

MEN'S GUIDE TO PALM BEACH

A Palm Beach polo star on polo, where to get a shave, how to land a big one—and other essential Palm Beach points of interest.

BY MELISSA MALAMUT



The New Face of Polo

STAR PLAYER NIC ROLDAN GIVES VISITORS INSIGHT INTO THE CULTURE OF THE QUINTESSENTIAL PALM BEACH SPORT.

NIC ROLDAN was born in Argentina, but his polo roots are firmly planted in Wellington, some 17 miles inland from Palm Beach—and home to the Museum of Polo and Hall of Fame, and International Polo Club Palm Beach, which hosts six major tournaments a year.

When Roldan isn't saddling up (the 2012 season starts in January), he can be seen shopping on Worth Avenue for his favorite designers like Ralph Lauren (300 Worth Ave.) and Giorgio

POLO PRIMER

Polo is played with rules similar to a hockey game.

The two opposing teams, composed of four players each, try to drive the ball through their opponent's goal posts.

A polo match is played in six periods (called chukkers) that are seven and a half minutes each.

The ball is stroked with the side of a mallet head.

Players are numbered from 1 to 4 and are handicapped according to their strength each year.

The direction of attack changes each time a goal is scored in an effort to keep any field advantages even.

Each goal counts as one point, and the team scoring

the most points (including handicaps) wins.

If the score is tied at the end of a game, there is a "sudden death" overtime chukker.

No player may cross the line of another in going for the ball, and the last man to strike it has the "right-of-way." In the event of a rule infraction, penalty shots are rewarded.



LILA PHOTO

Armani (243 Worth Ave.) or relaxing at Eau Spa at The Ritz-Carlton, Palm Beach (100 S. Ocean Blvd).

Roldan admits that he's most comfortable in "rugged comfortable jeans and nice white T-shirt," but he also has a modeling contract—and is the perfect choice to be the new face of polo.

"I think polo will become more mainstream very soon," Roldan says. "I am working hard to promote it as much as possible all over (the U.S.), and we are getting a lot of attention now. Making the sport more accessible to the public will attract more attention as well."

To that end, he believes it's important to have training facilities available for any person who

wants to learn or play polo without owning a horse or knowing somebody who does. "I am working on a project now that will hopefully give the public that opportunity," Roldan says. "Also educating people about the game will help because many don't understand the sport and therefore find it tough to watch. We are also trying to bring corporate sponsorship to the sport. That will bring in a lot of new attention. It truly is a great sport to watch if understood."

Roldan says that his favorite part of playing polo is his passion for horses. But he also loves the intensity. "The speed and adrenaline all add up," he says. "It is just an all-around amazing sport—and I have played them all!"



GROOMING FOR THE BOYS

HOT SHAVE: The Spa at Four Seasons Palm Beach (2800 S. Ocean Blvd; 561/582-2800) offers a luxurious 30-minute "Gentleman's Hot Shave" (\$45).

MASSAGE: The Eau Spa at The Ritz-Carlton, Palm Beach (100 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan; 561/540-4960) offers an oceanside cabana massage—and luxurious "Couple's Villas" if you want extra brownie points.

HAIRCUT: Check out the venerable Everglades Barber Shop (411 Cocoanut Row; 561/655-7022) which offers everything from shaves to haircuts, facials to mani-pedis.



The Sporting Life

GOLF, TENNIS AND A GOOD CIGAR

PALM BEACH PAR 3: This newly designed Ray Floyd course features six holes on the Atlantic Ocean, three on the Intracoastal Waterway, a putting green, driving range and practice bunker. The pro shop offers rental clubs, apparel and accessories. PGA professionals offer lessons seven days a week. (2345 S. Ocean Blvd., 561/547-0598)

DEEP-SEA FISHING: Check out the Geno IV, a fully equipped 51-foot Tom Fexas yacht at the Boynton Harbor Marina. Trips begin at \$650 for four hours, \$1,150 for eight hours. (561/588-5892)

JOHN WEBSTER GOLF ACADEMY: Private lessons and clinics are available at this academy at The Breakers Palm Beach, with programs customized to fit any golfer's needs. Video analysis and club fittings are a specialty. (561/659-8474)

TENNIS: Sea View Tennis Center offers a daily court fee of \$15.97 for visitors and private lessons at \$68/hour. There are also courts at the island's south end at Phipps Ocean Park. (Sea View Tennis Center, 340 Sea View Ave., 561/838-5404; Phipps Ocean Park, 2201 S. Ocean Blvd., 561/227-6450)

THE BREAKERS PALM BEACH: Members and guests have access to the Ocean course, Florida's oldest 18-hole layout, which was re-designed by Brian Silva in 2000; and The Breakers' Rees Jones course, revamped in 2004, a challenging 7,100-yard par 72. (One S. County Road, 561/659-8474)



SCOTCH AND A CIGAR: The Colony Hotel is just around the corner from Worth Avenue. If you have your favorite stogies, feel free to light up on the Colony's chic patio, a very comfortable poolside arbor outside the doors of the Polo Steakhouse. (155 Hammon Ave., 561/655-5430)



Golf at The Breakers.
Right: Youth golf lesson
at The Breakers.

