



The Lusitano Collection™



The Lusitano Aficionado Vol. III

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

-The Lusitano Collection

The 2011 Collection horses have been selected
VIDEOS now online-Click [here!](#)

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THE MANE LINE

Geldings Offered At Auction For The First Time

This year the Lusitano Collection™ is pleased to offer eight geldings in the 2011 auction. Many amateur and professional riders prefer geldings as performance horses as they are considered easier to compete than stallions and are considered by some to be less complicated than mares. So at the request of our previous and potential buyers we are pleased to offer an amazing selection of geldings including the handsome buckskin gelding **Chaos Interagro**, the irresistible 16+ hand dapple grey **Butler Interagro**, and the fiery red 16.1+ hand **Uno do Vouga** - just to name a few. Get a sneak preview of these geldings and the entire 2011 lineup now at <http://www.lusitanocollection.com/horses2011.htm> or click on each gelding's name below to take you to their individual page on our website.

2011 LUSITANO COLLECTION™ EVENT PROGRAM: February 23-26th, 2011

- Horse Tryouts:** February 23-24, 2011
- Showcase & Cocktail Reception:** February 25, 2011
- Dinner & Auction:** February 26, 2011

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NEWS BITS

Amintas Interagro Wins High Point Award



Amintas Interagro, a Lusitano stallion owned by Al and Sherie Zobec, rode away the winner of the High Point



[Antiochus](#)



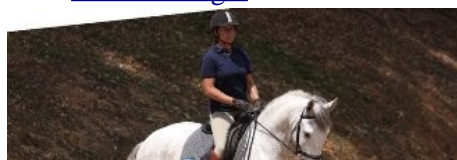
[Brasão do Vouga](#)



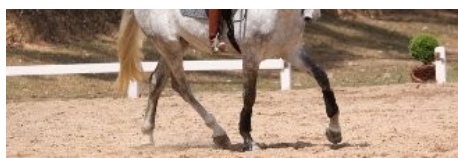
[Butler Interagro](#)



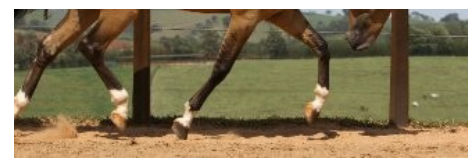
[Cactus do Vouga](#)



Lusitano Award at the Wellington Classic Dressage Autumn Challenge. Considered the "ultimate competition" horse, Amintas Interagro was shown by trainer, and co-owner, **Leah Winston.** "Amintas earned a score of **71 in the FEI Six-Year-Old division,**" Leah said. "He is such a pleasure to ride that I save him for my last ride everyday when we are at home and I definitely believe he will show in the Grand Prix division in the future. Amintas Interagro was purchased at the **2009 Lusitano Collection™ International Horse Auction.**"



Campeiro Interagro



Chaos Interagro

Two Rocas do Vouga Lusitanos Find Success In California



photo: Coudelaria Rocas do Vouga archives

Zinco and Zigue-Zague do Vouga, two Rocas do Vouga horses, are shining in the California sunshine with their new owners! **Georgann Koenig** reports that she and **Zinco** received the **Championship Ribbon for highest score at Training Level** at a **San Diego Dressage Show** and that **Zinco** and **Georgann's** trainer won **Reserve Champion** and earned the **High Point Award.** **Zigue-Zague,** who was purchased in the **2008 Lusitano Collection™** is also doing well in the show ring, having won all blues and one red ribbon. "Both **Zigue-Zague** and **Zinco** are gentlemen at the shows - very polite and well behaved. They are very happy and always willing to please," Koenig said. "They never fail to remind me of the wonderful memories of the Collection, Do Vouga Farms, and all the wonderful staff there. I take these memories with me every time I work with the horses. **Zinco** is going to be a father in the spring to a Lusitano mare and we are really looking forward to our first **Zinco** foal."



photo: Coudelaria Rocas do Vouga archives

Baluarte Interagro's First Show A Success!



photo provided by Cathy Cooper

Cathy Cooper was thrilled with her gelding **Baluarte Interagro's** first show, the **Atlanta National Dressage Show** in **Conyers, Georgia.** The four-and-a-half year old Lusitano not only made his show debut but it was quite a success. "He did three training level classes, scoring above 60 in all three, including a **67.857** in his last class," Cathy said. "He is not even in full training yet, so we are very proud. My trainer, **Lisa Evans,** rode him and did a spectacular job. I am so thankful for my horse!" Cathy bought **Baluarte** at the **2010 Lusitano Collection™ International Horse Auction** because she was looking for her future champion. After a year together, Cathy is happy to say that she has not only found her champion, but has fallen in love with him and the Lusitano breed as well. "After years of riding I was ready to become a horse owner and I picked the Lusitano specifically," Cathy said. "I visited a friend of mine, **CharAn Ireland,** who owns the Dressage Center in Pennsylvania and breeds Lusitanos,



Cruzeiro Interagro



Uno do Vouga

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Black Tie Interagro wins High Point Lusitano Year End Award at the 2010 Gold Coast Dressage Association Banquet

Black Tie Interagro, a five-year-old Lusitano owned by **Tracy Aubin** of Connecticut, was the recipient of the

Black Tie Interagro photo by Davi Carrano

High Point Lusitano Year End Award, sponsored by **The Lusitano Collection™,** at

the **2010 Gold Coast Dressage Association banquet.** Ridden by **Interagro Lusitano's** U.S. trainer **Heather Bender,** **Black Tie Interagro** won the year-end award by scoring a 72 percent in a **Training Level 4** class. "I think it is amazing that he won because it was his first horse show," Tracy said. "But he is a very fast learner so I am not surprised. I am showing him in dressage, but my goal is to do eventing with him. He is muscling up and very happy. He really seems to like it. We might do some beginner eventing next year but we are taking it slow with the jumping to ensure that he as a solid foundation." Tracy said another one of her goals is to ride **Black Tie Interagro** in a pas de deux next year at the **Equine Affair.** "I keep **Black Tie** at the **Connecticut Equestrian Center,** which is owned by **Athene von Hirschberg,** and she has a Lusitano named **Zulu Interagro.** Our goal is to ride them in a pas de deux. Next year is going to be a really busy year, but **Black Tie** is an absolute pleasure and I am really looking forward to it," Tracy said, adding that **Black Tie** was part of the **2010 Lusitano Collection™ International Horse Auction.**

MAKING STRIDES



Lisa Tota and Her Two Terrific Lusitanos Make Strides in Dressage

Lisa Tota's first experience with the Lusitano breed was during the **2010 Lusitano Collection™ International Horse Auction,** a night she described as "a truly magical evening." Lisa became a first-time Lusitano owner that night, taking home two Lusitanos -- **Byron Interagro** and **Agamemnon Interagro.** Thanks to spending a year with **Byron** and **Agamemnon,** Lisa is now focusing solely on Lusitanos. "I have done all the training myself on my two horses and just recently started taking lessons with **Juan Matute,**" Lisa said.

Lisa Tota on Byron Interagro. photo by Susan J. Stickle

"We have had a great year. **Byron** turned five in August and has competed in two

horse shows at training level, earning scores from the mid 60's to 70's. **Agamemnon** is about to turn six and he is a bit hotter and needs some patience, but he really has a lot of talent. He has also competed in two horse shows, earning scores from mid to upper 60's at first level." Lisa said her horses are an absolute joy to work with and they always want to try. "Lusitanos require a totally different approach than the warmblood, and once you understand that then you are able to make an amazing horse," Lisa said, adding that she is taking in Lusitano horses and riders for training and hopes to develop competitive horses that people will enjoy. "I am definitely looking forward to the **2011 Lusitano Auction,**" Lisa said. "The auction night is wonderful with no expense spared. I was very impressed by the vetting and the booklet that comes with each horse and all the thorough vet checks. The staff was very helpful, knowledgeable and friendly at all times and I must say that you can really tell they do this because they truly love and believe in these horses. It is easy to try the ones you want, speak directly to the riders and best of all there is no language barrier."

TRAINING TIP

and she said she wouldn't have anything else. CharAn has purchased many Lusitanos from the Lusitano auction and after seeing her Lusitanos I was convinced it was the breed for me. They are brave, comfortable, athletic and talented. I couldn't be happier with Baluarte."



Heather working with horses at Interagro Farms in Brazil during the selection process for the 2011 Auction.

Heather Bender, Interagro Lusitanos U.S. trainer, said she loved

Timothy Mellott's trainer's tip: "Try Collection over Forward," in the October Lusitano newsletter, The Lusitano Aficionado.

Heather said she decided to follow up on Timothy's training tip, and continues to talk about Lusitanos and Forward.

for more information on Heather Bender, Interagro Lusitano's U.S. Trainer, please [click here](#)



Heather working with Butler Interagro of the 2011 Collection

photos by Tupa

Heather Continues with more "FORWARD"

by Heather Bender

Timothy's references about a trainer yelling "more forward" made me laugh! I would bet anyone who has ridden warmbloods could relate to top trainers yelling at the top of their lungs 'More Forward!' almost as a mantra. Feeling that Tim's ideas were so right on the mark and to help with one of the most common misunderstandings I see in the adjustment of learning to ride our Lusitano friends, I would like to continue with my training tip on the same subject and idea.

To define fairly the term "forward" in the way I think of it. Instead of forward being seen as blasting around the arena as fast as you possibly can blast, let's think of it as a controlled step of the hind leg tracking up and creating a correct amount of carrying power and pushing power. The hind must look active but not over quick.

As a rule, most Lusitanos can be too quick and neglect to achieve the proper forward movement as defined above. Our warmblood friends, especially some of the more traditional heavier types, have been famous for getting slow and behind the rider's leg. When a young warmblood becomes behind the rider's leg, they can also become resistant and that can lead to bucking, balking and spooking. That is why many of our wise European trainers have chased us around the ring making sure that we learned well one of the 10 commandments of riding, "FORWARD!" We were chased around the arena trying to get them "quicker behind, in front of our leg and not bunched up to buck!" We were rewarded by our warmblood horses and our exhausted red-faced trainers when we finally achieved "Forward."

In my experience with the Lusitano, I have discovered that because of their different history in their breeding they will understand and progress easier and faster without the classic warmblood attitude of moving your horse forward. Here are a few key things to think about with your Lusitano: If he is bunching up and feeling nervous sometimes a "time out" walking as quietly as possible, low and deep and even adding a quiet soothing whistle will help them breath and enable them to focus and get back on track. Blasting around the arena at this point is probably a bad idea. Once he has settled, then go back to trying to archive a more connected hind leg that helps you to develop thoroughness to the bit. Ride in a slower tempo, trying to achieve a better balance and contact. Keep your hands quiet and steady, creating a nice straight line from your elbow through your hand to the horse's mouth, not lower not higher. Try a slight positioning of inside hind leg stepping between the two front legs (a shoulder fore.)

If your Lusitano's back is tight and he wants to rush, then go back to posting and control your speed of posting to be a "metronome" for their tempo. Remember that the inside hind leg is coming forward as you rise so make the strong beat of your post on the top and land softly in the saddle. Hesitate the post as a part of your half-halt on top of the post to help suck your horse back up and not chase it away from your seat. If they try to pull down then turn the horse into a four-track shoulder-in and move them deliberately sideways, making sure the inside hind leg is stepping forward and across the outside hind leg, until they lighten the contact. If they will not go to the contact in the leg yield, a four-track shoulder-in position can also help the rider. It often helps to get the outside rein connection with the engagement of your upper inner thigh pressing firmly and diagonally towards your outside hand. If my horse is pulling, I will push the four-tracks to more of an angle. If my horse is to light in the contact, I usually find less angle is more effective.

One of the main themes I have learned that we must all remember about the Lusitano breed as a whole is that they over-try. When they get on the wrong track, be calm and patient and take a time out before you over correct. Always think out your corrections and go back to a smaller piece to get back on the right page with your horse. A loss of temper and a frustrated rider can create a hugely unhappy and devastated Lusitano. Good luck! Be patient and quiet because that will keep them happy!

