

L'Omarins Queen's Plate

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Clear blue, sunny skies, horses, delicious food, fashion, music and copious amounts of bubbles are just a few ways to describe what took place last weekend.

Kicking off Cape town's social calendar was the 159th edition of the L'Omarins Queen's Plate Racing festival, making this multi-day event one of the oldest racing events in the country.

The reputable event kicked off on Friday, 10 January 2020 at the Kenilworth Racecourse with an exclusive garden party. The elegantly styled garden created a fun, cheerful atmosphere. Including lifestyle attractions such as a beauty bar where ladies could go to touch up their hair and makeup; with the summer heat this was a much appreciated addition. Keeping car lovers entertained was the vintage car display, featuring a Bugatti valued at R4 million and of course the LQP carousel installation, showcasing exactly why the L'Omarins Queen's Plate is one of the best equestrian events held globally!

As excitement brewed on day two; Saturday, 11 January 2020, race-goers were captivated as some of South Africa's finest horsemen and the trusted equines battled for the title of the day in a matchless day of racing. The competition was fierce as this is the only race in South Africa that allows winners entry into the Breeders' Cup Mile in the USA, as well as the Glorious Goodwood Peninsula Handicap.

This reputable event annually sees socialites, some of the country's best jockeys and guests decked to the nines come together for a day of excitement and mystique and this year was no different! As fierce as the competition was on the track, it was track side. Guest showed up in futuristic attire, showcasing a variety of styles and patterns, all while sticking to the L'Omarins Queen's Plate signature theme: blue and white. The theme gives the day a royal feel, not forgetting the fascinators and hats which showcased just how creative the local fashion industry is.

Many in attendance were spotted wearing local designers. Stand-out designers included Mzukisi of Imprint Suits, branching out he stepped away from traditional colours but maintained his prints as he collaborated with Skyy Vodka in dressing two competition winners. Dominating the hats with her signature fedora styled hats was Christyl Birch. Showing casing garments with an architectural spin was Quiteria.

With all the guest in attendance showing up elegantly stylish, selecting the best dressed must have been a challenging task for the fashion spotters but in the end the decision was made. It was Zinzi Ntoyiwa who caught the attention of the judges and walked away with the Best hat title. Best Dressed Man went to Charles Samuels, whose ensemble showcased not only the LQP theme but also had a cultural element. The title of best dressed Woman went to racing enthusiast Roxy Joubert in her gorgeous all blue pleated skirt look. The prizes included a 5-day trip to the United Kingdom, as well as two tickets to the L'Omarins Luncheon at the Qatar Glorious Goodwood Racing Festival which will be happening in July of this year.

The event saw a number of celebrities. Radio personality “Loot Love” Shosha wore two very stylish outfits over the weekend. Rocking ARA Emporium’s Oyinda mesh set as her “edgy Barbie” look and then changed into an all-white LawrenSon Junior look. Adding a functional prop to her look, Loot added an oriental umbrella. TV personality Chris Jafta proudly showed off his Thomas Sabo jewelry, while Radio personality Liezel van der Westhuizen said she was wearing a dress borrowed from a social media follower. TV presenter Kim Jayde channeled old Hollywood glam when she showed up in an understated tailored white gown featuring a thigh-high slit. First time attendee Da L.E.S flaunted his biggest smile while showing off his stunning dark blue Valentino look. Lunga Shabalala showed up like no one else quite did, wearing an entire blue and white checked suit, with a maroon tie which added some contrast to his look.

Local influencers also made sure they were in attendance. Kicking off the year with a bang... a very stylish bang; first time attendee, bagging second place for best hat and finalist for Best Dressed Woman was influencer and YouTuber Abongwe Qokela. Some other local influencers who were spotted included Anesu “Aneyx” Chogugudza who was spotted in a Presidential shirt which was fitting for the occasion, his detailed orientated look made him a contender for the Best Dressed Man title. It came as no surprise that the What My Boyfriend Wore founder, Sergio Ines, showed up looking dashing in a well fitted double breasted blazer. Model Shashi Naidoo stepped out with a matching navy blue skirt, cropped top look and finished her look with a gorgeous, duchess worthy crown.

Guests were treated to delicious food, eye pleasing fashion, a sophisticated setup and a free flow of L’Omarins bubbles. There was also a beautiful display of cultural heritage as the Cape Minstrels treated guests to an authentic taste of Cape Town. Parading in their signature multi-coloured ensemble, joyfully singing which made this the ideal way to kick off the main race.

While the races had finished, the day was far from over! All of the excitement of the day peaked into the highly distinguished L’Omarins Queen’s Plate after-party as guests danced the night away with DJ of the year. DJ PH and DJ’s from Roastin’ Records directing the party on the decks.

It is clear to see that this event has grown in stature. The event attracted over 7000 guests! However, despite reaching a record number of attendees; it remained a stylish, intimate, elegant experience – what better way to kick off the new year.

If you were not there, you missed out on a weekend of fashion, food, sipping bubbles, jazz music, prestigious horse racing and a relaxing weekend of culture and socializing.

No doubt that the L’Omarins Queen’s Plate will continue to be the most prestigious event to kick off Cape Town’s social calendar with. The L’Omarins Queen’s Plate has become a beloved event and next year will surely bring more guests, more fashion and more prestigious horse racing.