

Vintage ROTANIA combine now open to the public.

The big event took place on November 5th 2000, the date on which the Rotania combine harvester took its place in its new home in Sunchales, Argentina. The design was drafted in 1928 by the ingenious Italian inventor Alfredo Rotania, after which it was built in a small pre series of five units and registered as a patent. It was a completely new harvesting machine that revolutionised farming.

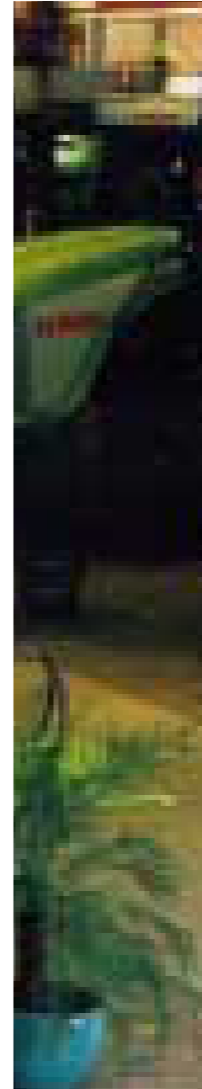
The engineers from CLAAS Argentina had restored this ancient predecessor of today's combines over many months with loving care. Helmut Claas endorsed this project personally and was there in person to witness the handover

celebrations in Sunchales accompanied by board member Rüdiger Günther. Together with the restoration project, CLAAS and seventeen sponsors also provided a new home for the revered Rotania combine. A new glass pavilion has been erected in which visitors can admire a unique piece of Argentinean farming history.

The "Casa Rotania" in Sunchales.

Hundreds of interested visitors turned up for the ceremony which was attended by many prominent figures from politics and agriculture plus press and television. Gero Schulze Isfort, who is responsible for South America as part of his duties for CLAAS, christened the building "Casa Rotania" and handed the original key for the door to Helmut Claas.

A glorious past is all well and good, but a future is even more important. CLAAS had brought one of the latest models, the LEXION 480. A combine, whose major international success would not have been possible without the pioneering efforts of Alfredo Rotania.



Some 500 visitors attended the ceremony and admired the Rotania combine in its new museum.

The team from CLAAS Argentina, whose hard work enabled the restoration to be done.

