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Tango de Salón

Class & workshop topics

Please be so kind and read all our descriptions carefully before you choose your workshops. Our topics are well defined and sometimes a certain workshop requires special prerequisites of another workshop. In some cases, we'll examine a special topic in different workshops from different angles, this is why not every combination of classes makes sense. If you are not sure, please just ask us. We will of course adapt to your special needs and vary our classes according your requirements.

Class duration

We recommend 1,5 hours, but we will be pleased to examine each topic more intensively, if there is more time. Every duration up to 6 hours makes sense! In case of less time (1,25 hours) we'll concentrate on certain aspects of each class. Nevertheless, some topics require more time. Please have a look at the class descriptions.

Class levels

Our classes generally apply to ALL LEVELS as we focus on concepts rather than on steps. We will start every class with basic work on techniques and will later adapt the movements to the proficiency level of each couple, starting out simple and adding more complexity during the class, even in the case of teaching a combination.

Pre-requisites to these all-level-classes vary and might be: participants are able to do and communicate steps in all directions, to distinguish between parallel and crossed system, to dance and lead pivots and Ochos (When reading the workshop descriptions, you'll get a pretty clear idea, if this class is suitable for you.)

There are a couple of classes that are marked specially and address to another population:

- * For ALL LEVELS *including* absolute beginners with no prior instruction
- ** Exclusively for EXPERIENCED dancers, with good axis and control over their movements

If you want to introduce class levels, we can make every class as easy and complex as you wish.

Open and close embrace

Please keep in mind that we define „Tango de Salón“ like the argentines do: social tango, no matter what style. We dance close embrace Tango de Salón and our focus is on the connection between the partners. But: we seek to explore all movements possible without breaking up the embrace. Thus our teaching method is defined by a modern improvisational approach and the students will not be obliged to dance as close as we do – except in some special classes where we focus on the embrace. Our general techniques are adaptable to all styles and kinds of embrace.

1. Caminar - the heart of Tango

Our style is defined by the Caminar, the Tango-walk in all its rich variations and with all its intricacies. We therefore present our most significant classes, the heart of our Tango.

We highly recommend to choose the class „Caminar abrazados“, if we're working for the first time in your community. Here, we introduce our Tango-philosophy and basic technique. We are happy to adapt this class to every level of experience or to mix levels, just as you prefer. There'll be a lot of impact for every one!

Caminar abrazados - Walking in an embrace (*)

Tango is walking in an embrace. During this workshops we'll work on the aspects of the walk on different lanes: the appropriate inner and outer posture, dissociation, the expression of each step and elegant movements on different lanes without the necessity of „clinging to someone“.

Rhythmic variations of the Caminar

In this class, we'll vary the walk to rhythmical music and insert simple decorations, that enrich the dance and are great fun.

The Caminar in crossed & parallel system

The crossed system is a unique Tango-concept and we'll discover its mechanisms and possibilities. We'll focus on walking in the crossed and parallel system and changing freely between them.

Elegant variations of the Caminar

In this class, we'll develop elegant and sophisticated variations of the Caminar to slow Tangos. We'll make these even more interesting by inserting decorations, that that require an excellent posture.

Asynchronous Caminatas

We'll explore variations of the caminar in which leader and follower walk with different speed. We'll furthermore vary these movements rhythmically and make it even more challenging by turning them.

(With a little bit more of time - at least 2 hours for the whole class - we can introduce variations for Milonga & Vals as well.)

2. Tango Basics, Bodywork & Improvisation

These classes cover the very basics of tango and will enhance your understanding of Tango technique and structures. They may be equally interesting for beginners as well as for advanced dancers or (aspiring) Tango teachers.

In these classes we prepare the body for the dance, we introduce methods of communication and we'll work on the precision of the basic elements. We will teach no steps in these classes, the focus is on improvisation.

Tango – Technique & Bodywork (for both leaders and followers) (*)

Working with relaxation and tension, finding our axis, examining different concepts of walking, working on dissociation and pivoting. All you need to dance relaxed. No partner required.

Embrace & relaxed communication (*)

This workshop is about the quality of movement and the embrace. Discover our basic principles to enhance communication in the close embrace and to feel the relaxation of organic movements, that help us to communicate more clearly.

Improvisation with pivots, ochos & linear turns

We'll start this class with the technique of dancing and leading pivots and ochos. Our focus will be on bodywork and elegance as well as on organic movement. We'll go on combining the basic elements to linear turns. Have fun while exploring the numerous possibilities.

Goodbye Grapevine - Turning without memorised patterns

Combining the basic elements (steps & pivots) to turns without memorising patterns. For us, the Molinete is only ONE possibility to turn. Have fun exploring them.

Centres of rotation

This workshop deals with the different centres of rotations in movements and it's application in the dance. The aim is a deeper understanding of the leading/following mechanisms. We'll underline the systematic approach with charts.

(This class requires at least 2 hours of time.)

Structure & improvisation

Deconstructing the patterns. We'll take known movements and vary them surprisingly, This class is a great fun and a challenge to analytical understanding. It will enhance your skills of improvisation and help you develop new movements without memorising steps.

Elegance & embellishments for followers

Developing an elegant walk and exploring different forms of embellishments. Melina's analysis of the dimensions of movements lets you understand the possibilities of embellishments better and helps you develop your unique forms. No partner required.

Tango – Leading the leaders (*)

Leading and following in both roles. This is a great challenge and will improve your leading skills highly as you may understand the intricacies of both roles. You may choose to do this class with your usual partner and just skip roles (follower leads leader) or you will work with other students changing roles frequently. No partner required.

Fast forward – All the Tango Basics

This class is meant for those, who already dance for a time, but want to revise their technique. We'll define the „words“ of the language (steps & pivots) and the „grammar“ (parallel & crossed system). Then we combine the elements freely to „sentences“. Really a kind of fast forward to enhance you improvisational skills and basic understanding.

(This class requires 2 hours of time.)

3. Intensive classes on special topics

In these classes we combine basic work with it's application in the dance. Therefore we will also show a few interesting steps. But still: these are never meant to be fixed structures, we comprehend them as one possibility on many and flexible to variation.

Elegant movements – our favourite steps

Combining all the known elements to fluent and elegant movements, working on the expression of each step. We'll show a choice of our favourite steps and vary them according to your experience.

(This class is a perfect „final“ for a weekend, that focuses mainly on basic technique and improvisation.)

Tango con sabor – Dancing real slow (**)

Discover the slowness of the music and enjoy the embrace with the partner. Tango is not about arriving somewhere but about savouring each little movement in the process. During this class we'll focus on closeness, feeling and pleasure in slow and romantic Tangos. We will furthermore show an elegant step with some intricacies.

Elegant variations of the cross

The cross of the woman is a very interesting and elegant element, if it is not danced automatically. Why use it only in the 8-count-basic and always left in front of right foot? We examine the technique of leading & dancing the cross properly, develop surprising new solutions and - enough time permitted - explore all kinds of new crosses, that are seldom danced.

Elegant Variations of Ochos

After some basic work to Ochos-technique, we'll combine the elements to fluent movements appropriate to slow and lyric music.

Rhythmic Variations of Ochos

We'll first develop simple „Milonguero-Ochos“ out of the walk in the crossed system and vary them with traspiés. Then, after some basic work to pivots-technique, we'll combine the different elements to an interesting movement appropriate to rhythmic Tangos or Milongas.

Changes of direction

In order to navigate freely, we have to be able to vary the basic elements on the spot and to change direction instantaneously. We'll do some interesting exercises and show you a couple of mini-steps.

The Salon-Survival guide

Sometimes, the Milonga seems like a jungle: only the fittest survives! We'll explore the „reglas“ (guidelines) which permit to create a line of dance and enhance your flexibility and improvisational skills with some very useful exercises. This workshop is great fun for all levels and guarantees chaos-free Milongas.

Tango Milonguero – Dancing like in Buenos Aires

Discovering the steps of the traditional Milongueros in Buenos Aires: rhythmical variations of walking, the Milonguero-Ochos and maybe even simple turns. After this class you get the approval of every Milonguero in Buenos Aires.

Tango Milonguero – Variations of the Ocho Cortado

We'll vary the traditional Ocho Cortado in a lot of interesting new ways, that will enhance your improvisational skills a lot and break up fixed patterns.

Walking Turns

Dancing turns that move on in the direction of the dance. These can be simple walking turns in the parallel system or more complex movements in the crossed system with Alteraciones according to the participant's level of proficiency.

Elegant turns

Developing elegant turns out of the basic movements. We'll do basic work concerning the technique and show 1 or 2 specific turns, depending on the level of proficiency.

Rhythmic turns

Developing rhythmic turns out of the basic movements. We'll do basic work concerning the technique and show 1 or 2 specific turns and vary them on the rhythmical dimension.

Forward-step-turns with variations

We'll explore the technique and synchronisation of turns, that consist of forward or backward steps around the leader. These will then be varied rhythmically and in changing the direction or inserting decorations.

Elegant turns with Entradas (**)

In this class, we'll develop complex turns, that may be applied in open or close embrace likewise. As they require quite some skill we'll start with basic work on the technique of entradas and pivots. After this, we will present one or two typical turns for the Tango de Salón.

Entradas & Sacadas

We'll distinguish between Entradas and Sacadas, work on a proper technique and apply them in the dance. Not-so-experienced dancers will focus on the entradas, while more experienced dancers may explore both movements.

Tango - The music

The music makes us move. Each Tango is a masterpiece, which may be interpreted in a unique kind of way. We do not teach steps to different orchestras - we examine the dimensions of music and dance. Furthermore we distinguish and present different styles of music and adapt our movements and steps to the requirements. A full-fledged music-course requires 5 classes, but we may focus on different aspects, if there is less time:

- Expression & dynamics
- Rhythm & Melody
- Rhythmic Tangos of the early phase and the golden age
- Slow and lyric Tangos of the golden Age
- Dynamic and expressive Tangos of the golden Age and later times (**)
- Discover Di Sarli - musicality on the basis of Carlos Di Sarli's manifold work (**)

Music and musical design - Workshop for DJs and dancers

Melina presents the work and responsibilities of a traditional Tango-DJ, whose aim should always be, to create a mixture both danceable and challenging. The workshop speaks to DJs and future DJs, who will gain valuable directions for their work. Nevertheless, the class is equally interesting for dancers, who shape the ambiance of a Milonga as sensible consumers.

Vals - The music

Exploring the rhythmical variations in Vals and integrating them in the Caminar and some known movements. This may sound simple, but is it not: there are certain rhythmical variations which are often forgotten and dancing them requires quite some skill.

Vals - Girar y nada más (**)

Exploring the rhythmical variations in Vals and integrating them in turns. Only for advanced dancers or those who have participated in the class „Vals - the music“.

Milonga

You don't need complex steps to dance a good Milonga - a unique dynamic and your connection to the music is what makes this dance special! We'll explore rhythmical variations of the walk, as well as the bodywork and technique of Traspies and combine the elements to small and playful steps. A full fledged Milonga-course requires at least 4 units, but we'll focus on different aspects, if there is less time:

- Milonga Lisa: Rhythmic walking and simple movements in connection to the music.
- Milonga con Traspie: Fundamental work on Traspies, integrating them in known movements and a small Milonga step.
- Milonga steps: Nice and playful Milonga-steps
- Playing with the cross: Variations of crossed steps for the Milonga

3. Modern elements for Tango de Salón

In these classes we integrate modern elements into the traditional Tango de Salón. Our focus will nevertheless be on maintaining the quality of the embrace and adapting the movements to the requirements of a (crowded) dancefloor. Thus we'll develop interesting movements that can enrich the classic dance.

But please keep in mind: these classes do not represent the core of our dance, neither are they of superior importance for the dance at a Milonga. We therefore recommend not to choose more than one of these classes for a weekend of workshops.

We furthermore recommend these topics exclusively to experienced dancers with a good axis and control over their movements.

Sacadas & Ganchos (**)

Colgadas (**)

Vocadas (**)

Voleos (**)