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Congratulations Valencia Spain

By Peter Wilson

For many years, Valencia Spain has been struggling to be recognized as the third most important

city after Madrid, its capital and Barcelona. It has long been notorious for its Valencia Fallas Festival but now, after having been chosen for the Americas Cup host city and having opened its latest building in the impressive 'City of the Arts and Sciences', Valencia is becoming well-known world-wide. Sail along with Valencia Spain On November 26th, 2003, Valencia was proclaimed the official welcoming city for the upcoming Americas Cup 2007. The Swiss team 'Alinghi', the winner of the America's Cup 2003, had the chance to choose the headquarters for the following competition because Switzerland was obviously at a loss without a sea or ocean and Valencia among others was a good option. The main priority was that the host city had to have excellent weather conditions not forgetting all the other services that would go along with size event. The weather in Valencia is quite warm in summer with mild winters and a nice long coast line with great sports ports in many of the neighbouring cities like Denia, Javea and Alicante. So, on January 23rd, 2003 the ACM (America's Cup Management), the only organization responsible for this event, published its document 'Terms of Challenge' and on January 27th, 2003 it opened its door for inscription.

For the first time in 152 years, this encounter will be one lasting four years with various races, each one being called An Act, leading up to the climax race of Louis Vuitton Cup in 2007. The points that each team get in Act 1 being celebrated in Marseilles will count towards the lining up for the main race. This is the first time that these teams are going to use this format in this particular event. There is going to be an interesting mixture of fleet racing (group of sailboats) and match-race (one on one) to produce an exciting visual show, guaranteeing good entertainment. Marseilles to Start Valencia to Continue On September 5th, 2004, Act One of the America's Cup started, exactly from pier J4, where large TV screens were set up so that the interested public could actively participate in this fantastic happening. The reason why Marseille was chosen was because it had a lot of places from where the race could be watched first hand. The new concept that the organizers want to push is the idea of getting the public as close to the competitors as possible so that every feels the warmth and emotion. In Act One there were only five teams signed up: The defender 'Alinghi', and the challengers BMW Oracle Racing, Le Defi from France, K-Challenge and the South African Shosolozha. Act Two and Three were held 'at home' in Valencia which let the teams get familiar with their new landscape and weather conditions such as the wind and waters of the Valencian coast. After Act Three was finalized

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in October, there was a champion for 2004 with the accumulation of the points from the three acts.

When the inscription date expired on April 29th, 2005 there were a total of eleven challenging teams signed up; BMW Oracle from U.S.A., +39 Challenge, Mascalzone Latino Capitalia Team and Luna Rossa all from Italy, Team Shosholozza from South Africa, Emirates Team from New Zealand, K–Challenge from France, Victory Challenge from Sweden, United Internet Team Germany from Germany, China Team from China and last but not least the Desafio Espanol from Spain. Now, after Nine Louis Vuitton Acts, it is time to slow the engines a little and get some strength back. We will see the beginning of three new Acts in May 2006 (

<http://www.valencia-information.com/spain/americas-cup.html>

). Valencia, the Most Lively City

Thanks to all its innovative tourist attractions, and with the up coming Americas Cup, Valencia airport is busier than ever with new flight expansion plans for easier travel to and from this bubbling city. Some of the best hotels like the Silken Puerta Valencia, built right near the port area or the Posadas de Espana in the industrial and Fairgrounds area will make your stay quite pleasurable when in Valencia

Spain.

Peter Wilson has been writing as a freelancer every since he settled in the Valencia region in Spain with his Spanish born wife and daughter. He wants to bring us closer to the marvellous country of Spain at his website

<http://www.valencia-information.com>

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Surprises In Valencia Spain

By Ciara McNamara

I have been an avid visitor on my holiday to the city of Valencia since 1980, and only noticed slight improvements and changes as far as its tourist offers were concerned, but in the last five or six years, this city has so much to do that I find myself travelling there whenever I can. I have always been fascinated by the Saint Joseph Festival of Fallas, then came the opening of the first buildings in the complex called 'The City of the Arts and Sciences', with the last building just recently opened. But living on the coast, you indirectly get caught in the tidal wave of sailing and the Americas Cup event which started in Valencia on 26th of November 2003 and which has brought many people into the world of navigating. Yearly Valencia Happenings Valencia Fallas is a yearly happening which reaches its highest points on the night of March 19th after having initiated the beginning on March 15th with stunning carton monuments on almost every corner, half hour long fireworks every night, historical parades of the Moorish in the streets and the local people dressed up in their best brocade traditional

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outfits in a jovial religious procession bringing flowers to the Virgin of the Unsheltered (the Patron Saint of Valencia).

Another 'not to be missed' permanent attraction is the architecture which houses the now complete City of the Arts and Sciences. There are four main buildings:

+ Oceanographic– with over 45,000 samples of 500 different species of underwater life including a special tank with sharks which you can walk under.

+ Museum of the Sciences Prince Philip– where you can participate in all kinds of experiments and learn a lot more about biology and genetics.

+ The Hemispheric– where you can sit back, choose and enjoy any of the three audio–visual shows, either at the Planetarium, the Laserium or on the gigantic screen watching documentaries where you feel you are an active part.

+ The Queen Sophia Palace of Arts - this was just opened in October 2005 with the presence of the Queen. Here, all visitors will be honoured with performing arts in theatre, opera and all kinds of dance exhibitions. Let's Monkey around in Valencia Spain If you are planning to travel to Valencia for whatever holiday at the end of next year, you will find yourself with the new Valencia Zoo or BioPark situated in a new green area and housing among other animals, over 250 species from the African savannah. Its to be 14 times bigger than the existing one and will take approximately six hours to see it all, but do not worry because the weather in Valencia is sunny and mild in winter. The young and old will be able to enjoy seeing the natural habitats of all these different animals that one usually cannot contemplate unless you actually travel there.

In 2006, there will also be more fleet and match races with the Americas Cup. Valencia will have three more Louis Vuitton Acts starting in May and continuing on into autumn. The port area will have undergone a big change and you can leisurely stroll around to get a close up view of the competing boats. There is also an official store where you can get all the seafaring attire your heart desires.

With all these new activities, the Valencia Airport has been making important improvements and has been gradually increasing its offer of flights from all over the world. There are new hotels and better

transport for all those who wish to be an important part of Valencia Spain.

Ciara McNamara distributes very often to the information source at

<http://www.valencia-information.com>

. The writer is writing on subjects such as Valencia Spain (

<http://www.valencia-information.com>

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