



BULLFIGHTING

A GUIDE TO EXPLAIN THE
"CORRIDA DE TOROS"

THE ORIGINS

The first bullfighting events dated in history are anchored in the earliest civilizations that inhabited the Mediterranean basin. In these civilizations, the bull acquired a sacred character as a symbol of power and fertility. Of particular relevance was the island of Crete during the Minoan period, where most of the myths of classical antiquity were gestated.



You are about to witness a millennial sacrificial rite, of incalculable ethnographic value, which remains alive in many cultures today.

THE FIGHTING BULL

The bulls are bred under conditions of freedom in the meadow, a unique and privileged ecosystem in the world found in the southwest of the Iberian Peninsula, which boasts rich biodiversity.

- ✓ There are 989 breeding farms with an average of 1.6 bulls per hectare.
- ✓ Brave breeding farms encompass a total of 500,000 hectares.
- ✓ The brave bull is a fundamental animal in the ecological balance of the meadow and the maintenance of its richness in flora and fauna.



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1. THE SETTING



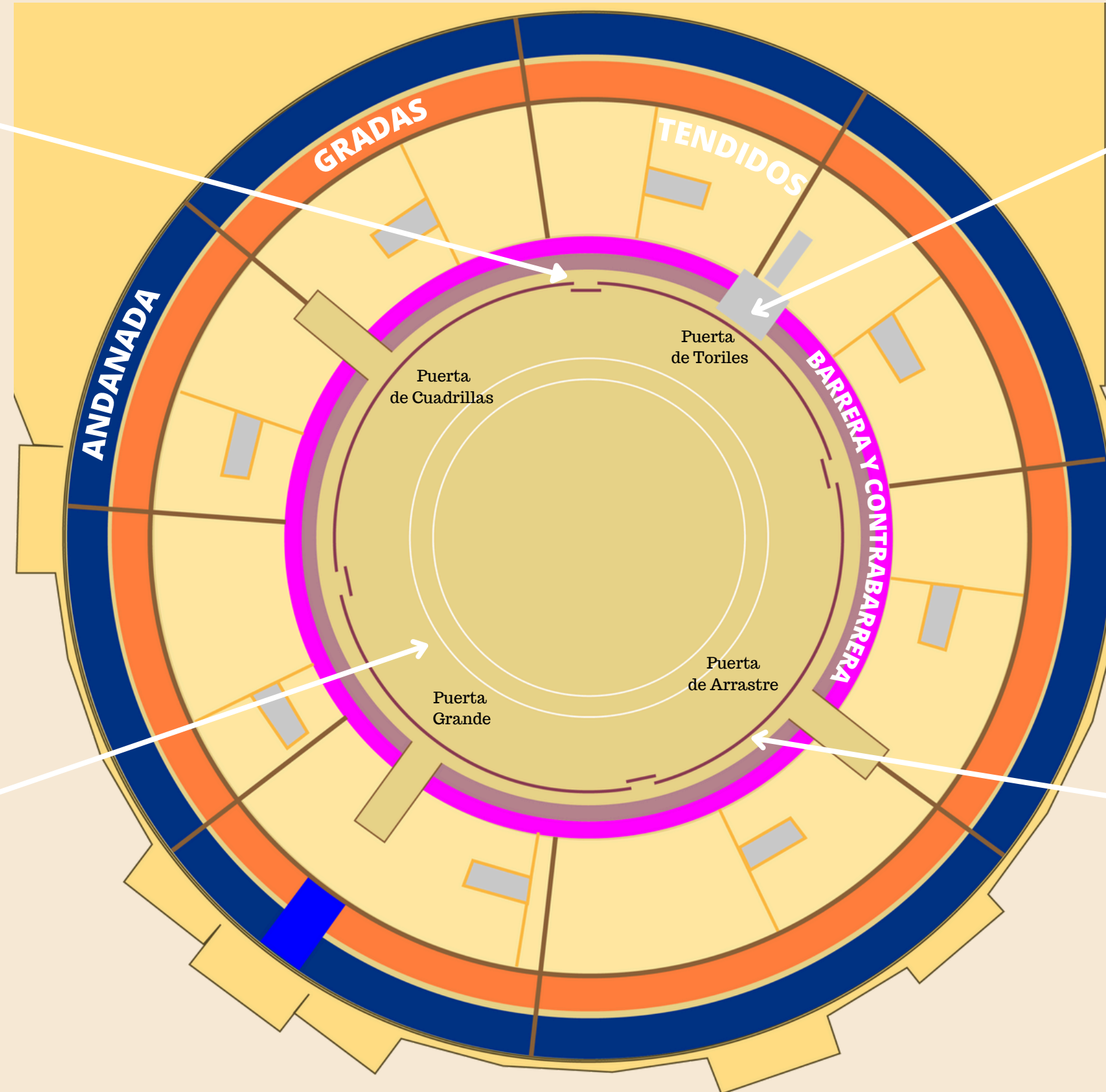
Burladero

The place where toreros (bullfighters) take refuge from the bull's encounter. Located around the perimeter of the bullring.



The Lines

They are the circles that delineate the space the horse and the bull must occupy in the "tercio de varas" (the stage of the performance where the picadors use lances).



Bullpen gate

It's the gate through which the bulls enter the arena at the beginning of the corrida.



Passageway

It's the space between the barrier and the stands where all the participants in the corrida will move through.

2. THE ACTORS

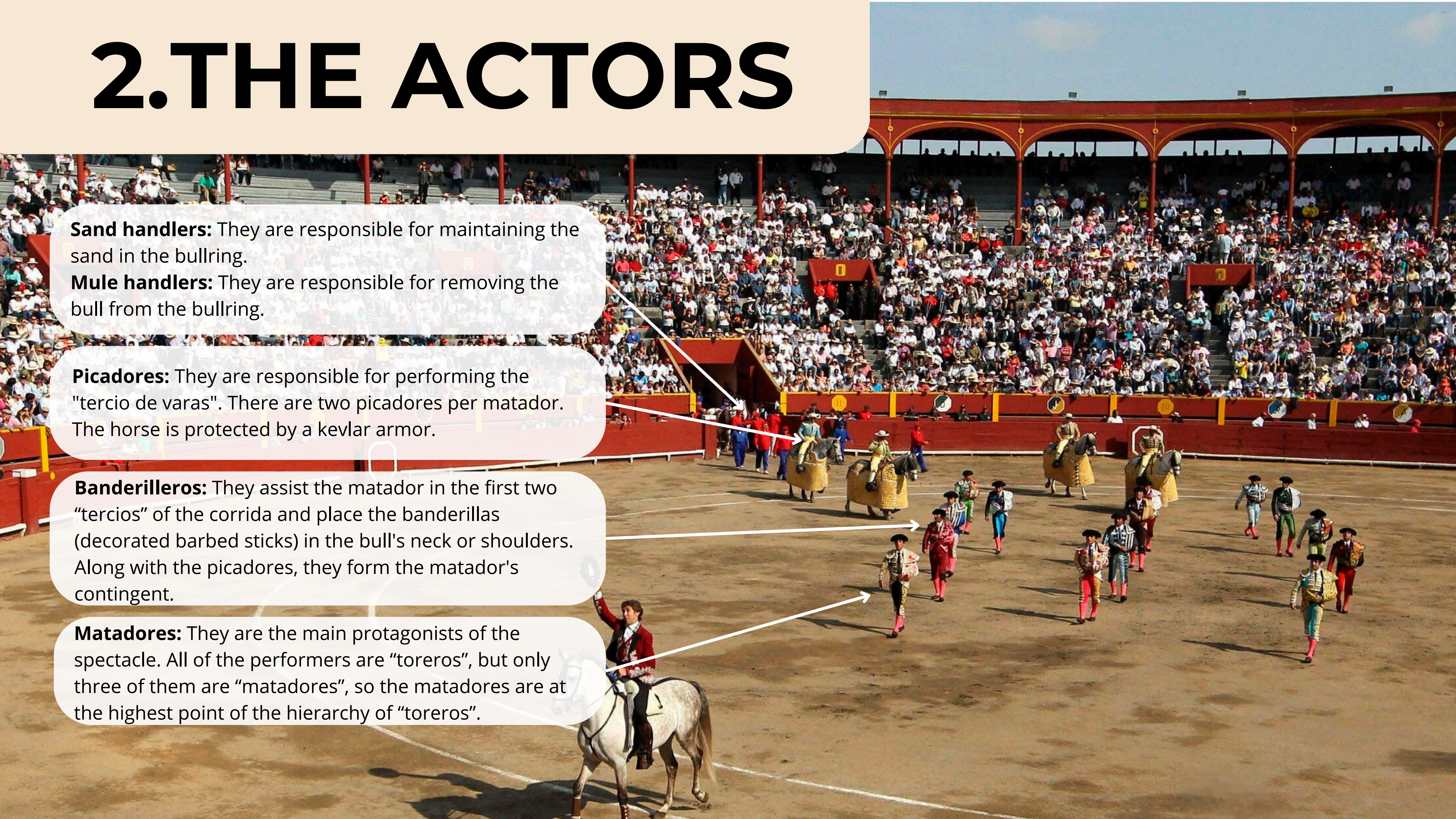
Sand handlers: They are responsible for maintaining the sand in the bullring.

Mule handlers: They are responsible for removing the bull from the bullring.

Picadores: They are responsible for performing the "tercio de varas". There are two picadores per matador. The horse is protected by a kevlar armor.

Banderilleros: They assist the matador in the first two "tercios" of the corrida and place the banderillas (decorated barbed sticks) in the bull's neck or shoulders. Along with the picadores, they form the matador's contingent.

Matadores: They are the main protagonists of the spectacle. All of the performers are "toreros", but only three of them are "matadores", so the matadores are at the highest point of the hierarchy of "toreros".



THE PRESIDENT

Is the highest authority responsible for awarding, sanctioning, and marking the timing of the corrida. They have five colored handkerchiefs to give instructions:



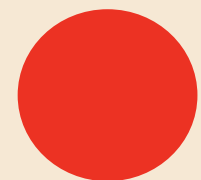
White handkerchief:

Signals the start of the bullfight, changes of stage, and grants awards to the matador.



Green handkerchief:

Orders the return of the bull to the pens if it is not in perfect veterinary condition.



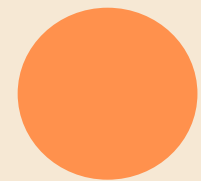
Red handkerchief:

Orders the placement of black banderillas on bulls that do not hit the horse in the "tercio de varas".



Blue handkerchief:

Grants the bull a lap around the ring while he is dragged if it has offered a good performance.



Orange handkerchief:

Used to pardon the bull, meaning its life is spared for an extraordinary performance in the corrida.



AWARDS

Prize 1: If the president shows ONE white handkerchief, the matador will receive the first award: one ear of the bull.

Prize 2: If, due to the insistent request of the audience, the president shows TWO white handkerchiefs, the matador will receive both ears, **thus leaving through the Puerta Grande at the end of the corrida**, the highest honor for a matador.

Prize 3: If the president shows THREE white handkerchiefs, the bullfighter will receive the tail of the bull, considered the highest possible award for a matador.

“Vuelta al ruedo”: If the bull has performed well, it is dragged back into the arena by the mules for the audience's ovation with a blue handkerchief.

Pardon: If the bull is exceptionally brave, its life will be spared. It will return to the bull ranch where it will live the rest of its life as a stud without ever being fought again in any other bullring.



SUITS OF LIGHTS

To identify each of the actors, you have to look at the color of their suits of lights:

Matador's suit: Identified by having gold reflections.

Banderillero's assistant's suit: Identified by having silver reflections.

Here are some facts about the bullfighter's suit:

- They are entirely handmade in artisan workshops.
- Their origin can be traced back to the French military attire of the 19th century.
- They are tailor-made for each torero and perfectly fitted to the proportions of their body.
- The stockings are always pink.

Montera

Hombreras

Chaquetilla

Chalequillo

Taleguilla

Medias

Manoletinas

Machos





3. THE ENCOUNTER

TERCIO DE VARAS

▶ **Actor:** Picador

Objective: To measure the bravery of the bull and initiate the corrida.

TERCIO DE BANDERILLAS

▶ **Actors:** Banderilleros

Objective: To assess the characteristics (orientation, type of struck, bravery, etc.) of the bull, as well as prepare it for the final third of the corrida.

TERCIO DE MUERTE

▶ **Actors:** Bullfighter

Objective: To offer a performance charged with aesthetic strength and emotion. Finally, the bull should be killed, ideally in a quick and clean manner.



1. TERCIO DE VARAS

1. A bugle (trumpet) sounds, and two picadors enter the arena.
2. The matador uses his cape to direct the bull towards the picador furthest from the toriles gate. In that area, the bull is more fierce.



In first-category bullrings, the bulls must face the horse at least twice. The president oversees that the punishment is not excessive and may even fine picadors who exceed the limits. During this phase, the matadors, taking turns, can perform "quites" (actions to distract or remove the bull from the horse) and show off their skills with the bull.

Objective: To reduce the bull's bravery to make it more manageable during the later stages of the corrida.



5 - 8 minutes



1. TERCIO DE BANDERILLAS

1. The president orders the banderilleros to enter the arena.
2. They must place between two and three pairs of banderillas in the morrillo (neck) of the bull.



They are placed when the bull hits the person holding them, taking advantage of the bull lowering its head during the strike, at which moment the spot to place the pair is revealed.

It is the only skill where the bull and the torero are in continuous movement, as in the rest of the phases of the corrida, the torero must remain with his feet still in the arena.

Objective: To discover the virtues and weaknesses, as well as to understand the characteristics of the bull's strike.



3 - 5 minutes

1. TERCIO DE MUERTE



1. The matador enters the arena with the muleta (red cape).
2. From the first trumpet touch, he will have 10 minutes to kill the bull.



During the performance, the matador must demonstrate all his technique, art, and courage, according to the characteristics of the bull. He will make the bull pass as close as possible to his body and execute passes or tricks with both hands, on both sides of the bull, trying to prevent the bull from catching the muleta (cape).

When the matador deems it appropriate, he will grasp the sword (estoque) and try to kill the bull as quickly and cleanly as possible. If he fails to do so, he will proceed to the *descabello*, which consists of driving a dagger into the bull's neck, thus fracturing its spinal cord and causing instantaneous death.



10 minutes

TAURINE ONLINE SHOP

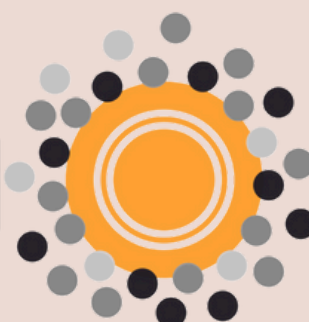
Bags, toys, bullfighter's suits, decoration, clothing and accessories, jewelry, and much more

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