



FEI European Eventing Championships

for Young Riders & Juniors 2016 - Presented By Saudi Airlines



Press Release n.5

Equestrianism, eventing

THE YOUNG RIDERS AND JUNIOR EUROPEANS HAVE FINALLY BEEN PRESENTED TO THE PRESS

With 120 days to go until the start of the FEI European Eventing Championships for Young Riders and Juniors 2016 Presented by Saudia, the Military Equestrian Centre of Montelibretti has met the press

Moderated by the experienced journalist Andrea Marini the Press Conference of the FEI European Eventing Championship for Young Riders and Juniors 2016 was hosted during the 84° CSIO Roma Intesa San Paolo - Piazza di Siena Master Fratelli D'Inzeo with the stunning backdrop of Villa Borghese. President Vittorio Orlandi, General Francesco Caramia and Colonel Gianfranco Fedele welcomed the guests with their speeches.

The European challenge for juniors and young riders will be held at the Military Equestrian Centre of Montelibretti (Rome) from the 21st to the 25th of september.

It has been 11 years since these championships have been organized in Italy. With the next generation of senior champions competing against each other the competition has an enormous importance as it gives everyone a glimpse of what the future will bring. This has inspired a new hashtag #futuregoesfromhere.

The best ambassador of the event is the German Michael Jung, an athlete who grew up through the junior and young rider ranks and who has now conquered every possible title and gold medal on the planet. Despite his young age his achievements are so numerous that he is referred

to as an 'the alien' by journalists and by his many fans. Before winning gold at the Olympics, at the Europeans and at the World Equestrian Games Michael gained the individual European young rider title (in 2003 when he beat Italy's Vittoria Panizzon who claimed the silver medal).

"Junior and Young Riders European Championships greatly influence the development of young riders' careers - notes Michael. It is the only chance our youngsters get to experience a true championship situation and it's the only time they are asked to ride as part of a team. These championships will put them under pressure very much like a senior championship will do later on. They learn to perform under pressure, they learn to fight together and to take on additional responsibilities. Therefore I think that this competition deserves the same media attention and that it should get the same visibility as a true European Championship".

During the Press Conference two Italian senior riders, **Emiliano Portale** (sergeant of the Italian Army) and **Evelina Bertoli** (agent of the Police Prison Service), were introduced. Both have had great success at junior and young riders levels before starting their senior careers.

VITTORIO ORLANDI, "The Army is a fundamental asset for equestrianism"

"The youth represents the starting point of every nation's sportive and non sportive future - recalls the President of the Fise. Although our riders are quite successful internationally we need to go one step further in our cultural progress and to do so we need to respect our traditions. With that in mind the FISE and the Military Equestrian Centre are laying the foundations for an academy (which will be based in Montelibretti) where grooms and riders will be trained. The riders will learn the art of producing young horses from scratch.

COLONEL GIANFRANCO FEDELE, "It will be a very special edition"

"Ours is a facility of national importance - tells the CME Commander. We have decided to apply for these championships because we wanted to do something more for the equestrian sport and to prove our organizing skills on an international level. I have to personally thank Gianfranco Ravà and Max André Barbacini, who in their role of special commissioners FISE, have supported us making the allocation of the European Championships to Montelibretti possible. Now we can look ahead and

work hard to make it a truly special event with the help of our sponsor Saudia.”

GENERAL FRANCESCO CARAMIA, “European Championships, an event of great value”

“I am honored to preside the organizing committee of these championships. ‘Future goes from here’ is the perfect slogan for an event that will draw Europe’s attention. It is our aim to give all participants, their staff and their families the best possible reception. We will also organize tours and visits to show our guests the beautiful surroundings and get a taste of our precious Made in Italy.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL GIACOMO DELLA CHIESA, “We are working hard. The password is safety.”

“Work is underway to develop a completely new cross country course with the help of Giuseppe della Chiesa, the appointed course designer”, reveals the technical coordinator of the competition. “As we are speaking about European Championships the course should be unknown and new to all competitors, also to our own riders. Two different courses will run mostly parallel to each other, with the young riders’ round running over a slightly longer track (juniors will face 30 jumping efforts spread over 4.350 metres, while 5.100 metres is the length for the young riders who will have to overcome 35 jumping efforts). There will be three waters, two lakes and a spectacular crossing of a natural torrent. All of the new fences, about 20 in total, will be entirely home made. We have focused our attention on safety measures. All of the new obstacles will have innovative systems like frangible pins and quick release mechanisms which will work in case of a very hard impact. Also the footing will be looked after in order to provide the perfect grip for everyone. The dressage and show-jumping phases will be held in the famous “Piazza di Siena” arena, the twin arena of Villa Borghese’s international show-jumping ground.

AGENT OF THE POLICE PRISON SERVICE EVELINA BERTOLI, “Junior and young riders Europeans are fundamental for a rider’s education”

“Sadly my European bronze has remained Italy’s last European Junior medal - says the rider. Too many years have passed, 12 in total, and I really hope that new medals will be won by the young Italians in this edition on home ground as it happened to me back in 2004 in the Pratoni del Vivaro. To compete and to win in

front of your home crowd is a very special experience for every athlete and I hope that this event will boost our riders' motivation to pursue a senior career and reach important goals. The junior Europeans have made me hungry for more and have given me the chance to find backing from the Police Prison Service whose uniform I have worn at the 2014 World Equestrian Games and whom I have to thank for the daily support and the help it still gives me.

SERGEANT EMILIANO PORTALE, "Proud to be part of Montelibretti's team"

"For me Montelibretti is a magical place where I had the chance to grow up and develop into the rider I am today. I owe everything to the Army whose backing put me back on a horse when I couldn't afford to pursue eventing as a career. From there on I have celebrated many wins with young Italian horses and have made many senior championships appearances. The 450 hectares Montelibretti offers for our training form a unique facility of which every eventer dreams of and it is therefore the ideal place to host the European challenge ahead."

FEDERICO ROMAN, "The European Youth Championships represents an obligatory step in the growth process of the Italian Eventing."

"The Juniors and Young Riders Europeans are fundamental to prepare athletes for their senior careers - announces Moscow's Olympic champion. In my early days, with no under 21 championship to attend, the plunge into the senior world was quite traumatic. Nowadays our young athletes get the chance to mature gradually through the junior and the young riders' ranks before facing the senior challenges. This is proven by the many Italian senior riders that have previously achieved successes in under 18 and under 21 age classes. That said this year's Europeans will be hosted in a very special place: Montelibretti. The first time I competed at the Military Equestrian Centre was back in 1968 for the National Junior Championship. Since then I have experienced Montelibretti both as a rider and as a selector and have witnessed the incredible strengths of a facility which constantly progresses and innovates its organization, its courses and its services, keeping up to date without sacrificing its incredible tradition of horsemanship."

Il saluto di HESHAM IBRAHEEM BINDKHAIL - General Manager SAUDIA Italy, Greece, Cyprus & Malta.

“The Saudia Arabian Airlines is pleased to participate as a presenting sponsor to the FEI European Eventing Championship for Young Riders and Juniors 2016. It is an honor for us to be the main partners of a competition so important for European athletes and to be by the side of the Italian organizations of the highest order. We wish to thank the FEI, the President of the Organizing Committee, General Caramia, The Italian Army and the Italian Equestrian Federation for letting us be part of this prestigious event.

Are Country has always been tied to the equestrian world, so what better to bring our cultures together? Think, our frequent flyer program is called ‘Alfursan’, which in Arabic means ‘knight’.”

YOUNG RIDER ITALIAN SELECTION CRITERIA

The five best placed combinations regarding the national computer list will be automatically selected.

The selection process will consider 4 International events the last of which will be held in Arcinazzo from the first to the 3rd of July. After this event the FISE will publish the updated computer list and the 5 best placed combinations along with another 8 chosen by the selector who will be invited to attend the team training camp directed by the national coach Andrea Mezzaroba. At the end of the team training period, 6 days before the opening of the European Championships, the 12 young riders who will participate will be announced and the team of 4 members, chosen among those 12, will be declared.

“The participants will have to show a good attitude and the right skills to compete against the rest of Europe. It is our duty to enter only those combinations who are truly ready for the challenge”, tells Captain Andrea Mezzaroba.

JUNIOR ITALIAN SELECTION CRITERIA

The last selection show for junior riders will be the event in Arcinazzo (1-3 July). The best six placed combinations of the National computer list, which will be published immediately after Arcinazzo, will be automatically invited to the team training camp. Further 8 combinations will be chosen by team manager Alberto Casolari in agreement with team trainer Jacopo Comelli. The 12 participants will be announced 6 days before the opening of the European Championships. 4 of those 12 will be competing for the team.

“We have 30 combinations raring to take part - tells us Jacopo Comelli - and it will be really hard to choose 12. Juniors are always more numerous compared to the young rider field and this year there is the added incentive of having the

championships on home ground. Montelibretti's European Championships have greatly motivated riders, their families and trainers."

CAVALLO