

## When “The Sun Also Rises” over the streets of Pamplona



At 8:00 am the morning of July 7th, when the first rocket explodes in the sky above the Ayuntamiento de Pamplona announcing the start of the first encierro, the running of the bulls, the bright morning sun will momentarily blinds runners standing in the town hall square near the top of Santo Domingo awaiting the onslaught of the six charging bulls and six massive steers racing up the steep cobblestone street from the corral at the bottom of the slope. It will be a tense moment for those unfamiliar with what is about to happen.

On this day in 2015 the Jandilla bulls set a fast, thrilling, and very dangerous pace, seriously injuring 11 runners along the way, finishing the encierro with three gorings, the first occurring on Calle Santo Domingo. It was the first time the Jandilla bulls had more then two gorings in less then 3 minutes (2 min. 23 sec.), and the 5th time there were 3 or more gorings on the opening day. It was also one of the fastest runs for the Jandilla bulls in their 16 appearances in the Fiesta de San Fermín. Will they repeat it in 2016? [Do you want to be there to find out?](#)

***It was a fast and furious start to the festival of the bull and the Fiesta de San Fermín 2015***

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## **The Bulls of Sanfermines 2016**

### **Jandilla** (Llerena - Badajoz)

The Jandilla have shown that they can be very fast and, at the same time very dangerous. They are the fifth bull-breed with the highest average number of gorings and the only one to have two or more gorings in an encierro lasting less than 3 minutes. In their 16 appearances since 1983 there have been 30 gorings, most occurring since 2002. On July 12, 2004, a single Jandilla bull caused 8 gorings in a run that lasted only 3 minutes 14 seconds.

When running in a pack, the Jandilla bulls have usually stayed close together until reaching Calle Estafeta, where they tend to spread out, running in a line. But when a Jandilla bull gets separated from the rest, they can become especially dangerous and have caused many gorings on Mercaderes and in the Callejón, the final stretch heading into the bullring.

### **Miura** (Lora del Río - Sevilla)

The Miura bulls, the largest fighting bulls, averaging over 600 kilos, will run for the 35th time in their 36th appearance since 1959 (the running of the bulls, did not take place on July 13, 1997 when the running was cancelled by city officials). Last year, on Tuesday the 14th, the 6 Miura bulls ran the encierro in 2 minutes 5 seconds, entering the bullring together as a group, making it difficult for the runners to stay in front of them, but setting a record for the fastest encierro since 1980, the first time the running was broadcast on live TV.

Known for their noble behavior, the Miura bulls typically ran on weekends, Saturdays and Sundays, when the crowds are the heaviest, causing only one goring in twenty years (1980-1999), but lately they have proven to be faster and far more dangerous than they used to be, resulting in 15 gorings and numerous injuries since Sanfermines 2000.

Lately, the most dangerous stretch to run with the Miuras is in the Callejón, leading into the bullring, where they have caused three gorings, but there have been some rather dangerous moments on Mercaderes the past five years.

**José Escolar Gil** (Lanzahíta - Ávila)

Making only their second appearance this year, the José Escolar bulls last year were very fast and dangerous. On July 11th, 5 of the bulls covered the course in 2 minutes 44 seconds, goring four runners along the way. The 6th bull had turned back half-way, returning to the pens on Santo Domingo to the shock of many would be runners following the crowd.

The bulls ran in a tight pack with the two leading bulls charging runners both left and right as they charged up Santo Domingo. Gorings occurred on Santo Domingo and in the Town Hall Square, with the most serious goring happening at Telefónica.

A José Escolar bull, No.33 "Costurero", was awarded the Premio Carriquiri Prize for the best fighting bull of the Feria del Toro 2015.

**Fuente Ymbro** (San José del Valle - Cádiz)

2016 will mark their 12th appearance in the fiesta since 2005. The Fuente Ymbro bulls have caused only 5 gorings over that period of time, three happening along Calle Estafeta, but there have been a number of injuries (49) along the way.

Normally running together, they can be dangerous if separated from the herd. In 2010, one bull was loose along the route for more than six minutes.

Fuente Ymbro bulls have been awarded the Carriquiri Prize more than any other breed the past ten years.

**Cebada Gago** (Medina Sidonia - Cádiz)

Returning after an absence of three years, the Cebada Gago are considered one of the most dangerous bull breeds, causing a total of 46 gorings in 27 appearances since 1985. On July 9, 2012, there were three gorings in a run lasting only 3 minutes 37 seconds. Their fastest encierro was 2 minutes 13 seconds (10 July 1998) and their longest was 8 minutes 8 seconds (12 July 1988).

Note that these bulls are known to charge runners, thus the high number of gorings. The most dangerous stretches have been on Santo Domingo, along Calle Estafeta and in the Callejón, but they can be dangerous anywhere along the route as they tend to separate from the herd. Being fast and running alone, it can allow the better runners to run between the horns, making for some exciting moments.

**Victoriano del Río** (Guadalix de la Sierra - Madrid)

This will be the 7th appearance of the fiesta in as many years. This breed holds the record for the fastest average time in covering the course, 2 minutes 36 seconds. In 2012, one of the Victoriano de Río bulls set a course record with an average speed of 25 kmh, covering the 312 meters of Calle Estafeta in only 45 seconds.

In 2014 they had one of their slowest, and most dangerous encierros, and when the author of the book on "How to survive the Pamplona Bulls", Bill Hillman, was gored.

The Victoriano de Río bulls tend to run close together and typically do not charge the runners, allowing runners to get close to the lead bulls, but making it difficult to get in front on them.

**Núñez del Cuvillo** (Vejer de la Frontera - Cádiz)

Returning for their 7th festival after having made their last appearance in 2011, the Núñez del Cuvillo bulls appear to be growing more noble, ignoring the runners more than they use to when they had seven gorings in three years (1995, 2000 and 2004), and caused more gorings on Santo Domingo, 4 in 6 runs, than any other breed. There were no gorings during their last three appearances, but we never know what the next encierro will bring.

These bulls tend to run in a tight pack, but are fast and stretch out in a line, charging up Santo Domingo at the runners, often ahead of the steers if running later in the week. Steady on their feet, they will enter Calle Estafeta at a very fast pace.

**Pedraza de Yeltes** (Castraz de Yeltes - Salamanca)

This will be the first appearance of this bull breed, which debuted in Madrid on April 30, 2010. Bred from the El Pilar and Domecq cows, we will have to wait until they run to see what happens on the streets of Pamplona.