



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Great thrills on the frozen lake of St. Moritz:**

**High-calibre celebrities from politics, sport, music and TV at the 2017 Night Turf St. Moritz**

*Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017*

**Quite rightly, the starting fields for the four exclusive horseraces with betting operations at the Night Turf event on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017, ahead of the final White Turf Race Sunday, can be eagerly awaited. With eleven horses running in both the trotting and the flat race, the number of entrants can be seen as very positive. In the mounted celebrity Skikjöring presented by CREDIT SUISSE, six daring stars from politics, sport, music and TV will compete against each other: Jürg Stahl, President of the National Council and President of Swiss Olympic, Marc Berthod, former ski racer, Simon Schürch, 2016 Olympic champion in mens lightweight fours rowing, Nöldi Forrer, 2001 Swiss wrestling king, the singer Baschi and SRF television presenter Sven Epiney. Apart from the unique racing events, the visitors - all with free admission to the frozen lake of St. Moritz - can look forward to a live concert on the outdoor stage and a spectacular laser show finale.**

Night Turf St. Moritz starts with free admission to the frozen lake of St. Moritz on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 2.20 p.m. and a colourful funfair for racing enthusiasts. Before the actual racing events commence, the regional hotels will be offering a great variety of culinary delicacies and beverages in the public catering tents and in the betting tents, visitors can bet on their personal favourites. Attractive prizes await the winners!

At 3.30 p.m. exciting activities will start on the racetrack. The spectators who can follow the afternoon's events from the free grandstand seats, will be able to witness four spectacular horseraces, starting off with the match race under the patronage of the trade association Handels- und Gewerbeverein St. Moritz, where a sensational neck-to-neck dual is awaited. The two selected starters from the five potential candidates are Ferro Sensation, a sprinter as swift as an arrow with 23 victories, and Renny Storm, victorious at last year's Night Turf Legends race, also trained by Christian Freiherr von der Recke near Cologne. Performances will continue at 4 p.m. at a breathtaking pace with the trotting race presented by BMW (Schweiz) AG, followed by the flat race GP Longines.

No fewer than eleven entries were received from the ranks of the trotters. Among them Uranus de Chambe, recent winner on the first White Turf race day; two-time winner of Arosa Ramona Lap; defending champion Belgino, as well as Sonate de Bomo, Paradiso Fox and Italianec, all of which

had been successful in previous years on the frozen lake of St. Moritz. A guest from Austria has also been entered in the form of eleven-year-old Sugar Max.

Eleven horses have also been entered for the flat race over one mile, among them Eric, the convincing winner from the first White Turf Sunday, two-time winner on snow Zarras and a quintet of horses from the stables of the Swiss champion trainer Miro Weiss.

Furthermore, in the celebrity Skikjöring presented by CREDIT SUISSE taking place at 5 p.m., only top-class racehorses from renowned stables will be at the start, all ridden by experienced professional jockeys. It has been shown time and time again over years gone by, that the skiers have to bring along all their skiing skills and plenty of courage. There have been times when, in spite of the intense preparation, prominent drivers have been caught out by the acceleration of the horse and have let go of the holding rod with the reigns leaving them standing all on their own.

Six courageous stars from politics, sport, music and TV will dare to be pulled on skis by mounted thoroughbreds at speeds of up to 50 km/h across the racetrack of ice and snow. With Jürg Stahl, no less a figure than the highest ranking Swiss official, will be putting his skiing abilities to the test. It goes without saying that the current President of the National Council and new President of Swiss Olympic will make a good impression. 'As a horse owner and triple winner of the parliamentarians' ski race I very much look forward to this thrilling challenge', said Jürg Stahl. Marc Berthod could be a potential serious challenger. The ski racer and native of St. Moritz, retired from professional sports last autumn and is now studying business administration and sports' management. During his active career, he won two ski world cup races in slalom and giant slalom, amongst others and two bronze medals at ski world championships.

Simon Schürch also has good chances of winning. The Olympic champion, World champion and twice European champion in mens leightweight fours rowing in 2015/16, is in excellent physical condition and has a particularly pronounced sense of balance that he will certainly know how to use to his advantage on the racetrack on the frozen lake of St. Moritz. The Swiss pop singer Baschi can also look back on the best of experiences on skies. In line with the motto of his successful album 'Zwüsche dir und mir' (Between you and me), he issues a challenge to his fellow competitors for the second time in a row as a celebrity Skikjöring participant. Moreover, the fans of Sven Epiney can look forward to pure adrenaline with entertainment guaranteed by this popular SRF television presenter. Nöldi Forrer, the 2001 Swiss wrestling king and most successful winner in Swiss wrestling history as well as last year's winner of the mounted celebrity Skikjöring, will do his utmost to defend his title at the 2017 Night Turf event.

After the races the Night Turf party starts on the frozen lake of St. Moritz. For the first time, a free live concert will be held on the outdoor stage. 'The Black Barons', currently the most successful Swiss country band, and Latin-American soul singer Solana Féria will provide hot rhythms and an exuberant dancing mood. As the crowning glory of the event, there will be a spectacular laser show to light up the night sky at 8 p.m., again provided in 2017 by the Badrutt's Palace Hotel. The official festive activities by night will continue until 9 p.m. on the frozen lake of St. Moritz.

## VIP packages already sold out

The limited number of tickets for attractive experience packages in the VIP tent are completely sold out. Those who have been able to obtain one of the coveted tickets can look forward to a dinner by GAMMACATERING and a live concert by Boney M. feat. Liz Mitchell, as well as the subsequent dance party with DJ Roger Martin and featuring other live music acts in the VIP tent.

## Sponsors and partners of the 2017 Night Turf

This time, once again, the St. Moritz Racing Association has received great support from the following sponsors and partners, who make the 2017 Night Turf 2017 possible:

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St. Moritz, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017

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All documentation of the Engadin St. Moritz tourism organisation can be found at the following link: <http://www.engadin.stmoritz.ch/winter/en/media/basisinformationen/>

