



Press release

## Thrilling matches and many novelties at the 34th Snow Polo World Cup in St. Moritz on 26–28 January 2018

*St. Moritz, 18 January 2018.* The 34th Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz is set to become a top event par excellence. A laid-back Polo Bar in St. Moritz's legendary restaurant Chesa Veglia and the "Baku Moritz Polo Award" are two new additions to this year's fixture. Given the excellent make-up of the underlying ice, construction of the extensive infrastructure on the frozen lake has begun just over a week ago. Demand for tickets to this year's event is exceptionally high. Tickets to the VIP tent on Saturday and Sunday are almost sold out; the exclusive Polo Gala night has been sold out for some time. The partner hotels also report high bookings. Some 15,000 spectators from around the globe are expected to attend the world's only high-goal polo tournament on snow—admission to the action-packed tournament is free, as ever.

Four top-tier teams studded with players from nine countries will once again compete for the coveted Cartier Trophy this year. The competition kicks off with a riveting encounter on Friday noon. Rommy Gianni (+1) and his top-class Team Cartier - the winner of 2016 and 2017 has old hands Chris Hyde (+5), Dario Musso (+6) and Juan Cruz Greguoli (+4) at his side - will face the runners-up of 2017, Team Badrutt's Palace Hotel around captain Melissa Ganzi (0). The US American player is entering the competition with a first-rate team, lining up with the only Swiss player, Tito Gaudenzi (+2), very well known in the Engadin Valley, and the Argentine polo legend Alejandro Novillo Astrada (+8).

Friday's second game promises no less excitement. Zhanna Bandurko (0), the Russian player making her debut at the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz, and her sterling Team Maserati will face last year's newcomers Team Azerbaijan Land of Fire with captain Elchin Jamalli (+3). Bandurko has teamed up with the professional players Robert Strom (+5), Gerardo Mazzini and Hissam al Hyder (both +6). Rashad Hasanov (+2) and the two professional players from Argentina Lala Laplacette (+5) and Adrian Laplacette Jr. (+6) complete the ambitious team from Azerbaijan. Details on the line-up and the program can be found on the tournament website [www.snowpolo-stmoritz.com](http://www.snowpolo-stmoritz.com).

### Attractive additions to the 34th edition of the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz

The sport of polo originated more than 3,000 years ago in Azerbaijan, guest country of last year's Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz. In its capital Baku, international polo tournaments have been held since 2013 thanks to the support from St. Moritz. Jointly, both parties have now created the "Baku Moritz Polo Award" which means to recognise outstanding achievements in



polo. Reto Gaudenzi, Vice-president and CEO of Evviva Polo St. Moritz Ltd, together with Elchin Guliyev, President of the Equestrian Federation of the Azerbaijan Republic, Dr. Piero Dillier, FIP's Vice President, Birgit Hügli-Hermann, owner of the Polo & Luxury magazine and initiator of the award, and Yves Gardiol, CEO of Badrutt's Palace Hotel, sit on the judging committee. The prize will be awarded for the first time at the "Baku Moritz Polo Gala" held at the Badrutt's Palace Hotel on Saturday 27 January 2018.

Another attractive novelty is the Polo Bar at the St. Moritz cult location Chesa Veglia. The bar, which will open its doors on Wednesday 24 January 2018, is bound to become a hotspot on the weekend of the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz. Last but not least, the polo ponies will move into remodelled stables, courtesy of the city of St. Moritz who invested CHF 3.5 million in the renovation; the ponies are due to arrive on 22 January 2018.

### Only a few "Chukker Club" and VIP tickets left

The popular tickets to the Chukker Club are available again this year. For the price of CHF 60, the spectator gets a seat on the stands along with a warm blanket and is treated to a glass of Perrier-Jouët champagne and an hors-d'oeuvre. Only a few tickets to the Chukker Club and the VIP tent are left; these can be purchased on [www.snowpolo-stmoritz.com/tickets/](http://www.snowpolo-stmoritz.com/tickets/).

### 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](http://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](http://www.snowpolo-stmoritz.com/media).

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

<b>Team Cartier</b>	<b>+16</b>	
Rommy Gianni	+1	ITA
Chris Hyde	+5	ENG
Dario Musso	+6	ARG
Juan Cruz Greguoli	+4	ARG
<b>Team Azerbaijan Land of Fire</b>	<b>+16</b>	
Elchin Jamalli	+3	AZE
Lala Laplacette	+5	ARG
Adrian Laplacette Jr.	+6	ARG
Rashad Hasanov	+2	AZE
substitutes		
Ali Rzayev	0	AZE
Amil Namazov	0	AZE
Tarlan Gurbanaliyev	+1	AZE
<b>Team Badrutt's Palace Hotel</b>	<b>+16</b>	
Melissa Ganzi	0	USA
Tito Gaudenzi	+2	SUI
Alejandro Novillo Astrada	+8	ARG
tbc	+6	
<b>Team Maserati</b>	<b>+17</b>	
Zhanna Bandurko / Raya Sidorenko	0	RUS
Gerardo Mazzini	+6	ARG
Hissam al Hyder	+6	PAK
Robert Strom	+5	FRA



## 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
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

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