



SCIJ Summer Meeting Argentina 2006 Travel report #1



Buenos Aires, a cultural experience

Sepp Thayer, “el Malevo de Caminito”

During our city-tour of Buenos Aires, from Recoleta to La Boca, some of us already suffered transformations.

Sepp, from Austria, and his perfect “Tango look”, at Caminito Street in La Boca, was a big success with the locals...



Photo: Patrick Kinsella, no rights reserved...

Event Opening Cocktail, at Palacio Duhau Park Hyatt Hotel



Our Opening Ceremony at the Palacio Duhau, delighted us with an excellent aperitif in a gorgeous setting, a beautiful Palace in one of the most elegant neighborhoods of Buenos Aires. We were welcomed by authorities of the Secretary of Tourism,

Destino Argentina and its partners. “It was luxury” in words of Miguel Aquiso, President of SCIJ. “It was interesting to be able to talk with people related to the hotel industry. Besides, the building has a beautiful architecture, a long history and impressive gardens”.

Esquina Carlos Gardel, by Tony Gearing, Great Britain.

As he flicked her around, we were sprayed with water from her hair. At least I think it was water. But even if it was sweat we wouldn't have cared. The tango is about sex and the closer you are to the action the better it is. And we were close, sitting just below the stage at the Esquina Carlos Gardel tango show in Buenos Aires.

The evening's entertainment costs from 70-140 US dollars and starts with a meal of – you've guessed it – steak, served at high speed, by a small army of waiters and waitresses to an audience of a couple of thousand tourists. Before your dessert plates have been



cleared away, the curtain comes up on an... empty stage. You look for the dancers. Instead you see, in the gods, a small orchestra of piano, drums, violin and three squeeze boxes.

The violinist, the only female musician, is wearing a plunging neckline to her navel. Red-blooded males wonder how far she can lean over 10 metres above us.

Then the dance troupe comes on to treat us to the first of about 20



sets, that also include male and female singing soloists. The male sings in the style of Carlos Gardel who, in the 1930s, took tango from the streets of Buenos Aires to the stages of the world. The violinist is sexy. The dancers are... Wow! Brunettes, of course, and a blonde and a redhead. Cheek to cheek, pony-tailed dark lotharios lead their women through the most dramatic and sensual



moves. A no longer naturally dark-haired 70-year-old holds his young woman

closest of all. A janitor dances with two broom sticks.

These were other people's favourites. Mine were the water-spraying couple in their set that left you breathless with its energy and passion. The young woman lifts one leg higher than in a can-can, vertically up and above the man's shoulder. Between being dropped this way and that, she flicks one foot between her partner's groin. The man returns the gesture. Occasionally she grips him

with her leg wrapped around his thigh. He drags her across the floor. The message is oh so sensually clear.

The next day 40 SCIJ members took their turn to try tango for themselves at the **Escuela Carlos Copello**. No stars were born but tango, I'm sure, will be one of our club's finest and sexiest memories from Argentina.

MALBA, por Tatiana Pigareva, Rusia

Antes de viajar había hablado con varios amigos españoles que conocían bien Buenos Aires. Fueron unánimes: la ciudad es maravillosa pero no tiene museos que valgan la pena. Creo que la reciente aparición del MALBA ha cambiado la situación.



Antes que nada el mismo edificio, moderno, perfectamente concebido para las necesidades de un centro de arte polifacético,

establece el nivel de calidad al que responde la colección. La selección de las obras, con influencias de la vanguardia española, y nombres conocidos como Rivera, Frida Kahlo o Wilfredo Lans, así como también de autores con menor presencia internacional, ofrece un perfecto panorama del valor artístico de todo un continente.

La Cabaña, by Haim Tal, Israel

There were four kind of main specialities in La Cabaña; The fourth one was the very kind and friendly service and atmosphere, the three asado types of meat from different parts of the cow – I



wouldn't remember their names; But I definitely will not forget their taste! – just perfect with the Argentinian local Merlot. A real culinary-cultural Experience

Colón Theater, by Agneta Bolme-Borjefors, Sweden

I love the theatre and everything about it – the visit to the world famous Teatro Colón in B.A. was a real treat. Starting down in the not so glamorous basement with different preparations underway and the rehearsal of Swan Lake – through winding passages ending up in the splendour of the magnificent theatre hall itself.



Wish we could have stayed for the evening performance. I could have dressed up in my “elegant” regalia enjoying whatever masterpieces they had on offer.

Yes, I do love the theatre

Opera Pampa, en La Rural. Por Ramón Vilaró, España.

Para un país de corta historia, al menos para los europeos, quinientos años no es nada,



contemplar una escenografía sobre la historia de Argentina en un ambiente de estadio griego, o de coliseo romano, ofrece un buen marco para el visitante. Muestran unas tierras donde vivían libremente pueblos autóctonos antes de la llegada de los colonizadores españoles, antes de ir derivando en cruentas conquistas hasta llegar a la independencia de la mano del héroe nacional, San Martín. Después, entre cánticos y ballets, las guerras entre federales y unitarios, antes de caminar hacia la formación de la gran nación Argentina. Cantantes, bailarines, jinetes y caballos, recrean en la noche porteña las raíces de un pueblo



y la importancia del caballo, traído por los primeros conquistadores, en la formación del país. Unos caballos bien

domados por hábiles jinetes que los montan hasta el límite de sus posibilidades, fundiendo al hombre y al caballo en un solo ser. Para acabar, el deguste de un sabroso asado regado con buenos vinos. Una añora, al regresar al hotel, no poder hacerlo sentado en una carreta tirada por dos corceles, como las que aperecen en la Opera Pampa, y recorrer mi Buenos Aires querido.

Nuestro profundo agradecimiento a:

- Destino Argentina
- Park Hyatt Hotel
- Esquina Carlos Gardel
- MALBA

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- Restaurant La Cabaña
- Teatro Colón
- Escuela de Tango Carlos Copello
- Opera Pampa