



A FIRST-TIMERS GUIDE TO POLO

Enter the thrilling world of this fast-moving sport with Val de Vie's spectators' guide.

- A polo game is played between two teams of four, designated either attack or defence. Each player has a handicap, ranging from -2 up to 10.
- There are two umpires and a tournament director on the 274m x 146m field. The aim is to get the ball between the goal posts.
- A match comprises between four and eight chukkas, each seven minutes long.
 - Although called 'ponies', the horses are actually Thoroughbreds. The high-paced nature of polo means they are under great physical exertion and cannot be used for more than one chukka. Some professional players will bring six or more ponies to a match.
 - Teams change ends after a goal is scored, to account for wind or other factors that could influence the game.
 - There is no offside in polo, but the 'line of the ball' determines who has the right of way.
 - Divot stomping is a half-time tradition to repair turf that has been torn up during play.

THE PINNACLE OF POLO PRESTIGE

This South African polo estate has garnered a name as one of the Western Cape's finest, even attracting royalty to its state-of-the-art fields.

It has been called the sport of kings, a display of skill, camaraderie and equestrian strength unparalleled in the modern world. As polo rises in popularity across the globe, purpose-built estates and luxurious stables are cropping up to sustain the game.

Cape Town's 550-hectare Val de Vie polo and lifestyle estate has become an epicentre for international matches and charity showcase weekends. Although Val de Vie's first match was only held in 2007, it has become a formidable destination for high-level

polo, hosting the Veuve Cliquot Masters Polo, international showdowns between South Africa and Chile, and the largest one-day charity polo event in the world, founded by Prince Harry: the Sentebale Royal Salute Polo Cup.

Alongside Prince Seeiso of Lesotho, Prince Harry brought the sixth edition of the event to Africa in November 2015, raising money for children affected by HIV/AIDS in Lesotho and impressing the crowds with the Royal Salute team's skilful play. ♦

www.valdevie.co.za