

HORSE RACE AT SIENA

7 In the square of the lovely hill-town of Siena in Central Italy the bearers of the palio, a mediaeval banner, one for each district, parade ~~two~~ ^{two} hours in a contest which has been held for some nine-hundred years.

25 The contest precedes one of the wildest, craziest horse-races in the world. Only a set number of horsemen may compete in the mad helter-skelter around the square, so the districts draw lots for the right to take part and the

~~of safety.~~
^{STEEL-CAPPED} jockeys themselves are picked for their ^{MAD} daring ~~and disregard of the elements~~

51 The winner is saluted by exploding fireworks and lives like a king for the day. His victory is the signal for outbursts of wild rejoicing by the crowds who come from the district he represents.

PALIO

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It is a game - survival

~~of medieval pageantry
the world would be a
poorer place without it~~