

17TH INTERNATIONAL FIREWORKS DISPLAYS COMPETITION
“CIUTAT DE TARRAGONA”
CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS SPECIAL DISTINCTION

The pyrotechnics competition of the Mediterranean

From Monday 3rd to Saturday 8th July 2006
Punta del Miracle, 22:30
Tarragona

Organised by: City Council of Tarragona. Department of Festivities

Associated institution: City Council of Granollers

Official media: Ona Catalana

Official portals:
Daily vote on line

Great prize from the public / Phone vote:
Galàctic Rocket

Cooperating:
Patronat Municipal de Turisme (Municipal Tourism Board)
Costa Daurada. Patronat de Turisme de la Diputació de Tarragona.
Polyklyn

Official vehicles:
Ruzafa

Monday 3rd July, 22:30
TAMAYA KITAHARA ENKATEN CO., LTD.
Shinei machi Isesaki City, Japan
Artistic Direction: Kiyoshi Kitahara

Japanese fireworks started in the 17th century, during the Edo period. Since then, they have developed a lot and today they combine artisan manufacturing with the use of computers. Tamaya Kitahara Enkaten has fired, apart from Japan, in China, USA and Europe. Outstanding are their displays during the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Popular Republic of China in Liuyang, Hunan and in Beijing, both in 1999; at Chinese pyrotechnic festivals in Lian Yang and Shanghai, both in 2000 and 2001; Hunan in 2001 and 2002; Dalian and Jilin in 2001; in Singapore in 2000 and in Hawaii in 2001. Also, they have won prizes at international competitions like the Mercè in Barcelona in 2003 (first prize) or at the second Qatar competition in 2004 and 2005, where they also won first prize.

This company won the 2005 competition official prize and also the great prize from the public.

Tuesday, 4th July, 22:30
PIROTÈCNIA RICARDO CABALLER, S.A., from Olocau, Valencian Country
Artistic Direction: Ricardo Caballer Cardo

The pyrotechnic company Ricardo Caballer was born in the historic house founded in 1881 by Vicent Caballer Calatayud, of whom the present manager Ricardo Caballer Estellés is a grandson and the artistic director, a greatgrandson. They have a really long history of first prizes both national and international: Prize Fair of Valencia in 1905; prize of the Regional Exhibition of Valencia in 1909-1910, 1923-1924, 1927, 1931, 1932; prize of the Exhibition of Barcelona 1911-1912, 1929 and 1930; prize of the IberoAmerican Exhibition in Seville in 1931; prize of first-class bursts of fireworks at the Fair of Valencia in 1943; first prize of fireworks at the So Quelo in Valencia in 1948; prize of fast strings of fireworks at the Falles of Valencia in 1949, 1950 and 1951. Prize in Pamplona in 1951.

During the time of Ricardo Caballer's management they have been awarded the following prizes: first prize of the round shells competition and competition of free shells at the Falles of Valencia in 1986; the Concha de Oro at the international competition in Donostia in 1989, 1996, 2001 and 2002; prize of the public in Donostia in 1992, 1996, 2002 and 2003; first prize at the competition in Bilbao in 2003, both on the official category and the public's; first prize in Pamplona in 2004; first prize at the international competition of Macau (China) in 1991; first prize of the international competition of Stockholm (Sweden) in 1992 and Champion of champions in 1996; best qualification in Sakura (Japan) in 1992 and 1995; first prize at Ottaviano (Naples) in 1994; first prize in Toronto (Canada) in 1995; first prize in Vancouver (Canada) in 1996; first prize at the fireworks displays competition of Alacant in 2000; and first prize at the Mascleataes on line during the Falles in 2001 and 2002. Among Ricardo Caballer's most outstanding performances we find the homage to Ausiàs March in 1997 and the fact that it was the company that represented Europe at the pyrotechnic festival that closed the Olympic Games in Sydney (Australia) in 2000.

In 2002 they also achieved the world's Guinness record of strings of fireworks, when they fired a 21.097 Km long string. This company is the supplier of the Disney Park in Tokyo (Japan).

At present they hold place number two at the Champion of Champions of the competition in Tarragona, which they got in Tarragona in 1999. They won the competition in 2002, which let them be classified for this year's special competition. They also got first prize in 1994.

Wednesday 5th July, 22:30

LA ROSA LORENZO FIREWORKS S.R.L., from Bagheria, Sicily, Italy

Artistic Direction: Lorenzo La Rosa

In the world of fireworks, the South of Italy is like Valencia in Spain: there are over 3,000 manufacturing workshops in that area. Most of them work for big companies from the North or produce material used at family and popular celebrations. Therefore, a craft workshop structure has been kept which produces material of extraordinary quality.

La Rosa, backed by three generations since 1945, has promised a display based on the great Italian shells, which have made them win several prizes at competitions all over their country.

They won the competition in Tarragona in 2001, both on the official section and the prize from the public. Also, their wonderful display during the Santa Tecla festivities on 23rd September, and all the other pyrotechnic shows they offered (tronada, entrance of the city flag and of the relic of the patron saint...) rounded up a great year for La Rosa in Tarragona. However, they could not repeat that success at their second participation in the competition the following year. In 2005 they were one of the guest companies at the International Pyrotechnics Symposium that took place in Otsu, Shiga, Japan, where companies from all over the world participated during a week.

Thursday 6th July, 22:30

PIROGESTION S.L. / GRUP IGUAL, from Vila-rodona, Catalonia

Artistic Direction: Claudio Rozalén and Patxi Igual

In 2000 Pirogestión became the first Catalan company to win the Fireworks Displays Competition of Tarragona, which consolidated their territorial and artistic presence in Catalonia and in Spain. Later, they would integrate into the group Igual, the oldest company in Catalonia, as it was founded in 1880. This group of companies has over a century of experience, along which they have obtained many prizes and distinctions. For example: eight first prizes at Donostia, three first prizes at Montecarlo, four first prizes at Cannes (France), one in Bilbao, one in Knokke (Belgium), one at each of the French competitions at Antibes, Chantilly and St.Brevin des Pins (France), one at Hannover (Germany), and the gold Jupiter at Montreal (Canada) in 1988 and the Champion of Champions at the same place in 2003. Since 1981 they have been firing the pyromusical during the Mercè Festivities in Barcelona and since 1986, the great

New Year display at Valparaíso (Chile). Also, they were in charge of the pyrotechnic part of the opening and closing ceremonies at the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Barcelona in 1992, and of the Fòrum de les Cultures in Barcelona in 2004.

Friday, 7th July, 22:30

GAMMA-P, from Kassel, Germany, and Catania, Sicily

Artistic Direction: Joachim Schon and Antonino Vaccalluzzo

This relatively new company was born in 2001 after joining the efforts of S.R.L. Pyrotechnics, from Sicily and Joachim Schon/Artistic Fireworks Performances, from Germany. The Sicilian have been working since 1950 at the foot of the Etna volcano and usually take part in the St.Agata celebrations in Catania, while Schon has been a pyrotechnician since 1987 and has performed fireworks displays in Marrakesh, Marbella, Nice, Mykonos, Santorini, Zurich, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Munich, Berlin or Brussels. The two most important displays they have fired are at the Millennium Fireworks in Palermo (Italy) and at the International Festival of Valencia in October 2002. Their fireworks are characterized by a splendid combination of beauty of design on the sky and an extraordinary quality of the materials used, which don't have plastics in their manufacturing. This makes them a much more ecological product.

They won second prize at the competition in Tarragona in 2003 and an ex aequo of the prize from the public with two more companies. According to the specifications of the competition, the fact that the winning company that year is not allowed to take part because of a recent accident in their factory, has let Gamma P take part in the competition this year.

Saturday 8th July, 22:30

FUEGOS ARTIFICIALES ARCO IRIS S.L., from Real de Montroi (Valencian country)

Artistic Direction: Vicent Cervera Domingo

Founded in December 1996 in the Valencian Country, this company has the experience and work of its directors and managers, who are also in charge of the Valencian Pirotècnis Turís. Arco Iris has basically performed in towns and festivities of the area of Valencia. Therefore, they will be offering a show with the characteristics of Mediterranean fireworks: colourful and a powerful sound. They have taken part in many Moors and Christians celebrations, like the international touristic interest festivities of Alcoi. Also, they have been at the largest bonfire in Valencia, in the town of Canals. They won first prize at the *masclètades* competition in Castelló in 2000, and have also taken part in the competitions of Bilbao and Donostia.

This company won the competition in 2004, both the official prize and the prize from the public. Their performance during the Santa Tecla festivities was splendid, as they offered a brilliant display but also a n absolutely spectacular entrance of the Braç de Santa Tecla.