

# Festival Ruy López

## Magistral (invitation tournament in classical chess)

YEAR	CHAMPION	COUNTRY	POINTS
2007	<b>Gabriel Sargissian</b>	Armenia	6'5/7
2008	<b>Michael Adams</b>	England	5'5/7
2009	<b>Ivan Cheparinov</b>	Bulgaria	5/7
2010	<b>Ivan Cheparinov</b>	Bulgaria	6/7

## Rapid Open

Note: In this Rapid Open, the players had to play the Ruy Lopez opening!

YEAR	CHAMPION	COUNTRY	POINTS
2007	<b>Gabriel Sargissian</b> <b>Ivan Sokolov</b>	Armenia The Netherlands	7/9
2008	<b>Fabiano Caruana</b>	Italy	7/9
2009	<b>Iván Salgado López</b>	Spain	7'5/9
2010	<b>Fabiano Caruana</b>	Italy	7'5/9

**Albo d'Oro:**

[http://www.ajedrezdeataque.com/05%20Palmares/Torneos/Espana/Ruy\\_Lopez.htm](http://www.ajedrezdeataque.com/05%20Palmares/Torneos/Espana/Ruy_Lopez.htm)

<http://es.chessbase.com/post/sargian-vence-y-convence> (2007)

<http://www.ajedrez64villalba.com/iii-magistral-ruy-lopez-en-zafra-badajoz-2007/> (2007)

<http://theweekinchess.com/html/twic646.html#4> (2007 TWIC)

<https://en.chessbase.com/post/second-ruy-lpez-international-che-festival-in-mrida> (2008)

<https://en.chessbase.com/post/michael-adams-wins-second-ruy-lpez-international-in-mrida> (2008)

<http://theweekinchess.com/html/twic701.html#3> (2008 TWIC)

<https://es.chessbase.com/post/ruy-lpez-2009-cheparinov-reina-en-extremadura> (2009)

<http://theweekinchess.com/html/twic763.html#3> (2009 TWIC)

<http://en.chessbase.com/post/cheparinov-wins-ruy-lopez-masters-with-2904-performance> (2010)

<https://de.chessbase.com/post/ivan-cheparinov-sieger-des-ruy-lopez-festivals> (2010)

<http://theweekinchess.com/chessnews/events/ruy-lopez-chess-festival-2010> (2010 TWIC)



Gabriel Eduardi Sargissian (born 3.9.1983, IM 1999, GM 2002) from Armenia, pictured in Warsaw 2012 by Przemysław Jahr, via Wikipedia

As a young player, Sargissian won the **Under-14 World Youth Chess Championship 1996**, overshadowed by Aronian (born 1982, peak ranking as no. 2), in the footsteps of Movsesian (no. 9=), Akopian (no. 11), Lputian (no. 12=), and, of course, Vaganian (born 1951, no. 3=). Unforgotten is also Grandmaster Karen Asrian who died of a heart attack at the age of 28.

**Armenian Champion 2000, 2003. Olympiad team Gold medalist 2006, 2008, 2012.**

A brilliant tournament triumph by Sargissian at the **Ruy Lopez Masters in Zafra in 2007** where he steamrolled the opposition to win with incredible 6.5/7, full 2.5 points clear of Ruslan Ponomarev and Julio Ernesto Granda Zuniga (eight players in a single round robin):

<https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=56651&crosstable=1> (for full standings)

Won several strong Open Festivals, ie. **Abu Dhabi 2003** (clear first), **Reykjavik Open 2006** (on tie-break), **Dubai Open 2006** (shared 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, as second on tie-break, Fedorchuk best tb), **Politiken Cup 2007** (shared 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, as third on tie-break, Krasenkow, best tb, above Berg), **Chicago Open 2009** (joint with Ehlvest who claimed the blitz play-off after Armageddon game), **Chicago Open 2012** (clear first), **Chicago Open 2014** (on tie-break, there was no play-off), **Isle of Man Masters 2015** (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, as third on tb, behind Harikrishna, best tb, and Fressinet, there was no play-off) among some other wins, ie. shared 1<sup>st</sup> Rethymno Open in Greece 2010, clear 1<sup>st</sup> Rethymno Open in Greece 2012, or clear 1<sup>st</sup> Al Batayih Tournament – Ramadan 2019.

**Sub-Champion European Individual Chess Championship 2022** (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, worse tie-break, apparently he miscalculated the tie-break): [Gabriel Sargissian vs Jaime Santos Latasa \(2022\)](#).

Sargissian first surpassed the 2700 Elo barrier narrowly in the years 2015 / 2016 at Elo 2702, again several years later after his strong appearance at the Chess Olympiad in Chennai 2022: **Peak Rating** of Elo 2711 in September 2022, same month with a **Peak Ranking** as no. 32=.

*Never played at Wijk aan Zee – A (but in the B-section), London Chess Classic, Baden-Baden Grenke Chess Classic, Stavanger Norway Chess, St. Louis Sinquefeld Cup, Sofia M-Tel, Bilbao, Moscow Tal Memorial, Shamkir Gashimov Memorial, Nanjing Pearl Spring, Biel GMT, Dortmund*

**Member of the Gold medal-winning Armenian team at the [Chess Olympiads](#) in 2006, 2008, and 2012 (the third time, Armenia won Gold), plus an individual board Gold medal on board 3 in 2008. Team Gold at the [World Team Chess Championship 2011](#). An individual Gold at European Team Chess Championship 2011, and Team Gold at Euro Chess Club Cup. What a beast in team tournaments!**

Sargissian took team Silver medal at the Olympiad in Chennai in 2022, and team Bronze medal at the Olympiads in 2002 and 2004, too.

Important team member for his country: Sargissian played for Armenia at the Olympiads in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2018, and 2022, first time on board one (Aronian left Armenia and played for the US federation), Gabi just smashed 4 of his last 5 opponents, after losing to Gukesh, he got back on track and beat the Elo 2700+ top players Caruana, Harikrishna, Mamedyarov, and Shirov, plus a draw vs. Uzbek prodigy Abdusattorov.

Gabriel's Gambit:

[Gabriel Sargissian vs Alexander Grischuk \(2008\) Gabriel's Gambit \(chessgames.com\)](#)

## 2007 Ruy Lopez International Chess Festival

→ **Zafra** is the hometown of [Ruy Lopez](#), author of one of the first European treatises on chess.

<https://www.chess.com/blog/kurtgodden/ruy-loacuteppez-on-the-ruy-loacuteppez> (on Ruy Lopez)

**Location: Zafra, Spain**

March 16, 2007 to March 25, 2007

Category XV (average rating 2601 - 2625)

7 rounds

Round robin tournament

Winner: Gabriel Sargissian

<http://www.chessfocus.com/tournament-results/2007-ruy-lopez-international-festival>

Place	Player	Score	W	L	D
1.	Gabriel Sargissian	6.5 / 7	6	0	1
2.	Julio E Granda Zuniga	4.0 / 7	2	1	4
2.	Ruslan Ponomariov	4.0 / 7	3	2	2
4.	Ivan Sokolov	3.5 / 7	3	3	1
5.	Manuel Perez Candelario	3.0 / 7	2	3	2
6.	Krishnan Sasikiran	2.5 / 7	0	2	5
6.	Antoaneta Stefanova	2.5 / 7	1	3	3
8.	Yifan Hou	2.0 / 7	1	4	2



Michael Adams (\*1971). Photo: Andreas Kontokanis

## 2008 Ruy Lopez International Chess Festival

Location: Merida, Spain

April 04, 2008 to April 13, 2008

Category XV (average rating 2601 - 2625)

7 rounds

Round robin tournament

Winner: Michael Adams

<http://www.chessfocus.com/tournament-results/2008-ruy-lopez-international-chess-festival>

Place	Player	Score	W	L	D
1.	Michael Adams	5.5 / 7	4	0	3
2.	Pengxiang Zhang	5.0 / 7	4	1	2
3.	Humpy Koneru	4.5 / 7	3	1	3
3.	Gabriel Sargissian	4.5 / 7	2	0	5
5.	Fabiano Caruana	2.5 / 7	2	4	1
6.	Julio E Granda Zuniga	2.0 / 7	0	3	4
6.	Yifan Hou	2.0 / 7	1	4	2
6.	Manuel Perez Candelario	2.0 / 7	1	4	2

# 2009 Ruy Lopez International Chess Festival

Location: Zafra, Spain

June 13, 2009 to June 19, 2009

Category XIV (average rating 2576 - 2600)

7 rounds

Round robin tournament

Winner: Ivan Cheparinov

<http://www.chessfocus.com/tournament-results/2009-ruy-lopez-international-chess-festival>

Place	Player	Score	W	L	D
1.	Ivan Cheparinov	5.0 / 7	3	0	4
2.	Michael Adams	4.5 / 7	3	1	3
3.	Fabiano Caruana	3.5 / 7	3	3	1
3.	Julio E Granda Zuniga	3.5 / 7	2	2	3
3.	David Larino Nieto	3.5 / 7	3	3	1
6.	Pia Cramling	3.0 / 7	2	3	2
7.	Humpy Koneru	2.5 / 7	2	4	1
7.	Manuel Perez Candelario	2.5 / 7	1	3	3

# 2010 Ruy Lopez International Chess Festival

Location: Villafranca de los Barros, Spain

June 11, 2010 to June 19, 2010

Category XIV (average rating 2576 - 2600)

7 rounds

Round robin tournament

Winner: Ivan Cheparinov

<http://www.chessfocus.com/tournament-results/2010-ruy-lopez-international-chess-festival>

Place	Player	Score	W	L	D
1.	Ivan Cheparinov	6.0 / 7	5	0	2
2.	Fabiano Caruana	4.5 / 7	3	1	3
2.	Vladimir Malakhov	4.5 / 7	4	2	1
4.	Ivan Salgado Lopez	4.0 / 7	3	2	2
4.	Gabriel Sargissian	4.0 / 7	2	1	4
6.	Pia Cramling	2.0 / 7	1	4	2
6.	Manuel Perez Candelario	2.0 / 7	1	4	2
8.	Deysi Cori Tello	1.0 / 7	1	7	0

➔ Second win for Bulgarian GM Ivan Cheparinov at the Ruy Lopez Magistral (2009 & 2010), meanwhile GM Fabiano Caruana won twice the Ruy Lopez Open (2008 & 2010).

This edition of 2010 turned out to be the last international invitation tournament of the series.



## Ruy Lopez Chess Festival (IV) 2010

The fourth and final edition of the **Ruy Lopez International Chess Festival** took place on 11-19th June 2010 in Villafranca de los Barros, Extremadura, Spain. Numerous events enjoyed the public, some of them being youth and amateur tournaments, lectures, master tournament, and rapid open. **Everything coordinated by the Chess Club Linex-Magic Extremadura and the Association Ruy Lopez de Zafra.**

The main event of the Festival is the round robin Master Tournament with 8 players. The entry list **combines experience and youth, talent and desire to progress**: Vladimir Malakhov (RUS 2722), Fabiano Caruana (ITA 2675 Elo), Ivan Cheparinov (BUL 2640), Gabriel Sargissian (ARM 2677), WGM & GM Pia Cramling (SWE 2536), WGM Deisy Cori Tello (PER 2409), plus from the hosting nation GM Ivan Salgado Lopez (ESP 2606), and IM Manuel Pérez Candelario (ESP 2527).



Ivan Cheparinov (\*1986). Photo: Maria Emelianova

This Master Group of the Ruy Lopez International Chess Festival 2010 was a Category 14 event (average Elo 2599). It was marked by the exploit of **Ivan Cheparinov** (*photo below*), who finished a point and a half ahead of his nearest rivals (Caruana and Malakhov). The Bulgarian grandmaster, produced five wins and two draws for a 6.0/7 final score, with a stunning 2904 Elo performance: <http://en.chessbase.com/post/cheparinov-wins-ruy-lopez-masters-with-2904-performance>.