



Indefensible beauty

BEAUTIFUL, GLAMOROUS AND MORALLY SUSPECT OR EVEN BANKRUPT



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Plaza Maestranza Seville

Beautiful, glamorous and morally suspect or even bankrupt - Bullfighting is a contentious issue. Aficionados cite tradition as justification for a practice that stretches back into antiquity. Bull fighting is considered by many to be an intrinsic, even noble part of Mediterranean culture. Its origins are believed to lie in ancient fertility rites. In 1567, Pope Pius V decreed it 'contrary to Christian duty and piety'. The penalty for violating this decree, which has never been repealed, is excommunication.

This fact does not appear to discourage the estimated 30 million spectators, nor to offer much comfort to the 25,000 bulls they watch killed. More evidence of the continued appreciation of the art its classification as ▶



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an art not a sport is a crucial one lies in the public standing of the matadors. Feted in the manner of sports and pop stars, they project an image of pure machismo.

In this context the 'look', clothes and costume of the matador becomes an essential part of the entire ritual of *la fiesta brava*. Before entering the ring, the matador's assistants dress him in the heavily embroidered *traje de luces*, the suit of lights, the design of which has not changed since the 18th century.

The Mexican author, Eduardo del Rio, described bullfighting as 'a stumbling block for the humanisation of man' but clearly it doesn't hinder his beautification. ●●●

For more information on bullfighting contact:
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