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# PACIFIC CLASSIC

# 2005 PACIFIC

# CLASSIC



*by Rowena Kelley*

THE PACIFIC CLASSIC ISN'T JUST ABOUT RACING. IT'S ABOUT FASHION. GLAMOUR. HISTORY. HOLLYWOOD. AND ALL THAT IS EXCITING ABOUT SAN DIEGO IN THE SUMMERTIME—RIDING WITH THE TOP DOWN, STROLLS ON THE BEACH, DINING AL FRESCO ON A BOUNTY OF FRESH, SEASONAL INGREDIENTS, AND DAYS THAT LAST LONG INTO THE NIGHT. THROUGHOUT THE SEVEN-WEEK RACE SEASON, AN EXCEEDINGLY STRONG BUZZ STIRS THE COASTAL COMMUNITY OF DEL MAR AND DRAWS MORE THAN ONE MILLION FANS TO THE RACETRACK. FROM hardcore gamblers to HOLLYWOOD SOCIALITES—AT THE RACES, THEY ALL PLAY—AND PARTY—TOGETHER.

photo by Paul M. Bowers

# A DAY AT THE RACES—FOR HER



photo by Paul M. Bowers



"ON OTHER DAYS, MANY PEOPLE COME TO THE RACES TO WATCH HORSES, but on opening day, many come to people-watch," says Julie Sarno. And she ought to know. A racing fan for years, Sarno has been managing the annual One and Only Truly Fabulous Hats Contest since she helped launch it in 1995. She has seen the hat designs become increasingly elaborate over the years—from the winning design in '95 (a hat topped with a fountain) to a recent entry featuring a larger-than-life papier mâché horse that wrapped around the neck of its creator.

"I had no idea what to expect that first year," Sarno says. "Now I think the hat that won 10 years ago wouldn't even draw the same level of attention today with hats becoming so much more elaborate. It's exciting to see the growth of the contest."

For her own race-day ensemble, Sarno prefers a hat designed by Diana Cavagnaro, a San Diego-based hat maker whose designs are worn at cocktail parties nationwide and at the Kentucky Derby. "Diana makes incredibly imaginative hats," Sarno says. "But so many stores carry hats around race time that these days you can really go anywhere for one—even Marshall's and Nordstrom."

Sarno's ideal race-day agenda would include taking the train to Del Mar, where a British-style double-decker bus transports fans from station to track. Before heading to the track, however, she would take a side trip by taxi to Peaches en Regalia in the Del Mar Plaza where she would shop for the perfect hat—and perhaps one of their "cute beaded purses." There would still be plenty of time to people-watch around the paddock, where pageantry isn't limited to just the horses.

"I saw Lucille Ball on her last visit to the track," Sarno recalls. "Now the next generation of Hollywood celebrities comes to the races."

When asked how she became involved with the Del Mar races, Sarno says the story is simple. "I have been a racing fan, first and foremost, for a number of years and had gone to occasional Breeder's Cups and the Kentucky Derby as well," she says. "And I've always loved hats."



photo by Paul M. Bowers

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The races are just as much about fashion as they are about winning bets.