

GLOSSAIRE

The Presidency is made up of a President and two assessors, who act as referees, and who announce the *primes* (prizes). In the arena they are situated either opposite or above the *toril* (bull-pen).

The Cocardiers arrive by lorry (the *char*) the morning of the *course* and return likewise to the fields at the end of the day. In general a good *cocardier* is castrated. Amongst the most famous : Le Sanglier de Granon, Vovo d'Aubanel, Goya de Laurent, Barraïe de Lafont, Tristan de Saumade, Camarina de Chauvet, Garlan des Baumelles,

The Raseteurs

They get trained in special schools where they learn the technique and body language used in this activity, the most famous *raseteurs* are : Julien Rey, Charles Fidani, Lucien Volle, André Soler, Patrick Castro, Christian Chomel, Sabri Allouani...



THE MAIN COURSES

The season : March - November

The **Royale** : The six best bulls from the same herd.

The **Concours de Manades** : A course made up of bulls from several different herds.

The **Course de Taù** : A course with bulls which have not been castrated.

The **Course de Vaches Cocardières** : A course with female cows only.

The **Course de Ligue** : A course with young bulls and novice raseteurs (trainees).

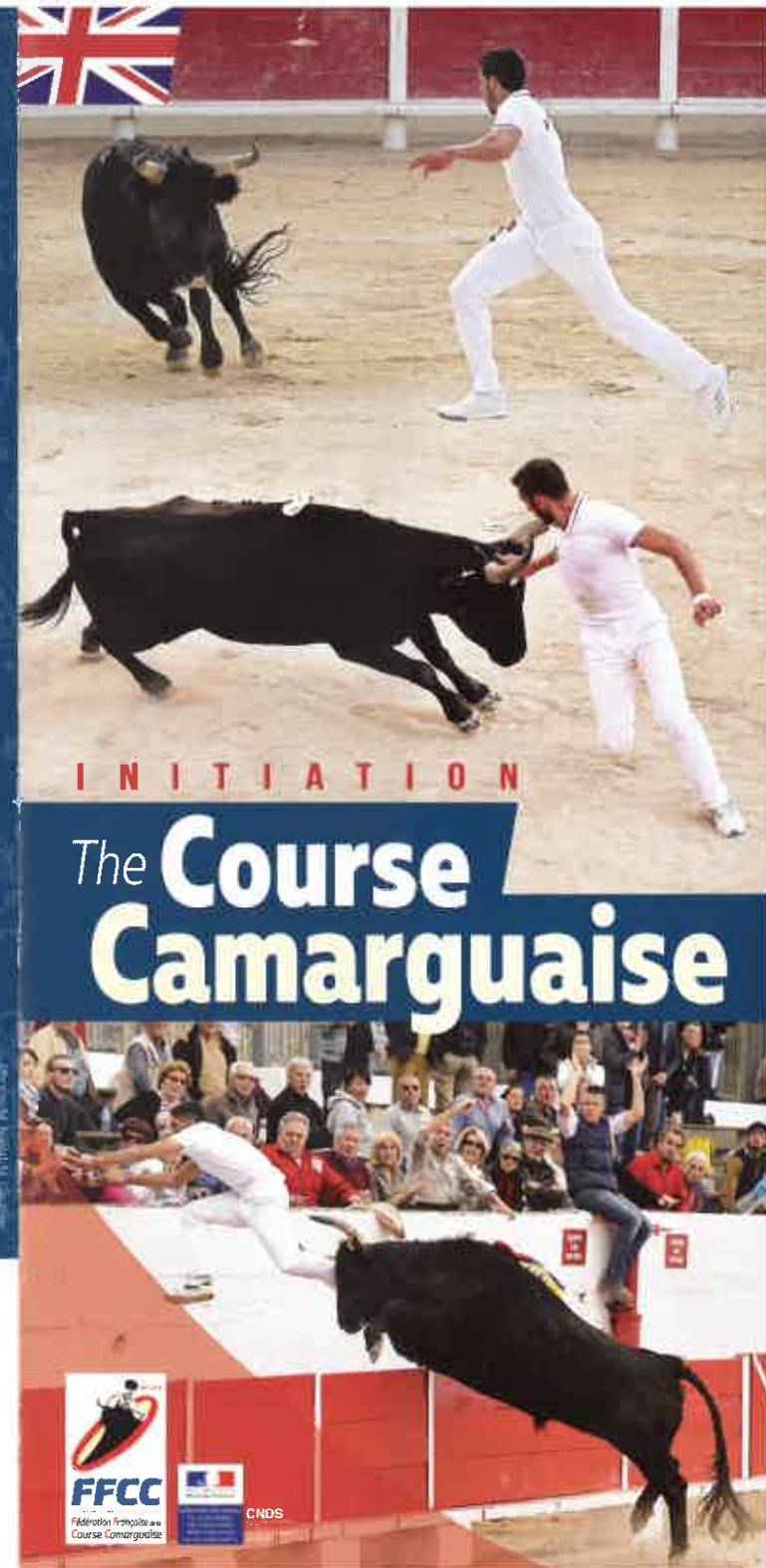
Brief history of the COURSE CAMARGUAISE

Originally the «course» started out as a taurin game, where all different kinds of animals (lions, dogs, bears etc...) and farmhands came together to fight and play with a bull. The earliest record of a course camarguaise goes back to 1402 in Arles, where a course had been held in honour of Louis II, the Count of Provence

A little later, towards the end of the 19th century, these circus games were violently criticised and there was a move towards a less cruel form of jeu taurin, where the men alone played with the bull. Attributs (flowers, scarves, three-coloured rosettes of the particular herd of bulls, sometimes even sausages or other kinds of food) were fixed onto the horns of the bull, with the intention of being lifted off by the young amateurs. It was during the 1890's that the bull stockbreeders realised the importance of the Camargue race of bulls, which, thanks to its morphology and fighting spirit, made it more suitable for the course rather than for work or for providing meat. Thus since the beginning of the century, top quality bulls and men who had become masters in the art of the raset, confronted one another in the little makeshift arenas (les plans). It was then that one started fixing a rosette to the horns of the bull, and primes (prizes) were awarded to the one who succeeded in removing the attribut. This is known as la course libre.

Regulations concerning the rosettes and the crochets (the picks used by the raseteurs, to remove the rosettes) were then introduced. Only genuine raseteurs, it's still the case nowadays dressed in white, were accepted into the arena. New attributs were added a little later.

The Fédération Française de la Course Camarguaise is currently the official authority reglementing all the courses.

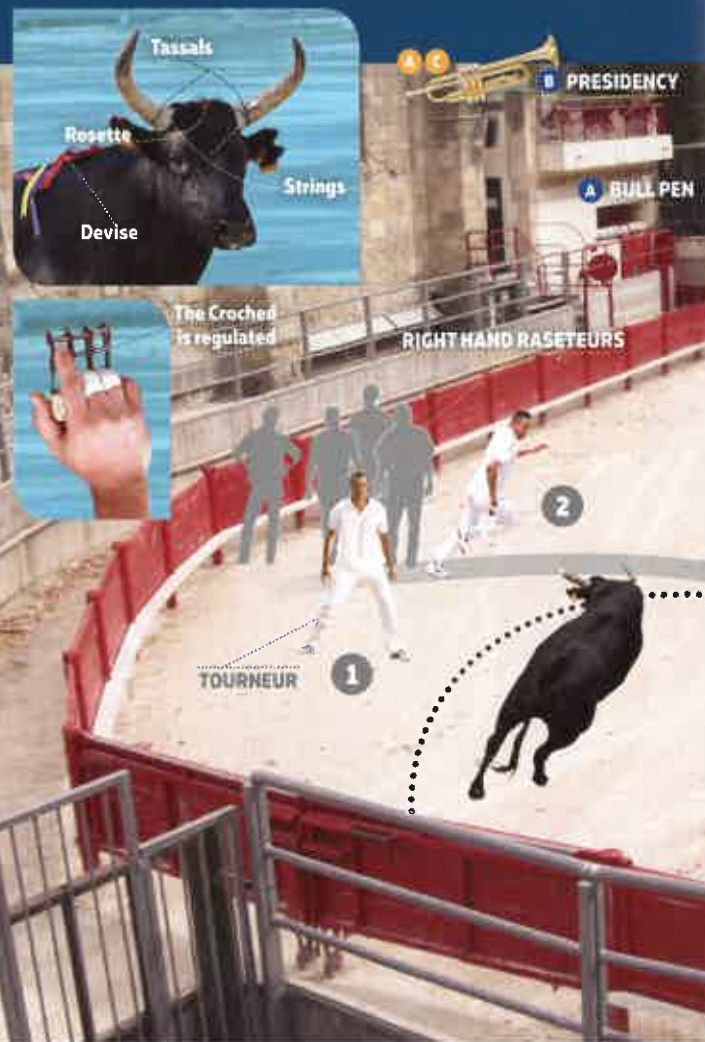


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485, rue Aimé Orand | Tél. 04 66 26 05 35
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The procedures for a **COURSE CAMARGUAISE**

The course takes place in the arena during the afternoon.

- Before the course takes place, there is the **capelado**, where the **raseteurs** parade in the arena.
- One course = 6 bulls, each of which competes for 1/4 hour. After the third bull there is an interval for 1/4 hour.
- At the end of the course there is sometimes a young cow for the young people and the novice raseteurs. Afterwards, the **Bandido** (the escape) takes place.



The course **FOR A BULL** (or for a cow)

A - First trumpet call (long) announcing the arrival of the bull.

B - The bull (*biou*) leaves the **toril** (bull-pen) and seeks its territory, a place in the arena where he can defend himself (generally in a corner).
The *Presidency* announces the name of the bull (if it has one), the herd of bulls which it is from, and the prizes to be awarded for successfully removing the *attributs** (rosette-tassels). During the competition de Manades between the different herds of bulls, the **cocardier*** (or the female *cocardièrè*) sometimes wears the **devise** (the colours of the herd attached behind the head) (no prizes are awarded).

C - Second trumpet call (short) inviting the *raseteurs** to provoke the bull.

D - The Raset

Step 1. The **tourneur**, (a former raseteur), attracts the attention of the bull, by means of gestures and by voice, in order to get it into position and to prepare a favourable *course* for the *raseteur* (preparation of the raset). The *raseteur* gets into position.

Step 2. The *raseteur* starts his *course* and triggers off the charge of the bull.

Step 3. The bull and the *raseteur* meet - known as « *la rencontre* ». The *raset* : using his *crochet*, the *raseteur* tries to lift off one of the *attributs* (first the rosette the the tassels, and finally the first and second piece of string)

Step 4. The man escapes by jumping over the barriers. A good *cocardier* pursues him right up to running into the barrier. This is known as the « *coup de barrière* », and is saluted with the music of CARMEN (the overture).

The bull remains a maximum of 15 minutes in the arena. A third trumpet call indicates that is time for the bull to return to the *toril*, either when he has been stripped of all his *attributs* or when he has run his 1/4 hour.

- If the bull refuses to return to the bull-pen, the **simbeù** (the leading bull of the herd, with a cowbell around its neck) is sent out, and in general the *cocardier* joins it and returns straight away with it.
- If the bull does not follow the *simbeù*, one of the *gardians* comes out and threatens the bull with a steel fork (**le trident**)