

Cartier

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Julius Bär

MEDIA RELEASE

Best conditions and again top class players in St. Moritz

24th Cartier Polo World Cup on Snow in St. Moritz, 24 to 27 January 2008

St. Moritz, 16 January 2008 – **The 24th Cartier Polo World Cup on Snow is only days away and conditions are almost perfect. It is practically unheard of for the ice to be so thick at this time of year. There is plenty of snow on the lake and work on the infrastructure is pushing ahead at full speed. The four teams competing in this year's Cartier Polo World Cup on Snow bring with them a wealth of experience and new, up-and-coming talent.**

This is very welcome news for the organisers of the world's biggest and most prestigious winter polo tournament, particularly coming after last year's problems: a sudden and unexpected period of mild weather seriously delayed construction. But it's not only the conditions on the ground that are, so far, ideal. The entries for the 24th Cartier Polo World Cup on Snow are once again top class.

Ten-goaler in St. Moritz

For the first time ever, St. Moritz welcomes a 10-goaler in the person of one of the world's best players, the Argentine polo crack Bartolomé Castagnola. Worldwide, there are only a handful of polo players who have the maximum handicap of +10. This is a high spot in the 24-year history of the Cartier Polo World Cup on Snow, and one of which the organizers are particularly proud. "We are immensely excited about "Lolo" Castagnola's participation. It is an honour for us to be able to attract players of his class. It is also a sign that the importance and the appeal of the Cartier Polo World Cup on Snow are growing every year", says Sibylle Bitterli, Managing Director of the St. Moritz Polo AG. The four teams competing for the coveted Cartier-Trophy read like a Who's Who of the polo world.

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The Cartier team again with Adriano Agosti

The Cartier team is once again captained by its patron Adriano Agosti (CH, hcp 0), already six times winner of the tournament. Agosti is one of the old hands in St. Moritz and is acknowledged to be one of the best players on snow. He leads a well-balanced and very strong team consisting of Marcos Di Paola (AR, hcp 8), José Donoso (CL, hcp 7) and Guillermo Terrera (AR, hcp 7). For Agosti, preparation and match strategy are the keys to success. Once again this year, Agosti and his Cartier team are tipped as strong contenders for the title.

Philipp Maeder's tour on snow

Philipp Maeder (CH, hcp 0) is making his second appearance in the tournament, once again captaining the Maybach team. This winter season is effectively one long tournament for him because together with his partner and coach of many years, the Argentinian pro Federico Bachmann (hcp 5), the programme also includes Kitzbühel and Cortina. Federico Bachmann can look back on a long and successful polo career, and for some time now has been playing in Switzerland for Zurich Polo Park. The team is rounded off by another two polo pros from Argentina, Pablo Jauretche (hcp 8) and Ignacio Tillous (hcp 7).

Guy Schwarzenbach, talented last year's winner

Last year's winner, the Brioni team, with its patron Guy Schwarzenbach, returns to St. Moritz to defend the title. Guy is one of the most talented and driven young polo cracks of the moment, and also manages to kick up a storm at various tournaments throughout the summer season also. Recent successes include his victory in the 2006 British Open in Cowdray Park, as patron of the high-goal Black Bears polo team. Together with Nacho Gonzalez (UK, hcp 6), John Paul Clarkin (NZ, hcp 8) and Johnny Good (UK, hcp 5) – likewise a familiar face in St. Moritz – the Brioni team is the most balanced line-up among the four contenders.

The Bank Julius Baer team with the superstar of the tournament

The Bank Julius Baer team, competing for the second year on the lake of St. Moritz, is fielding an impressive quartet of players. The team is led by the Hanbury brothers (George, UK, hcp 1 and Charlie, UK, hcp 2). Completing the line-up are two of the world's best players on snow, Jaime Huidobro (CL, hcp 8) and the superstar of the tournament, Bartolomé Castagnola (AR, hcp 10). Known by his nickname "Lolo", Castagnola has played with top players all over the world. In December 2007, together with his best friend and polo partner Adolfo Cambiaso, he was part of the La Dolfina team that won the Argentine Open in Buenos Aires. The "Abierto" is the biggest and most fiercely contended polo tournament in the world, and this was Castagnola's third victory in it. Among the other trophies from England adorning his display case are the Gold Cup, the Queen's Cup and The Prince of Wales Trophy.

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New grandstand

If the weather is fine, Lake St. Moritz can expect to welcome more than 20,000 spectators and polo fans over the four days of the tournament from 24 to 27 January. To accommodate and cater for visitors and spectators, the necessary infrastructure has this year been expanded. The VIP area has been extended by 600 m² and Gamma Catering will have three catering units instead of just one. For the first time, there will be a lounge with bar, open to all spectators, where visitors can enjoy a relaxed atmosphere and music from Cuba. Another innovation this year is the new central stand.

The 24th Cartier Polo World Cup on Snow will again be one of the high spots of the winter season in St. Moritz and the whole of the Engadine. The organisers are looking forward to exciting games, superb weather and crowds of spectators. There is no charge for entrance to the polo ground or for standing room.

Further information about the St. Moritz Polo Club and the Cartier Polo World Cup on Snow can be found at www.polostmoritz.com.

St. Moritz Polo AG

St. Moritz Polo AG is the organizer of the Cartier Polo World Cup on Snow. The most prestigious and highestranking winter polo tournament worldwide takes place over four days at the end of January on the frozen lake of St. Moritz and attracts some of the game's very best players. Every year, around 20 000 spectators descend on the town to savour one of the world's most elegant and intensive forms of sport as four high-goal teams with handicaps of between 20 and 22 goals vie for the coveted Cartier Trophy.

The 24th Cartier Polo World Cup on Snow will be held in St. Moritz from 24 to 27 January 2008.

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