



ITALIA ENDURANCE FESTIVAL

PARCO DI PONTONCELLO 2014

The horse protagonist, Verona 10 to 27 July

ITALY AND VERONA ARE ONCE AGAIN THE INTERNATIONAL PROTAGONISTS OF THE ENDURANCE

Italia Endurance Festival, the prestigious event to host the race valid for the 2014 FEI European Championship Juniors and Young Riders and other four CEIO races among which a race dedicated to women, will take place from 10 to 27 July within the huge natural oasis of Pontoncello Park, just a few kilometres away from Verona.

After the 2012 Italian Absolute Championship and the 2013 World Championship Young Horses, Verona will be once again the host of one of the greatest international events dedicated to the world of horses and to the endurance discipline in particular.

Italia Endurance Festival will actually take place from 10 to 27 July within the splendid natural oasis of Pontoncello Park, a green area stretching along the river Adige for over 350 thousand metres. The outstanding festival is a rich and well-structured event and will host the race valid for the 2014 FEI European Championship Juniors and Young Riders (to be held in Italy for the first time ever) as well as the four CEIO races organized thanks to the support and collaboration of Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival of the sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan from the UAE. One of the four races is the most eagerly awaited Ladies Cup, a competition entirely dedicated to women.

THE OPENING CEREMONY AND THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

The official Opening Ceremony of the 2014 European Championship Juniors and Young Riders is scheduled for Thursday 10 July at 19:30 in the heart of the city of Verona, at the foot of the Roman Amphitheatre Arena, one of the undisputed symbols of the city and a Unesco Heritage. A parade of athletes, music and colours, all following the rules imposed by the International Federation tradition, will leave the participants breathless. The European Championship race (120 km CH-EU-YJ-E) which has already registered 13 Entries in Principle until now - among which Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Lithuania, Norway, Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Russia, Slovakia, Switzerland and Hungary - is scheduled for Saturday 12 July at 05:00.

A competition that is definitely going to be highly spectacular, able to grab the attention of media as well as investors, fans and sports people all around the world. Young athletes between the ages of 14 and 21, future champions of this discipline, are ready to challenge each other along the 124 km track which seems to have been deliberately created to enhance the performance of both horses and riders.

THE CEIO RACES AND THE LADIES CUP

The European Championship is not the only sporting event on the busy schedule of the Italia Endurance Festival. After the race which will give the Continental Title as a prize, other CEIO competitions will be held within the Pontoncello Park during the weekend from 26 to 27 July.

Thanks to the collaboration and support of the Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival of the United Arab Emirates Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan and of its director Lara Sawaya, other four races will take place. Among these, the one scheduled for Saturday 26 has been recognized by the FEI and is entirely dedicated to women, who will challenge each other to win the H.H. Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Endurance Cup. The Open races of the H.H. Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Endurance Cup for the CEIO2*, CEIYJ2* and CEI1* categories are scheduled for Sunday 27.

Special emphasis deserves the Ladies Cup, a first-of-a-kind and unique event which takes place in Europe for the first time and has already grabbed media attention.

THE LOCATION

The CEIO and 2014 European Juniors and Young Riders races will be host within a heavenly landscape, an ideal location for the endurance discipline. We are talking about Pontoncello Park, a green area stretching for over 350 thousand square metres between the eastern Veronese towns of San Martino Buon Albergo, San Giovanni Lupatoto, Belfiore, Albaredo, Ronco all'Adige and Zevio. A congenial location for the relationship between "man and horse", the park boasts a wide floral and faunal heritage, perfect for a break in close contact with nature.

The paths in the park have all been recently revised and renewed and are accessible on foot, by bicycle and on horse, to stay on the topic. The illustrative notices across the park enable participants to admire the paths and get information about the existing floral and faunal life, thus enhancing the visitor's knowledge about this unique and uncontaminated landscape.

The Pontoncello Park, already known since Celtic times, has become famous after "Peace of Paquara" was signed there. It reproduces on its territory the history and the most important events that left a mark on the past ages, essential guidelines which lead to a better understanding of the transformation of the territory and helps to determine its future modifications.

The Italia Endurance Festival race track will be set up right in the heart of this fascinating place. During the event food stands are provided on the race field as well as playgrounds for children, special areas for hippotherapy and not to be missed entertainment shows, among which a most interesting show on the Morphological traits of the Arabian Horse.

2015

Italy has already been assigned the 2015 World Championships Young Horses by the Equestrian International Federation. This year's edition will therefore be a testing ground which participants will undoubtedly find amazing for its spectacular nature and organizational skills.

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