

GAMBIT

MASTERING THE NAJDORF

Julen Arizmendi and Javier Moreno

**A complete guide to understanding
the most popular Sicilian system**



The Najdorf is the most popular line of the Sicilian for a very good reason: Black can play for a win without taking undue risks. The Najdorf's fundamental soundness has been confirmed in countless top-level games, and in particular by Garry Kasparov's successful use of it throughout his career.

White has tried a wide variety of approaches against the Najdorf, including quiet positional lines and the traditional main line with 6 ♘g5, while more recently the idea of a rapid kingside pawn advance has found favour. The Najdorf's landscape changes rapidly, and this presents its devotees with a complex task: they must not only keep up-to-date with sharp theoretical lines, but must also have a firm grasp of the strategies that underpin the main systems, both old and new.

This book lends a helping-hand to those who play the Najdorf or wish to take up this complex opening. Two Najdorf experts from Spain present a flexible repertoire for Black, including a wealth of original analysis of the critical variations. They also explain the key ideas behind the Najdorf, focusing on those plans that are most relevant to modern practice.

Julen Arizmendi is a Spanish international master with two grandmaster norms. He is an experienced writer, and part of *Jaque* and *Teoría's* editorial staff. He represented his country at the 2002 Olympiad.

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