



FEI European Eventing Championships

for Young Riders & Juniors 2016 - Presented By Saudi Airlines



Press Release n. 4

Equestrian, Eventing

Piazza di Siena and Montelibretti: two identical arenas for one purpose

The CSIO of Rome will host the press conference for the FEI European Eventing Championships for Young Riders and Juniors 2016 – presented by Saudi Airlines.

Save the date: 28th of May

Representatives of the Military Equestrian Centre of Montelibretti (CME), organizing committee of the event named “FEI European Eventing Championships for Young Riders and Juniors 2016 – presented by Saudi Airlines” (22/25 September), will meet the press and the enthusiastic eventing followers in Rome to officially present this continental event on Saturday the 28th of May (12.00hrs).

The press conference will be held in Piazza di Siena during the historic CSIO of Rome. This particular location has been chosen because of the strong relationship between the CME and Piazza di Siena.

In the Second Postwar, the Military Equestrian Centre of Montelibretti, known as "head quarters" of Piero D'inzeo, decided it should have an identical arena to the famous international show-ground. An exact replica was built not only by taking in account the measurements and the positioning of the water jump and ditch, they also chose the same exposition to the sun of the arena that hosts the jumping in Piazza di Siena.

A twin of Villa Borghese was inserted into the "National Military Equestrian Centre of Montelibretti" (at that time was so called). This was decided by General Gerardo Conforti and by Antonio Gutierrez, both of whom contributed in bringing the Italian team back to success, after the Second Postwar. The arena of Montelbretti was named 'Piazza di Siena'.

The arena was finished in 1950 and had the purpose of strengthening the preparation of the Italian team (three quarters of which military) for the official horse show of Rome.

Having a "show arena" at home immediately revealed its usefulness as the results of the show jumping "gladiators" training in Montelibretti showed: 5 Nations Cup wins were conquered during the six years following the construction of the arena from 1950 to 1955. In those years, when the Italians started to prepare themselves for the Rome Olympic Games of 1960, in Piazza di Siena, the decision was made to elevate the area of Montelibretti to the country's "Pre-Olympic Military Equestrian Centre".

Montelibretti became the retreat and training camp for the Italian team. Using its 'Piazza di Siena' arena, surely paid dividends for the show-jumping squad as three medals were won in the XVI Olympic Games. Raimondo D'Inzeo took individual gold on Posillipo, his brother Piero was awarded individual silver for his efforts on The Rock and the team made up of Piero d'Inzeo (The Rock), Raimondo D'Inzeo (Posillipo) and Antonio Oppes (The Scholar) won the bronze medal.

A success that was relived during the following ten years with another 6 victories in the Rome Nations Cup. Different teams but always using the same method of training at Montelibretti.

"It will be an emotional event – declared Giacomo della Chiesa, technical coordinator of the "FEI European Eventing Championships for Young Riders and Juniors 2016 – presented by Saudi Airlines" – Eventing's promising youngsters will be doing their dressage and show-jumping tests in an arena that has contributed to Italy's greatest equestrian

successes and that is part of the Italian Equestrian History. After having been a show ground for top international show-jumpers in the past, this arena today is rejuvenated dedicating itself to the Europe's future champions".

"I am confident - declared FISE President Vittorio Orlandi - that the enthusiasm for the Italian qualification to the Olympics will also involve our juniors and young riders who will be participating in the European challenge. It will be a special experience for them, confronting the rest of Europe, in this magic venue, that has assisted in the rise of many top italian riders".

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