



ITALIA ENDURANCE FESTIVAL
PARCO DI PONTONCELLO 2014
The horse protagonist, Verona 10 to 27 July

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SPAIN ON THE ROOF OF EUROPE

The Spanish raider Gil Berenguer Carrera won the FEI Endurance European Championship for Juniors and Young Riders 2014. Second place for Nina Lissarrague from France. Third place went again to Spain with Paula Muntala Sanchez. For Carolina Tavassoli, Italy, the fourth place.

The first European Championship Juniors and Young Riders 2014 in Italy clearly speaks Spanish.

The Iberian National team, in fact, dominated the continental race. It started at 5:30 in the morning and immediately placed Gil Berenguer Carrera with Nina Bin Menfis and Paula Muntala Sanchez with Shagya Irisz on the first positions. The first rider crossed the finish line in 05:49:00 at an average speed of 21.277 km/h, winning the Continental Title.

Paula, however, finished third, four minutes behind her compatriot and preceded by the French Nina Lissarrague with Ainhoa Catharissim, who arrived second with a 00:02:29 minutes gap and at an average speed of 21.127 km/h.

Italy declares satisfaction with Carolina Tavassoli Asli and Pallas winning the fourth place, who crossed the finish line ten minutes behind the winner but keeping high the honour for the Italian hosts. Another French, Henriette D'Ursel with Wloszka Fontanel finished the race in fifth position.

To find the next Italian we need to go down to the eighth position, where we meet Costanza Laliscia con Medusa del Ma, who had been third for long segments of track. Marina Roghi came in thirteenth while Luca Zappettini and Elena Mariotti have not passed the last medical visits with their Sassifraga della Bosana and Palkaline D'Alauze.

SPAIN WINS THE TEAM TITLE AS WELL. BELGIUM FINISHES SECOND, ITALY THIRD

Spain goes for seconds and brings home two gold medals at the European Championships Juniors and Young Riders 2014 held in Verona.

After the success achieved by Gil Beregnuer Carrera in the individual competition, the Iberian national team brings home the team continental title as well, with an overall time of 18:06:12 obtained by adding up the ride times of the new European Champion, of the third classified in the individual race Paula Muntala Sancez and of Maite Ledo Pradera, twelfth to cross the finish line.

Belgium finished second in the team competition, with an overall time of 18:09:02 obtained thanks to the performance of Raphael Van Cauter who arrived sixth, Morgane Boulanger, seventh and Isabeau Anciaux, tenth.

The lowest step of the podium was occupied by Italy who, thanks to Carolina Tavassoli Asli, fourth, Costanza Laliscia, eight and Marina Roghi thirteenth, grabs a well-deserved Bronze Medal.

France found itself disqualified for failing to finish the race with three competitors, while Russia finished fourth, with an overall time of 22:57:12.

THE FESTIVAL CONTINUES WITH SHOWS AND SPORTING PROGRAMS

Italia Endurance Festival, the great equestrian event taking place these days within Pontoncello Park in Mambrotta, San Martino Buon Albergo, does not end with the closing of the European Championship.

The sporting program is, in fact, going to resume during the weekend of 26 and 27 July with the CEIO and Open races organized thanks to the support of the Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival of the Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan from the UAE. Among these races there is the eagerly awaited Ladies Cup to be held on Saturday, with more than 120 female riders to compete against each other, half of whom coming from the Arab countries.

The entertaining program for the families is equally intense. Culinary stands are provided on the race site in Mambrotta and some shows will be organized by the Pro Loco associations of San Martino, Belfiore and San Giovanni Lupatoto in the next days.

The core evenings of the event are scheduled for Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 July at 20:30, organized by the sponsor Fieracavalli in collaboration with the Association Cavallo&Company: an exciting and high on adrenaline show that successfully captures the settings and scenery of an authentically medieval tournament. On a field of about 60 metres by 30, knights will compete against each other in a series of suggestive tests such as the javelin, the carousel ring, the Saracen Joust to end with the battle between knights during which everyone will try to unhorse the opponent with his own lance.

Meanwhile local hotels and B&B owners declare their satisfaction, with all rooms sold out until 27 July, date of the last Open Race. The mayor of San Martino Buon Albergo, spokesman for all the other Veronese towns involved in the event, said they have already reached a first goal, which is the fresh impetus given to the territory, creating working opportunities to various activities in the area, not only for the accommodation facilities but also for those related to enogastronomy and agriculture. The mayor added that the event is also an opportunity to make known internationally one of the main attractions of the territory, Pontoncello Park.

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