

WORDS FROM THE OWNER



Dear friends, I know this sounds like a broken record but this year is better than ever! The doves returned to the Macha roost earlier than usual and there are tons of birds in our fields. We are once again shooting in places that are walking distance or a maximum

15-minutes drive from the lodge. This was mainly due to cold weather and the drought in Argentina which caused less food in the flatlands for the birds. The main reason for the higher volume of birds is the multiplier effect means each year has more birds (3-5 hatches per year). Also this year we have seen less pressure due to a lower amount of clients at other lodges - we are thankfully still growing!!!

This year we had some new groups enjoy a nice variety of shooting in completely different areas and sceneries. For example, we set up shoots in creeks, valleys, flatlands, feed lots, hills and all these shoots in the same trip! This happens in our fall (mid-March to June), which is Cordoba harvest season. The birds typically move from the Macha hills area to the big estancias across the hills. Since the first week of June, Macha is receiving every day more eared doves, and for the next months we expect all the birds to return to the hills.

One final note is that this winter started our awesome pigeon hunting. Please remember you can combine dove hunting with pigeon hunting until mid September. Hope to see you guys again soon, my best always, JJ

FEATURED EMPLOYEE: TOPO



Sierra Brava is Topo's second home. He has been with Sierra Brava since the beginning. Topo has done it all at Sierra Brava: birdboy, co-host with JJ, chef (his specialty and hobby), and fishing and hunting guide. But for anybody who has been to the lodge,

they know Topo loves to laugh and create a fun experience for the clients. His secret is to enjoy, value and appreciate everyone that visits us during the year.

Topo has 2 wonderful kids that are 15 and 16 years old, and is married to his wonderful wife Maria Silvina. As he always says to our customers when they leave: "Here you have new friends and this is your home. We wait for you to continue writing the story of this fabulous Lodge: Sierra Brava. And remember my advise: Catch and release! See you next time."

EXCERPT OF NICK SISLEY

Please find below an excerpt of Nick Sisley's article in last month's Bird Hunting Report

For decades the Cordoba area of Argentina has been well known for its dove shooting. Many lodges have surfaced here that cater to USA-based wingshooters, and I have shot at quite a few of them. One of the best is Sierra Brava Lodge...One of the important features of Sierra Brava is the short drives to the hunting fields from June through February. This is because J.J.'s lodge is adjacent to a major dove roost that holds millions of birds...The Bird Hunting Report has featured more than one report about dove lodges around Cordoba and will doubtless publish more, but Sierra Brava is a very special place for many reasons, most of which have already been covered. Couple intense high-volume shooting and short drives to the gunning fields during most months of the year with a lodge owner who goes right into the field with his shooters, dines with them at breakfast, lunch and supper, and it's a combination that works.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Probably the most frequently asked question at the lodge is when is the best time to shoot the property? One of our competitors says it best: "the best time is now". Of course, there is a difference throughout the year in your experience at Sierra Brava. Below we have split the season conveniently into 3 periods (please note some months overlap):

March – mid June harvest season. This is how we first started in the dove hunting business. Our family connections gave us the possibility to rent large farms and we shot the flatlands for the first couple of seasons. We have probably the best flatland fields in Cordoba. Even though the drives are 45-60 minutes, clients love coming this time of year because of the volume of birds and the type of open shooting that is harder to find in the hill areas.

Mid June – mid September winter season. This is probably the nicest weather of the year especially for those coming from the broiling heat up north. The weather is in the 50-60s during the day with crisp, blue sky days. The shooting moves to the hills during these months and the shooting near the roost areas is unbelievable. This is a very popular month because it is summer time in the US and we receive many father/son groups.

Mid Sept – February spring/summer season. Our clients love this time of year because of the high concentration of birds and warm weather (starting in Nov). It is also the most green time of year since we receive rain during these months. Of course, rain is relative and we rarely have to miss a shoot. The records are usually broken during these months because of the long days.

HUNTING STANDINGS

10000 Club

Jack Minter

4000 Club

Jackson Fulham. TX USA
Matthew Bonner Curtiss , TX USA
Andre Feutch . LA USA
Gordon edward logan , TX USA
David Eugen Embry
Travis Bergeron

3000 Club

Larry Richard Birkenfeld
Trevor David Penny, Australia
Thomas Darin Drake
Clete Tayler Brewer
David Cudd, TX USA
Connor Holden Hennington
Eric Craig Hammans, CA USA
Hagen Stahr, Germany
Michael Dean Rich
Van Hedges, MS USA
Bryan Craig Barton, TX USA
Printess Freeman IV
Bryan Henderson II
Nicholas Tutchter



Congratulations to these outstanding wing-shooters from 2009!

