



Old stone bridge over the Ebro in Logroño, on the Santiago Route

O

NEW CASINO INAUGURATED IN SPAIN

RENES FRANCO GROUP LAUNCHES ELECTRA RIOJA GRAN CASINO

Covering just over 5,000 Km2 and with a population of barely 263,644, the Autonomous Region of La Rioja, in the north of Spain, is one of the smallest in the country. La Rioja is known internationally for the quality of its wines, exported worldwide. Logroño, the capital, and commercial and industrial centre of the region, has preserved its past with pride and, though continuing to develop as a modern, dynamic city, it still offers an abundance of historical, monumental and gastronomic wealth. On 25 May the region got its first Casino. Situated right in the centre of Logroño, it is owned by the Orenes-Recreativos Franco Group, which manages it through the Electra Rioja Gran Casino company. This prestigious holding also owns several other Casinos in Spain and Croatia. The inauguration party surpassed all expectations with some 800 guests, including local authorities, entrepreneurs and socialites. One of the most famous personalities to walk up the red carpet was



Vineyards in La Rioja



Façade of the Casino

to welcome some 75,000 visitors a year". Next up was Eliseo Orenes, chairman of the board of the Casino. He expressed his satisfaction at the huge expectations for the Casino and its importance as a meeting point for the best of La Rioja society. After a few words from the Mayor of Logroño, the

former Croatia and Real Madrid footballer Davor Suker, a partner of the Orenes-Franco Group in Croatia. Primitivo Rojas, well known in Spain as presenter of the Spanish version of "The Price is Right" was Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Pedro José Martínez, managing director of the Casino, gave a short speech in which he affirmed that the establishment brings La Rioja "a marvelous offer, combining service and value, leisure and culture, gastronomy and Rioja wine. I am convinced that this establishment will be a great asset to the city. We hope



Pedro Sanz, President of the Government of La Rioja, gives his speech surrounded by officials and owners

Electra Rioja Gran Casino



A moment of the speech given by Eliseo Orenes, President of the Board of Directors of the Casino



Cutting the ribbon

final speech was given by the President of the Government of La Rioja, Pedro Sanz, who said he was very proud of the Casino: "It will be one of the big enterprises of the region. It gives distinction to the city and will be a very big tourist attraction. The Mayor and President were entrusted throwing the traditional first roulette ball, which fell on 1, red, odd and low. The "City of Logroño" leisure, catering and gaming centre has spaces for exhibitions, social events and even a 16th century bodega. The walls are decorated with the works of several artists. Modern

decoration blends with the technical modernity of the facilities, with plasma screens everywhere. The Casino offers several gaming rooms, one of which holds 14 tables: 3 Blackjack, 1 Punto y Banca, 3 Poker, 4 American Roulette and 3 French Roulette; another with 75 state-of-the-art slots, and a bingo hall with seating for 320 persons. The new Casino is equipped with top-quality material from some



Pedro Sanz threw the first roulette ball (1 red odd low)

Best quality to the best price?

[Only deal with the owner]

- Roulette Wheels
- Game Tables
- Playing Cards
- Accesories
- Chips
- Layouts

HISPANIA
CASINO EQUIPMENT

Puerto Rico N° 8 | 07011 Palma de Mallorca | Spain
Phone: +34 971 75 5088 | Fax: +34 971 20 7559
www.hispaniacasino.com | info@hispaniacasino.com



Joaquín Franco and Jesús Franco, Chairmen of Recreativos Franco



Fidel García, Casino architect, with Antonio Martínez Alcázar, director of the Orenes Group



Alfonso Sánchez, Gaming Manager, and Ángel M. Escolano, General Director, Casino Gran Madrid, Spain



Atmosphere at the Casino



Pedro Justo García,
Casino Manager



María Dolores Pradera in concert



Miguel Ángel Olano,
tenor, during his act

of the main international manufacturers, with Slots from Recreativos Franco, Unidesa Gaming and WMS Gaming; gaming tables and layouts from Hispania Casino Equipment; cylinders and chips from Gaming Partners International (GPI); cards from Fournier, and markers and Chipper Champ Plus from TCSJOHNHUXLEY.

The creation of the Casino involved an investment of some €11 million and has allowed 243 new jobs to be created, 60% of which are occupied by women. It will contribute approximately €6 million a year to the coffers of La Rioja. Special attention was paid to employee selection. The Casino has a



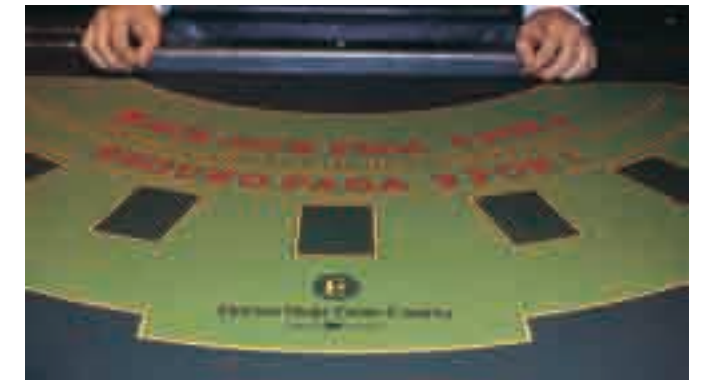
Jesús Franco and his wife



Manuel García Blesa, Director of the Casinos Division, R. Franco and Alberto López Orenes, Manager of Gran Casino Murcia



The Bingo hall



Pedro J. Martínez, Managing Director of the Casino, flanked by shareholders Javier A. Zamora and Juan Antonio García



Eliseo Orenes and Davor Suker pay a visit to the Bodegas Paternina before the inauguration



Joaquín Franco and his wife at the meal held at the Paternina bodegas the day before the Casino was inaugurated

specific training centre in Logroño, where the croupiers learn their trade. The 4-star "El Real del Casino" restaurant has a 60-seater dining room and a multi-purpose room, and offers wines from 80 Rioja bodegas. The complex also has a large terrace for cultural activities, and underground parking. Entertainment was provided by several musical acts, including tenor Miguel Ángel Olano and singer María Dolores Pradera.

Text: Carlos García
Photos: EUROPEAN CASINOS-The Elite