



EQUESTRIAN SPORT PRODUCTIONS HOLDS OPENING CONFERENCE

for 2019 Winter Equestrian Festival and Adequan® Global Dressage Festival



Ann Caroline Valtin, Tinne Vilhelmson Silfven, Michael Stone, Mark Bellissimo, Adrienne Sternlicht, Liza Boyd, and Margie Engle at the WEF/AGDF opening press conference. ©Sportfot

Equestrian Sport Productions (ESP) once again hosted its annual opening press conference on Tuesday, January 8, at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) to welcome exhibitors and media to the 2019 show season. The conference panel comprised representatives from both the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) and the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF).

WEF will be returning for its 40th season and will run for 12 consecutive weeks spanning from January 9 until March 31 and will offer elite hunter, jumper, and equitation competition. Top national and international dressage riders will return to AGDF for competition beginning January 10 until March 31.

Speakers included ESP CEO Mark Bellissimo, ESP's President Michael Stone, Olympian Margie Engle, three-time USHJA International Hunter Derby Championship winner Liza Boyd, 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games Show Jumping Team Gold medalist Adrienne Sternlicht, seven-time Swedish Olympic dressage competitor Tinne Vilhelmson Silfven, and Anne Caroline Valtin, Executive Director of the Great Charity Challenge, presented by Fidelity Investments®.

"I would like to say thank you to the athletes who are attending today. Without these athletes this wouldn't be a world-class venue and event, so thank you to the esteemed group," Bellissimo began. "This will be the 40th year of WEF and it is now the world's largest festival centered around show jumping, dressage,

and polo, so I think equestrianism in Wellington is alive and well and we are very excited about the future."

A fan favorite, the \$75,000 Battle of the Sexes will return as the first "Saturday Night Lights" of the 2019 season on Saturday, January 12. The multi-phase event, presented by Wellington Regional Medical Center, has provided a night of excitement and rivalry for many seasons. This year's event is sure to be well-attended after the men's team scored their first victory in Battle of the Sexes history in 2018.

During Week 4 of WEF, the Great Charity Challenge, presented by Fidelity Investments® will return for its tenth season. The event groups amateur and professional riders into teams with elaborate costume themes and has repeatedly engaged a large crowd. The event has raised over \$12.2 million to date and benefited more than 230 nonprofit organizations. "I'm very lucky I get to go to these non-profits and see the impact it has had on the community," stated Valtin. "This year we've already exceeded our target of distributing another \$1 million and we are still four weeks out."

The 2019 season will also offer an unprecedented amount of FEI events including four CSI 5* grand prix events during weeks 5, 7, 9 and featuring the \$500,000 Rolex Grand Prix CSI5* on week 12.

Margie Engle, one of the USA's top riders and a local Wellington resident, is looking forward to being able to compete at the international level in her hometown.

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WELCOME TO THE

2019 ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL



©SusanStickle.com

Welcome to the 2019 season of the Winter Equestrian Festival – we enthusiastically welcome back our exhibitors, their families, our loyal spectators, and our generous sponsors as we debut another 12 weeks of the world's top show jumping and equestrian competition.

Our mission to grow equestrian sport continues to deliver positive results and it is thanks to your support of our organization and your passion for the horse. For example, a 2017 study by the American Horse Council revealed that the U.S. equine industry is responsible for \$122 billion in economic impact across the country and 1.7 million jobs. Likewise, a 2018 study by the Palm Beach County Sports Commission during WEF showed that 94.3% of people surveyed reported the Winter Equestrian Festival as the main reason for their visit to Palm Beach. Our 2018 WEF season saw 42 countries represented and we look forward to welcoming even more riders from around the world in 2019.

We look forward to an incredible 2019 season and to showcasing new opportunities for competitors and spectators alike thanks to the dedication and ongoing support of our sponsors. The 2019 edition of WEF will once again feature many of the seasonal highlights that make these 12 weeks some of the best in the world. The \$75,000 Battle of the Sexes presented by Wellington Regional Medical Center will kick off competition on Saturday, January 12,

before we welcome one of our favorite evenings just a few weeks later. The Great Charity Challenge presented by Fidelity Investments® will take place this year on Saturday, February 2. With riders dressed up in costumes and horses adorned to match them, this year's theme of "We Are the World" will focus on promoting unity and celebrate the cultural differences in our community. Our four CSI 5* competitions each season will showcase the best of the best in our sport and are always the pinnacle of top competition during the circuit.

We are look forward to the return of the \$150,000 FEI Nations Cup on March 2, which is always a crowd favorite featuring enthusiastic international rivalry between teams and spectators. Several grass classes will be held again on the Derby Field this season, which riders also enjoy, and our young riders can experience the return of the popular Hermès U-25 Series.


Our season will conclude with the \$500,000 Rolex Grand Prix CSI 5* on Saturday, March 30, the most prestigious of classes hosted during the season.

Again, thank you for your continued support of WEF and your love of equestrian sport. We wish all our competitors this season the best of luck!


Sincerely,

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For more information, please visit
www.adequan.com.

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PBIEC WEEK 1&2 UPCOMING EVENTS

ANN ROMNEY LUNCH AND LEARN

The Ann Romney Center for Neurologic Diseases invites you to join Ann Romney and world-renowned medical experts from Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston for a lively discussion about innovations in neurologic disease research and tips about how to maintain a healthy brain. The luncheon will be from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. on Friday, January 11, at The Wellington Club.

ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL "FRIDAY NIGHT STARS"

AGDF's "Friday Night Stars" Series returns in 2019, showcasing some of the world's best dressage riders as they perform freestyles at the top level of competition. The first week of CDI-W competition will feature FEI World Cup qualifying grand prix musical freestyle competition presented by Wellington Agricultural Services on Friday, January 11. Held at Equestrian Village at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center, gates open at 6 p.m. and competition begins at 7 p.m. General admission is free, parking is \$10 per car, and valet is available for \$20.

\$75,000 BATTLE OF THE SEXES, PRESENTED BY WELLINGTON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Watch the men compete against the women in the first "Saturday Night Lights" event of the circuit on Saturday, January 12, at 7 p.m. The women won the first eight years in a row, but the men captured their first standalone win in 2018. Wear pink or blue to show your support for your team of choice! In addition to show jumping, there will be live entertainment from the band Wonderama. Gates open at 6 p.m. General admission is free, parking is \$20 per car, and valet is available for \$30.

THE VEUVE CLICQUOT SUITES - AVAILABLE SATURDAY NIGHT!

Located in the Special Events Pavilion, The Veuve Clicquot Suites are first available on Saturday, January 12, and on select Saturday Night Lights events throughout WEF. Prime viewing, a full buffet, and premium bar options in a semi-private suite catered by White Horse Catering, this is the place to host friends and family or even a corporate get-together. Each suite accommodates up to 22 people. Availability is on first-come, first-served basis, so book now before they all fill up! Contact Patti Miele at 561-784-1125 or pmiele@equestriansport.com today.

\$75,000 ROSENBAUM PLLC GRAND PRIX

Watch some of show jumping's best horses and riders compete in the first grand prix of the 2018 WEF circuit. Competition begins at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 13, in the International Arena at PBIEC.

COMING UP IN WEEK 2!

Friends of Orphans Competition and Event

Join riders from the Chateaublond Equestrian Center in Haiti for a luncheon and silent auction to benefit Chateaublond Equestrian Center in Haiti therapy program, which is dedicated to children with special needs, on Sunday, January 20, at 11 a.m. Contact Romy Tschudi for information and ticket purchase at 954-643-8678.

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Janne Rumbough
Qualified Stallion
Gauchito III




Photo by Topbarian

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The Bellissimo Family & Wellington Equestrian Partners cordially invite you to the most entertaining community celebration in Wellington during the 2019 season!

The Great Charity Challenge presented by Fidelity Investments® has raised more than \$12.2 million for over 230 Palm Beach County charities since its inception in 2010.



**GREAT CHARITY
CHALLENGE**
Presented by **Fidelity**

We are the World

Saturday, February 2, 2019
Gates open at 6 PM • Competition begins at 6:30 PM

Join us as we celebrate unity at Palm Beach International Equestrian Center with an array of Palm Beach County charities competing for more than \$1 million in prize money.

Featuring
Carousel • On-Site Dining Options • Family Fun Activities
Petting Zoo • Wellington School Art Activities

For event, sponsorship and ticketing options, please contact
Anne Caroline Valtin at (727) 678-8677 or acv@greatcharitychallenge.com

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For more information please contact
Romy Tschudi at 954.643.8678.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS EQUESTRIAN EVENT
Saturday, January 19, 2018 at 8am
Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center

Join us as we support the children of Chateaublond Equestrian Center in the Special Olympics Equestrian Event.
Entry is complimentary.



Darlene and Christopher competing in Abu Dhabi March 2019!







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2019

20 GOAL Herbie Pennell Cup - 20 Goal December 30, 2018	C.V. Whitney Cup - 22 Goal February 13 - 24, 2019	February 24 - March 24, 2019
Joe Barry Cup - 20 Goal January 3 - 13, 2019	Butler Handicap - 22 Goal February 17, 2019	Gay Polo League™ Tournament April 4 - 7, 2019
Yvisaker Cup - 20 Goal January 11 - February 10, 2019	U.S. Women's Open Final March 23, 2019	U.S. Open Polo Championship™ 22 Goal March 27 - April 20-21, 2019
The Lucchese 40 Goal Challenge February 16, 2019	USPA Gold Cup® - 22 Goal	

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Join Ann Romney and world-renowned medical experts from Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston for a lively discussion about innovations in neurologic disease research and tips about how to maintain a healthy brain.

Friday, January 11, 2019
11:30 am-1:00 pm

Palm Beach International Equestrian Center
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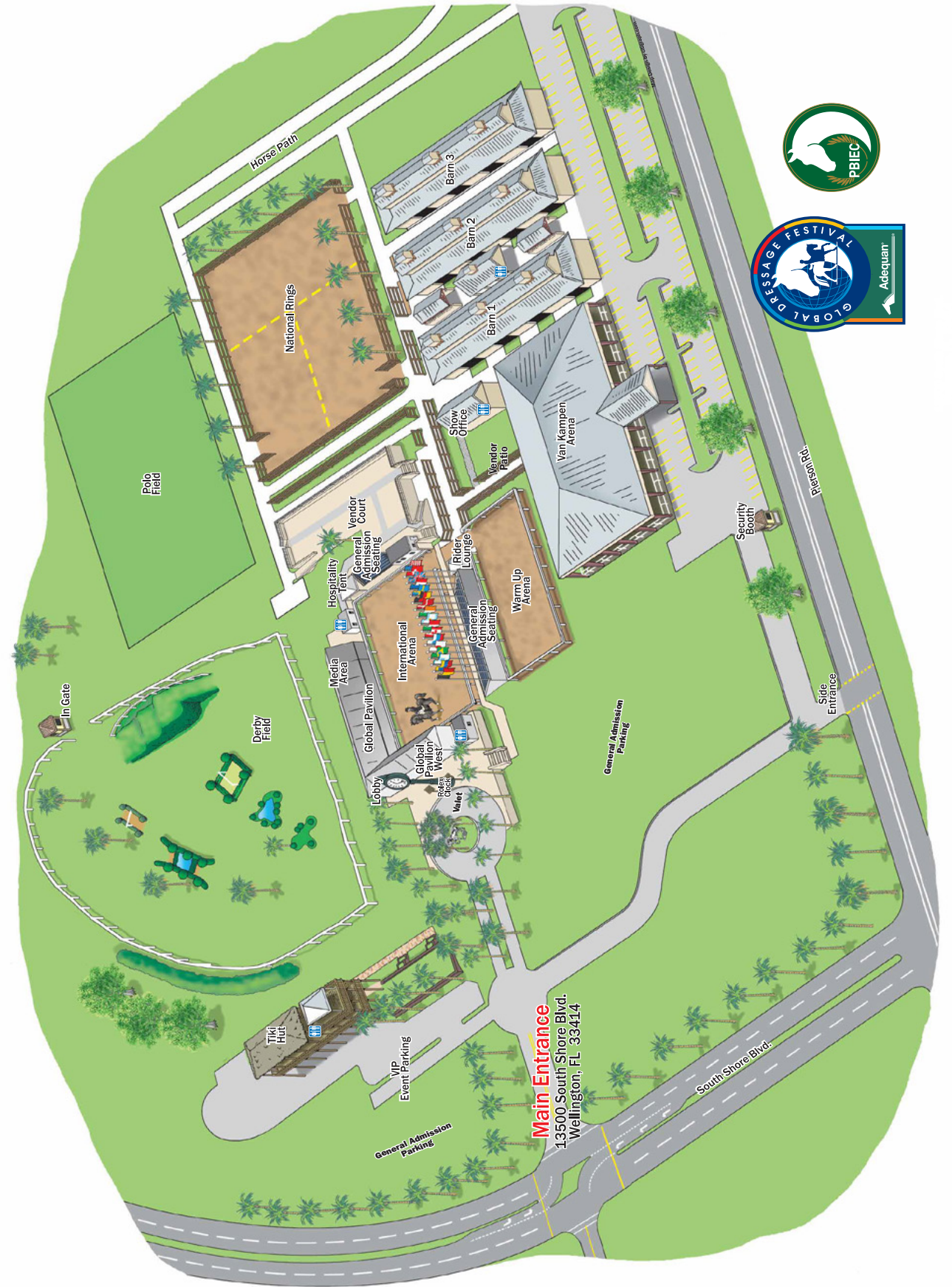
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EQUESTRIAN VILLAGE
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- Helgstrand
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- Richard's Equine Video
- Saddlefit By Diane
- Show Chic
- Sport Innovations
- Stacy & Molly
- Susan J. Stickle Photography
- The Horse of Course
- Wellington Agricultural

ARTIST PROFILE
LIZ CHOMICKI



Liz Chomicki is a first generation Canadian equestrian and has been involved with horses for over 17 years. She graduated from the respected Etobicoke Schools of Arts in Toronto, ON, where she honed her skills with countless equine studies. After pursuing other interests, Liz began transitioning into a traditional painter out to portray the horse and rider in 2016. She can now be found travelling throughout Canada and the US to capture her own scenic compositions and the stories they tell. Her goal as an artist is to bring together light, color and the composition in harmony with the horse. For her first juried exhibition submission, she was accepted by the well established American Academy of Equine Art out of Lexington, KY, exhibiting in Tryon, NC, during The World Equestrian Games in 2018. Currently she resides Hamilton, ON, Canada, and proudly offers a complete and individually tailored service for commissioned works. For more information, please visit www.LizChomicki.com.

PRESS CONFERENCE Continued from Page 1

"It's amazing to even have five-star events here in Wellington and it brings the best riders and competition from all over the world," Engle stated. "We never had that until just a few years ago, and as someone who's grown up here, it's amazing to see what it has grown into; the level of competition here is as good as anywhere in the world."

Bellissimo noted, "The five star weeks here are obviously the by-product of a great sponsorship portfolio and we've had a fantastic portfolio led by Rolex, who has been a tremendous sponsor for us for the past five years and will continue to do so. That is how we can get a lot of great energy around the prize money and the five-star status, so we are very grateful to them and very thankful for the strong sponsorship portfolio we have at WEF."

During the five-star weeks, exhibitors will also have the ability to compete in concurrent 2* classes which allows for both horses and riders of different levels to contest international competition.

"I'll be using this winter to build my string, taking some pressure off Crystalline," said Sternlicht of her WEG partner. "I have a new mare who will probably act as my top horse for the winter. Her name is

Just A Gamble and I haven't shown her yet, so tomorrow we'll be making our debut. I hope to be jumping a lot of classes and Saturday night grand prix classes and getting used to these new horses."

With three USHJA International Hunter Derbies, three USHJA National Hunter Derbies, nine weeks of USHJA incentive programs for the 3'-3'9" Green Hunters, a pony hunter derby, and 12 weeks of Hunter Classics for the Small, Medium, and Large pony divisions, the circuit will also offer divisions for every level of hunter horse or pony. "There is so much great exposure for young riders and young horses at the top of the sport this year and we are so excited," commented Boyd. "I have two derby horses that I did well with last year that are both here, and a couple of young horses. But I am most excited to have some green ponies for my daughter to compete."

Guided by Bellissimo and President Michael Stone, WEF's 40th season looks to continue to improve on its previous successes. "We're not going to stand still. I think the way you improve is by analyzing every year what was good, what was bad, what we need to improve on," said Stone. "You need to be innovative and look at ways of making more interesting competitions and things

to make it the equestrian lifestyle destination of the world."

ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL BEGINS ON THURSDAY

The festival's long-running sponsor, Adequan®, is pleased to be returning as the title sponsor of the Global Dressage Festival for their seventh consecutive season.

"We are honored once again to return as the title sponsor of the 2019 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival," stated Allyn Mann, Director of Strategic Partnerships for Adequan®. "Throughout the inception of this venue, the dressage community has benefited immensely and it has changed the dynamics for dressage in the U.S. Our company is changing in some aspects as we have a new name, American Regent Animal Health, previously known as Luitpold Animal Health. Although the name has changed, our commitment to supporting the equestrian community is as strong as ever.

"We look forward to continuous support of AGDF, WEF, and many other venues and associations.

Thank you for all your support of our mainstay brand, Adequan® (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan). Good luck to all owners, riders and their horses for a successful season."

Seven-time Swedish Olympian Tinne Vilhelmsen Silfven has attended AGDF since its early beginnings and is pleased with how the show has cultivated dressage talent in the U.S.

"This is my ninth year competing here and I would say the competition has gone from zero to a very high degree of skill from other contenders, so it has changed tremendously," Silfven said. "Since I live far away from here, I think it's such a great way to prepare my horses for the season and keep them in great shape."

The team at Equestrian Sport Productions looks forward to welcoming the best in equestrian sport to both the 2019 Winter Equestrian Festival and 2019 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival. For more information and a full schedule of events, please visit www.PBIEC.com and www.GlobalDressageFestival.com.

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2019 AGDF WEEKLY SCHEDULE

January 9-13: AGDF 1

Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W, presented by Wellington Agricultural Services
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 3*, presented by MTICA Farm
Small Tour CDI 3* presented by Triple Crown Nutrition
Small Tour CDI 1*
Schedule includes National Show

January 17-20: AGDF 2

Para-Equestrian CPEDI 3*, presented by Mission Control, Adequan®, Nutrena, and Fair Sky Farm

January 23-27: AGDF 3

Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W, presented by U.S. P.R.E. Association
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 3*
Small Tour CDI 3*, presented by Horseware Ireland
Small Tour CDI 1*
Schedule includes National Show

February 6-10: AGDF 5

Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 5*, presented by CaptiveOne Advisors
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 5*, presented by Palm Beach Equine Clinic
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 3*, presented by Wellington Equestrian Realty
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 3*
Small Tour CDI 3*, presented by Fair Sky Farm
Small Tour CDI 1*
Schedule includes National Show

February 15-16: AGDF 6

National Show

February 20-24: AGDF 7

Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W, presented by Helgstrand Dressage
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 3*, presented by Fair Sky Farm
Small Tour CDI 3*, presented by Wellington Regional Medical Center
Small Tour CDI 1*
Schedule includes National Show

February 27-March 3: AGDF 8

Palm Beach Dressage Derby - Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W, presented by Havensafe Farm
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 3*, presented by Peacock Ridge
Small Tour CDI 3*, presented by ProElite®
Small Tour CDI 1*
Schedule includes National Show

March 7-10: AGDF 9

Para-Equestrian CPEDI 3*, presented by Mission Control, Adequan®, Nutrena, and Fair Sky Farm
Schedule includes National Show

March 13-17: AGDF 10

Stillpoint Farm FEI Nations Cup CDIO 3*
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 3*, presented by Harmony Sporthorses
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 3*
Small Tour CDI 3*, presented by Yellow Bird Farm
Small Tour CDI 1*, presented by The Dutta Corp
CDIO U25, presented by Diamante Farms
Schedule includes National Show and Florida International Dressage Youth Championships

March 23-24: AGDF 11 National Show

March 26-31: AGDF 12

Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 4*, presented by Douglas Elliman
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 4*, presented by Mission Control
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 3*
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 3*, presented by the Kundrun Family
Small Tour CDI 3*
Small Tour CDI 1*
Schedule includes National Show

**Tentative schedule, subject to change.