



Beautiful beach, strong chess ☺

SUNWAY SITGES near Barcelona, famous International Chess Festival

The Sunway Sitges Chess Festival has heavily strengthened in recent years! It is held in [Sitges](#) about 35 kilometres southwest of [Barcelona](#), annually in December. The winners:

- 2014 (I)** **Vladimir Baklan** at 7/9 as clear first (55 players in the main Open, first ed.)
2015 (II) **Marc Narciso Dublan** at 7/9 as clear first (92 players, incl. Granda Zuniga, Fier)
2016 (III) **Evgeny Romanov** edged out **Romain Edouard**, **Josep Manuel Lopez Martinez** and Gata Kamsky on tie-break, after all scored 7/9 (175 players, incl. Sasikiran)
2017 (IV) **Chithambaram Aravindh** at 7.5/9 as clear first (189 players, incl. Shankland)
2018 (V) **Alvar Alonso** at 8/10 as clear first (183 players, incl. Ivanchuk, Beliavsky)
2019 (VI) **Anton Korobov** at 8.5/10 as clear first (311 players, incl. Ivanchuk, Lagarde)
2020 (VII) **Ivan Cheparinov** at 8/10 as clear first (137 A-players otb, despite pandemic)
2021 (VIII) **Uzbek prodigy Nodirbek Abdusattorov** (b. 2004) won the speed play-off final vs. Dmitrij Kollars; Abhimanyu Puranik third, **Ivan Cheparinov** fourth, all shared for first at 8/10 (280 A-players otb, incl. Korobov, Sarin, Erigaisi, Niemann, Fier)
2022 (IX) to be played

And there is siblings Open tournament, launched with its first edition in Spring 2022



CHESSABLE SUNWAY FORMENTERA FESTIVAL, in Formentera (Islas Baleares, Spain)

- 2022 (I)** **Gukesh D.** a few days before his 16th birthday at 8/10 as clear first (54 players in the main Open, first ed., incl. Santos Latasa, Sasikiran, legendary Romanishin): [Indian GM Gukesh wins Sunway Formentera Open chess tourney \(thebridge.in\)](#)

Official Site (for both tournament series): <http://www.sunwaychessfestival.com/en>



GM Gukesh D., winner at the first Formentera Open in 2022, photo from Biel MTO 2021, Organiser

Chess in truly Paradise:



Chessable Sunway Formentera Festival 2022. Photos: Twitter by Organiser



The Chessable Sunway Formentera Open Festival on the Balearic Islands is also a 10-round swiss. Photo from the first edition in 2022, round three, pictured in front FM Bader Al Hajiri from Kuwait versus WGM (in 2018) & IM (in 2019) Marta Garcia Martin from Spain, the lady won the game:)

Back to the Sunway Sitges (near Barcelona) Festival series which is ongoing since 2014:



Cheparinov and his wife Stefanova at Sunway Sitges in 2020. Photo: Lennart Ootes, Organiser



Gata Kamsky, Sunway Sitges co-winner in 2016.
This photo is from the Biel Chess Festival MTO (2019). Flickr, by Peter Steffen



A smiling Sunway Sitges Festival winner from 2021, Uzbek GM Nodirbek Abdusattorov.
Photo: ChessBaseIndia, pictured in Dubai in 2019

Just five days after winning Sunway Sitges Open 2021 in Spain, Abdusattorov won the FIDE World Rapid Championship in Warsaw 2021. Congratulations!

A mix of veterans & youngsters – prominent players at Sunway Sitges Open (selection):

Ivanchuk, Beliavsky, Kamsky, Romanishin, Granda Zuniga, Bologan, I. Sokolov, Motylev, Andreikin, Inarkiev, Korobov, Abdusattorov, Kozul, Cheparinov, Fier, Liang Awonder, Shankland, Niemann, Donchenko, Keymer, Kollars, Svane, Lagarde, Edouard, Vocaturo, Jorden and Lucas van Foreest, Sasikiran, Nihal Sarin, Gukesh D., Sethuraman S.P., Erigaisi, Parham Maghsoodloo, M. Amin Tabatabaei, Saleh Salem, Safarli, Kulaots, and Stefanova. Plus many amateur players from all over the world and the hosting nation in the B-section.

Get vaccinated - Wear a mask - Save lives



Alexandr Fier, reputed Brazilian Grandmaster look like Zorro, Sunway Sitges in December 2020, photo by Lennart Ootes, official website



Klara Kovacs, chess arbiter at Sunway Sitges in December 2020, with a face mask made especially for the crew. Photo: Lennart Ootes, official website

GM Oleg Romanishin, born 1952 remains a strong and busy player in Open Festivals throughout the world, and a renowned chess coach.

Romanishin is a regular participant at the **Sunway Sitges International Chess Festival near Barcelona**, since its first edition in 2014, he played seven times at the Sunway Sitges (near Barcelona), and also at the inaugural edition of the Sunway Formentera. He also gave lectures and simuls there.



Grandmaster Oleg Romanishin during a simultaneous exhibition in December 2020, Sunway Sitges (near Barcelona). Photos: Official Website, Lennart Ootes



HOTEL SUNWAY PLAYA GOLF & SPA DE SITGES

The Hotel: Sunway Playa Golf & Spa is the site of the Sunway Sitges International Chess Festival. Located **on the Promenade of Sitges** (40 km south of Barcelona), the hotel is situated in front of the sea and beside the golf club, in the residential quarter of Sitges.

Free shuttle service between the train station of Sitges and the hotel where they play the tournaments of the Chess Festival. Official Site: <http://www.sunwaychessfestival.com/>



First winner at Sitges Sunway: GM Baklan from Ukraine, pictured at Neckar Open in 2012. Photo: Georgios Souleidis, chess-tigers.de

The [1st Sunway Sitges International Chess Festival](#) took place from 13th-21st December 2014 at **Sunway Playa Golf Sitges Hotel & Spa in Sitges, near Barcelona**. The 9-round swiss event had two sections: Group A open to all players, valid for title norms; Group B reserved for U-Elo 2000.

The total prize money raised to **27,155 EUR** (top prize of **5,000 EUR for the winner**) in 2021. Initially, a total of 19,700 EUR in cash prizes had been distributed among all the participants. Top prizes in the Group A were 2000 € / 1200 € / 800 € / 700 € etc. Source: chessdom 2014.



GM Alvar Alonso Rosell wins at Sunway Sitges 2018. Photo: Peter Doggers, Website Sunway Sitges

V Sunway Sitges Open 2018

The Sunway Sitges Open took place Friday, 14th Dec 2018 to Sunday 23rd Dec 2018.

GM **Alvar Alonso Rosell** won the **5th Sunway Sitges Chess Festival**, a strong Open, organised in Sitges near Barcelona, as clear first by scoring 8/10, half a point more than **Vassily Ivanchuk**, **Dmitry Andreikin**, **Ernesto Inarkiev**, or **Krishnan Sasikiran**, 183 players in the A-group, including veteran **Alexander Beliavsky**, and some promising youngsters.

(For pictures from Ivanchuk and Beliavsky at Sitges Sunway in 2018, scroll further down)

GM Alvar Alonso Rosell, the eventual winner was seeded as no. 27! GM Alvar Alonso Rosell from Spain beat Edouard Romain in the final round to take clear first place after the other joint leaders on 7/9 Ivanchuk and Andreikin drew their game.

<http://theweekinchess.com/chessnews/events/sunway-sitges-open-2018>

[Álvar Alonso Rosell - Wikipedia](#) (català)

Congratulations to GM Alvar Alonso for winning [@SunwayChessOpen](#)

Alvar is an economist at the City Council of Barcelona, has started studying Mathematics as a second degree, gives chess lessons and, as a hobby, wins strong chess tournaments.

From [Anna Rudolf on Twitter: "Congratulations to GM Alvar Alonso ...](#)

VI Sunway Sitges Open 2019



Korobov: The Life of a Professional Chess GM. Photo: Ali Mortazavi Oct. 17, 2019, IoM Grand Swiss

diagonal: The sixth edition of the annually recurring and steadily growing <Sunway Sitges International Chess Festival> (Open) took place December 13-22, 2019 in Sitges, a tourist town near 40 kilometers south of Barcelona.

Venue was the Hotel Sunway Playa Golf & Spa de Sitges along the Balearic Sea.

The event featured a 10-round Swiss system with 311 players in the A-group and 139 players in the B-Group.

Headliner was legendary Vassily Ivanchuk who had just won the Tournament of Peace at Zagreb, a strong International Invitation Tournament in November 2019. Further prominent players in the field included Parham Maghsoodloo, one of the most outstanding players of the impressive generation of Iranian chess athletes, Anton Korobov, Hrant Melkumyan, Krishnan Sasikiran, Maxime Lagarde, Romain Edouard, and Kaido Kulaots.

The total prize fund was 27,155 Euros with a 5,000 first prize.

Leading the tournament from start to finish, <GM Anton Korobov of Ukraine won as clear first at 8.5 points>. A fine victory for Korobov!

Anton Korobov arrived in Sitges as number three to four on the entry list behind Vassily Ivanchuk and Parham Maghsoodloo, but he dominated the tournament from the outset. Korobov started with six wins out of six games and only made his first draw against Ivanchuk in round seven. With a final sprint of two out of three, he then secured the sole tournament triumph.

The German grandmaster Rasmus Svane started as number 22 on the entry list but impressively reached 8 out of 10 to tie for second place along with Vasif Durarbayli from Azerbaijan, just a half point behind Korobov. Durarbayli then beat Svane 1½:½ in a two-game blitz match to snag the second place.

Promising youngster Nihal Sarin from India, finished unbeaten as shared fourth to twelfth at 7.5/10 points, American chess child prodigy Awonder Liang surprisingly defeated Ivanchuk, both eventually finishing at 7/10.

Swiss system can be brutal: Kulaots, the winner of the strong Aeroflot Open in Moscow at the beginning of the year (2019), had a bad tourney this time, achieving only 50% (three wins, three losses, four draws), finally finishing at position 147.

>> Further links from different editions >>

Preview for the 8th Sunway Sitges Open Chess Festival, held in December 2021:
<https://chessbase.in/news/8th-Sunway-Sitges-International-Chess-Festival-preview>

Tie-brekaer speed games in 2021:
[Sunway Sitges International Chess Festival 2021 - Live Games - Chess.com](https://www.chess.com/news/view/sunway-sitges-international-chess-festival-2021-live-games)

Pictorial Report from the 6th edition of 2019:
<https://www.chess.com/news/view/korobov-wins-sitges-open-chess-festival> (Chess.com)

For more impressions from Sitges compare also:
<https://www.chess.com/news/view/sitges-open-chess-festival-2019> (Chess.com)

Enthusiastic report from the edition in 2016:
<https://en.chessbase.com/post/sitges-chess-2017>

Albo d'Oro (since first edition in 2014, won by Baklan):
http://www.bidmonfa.com/obert_sunway-sitges-open-chess-festival

Sitges (Catalan pronunciation: [['sidʒəs](#)]) is a town about 35 km southwest of [Barcelona](#), in [Spain](#), renowned worldwide for its [Film Festival](#) and [Carnival](#). Located between the [Garraf Massif](#) and the Balearic sea, it is known for its beaches, nightspots, historical sites, and **Chess Festivals**. (Wikipedia)



Sunway Playa Golf & Spa Sitges hotel is located right along the Balearic Sea beach. Peter Doggers, Chess.com: [Veterans, Prodigies Clash At Sunway Sitges Chess Festival - Chess.com](#)



Sunway Sitges (in 2018), the playing hall — you might recognize legendary Alexander Beliavsky. Photo by Peter Doggers, Chess.com



Young FM Nihal Sarin scoring an IM norm at Sunway Sitges 2016, photo: **Sharath Elumalai** via ChessBase. **Legendary Vasyl Ivanchuk** at Sunway Sitges 2018, photo by Organiser via Twitter

Notes:

>> Prior to the new Sunway Sitges series, there has already been a longtime but less strong **Open in Sitges** (40th edition in 2014), [Open de Sitges \(ajedrezdeataque.com\)](http://Open.de.Sitges.ajedrezdeataque.com), it is ongoing, annually in summer!

>> In 1934, and in 1949, there had been **international invitation tournaments** held in Sitges:

[Sitges \(1934\) \(chessgames.com\)](http://Sitges.1934.chessgames.com), and [Torneo de Sitges 1934 \(historiadelajedrezespanol.es\)](http://Torneo.de.Sitges.1934.historiadelajedrezespanol.es):

1. Lilienthal, 2. Rey Ardid, 3.-4. Tartakower, Koltanowski, 5. Spielmann, 14 players, many from Spain, incl. young Prins

A man of many talents:

Dr. Ramon Rey Ardid (1904-1988), a medical doctor (psychiatrist) from Zaragoza, was one of Spain's strongest chess players for three decades.

Rey represented his country at the 1924 Paris Olympiad, won the Spanish Championship four times, and in 1944 he played a short match of four games with World Champion Alexander Alekhine, losing only one game, Rey Ardid drew Alekhine 3-times, has a win over Tartakower, Yates, Prins, or Grob, not shabby. He never was a professional.

Complete biography of Rey Ardid. Includes 263 games, 93 chess problems and several photographs. [Ramón Rey Ardid, doctor en psiquiatría y en ajedrez \(ajedrezdeataque.com\)](http://Ramón.Rey.Ardid.doctor.en.psiquiatría.y.en.ajedrez.ajedrezdeataque.com), read also: [El final del camino... con la energía de la juventud \(ajedrezdeataque.com\)](http://El.final.del.camino...con.la.energía.de.la.juventud.ajedrezdeataque.com), and [Palmarés de Ramón Rey Ardid \(ajedrezdeataque.com\)](http://Palmarés.de.Ramón.Rey.Ardid.ajedrezdeataque.com)

[Torneo de Sitges 1949 \(historiadelajedrezespanol.es\)](http://Torneo.de.Sitges.1949.historiadelajedrezespanol.es):

1.-2. Pomar, Bernstein, 3. Medina, 11 players, mostly from Spain, and Chantal de Silans

>> Recently, in 2021, the FIDE World Women's Team Championship had been held in the **Catalonian coastal town Sitges**. The event was held in a new format: all matches were played in **Rapid** (45 minutes for the whole game plus a 10-second increment per move), and instead of the usual round-robin, the twelve teams were divided into two pools of approximately equal strength. Four top teams from each pool (round-robin event of five rounds) qualified to the knockout playoff. In that knockout, each duel consisted of two matches and the tie was broken by blitz matches.

Russia defeated India in the final 2-0 (2.5-1.5 in the first leg, 3-1 in the second leg) to become world champions. It also marks India's first medals at the World Women's Team Championships.

The Russian team was represented by **Aleksandra Goryachkina, Alexandra Kosteniuk, Kateryna Lagno, Polina Shuvalova**, and **Alina Kashlinskaya**.