



Press release

Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz Starts – Cartier and Maserati champion first matches

St. Moritz, 26 January 2018. **The beautiful St. Moritz lake, in the heart of the Engadin Valley, was frozen to a perfect depth of 54cms allowing excellent and pristine playing condition for the first day of the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz 2018 – the oldest, biggest and best snow polo tournament in the world. As guests sipped on perfectly prepared Perrier Jouët and huddled under Cartier blankets ready for the action, 200 of the world’s press assembled for the first match to unfold.**

Bathed in bright sunshine, first up it was Cartier and Badrutt’s Palace to take to the arena. Expectations were high for the Badrutt’s Palace team, as they were fresh from victory in Kitzbühel earlier this month. However, from the first throw-in, the red shirts of Cartier dominated the play, scoring two goals in as many minutes, as the goal-scoring machine Chris ‘The Prof’ Hyde well and truly unleashed his might. Snow polo newbie Juan Cruz Greguoli showed a solid performance, marking his man and halting any efforts from Badrutt’s Palace. Cartier, skilled in defence, capitalised on any mistakes Melissa Ganzi’s side made, converting the messy play into goals. As was evident at last year’s tournament, Alejandro Novillo Astrada, seems to take a day to find his snow polo legs. Today was no exception, as he was continuously pushed onto the boards, closing his attempted plays down to a walking pace, ultimately leaving Hyde the chance to run away with a goal-scoring opportunity. Despite valiant efforts from the Badrutt’s Palace team, the well-seasoned Cartier used all their might to take home the win 5-2.

Guests and players were treated to a delicious lunch with local specialties and delectable delights from further afield in the lavish VIP tent. In the second match of the day, Maserati took to the field against this year’s new faces, Azerbaijan Land of Fire for the Carlton Hotel Challenge. After a somewhat patchy start, both teams found their stride, fighting tooth and nail for possession. With Azerbaijani flags waving and the crowd on their feet, the boys in white fought with passion. The expert pairing of Laplacette cousins, Adrian and Andrès ‘Lala’, ably supported by Captain Elchin Jamalli and Baku regular Rashad Hasanov kept Maserati on their toes. Despite the scoreboard being in Maserati’s favour, 2-1 ½, at half-time, it looked as though Azerbaijan were gaining traction and might even have been able to take home the win. However, despite field and penalty chances, it just wasn’t to be. As the final bell rang out across the Engadin Valley, Maserati narrowly took home the win, with an unchanged score still resting at 2-1½ to secure them the Carlton Hotel Challenge.

SNOW POLO WORLD CUP ST. MORITZ

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Tomorrow sees Maserati come up against the might of 2017 winners Cartier for the Maserati Cup at midday, followed by Badrutt's Palace vs Azerbaijan Land of Fire at 2.15pm for the Deutsche Bank Wealth Management Challenge.

Snow Polo and Evviva Polo St. Moritz Ltd

1985 saw the first ever polo competition on snow – it took place in St. Moritz. The Snow Polo World Cup has reigned over the last weekend in January in this mountain town ever since. In 2014, well-known exponents of snow polo in Switzerland founded Evviva Polo St. Moritz Ltd and signed a long-term contract with the city of St. Moritz, thus securing a sustained continuation of the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz. The Board of Directors consists of Dr. Piero Dillier (President), Reto Gaudenzi (Vice-president and CEO), and Arndt Küchel. Dr. Thomas Rinderknecht and Peter A. C. Blum are on the Advisory Board; Jürg Reinger is the Managing Director. The tournament is organised in close collaboration with an experienced team of local hotels, businesses and experts, the town of St. Moritz and their See Infra Ltd. For more information, visit www.snowpolo-stmoritz.com

Important notice to the members of the press

To cover the 2018 tournament, members of the press are asked to sign up for accreditation online at www.snowpolo-stmoritz.com/media.

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The Teams of the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz 2018

Team Cartier

1	Rommy Gianni	+1	ITA
2	Juan Cruz Greguoli	+4	ARG
3	Dario Musso	+6	ARG
4	Chris Hyde	+5	ENG

Team Azerbaijan Land of Fire

1	Rashad Hasanov	+2	AZE
2	Elchin Jamalli	+3	AZE
3	Lala Laplacette	+5	ARG
4	Adrian Laplacette Jr.	+6	ARG

Reserve

Ali Rzayev	0	AZE
Amil Namazov	0	AZE
Tarlan Gurbanaliyev	+1	AZE

Team Badrutt's Palace Hotel

1	Melissa Ganzi	0	USA
2	Alejandro Novillo Astrada	+8	ARG
3	Juan Bollini	+6	ARG
4	Tito Gaudenzi	+2	SUI

Team Maserati

1	Zhanna Bandurko / Raya Sidorenko	0	RUS
2	Gerardo Mazzini	+6	ARG
3	Hissam al Hyder	+6	PAK
4	Robert Strom	+5	FRA

Umpires

Olivier Ellis	Head Umpire	GBR
Tim Keyte	Umpire	NZL
Marcelo Garrahan	Umpire	ARG



Sponsors and partners of the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz 2018

Team sponsors	Cartier, Maserati, Badrutt's Palace Hotel and Azerbaijan Land of Fire
Global Lead Partner	Deutsche Bank Wealth Management
Official outfitter	La Martina
Trophy sponsors	Cartier, La Martina, Maserati, Deutsche Bank Wealth Management
Official hotels	Badrutt's Palace Hotel, Kulm Hotel St. Moritz, Kempinski Grand Hôtel des Bains, Carlton Hotel, Suvretta House, Crystal Hotel, Steffani Hotel, Hotel Corvatsch, Hotel Laudinella, Hotel Sonne
Official partner hotel Zürich	Hotel Schweizerhof
Sponsors	Maura Wasescha, AXA ART, HATO, NETJETS, Pernod Ricard Swiss, Prora Solitaire, Slupinski-Furs, UBV Lanz AG, JET Aviation, SBS Swiss Business School, Sprüngli, Azerbaijan Land of Fire, Heineken, Trois Pommes, Florens Resort & Suites, Chesa Veglia/Polo Bar, CHECHA Restaurant & Club
VIP catering	Badrutt's Palace Hotel
Official suppliers	Perrier-Jouët, Cecchetto, Sprüngli, Heineken, Cigar Must, Cochi, Zwyer Caviar, Bogle White Caviar, Movirlavida
Travel agencies	Finass, Castle Premier Services
Exhibitors	Maura Wasescha, Azerbaijan Land of Fire, La Martina, JET Aviation, Casino St. Moritz, NETJETS, Ender Sport St. Moritz, IQOS, NB Noble & Brulée, Florens Resort & Suites, artis, Bogle White Caviar
Public catering	Badrutt's Palace Hotel & local partners
Supporters	Engadin St. Moritz, Klinik Gut, Gemeinde St. Moritz, Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz, St. Moritz Tourism, Ski Service Corvatsch, O. Christoffel AG, Blasto
Official affiliated Club	Polo Park & Country Club Zürich
Official Snow Polo Magazines	The Polo Magazine, Polo Times
Media partners	Polo +10, The Polo Magazine, Polo Quarterly, Polo International, Prestige Magazin, Le Grand Mag, Polo Times, Polo Luxury & Country Life Magazine, La Bocha, good style mag, Swiss Health Magazine, L'Officiel, SMAC, ¡Hola!, ClassHorseTV, ENJOY ST. MORITZ