

LEGENDS







Exclusive Destination COSTA CAREYES

Interview Giorgio Brignone

by Valentine Roy



Alberto Ardisone, Gian Franco Brignone, Giorgio Brignone, Prize Giving Agua Alta, April 2011

I think Mexico is a great location for Polo. For North America it is much closer than Argentina. There are Polo Clubs in different regions of Mexico, in the zone of Cancun, in the center in the area of Queretaro, in the region of Guadalajara, and of course in Mexico City. There is also a project of Polo in Cabo San Lucas in Baja California.

Initially, how did you get involved in Polo ?

Initially it was a dream - I was taken when I was a child to a Polo game at the Polo de Bagatelle. I remember seeing a sport that has always fascinated me. This is an incredible sport to hit a ball on horseback. I always found it amazing and I have a pretty good equestrian background since my Spanish great grandfather and my Italian great-great grandfather were both Cavalry officers. So there's a horse tradition - which almost skipped two generations - but I think I must have somewhere in my genes that passion for horses.

At what age did you start playing Polo ?

I started playing at 36 years old. I have always been a fan of horse riding, but I have never done formal riding - I always did horse riding and I did also some trick riding. When I arrived in Mexico I rode cows - I was doing rodeo on cows in the years 1975 - then one day I discovered Polo and because I played tennis I had a good eye-ball coordination and the fact that I was riding made it much easier. My ever best handicap was 2 goals .

How many Tournaments during the Polo Season in Careyes ?

What kind of tournaments ? How many goals ?

In Careyes we play Polo from November to April. There are 3 main Tournaments : at Christmas with the Copa Careyes (9 /12 goals) around February with the Chinese New Year's Tournament - for Easter with the Agua Alta Tournament (8 /10 goals) organized by my friend Alberto Ardisone. It is probably one of the best known Tournaments in Mexico.

80% of Polo Teams come from Mexico and 20% from foreign Countries in addition to the various Nationalities already residing in Careyes - English, German, French, Italian. This year we had Pros and Players from Japan, Argentina, Peru, Colombia, Brazil, United States, Chile ...

What is the specificity of the Polo Careyes ?

The Polo of Careyes is a good polo, a polo of quality. This is a beach resort with Polo but a place of Polo with a beautiful beach - which is very different because I feel that we have good horses, easy to ride, great polo fields and therefore a person who comes to play a good Polo is even more satisfied because of the wonderful setting and ideal climate - great beaches and a great service. Our idea is to offer good Polo in an atmosphere of vacation and relaxation. Very often Polo - due its costs and the fact that there are players who come only to win it can be stressful. We try to take the stress off the owner. The idea is that everyone who comes to Careyes has fun and has a good time. We try to favor the pleasure of playing Polo, which unfortunately is not always the case because of its cost and its competitiveness. Careyes is really a distinctive place !

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Costa Careyes a été fondé en 1968 par Gian Franco Brignone, artiste italien, entrepreneur et architecte visionnaire. Careyes s'étend sur 12 km de la Côte Pacifique et sur 2000 hectares de jungle, de mangroves, de falaises et de plages le long de la Côte de Jalisco situé entre Puerto Vallarta et Manzanillo. Cette unique biodiversité est protégée par la Fondation Gian Franco Brignone, en particulier les tortues de mer avec le Programme de Protection des Tortues Carey de la Plage de Teopa, tortues qui ont donné leur nom au resort "Careyes".

Quarante quatre ans plus tard, seulement un Hotel, 46 Casitas 56 Villas intégrés au paysage spectaculaire lesquelles ont été créées par Gian Franco Brignone avec des architectes Européens et Mexicains célèbres tel Marco Aldaco, Alberto Mazzoni, Diego Villasenora et Jean Claude Galibert. Un style architectural de Careyes distinctif : des maisons de couleur vives, des pièces à vivre ouvertes avec un toit palapa en chaume, l'utilisation de troncs d'arbres apparents, des piscines à débordement avec vue imprenable sur l'Océan.

Une communauté internationale de plus de 42 Nationalités se retrouve tout au long de l'année pour différentes occasions et célébrations : Tournois de Polo, Nouvel An Chinois, Festivals d'Art et de Courts Métrages, la Gastronomie... et savourez la douceur de vivre et la "magie" de Careyes !

LEGENDS : Quel est l'origine du Polo de Careyes ?

GIORGIO BRIGNONE : J'avais un ami Elie de Pourtales qui avait un appartement ici à Casitas de las Flores qui un jour m'a dit "je ne retournerai plus à Careyes parce que maintenant j'ai commencé à jouer au Polo". Ça m'a tellement choqué – en me disant comment est-ce possible ? Je me suis dit alors il faut absolument que je fasse un Polo... et dans le mois qui suivait nous avons eu l'opportunité de racheter le ranch de Careyes. C'était en 1987. C'est une chance car c'est la seule partie plate qu'il y ait à Careyes qui soit agricole et qui ne soit pas sur le sable. Je considère que le Mexique est un Pays d'une grande tradition équestre et de Polo, notamment avec la Famille Gracida qui depuis les années 1930 a toujours été présente au plus haut niveau dans le Polo mondial.

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