

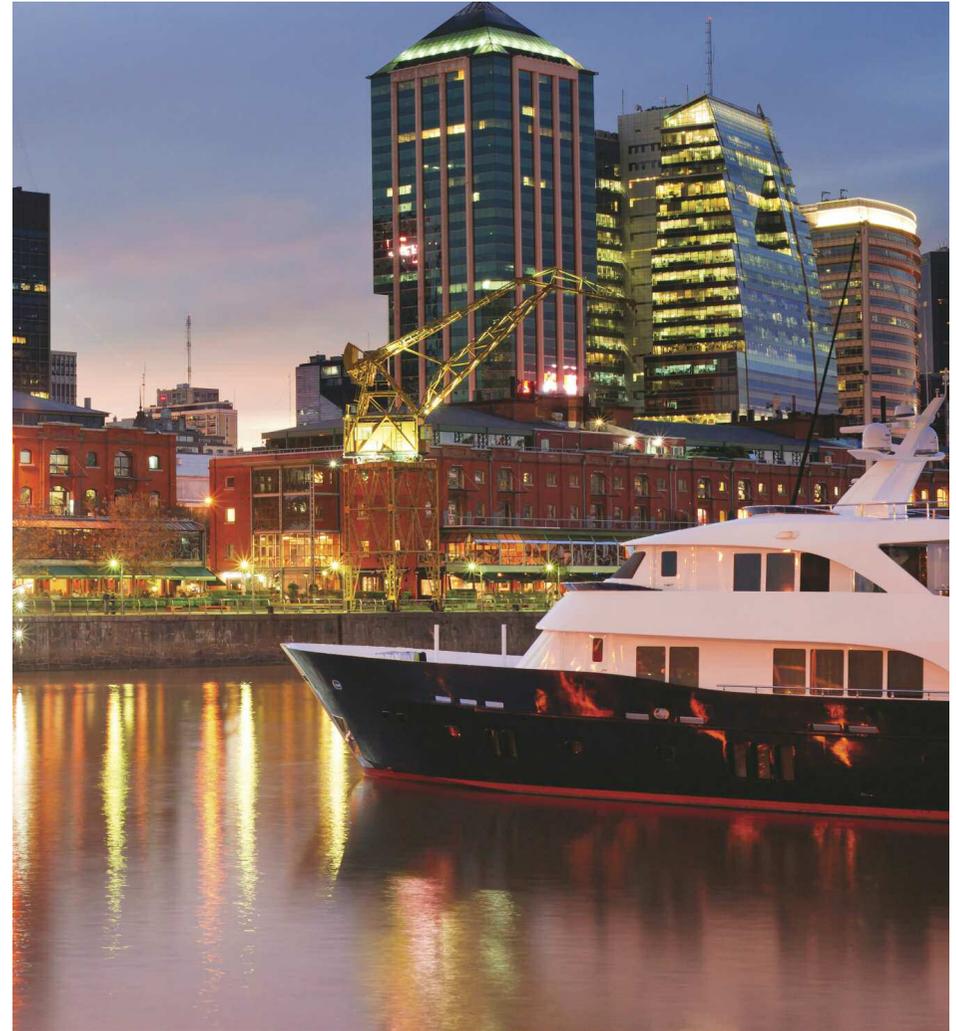
INVICTVS

DESTINATION



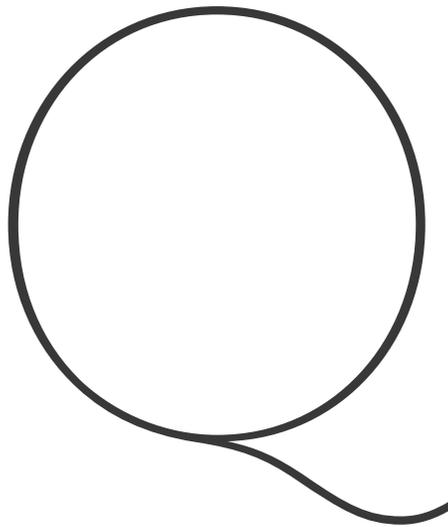
INVICTVS

DESTINATION





*Colorful, vibrant and possessing of a distinct culture- with a little careful planning Buenos Aires should be on the passage plan for every yacht cruising South America's eastern seaboard.*



Quite why Buenos Aires, the capital city of Argentina, remains a backwater in superyacht destination terms is somewhat of a mystery. Those that do are attracted by the challenge of rounding Cape Horn and enjoying wilderness of the Magellan Straits and Tierra del Fuego. Yet Buenos Aires—often called the Paris of Latin America—has everything it takes to become a serious contender in the superyacht destination stakes, yet few yachts have made the journey. The resorts in the Rio de la Plata estuary, where most yachting facilities are concentrated, are far more accessible than rumors might suggest and though the river estuary has a silting problem, never the less it continues to provide access to large commercial ships. The use of pilotage is certainly recommended for deep drafted superyachts that draw more than 13' 7", and in certain areas it is mandatory.

During our recent fact finding mission we found the Porteños, the name natives of Buenos Aires have given themselves, are happy go lucky and very welcoming. The city has acres of renovated docklands rich in restaurants and nightlife, along with some of the most magnificent hotels, and there really is no reason why large yachts should not visit. The myth that the river is too shallow to accommodate them is shot away when you recall that these docks were once lined with passenger and cargo carrying freighters that hauled refrigerated beef to Europe and the USA. It was also the port the ill-fated pocket battleship the Graf Spee took sanctuary in and it was the ensuing sea battle off the coast that made the river famous around the world.

The rewards for visiting yachts are immense and varied. The city is one of vibrant culture. Tango, the dance of love is all pervading with the city's dance halls—called Milongas—filled to capacity with aficionados and fanatical wannabees tapping their feet to the South American beat. Soccer stadiums of

gargantuan size are filled each week with frenzied souls who watch some of the world's masters play on local turf. Shops are filled with exquisite leather and stunning silver artifacts, while museums and art galleries house spectacular collections. The city's famous Teatro Colon opera house is just one of the many stunningly beautiful buildings that line streets where taxis fearlessly criss-cross each other on the 9-lane highways that traverse the Capital. Buenos Aires claims to have one of the widest city center streets in the world. Called 9 de Julio (9th July) after Argentina's Independence Day, it is so wide that it is seldom possible to get across it in one attempt without stopping.

**CAPTAINS TAKE NOTE**

When planning one's passage and ahead of arriving it is well worth being aware of some of the more draconian and officious implications of cruising Argentinian waters, but if procedures are followed then the rewards are innumerable. Though Argentina's long coastline between the Rio de la Plata and the

Straits of Magellan offers little shelter and few ports or facilities, a notable exception is Mar del Plata, which has a thriving sailing community and facilities to match. Investigations by customs keen to look over a superyacht in the hope of finding possible infractions can be an issue. Ships agents who know how to deal with such matters should therefore be employed and retaining their services seems to avoid many of the potential problems. Masters of superyachts cruising in the waters of Argentina must also check-in on a daily basis with the Coastguard, using a pre-agreed method such as e-mail, sat-phone, SSB or VHF frequency.

Masters we spoke to highlighted that it is advisable to maintain a written log in which to record all attempts to call the authorities. This may avoid a vessel being detained and possible fines by the coastguard on arrival at a destination. Also, all vessels intending to sail between Argentina and the British territories of the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and South Orkneys, must apply for and obtain written permission from the Argentine

*Argentina's love of music often spills out of the Milonga music halls and onto the street. Impromptu performances and street entertainers create a joyfully ubiquitous soundtrack to everyday life.*





*Many labor under the misconception the River Plate is too shallow for navigation: the extent of commercial container ship activity and a good pilot prove otherwise.*

government, or risk a fine \$7,000 (USD) upon arrival back in Argentina. Force Majeure cannot be used as an excuse for failing to follow this procedure. Yachts leaving the British dependencies bound for Argentina are also advised to ensure their paperwork is perfectly in order before arriving; detention or forfeiture of the yacht is a very real possibility for those who do not comply. As a last word on the 'do's and don'ts' before we get down to the bountiful enjoyable aspects of the city, security in the port of Buenos Aires can be an issue on occasion, so a 24-hour gangway watches is a sensible precaution.

**HUB PORTEÑO**

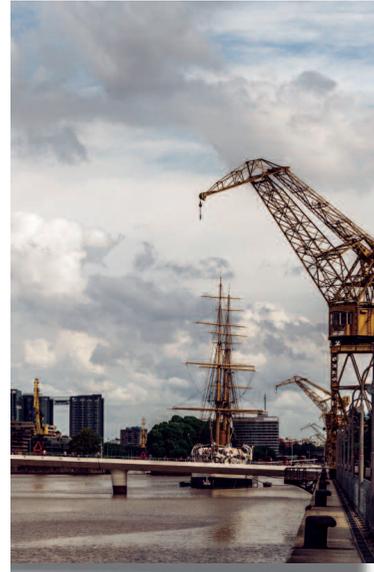
In search of the local character that makes BA such a cosmopolitan city, and at the same time, what distinguishes her as one of the world's most beautiful cities, we sought out one of the most exclusive of boutique hotels in which to spend our first night: Hub Porteño. Located in Recoleta, an upmarket aristocratic neighborhood the hotel is the

**From exclusive boutique hotels bursting with local character to international 5-star chains like the Four Seasons, BA's visitors are well-catered for.**

most wonderful, welcoming, eclectic and comfortable of accommodations. Its architecture and interior design creates a space with a strong local identity, drawing on tradition and contemporary elegance. The generous rooms include decoration and furniture crafted from the country's most sophisticated raw materials; leather and rare hardwoods to Andean textiles, animal skins and hand-carved metal.

**THE FOUR SEASONS BUENOS AIRES**

If you seek to discover the city and enjoy the amenities of a larger hotel then trust us and stay at the Four Seasons, also in the Recoleta district. Offering a warm welcome and an oasis of cultured luxury in the heart of the bustling metropolis, the hotel is comprised of two rather distinct parts. The first-La Maison—is a Beaux Arts landmark and one of Argentina's finest buildings. Standing behind the hotel is the building affords a rare opportunity to inhabit a historic Buenos Aires love story. This masterpiece was a wedding gift from Felix de Alzaga Unzue for his young



*One doesn't have to wander far from the recently redeveloped docklands of Puerto Madero to discover the delightful sights, sounds and smells of Buenos Aires.*

bride, Elena Pena Unzue. Importing materials by sea at the height of the First World War was a significant challenge and expense. Nevertheless, the completed residence was revealed in 1920 in all its glory—including priceless stuccos and Italian marbles. Now further enhanced after a change of ownership and an ambitious multimillion-dollar restoration, today La Mansion features seven suites, spacious reception lounges, a spa and a heated outdoor pool. The Hotel also includes the modern Tower with its 158 rooms and suites, innovative new restaurants, bars, beautiful new lobby, event spaces, and an award-winning Spa.





*One doesn't have to possess a morbid fascination to appreciate a tour of the Recoleta Cemetery, listed amongst the world's ten most beautiful.*

#### A GRAVE SITUATION

Like any capital city Buenos Aires offers much to do from shopping to sightseeing. One highlight, within a short and easy walk from the hotel, might be considered a bit morbid: the Recoleta Cemetery. But it is infinitely worth a visit and is justifiably in the world's Top Ten most beautiful of cemeteries. Inaugurated on 17 November 1822, the first two burials were of a black freed slave, Juan Benito, and a young lady called Maria Dolores Maciel. Today it is one of the most relevant historical and artistic monuments in the country. Guides can be hired but we purchased a map and catalogue for just 15 pesos and found that and the engaging and multi-lingual Florencia Nuñez gave us plenty of information.

The site, comprised of 54,843 square meters, has 4,800 truly amazing, varied and spectacular vaults. Its front portico in Greek Doric style was finished during one of the major reforms requested in 1881 by the then president of the City Council, Torcuato de Alvear. From that moment, there followed all the log-

ical alterations for an active necropolis and, as time passed by, it has been architecturally enhanced until it became a major expression of funeral architecture worldwide. Many relevant players of Argentinian history rest here, among them politicians, military men, statesmen, explorers, priest, leaders, writers and poets. One major draw is the tomb of María Eva Duarte de Perón the second wife of Argentine President Juan Perón (1895-1974). Evita, as she is known worldwide, who died from cancer at the age of 33 on 26th July 1952 and is buried in the relatively modest Duarte family plot.

#### LA BOCA

For sheer exuberance and an affirmation of life a visit to the vibrant and colorful La Boca area is a must. It is but a short taxi ride away from our beautiful suite in Recoleta. This neighborhood, or barrio, in the south east of the capital has retained a strong sense of its European heritage, courtesy of the early settlers from Genoa, Italy who made it their home. The conventional explanation that it

was named after the mouth ('boca' in Spanish) of the Riachuelo is contested by those from Genoa, who claim it was named by them after the Genoese neighborhood of Bocadasse (or Bocadaze in Genoese dialect).

In 1882 La Boca actually seceded from Argentina, with rebels raising the Genoese flag, but the rebellion was quickly put down with the flag torn from its pole personally by the then President Julio Argentino Roca. Today Boca is best known for being the home of the famous football club Boca Juniors and as a popular destination for tourists visiting the city. Its colorful houses and pedestrian streets form what is called the Caminito, where tango artists perform and tango-re-

lated memorabilia is sold. Other attractions include the La Ribera theatre, many tango clubs and Italian taverns.

#### DOCKLAND GENTRIFICATION

In the 1960's the port of Buenos Aires, like that of counterpart cities all over the world, was a bustling terminus for cargo carrying merchant ships. In the southern part of town, known as Dock Sud, Dock Sud had, from its inception, a problem accommodating large cargo ships because the shallow river did not allow for their draught. With the advent of containerization and the construction of a new port the area fell into disrepair, but like many such suburbs around the world they have been rejuvenated

*"The barrio of La Boca is a must, in the Caminito pedestrian area tango dancers perform their art with considerable enthusiasm..."*



#### Hard to Keep Secret

Restaurants in hotels can offer a gourmet magical experience of the best of worse kind and The Four Seasons Hotel Buenos Aires definitely falls into the former category. Hot on the heels of the sensational openings of their Elena Restaurant and Pony Line Bar, which have revolutionised the gastronomic world in the area of Recoleta, and the traditional Argentine hotel industry, the hotel has opened Nuestro Secreto. Nestled above the urban bustle in a rooftop garden between the Hotel's modern tower and its historic La Mansión, Nuestro Secreto is a new indoor-outdoor venue which serves traditional Argentine flame-grilled asado prepared with the best Argentine wood, along with a selection of national wines, a menu of fresh drinks, flavoured lemonades, cocktails and wine punch coming from their rich immigrant culture. Inspired by the way Argentinians like to entertain at home, Nuestro Secreto tries hard to recreate and offer that experience to visitors who want to experience real Argentine culture, as well as locals looking for a fun night out in the heart of the city. The menu of starters, salads, red and white wines, grilled fish and seafood is printed on newsprint, to emulate the tradition of reading the Sunday newspaper before using it to light the fire. "Every day is Sunday here in Nuestro Secreto Restaurant the style and the environment characterises it so well," says Lorena Buffa the hotel's F&B Assistant Manager who is on hand to arrange a very special-tasting menu for us. Nuestro Secreto can also be booked for private events, with room for up to 40 people inside a greenhouse-like extension, plus a space for 44 people split in three semi-private rooms located at the terrace, sharing the scenery with the outdoor pool of the hotel. Those who wish to enjoy good Argentine cocktails should venture to the bar and challenge David the barman to do his best. When we told him of our research work into our upcoming book *Magist's Around the World he rose to the challenge and produced a stunner!*



*Soyá's Sarmiento  
- Museo Naval*

and by a yuppie style of gentrification. In the 1990s, local and foreign investment led to a massive regeneration effort, recycling and refurbishing the west side warehouses into elegant homes and offices. To compliment the new image came a new name: Dock Sud was dropped in favor of Puerto Madero.

The area has been redeveloped with flair to become one of the trendiest boroughs in Buenos Aires. The road network has been entirely rebuilt with every street named after a woman. The Puente de la Mujer (Women's Bridge), by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, is the newest link between the east and the west docks. The Hilton Buenos Aires opened in 1999 and other luxurious hotels, state-of-the-art multiplex cinemas, theatres, cultural centers, restaurants, cafes and office and corporate buildings followed. There is even a marina and a yacht club: the Puerto Madero Yacht Club. Having tried to visit them, in a bid to research this superyacht

destination feature, we found them to be one of the most unfriendly yacht clubs we have ever encountered anywhere in the world.

#### ANTIQUES

In 1970, architect José María Peña envisioned a market to liven up the barrio (suburb) of Buenos Aires called San Telmo. It is a short taxi ride away from the Four Seasons Buenos Aires and well worth a visit if you love to browse. Peña convinced 30 neighbors to join him one day in selling off old stuff. Today that original idea has expanded to take in 200+ antique stands that line Avenida Defensa and have taken over Plaza Dorrego. With some of the country's top antique dealers setting up stall here, walking around is a treat even if you are not planning on purchasing anything. Old soda siphon bottles, copper, cookware mate pots, vintage telephones and collector matchboxes and tins are just some of the treasures on offer. The old food market is a

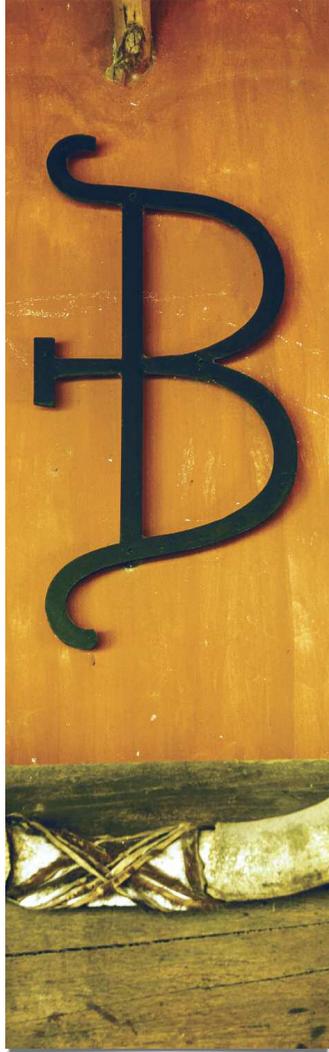
*Buenos Aires allows plenty of provision to avoid acquiring tacky tourist souvenirs. In the San Telmo barrio a thriving antique market has been created, offering opportunity to pick up authentic mementoes and conversation pieces.*

## INVICTVS

### No Bull

Named after the first bull ever imported to Argentina from the UK to improve the quality of the local beef, Tanguinó is a fine-dining restaurant located within HUB Porteno. The head chef is Dante Liperace, a rising star in Argentina's gourmet scene who has worked in both El Bulli, Spain and The Fat Duck in England. After working with Ferran Adrià at El Bulli for two seasons, Liperace now employs highly-skilled techniques picked up in Spain to elevate the traditional Parrilla (Argentine barbecue) to the level of fine-dining. Quintessentially he has created Porteno Cooking a melting pot of different cultures that first originated from the cross between European settlers and the native Indians, and was later enhanced by the boat-loads of European immigrants who arrived in Argentina at the turn of the Twentieth Century. The restaurant has the air of a private club, with dining tables crafted from the softest leather and spread out under the leafy branches of the 70-year-old fig tree that grows through the glass-roof.





**From BA we retreated to an 'estancia' called La Bamba. The polo ranch was acquired by billboard magnate Jean Francois Decaux in 2007 and is a highly exclusive boutique property..."**

masterpiece of architecture and even today the building—erected by Buschiazzo—houses a fine selection of antique stalls while finding space for greengrocers, butchers and cafe owners to make a living. Elsewhere along Defensa others have taken up stalls, keen to capture the interest of passing tourists. Along this road you can find amongst the usual tourist tat a few cheap and cheerful gems, including hand made shoes, leather belts and your very own Yerba Maté pot.

Getting around the city is easy and inexpensive with an abundance of choice that include: colectivos (buses) trains, subways, taxis and chauffeured cars called a remise. If you enjoy an adventure, don't mind a pothole or three and fancy your chances of being the second incarnation of Fangio (the famous and legendary Argentinian Race Car driver) then you have to hire a car in Buenos Aires and explore beyond the city. We hired ours from Avis to get us and our luggage from the city center to San Antonio de Areco, some 75 miles north of the city, where we were to stay on the most wonderful of polo pony estates: La Bamba de Areco. One of the old-

est estancias in Argentina and, rather like a superyacht, it can be chartered in its entirety.

**LA BAMBA DE ARECO**

Recently renovated with great care, the estancia is now a haven of tranquility outside the hustle and bustle of the country's capital, but still close enough to offer a rare insight into how the estancia owner might live. The feeling of being welcomed into a private home, into a property steeped in history and tradition, makes this boutique hotel a special and timeless place for relaxation. Traditional cuisine, old-fashioned service, gaucho traditions and equestrian sports all add to the magic of the place. Located at the end of an avenue lined with century-old plane trees, the master house at La Bamba was built in 1830 on the site of an old coaching stop on the road that ran from Rio de Plata to Lima in Peru. It quickly grew into an estancia of some 650-acres owned and managed by the Aldao family. In 1983 looking to expand their business, the family opened it as an hotel. Seeking a farm on which to rear polo ponies, French businessman Jean François Decaux

**Buenos Aires Fact File**

**Argentina's Ports of Entry**

- Buenos Aires
- Comodoro Rivadavia
- Mardel Plata
- Puerto Deseado
- Puerto Madryn
- Puerto Sanjos Cruz
- Rio Gallegos
- Ushuaia

**Getting There**

The main route into Argentina by air is through Aerolíneas Argentina, the country's flag carrier. It offers a good network serving North and South American airports. From Europa, British Airways and its sister airline the Spanish flag carrier Iberia offer service. Private aircraft can land at Jorge Newbery Airfield, located in Palermo neighborhood just a mile or so northeast of downtown Buenos Aires. It is the closer of two airports serving the city of Buenos Aires.

**Getting Around**

Yachts with their own helicopters need to consult with ships agents known to have a good grasp on local regulation and how they can be operated before they deploy them. Inside the city public transport is inexpensive, easy to use and relatively safe. Taxis, trains and subway trains offer comprehensive coverage of this sprawling conurbation whose roads are often gridlocked by motorcars.

**Currency**

Argentina uses the Peso, which is particularly unstable. Captains cruising locally advise that while small amounts of local currency should be carried, it is far better to carry Euros or US Dollars and change them when required. Rates of exchange vary daily, even hourly, and there are two markets on which money can be exchanged. The legal route is not quite as attractive as the popular black market rate whose existence is inevitable given the poor economy of the area.

**Language**

Locally the language spoken is South American Spanish and outside the city there are few places where locals speak English.

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Amenities include private cottages and accommodation for up to 22 guests and block booking is possible.

visited La Bamba in 2007, it was the first on an extensive list of potential properties. He arrived in time to see the sun set over the plain and was enthralled to the point that he chose to stay overnight, rather than move on to the next prospect. Over dinner he and his polo manager, having first paced out the property to discover it could accommodate the necessary polo practice pitches, began negotiations to buy. Four days later Decaux was the new owner of the main house and 50 percent of the total acreage, and so La Bamba became the new home for the embryonic polo team.

Over the years that followed the property was extensively remodeled and improved with the addition of pony stables and farm buildings. The hotel itself was closed for two-years, undergoing extensive rebuilding and decoration under the direct supervision of Jean Françoise Decaux, Pascale's wife, herself an accomplished and sought after interior designer. She extended the typical colonial-style main house and around its central

**After riding some of the 16 criollo ponies and exploring the countryside by mountain bike, take a hot stone massage and relax by the pool..."**

courtyard created a well-endowed library in what was once the guard tower. She also devised a pleasing drawing room and lobby, opening onto the parkland in front of the house. A two bedroomed cottage, where we stayed, and an ensemble of other suites are spread over three buildings, accommodating a maximum of 22-guests. Amenities include several reception rooms, a TV room, a bar, a massage room, an outdoor swimming pool and a boutique.

Staying at La Bamba is all about relaxing, chilling out and forgetting about stress. Riding horseback on one of the 16 criollo ponies kept for guest use is a must and you do not need to be an expert, there are ponies are complete novices. Excursions by carriage, or mountain bike, hot stone massages and the large swimming pool are just some of the other relaxations on offer. Because La Bamba de Areco also serves as the base for the international polo team that bears its name, the property also includes two polo fields. During the season guests can watch practice ses-

sions and matches, as well as displays of Gaucho horsemanship that take place almost daily. Although it is not intended to be a polo school, arrangements can be made for guests who are experienced polo players.

It was Sir Winston Churchill who, while playing polo in India during the time he was based there in the 1890s with the 4th Hussars, coined the phrase "A polo handicap is your passport to the world." That statement has certainly proved to be a truism and the sport has provided the opportunity for Kings, Emperors, Shahs, Sultans, and Caliphs to

play with and against film stars, aristocrats and wealthy businessmen the world over. The sport is now widely played in England, India, South Africa, Australia, the USA and of course Argentina... the country that boasts the most 10-goal handicappers in the world.

### SAN ANTONIO DE ARECO

Nearby, San Antonio de Areco is a center for some of the most talented craftsmen in Argentina, as well as being one of the oldest towns in the country. Its sleepy, narrow colonial streets, church, bars and museums ap-



## Martin Tatta

### The Horse Whisperer

"I am not really what I would call a horse whisperer," says Martin Tatta as we sit talking to him out side La Puperia at La Bamba de Areco. "But I do have a very close bond with Milonga, my horse, that is so strong that I can talk to her and get her to do things just for me. It is a bond built on mutual trust. I can get her to roll onto her back put her legs in the air so I can sit on her belly, its not dangerous, but it looks that way to those who have less of an understanding about these animals." An enthralling demonstration put on for us climaxed in him performing a handstand on the horse while she lay with all four legs in the air!

"If you are not a horse whisperer what are you," we ask. "I call myself a Doma India but that has no real translation. It is just what we say here in Argentina to describe this skill that has been handed down to us by generations of Indians before us. It is a skill that many gauchos have and I enjoy the life of a gaucho and I get a kick out of showing others how a gaucho lives with his horse. Here on the Pampas we talk of a gaucho without a horse rather much like you talk about someone without legs." Tatta's skills are self-taught, he was born and grew up on this estancia and says it has a very special place in his heart. "We used to ride horses every day when I was little and when I was five I used to ride mine to school, just like American kids drive their cars to school when they are teenagers." He has the skills that are the envy of many a polo player and while he enjoys watching the sport, he has no strong desire to follow the peripatetic lifestyle the star performers enjoy.

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### Weather and Climate

Buenos Aires can be hot and humid in the summer months, December to February being the hottest. In Rio de la Plata the prevailing winds in summer are easterly, while SW winds are more common in winter. They are often accompanied by pamperos, semi colon violent SW squalls that affect most of Argentina's coastal waters.

There are two dominant seasons, summer and winter. It is unlikely that superyachts would seek to cruise during the winter months of June until October. That said, there is more wind and rain in the summer months and in winter there are many periods when clear skies are predominant. The temperature drops quickly the further south a yacht sails and strong pressure systems seem to pass consecutively.

### Yacht Clubs

Yacht Club Argentino [www.yca.org.ar](http://www.yca.org.ar)  
Yacht Club Puerto Madero [www.yachtcpm.com.ar](http://www.yachtcpm.com.ar)

### Charts

Argentina: H 116, 118, 155, 156.  
British: 1749, 1851, 2039, 3561.  
USA: 24050, 24052, 24053, 23030.

### Ships Agents

Incharge Shipping Services Argentina:  
[issargentina@iss-shipping.com](mailto:issargentina@iss-shipping.com)  
Shipping Services ssa@ssa-shipping.com.ar  
Blue Star Company: [agency@bluestarcompany.net](mailto:agency@bluestarcompany.net)

### Formalities

Immigration, Customs known as Aduana and the Prefectura Naval all have to be contacted by Captains of superyachts. Through them it is possible to obtain 3-month visas for crew. Cruising superyachts must obtain a sailing permit called a Zarpe, detailing the area in which they intend to sail.

#### Documentation

- For port clearance upon arrival:
- Certificate of registry
- Crew list
- List of weapons and ammunition (Make, Model, Serial No, Quantity)
- Yacht particulars
- Insurance papers, valid for the duration of the yacht's stay
- Guest lists (if guests are on board)
- Crew effects declaration
- Stores list (Bonded)
- IMO Maritime declaration of health
- Vaccination list
- Copies of D6 fattening Certificate
- List of last 5 ports of call
- Last port Clearance



From wonderful artisan food stores to the succulent cuts of Argentinian beef from an asado grill, this truly is a country for gastronomes!

pear to be in a time warp and afford visitors an insight into another century. Here it is possible to explore the soul and character of the gaucho at the Ricardo Güiraldes Gaucho Museum, whom the famous Argentine writer brought to life in his cult novel Don Segundo Sombra (1926). Master silversmiths can be seen hard at work in their artisan workshops. Leather craftsmen and traditional rope makers practice their craft and are happy to explain what they are doing... and of course they can all sell you examples of their exquisite work. At the beginning of each November, the town plays host to thousands of gauchos from all over Argentina, arriving for La Semana de la Fiesta de la Tradición: a week of parties and tradition. The event, provides a real journey into Argentine history and heritage and provides an unparalleled opportunity to discover

**"La Bamba cheerfully organizes demonstrations by gauchos, horse whisperers and games of equestrian skill, like patos, boleadores and sortija."**

Gaucha culture, equestrian parades, rodeos, horse-breaking demonstrations, folk dancing, concerts and craft markets. Should timing prevent the visitor from catching these artists as they perpetuate the international fame of San Antonio de Areco, then La Bamba de Areco can be relied upon to offer authentic gaucho traditions such as asados and maté tasting. They also organize as an option several gaucho shows, which are private and unique: musical entertainment with folk dances, Indian horse-whispering, games of equestrian skill: patos, boleadores and sortija. Buenos Aires, it's a welcoming city that positively explodes with a colorful burst of culture, and one that should appear on any passage plan of South America. A breezily fresh experience and even its name bids the traveller safe passage: Good air and fair winds. ■



For those with an appreciation for arts and craftsmanship like that of the finely talented Argentinian silversmiths, a trip to the sleepy town of San Antonio de Areco is a must.

**Jean François Decaux**

Walk through any airport, or stand inside a bus shelter and the chances are you have seen an advertisement hosted by a company called JCDcaux. Jean-Claude Decaux gave the company his name when he founded it in 1964. His first contract was to install advertisements on bus shelters in Lyon in France. Today the firm has grown into the world's largest outdoor advertising company whose images reach 1.5-billion air travelers worldwide. In 2000 Jean-Claude stepped down as the company's CEO, handing the reins to his sons. Jean-François Decaux joined his fathers company in 1982 as Director Advertising Sales of JCDcaux Germany and he served as its Co-Chief Executive Officer from 2002 for three years. He has served as the Chairman of the group's Executive Board since 2013. It was his love of Polo that drove him to buy the estancia at La Bamba de Areco and it was there, that he began to oversee the breeding of Polo ponies. He created his own Polo team and named it after the estancia. The team he created made history in 2009 when it defeated Dubai to win the coveted Veuve Clicquot Gold Cup final, which took place at Cowdray Park Polo Club, in England. In a closely-fought final, La Bamba de Areco became Europe's top team by overcoming Dubai 13-10. The brothers Facundo and Gonzalo Pieres from Argentina formed part of the winning team, together with Tomás Garbini Islas and patron Jean François Decaux. Both teams took turns in leading the final, and La Bamba de Areco entered the final chukker with a one-goal advantage.



**Procedures**

Masters are required to give notice of ETA 24hrs, and 12hrs prior to arrival in Buenos Aires and will be expected to report their positions daily to the authorities while cruising in the area. Clearance formalities take place before crew and passengers land ashore or yachts enter docks and marinas. Buenos Aires Port Control stations can be contacted on Channel 12 or 16.

**Acknowledgments**

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**Useful Contacts**

- Four Seasons Buenos Aires
- www.fourseasons.com/BuenosAires
- Hub Porteno www.hubporteno.com
- La Bamba de Areco
- www.labambadeareco.com
- Yacht Club Argentino yca@yca.org.ar
- Yacht Club San Fernando
- nautica@clubsanfernando.com
- Yacht Club Puerto Madero
- capitana@ycpm.info