

diversions

first class ❖ A PRINCELY AFFAIR

St. Regis Hotels and Resorts kicks off summer polo season in high style.

BY PAUL RUBIO

Camera flashes erupted like fireworks among the glittering gamut of polo and fashion royalty. Designers Jason Wu and Valentino Garavani and supermodels Karolina Kurkova, Stephanie Seymour and Hana Soukupova posed and mingled with guests under VIP tents, sipping generous pours of Royal Salute Scotch whiskey, fine French wines and fresh-squeezed lemonade. Haute couture has solidified its role in the sport of kings—which, this day, was ruled by a prince.

Prince Harry of Wales rides for Land Rover Sentebale during the Sentebale Royal Salute Polo Cup.



Clockwise from top left: Figueras and Prince Harry during match play; Prince Harry, Delfina Blaquier and Figueras talk on the field; spectators in high fashion attend the game; Kurkova and Garavani embrace; the Greenwich Polo Club.

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On May 15, Prince Harry of Wales and Argentine polo legend Ignacio “Nacho” Figueras launched the summer polo season with the Sentebale Royal Salute Polo Cup at Connecticut’s Greenwich Polo Club (greenwichpoloclub.com). White-knuckled spectators watched an hour-long spirited match that nearly culminated in a dead heat between Prince Harry’s Land Rover Sentebale team and Figueras’ St. Regis team. In the final chukker, the Sentebale team landed the winning goal, taking the match 4-3.

The real thrill, however, was the luxurious polo adventure offered by the St. Regis resort line (stregis.com/polo)—complete with deluxe wheels, pampering matchside, afternoon tea and, of course, decadent accommodations to savor long after the match.

St. Regis’ polo history dates back more than a century. The hotel’s founding family, the Astors, were often seen at polo matches on Governors Island just off Manhattan. Today, the brand is ex-

panding its polo presence globally, hosting matches and marquee events in London, Mexico City, Abu Dhabi, Bangkok and Beijing—along with VIP treatment for the most discerning attendees.

The lavish experience at the Sentebale Royal Salute Polo Cup began long before the 3 p.m. match. After a dreamy sleep at the iconic St. Regis New York property, guests were transported via Bentley at 10 a.m. to the woodsy Connecticut suburbs 45 minutes away.

Attendees were treated to a seated lunch, during which Prince Harry delivered a poignant speech on the plight of children in Lesotho, Africa. The day’s polo match benefited his Sentebale charity, whose mission is to improve the health, welfare and education of these forgotten children.

Domestic polo circuit devotees can look forward to other matches at Greenwich on July 14, September 1 and September 8 as well as at New York’s Bridgehampton Polo Club (bridgehamptonpolo.com)



The sport of kings reigns worldwide all summer long on the St. Regis circuit.



Clockwise from top: Players take to the field; Sentebale Land Rover leaders hold the prize trophy; Seymour and Wu pose; Dawn Jones smiles during play; model Jessica Stam and friend watch the action.



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each Saturday from July 21 to August 25. Hot-ticket matches overseas include the Veuve Clicquot Gold Cup Finals on July 21 at Cowdray Park Polo Club in West Sussex, United Kingdom, and an August 16 match in Abu Dhabi that will support breast cancer awareness and mark the debut of the St. Regis Abu Dhabi. Those traveling with the St. Regis circuit can expect the same royal treatment seen at the Greenwich match.

Each is simply an experience fit for a prince. ♦