2018 WINTER EQUESTRIAN FESTIVAL OPENS WITH PRESS CONFERENCE



Chloe Reid, Liza Boyd, Kent Farrington, Michael Stone, Allyn Mann, and Juan Matute, Jr. at the opening press conference for the 2018 Winter Equestrian Festival and Adequan® Global Dressage Festival. ©Sportfot

Equestrian Sport Productions (ESP) hosted an opening press conference on Tuesday, January 9, at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) in Wellington, FL, to start the 2018 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) circuit.

The 12-week WEF will host thousands of the world's best horses and riders competing in the hunter, jumper, and equitation disciplines starting Wednesday, January 10, and running through April 1.

Representing the hunter/jumper sport at Tuesday's press conference were Equestrian Sport Productions' President Michael Stone, world number one ranked show jumper Kent Farrington, three-time USHJA International Hunter Derby Championship winner Liza Boyd, and top 10 Under 25 show jumper Chloe Reid.

"We are delighted that Rolex is once again our major sponsor here and the sponsor of the five-star grand prix during week seven as well as the \$500,000 Rolex Grand Prix CSI 5* in our final week. They are a major partner of everything that we do, and we're very thankful to have them," said Stone. "I can't talk about dressage without mentioning Adequan. We're really happy that Adequan stepped up once again as our title sponsor of dressage, and we are looking at a very strong dressage season. We're really pleased with that. I think the whole season is going to be fantastic."

Starting out the 2018 season of "Saturday Night Lights," the \$75,000 Battle of the Sexes, presented by Wellington Regional Medical Center, is on Saturday, January 13. The three-phase team event always provides a high-level of entertainment and fun action for the community to cheer on.

The Great Charity Challenge, presented by Fidelity Investments®, is another

great community event that will add to the over \$10 million already raised and distributed to over 200 Palm Beach County charities in its ninth year. The event will be held on Saturday, February 3, with teams of pro-am riders putting on an exciting and philanthropic night of competition to benefit 35 local charities.

This year's WEF will host four weeks of CSI 5* competition, with a CSI 2* division running concurrently during each week once again, which allows riders and horses of different levels to contest international competition. The highlight \$500,000 Rolex Grand Prix CSI 5* will be on Saturday, March 31, returning to its normal schedule during the final week 12 of the circuit.

During weeks 4 and 11, FEI jumper competition will be held on the grass derby field at Equestrian Village. Stone said, "This is to respond to the requests for a change from the riders and to have an alternative for the horses over the long season. We have two full weeks of competition there, which I think will be very exciting."

Kent Farrington will look to maintain his number one ranking in the world by gaining valuable FEI ranking points throughout the 12 weeks of competition.

He noted, "For me, Wellington is home. It's a great time for me to do two things at once, which is produce my horses for the future and be able to stay in one spot where I'm not at a different venue every week. At the same time, we have high-level competition, so I can take my experienced horses and kind of gear them and their schedule around what I want to do for the rest of the year. I would say early on here, I'm going to try to have my younger horses do most of the jumping, and I'll save my seasoned

Please turn to page 6

— WELCOME TO THE——— 2018 WINTER EQUESTRIAN FESTIVAL



Mark and Katherine Bellissimo ©Meg Banks

Welcome to the 2018 season of the Winter Equestrian Festival – we have long awaited the return of exhibitors, their families, and our loyal spectators for what is sure to be another fantastic season of top show jumping and equestrian competition.

This year marks nearly forty years of the Winter Equestrian Festival and the beginning of a renaissance for equestrian sport in South Florida. Each year we see the best travel our little slice of heaven to take advantage of the incredible weather, wonderful atmosphere, and quality competition.

In an effort to continue expanding, exploring, and generating new opportunities for our competitors, we're eager to unveil several new innovative competitions, vendor areas, and activities around the WEF grounds throughout the season for your enjoyment. As this show continues to grow, we want our organization to grow in tandem, providing the best place to come and not only compete, but learn and experience during your time in us here in Wellington.

We've been overwhelmed with the amount of support our partnership group has received over the years and thank you for the continued belief in our mission to expand and expose equestrian sport to new audiences. We also would like to thank our generous sponsors for their dedicated commitment to ensuring the success of this horse show each season.

The 2018 edition of WEF will once again feature many of the seasonal highlights that make these twelve weeks some of the best in the world. The \$75,000 Battle of the Sexes presented by Wellington Regional Hospital will kick off competition on Saturday, January 13, before we welcome one of our favorite evenings just a few weeks later. The Great Charity Challenge presented by Fidelity Investments® will take place this year on Saturday, February 3, and feature the tales of Hollywood, both new and old, as we honor a night for the stars. Our four CSI 5* competitions each season showcase the best of the best in our sport and are always the pinnacle of top competition during the circuit.

We're pleased to announce that the crowd favorite \$150,000 Nations Cup CSIO 4* will now be hosted on Saturday, March 3, as we look forward to seeing another year of enthusiastic international rivalry between teams and spectators. Our season will conclude this year with the \$500,000 Rolex Grand Prix CSI 5*, the most prestigious of classes hosted during the season on Saturday, March 31.

We wish all of our competitors this season the best of luck!

Sincerely,

Matherine Bellissino

Mark & Katherine Bellissimo

Wellington Regional Medical Center Invites You to Open House of New Urgent Care Facility On Thursday, January 11th

Wellington Regional Medical Center recently opened the doors of a new Urgent Care facility, the Wellington Physicians Urgent Care located in Wellington, FL. Wellington Regional Medical Center returns as a proud sponsor of WEF 1 to kick off the 2018 season.

The facility, located at 13421 South Shore, Suite 101, Wellington, FL 33414, can be found directly across South Shore Blvd from Equestrian Village and is open every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 365 days per year. The clinic is able to treat a variety of ailments including minor emergencies, specialized equestrian care, allergies, asthma, colds, cough, fever, flu, pneumonia, cuts, burns, sprains, fractures, infections, rashes, and sports injuries.

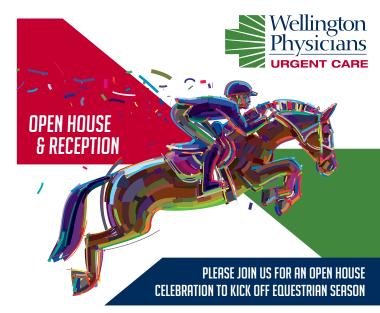
"We are proud to provide urgent care services that are convenient to the equestrian community. We have systems in place that allow for expedited service, with equestrian sport protocols in mind. With onsite x-ray and lab capabilities, as well as concussion evaluation standards in place, we are able to address almost all urgent needs. If it is determined that further care be necessary in the emergency room, we are able to provide test results and information directly to Wellington Regional Medical Center, to further expedite care."

The Urgent Care is also equipped to provide several health and wellness needs, including flu shots, sports, school, and employment physicals, as well as lab and imaging services. The clinic is walk-in, and no appointments are necessary to be seen. Most insurance plans, including Medicare, will be accepted.

"It is such a great honor to welcome Wellington Regional Medical Center back for another year of sponsorship at WEF. Their new Urgent Care center is in such close proximity to the grounds that it is a fabulous addition to the amenities and needs of our exhibitors and spectators," said Katherine Bellissimo, Chief Marketing Officer of Equestrian Sport Productions LLC.

The Wellington Physicians Urgent Care walk-in clinic is staffed to strategically treat minor injuries, common illnesses, and specialized equestrian care. For more information on the Wellington Physicians Urgent Care, please visit www.urgentcarewellington.com or call (561) 440-1616.





JANUARY 11, 2018 AT 4:00 PM

13421 SOUTH SHORE BLVD, SUITE 101, WELLINGTON ACROSS THE STREET FROM EQUESTRIAN VILLAGE

Designed with the equestrian athlete in mind, the new urgent care offers convenient and efficient care in the heart of the equestrian community.

Champagne and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

RSVP at www.urgentcarewellington.com OR 561-440-1616





PBIEC WEEK 1&2 UPCOMING EVENTS —

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

On Thursday, January 11, the Lunch & Learn Series begins for the 2018 season. Held every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Wellington Club, this informational and educational series has a variety of subjects for horsemen and women to learn more for their horses. Admission is free for riders, trainers, and owners. Register at the door for a chance to win exciting prizes. The Week 1 Lunch & Learn topic is "Urgent Care vs Emergency Care for our Equestrian Community", featuring Adam Bromberg, MD, vice chief of staff at WRMC and medical director of Wellington Physicians Urgent Care, sponsored by Wellington Regional Medical Center. Contact Kailey Blasius at 561-784-1137 or kblasius@equestriansport.com for more information.

ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL "FRIDAY NIGHT STARS"

AGDF's "Friday Night Stars" Series returns in 2018, showcasing some of the world's best dressage riders as they perform freestyles at the top level of competition. The first week of CDI-W competition, sponsored by XXX, will feature FEI World Cup qualifying grand prix musical freestyle competition on Friday, January 12. Held at Equestrian Village at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center, gates open at 6 p.m. and competition begins at 7 p.m. General admission is free, parking is \$10 per car, and valet is available for \$20.

\$75,000 BATTLE OF THE SEXES, PRESENTED BY WELLINGTON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Watch the men compete against the women in the first "Saturday Night Lights" event of the circuit on Saturday, January 13, at 7 p.m. The women won the first eight years in a row. Wear pink or blue to show your support for your team of choice! In addition to show jumping, there will be live entertainment from the band Wonderama. Gates open at 6 p.m. General admission is free, parking is \$20 per car, and valet is available for \$30.

THE VEUVE CLICQUOT SUITES AVAILABLE SATURDAY NIGHT!

Located in the Special Events Pavilion, The Veuve Clicquot Suites are first available on Saturday, January 13, and on select Saturday Night Lights events throughout WEF. Prime viewing, a full buffet, and premium bar options in a semi-private suite catered by White Horse Catering, this is the place to host friends and family or even a corporate gettogether. Each suite accommodates up to 22 people. Availability is on first-come, first-served basis, so book now before they all fill up! Contact Patti Miele at 561-784-1125 or pmiele@equestriansport.com today.

\$75,000 ROSENBAUM PLLC GRAND PRIX

Watch some of show jumping's best horses and riders compete in the first grand prix of the 2018 WEF circuit. Competition begins at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 14, in the International Arena at PBIEC.

COMING UP IN WEEK 2! JIMMY MANDALA MEMORIAL

A special memorial event will be held on Monday, January 15, from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Global West Pavilion on the AGDF Show Grounds. Join us to remember our friend and celebrate the life of Jimmy Mandala

RIDE & LEARN WITH CHARLIE MOORCROFT

The Ride & Learn Series will take place six times during WEF in 2018. Each week will feature a mounted riding clinic instructed by highly esteemed industry professionals and will be held in various venues and arenas at PBIEC. Week 2 features Charlie Moorcroft, who will be training with the theme of "Pony Hunters" at the Van Kampen Covered Arena at Equestrian Village at PBIEC (AGDF show grounds) on Tuesday, January 16, from 2-4:30 p.m. Participation to ride in the clinic is \$100 per horse/rider per clinic, with a maximum of 8 riders, so sign up today! Auditing is Free. For more information or to sign up for a clinic, please contact Jessica Nichols at 561-784-4275 or jnichols@equestriansport.com.

FRIENDS OF ORPHANS COMPETITION AND EVENT

Riders from the Chateaublond Equestrian Center in Haiti will be coming to compete in the Van Kampen Covered Arena for their Special Olympics Equestrian Event on Saturday, January 20, at 8 a.m. General admission is free. Then, join them for a luncheon and silent auction to benefit Chateaublond Equestrian Center in Haiti therapy program on Sunday, January 21, at 12 p.m., which is dedicated to children with special needs. Individual tickets are available for \$80 and a table of six for \$450. Contact Romy Tschudi for information and ticket purchase at 954-643-8678.

HAPPENINGS

The 2018 High Goal Polo season is in full swing at the International Polo Club Palm Beach, with matches running from Thursday through Sunday at the venue. This week features the second round of the Joe Barry Memorial Cup with some of the best polo teams based in Wellington for the winter months competing for top honors. The highlight match of the week will take place on Sunday, January 14, at 3:00 p.m. on the Engel & Völkers Field.

This week's special events on Sunday will include a fashion display of the Michelle Farmer collection before the start of the match at the Mallet Grille. Michelle Farmer's retail space will be open once again this week for you to peruse through the hottest new fashion styles and purchase your one-of-a-kind piece!

The Coco Polo Lounge sponsored by Seminole Casino Coconut Creek is featuring its NYY Steak lunch for those who have purchased tickets in the newly remodeled lounge. The Pavilion will open at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday and serve a brunch buffet throughout the match, with tables overlooking the play at Engle & Völkers Field. This Sunday is also the first rosé day of the season, so be sure to dress up in your favorite little pink dress for a chance to win best dressed and receive a bottle of Veuve Clicquot! Tickets for the Pavilion can be purchased online at www. internationalpoloclub.com.

Autograph signings with the winning team are available after the highlight game on Sunday – bring a ball or a pen and get a souvenir signed by your favorite player!

General admission seating is available and can also be reserved online or purchased upon arrival on Sunday. Parking at IPC is \$5.

The polo season at IPC, which began on December 31, continues through Sunday, April 22, and will once again be home to the U.S. Open Championship Finals, North America's most prestigious polo tournament

To purchase tickets to Sunday polo and brunch at The Pavilion, visit international poloclub.com.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 11 11:30AM THE WELLINGTON CLUB SPONSORED BY WELLINGTON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER Contact Kailey Blasius at 561-784-1137

"Urgent Care vs Emergency Care

for our Equestrian Community",

featuring Adam Bromberg, MD, vice chief of staff at WRMC and

medical director of Wellington

Physicians Urgent Care

for more information. **ADMISSION IS FREE.**

kblasius@equestriansport.com



WEEEII (GTOT), TE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16 2-4:30 PM

VAN KAMPEN COVERED ARENA AT AGDF SHOW GROUNDS

PONY HUNTERCharlie Moorcroft

Contact Jessica Nichols at 561-784-4275 jnichols@equestriansport.com

\$100 per rider per clinic.

AUDITING IS FREE.

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VENDOR VILLAGE

Alessandro Albanese Anne Gittins Photography Cape Madras Centerline Charles Ancona NY CM Hadfields Saddlery Inc. Criniere Life LLC **CWD Custom Saddles DeNiro Boot Company** Der Dau Custom Boots Dover Saddlery Dreamcatcher Meadows Ventures EQ Exchange Equestrian Boutique Equestrian Essentials Equifit Equisense

Equiline Equestrian Fashion Eaustar LLC Equine Tack & Nutritionals Equine Therapy International Equis LLC F.LLI. Fabbri Inc. Fab Finds by Sarah Fullsand Egus Hacks & Hills Inc. Hickstead Legacy/AKKA Legacy Hoofitz Horseware Ireland

HorsePower Technologies Inc. Hvlolift JĆ Pino Gallery

James Leslie Parker Photography **Jods Equestrian Apparel**

Kocher Tack Shop Laurel & Bleu Le Fash

Leni Penn Tote Bags Manastash Millinerv MY8 USA

Personalized Products Res Ipsa USA

Romitelli Custom Boots Running Fox Equestrian

Shompole Collection Sofie's Boutique

Snaks 5th Avenchew Stacy & Molly

Staller Stephex Horse Box

Tack n Rider Tocci Designs

Tony Hanley HS Top Jock Tack Boxes

Turner & Co. Voltaire Design Fine Saddlery Willson Boots

WEF OFFICIAL BOUTIQUE

RING 6

Amberway Equine Solutions Antarès Sellier France Horse Gym USA

BARNS 1-4

Dandy Products Farmvet Inc. RC Saddle & Tack Repair Woody's Shoe Repair Josey's Laundry Service

Animo USA Bruno Delgrange Equisafe LLC **Equitan Flooring**

RINGS 9 & 10

Benjamin & Co. Fox Run Saddlery HavGain McGuinn Farms Inc. Tack Trunks & Stable Equip. Pulse Center Equine SportFot USA StableGuard Triple E Equipment



INTERNATIONAL WARM-UP ARENA

Custom Saddles

Barn Savers

Bemer Equine Devoucoux Saddles & Tack





Ring 8

AA MAA

-

-

FARM STAND

Food Trucks & Retail

Meraki Juice Kitchen Pumphouse Coffee Roasters Tess & Co. The One Well

Healing Practices

Acupuncture Chiropractic Massage Yoga

HUNTER HILL

Danny & Ron's Dog Rescue Designs by Barbara Forbes Fab Finds by Sarah Hingham Square Needlepoint Just FUR Fun - Goodies for Doas Pinnell Custom Leather Inc. Rockin Horse Art Rockin J Equine Stalls Superior Equestrian

RING 11 (Pony Island)

Palm Beach Int'l. Academy

BRIDGE DECK

Horse Pilot **VQ** Jewelry Trailerfash

PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTER

(Main Grounds)

TIKI TERRACE

Brackish Carson & Co David Erdek Photography **Drew Doggett** Elizabeth Locke Jewels Inc. ElysaSuzanne Couture Clothing Eyes of Wellington Gild Easy LLC Haverhill Collection

Hermès Hooke Sculpture JC Pino Gallery K9 Horse Care Lauren Gabrielson Design Manatash Millinery Poor Cat Designs Rare Gems of India Sean Rush Atelier

Shompole Collection Staller Stubbs & Wootton Tai et Cie Via Luca Italian Menswear Vestrum-USA W.M. Baldwin Designs WEF OFFICIAL BOUTIQUE

THE SHOPPES AT **INTERNATIONAL CLUB**

Douglas Elliman Real Estate Equiline Equestrian Fashion Hunt LTD Julie Keyes Art Consulting Karina Brez Jewelry Lugano Diamonds

PLACES TO EAT

INTERNATIONAL ARENA

Tito's Tacos Tiki Hut

VENDOR VILLAGE

Colianos Pizza Harry's Lemonade Loopy's Crêpes Cafè Oasis Café

RINGS 9 AND 10

Muddy Paws Coffee PCI, Professional Concessions Magdalena's Mexican Nathalie's Café

BARN 4

Burgess & Clark Coffee

PONY ISLAND

Icv Goddess Tito's Mexican **KP Concessions**

SOUTH BARNS

Ted's Take Out

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PRESS CONFERENCE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

veterans for bigger competition toward the end."

Speaking of the evolution of the Winter Equestrian Festival. Farrington said, "I think over the course of the last ten years, we've seen great improvements in infrastructure and bringing on big brands like Rolex has helped elevate the level of the show, not only from an exposure point of view, but also from the level of competition. If you look at the number of top equestrians that are in Wellington today versus 20 years ago, I think those numbers would be staggering. A lot of people are using this now as a home base to produce horses and also to compete at a high level. So for me the growth in the sport and the exposure has been great for

Along with top show jumping competition, WEF features divisions for every level of hunter horse, including week six's \$100,000 USHJA/WCHR Peter Wetherill Palm Beach Hunter Spectacular and week 12's \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby. This year's circuit also includes two \$10,000 USHJA National Hunter Derby competitions, plus a new "Hunt and Go" format \$15,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby on Friday, February 2.

"The 'Hunt and Go' is a little bit similar to a power and speed (jumper class)," Boyd explained. "You do your first hunter classic round, and then you go directly into your handy. So it'll be a little bit quicker and fun for the crowd and just a change. We're really excited that WEF is offering that, as well as Green Hunter Incentive classes for the 3'6", 3'9" for two-thirds of the season. There are a lot of really exciting things for hunter riders this year."

Hermés has become the new title sponsor of the Under 25 division at WEF. Speaking of the importance of the division for riders, Chloe Reid said, "Being able to jump the U25 Nations' Cup gave me a lot of experience to then jump the senior Nations' Cup here for the U.S. team. It gives riders all of this experience to then hopefully go to Europe and represent your country. It is another stepping-stone that I think has done a great job of producing our young riders. It's amazing to have Hermés as the title sponsor, and the riders definitely feel important and honored to be so well represented."

Jennifer Wood



The Veuve Clicquot Suites

at The Palm Beach International Equestrian Center 3400 Equestrian Club Drive, Wellington, FL 33414 • www.pbiec.com

Experience the excitement of Saturday Night Lights Grand Prix show jumping at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center. The Veuve Clicquot Suites offer a spectacular new setting to watch the largest Grand Prix class of the week as top equestrian athletes and future Olympians compete for international titles during the 2018 Winter Equestrian Festival season.

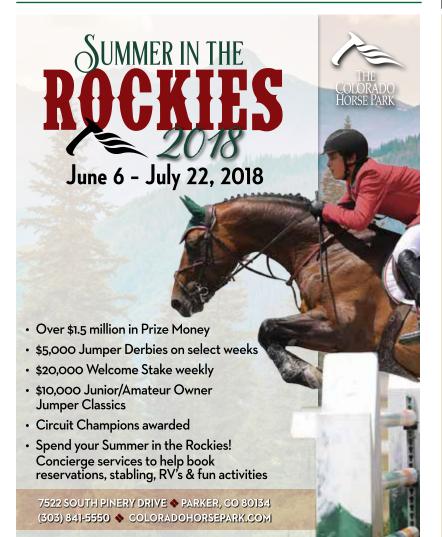
Included in your ticket is a full buffet and open bar for \$150.00 per person for a regular show and \$200.00 per person for a 5* show.

Specialty Bottle Pricing Available for Veuve Clicquot.

The Suites are available for the following Saturday Night Lights Events:

Regular Shows: January 13, 20, 27 • February 3 • March 3, 17, 24 **5* Shows:** February 10, 24 • March 10, 31

For more information and booking please e-mail suites@equestriansport.com







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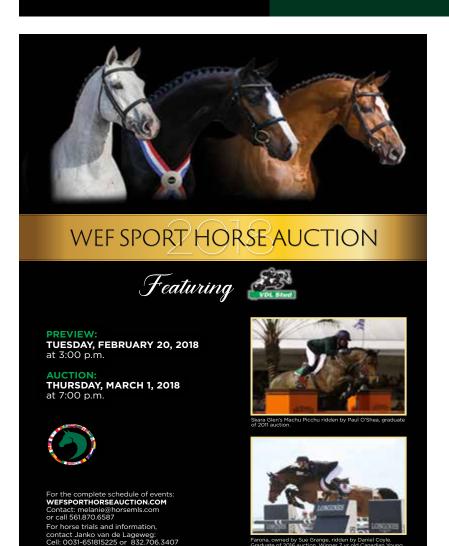
> - Kristen Vanderveen & "Bull Run's Faustino De Tili"

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The marital law boutiques of Fisher, Bendeck, & Potter and the Law Office of Benjamin T. Hodas merged on January 1, 2018, bringing partners Jeff Fisher, Zac Potter, and Ben Hodas together in a single firm. The merger creates a firm of attorneys who trained with Jeff Fisher while he litigated billions of dollars of divorce and asset recovery cases in Florida and throughout the United States. For select clients in need of their services, Fisher, Potter, and Hodas have combined to create a bigger and better firm than ever before.

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ARTIST PROFILE PHILIPPA DAVIN



"Photography and horses are my life passion. It is an extraordinary experience to capture the intricate and ever-changing forms of these beautiful creatures with modern technology, bringing even the slightest, imperceptible details to life on a big scale."

A native of Gothenburg, Sweden, Philippa
Davin has become internationally known for her
beautiful photography both within and outside of
the equestrian industry. While her main focus is
her PD Fine Art collections, she also has extensive
experience with private custom studio shoots,
fashion and marketing shoots, and more.

Her passion for photography started early, and by the age of nineteen she decided to make a career of it. After graduating from the Speos Photography Institute in London in 2013, Philippa went on to present her work in several exhibits across the globe. Her love for horses also began early on. She competed in show jumping with her ponies and traveled across Europe to horse shows. Although she no longer rides, her work allows her to stay within the horse community daily.

In addition to her photography, Philippa is dedicated to philanthropy. In 2013 her older sister was diagnosed with cancer and Philippa was with her every step of the way to recovery. During that year she didn't take any assignments, but instead followed her sister with the camera. "It felt very good having a 'task' during this time and I knew my sister appreciated it very much." Her sister used these photos as a way to process what was happening throughout treatment.

The following year they started a charity organization, "Our Fight Against Cancer," in their home country of Sweden. Their opening of the exhibition saw over six hundred guests from across the country and it raised over one million Swedish kronor towards cancer research. Their organization is still running and continues to raise money and awareness. Today, Philippa's sister is happy and healthy in remission.

Splitting her time between the United States and Europe, Philippa is based out of Wellington, Florida for the winter season and out of Gothenburg, Sweden for the summer months. While in Wellington, her artwork can be viewed at the International Polo Club and the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival. She will also be occupying a vendor booth at the Winter Equestrian Festival where her home decor products (www.pddeco.com) and artworks will be available for sale. Philippa's line of home décor was a project several years in the making and was finally revealed to the public in 2016. Her idea behind this collection was to create a new art piece, one that blended both her photography and her paintings and therefore was named UNITY. Philippa also has a new project set to be released sometime in 2018.



TRAILER PARKING OR DROP OFFS WITHOUT STALLS DURING WEF SEASON

PARKING PASSES AVAILABLE
IN SHOW OFFICE
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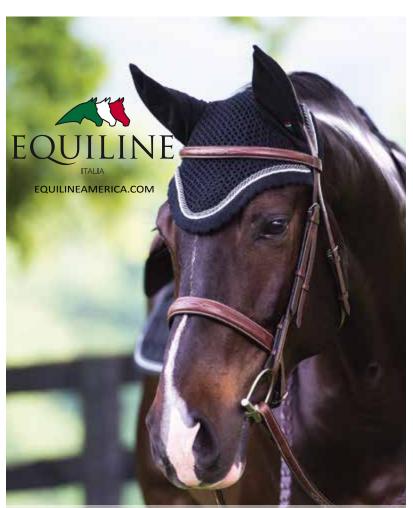
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JANUARY 10, 2018

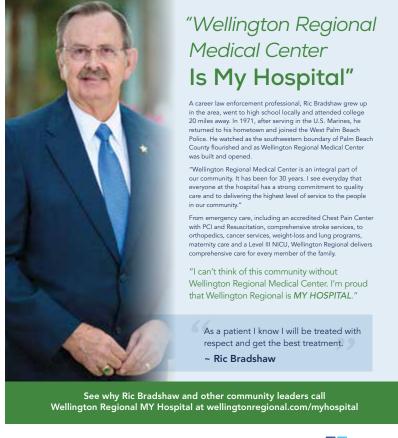
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Visit The Equiline Saddle Trailer in Vendor Village and see Equiline's full line of Leather Goods











"IN SOLITUDE I FOUND MY SANCTUARY." ~IMAM ALI PRICED AT \$1.45mm





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WILD TO WORLD CHAMPION: MARSHA HARTFORD-SAPP AND COBRA



Marsha Hartford-Sapp operates Southern Oak Equestrian Center in Tallahassee, Florida, where her main focus is on the "complete equestrian education" of young horses and riders alike. With a passion for the mustang breed in particular, Hartford-Sapp has earned three top-five placings at the national Extreme Mustang Makeover Competition, and is well known for her successful training and achievements with her current mustang and Breyer Horse Model, Cobra.

Hartford-Sapp and Cobra will make their debut in a special exhibition at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival during the "Friday Night Stars" FEI Grand Prix Freestyle, presented by Adequan®, on Friday, January 12. Competition begins at 7 p.m.

Born in the Nevada mountains, Cobra ran as a wild horse until he was rounded up by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and put up for adoption. Despite numerous efforts, the horse was never selected for adoption, and at the age of six, Cobra was deemed a "Three Strike Horse" by the BLM. The horse was moved to long-term-holding, and months passed before he was

selected to be included with a group of horses for the Extreme Mustang Makeover Competition.

Upon introduction with her new partner, Hartford-Sapp named the black gelding "Cobra," after the highest-powered version of the Ford Mustang sports car. Training proceeded slowly, and at the end of several weeks, a partnership and bond was established. Hartford-Sapp recalled, "When I entered the round pen for the first time, Cobra charged at me. It's all about fight or flight, and he was resorting to the only option he had. To me, that showed that he had heart, and that he was sensitive." She continued, "It was difficult at first, but quickly turned into mutual respect and admiration from both sides."

After a bond was fully established, the duo went on to compete at the Makeover, just missing the Final by a few points. However, that wasn't going to stop the pair from achieving great things. In 2013, Cobra was entered into his first recognized dressage show. That year, he was awarded a National Reserve Champion title for All-Breeds, and won qualifying scores at First, Second, and Third Level, earning Hartford-Sapp scores for her USDF Bronze Medal in just six months.

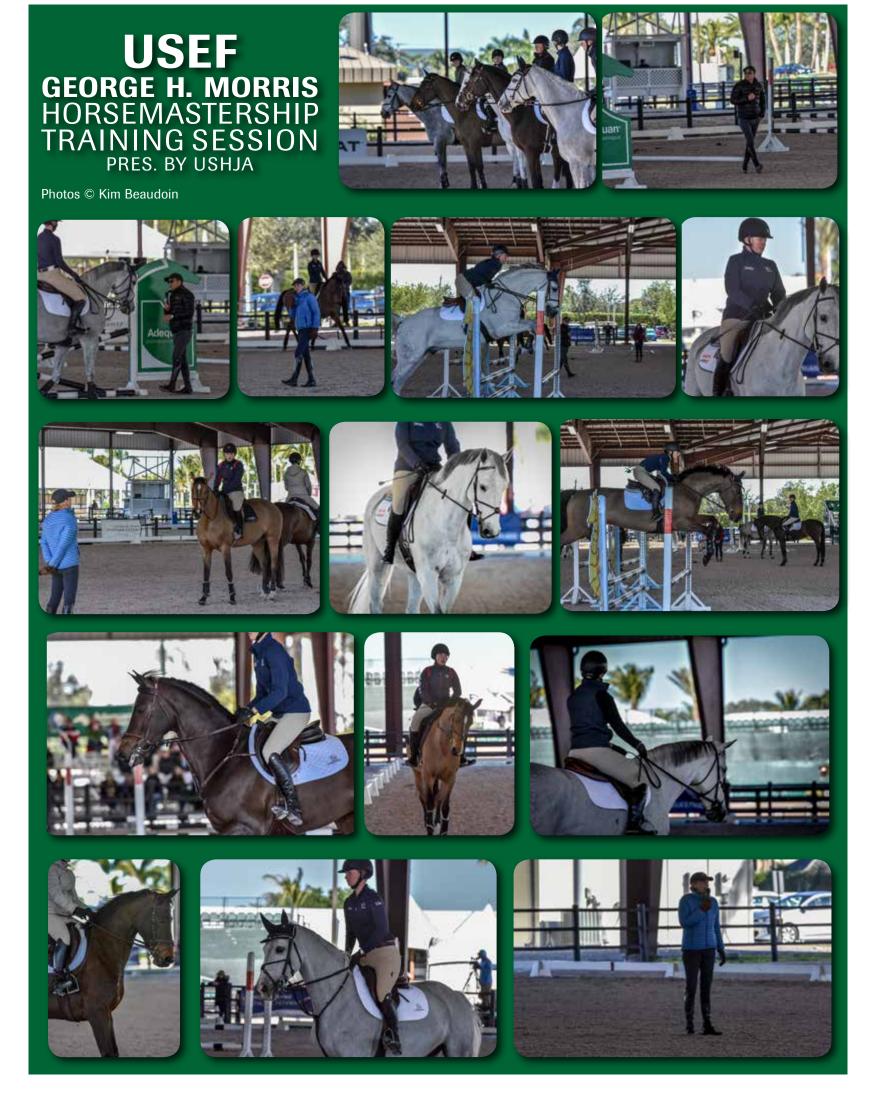
In 2014, Cobra and Hartford-Sapp continued on a winning streak and completed a season at Third Level, winning a National Champion title for the All-Breeds Award at Third Level, and ending the season with a personal best score of 70% at Fourth Level. That year, the pair also traveled to the United States Equestrian Federation Western Dressage World Championship in Tulsa, OK. The gelding was the first mustang to compete at the World Show, and earned a Reserve World Champion Title.

Cobra competed in his first FEI Prix St. Georges test at a recognized United States Dressage Federation show in 2015. The horse was the first Mustang Makeover graduate to compete at an FEI Level, and he won the USDF All-Breeds award for FEI Prix. St. Georges, earning Hartford-Sapp her scores for a USDF Silver Medal. Cobra also received a USEF Horse of the Year Award, becoming the first mustang to receive the title. To conclude the year, Cobra once again competed at the World Show in Tulsa, OK, and became the first mustang to win a World Title in his discipline.

Of her once of a lifetime horse, Hartford-Sapp concluded, "From wild to World Champion, this amazing horse has been nothing short of an inspiration to those that have met him. Cobra's story reflects what can happen when we believe in possibilities, when we believe in ourselves, and when we believe in the heart of a horse."



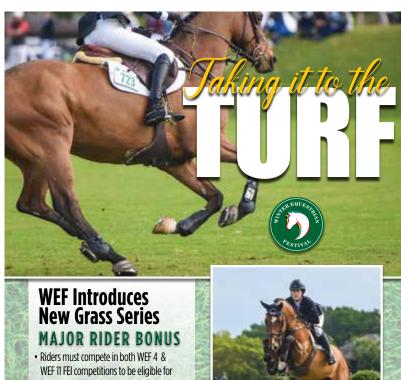




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- bonus awards
- Any form of tie will be determined by highest placing in the \$205,000 CaptiveOne Grand Prix on March 24

1st Place - \$15,000 2nd Place - \$7,500 3rd Place - \$2,500



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