



Each player is ranked according to their performance in the main tournaments around the world during the course of the year. The system was designed to answer calls, by players and club managers, to create a circuit

**Above: The Victory Cup is America's Polo Match – an eight match series Below: Polo in Palermo, Buenos Aires, Argentina, where the world's best players learn their trade**

that reflects the very best of Polo competitions around the world. There are four different levels of tournament; Masters, Grand Slam, Cup and Challenger – and in order to determine the category of each tournament, several aspects are taken into consideration. The handicap of the tournament, the venue, the organisation, the number of teams entered, the level of players participating and the number of spectators attending previous editions. The US Open

(won by Hilario Ulloa's Daily Racing Form team in April), British Open (22 July) and Sotogrande Gold Cup (1 September, Santa Maria, Spain) make up the WPT Grand Slam events where winners take home 250, 200 and 150 points respectively. Cartier won the WPT Challenge St Moritz World Cup on Snow in January and Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club took the WPT Championship Dubai Gold Cup in March, while Valiente won two Challenge events and a Cup in

# The sport of kings

With South Americans setting the early pace on the Maserati 2018 World Polo Tour, *Upward Curve* looks ahead to the European season and the Masters series in Argentina

**S**aint-Tropez, Domain de Chantilly, Royal Windsor and Villa a Sesta – it must be Polo.

But while these venues represent some of the most glamorous in sport, they are actually the lowest ranking points events on the Maserati World Polo Tour (WPT).

The WPT Challenge Cup events offer between five and 50 points to the winner, while 100, 200 and 300 points are up for grabs at Buenos Aires' 'triple

crown' Masters tournaments. The first of three prestigious meetings is the Tortugas Open (7 July) at the Tortugas Country Club, 50 kilometres northwest of Buenos Aires' colourful CBD – with 100 points available.

Then it's to the Hurlingham Club in Argentina's capital with 200 points to the winner on 27 October, before the Super Bowl of Polo at Buenos Aires' 'Cathedral of Polo', Campo Argentino de Polo, in the Palermo District.

**Above: Polo is believed to have been invented between 6th century BC and 1st century AD**

Founded 125 years ago, the Campeonato Argentino Abierto de Polo (Argentine Polo Open Championship) is the most illustrious international polo championship at club level.

Forty-three year-old poster boy Adolfo Cambiaso is out to win it for a 12th time after co-founding team La Dolfina in 2000. And Cambiaso is in good shape to do

so, leading the world rankings into the European season after WPT Cup and WPT Challenge Cup wins in Florida earlier this year.

Compatriots Sapó Caset, Pablo MacDonough, Facundo Pieres and Hilario Ulloa picked up Most Valuable Player awards in the first quarter of 2018, but Cambiaso is where he has been for the last 22 years – streets ahead of everybody else at the top of the world rankings.

There is more of an even spread at the top of the Women's World Polo Tour (WWPT) rankings. While Lia Salvo and Milagros Sanchez of Argentina lead into the European season, Hazel Jackson Gaona, Slaney O'Hanlon, Sonia Coupling (all UK), Nurul Noorajala (Malaysia) Eva Bruhl (Germany) and Constanza Marchiorello (Italy) add some international flavour to the top ten.



Florida earlier this year. Marengo, Brava Polo Team and La Familia sharing the spoils in the WWPT which heads to Argentina, UK, US, Spain, France, Italy, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, Switzerland in the build-up to the British Open (16 July), the US Open (Houston) in November and the Argentine Open (Buenos Aires) in December (all worth 200 points to the winner). ■ [worldtourpolo.com](http://worldtourpolo.com)

## THE HORSE THAT NEVER DIES...

When Adolfo Cambiaso decided to create La Dolfina, he also started a breeding business from scratch.

Today, he has close to 1000 horses that are fed a closely-monitored plant and special grass diet grown on his vast farms.

When Cambiaso's favourite horse, Aiken Cura, had to be put down with a broken leg 12 years ago, he asked his vet to save some of the horse's skin cells.

Cloning represented a business opportunity to Alan Meeker, a Texan oil heir and polo enthusiast. He had long dreamt of building a fleet of champion horses, and now had a way to do it.

Biologist Adrian Mutto, one of the first scientists to clone in Argentina, teamed up with Cambiaso, Meeker and Argentine businessman Ernesto Gutierrez, and they can now create 100 clones a year. They mate the clones with champion horses and sell their foals for up to \$250,000. But they never sell the clones.

In some quarters, cloning is considered a contentious issue, but for Cambiaso, it is fair because it is available to everybody. He just started it before anybody else did – with the best horses.