

THE 2009 LUSITANO COLLECTION® TO BE AUCTIONED OFF IN WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA FEBRUARY 19-20, 2009

WHAT: The **2009 Lusitano Collection® Horse Auction** will feature the most prestigious collection of the noble and beautiful Lusitano breed of horses.

More than two dozen 4- and 5-year old Lusitano horses trained in classical dressage will be presented at the Jim Brandon Equestrian Center. A portion of the proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the American Cancer Society and the Jim Brandon Equestrian Center.

WHO: The **Lusitano Collection®** is a trademark established by five of the most important Lusitano horse breeders in Brazil and Portugal. Their combined experience represents more than 300 years of excellence in the selection of the best animals and genealogies in the breed. The horses being auctioned at this event are owned by two of the five Collection partners, Manuel Tavares de Almeida, the founder of Coudelaria Rocas de Vouga Lusitanos, and Dr. Paulo Pompéia Gavião Gonzaga, mastermind of the Auction and the founder of Interagro Lusitanos. Horses from The Lusitano Collection® have gone to new homes in many countries including the USA, Australia, Canada and throughout Europe, and have been trained in jumping, dressage, driving and even as cutting horses.

WHEN: Thursday February 19th, 2009 - Friday February 20th, 2009

EVENT PROGRAM Thursday February 19th, 2009 - 5:00pm -8:00pm

Welcoming Reception and Showcase Parade of Horses: Guests will enjoy cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres and view The 2009 Lusitano Collection® Showcase led by special guest, 2008 Olympic equestrian Luiza Almeida riding Samba. The pair earned first place in musical freestyle in the ESP Wellington Dressage CDI3* and helped the Brazilian Team win a Bronze Medal at the Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro.



LUSITANO BREEDER'S NEW BOOK

The release of Paulo Pompéia Gavião Gonzaga's fifth book, **The Lusitano Horse - Basic Lineages Volume I**, coincides with the second annual Lusitano Collection Auction to be held on February 19 - 20 at the Jim Brandon Equestrian Center in West Palm Beach, Florida. Dr. Gonzaga, former President of the Brazilian Association of Lusitano Horse Breeders established Interagro Farms in Itapira Brazil in 1975, now the location

of the largest breeding and exporting operation of Lusitanos in the world. In *Basic Lineages*, the author extrapolates from his first two books where he explained the origin and evolution of the ancient Lusitano breed. He discusses Interagro's breeding program, how he works to preserve pure lineage groups by crossing pure animals from different blood lines to build up the Interagro Horse. The objective, he states, is to create horses "from selected crosses of animals

from basic lineages according to a pre-defined and rigorous process."

No one seems to understand this process better than Dr. Gonzaga and his daughter, Cecilia Gonzaga, head of the Interagro stud barn. "Albatroz Interagro, one of our 2009 Collection stallions graces the cover of my father's book," Cecilia shares. "Not just because he is gorgeous - a picture-perfect, majestic white horse, but his dam is a very important brood mare who descends from a triad of famous Andrade stallions."

Current owners of Interagro Farm horses provide testament to the breed's fine temperament and ability. Katherine Cook, who bought two Interagro stallions at last year's Auction, said one of her horses "is like riding on a cloud, the smoothest horse I've ever sat on. He'll do anything to try to please you." When asked to describe her experience in buying the two Lusitanos, she replied, "I feel like it was a gift from God."

Dr. Gonzaga began his professional career in banking and insurance and contributed several articles on banking and insurance;

he was chief executive of one of the largest and oldest established finance groups, a member of the Brazilian National Insurance Council and director of Brazilian Banking and Insurance Associations. His latest passion - the Lusitano Horse - has been the topic of all five of his books.

His fourth book, *The History of the Horse, The Iberian Horse from Ice Age to Antiquity*, was published by J.A. Allen in both Portuguese and English. In that book, Dr. Gonzaga traced the origins of the horse around the world, particularly on the Iberian Peninsula, where the Lusitano originated. Drawing on archeological evidence, the author explained the development of the horse from a hunted animal to the domesticated working animal.

Today the Lusitano has a proven track record as an internationally competitive dressage horse - seven Lusitanos competed at the 2008 Olympics. Lusitanos are also used as driving horses, jumpers and of course, as pleasure mounts. For those who would like to view or even bid on one of the 34 Lusitanos appearing at the 2009 Lusitano Collection® Auction in West Palm Beach, visit www.lusitanocollection.com or call 866-540-8809.