

Yerba Mate

The FIFA world cup Brazil will go down in history as the tournament of great set-backs and advances. From chronic building delays to impressive technological feats, last June, football fans were propelled into a tournament that truly captured the archaic modernity of Brazil today.

Somewhere between the new and the old, exists a distinctive South American ritual – one that has stood the test of time, despite pressures from the rest of the world to submit to modernisation. That is, the ritual of Yerba Mate.

First consumed by the Guarani people, Yerba Mate is a herbal tea that possesses unique stimulating properties unlike coffee or energy drinks.

The FIFA World Cup Brazil saw the Argentinian's bring 100kg of Yerba Mate into the country, only to be seconded by Uruguay, who brought 160kg.

Traditionally steeped and sipped from a hollowed gourd through a metal bombilla, it appears this ritual and its archetypal apparatuses still take pride of place amongst the fluorescent isotonic and sports bottles; just ask Messi, Pinto or Suarez.

We can't help but pry: Does Yerba Mate really channel occult sporting abilities? Or is this humble brew just a part of the South American quotidian routine?

Lucky Prawn presents a collection of old and new Yerba Mate paraphernalia...







