

“Mexican Charrería”, a national sport

Charrería is pride and tradition of the Mexican culture. This practice is carried out through horseback riding combined with various forms of Rodeo, equestrian activities and traditional forms of livestock.

In Mexico, the *Charrería* is considered the national sport by excellence, since it was registered in the National Sports Commission. It is practiced in "Lienzos Charros", which are especially designed for the practice along with a horse and a rider called "charro".



Tricks withing the Charrería

- Talk about "tricks" in the charrería, is to talk about a Rodeo, where 9 tricks are considered in the development of a contest:
 - Reining
 - Forefooting.
 - Forefooting on horseback
 - Heeling
 - Steer Tailing.
 - Bull riding.
 - Team Roping.
 - Bareback on a wild mare.
 - Pass of the death
 - Skirmish.
- The *charreada* starts with a parade while the classical tune of the "Zacatecas March" plays. The teams are presented before they start presenting the aforementioned tricks.

A Brief history of Charrería

Charrería has its roots in the States of Hidalgo and Jalisco. It has become one of the most representative traditions of the Mexican culture.

As a horse riding school, the *Charrería* originates in Apan, Hidalgo, and after the Mexican Revolution in the early 20th century, it started to be considered a national sport, after the former landowners migrated to cities such as the city of Mexico and Guadalajara, where they started organizing themselves in associations that gradually spread throughout the country giving rise to organized *Charrería*

Clothing in the Charrería

The origins of the charro suit, come from the activities carried out by the natives of the New Spain in the

countryside.

The participants in the *charreada* wear traditional charro clothing, including a closely fitted suit, chaps, boots, and a wide brim sombrero. The body-fitting suit of the charro, while decorative, is also practical; it fits closely to insure there is no flapping cloth to be caught by the horns of steers. The botinas, or little boots, prevent feet from slipping through the stirrups. Spurs are worn on the botinas.

Skirmish

Until recently, the *charreada* was confined to men but a women's precision equestrian event called the *escaramuza* or *skirmish* is now the tenth and final event in a *charreada*. The event involves women's teams dressed in a style reminiscent of the nineteenth century, participating in precisely choreographed patterns for horses. The immediate antecedent of the present *Escaramuzas* were the *Adelitas*, or "women of the Revolution." Tradition holds that women on horseback were decoys during the Mexican revolution. The women would ride off to raise a cloud of dust so that the *Federales* were deceived into thinking an attack would come from that direction. The revolutionaries would then attack from the rear.

Relevant information

- Los charros must comply with a regulation for the practice of their sport and dress. They have even a rigorous Protocol to start the celebrations and meetings between teams.

To learn more...

www.asociacionnacionaldecharros.com
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