

VIEW ON THE TOSCANA TOUR

By Cymon Taylor, *Italy*

ON CUE AFTER A LONG COLD ETERNAL WINTER, SPRING ROLLED INTO THE VAL DI CHIANA AS IF ORDERED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE SIXTH ANNUAL TOSCANA TOUR. THE SECOND WEEK OF MARCH SAW THE LORRY PARKS AND BOXES FILL WITH DIFFERING BEASTS AT THE AREZZO EQUESTRIAN CENTRE WHICH SWUNG BACK INTO LIFE FOR A THRILLING MONTH OF VARIED COMPETITION.



The schedule included four consecutive CSI3* with a tour for young horses and classes for every experience and ability: a Bronze tour with classes from 1.15 to 1.30m including Children and Juniors, a Silver tour from 1.30 to 1.40m, and a Gold tour for experienced riders, with classes from 1.30 to 1.50m. A long list of course designers captained by Frank Rothenberger, designed the courses of the Vasari, Dante and Boccaccio arenas with Rothenberger himself having the opportunity to demonstrate his ability by creating the courses of the last week of the show.

Early weekdays saw the young horse (5, 6 & 7 years) events and from Friday through till Sunday, Bronze, Silver and Gold tours held centre stage. The Silver tour Grand Prix was held on Saturday and for Sunday's spectacle, the Gold tour Grand Prix topped the bill. Silver and Gold tours did not show



big levels of performances, however the stage seemed just, with no apparent course difficulties. Riders from various European countries competed alongside big names from the show jumping scene.

The number of horses and riders had

been higher over past years but with a manageable total and a new approach to organisational efficiency, the competitions progressed smoothly throughout the first week. The Best of Toscana Tour Gran Premio Coca-Cola Gold tour Competition was won by

Gianni Govoni riding Aboyeur W who took the honours in the final week of the competitions. Brazil's Bernadro Alves riding Bridgit came in second and Germany's Jörg Naeve riding Calado took the third win.



▲ Lisen Bratt-Fredricson riding Matrix, Sweden



▲ Bernardo Alves riding Bridgit, Brazil

GRAN PREMIO REGIONE TOSCANA BRONZE TOUR, COMPETITION AGAINST THE CLOCK WITH JUMP-OFF (1.30 M):

Rank	Rider	Horse	Country	Time/Faults	Prize Money
1	Corinne Collins	Labuleska	Great Britain	36.90/0	1,650 €
2	Rui Pinto	Blanka van't Niefgeel	Portugal	37.41/0	1,050 €
3	Elina Svensson	Olympe de la Croix	Sweden	37.52/0	750 €
4	Elisa Rullo	Koriall Z	Italy	37.92/0	550 €
5	Reka Jacobffy	Alidiva	Italy	38.38/0	350 €

THE BEST OF GRAN PREMIO LA NAZIONE SILVER TOUR, COMPETITION AGAINST THE CLOCK WITH JUMP-OFF (1.45 M):

Rank	Rider	Horse	Country	Time/Faults	Prize Money
1	Lisen Bratt-Fredricson	Matrix	Sweden	48.73/0	6,600 €
2	Matteo Giunti	Watson	Italy	38.82 /4	4,200 €
3	Olivier Philippaerts	Cabrio van de Heffinck	Belgium	39.23 /4	3,000 €
4	Bart Soetaers	Sjoeke	Belgium	39.37 /4	2,200 €
5	Celine Schoonbroodt	Holala Z (BE)	Belgium	41.0 /4	1,600 €

Gianni Govoni riding Aboyeur W, Italy



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Apart from the 125,000 € to be awarded every week, during the last week of the tour, finals were scheduled to award an additional 109,000 € in prize money, divided amongst each age group of the young horses tour, and a final per each tour of the CSI3*. Fourteen classes qualified for the FEI Ranking List, 13

with a prize money of 20,000 € and the final of the Gold tour awarded 75,000 €.

All riders appreciated one of the most important aspects of the Toscana Tour; the well-known Boccaccio grass arena of Arezzo Equestrian Centre, an enormous

arena which has always been renowned for its sure footing. With its ditch, lake and other permanent obstacles used for a Derby once or twice a year, some riders have claimed it as the most wonderful arena in Europe. 🏇

THE BEST OF TOSCANA TOUR GRAN PREMIO COCA-COLA GOLD TOUR, COMPETITION AGAINST THE CLOCK WITH JUMP-OFF (1.60 M):

Rank	Rider	Horse	Country	Time/Faults	Prize Money
1	Gianni Govoni	Aboyeur W	Italy	44.93/0	24,750 €
2	Bernardo Alves	Bridgit	Brazil	45.28/0	15,750 €
3	Jörg Naeve	Calado	Germany	45.48/0	11,250 €
4	José Larocca	Okidoki	Argentina	47.97/0	8,250 €
5	Cameron Hanley	Southwind VDL	Ireland	49.28/0	5,250 €

▼ Alvaro de Miranda, Brazil, fitting a bit



▼ Jörg Naeve riding Calado, Germany



▼ Corinne Collins, Great Britain



Photos courtesy of **Cymon Taylor**
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