



# The Lusitano Collection™



## The Lusitano Aficionado

Vol. II

The 2011 Collection horses have been selected  
and are now online-Click [here!](#)

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### 2011 LUSITANO COLLECTION™ EVENT PROGRAM: February 23-26th, 2011

**Horse Tryouts:** February 23-24, 2011

**Showcase &  
Cocktail Reception:** February 25, 2011

**Dinner & Auction:** February 26, 2011

[Register Now!](#)

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT



*Heather Bender, Martina Brandes and the Interagro Team during the 2011 Collection horse selection process at Interagro Farm in Brazil.*

### A Sneak Preview of the Selection Process Going On In Brazil

Heather Bender, the United States trainer for Interagro Lusitanos, recently returned from Brazil with exciting news about the horses that will be featured in the 2011 Lusitano Collection™ International Horse Auction. "This year we will have the tallest group of horses we've ever had, several close to 17 hands," Bender said. Tall horses aren't the only good news for fans of Lusitanos who will be attending the auction. According to Bender, the 2011 auction will feature the most balanced group of horses the auction has ever seen, including mares, geldings and stallions.

Many of the horses are already schooling well under saddle and some have show records. "We have a fantastic mare, Capoeira Interagro. She is smart, brave, and very grounded. She is already going well under saddle and has a great work ethic," Bender said.

"We will also offer a top stallion, Xerxes Interagro, who has a fantastic temperament and was last month's feature stallion. He is a light horse, sensitive enough for a quiet rider, and could also be the right horse for riders at many different levels."

Other stallions that will be presented at the auction include Astyages Interagro, from the classic Veiga bloodline. "He is unbelievable, with amazing gaits and he already has a show record. He will be the horse that will be sought after by many FEI riders looking for a top horse. Astyages would also be a great breeding stallion," she said.

Atiochus Interagro, a Viega gelding, will also make bidders sit up and take notice during the auction. "He is extremely beautiful, elegant and unbelievably calm and grounded. Atiochus has all the great Viega qualities such as athleticism, balance, and forward, elastic gaits. He is sure to be an amazing horse for some lucky buyer."

Bender travels to Interagro every two months to work with the Brazilian trainers and prepare the selection of top quality Lusitanos for the 2011 auction. "We are really working on balancing the selection of horses that will be presented this year, from amateur horses to Grand Prix prospects, geldings and mares to breeding stallions. The 2011 auction is shaping up to be amazing."

### NEWS BITS

#### **Pia Aragrao**

The Lusitano Collection team is pleased to announce that Brazilian Dressage Champion **Pia Aragrao**, Interagro Farm's head trainer, will spend January and February of 2011 in Wellington, Florida. Pia will have the opportunity to compete Lusitanos from Interagro on the prestigious South Florida dressage circuit. Pia is looking forward to training and competing in **Wellington**, and is

### THE MANE LINE

## *Astyages Interagro* 2011 Collection

eager to prepare the horses for the **2011 Lusitano Collection™ International Horse Auction**. Learn more about Pia Aragao at the following link: [Interagro Farm's Head Trainer: Pia Aragao](#)

**The Lusitano Collection™ Sponsors High Score Lusitano Award at Florida Winter Dressage Shows**

Lusitano horses competing at the prestigious **Gold Coast Dressage Association** and **Wellington Classic Dressage** shows during the winter circuit in South Florida now have the opportunity to take home more than just ribbons. The Lusitano Collection™ is sponsoring the **High Score Lusitano Award** that will be presented to the highest scoring Lusitano at select dressage shows. This is great news for the many Lusitanos who compete on the Florida winter dressage circuit, and this new award will give both amateurs and professionals a chance to earn recognition for their Lusitanos as fantastic dressage horses. The Lusitano Collection™ will present the High Score Lusitano Award at a variety of Gold Coast Dressage Association (GCDA) shows and Wellington Classic Dressage (WCD) shows, including: the **WCD Autumn Challenge, October 23-24, 2010**; the **GCDA Fall Fling, November 13-14, 2010**; the **WCD Holiday Challenge, December 11-12, 2010**; the **GCDA Opener CDI, January 21-23, 2011**; and the **WCD Spring Challenge CDI, February 10-13, 2011**.

They will also present a **GCDA Year End Lusitano High Score Award**.

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*Astyages Interagro under saddle at Interagro Farms in Brazil.*



*Photographs courtesy of Tupa*

**Astyages Interagro** – 2011 Collection Introducing Astyages Interagro, one of the 2011 Lusitano Collection™ International Horse Auction headliners. This amazing Grand Prix prospect stallion is a top mover and will make a fabulous mount for a dressage rider looking to reach the advanced levels of competition. Astyages Interagro is a six-year-old with a successful show record. He has three phenomenal gaits and is a solid second level horse schooling most of the third level movements. “Astyages is 100 percent from the Viega line, which breeds for hot, beautiful bull fighting horses that are brave and fantastic movers, which translates well into the dressage field,” said Heather Bender, Director of USA Training for Interagro.

**[Astyages Interagro](#)**

<a href="#">Ofensor (MV)</a>	<a href="#">Danúbio III (MV)</a>	Zimbro II (MV)
<a href="#">Miga (MAC)</a>	<a href="#">Tricana II (MV)</a>	Oferta (MV)
	<a href="#">Hábil (MV)</a>	Lidador II (MV)
	<a href="#">Castiça (MAC)</a>	Medronha III (MV)
		Dardo II (MV)
		Canela (MV)
		Quimono (AA)
		Traquina(MAC)

**MAKING STRIDES**

**Meet Gary Lane and his Interagro Lusitanos**



*Gary Lane working with Alvarhino Interagro under saddle in preparation for competitions later this season.*

At the 2010 Lusitano Collection™ International Horse Auction, trainer and rider Gary Lane, of The Country Club Stables in Village of Golf, Florida, took home two Interagro stallions for farm owner Carlene Blunt. “Lusitanos are intelligent and sensitive and they have an amazing work ethic,” Lane said. “I train my own horses but my coach is Jan Brons who I have ridden with for the past five years. I have also ridden my Lusitanos in clinics with Betsy Steiner and both trainers have been very supportive and impressed with the movement and trainability of my horses.”

“Borodin Interagro is a beautiful five-year-old grey stallion. He has three lovely gaits, possesses a quick and active hind leg, and has very good suspension. He is extremely bright and willing. Because of his athletic ability and desire to please and learn, my coach Jan has compared him to one of his personal favorites, Tornado, a KWPN gelding he trained to Grand Prix. We expect to start showing Bodie this season.”

Gary said they also purchased Alvarhino Interagro, the highly sought after “Isabel” of the 2010 Collection. “He is a stunning six-year-old stallion that will make an appearance in competitions later this season. Alvarhino is a wonderful all-around horse, and perhaps my favorite. Speaking as a professional, he has a very good walk and super canter. The trot is good, and we will develop it further yet. He has an amazing aptitude for movements in the canter. He already shows a clear piaffe, and the ability to extend in the trot is there as well but needs some more time to

strengthen, as he is still quite young. On a personal note, this horse does everything I want. He is as hot as I need without the hysteria that often accompanies that heat. I can also put him on the buckle and take him out on the trail without the slightest concern. In the barn he is so sweet and personable. If I could reproduce a horse...this would be it. I'd have one in every color!”

Gary said he is eagerly awaiting the 2011 Lusitano Collection™ International Horse Auction. “I look forward to everything the evening has to offer -- the horses, the food and the entertainment. The hosts do an incredible job and it's a fun time to be had by all!”

**TRAINING TIP**



**Try Collection Over Forward**

by Timothy Mellot

If many of you have ridden Warmbloods most of your life, then you are familiar with the mantra, “When all else fails just push the horse forward.” I can picture an instructor in the middle of the ring screaming at the top of their lungs, usually in my direction. “more forward, MORE FORWARD.” While this mantra does have merit and applies in general to 95 percent of all Warmbloods out there, I do not think it applies as widespread to the Lusitano. Sometimes going more forward is NOT the answer. Warmbloods generally need to move more forward to get the activity in the gaits to allow for collection or



*Trainer Timothy Mellott specializes in training Lusitanos. His farm, **Timothy Mellott Dressage**, is located in **Wellington, Florida** during the winter and **Coatesville, Pennsylvania** the rest of the year.*

extension. It is my experience that most Lusitanos are already active, sometimes over active. Their natural gait is much more active and collected already than most Warmbloods. Since Lusitanos are more comfortable in their natural collected place, use that to your advantage and allow them to remain there. Use this place of comfort to open them up to training and learning. Then, when you have made your point and they are relaxed, gradually ask them to move more forward. Think about allowing them to move into a more forward gait rather than pushing them into a more forward gait and then bringing them back into collection. So if you find yourself struggling with teaching a movement or executing a transition, take a deep breath and over collect your Lusitano before trying the exercise again. Over collect, supple and allow the forward.

*Thanks to Timothy's expertise with Lusitanos, The Lusitano Collection™ team is thrilled to welcome Timothy's training advice.*