



ADEQUAN GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL

AGDF TIMES

WEEK 12 • MARCH 26, 2025

CHEERS TO A
SPECTACULAR
2025 SEASON!

LÖVSTA FUTURE CHALLENGE

Continues to Support Up-and-Coming Horses in Dressage and Jumping

Lövsta Future Challenge is proud to continue their series in the United States, supporting young horses to reach their full potential, in both dressage and jumping.

This season, Lövsta Future Challenge is introducing a \$3,000 Groom's Award for each discipline, given to the grooms of the top three placed combinations in each final.

"What began as a national tour in dressage for U25 riders and young Grand Prix horses has grown into one of the world's leading initiatives to nurture the next generation of equestrian talent," says Antonia Ax:son Johnson, owner of Lövsta Stuteri and founder of Lövsta Future Challenge.

From Sweden to the rest of the world – the journey of Lövsta Future Challenge

Founded in 2011 by Swedish dressage icons Tinne Vilhelmson Silfvén and Louise Nathhorst, with the support of Antonia Ax:son

Johnson, Lövsta Future Challenge was created to advance Sweden's standing in the equestrian world while serving as a model of sustainable competition. Over a decade later, this vision has grown internationally. Lövsta Future Challenge now includes national tours in Sweden for U25 riders and young horses in dressage and jumping, along with international events around Europe.

In show jumping, the U25 competition during the Global Champions Tour in Stockholm is an annual highlight, while in dressage, Lövsta Future Challenge hosts an international U25 series in partnership with World Cup Herring, Jumping Amsterdam, and Gothenburg Horse Show. By providing these young athletes with a stage at iconic venues, the program aims to prepare future stars for the world's elite competitions.

Lövsta Future Challenge Dressage in Wellington

The Lövsta Future Challenge Dressage – USA is about to enter its sixth

season, offering a tour for young Grand Prix horses (from 8-11yo) with five qualifiers in Wellington. The top two riders from each qualifier will secure one of the highly sought after spots in the finale during week 12. The qualifiers will be held in Intermediate II and the final in Grand Prix for Young Horses. With \$15,000 in total prize money and no entry fees, Lövsta continues to support the riders and teams around them.

Jumping into 2025: Lövsta Future Challenge vision for future show jumping stars

The Lövsta Future Challenge Jumping tour provides seven-year-old horses the chance to gain invaluable experience in a competitive environment. This upcoming season, the tour will host seven qualifiers throughout the Winter Equestrian Festival circuit, culminating in a grand finale at Wellington International with \$25,000 in prize money.

Reflecting on last year's season, Sophie Mörner, founder of Lövsta Future Challenge Jumping US,





says, "We were thrilled about the outcome of last year's season. With over 200 entries from more than 15 nationalities, we saw how crucial it is to put future stars into the spotlight. By giving them the opportunity to compete at Wellington International, we hope to equip them with the experience they need for a successful future."

Honoring Horsemanship and Giving Back to the Community

Beyond competitive success, Lövsta Future Challenge remains deeply committed to sustainability, horsemanship, and community. One example

of this commitment is the ongoing collaboration with Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center, a facility that among other things provides equine-assisted therapy for people with disabilities. For the 2025 season, Lövsta Future Challenge will donate \$100 for each participant in its U.S. events to Vinceremos, helping to support its life-changing programs for people of all ages.

"It's equally important for us to look beyond the arena to places where these incredible animals bring joy, healing, and hope in ways that far surpass medals or trophies," Johnson concludes.

“

We're delighted to support the sport here in Wellington and to expand our commitment to the most essential part of our sport: the grooms. These dedicated caretakers are the ones who look after the most valuable part of our sport, our wonderful horses.

”



ADRIENNE LYLE & HELIX

Double Up to Win Freestyle with New Personal Best

By Alice Collins
for Wellington International

Adrienne Lyle (USA) expertly guided Zen Elite Equestrian Center's 13-year-old Helix (by Apache x Jazz) to a new combination high score of 80.6% to top the Havensafe Farm CDI5* Grand Prix Freestyle during AGDF 10.

Ecuador's Julio Mendoza Loor put down a 78.52% performance aboard the 14-year-old Jewel's Goldstrike—a horse he bought for \$20 and who took him to the 2024 Paris Olympics—to finish second. Anna Marek (USA) rode Cynthia Davila's Zizi Top gelding Fayvel

to a third-place finish with 77.135%.

Lyle and her Paris Olympics partner Helix—winners of the qualifying Grand Prix on Thursday—executed a demanding floorplan flawlessly. Their test included 15 one-time changes right into a tiny double pirouette and a full piaffe pirouette on

the final centerline. Lyle, who will head next to the FEI World Cup™ Final in Basel, Switzerland in April, has been diligently working on Helix's relaxation and finding

a longer neck during the test.

"It felt easy, which is exactly what I was hoping for," said Lyle, who opted to walk into the ring on a long rein before starting her test. "Not only is this a five-star and a fabulous competition, but I wanted one more chance to get in an environment like this before we head to the World Cup. My main goal was to have a quiet, harmonious ride, and he felt like he did the whole thing effortlessly—didn't even break a sweat—and walked calmly back to his stall."

Lyle has been prepping for 'Friday Night Stars' by riding Helix in the evenings, getting him accustomed to being tacked up and ridden in the dark, and playing applause music

because Helix is "not a horse who likes surprises".

"We're at a place now where we're showing harmony and relaxation, and the frame's getting better," said Lyle, who rode to an upbeat Terry Gallo music compilation. "I still think there's a lot more in there."

Despite a blip in one of the canter pirouettes, Mendoza Loor was delighted

with the family-owned Jewel's Goldstrike (by Bretton Woods x Watermill Scandic) whom he acquired cheaply because he was so feisty.

"I'm always happy," he enthused. "If I have to lose against somebody, I'm happy to lose to Adrienne. This was our second show after the Olympics and it was very exciting. I'm so grateful to be competing in the five-star with mega riders and horses."

Mendoza Loor rode to music put together by Leslie Berro, which included the lyrics "Ecuador" by Sash! Seeing the partnership the pair have, it's hard to imagine the rocky journey the two have taken. The rider paid \$20 for "Goldie" as a wild eight-year-old and found that the key to his success lies in 24/7 turnout.

"When I got him, I turned him out in the field to be a horse," he explained. "It took me a year and a half to be able to ride him, and he still lives out full-time. Right now I'm renting a field for him, not a stall, because he loves to live out. I'm not going to put him in a stall and take his happiness away for my ego."

Judge William Warren (USA) was particularly impressed with the quiet riding he saw. "Sitting at C





for the only five-star competition in the Western Hemisphere was exciting, but also nerve-wracking," he said. "Adrienne achieved harmony and I appreciated that. I don't like a lot of visible acrobatics, and all the riders did such a fantastic job. The rapport with each of these riders and their horses was outstanding."



Lyle was keen to add her appreciation for the only five-star dressage show in

the Americas, saying, "This is a big deal. We've all ridden at a lot of facilities around the world and agree this is one of the most electric and fun environments. We had some awesome entertainment [with singer Taylor Dayne putting on a live half-time performance] and things drawing people in, so it was very much a big international feel and it's great to have these competitions here."



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SAVE THE DATES!

2026 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival*



WEEK 1	Jan 7-11 CDI-W, National & the Lloyd Landkamer Memorial
WEEK 3	Jan 21-25 CDI5* & National
WEEK 5	Feb 4-8 CDI4* & National
WEEK 6	Feb 13-15 National
WEEK 7	Feb 18-22 CDI-W & National
WEEK 8	Feb 25 - Mar 1 CDI4* & National Palm Beach Derby
WEEK 9	Mar 5-8 CPEDI3*
WEEK 10	Mar 11-15 CDI-W & National
WEEK 11	Mar 19-22 CDIO3* & National
WEEK 12	Mar 25-29 National

All dates subject to change pending USEF and FEI approval. All CDI dates will include CDI3, CDI2*, CDI1*, CDIU25, CDIY, CDIch, CDIAm and CDIYH.





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KING K[👑]OSCHEL



PHOTO • EMMA CLAIRE'S PHOTOGRAPHY

**By Alice Collins for
Wellington International**

With his infectious enthusiasm and gift for identifying and nurturing talent, Christoph Koschel is a hot commodity. Since his first foray to Wellington in 2012 when he was invited by Susie Dutta and Tuny Page, the demand for his expert eye has grown, coaxing him away from his native Germany for ever-longer winters.

A top rider and World Equestrian Games medalist, he's now the trainer behind so much of the success in both the national and international

rings of the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF), the only dressage circuit of its kind in the world.

Koschel grew up steeped in horses—his father Jurgen was trainer for numerous national teams at seven Olympic Games. Now, Christoph Koschel is seeking to give back some of the knowledge he has accrued.

He has further proven his ability to tune in to horses by winning the Wellington Derby five times in a row. Watching the Hamburg Derby at his father's farm, Koschel dreamed of riding in it. He remains the only rider in the

world who has won all three Derby classes: Hamburg, Munich and Wellington.

"Disney for riding" is how Koschel describes Wellington's bountiful equestrian scene, and he is an instrumental piece of it. Among his pupils relishing the 2025 season, the 48-year-old Koschel counts Kevin Kohmann, who danced his way into his second FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final with top freestyle performances on Dünensee—a Diamante Farms horse previously ridden by Koschel. Kohmann wasn't sure he was a good fit, but Koschel was persuasive, and the leggy Dancier gelding has been a career-making horse for Kohmann thanks to Koschel's vision.

"I'm proud that Kevin qualified for World Cup again; it's such a cool story," grinned Koschel. "The two of them have grown together so harmoniously, and people appreciate that. They are a great team."

Koschel's niece, the young German athlete Felicitas Hendricks, has travelled with him to Wellington for the past few seasons and continues to climb the dressage ladder, with her own Drombusch OLD at international Grand Prix, and on Beth Noorthoek's seven-year-old Lindholm's Quick Step, by Quaterhit.

"The story with Drombusch and Felicitas has been amazing," continued Koschel. "We got him as a four-year-old and they've grown together all these years. She's had a great season again. Wellington is home turf for her here too already—she came as a junior leaving as number one in the world ranking, then Young Riders, then U25s where she became double European Champion, and now as a senior. What a journey! That's what Wellington stands for:

you can show and learn and take time off when you need to. You don't run out of time because there are always more shows."

One of Koschel's specialties is developing horses from just-backed to grand prix—something he has done many times as he has shown more than 150 different horses over the years—and encouraging his students to do the same.

Koschel brought his horse

barns to teach his students, who include Jan, Ben and Amy Ebeling, Hope Cooper and Jane Carol, Adam Steffens-Smienk, Canada's Mathilde Blais Tetreault, Erin Nichols, Sarah Daehnert, Callie O'Connell, Geena S. Martin—the list goes on. Between them they have amassed a treasure trove of ribbons this season, and Koschel is effervescent about their achievements.



Destare with him from Germany this season. He is 10-year-old Danciano gelding who showed grand prix in the national rings. Koschel is very excited about him.

"I've had him since he was three and he's very cool," said Koschel with customary enthusiasm. "He's so special and he was a little wild—he still bucks—but he's really fun. He's going places."

Koschel's wife Patricia also brought her eight-year-old Vitalis mare Valencia. And his pupil, the Japanese Olympian Kiichi Harada, also travelled with the Koschels to Florida for the season. Koschel stables his horses at Terri Kane's impressive Diamante Farms, so he is also on-site to train Kohmann.

In a typical week, Koschel drives to a dozen or more

"Ben Ebeling took over the mare Bellena from his father Jan, and this is for sure a couple to watch," he said of Ann Romney's 15-year-old by Belissimo M. "They have a lot of potential together. Ben also has some promising young horses and I love following and accompanying their development together. That needs to happen more in the US; that younger riders learn to develop young horses to create a pipeline for talent coming up behind the established horses."

Grand prix athlete Hope Cooper, who runs Bearspot Farm with her mother Jane, is one of the stateside riders focused on securing a pipeline through high quality training of young horses.

"I'm proud of Hope's season this year," he added. "She has

a really good young horse, the US-bred O Romeo S, by Charmeur, who just needs one more score for Verden [the FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championship for Young Horses]. She also has another eight-year-old coming up which will be a top horse for future grand prix. I like to work with the next generation.

"My other student Callie is riding Eaton H, my former grand prix horse, and did great in her first senior international grands prix with him. I love that horse with his big white face and I'm so happy he has such a good life with her. Callie has also qualified for the Buffalo Small Tour Future Challenge Final, and Erin—who will travel with me to Europe again this summer—is qualified with her upcoming horse Kind Pleasure for the Lövsta big tour developing final, which is awesome."

So, what is Koschel's ethos that makes him such a magnetic trainer?

"I got so much from so many great trainers and want to give something back from what I learned," he mused. "My father taught me to be patient and understand that every horse needs something a little different. The more flexible you are as a rider, the more you can learn. Be open minded and don't rush the training because the better the rider understands the horse, the better the chance of a beautiful partnership."

Koschel has adjusted his annual schedule, spending more and more time in the US, mostly in Florida, each year as his popularity as a trainer continues to intensify.

"Living the horse life in Wellington is not just nice for the people, but you have good weather and a horse friendly environment," he concluded. "What more do you want?"



HYDRATION FOR EQUESTRIANS

Why it Matters

By Carolina Schneider, MS, RD

Staying hydrated is important for everyone, but for equestrians, it's essential. Long hours in the saddle, intense training and hot weather can leave you sweating more than you realize. And when you sweat, you're not just losing water – you're also losing key electrolytes like sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium.

THE ROLE OF ELECTROLYTES

Electrolytes are minerals that help regulate muscle contractions, prevent cramps and keep your energy levels steady. Without them, dehydration can lead to fatigue, dizziness and poor endurance – all of which can affect your performance. While drinking water is crucial, replenishing lost electrolytes is just as important, especially during long rides, competitions or training in the heat. The good news? You can get electrolytes from food.

BEST FOODS FOR STAYING HYDRATED

Fruits and vegetables are your best friends when it comes to staying hydrated – they are rich in water and electrolytes. Fruits like watermelon, oranges, grapefruit and strawberries are excellent options, as they have high water content and provide key

electrolytes like potassium and are also a good source of vitamin C. Veggies like leafy greens, celery, cucumber and bell peppers are also great choices, packed with water, magnesium and calcium that support muscle function and hydration.

EASY WAYS TO STAY HYDRATED

- Drink smoothies: Blend hydrating fruits like berries, leafy greens and coconut water for an easy and nutrient-packed hydration boost. Daily Harvest's easy-to-prepare smoothies make this easy and convenient.
- Keep a reusable water bottle: Carry a water bottle during training, competition or even on long rides to stay hydrated throughout the day.
- Snack on fruits and veggies: Pre-cut watermelon and cantaloupe, sliced cucumbers, and oranges are great to keep you hydrated, while bananas, cherry tomatoes and mini bell peppers provide potassium to help maintain electrolyte balance. These are easy to pack and perfect as quick snacks between training sessions and carry along to competition grounds.
- Beverages like unsweetened tea, coconut water and natural juices are also great ways to stay hydrated. Hydration packets can help too, but be aware of excessive sodium and sugar content.

HOW MUCH WATER SHOULD I BE DRINKING?

Aim to drink at least eight cups, or 64 fluid ounces a day, or better yet: consume half your body weight in ounces of still or unsweetened sparkling water.

Staying hydrated is key to maximizing performance and recovery. By fueling up with water and electrolyte-rich foods, you can ensure your body is ready to perform at its best, whether you're competing or training for your next race.

Looking for nourishing, quick-to-prepare food that fits your busy lifestyle? Check out dailyharvest.com or scan the QR code and use code DHWEF2025 for 20% off your first plan order over \$100. Learn more about Carolina's approach to nutrition at hungryforplants.com.



AGDF SPECIAL AWARDS



Susan Mcsherry Jones and Amadeus de Massa also earned an N2 Saddlery Peak Performance Award for their win in the National Prix St George. This pair came back in Week 11 to break 70 % in the I-1. Sue Newell of N2 Saddlery is presenting.



The N2 Saddlery Peak Performance Award was presented to John McGinty who piloted his Viveka to the win in the National AA I-2, pictured with coach Kelly Layne and Sue Newell from N2 Saddlery.



The Week 9 winner of the Omega Alpha Healthy Horse Award was My Moment, ridden by Eleanor "Ellie" Brimmer in the FEI Para Grand Prix, with Angela "Angel" Holwell at the presentation.



Week 10 winner of the Omega Alpha Healthy Horse Award, Rosa Red shown by Sydni Cook and pictured with coach Anne Gribbons.



The CDI winner of the Neue Schule Bits Best Hands Award was Klendy Muller who rode her colorful Ricardo in the CDI Small Tour. Accepting the award with her is her coach Scott Hassler and her mother Kerensa Muller.

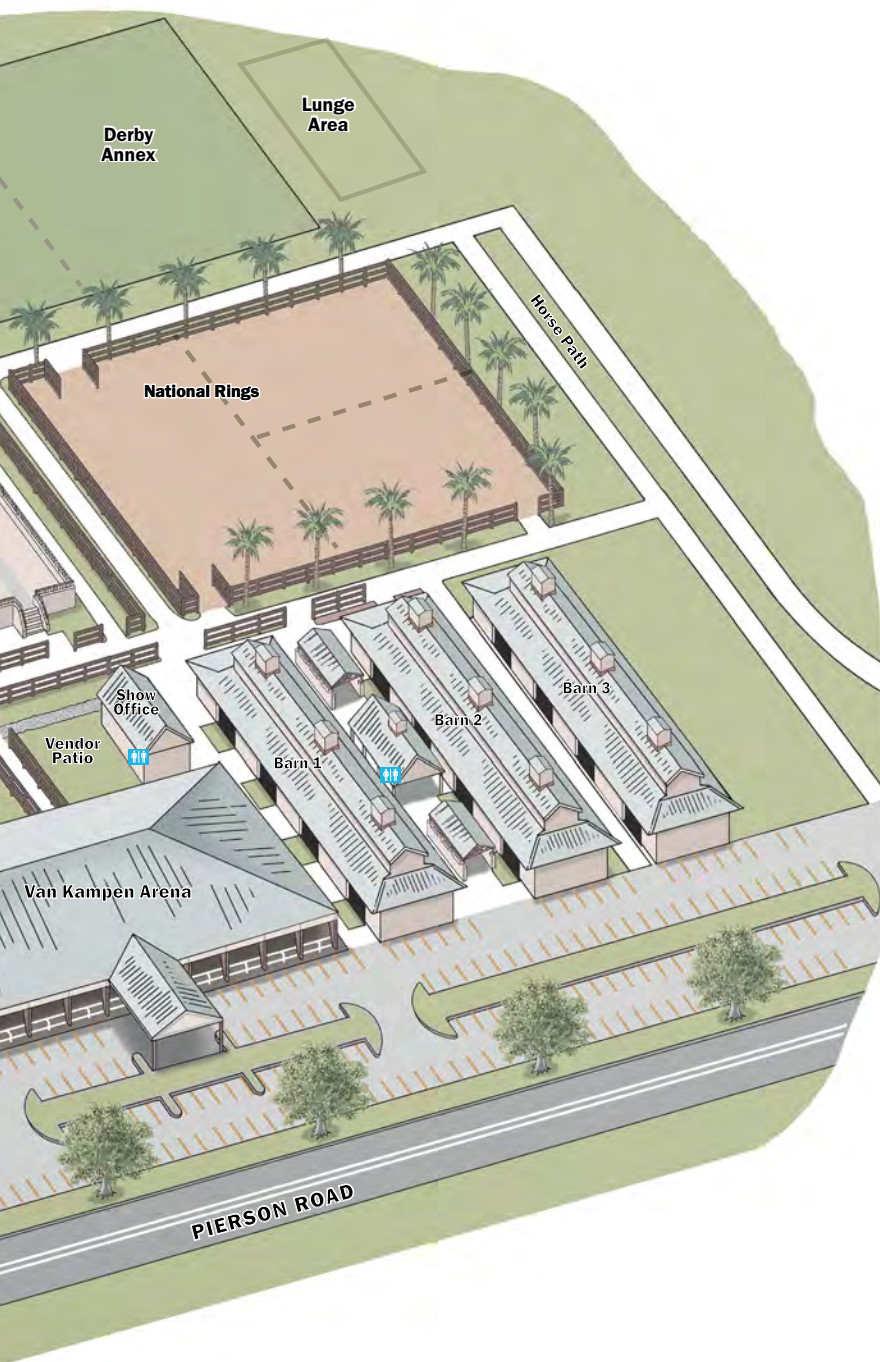


On the National side of Week 10, the Neue Schule Bits Best Hands Award winner was Arlene "Tuny" Page, pictured with her spectacular mare Bon Bijoux.

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A STAR ON THE RISE

Lilly Kasselmann Shines in International Competition at AGDF

**By Maddy Lima
for Wellington International**

In the world of competitive dressage, where precision, harmony and discipline are paramount, Lilly Kasselmann is making waves. At just 11 years old, this talented German equestrian is beginning to make her mark on the international stage.

Competing in the CDI pony classes and Children's Team classes, presented by Diamante Farms, Kasselmann has showcased her skills during the 2025 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival season. After training at home in Germany with her family and now under the guidance of German international competitor Evelyn Eger at Hof Kasselmann, this season marks her first experience competing internationally, and her second season in Wellington.

"In Germany, the CDI pony classes are very competitive," said Kasselmann. "Having the season here in Wellington to consistently practice will help me as I prepare to return to Europe for the summer."

As the AGDF season draws to a close, all eyes are on Kasselmann, whose success in the arena has been hard to overlook. Partnering with her



PHOTOS • EMMA CLAIRE'S PHOTOGRAPHY

experienced 17-year-old Deutsches Reitpony—"Charly Brown"—Kasselmann entered her first FEI pony class during opening week of the 2025 season, securing an impressive score of 74.143%.

"Charly is a schoolmaster," Kasselmann explained. "The most important thing for me in the ring is to feel like we are fighting for each other. I've only had him for a short time, but we've been working hard on our harmony."

The pair has quickly found their rhythm as Kasselmann makes remarkable strides in the saddle. Alongside her trusted partner Charly, she has also developed a surprising bond with the family sales horse, Vodka Soda. This eight-year-old Oldenburg gelding by Vitalis was originally brought to Kasselmann as a growth opportunity for both horse and rider. However, after achieving the highest score of her career—79.00%—in the FEI Children's Team test, the bond between them was solidified.

"I've never had scores like this before," she admitted, reflecting on her standout performance. "It was only our second time in the ring together. All I wanted was for him to feel safe with me, and



PHOTO © SUSANJSTICKLE.COM

he gave me his all."

Lilly's mother, Diana Kasselmann, added her thoughts on the duo's impressive performance in the arena. "He originally came to us as a sales horse, but after that day, we had judges telling us we couldn't sell him and that he would be our next European Championship horse."

After several weeks of training in Wellington and numerous successes, Lilly is eager to return to Europe. "I'm looking forward to competing against other pony and children's riders in Germany," she said. "The classes back home are quite competitive, so I hope to continue achieving the scores I've earned here in Wellington and keep growing as a rider."

While finding personal success, Lilly and her team

have also highlighted the potential that the pony and children's divisions offer in North America. Lilly's father, Francois Kasselmann, emphasized the advantages of the AGDF season and expressed hope for its growth. "The season here in Wellington has allowed Lilly to be in the saddle consistently," he said. "These pony classes are so popular in Europe, and I hope to see them grow in America. We would love to have more young riders join Lilly in these classes."

Reflecting on her first international season, Lilly Kasselmann understands the significance of the bond between horse and rider. "When you walk into that stadium arena, you have to remember it's just you and your horse. What's outside of the arena doesn't matter in those moments."



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At Coastal Steel Structures, we understand that presentation plays a crucial role in the equestrian world.

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Timing is critical in equestrian sports. Coastal Steel Structures provides fast



installation, allowing your arena to be operational quickly. Our steel buildings streamline construction, reducing time for site preparation and assembly. With minimal disruption, your arena is up and running, providing a reliable space for training year-round and keeping your business on track.

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In today's competitive market, facilities need a covered arena to retain clients. Equestrians are increasingly choosing barns and farms that offer reliable, year-round access to high-quality training spaces. A covered arena ensures riders can train in a controlled, safe environment, regardless of the weather. Adding a steel-covered arena enhances the curb appeal of your facility, making it more attractive to prospective clients. This investment ensures your facility stays competitive

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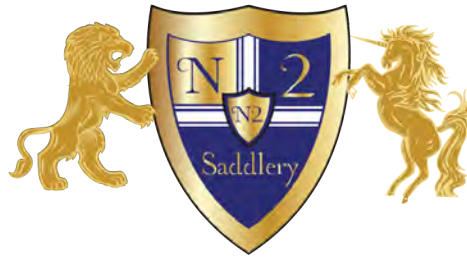


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Pan Am Gold Medal in an N2 Saddle.

Despite the heavy medal count—or maybe because of it—N2 is the saddle of choice for serious Adult Amateur riders, too.

The New N2 Te Amo Brings Subtle New Design Features

The new N2 Te Amo saddle is an evolution of the very popular Cardhu model.

"We modified the knee roll, making it a shorter knee roll with a slight contour. This allows the rider even more freedom to adjust the angle of the leg and effectively communicate with the horse. We also designed the Te Amo with a large, expanded panel for even greater shoulder clearance," Newell explains.

While these changes are subtle, for certain horse and rider combinations the Te Amo may be just the right

For two Olympics, Pan Am Games and several Nation's Cups, N2 Saddles were the official dressage saddle of the U.S. Team. Adrienne Lyle and Sabine Schut-Kery rode to their Olympic Silver Medals in an N2 Saddle and Sarah (Lockman) Tubman rode to her





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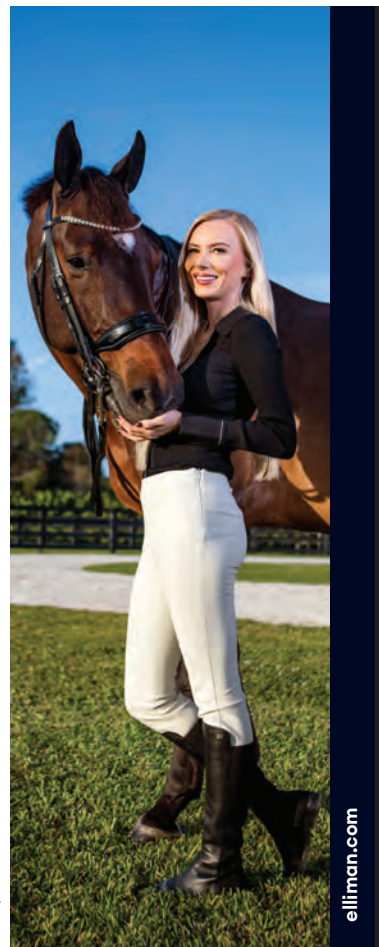
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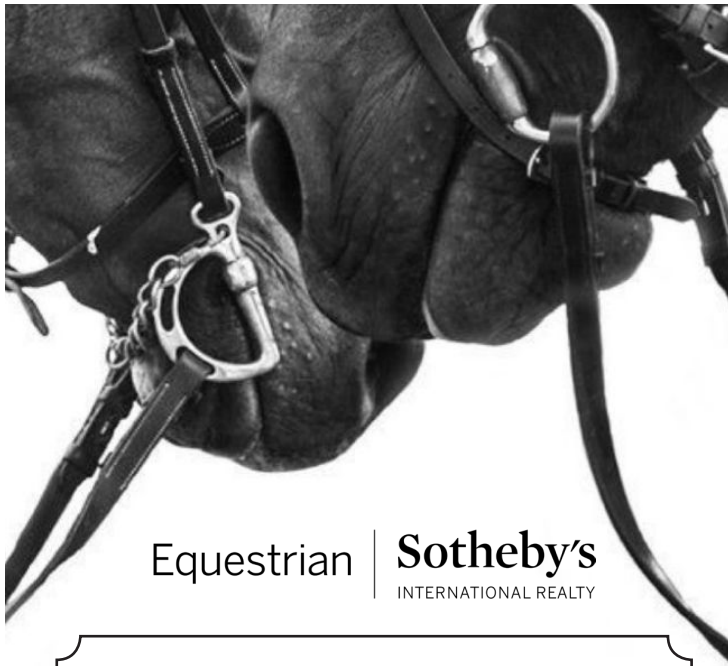
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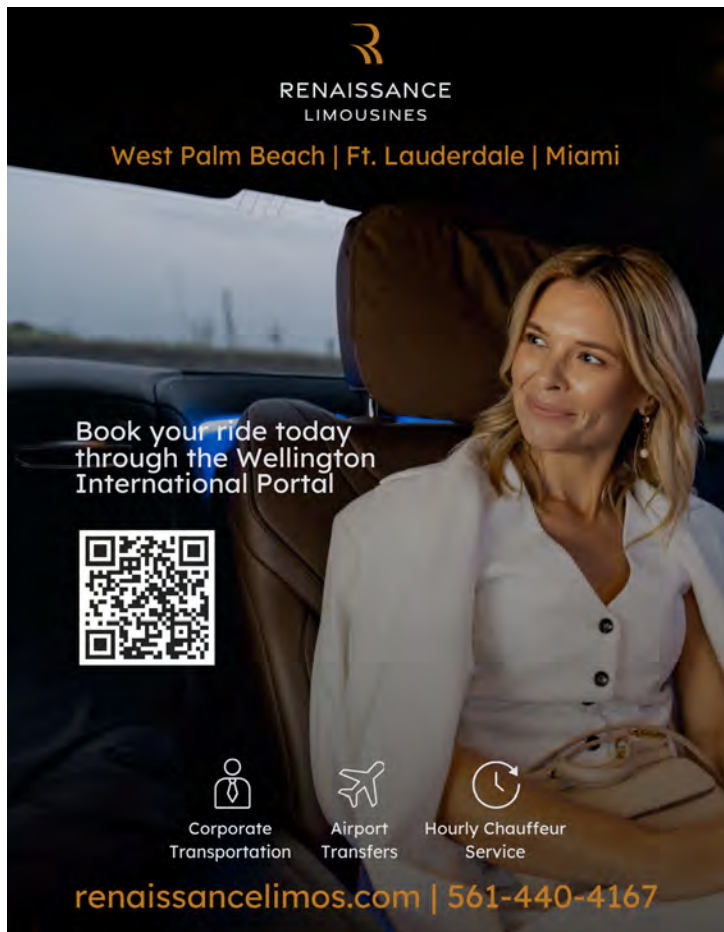
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