

Morocco Royal Tour 2023

Exciting Victories Mark Each Week of Equestrian Excellence

By Nermin Marwan



THE MOROCCO ROYAL TOUR, ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS EQUESTRIAN EVENTS IN THE WORLD, CAPTIVATED AUDIENCES IN OCTOBER 2023 WITH ITS THRILLING DISPLAYS OF HORSEMANSHIP AND FIERCE COMPETITION. SPANNING THREE WEEKS AND FEATURING TOP RIDERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE, THE TOUR SHOWCASED REMARKABLE TALENT AND CELEBRATED THE SPIRIT OF EQUESTRIAN SPORTS. THIS ARTICLE TAKES A CLOSER LOOK AT EACH WEEK OF THE TOUR, HIGHLIGHTING THE STANDOUT PERFORMANCES AND THE VICTORIOUS RIDERS WHO LEFT AN INDELIBLE MARK ON THE COMPETITION.



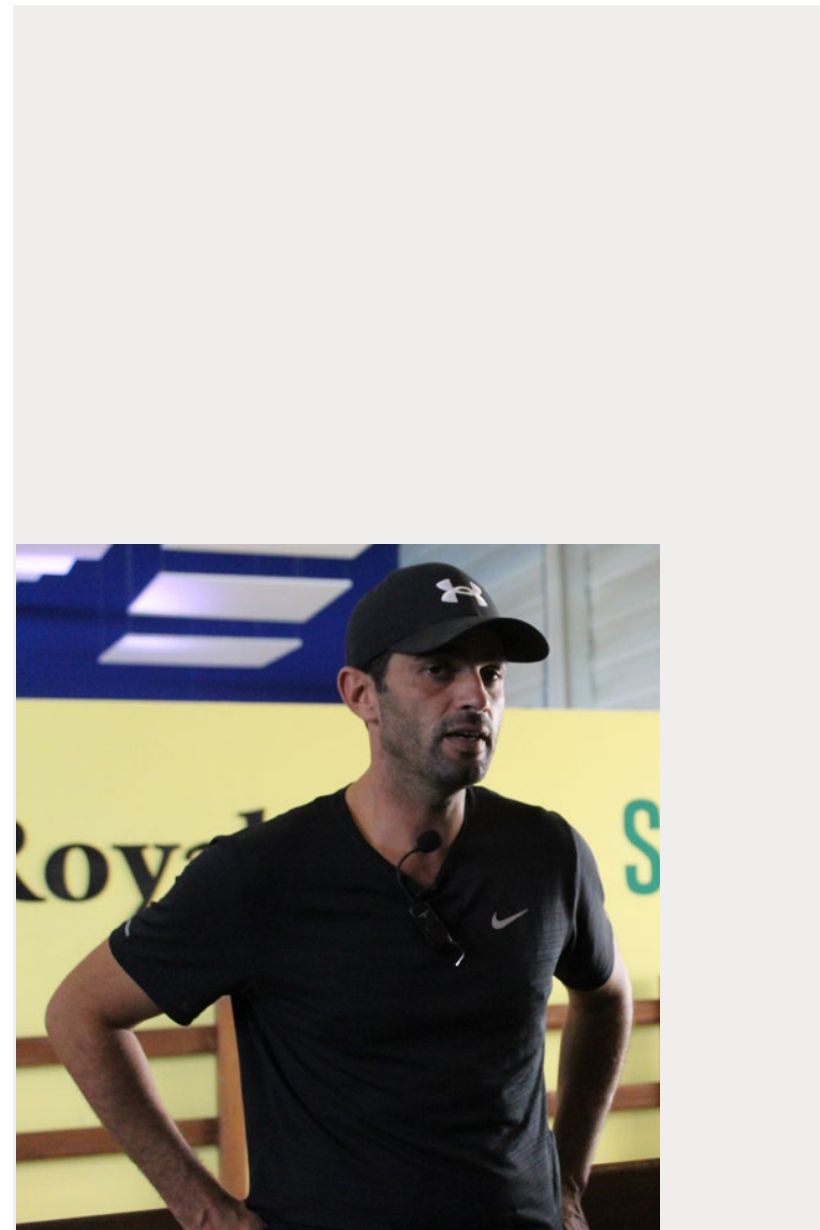


TETOUAN

CSI4* – 1.50m – World Cup Grand Prix

The first week of the Morocco Royal Tour kicked off in Tetouan, where riders and their equine partners demonstrated remarkable skill and determination. One of the standout moments of the week was the victory of Italian rider Emanuele Gaudiano in the Grand Prix. Mounted on his 10-year-old stallion Nikolaj de Music, Gaudiano showcased his expertise and precision, navigating the challenging course flawlessly. His exceptional performance earned him the top spot on the podium, bringing pride to Italy and solidifying his reputation as a formidable competitor.

The podium was completed by Cyril Cools from Belgium riding Milton Z, who finished with an impressive time of **41.15** seconds, and Germany's Andre Thieme aboard Conacco, who finished just behind with a time of **41.41** seconds. Roberto Previtali from Italy riding Conthargo-Blue claimed fourth place with a time of **42.85** seconds, while Barbara Schnieper from Switzerland riding Canice rounded out the top five with a time of **43.21** seconds.



RABAT

Belgium wins for the 2nd time Rabat's Nations Cup

The highlight of the second stage of the Morocco Royal Tour, the Nations Cup was won by a fine young team from Belgium... at the end of the suspense. This is the second Belgian victory since the Moroccan Nations Cup was born in 2016.

On a course that was fluid at the start and more technical towards the end, Switzerland struck hard from the outset, stringing together three clear rounds that enabled Barbara Schnieper to rest Canice in the first round and drop Belgium to 4 points behind. An option for victory, but nothing is definitive in the Nations Cup after the first round, as the rest of the story proved.

After a second clear round from Elian Bauman (**Little Lumpi E**), the foundations of the Swiss castle were shaken by the twelve faults scored by Mehdi Roessli-Dobjanschi and Valderama Tame. Alexandra Amar and Vincy du Gue's small overtaking time fault further weakened the Swiss edifice, while the Belgians lined up clear rounds in succession: Virginie Thonon and Edgard de Préfontaine, Cyril Cools and Milton Z and above all Marine Scaufaire and Hortus d'Hoogpoort, who erased their poor first round result (**16 faults**) in style: *"I was actually very confident for this second round, as I know my horse well. It was my first Nations Cup, and I missed my first round, but I didn't ask myself any questions and went into the second round with full confidence"*. Jérôme Guéry didn't need to start, as his team-mates' triple zero could not be improved, of course.

Barbara Schnieper, on the other hand, had to take Canice out of the stall with the onerous responsibility of producing a clear round with no alternative for the Swiss to win. But the blue oxer after the water-jump proved fatal for Barbara and the *"Nati"*, who slipped back to second place: *"It's the law of this sport,"* philosophized Jérôme Guéry, *"one man's misfortune is another man's gain. I put myself in Barbara's shoes... It's true that when she came out onto the arena, we honestly hoped she'd make a small mistake... the pressure couldn't have helped her, and I know what it's like to have been in that situation"*. France completed the podium by moving up one place in the second round!

The HRH Princess Lalla Amina Prize, awarded by Charifa Lalla Soumaya Ouazzani, to Marine Scaufflaire and Cuba Libre de Nevada Z, winners of the **CSIO4*W** World Cup Grand Prix in Rabat. The Grand Prix at a height of **1m55** which saw **38 pairs**, rider-horse, compete and which was contested in two rounds goes to Belgium. The difficult course, designed by the international course designer, Uliano Vezanni, saw only three couples achieve double clear rounds. This was the case of the **Belgian Marine Scaufflaire**, who scored her first victory in a **4*** Grand Prix, in second place, the Italian **Roberto Previtali and Conthargo-Blue** (**4th in the Prix SAR Le Prince Héritier Moulay El Hassan in Tetouan on last Sunday**) and finally the French rider Jeanne Sadran and her Kosmo Van Hof Ter Boone on third place.

The **Swiss Barbara Schnieper and Escoffier** are the fastest in this second round but had one pole down and leads them to **4th place** in this World Cup Grand Prix, ahead of the **Portuguese Duarte Seabra and Dourados 2** who are also penalized by four points in second round.



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EL JADIDA

Emanuele Gaudiano and Nikolaj de Music Triumph in the Grand Prix of His Majesty King Mohammed VI at the Morocco Royal Tour

The twelfth edition of the Morocco Royal Tour came to a thrilling conclusion with the Grand Prix of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, where Italian rider Emanuele Gaudiano and his talented mount Nikolaj de Music emerged victorious.

Emanuele Gaudiano reshowned his exceptional riding skills and partnership with Nikolaj de Music to claim victory in the Grand Prix. This win marked his second victory in the 12th edition of the Morocco Royal Tour, following his triumph in the Grand Prix World Cup in Tetouan. Gaudiano's flawless performance highlighted his ability to navigate challenging courses with precision and finesse.

Final Results – **€126,200** His Majesty King Mohammed VI World Cup Grand Prix **CSI 4*-W**

- 1) Emanuele Gaudiano (ITA) & Nikolaj de Music – 0 / 0 – 32.00
- 2) Cyril Cools (BEL) & Milton Z – 0 / 0 – 33.89
- 3) Olivier Robert (FRA) & Careca LS Elite – 0 / 0 – 34.24

The Grand Prix also saw noteworthy performances from other riders. Belgian rider Virginie Thonon and her horse Q - Famous Van Berg Op Zoom emerged as the winners of the OCP Grand Prix of the **CSI1***. Thonon's skillful riding and her horse's exceptional performance secured their well-deserved victory.

As the twelfth edition of the Morocco Royal Tour concluded, organizers expressed their gratitude for the successful event and announced the dates for the next edition. Equestrian enthusiasts can look forward to the thirteenth edition, which is scheduled to take place from **October 3 to 20, 2024**.

The Morocco Royal Tour once again provided a platform for top riders from various nations to showcase their talent and compete in world-class equestrian events. The tour's thrilling conclusion left audiences eagerly awaiting next year's edition, where new triumphs and memorable moments are sure to unfold.