

MONACO DANCESPORT FESTIVAL

IPDSC OPEN STANDARD ... by Tommy Shaughnessy

Dancers from around the world had the pleasure of visiting Monaco for the 1st Monaco DanceSport Festival. Monaco the second smallest independent state in the world benefits from an excellent climate and beautiful settings.

There are many panoramic viewpoints looking out over the exceptional scenery. Gamblers flock to the **Place du Casino** in Monte Carlo and every May the principality hosts the renowned **Monaco Grand Prix**, however, this November the dancesport community had the opportunity to experience the wonders of the Principality of Monaco.

One of the highlights of the Monaco DanceSport Festival was the IPDSC Open Standard Championship. Couples participating came from Belgium, Canada, France, Israel, Italy, Korea, Japan, Monaco, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine and USA.

The adjudicators were: George Coad (England) Roger Dolleans (France) Ute Streicher (Germany) Olga Cacciari (Italy) Greg Smith (Netherlands) Lasse Odegaard (Norway) Alexander Melnikov (Russia) Fredi Novak (Slovenia) Lorraine (Sweden) Daniela Berger (Switzerland) Brian McDonald (USA)

Alexey Galchun & Tatiana Demina from Russia were easy winners on this occasion, they dominated the floor in the final round.

This tall elegant couple produced terrific movement and swing, and displayed a clarity of movement in each dance.

Isaia Berardi & Cinzia Birarelli from Italy, still making an impressive impact in the professional ranks, however, Isaia needs to "take a breath" and not dart around the floor so much. Cinzia as usual was beautifully groomed and a pleasure to watch.

Luca Rossignoli & Veronika Haller from Italy recently joined the professionals. They have already shown great promise and will challenge the best in the coming years.

Roman Goncharov & Maria Sekistova from Russia gave their usual strong and bold performance, which was impressive on the night.

They were consistent throughout the competition and deserved their final placing.

Valdis Skutans & Olga Blinova from Russia. Must have been pleased with their result.

Another new partnership who seem to have a hunger to succeed. Danced well, but need to control their dancing more.

Urs Geisenhainer & Agnes Kasmiercsak for the USA. Their pleasant personalities and musical dancing is always a pleasure to watch.

Could have been placed higher.

Christian Costa & Barbara Benedetti from Italy were unfortunate not to make the final.

A very experience couple with a controlled classical style.