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Premier auction features 30 horses

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This week's annual Lusitano Collection International Horse Auction will feature five mares and 25 stallions from two major breeding farms — Coudelaria Rocas do Vouga and Interagro Farms — in Brazil.

The four-day event will be held Wednesday through Saturday at the Jim Brandon Equestrian Center in West Palm Beach.

On Wednesday and Thursday, potential bidders can preview the horses, test-ride them and see their veterinarian records.

Susan Rose Marcus, an event rider who bought a horse last year, says, "Bidding starts in the mid-twenties and goes up from there. You never know what a horse is going to go for, but maybe \$80,000 for the top horse."

During the Showcase Reception on Friday evening, a quadrille performance will feature six Lusitano Collection horses sold between 2005 and 2009, as well as two 2010 Collection horses. Also that evening: A rose-gold plateau ring, donated by designer Vhernier, will be auctioned. Proceeds will benefit the Equestrian Aid Foundation, which assists those in the horse community who experience a catastrophic injury or illness.

The highlight of the event — the Horse Auction and Catered Dinner — occurs Saturday evening, with dining catered by Christafaro's. Entertainment will be provided by female samba dancers as well as The Rhythm Beaters, drummers who create a pulsating beat.

For tickets or information, visit www.lusitanocollection.com or call (877) 546-7393

— J.D. Vivian

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