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Polo Captain Ali Namazie
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Sports & Recreation snr@singaporepoloclub.org
The Polo Loft pololoft@zackstack.com
The Polo Loft
Singapore Polo Club members get to enjoy special privileges.
OPERAting HOURS

FRONT DESK
7.30am – 9.00pm (Sunday to Thursday)
7.30am – 10.00pm (Friday & Saturday)

F&B OUTLETS
The Polo Bar
8.00am – 11.00pm (Daily)

The Mountbatten Room
8.00am – 11.00pm (Daily)

The Verandah
8.00am – 11.00pm (Daily)
(Last food order at 10.30pm except for Poolside at 10.00pm)

FACILITIES
Gaming
10.00am – 1.00am
(Sunday – Thursday & Public Holiday)
10.00am – 2.30am (Friday, Saturday & Public Holiday Eve)

Gym
7.00am – 9.00pm (Weekdays)
8.00am – 8.00pm (Weekends)

Jacuzzi
7.00am – 9.00pm (Daily)

LUSH Spa
10.00am – 9.00pm (Daily)

Sauna
7.00am – 9.00pm (Daily)

Squash Court
8.00am – 10.00pm (Daily)

Swimming Pool
7.00am – 9.00pm (Daily)

Tennis Courts
8.00am – 10.00pm (Daily)

The Polo Loft
9.00am – 7.00pm (Tues – Sun)

Towel Counter
7.00am – 9.00pm (Daily)

President’s Message

General Manager’s Message

What’s On

A Magical Player

Club News

CHUKKAS
Hong Kong Polo Team Spectacular Win
British Polo Day
The Korea Cup 2015
Melbourne Cup 2015
The Perfect Blend

TROT, CANTER, JUMP
Dressage Passion at The Singapore Polo Club

LUXE
Africa, The Canter of The World

SPOTLIGHT
Halloween
New Members’ Tea Party
SG50 Members’ Appreciation Night
Christmas Party
Reciprocal Clubs
Our special salute to SPC members –
A promotion exclusively for SPC members only!

One of the finest blended scotch whiskies in the world, Royal Salute 21 is ranked among the jewels in the Chivas Regal crown. Royal Salute 21 is a very special, long-aged blend of whisky each of which is at least 21 years old. Its fruity, floral fragrance features nutty, buttery and sweet notes.

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Promotion is valid for 6 months from 1 January 2016 to 30 June 2016. Please quote your membership number during purchase.
Dear Members and Friends.

Welcome back from the holiday season. I hope you had a good rest, visited friends and family or faraway lands and feel good about 2016. 2016 is a special year for us as it is the 130th anniversary of the Singapore Polo Club. Founded in 1886 by the officers of the King’s Own Regiment, the 1st Battalion, the Club has a distinguished heritage and remains rich in its traditions of camaraderie and sportsmanship. As we journey through this momentous year, we are reminded of the Club’s long and fascinating history and all the great members who have made it so.

The Game of Kings is still the King of Games at the Club and the 2016 Polo season will be played with gusto as we celebrate our anniversary.

2016 also looks very promising for the Riding section as we will be hosting more than ten inter-club competitions where the top riders of Singapore will gather to show their best qualities in the ring. Competitions in both Dressage and Show Jumping will also be used as qualifiers for riders hoping to be part of the Singapore Equestrian Team that will take part in the 2017 SEA Games in Malaysia.

Moreover, our Pony Club has also planned a great calendar of fun activities for the young ones.

We will be continuing to work on expanding and enhancing our non-equestrian offering and are in discussion with some charity organizations on our outreach effort. We will keep you posted on the development.

In the first quarter, to welcome back all our members from the holiday season, we have lined up fun events for your enjoyment and sincerely urge all members and their families to join us as these events are specially organized for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 January</td>
<td>Salsa Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 February</td>
<td>Chinese New Year &quot; Lo Hei&quot; Luncheon</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 February</td>
<td>BBQ Get-Together</td>
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We will be saying goodbye to our General Manager, Rene Verhulst. Rene will continue to be working on specific club projects until 29th February. The committee and I would like to thank him for his contribution during his tenure of almost two years with us. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

The incoming GM will be made known to you as soon as possible. In the interim, Head of Finance, Woo Lee Choo will be the acting GM for the Back Office and Head of Membership, Marketing and Communications, Stephanie Lim will be the acting GM handling members’ relation and the Front Office.

Our new master plan which is displayed on the notice board has received positive comments in our recent Town Hall meeting on 7 December and we hope to have an EGM/ AGM in the 1st Quarter to conclude the pertinent details.

Our club is strictly for members with three notable exceptions:

- The riding section has a 3-month trial programme for non-members, the objective is to recruit new members through this activity.
- Our F&B is available to non-members from Monday – Friday at The Verandah only, this is during times when the Club is generally quiet.
- The spa is run by an independent operator and is open to the public at large. Fitness and tennis programmes are also provided by professional operators and are available to non-members for organized lessons only.

The management is constantly reviewing these exceptions and concurrently, is trying to balance the operators’ expectation with members’ usage and privileges.

Our revamped website will be launched by the end of January, where you will be able to get up-to-date information on all social and polo events. If you have not been visiting our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ SingaporePoloClub), you are invited to “Like” the page.

Finally, let me wish all members and loved ones double happiness, great health and a prosperous year of the monkey.

Best Regards,
Rickard Hogberg
President
Founded in 1929, The Pony Club began in England for youth interested in ponies and riding. Today, The Pony Club is an international voluntary youth organisation, represented in over 27 countries, with membership exceeding 110,000, and a starting point for many equestrian athletes.

**The Pony Club (Singapore Polo Club)**

Held at the Singapore Polo Club, members age 4 to 21 years old participate in weekly un-mounted rallies, where instructions in equitation and horse management are shared in a fun and safe environment.

With 45 riding school ponies & horses to groom, wash, shoe, feed and cuddle, members are sure to get a weekly dose of horse interaction.

**Our Aim**

To cultivate respect, understanding and trust between our horses and youths, to build confidence in our young equestrians and to promote the highest ideals of sportsmanship – strength of character and self-discipline.

**What We Do**

The Pony Club Standards of Efficiency Tests, segmented into 8 levels of achievement, beginning with ‘E’ and culminating with the prestigious ‘A’, are designed to show members progress of knowledge in different areas of horsemanship. We also organise gymkhana, annual camps, lectures, film screenings and even Easter and Christmas parties!

**Who Can Join**

We welcome both members and non-members of the Singapore Polo Club. As part of The Pony Club, we collaborate with the Riding Section to expedite our members waiting time for riding lessons, to supplement un-mounted learning with mounted training!

Email us at ponyclub@singaporepoloclub.org any time! Our application form can be found at the front of the Riding School Office.
Dear Members.

Firstly, welcome back, and my very best wishes for 2016. I hope you all had a pleasant and well-deserved holiday break and Happy New Year’s celebration, wherever they took place in the world.

The last year has flown by and a lot has happened. We have seen some people leave and new faces have appeared, especially in the Riding section of the Club and also in the Administration offices — in particular in our Marketing, Membership and Events department.

Most recently we welcomed on board Karrey Quek as Executive Housekeeper, who will raise the standards of cleanliness and will play a very important role once we have built our Club rooms. Karrey brings to the Club extensive experience of managing housekeeping departments in both hotels and clubs. She has also been involved in hotel openings.

We are currently preparing a Members’ Survey as a follow-up to the Town Hall meeting we held in December last year regarding the Master Plan that was forwarded to all members by email and that has since been on display on our Notice Board.

We hope that you can spare us 10 minutes of your time by completing the survey on-line so we can get a better idea of our member’s opinions, ideas and wishes.

Our Riding fraternity will take the lead to start the year’s many events with regular monthly shows, highlighted by the elegance and grace of Dressage and excitement of Show Jumping. Here are some of the competitions dates:

**Singapore Polo Club Competition**
- 30 – 31 January
- 27 – 28 February
- 12 – 13 March
- 2 – 4 April
- 7 – 8 May
- 27 – 28 August
- 12 – 13 November
- 3 – 4 December

**Bukit Timah Saddle Club Competition**
- 23 – 24 January
- 13 – 14 February
- 19 – 20 March
- 23 – 24 April
- 4 – 5 June
- 15 – 16 October
- 19 – 20 November

**Talent Sports Competition**
- 6 March
- 17 April
- 17 July

**National Equestrian Centre Competition**
- 9 – 10 April
- 29 May

Polo will resume by mid-February, and our first Club Tournament will be on 26 March. This will be the first of the season, with several major tournaments to follow in 2016.

If any members or their companies would be interested in sponsoring any of our Polo events, please contact Stephanie Lim (Head of Membership, Marketing & Communications) or myself for more information on the sponsorship packages that the Club offers.

If you have not received our weekly e-news or you have changed your details but want to stay informed of all the latest events and promotions, then please forward your name and email address to: membership@singaporepoloclub.org.

Lastly, a strong reminder to all parents with small children to keep an eye on them while at the Club. Lately there have been many complaints from riders, both on the track as well as inside the Arena, about kids running around unattended, spooking the horses. This can be very dangerous for both the riders as well as the kids. Please assume responsibility for your children while at the Club and keep them safe and well behaved.

I look forward to meeting you at the Club.

Best Regards,

Rene Verhulst
General Manager
WHAT’S ON

JANUARY – MARCH 2016

Don’t miss the exciting line-up of events and activities!

SALSA NIGHT
30 January 2016

BARBEQUE GET TOGETHER
27 February 2016

CHINESE NEW YEAR LO HEI LUNCHEON
14 February 2016

CLUB TOURNAMENT
26 & 27 March 2016
A Magical Player

Pastor, magician and Singapore Polo Club member Lawrence Khong hopes to grow the sport of polo in more ways than one.

In the 1990’s, I went to polo farms in Argentina almost every year, and that is how I improved. I was lucky to become a national player because I was one of the few true blue Singaporeans in those days who could play a reasonably decent game.

Winning the silver medal at the 2007 SEA Games must have felt really special. Tell us more about your experience representing Singapore. Honestly, I could not believe it myself that at the age of 55, I get to represent Singapore! Of course, it was a great honor to do so, but to actually win a silver medal was beyond my wildest dreams. But really, I only played a small part – I just supported the better players on the team to secure the medal.

What are your roles and responsibilities as the honorary secretary? The role of the honorary secretary is to ensure the smooth running of the operations in the club through the General Manager. The General Manager reports directly to me on staffing and operations issues. It’s a kind of a liaison role between the professional staff and the committee.

The other important role of the Hon. Sec. is to ensure that the committee operates within the constitution and bye-laws of the club with proper governance.

What do you hope to achieve as a committee member? I hope that I can contribute to building a very friendly atmosphere within the club through efficient and effective implementations of plans and policies.

What are your hopes and aspirations for SPC? My aspiration is that SPC will become a premium club where polo is played at the highest level possible given our limitation of space and resources. Also, it would have a great spirit of camaraderie in promoting the equestrian sports.

Feature was covered in Calibre Magazine
October 2015
A warm welcome to the new members who have recently joined the Singapore Polo Club family. We look forward to seeing you at the club!

CHARTER MEMBER
Oleg Charles Williamson

REGULAR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS
Denise Vandervorst
Diana Maree Broadhurst
Kirsten Gilbertson
Koh Young Ming
Maisie Chong
Paul Thomas Milburn
Syed Shane Savio
On November 27, the Club hosted the first-ever Equine jobs fair in conjunction with Ei2 (part of NTUC), the Bukit Timah Saddle Club, and the Equestrian Federation of Singapore. Over 80 job-seekers turned up to show their passion for working with horses, and to learn more about grooming and polo from demonstrations by our very own grooms. The Club interviewed 23 hopefuls and employed four who we deemed suitable.

As we continue to work with Ei2, we hope we will create more interest in the Equine industry as a career path and be able to fill more positions with Singaporeans.
Congratulations!!!

Quarterly Staff Award

Congratulations to Omar Abdullah for being awarded the Quarterly Staff Award. He is a very experienced groom with good quality and quantity of work. He always go the extra mile to cover others duties when the other grooms go on leave.

Well done and keep it up, Omar.

Long Service Award

Club President, Rickard Hogberg giving a speech prior to the awards presentation

The Cake Cutting ceremony by Polo Captain, Ali Namazie
Congratulations!!!

40 YEARS
Buang Bin Arswan
Supervisor
Polo Main Stable

25 YEARS
Joyce Tay
Cashier
Jackpot

25 YEARS
Surada B Radaserah
Groomer
Riding Main Stable

25 YEARS
Susan Seow
Cleaner
Facilities

25 YEARS
Daniel Sitranen
Senior Instructor
Riding School

15 YEARS
Sanaullah Khan
Stable Manager
Polo Professional

5 YEARS
Alinna Li
HR Manager
HR & Admin

5 YEARS
Wang Shan Feng
Stable Hand
Riding Main Stable

5 YEARS
Liu Yi Ping
Stable Hand
Polo Main Stable

5 YEARS
Zhang Xu Hua
Stable Hand
Polo Main Stable
Hong Kong Polo Team Spectacular Win

Hong Kong Polo Team (HKPT) returns to Hong Kong together with sponsors Stanley Gibbons and Jaeger Le Coultre with another win, this time against Reignwood Polo Club, Beijing (RPCB).

The win marks the forth final the team have played and the third trophy since establishing the HONG KONG POLO TEAM just 1 year ago.

The team line up featured Richard Cameron (no 1), Aron Harilela (no 2), James Bean (no 3) and Captain Patrick Furlong (no 4). At 2-goals team handicap of 2 goals, it was a strong side well fielded by Hong Kong. A front line held by Richard and Aron, who first played together in the team’s debut tournament in Thailand. James played his first game for the team and struck a strong defensive mid-field position.

Captain Patrick Furlong highlighted the team play:

“Horsepower was even with our hosts providing a very good string to all our players. Our game plan for Saturday took an expansive open game strategy. First off, this cost us two early goals both quickly tightening the defense and adjusting our counter attack to reach a 2-2 score in the first chukka. The second and third chukka saw very fast polo play on the spectacular ground. We then revealed our preferred open game, favouring long hits to stretch our opponent’s defense line.”

This tact forced Reignwood Polo Club Beijing (RPCB) to commit a number of unforced fouls, which the team converted moving into the last chukka 7-5. The day finished at 9-6.

At Sunday’s final RPCB presented a more tactical defensive game plan,
and maintained the goal advantage for most of the match, entering into the last chukka with a 3 goal difference, 11-8.

“Their tactic of taking me out, to clear the way for the no 4 to push in attack paid off. And although we scored early in the chukka to be 4-goals clear, they quickly scored 2 goals and they were back in the game. A third goal to them with 1 minute to the final bell narrowed the difference to 1 goal, and a huge momentum swing to them. The last minute of the game was fought tooth and nail before the final bell was heard and the HKPT had won the game.” Commented Captain Patrick Furlong after Sunday’s final.

Marco Kaster, International Asia Director from Stanley Gibbons, specialists in valuable rare stamps and coins, awarded both finalists their prizes and presented the Hong Kong Team Captain with the Hong Kong Challenge Cup.

Instigator of HKPT and CEO of Asia World Polo, Dave Savage proudly summarized the tournament. “During the two days of play we maintained a solid 3 or 4 goal advantage. However, it was credit to RPCB to come back very decisively at the end, and it was so very close to a draw. Both teams played out a truly fantastic game and we thank RPCB for their warm spirited welcome. HKPT are thrilled to return celebrating and succeeding another step closer in our mission and legacy of bringing Polo back to Hong Kong.”

The HKPT wore the iconic Jaeger Le Coultre Reverso watch, Reverso meaning, “I turn around”, which was created in 1931 as a watch capable of surviving the hard knocks of a polo game.

Article by Genavieve Alexander
Photos by Beijing Polo Photography Club
The Asian leg of British Polo Day’s Global Series returned to the Singapore Polo Club for the fourth British Polo Day Singapore. Over 30 leading global brands and some 500 guests came together to celebrate the best of British craft and heritage in Singapore’s Jubilee Year.

Commenting on British Polo Day Singapore, CEO Ed Olver said: “Singapore is the nexus of our increasingly globalised world. The gateway to many markets, it draws the most fascinating and dynamic multi-cultural community together and it’s an absolute pleasure for the British Polo Day to return with our fantastic partners, associated with craft, heritage, and quality to continue to build some fabulous relationships with the wonderful people we know in this amazing city state.”

The 13th Duke of Argyll, Torquhil Campbell added: “British Polo Day Singapore has not failed to impress. Even in such an exotic location, guests have truly experienced this unique sense of British-ness alongside a vibrant local twist.”

Guests and VIPs enjoyed a pitch-side champagne reception whilst watching the opening Brompton Bicycle Polo Exhibition Match – a thoroughly British pursuit in which the CÉ LA VI Rest of the World team triumphed over the Hackett British Schools team, winning 4-3. This was followed by a sit-down lunch, drawn to a close by the 13th Duke of Argyll, Torquhil Campbell’s toast to the rival teams — a traditional Quaich Experience with the skillfully crafted and timeless Scotch whisky, Royal Salute 21 Year Old.

The British Polo Day Singapore players then took to the pitch for the official Opening Ceremony, before the Hackett British Schools team battled home side, RJI Singapore Polo Club I in The Land Rover Trophy winning 6 goals to 5.

The second match of the day saw the visiting Royal Salute Rest of the World team take on their Singaporean counterparts, the Shangri-La Hotel Singapore Polo Club II team. The final score was 6-2 to Shangri-La, with Giles Twiss scoring an impressive 5 of the 6 goals.

On the side-lines, guests enjoyed a traditional British afternoon tea and spent the day soaking up the sunshine in the Harrods Garden Party — complete
with resident Harrods Green Man, beautiful white rose flower arch, croquet pitch and Harrods ice cream cart.

On the prize-giving podium, the Hackett British Schools team collected British Silverware’s bespoke-designed Land Rover Mountbatten Plate, presented by Alexandra McKenzie, Deputy British High Commissioner and Gisele Houghton wife of British Silverware’s James Houghton. Meanwhile, the Shangri-La Hotel Singapore Polo Club II team claimed the Hackett Mount Pleasant. Oliver Browne was awarded the Royal Salute ‘Most Valuable Player’; the Holland & Holland ‘Shot of The Day’ went to Sattar Kahn presented by Rene Verhulst, General Manager of The Singapore Polo Club and Lynly Fong’s spirited horse from the 3rd chukka ‘Libray’ won Champagne Taittinger’s ‘Best Playing Pony’.

As the sun set, guests raised their glasses to the day’s polo at the CÉ LA VI bar, while DJ Randy Groover took to the decks for the evening’s fashion showcase.
The Korea Cup 2015
Victory for the Singapore Polo Club

The Singapore Polo Club team, captained by Lawrence Khong, led his team — Vinod Kumar, Ang Ban Tong/Tan Hock and Isabelle Larenaudie to secure a closely fought 8½ - 5 victory over the visiting Korea Polo Country Club team.

The match started strong with each team pacing an early goal on the scoreboard to get things underway.

The Korea Polo Country Club team led by Lee Joo Bae, with team mates — Ali Reda, James Lee and Tim Chung tried to put up a strong defense in each chukka, with Ali Reda scoring all 5 goals for his team.

It was a shame that the adverse hazy weather conditions forced the second’s days game, scheduled for the afternoon on 18th October, to be called off.

Despite that, Club members and their guests continued to sip champagne and enjoy the canapes right into the evening. The camaraderie of the players and spectators was uplifting.
The 2015 Melbourne Cup, the prestigious Australian thoroughbred horse race, was the 155th! The race, run over 3,200 metres (1.988 mi), was held at Melbourne’s Flemington Racecourse. The winner was Prince of Penzance, ridden by Michelle Payne, who became the first female jockey to win the Melbourne Cup. Max Dynamite ran second and Criterion third.

At the Singapore Polo Club, the event was made all the more festive with an equestrian performance presented by senior Singapore Polo Club riding instructor, Danielle Sitranen and his team. A tent-pegging competition which wowed the audience had Greg Parkhurst emerging as the winner.

There was also a polo match despite the slightly hazy weather conditions. Although Team Rest of the World put up a spirited and determined challenge, the match ended 6-3 in favour of Team Australia, with Ang Ban Tong as the star who scored 5 goals.

The lovely Miss Singapore Universe 2015 Lisa Marie White together with SPC President, Rickard Hogberg, presented the trophies to the winners and runners-up.
It doesn’t matter if you’re an Aussie or not, Melbourne Cup Day on Tuesday 3 November is a celebration open to all. It is regarded as the Race that Stops a Nation.

It was an exhilarating afternoon watching the Australia’s highly anticipated horse race “Live” on the big screen. Our guests also get to watch equestrian entertainments such as Show-Jumping, Polo Exhibition Match and Tent Pegging.

Congratulations to Gregory Parkhurst who emerged as the winner for the Tent Pegging Competitions.
With his towering height and graceful presence, professional polo player and Royal Salute World Polo Ambassador Malcolm Borwick cuts a dashing figure both on and off the field. Any given week might see him conducting a series of Royal Salute polo clinics in Asia or the Americas before hopping on a plane back to England to play a tournament with Prince Harry.

His two roles perfectly represent the intimate and extensive relationship between the world’s leading luxury whisky and the sport of kings.

Born in Hampshire, England, Borwick belongs to a long family tradition within polo. His great grandfather was a contender for the prestigious Westchester Cup in 1902, his grandmother played in the first ever women’s test match in 1924, and his father was involved in polo during his time in the British Army. His own career began at the age of ten and a mere eight years later, he turned professional with a high goal debut for Royal Pahang, a team from Malaysia. Now, with a six-goal handicap, Borwick is one of England’s leading polo professionals, regularly competing against the sport’s crème de la crème.
Among some of Borwick’s achievements on the field include winning the coveted Coronation Cup against Australia and New Zealand at the Cartier International Day in 2008 and 2010 respectively, as well as being awarded most valuable player during his debut test match against South Africa in 2005. Meanwhile, his first tournament with Royal Salute was the inauguration of the Nine Dragons Hill Polo Club for the Royal Salute Gold Cup in Shanghai. Played on a field that the club had reclaimed from the sea, it was the first polo tournament in China for over 3,000 years. With these feathers in his cap, it is no surprise that Borwick has long been a favourite of the England selectors, with over 30 caps for the Audi England team to his name, as well as contracts for teams in the UK, Spain, France, USA, South Africa and Argentina.

As a Royal Salute World Polo Ambassador, Borwick embodies the power and grace that is characteristic of both polo and Royal Salute. The skill and art involved in any single game of polo mirrors the artisanal craftsmanship that goes into every single bottle of Royal Salute. And the interplay between man and horse is echoed in the attention to detail between the Master Blender and his prized creation. Beginning where others end, this luxury whisky is matured for a minimum of 21 years before being bottled in its unique flagon meticulously handcrafted from the finest hand-selected porcelain.

With Borwick as a leading advocate for both polo and Royal Salute, more and more people have come to appreciate the inherent beauty of a game of polo and the intrinsic elegance of a glass of whisky. Truly, there is no better partner for the sport of kings than this tribute to royalty known as Royal Salute.

“'The skill and art involved in any single game of polo mirrors the artisanal craftsmanship that goes into every single bottle of Royal Salute."

Article and Photos from Pernod Ricard Singapore
Element Low Rise Knee Patch Breeches

✓ Sleek, stylish and innovative

✓ Silicone grip on knee patches

✓ 68% nylon, 24% bamboo & 8% spandex

Now available in The Polo Loft by Zack’s Tack

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Operating Hours: 9.00 am – 7.00 pm (Tues to Sun)
www.ZacksTack.com
Dressage Passion
At The Polo Club

“When your horse is moving really well, it looks like you aren’t doing much as a rider, and it feels like magic.”

Shana Thurley competing on the school pony, Sir James, at the FEI World Dressage Challenge.
I didn’t get the point of dressage for years. It always seemed so regimented or, on the other end of the scale, even mundane for my liking. I didn’t see how one could possibly find it pleasurable to trot from the letters M to K in the dressage arena, which already seemed like such a confined space. To me, riding was about the adrenaline rush of galloping down an endless beach, or the suspension of time as your horse clears a 1.40m oxer under you. I wondered whether the dressage horse was having fun, or whether his obsessive rider was too busy over-analysing the technical details of riding him. I never really got it, until I bought my first dressage horse and felt the gears and controls of communicating with a powerful yet obedient beast — and then I was well and truly bitten by the dressage bug.

A well-trained high-level dressage horse has self-carriage, which would be analogous to a well-toned yoga practitioner. He has the right amount of muscle in the right places to carry his body in balance, so that riding him looks effortless. As 12-year-old Shana Thurley puts it, “When your horse is moving really well, it looks like you aren’t doing much as a rider, and it feels like magic”. Shana rides at the Elementary level and won “Best School Rider” in the 2015 EFS League Ladder. But no matter how good your horse is, dressage requires discipline and dedication. You strive for perfect harmony with your horse, which takes months of training and relationship-building. Perfection deserves a score of 10 in a dressage test, and riders strive in the endless pursuit of 10s for all movements in the test.

If you find yourself at the Club at 6am or even earlier, stop by the indoor arena and you will find our very own Grand Prix dressage rider, Katherine Desbaillets, working though the dressage movements with what looks like graceful ease. She loves the peace and silence of the early hours where “no thinking is involved” and she can get “absorbed in the motion and connection beyond the physical”.

Incidentally, Katherine began her career as a dressage rider at the Singapore Polo Club and was already riding at the advanced level as a teenager. One of Katherine’s many talents is her ability to train a horse up through the levels and teach it all the movements that must performed in a test. She has trained several horses all the way up to Grand Prix level, including the chestnut stallion in the photo.

Katherine started coaching me and my Prix St Georges horse, Dancing Boy, roughly 6 months ago. Dancing Boy has a flamboyant natural gait and although he is talented in the more advanced movements, in competition we were not hitting the high scores because he got very tense.

Katherine took his training back to basics, where she first taught him to relax. From there we were then able to build his strength and suppleness, which are some of the crucial building-blocks to higher level dressage. This has helped so much that in October 2015, Dancing Boy and I won the FEI World Dressage Challenge Prix St Georges class, and also ranked second in the Southeast Asian zone.

The Singapore Polo Club is also the home club to the SEA Games 2015 Team Gold medalist, Audrey Njoto, who owns the chestnut gelding Come Along Bstrup. Audrey’s strength as a rider and trainer is to “find the feeling” that is specific to each horse and then “use the right technique to bring out the best from horse and rider”. In her lessons, she says that she enjoys deciphering a system for her student to communicate clearly for the right effect in a movement. One can just perform a movement, and get a score of 5 or 6 but executing the movement for a score of 7 or 8 will take much more skill and flair.

Singapore Polo Club’s showjumping instructor, Rolando Gonzalez Valdez, also competes in dressage at Prix St Georges level. He was reigning champion in the Dominican Republic in 2012-2013, and has managed to keep his competitive edge with livery dressage horses Mon Plaisir and Timer since coming to Singapore. Although admitting that he’d never give up jumping for full-time dressage, Rolando claims that his dressage seat and riding position make him a more effective rider on a jumping course.

Ultimately, dressage is about the relationship and communication between rider and horse — and when it has been established, the feeling is amazing and addictive. Dressage has gained much popularity on the Singapore equestrian scene and especially so at the Club. With better quality horses being imported from Europe, the standard of riding has risen significantly in the last few years. It is a sport that requires passion and dedication to get that magical feeling of being clearly understood and at-one with your horse.

Article written by Roshni Selvam (dated 5 Dec 2015)
Katherine Desbaillet competing on Danny Devito at the National Dressage Championships.

Roshni Selvam and Dancing boy performing the trot half-pass in competition.
Whether you are a first-timer or a seasoned traveller to the magnificent continent of Africa, the effect it has on you is undeniably powerful. From its impressive vastness that always amazes to the bright colours that bring to mind an Impressionist painting to the abundance of wild animals roaming around freely right before your eyes, the quintessential African experience is something any diehard nature lover will cherish a lifetime.

To get acquainted with it, the options are endless. There are the classic intrepid game drives, which boast sightings of majestic animals including the “Big Five”, walking safaris led by tribesmen that make one pulsate with joy at every step, unhurried cruises across rivers brimming with playful hippos, serene rides in traditional canoes where you get to see the environment from a different angle and, of course, scenic flights that offer a bird’s-eye view of Africa’s enormousness.

These alone will make you fall head over heels in love with the “Mother Continent”, but there are also unconventional ways to get up close and personal with the riches of Africa. Picture yourself sighting rare wildlife and exploring unfamiliar territories while horseback-riding through savannas, thick bushes and delta – and invariably, being one with nature and wildlife.

A horseback safari represents more than just observing and photographing animals, but also truly experiencing beautiful and unusual habitats in close proximity and the thrill of galloping alongside big game that one cannot really experience from a 4x4 jeep. For any equid lovers, it’s an ultimate treat to be able to bond with the steed in such an exciting manner.

The best part? A holiday in the saddle is not restricted to expert equestrians; novices will also have fun galloping in search of new adventures!
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**Idyllic ride on the Wild Coast**

Over at South Africa’s Wild Coast, located north along Eastern Cape, you may feel like a character in your own movie. Wind in your hair, you will be galloping on deserted sandy beaches, enjoying the roaring sound of the choppy Indian ocean, taking in vistas of the rocky headlands, cliff tops and deep gorges, climbing rolling hills and watching fun-loving whales and dolphins practising stunts in the water.

Considered one of South Africa’s most unspoilt areas, the Wild Coast boasts remote beaches that stretch for kilometres, allowing you the opportunity to practise your riding skills unhurriedly. You will, however, be tempted to combine your nomadic inclinations with cultural visits to the ancient Xhosa settlements and rustic beachside villages nearby.

It will be a long, wild and often strenuous gallop but as Winston Churchill himself put it, “no hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle.”

Andreea Serb is Travel Writer at Quotient TravelPlanner, the leading agency in Singapore since 2007 specialising in private customised holidays for couples, families, friends and corporate executives.

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**The lure of Okavango Delta**

In Botswana’s UNESCO World Heritage Okavango Delta, an impressive number of species is drawn by the seasonal flooding, creating a wildlife spectacle to remember. It is here you will be able to immerse yourself in the truly unique landscape of the untouched delta, riding from wetland to dry land, crossing waterways peppered with papyrus and curious-looking reeds, thick woodland and savannah, only to experience the thrill of sneaking up on wildlife and bird species without needing to dismount.

For a replete delta experience, the Xaranna Okavango Delta Camp of andBeyond sets you off on an authentic horseback-riding adventure with expert ranger guides who lead you through untamed Africa and constantly teach you how to keep all your senses alert, experiencing nature’s reverberating sounds and serenity at the same time.

As you jockey through plains teeming with water buffaloes, Impala, kudu, elephants and widebeests, you can expect heart-stopping — and surreal -- moments, such as intense eye contact with an animal popping up right in front of your horse!

But even if wildlife encounters are the main attractions of a riding safari, you will also be surprised by lovely touches. Oftentimes, you will trot to a halt before a table covered in linen set under the iconic marula and baobab trees, in the name of enjoying sundowners or a lush dinner while taking in a fiery-red African sunset or the breathtaking backdrop of an elephant family languidly making their way to an unfamiliar place. That’s simply part of the charm of this truly special African venue.

**Namibia’s untamed beauty**

Over in horse-loving Namibia (it is actually renowned for wild horses, which have their habitat in the barren plains around Garub, on the fringe of Namib Desert), you will be welcomed by a glorious dreamscape coated in intense colours. This is a land often regarded as raw and wild, where swirling tangerine dunes meld with shimmering white pans, creating a surreal-looking imagery.

As Namibia is considered one of the world’s least-populated countries, the thought of having this immensity to yourself will surely cross your mind at least once. Thanks to its roadless plains, startlingly-inspiring ancient deserts and coastlines speckled with intriguing shipwrecks and bleached whale bones, this otherworldly landscape is best explored intimately, galloping in the sweltering heat to earn an unobstructed view of its most cherished species.

Being on horseback and charging across the enigmatic Skeleton Coast, the rocky plains of the Namib Naukluft National Park and the dramatic NamibRand Nature Reserve with its backdrop of craggy peaks, you will quickly become aware of this arid environment and be humbled by its compelling beauty — the ride through this dramatic scenery almost seems a spiritual experience.

**A bushveld oasis in South Africa**

For sheer family adventure and excitement, a ride through the reserve at Ant’s Collection in the Waterberg, South Africa, means that riders will be able to enjoy a versatile mix of species such as buffaloes, rhinos, giraffes, zebras, rare sable antelopes, elands and big horned kudu.

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**Below**

Feel the rush of wind and thrill of galloping alongside raging buffaloes, and more, during a horseback safari in Botswana.
Resolve to Keep Well in the New Year!

JAN SPA PRESCRIPTIONS
2 hrs | from $205
Resolve to Keep Well in the New Year

Anti-Stress Energiser

SPA TREATS
- warm foot bath
- 80 min rosemary lavender body & scalp massage
- migraine relief face spa

BENEFITS
- energising & refreshing

SUGGESTED ADD-ON
- warm stones $20
...and more

FEB SPA DATES
2 hrs | from $395 per couple
Intimate Spa for Two
Book early for Valentine’s Day!

Couple Champagne Spa

SPA TREATS
- floral foot bath
- warm chocolate body scrub
- 50 min lavender body massage
- Decleor face spa
- champagne & strawberries

BENEFITS
- promotes relaxation & tension-relief

SUGGESTED ADD-ON
- couple jacuzzi $80 (for 2)
...and more

MAR ANTI-ACHE BUSTERS
2 hrs | from $196
Best Natural Stress Antidotes

Body Ache Buster

SPA TREATS
- warm floral foot bath
- 80 min warm stone ginger & lemongrass body massage
- 30 min relaxing foot massage

BENEFITS
- improves oxygen flow & relieves tight muscles

SUGGESTED ADD-ON
- Decleor face spa $60
...and more

Lush @ Singapore polo club, 2nd level (next to the gym). Contact us at 6254 9091 or email enquiries@lushspa.com.sg for bookings & enquiries.
Halloween

With Frankenstein lurking around and activities such as Wrap “O” Mummy, The Donut, Ghost Hunt & What’s in the Bowl? Our members’ children and guests had a “Frightfully” good time at the Halloween’s Party on Saturday, 24 October 2015.
POLO RESTAURANT & BAR
by IndoChine

January - Vietnamese Traditional Food Promo

LUC LAC - VIETNAMESE GARLIC AND PEPPER BEEF
New Zealand Prime Beef sautéed with herbs, spices & melted butter on a hotplate, served with a subtle sour-sweet dip
$20 / $22

COM SUON – VIETNAMESE PORK CHOP WITH RICE
Steamed jasmine rice served with our special marinated pork chop and fried egg, accompanied with sweet fish sauce.
$13 / $15

February - Lo Hei Promo with Chinese New Year

NORWEGIAN SALMON PLATTER
Platter of freshly sliced Norwegian Salmon sashimi, green papaya, julienne cucumber, carrot, radish, pickles, thai pomelo, prawn crackers, rice crackers, pok cuí & Indochinese dressing
Recommended for 2-4 pax - $38
Recommended for 4-6 pax - $68

March - Laotian Delicacies

KHAO POON NAM PA LAOTIAN LAKSA
Rice vermicelli with fresh sliced lettuce, cucumber and bean sprouts served in a traditional light coconut soup infused with Laotian ancient spices, herbs and fish extract. Topped with fishballs.
$14 / $16

TAM MAAK THANG TRADITIONAL LAOTIAN CUCUMBER SALAD
Handpound and tossed with traditional dressing
$12 / $14

For more information or reservation, please contact 6854 3985 or e-mail reservations@indochine-group.com

BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!
New Members’ Tea Party

22 November 2015, the Club invited our new members to a Welcome Tea Party. Members had an afternoon of fun and also network with fellow members. It was also an afternoon of discoveries as our Charter Member, Stijn Welkers shared tips on the game of Polo and Author Rosie Milne introduced her latest novel “Olivia & Sophia”.

New Members’ Tea Party
SG50 Members’ Appreciation Night

5 December 2015 — In celebration of SG50, the club held a Members’ Appreciation Night. As promised, it was a night of glitz as members and their guests came in their sequinned 60’s outfits. The evening was complemented by the mesmerizing oldies of live singing performance by The Retro Trio.

After the opening speech by the President, Mr Rickard Hogberg, Club Patron Mr Ameerali Jumabhoy, one of the longest standing members of the club also gave a little speech.

The evening got underway with Emcee Steven Lee getting members and guests to hunt under their seats for the mystery stickers which were special VIP invitations to the Singapore Contemporary “A World of Art” show.

Members and guests feasted on the sumptuous buffet spread featuring Singapore classics such as Laksa, Popiah, Kueh Pie Tee, Hainanese Chicken Rice and BBQ stingray on banana leaf, as well as international items including Roast Beef, Baked Salmon in salt crust, Chicken Shepherd’s Pie and the list goes on.

The three best-dressed couples were invited on stage to compete in a catwalk ‘face-off’ and Mr & Mrs Kiener strutted away with the 3 nights’ stay at Nihiwatu Resort, Sumba Island.

As the event came to an end, members continued to dance into the night. Everybody left on a high, saying that it was the best social event of the year!

We would like to thank Singapore Contemporary Art, Ce La Vi, Cornerstone and Singapore Straits Wine for their support of this event.
Family Christmas Party
11 December

Santa Claus filled the club with cheers and fun for both kids and parents. Little boys and girls were especially happy to receive their gifts from Santa and big boys and girls received a bottle of wine each. The children’s faces lit up with the Magician’s hilarious surprises and spellbinding tricks!

Christmas carols from a choir of young children and teenagers from The A Capella Society brought cheers and much applause from the audience, and author Ms Kimberly Leng from Fable-Made shared ‘The Great Diggedy Adventure’, her story about two children on an adventure to search for hidden treasure.

As Santa left, we heard him exclaim “Ho ho ho ho…. Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!”
Established in 1886, the Singapore Polo Club strives to promote the sport of polo and equestrian activities both locally and internationally. Its history dates back to the colonial period and the Club has always had an illustrious membership. Several members of the British Royal Family have at various times played polo on the lush tropical grounds of the Club, which is situated along Mount Pleasant Road. The Singapore Polo Club is where luxury and privacy come together, and is the perfect venue for you to hold your Corporate Seminars, Birthdays, Anniversaries and Celebrations.

THE COMMITTEE ROOM
The committee meeting room is a boardroom setting and the room is perfect for a private and exclusive corporate meeting.

SEATING CAPACITY
16 persons

THE MOUNTBATTEN ROOM
The Mountbatten Room is a wine lounge that is part of the Polo Restaurant and Bar.

SEATING CAPACITY
Round table : 50 persons  Theatre Seating : 90 persons
U-Shape Style : 35 persons  Cocktail Standing : 100 persons

THE POLO GALLERY
The Polo Gallery is a Private Room that has a seminar-style set up. The room is also suitable to conduct trainings / workshops and private parties.

SEATING CAPACITY
Round table : 30-40 persons  Theatre Seating : 70 persons
U-Shape Style : 20-25 persons  Cocktail Standing : 70 persons

THE CHUKKA BAR TERRACE
The Chukka Bar Terrace is an extension of the Chukka Bar, next to the Chukka Board by the field side of the Polo Ground. It oversees the lush greenery of the polo field and one can relax while at the same time be near to the Polo action. The space is perfect for cocktail parties and group gatherings.

SEATING CAPACITY
Square Tables of 8 : 8 Tables  Round table of 10 : 6 Tables  Cocktail Standing : 80 persons

For bookings, please call 68543999 or email events@singaporepoloclub.org  
(2 - 4 weeks advance booking is recommended)
## Reciprocal Clubs

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<td>The Eccentric Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.eccentricclub.co.uk">www.eccentricclub.co.uk</a></td>
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<td>Guards Polo Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.guardpoloclub.com">www.guardpoloclub.com</a></td>
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To visit any of the Reciprocal Clubs, an Introductory Letter is required from the Singapore Polo Club.
For reciprocal arrangement and / or information please contact Membership Department at Tel: +65 6854 3999 or Email: membership@singaporepoloclub.org.
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