

LALIGA GENUINE and PortAventura World join forces again to promote inclusive leisure and sport

- The 47 teams of the competition enjoyed Genuine Day at PortAventura Park and will spend the weekend at the resort
- PortAventura Convention Centre hosted the 2nd edition of the 'Leisure and sport as inclusion tools for collectives with functional diversity' information day



The players of LALIGA GENUINE shared a meal at the La Cantina restaurant

PortAventura World, 22nd of November 2024. For the fifth time, **LALIGA GENUINE** is again marking the beginning of a new season at **PortAventura World**. During the whole weekend, the resort will receive the 47 teams participating in a football tournament created in 2017 that promotes the integration of people with intellectual disabilities in the world of sport, starting tomorrow in Salou.

In addition to staying at the hotels of the resort, for the second consecutive year the players of the competition have been able to enjoy '**Genuine Day**', an exciting day at PortAventura Park. In addition to going on the most emblematic rides and discovering the shows offered by the theme park, they enjoyed a fraternal meal at La Cantina de México.

In parallel, at the PortAventura Convention Centre, the LALIGA FOUNDATION and the PortAventura Foundation organised the 2nd edition of the '**Leisure and sport as**

inclusion tools for collectives with functional diversity' information day. The event has the aim of bringing together notable personalities and entities that share the commitment to inclusion and diversity in the field of leisure and sport, creating a space for dialogue and learning.

Clemente Villaverde, President of the LALIGA FOUNDATION, and Ramon Marsal, President of the PortAventura Foundation, welcomed the attendees of the event, which began with the 'Pioneers of change: inclusion through sport and leisure' round table, with participation from Choni Fernández, Sustainability, Client and Communication Director of PortAventura World; Olga de la Fuente, LALIGA FOUNDATION Director; Alberto Puig, Mi Alex Foundation Director; and Gema Benito, Down España employment programmes specialist.

The 'Voices that inspire' and 'Conversation with champions' dialogue spaces were also carried out, where athletes, such as Paralympic athlete Elena Congost, Paralympic table tennis player Jordi Morales, PortAventura Foundation manager Elena Güernes, and families from both LaLiga Genuine and Dreams Village, the flagship programme of the PortAventura Foundation, shared their experience and highlighted the importance of inclusive sport and leisure in the lives of people with functional diversity.

Choni Fernández, Sustainability, Client and Communication Director of PortAventura World, commented: *"Inclusiveness is an essential pillar for PortAventura World. Our global vision of sustainability is reflected in an increasingly inclusive resort, where any person can have an unforgettable experience, regardless of their needs. We hope that all players have enjoyed PortAventura Park to the maximum and that we will be able to see them soon to celebrate their personal and professional triumphs."*

Olga de la Fuente, LALIGA FOUNDATION Director, gave a very positive assessment of this day event: *"We are very excited to once again hold Genuine Day in a setting as emblematic as PortAventura World. This event is not only an opportunity for our players to enjoy a day filled with fun and fellowship, but also strengthens our commitment to inclusion and diversity. Seeing the joy and enthusiasm of the participants motivates us to continue working to create a more inclusive and accessible environment for everyone. We are extremely grateful for the involvement of PortAventura World and the PortAventura Foundation in having made this Genuine Day possible."*

This collaboration, started in 2020, has the aim of promoting the personal and professional development of people with an intellectual disability, as part of a commitment to society and inclusive leisure. The 2024/25 season of LALIGA GENUINE will begin this weekend and will be divided into 4 phases, which will take place in 6 locations (Tarragona, Valencia, A Coruña, Vila-real, Burgos and Bilbao).

About PortAventura World Parks & Resort

PortAventura World Parks & Resort is one of the largest family holiday and leisure destinations in Europe. Throughout its 29-year history, it has received more than 100 million visits. With a privileged location close to Barcelona, the resort operates 5 4-star themed hotels and 1 5-star hotel (PortAventura Hotels), and has 4 hotels under management offsite, totalling more than 3,000 rooms (Ponient Hotels), as well as a convention centre (PortAventura Convention Centre) with capacity for up to 6,000 people. PortAventura World Parks & Resort also has a theme park, Ferrari Land Park, the only of its kind in Europe, and a water park that is a leader in Europe, with a range of world-class attractions. In April 2023 it received B Corp certification, which recognises the company's work in terms of sustainability, social responsibility and good governance.

About the LALIGA FOUNDATION

Founded in 1993 and a pioneer in the professional football environment, the LALIGA FOUNDATION is a private cultural entity with its own legal personality and non-profit status. It was established at the initiative and by unanimous agreement of LALIGA's General Assembly. Its primary objective is to channel LALIGA's social action and promote the social responsibility strategies of its clubs and foundations, fostering cooperation among them and amplifying football's transformative power to create a more just, inclusive, and equal society. Currently, 38 foundations from the 42 football clubs that make up LALIGA are registered. Additionally, the Foundation organizes the world's first league for footballers with intellectual disabilities: LALIGA GENUINE.

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