



The Lusitano Collection™ International Horse Auction



Newsletter

2010 Horse Auction

Feb. 24th and 25th: Horse Tryouts
Feb. 26th: Vet Check & Horse Showcase
Feb. 27th: Auction and Catered Dinner

Jim Brandon Equestrian Center
West Palm Beach, FL, USA

www.lusitanocollection.com

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2010 Lusitano Collection Horse Selection

Interagro Farm's carefully designed selection process for The Lusitano Collection™ demands an entire team of professionals -- founder and owner Dr. Paulo Gonzaga; his daughter and head of the stud barn, Cecilia Gonzaga; Heather Bender, an international rider, a USDF instructor and USA Director of Training for Interagro Farm; Pia Aragão, a Brazilian dressage champion rider who oversees the day-to-day training of the horses, and Dr. Alex Bloeme, full-time veterinarian at Interagro Farm. These professionals work together throughout the year to handpick the healthiest, most desirable sport horses for the horse auctions which take place in Brazil and Florida. They select a combination of horses that may be suitable for professional, amateur and junior riders. "My aim," Heather states emphatically, "is to match the right horse to the right rider. That's when we feel successful." Throughout the year, Heather and Cecilia speak to clients, new and returning buyers, so they are familiar with what riders are seeking. "When we look at the horses, we get an idea of which ones will be appropriate for this market. Also, we have the benefit of holding some back for the 2011 program if we feel they haven't completely matured," Heather offers.

The group starts by separating around 120 Lusitanos from the 600 horses born and raised on the 1,200-acre bucolic ranch outside São Paulo. The young horses, ages three to five, are gathered in an over-sized paddock and whittled down to approximately 75, based on a combination of color, size, presence, conformation and attitude. "When we finally bring two dozen horses to Florida this winter, people don't realize that we've been evaluating these horses for years and scrutinizing them for months." "Not every horse makes the cut," reflects Cecilia.

Heather, who is visiting for five days and will return every two months to check on the horses' training progress, indicates that the Collection horses for the Florida auction must be "FEI calibre - suitable for dressage, jumping or driving. I will ride every horse personally, interview the trainers and riders who work with them." She cites the advantages of selecting these sport horses from Interagro Farm, where many employees have known the horses from birth and tend to the Lusitanos at every stage of development, from halter training to trailer loading and standing in cross ties. They visit the mares and young horses where they are grouped in different pasture divisions until they reach age three when they begin formal training under saddle.

Dr. Gonzaga's commitment to preserving the 300 years of careful selection in breeding can be seen in the results. Experienced trainers and riders compete with many of the young horses in dressage successfully prior to their trip to the States. Once more, buyers will avoid the hassle of import fees and quarantine when they purchase Lusitanos at The 2010 Lusitano Collection™ International Horse Auction in West Palm Beach, Florida, from February 24th to 27th, at The Jim Brandon Equestrian Center. Cecilia Gonzaga as well as Heather Bender will be available to answer questions about the breed or individual Collection horses.

In our Paddock - 2010 Collection Horses



Sire: Quixote Interagro
Dam: Temática Interagro

REG: 4557-MN
Colour: Grey
DOB: 29/aug/2005
Height: 1,63m / 16.0
1/4h



Bizet Interagro

Named after the great French composer of the romantic era known for his opera "Carmen." Born Alexandre-César-Léopold, but baptized Georges, Bizet, a child prodigy, entered the prestigious Paris Conservatory of Music at the unheard-of age of nine. To this day, "Carmen" is considered one of the most brilliant and popular operas of all time.

Quixote Interagro	Danúbio III (MV)	Zimbros II (MV)
Bizet Interagro	Dançarina II (RC)	Oferta (MV)
Temática Interagro	Legendário do Mirante	Venturoso III (MV)
	Malagueta do Mirante	Xinesa (RC)
		Novilheiro (MV)
		Ulisséia (RC)
		Emir II (MV)
		Cigana III (MLC)

Bizet Interagro is a powerful 16 and 1/4 hand grey stallion with an excellent bloodline. Confident, athletic and graceful, Bizet is son of **Quixote Interagro** whose sire was **Danúbio (MV)**, one of the most important stallions of the Lusitano breed who produced the famous stallion **Ofensor (MV)**. On his maternal side, Bizet is the great grandson of the eye-catching **Novilheiro (MV)**, British Jumping Champion and probably one of the best pure-bred Lusitano show jumping stallions to date. Bizet already shows a natural ability for jumping and was approved as a stallion on November 24th by the ABPSL. Bizet will be best suited for an experienced equestrian who will appreciate his fine pedigree, excellent conformation and positive attitude.

[Click here to see all 2010 Collection Horses, including updated videos!](#)

Lusitano Spotlight



Georgann working Zinco Do Vouga in the ring.



Georgann and Ultimato Interagro showing off their skills.

-photographs taken by Verissa King

Georgann Koenig and her Lusitanos

When Californian Georgann Koenig had to retire her beloved Lusitano after twenty years of fox hunting, eventing and dressage, she needed a worthy replacement. Following a search throughout the United States for a reputable breeder, she and her husband, Chuck, eventually traveled to The 2005 Lusitano Collection™ International Horse Auction in Brazil. Almost five years and five horses later, Georgann gushes about her horses and experiences over the years. "When you buy from the Collection, you don't just buy a horse, you buy an experience and a life-long journey," she explains.

Georgann's interest in horses began in Palm Springs where her father participated in the mounted police and enjoyed western riding. She rode a pony as a child and later became involved in drill team, three day eventing and fox hunting. Georgann and Chuck, whose 40-acre Zip-a-dee-do-da Ranch sits above the hills in Aguanga, CA, currently own six Lusitanos, one Thoroughbred, three Tennessee Walkers, one Quarter Horse and one Appaloosa. The Koenig's will soon welcome an addition to the herd as they anticipate the birth of a foal in June from Zinco and Zamorana Interagro (Florida 2008), a mare Georgann co-owns with a friend.

Georgann proudly reports an especially successful dressage show season this past year. She rode her stallion Zinco Do Vouga (Brazil 2007) in the San Marco, CA. Legacy Farm qualifying show. "My trainer has shown him," she said, "but this was my first show on him, and my highest score ever!" The pair scored 68% on training level test 2 to win first place. In the same show, Georgann rode her gelding, Ultimato Interagro (Brazil 2005) in 1st level, test 2 to earn third place with a score of 61.333%; the combined scores allowed her to achieve high point adult amateur for a championship ribbon.

Carrots & Bits



This past November, **Athene von Hirschberg** from Connecticut and **Zulu Interagro** (Florida 2008) were selected to compete in the Versatile Horse & Rider competition at Equine Affaire in MA. for the second year in a row. In addition, the pair received nice compliments from Pam Goodrich during her dressage clinic there. In the Breed Pavillion, Zulu "was a sensation, pressing himself up against the bars of the stall so that his adoring fans could scratch as much of him as possible!" The pair also entered their first Working Equitation



competition this past year to win WE Obedience and WE Obstacles. Other recent awards include Reserve Champion Stallion in the Open Sport Horse competition at Ten Broeck Farm in MA. and Dressage Suitability, Best Movement and High Point Horse at the Eastern Region Andalusian Horse Club (ERAHC) competition.

Katherine Cook reports that **Xisto Interagro** (Florida 2008) spent time this summer with Heather Bender, Larry Joiner and Stephanie Fish in PalmCity working on Spanish walk ground work and competitions in dressage. Zola Interagro (Florida 2008) has been learning how to do liberty work as well as exhibition dressage. He can do the Spanish walk, rear on command and waltz at liberty. He thinks he should bow at the end of his tests to the judges, as well! Alfacinha Interagro (Florida 2009) participated in a fabulous freestyle exhibition as "Barbie's Horse" in September at the WindsongEquestrianCenter in Apopka, Florida for the Central Florida Dressage Association fundraiser. He was all dolled up in pink and bows; he kept to the music, didn't miss a step and everyone loved him. He is quite the show off, very sweet and obedient.

Kathy Elliott and **Zalene Interagro** (Florida 2008) did so well during the 2009 season at training level that they qualified for the Region 3 dressage show which includes five states. They are now working at 1st level. One of the most amazing things Kathy reported is that Zalene is so relaxed at horse shows that she often lies down to nap; in fact, she allowed her trainer to completely braid her mane as she lay reposed on her bed of shavings with her eyes half-closed!

Georgann and Chuck Koenig are hosting a Christmas Celebration at their California Zip -A -Dee-Do-Da Ranch this month that will feature their Lusitano half brothers, **Zigue-Zague Do Vouga** (Florida 2008) and **Zinco DoVouga** (Brazil 2007) riding a Pas de Deux to Christmas Music as well as **Ultimato Interagro** (Brazil 2005) doing an Exhibiton ride with their trainer. Around 60 people usually attend, and the event is followed by a luncheon.

If you have any news about your Lusitano, whether it be an award, a showing, a funny anecdote or inspiring story, we would love to hear from you! Please send your entries for our Carrots and Bits to lusitanocollection@hotmail.com

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