

 Tatai Stefano (29.03.1938-29.05.2017)



Italian International Master (1966) with Hungarian origins.

Tatai was **12-times Italian chess champion**, which is a national record: 1962 in Forte dei Marmi, 1965 in Florence, 1967 in Savona, 1970 in Sottomarina di Chioggia, 1974 and 1977 in Castelvechio Pascoli, 1979 in Venice, 1983 in Arco, 1985, 1990 and 1991 in Chianciano Terme, and 1994-95 in Reggio Emilia.

He was the strongest Italian player following Monticelli and Paoli until Mariotti's achievement in the 1970s, as well as *Béla Tóth* (also in the 1970s/80s), sometimes overlooked.



Portrait Photos: CNC

Best results: *Reggio Emilia* 1965-66, =3<sup>rd</sup>; *Venice* 1966, =3<sup>rd</sup>; *Malaga (Costa del Sol)* 1967, =3<sup>rd</sup>; Amsterdam IBM-**B** 1968, 1<sup>st</sup>; *Olot* 1968, =2<sup>nd</sup>; *Venice* 1969, =2<sup>nd</sup> (behind Hort, joint with Benkö, Lengyel, Robatsch, Taimanov, and Saidy, in alphabetical order); Monte Carlo-**B** 1969, 1<sup>st</sup>, joint with Győző Forintos; *Malaga (Costa del Sol)* 1970, =3<sup>rd</sup>; *Venice* 1971, =3<sup>rd</sup> (behind Browne, then Mariotti, joint with Hort, ahead of Kavalek); Torneo Magistrale Madonna di Campiglio 1972, 1<sup>st</sup> (<http://www.belgianchesshistory.be/tournament/torneo-magistrale-madonna-di-campiglio/>); Amsterdam IBM-**B** 1976, 1<sup>st</sup>, joint with Josef Prybil; Barcelona (Minor) 1979 & 1980 shared; Bratto Open 1982 shared (Mario Sibilio won on tie-break); Dubai (closed) 1984, shared 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> (above Keene, among others: <http://archive.spectator.co.uk/article/18th-february-1984/35/chess>); *Reggio Emilia* 1983-84, =2<sup>nd</sup> (behind surprising winner Karel Mokry, joint with Krunoslav Hulak, but above =5. Spassky, and =5. Nunn: [http://www.ippogrifoscacchi.it/tdc\\_storia/data/1983-84.htm](http://www.ippogrifoscacchi.it/tdc_storia/data/1983-84.htm)); =2<sup>nd</sup> at the *Capablanca Memorial in Cienfuegos* 1984, II. Tournament (behind Jesus Nogueiras); **Rome (Banco di Roma series) GM Invitation 1984, 1<sup>st</sup>**, alongside with Gyula Sax, a big success (<http://storiascacchi.altervista.org/storiascacchi/tornei/1980-89/1984broma.htm> Banco di Roma '84)

**Won a match in 1977** between the then leading two Italian players: IM **Tatai** versus GM **Mariotti** (the first Italian born GM, awarded in 1974) with **4.5-3.5 in Rome**. A previous encounter between Tatai and Mariotti was drawn in Rome in 1972.

→ **Mariotti e Tatai... i Coppi e Bartali degli scacchi:** <http://soloscacchi.altervista.org/?p=33554>

**He represented Italy in nine Chess Olympiads:** 1966 in Havana, 1970 in Siegen, 1972 in Skopje, 1974 in Nice, 1976 in Haifa, 1984 in Thessaloniki, 1986 in Dubai, 1988 in Thessaloniki, and 1992 in Manila, many times at board one. Best nominal Elo rating: 2495 in 1981.

**Famous game:**

Larsen vs. Tatai 0-1 (Las Palmas 1972): <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1159346>

**Mar-23-07 laskereshevsky:**

TATAI STEFANO (TATAI ISTVAN) have both the Italian and the Hungarian citizenship... he spend his life jumping from those two countries... in fact, even if his big part of life was in ITALY, "TATAI" is an Hungarian surname...

As I know, his family was a well-off one. They owned some hotels between ROME and BUDAPEST (and maybe VENICE too... but I'm not shore about it)

He was a very smart and culturated person... well know in the tournaments circuit for his good manners... always well suited... a kind of chess-gentleman.

Now he's living his retirement in the Canarian Islands with the family.

## In Memoriam – IM Stefano Tatai

May 31, 2017 [www.Chessdom.com](http://www.Chessdom.com)

The legendary Italian chess player **IM Stefano Tatai** passed away on 29th May in Tenerife, Spain.

Born in 1938, he became a National Chess Master in 1958 and earned the prestigious title of International Master in 1966.



Tatai was also teaching chess, and his most notable student was famous Italian composer **Ennio Morricone**.

Condolences to his family and friends.

<http://www.chessdom.com/in-memoriam-im-stefano-tatai/> (Chessdom, source and photo above)

<http://www.sport24h.it/e-scomparso-stefano-tatai-una-leggenda-per-gli-scacchi-italiani/> (in Italian)

<http://federacioncanariadeajedrez.com/fallecimiento-del-maestro-internacional-stefano-tatai/> (Obit)

General Sources:

[http://www.chessgames.com/player/stefano\\_tatai.html](http://www.chessgames.com/player/stefano_tatai.html) (Chessgames)

[https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stefano\\_Tatai](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stefano_Tatai) (Wikipedia in Italian)