

AROUND THE SOUTH

Exceptional Equines

The 2nd annual Lusitano Collection Auction is set for the weekend of Feb. 19-20, 2009, at the 111-acre Jim Brandon Equestrian Center in Wellington, Fla. Guests can indulge in lavish cocktails and a gala dinner at the prestigious event, which is open to the public for a fee. More than two dozen horses will be on view the week prior to the auction. The Lusitano Collection made its U.S. debut in Wellington during the world-renowned Winter Equestrian Festival in March of 2008. It was the first time that such a collection of Lusitanos had been sold on U.S. soil and gave clients the advantage of acquiring horses without the necessity of importing them from either Portugal or Brazil. This year's collection includes horses from Interagro Farms, the largest Lusitano breeder and exporter in the world, and Coudelaria Rocas do Vouga of Brazil. With a reputation as one of the best saddle horses in the world, the breed is known for its exceptional performance in all equestrian disciplines. lusitanocollection.com



Native to the Iberian Peninsula, the Lusitano was domesticated around 5,000 B.C. by a nation of warriors who fought on horseback. As their lives depended entirely on their horse's temperament and reliability, the Lusitanians selected a noble, easy to ride horse, famous for its intelligence and willingness to work.