoming a global phenomenon, polo has captivated the hearts of Argentines and the world alike. With its skilled players, majestic horses, and thrilling matches, Argentina's polo legacy is indelibly etched in history, forever commemorating the pursuit of excellence, passion, and tradition.



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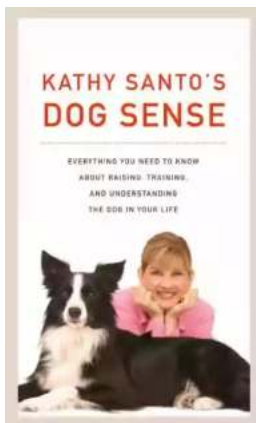
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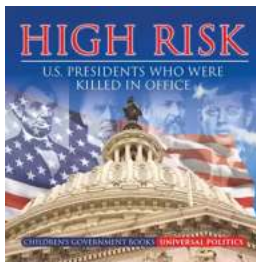
This work--the first of its kind in more than sixty years--covers polo in Argentina, from its beginnings in the 1870s to the summer of 2013. The history of the early pioneers is constructed with data not previously published, gathered from

contemporary sources. International competitions are covered and include the Olympic Games, the Cup of the Americas and the World Championships. Particular attention is given to the major clubs, the Argentine and Hurlingham Open Championships, and the National Handicap Tournament. Several of the elite players merit individual or family mini-biographies. Myths in Argentine polo are also debunked, based upon careful analysis of contemporary sources. Travels abroad by Argentine teams are fully described as are the foreign teams that competed in Argentina. The work is enhanced by the author's personal observation of significant events and friendship with many of the participants.



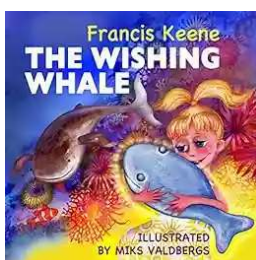
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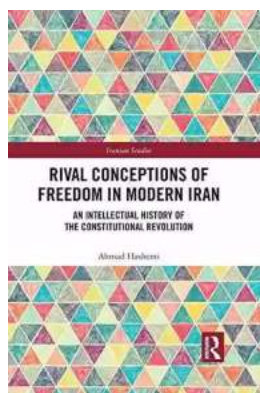
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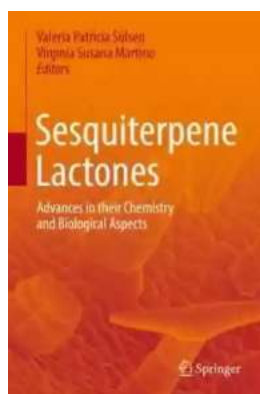
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