



THE FIRST MEETING OF THE OLYMPIC YEAR FOR THE WORLD'S ELITE

Press release, Tuesday, September 26, 2023

2024 will be a special year for sport, and the Olympic spirit will naturally be wafting through this edition of the FEI Longines World Cup. But beyond sporting excellence, the Jumping International de Bordeaux is a 360° equestrian event that offers much more: other disciplines, a Salon du Cheval that is constantly developing and reinventing itself and a sumptuous equestrian show with this year's return of the prestigious Cadre Noir. The Jumping International de Bordeaux from February 1st to 4th is a unique event that brings together the whole horse world of France - and even Europe.

The values of the Olympics - excellence, conviviality, respect, sporting commitment - have always been at the heart of the Jumping International de Bordeaux, an event that has resolutely sought to put sport at the forefront and offer its public the best of three disciplines, two Olympic, show jumping and eventing via indoor cross-country and a more traditional, but just as sporting, discipline: four-in-hand driving.

Versailles on the horizon



Grégory Cottard won his first 5* Grand Prix last February in Bordeaux with Cocaine du Val.
© Artiste Associé

The equestrian disciplines at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games will be held on the grounds of the Château de Versailles, which is on the minds of riders every morning as they head to their stables. The 2024 edition of the Jumping, and in particular its prestigious World Cup Grand Prix (Saturday evening) and the Grand Prix (Sunday afternoon), will take on added importance, especially for the French riders who will be under the watchful eye of national technical director Sophie Dubourg and national coach Henk Nooren in the run-up to the Paris Olympics. The selection will be far from finalized in February and all the riders on the long Olympic list will be in Bordeaux on the same ground as in Versailles in August.

The Jumping International de Bordeaux is back again this year with the aim of highlighting the spirit of horsemanship, that harmonious relationship based on trust between horse and human. This will be reflected in the 5* jumping classes, which regularly bring together the world's best riders in the legendary Hall 3, motivated both by securing a place in the World Cup Final (which will be held in Riyadh from April 16th to 20th) and seeing their name appear on the prize list of this legendary Longines FEI World Cup Grand Prix, won by all the great names of the sport since 1979.

The Bordeaux arena will also welcome riders from another Olympic discipline, eventing, with the **Devoucoux Indoor Derby** (Friday evening), an indoor cross-country course, one of only three in the world (along with Stuttgart and Geneva). It is an exclusive class that the public knows well by now, as every year the grandstands are packed to the rafters. Some of the biggest champions of the discipline take part such as Olympic gold medalist Michael Jung from Germany and, above all, Frenchman Karim Laghouag, who last year took an emotional fourth victory with his faithful Punch de l'Esques AA, who was bidding farewell to the sport. Without his favorite horse, will the French eventer have the "punch" to retain his title?



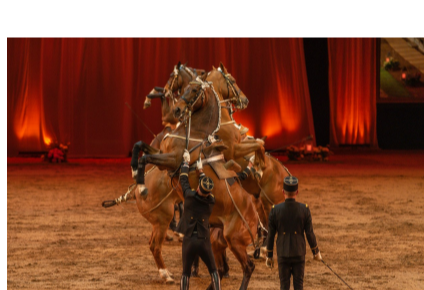
Boyd Exell, a regular winner on the Bordeaux arena
© Artiste Associé

Jumping International de Bordeaux is also about... driving! And if there is one athlete who will also be keen to retain his title (his eleventh), it is undoubtedly Australian driver Boyd Exell, regularly winning his duels against the Chardon family, Ijsbrand the father, and Bram, the son, in the World Cup final which Bordeaux will once again be hosting (first round on Saturday evening and final on Sunday afternoon).

... and horse-ball

French horse-ball, derived from the traditional Argentinean pato, was born in the South-West of France, and practically at the Jumping International de Bordeaux, which has regularly hosted competitions or demonstrations of this sport that is so popular with clubs. The 2024 edition will be no exception to the tradition, and fans of this team sport will be able to watch some frenzied games in Hall 3.

The poetry of traditional horsemanship... Au Coeur du Grand Manège, the show put on by the Cadre Noir de Saumur in Bordeaux



The Cadre Noir de Saumur contributes to the reputation of traditional French equestrianism
© Pascal Renauldon - R&B Presse

The **Cadre Noir de Saumur** will be in Bordeaux on the evening of Thursday February 1st with its prestigious gala show, **Au Coeur du Grand Manège**, which, in fifteen scenes, recounts the history of this renowned equestrian institution, which has an international reputation and is a leading exponent of traditional French horsemanship, recognized as Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. These magnificent scenes combine highly technical, poetic and spectacular acts such as the Reprise des sauteurs and the Saut du piquet. The prestige of the Cadre Noir shows is well established, and its riders in their sumptuous black uniforms are world-famous. They are traditionally led by their Chief Ecuyer, who for the last two years has been an Olympic eventing champion, Colonel Thibault Valette. Among the ecuyers, the public may well recognize Pauline Basquin, hope of French Olympic dressage.



Great atmosphere at the "Dressage Battle" © Artiste Associé

Dressage will once again be in the spotlight in Bordeaux with the popular **"Dressage Battle"**, which pits two teams of three international riders against each other, challenging each other to perform haute-école figures while the audience cheers them on. Another vision of dressage.

The Salon du Cheval, a breath of passion!



Lots of passionate fans on the edge of the entertainment arena © Artiste Associé

If the jumping arena is the heart of the Jumping International de Bordeaux, the **Salon du Cheval** is undoubtedly its lungs. The event has grown considerably over the years, from a simple offering of stands to one of the biggest horse fairs in France (+20% attendance by 2023). The Salon is, of course, first and foremost a (large) village of exhibitors, not just for equestrians, who can find everything they need in terms of equipment for themselves and their horses, materials for the stables or for transport, and innovations, especially those designed to improve the well-being of equines, which have been flourishing in recent years... but also for those less familiar with this universe. And let's not forget the catering facilities, offering a wide range of French South-West cuisine.

The Salon du Cheval is a live space where the passion of the equestrian community - industry professionals and amateurs alike - can flourish and be shared, notably with the Health Forum where, this year, equine well-being will be at the heart of the debates.

The warm-up arenas, the focal point of the exhibition, offer a rare opportunity to watch the world's best riders prepare their horses for the classes - a real live riding lesson! The Salon du Cheval is also the place to be for sport, with the **Balubet arena** dedicated to amateur and youngster competitions. All kinds of competitions such as the Coupe des Clubs, pony classes (the pony elite Super As takes place on the main arena), a club equestrian show competition and much more... Not forgetting the **Silvana arena**, the epicenter of equestrian entertainment for young and old alike.

The program couldn't be more complete!

The *Jumping International de Bordeaux* is not only the leading equestrian sporting event in the south. It brings together the greatest international riders and drivers, as well as professionals and, ultimately, all the equestrian enthusiasts who come from all over France and beyond.

Box office opens Thursday, September 28 at 10 a.m. : <https://billetterie.jumping-bordeaux.com/>

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Reservations : www.jumping-bordeaux.com

Photo library

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Find out all the latest news about Jumping International de Bordeaux on www.jumping-bordeaux.com

