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## e-Centaur October 2018

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OCT 13-14[NCDA FALL FESTIVAL &  
RIDE-A-TEST](#)  
OCT 14[BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
MEETING](#)  
NOV 3[RMDS AWARDS BANQUET](#)  
JAN 5[RMDS JUDGES 'L' GRAD &  
PROFESSIONALS CE](#)  
JAN 12-13[TD SHOW MGMT CE](#)  
FEB 9

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is here. The trees are changing and we are finding the days are shorter. As we enjoy the cooler weather and riding our horses with their thicker coats, we plan our time around extra grooming and blanketing. With winter around the corner we put up hay in our barns, check our water heaters, and plan for the snow.

For most of us the show season is over. RMDS Championships have passed, but a few shows will run in October and USDF Nationals are in November. Some riders and horses take a break from training to just hack, trail ride or go on the Hunt. Others plan the training schedule that will get them to the next level in 2019.

Fall is a time of reflection as the year comes to an end. Some of you are celebrating success and goals reached. For a few it means we can work on indoor projects. For those who love the holidays it is your time to shine with decorations and parties. I hope as we view the changing colors that all of our members can find peace and happiness with their families and horses.

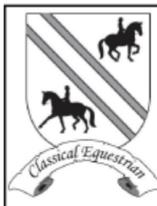
RMDS Board members are preparing for our **Board of Governors Meeting** in November. We hope to add some new members to the Board so check out the openings or join up as a committee member assisting an existing Chairperson. More people means we have more ideas and helping hands which equals success for RMDS events and programs.

Plan to join us at the Board Meeting either as a Delegate for your Chapter or as a member so you can learn about the organization and what we try to do for you. I am looking forward to meeting more of our members so I can help you on your journey with your horses in dressage.

*Aloha, Gwen Ka'awaloa*

**DEADLINE FOR SCORE CHECK!  
OCTOBER 10 IS YOUR LAST DATE TO CHANGE ANY SCORES OR  
MEMBERSHIP DATA.**

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**OMNIBUS ADS OPEN OCTOBER 10!  
FIRST PAID GETS FIRST PLACEMENT OF CHOICE**

### CRITICAL CHECKLIST FOR RMDS MEMBERS!

- **4 volunteer hours needed for year-end awards (Get 2 hours credit for contributing to the Centaur!)**
- **8 volunteer hours needed for scholarship application (Get 2 hours credit for contributing to the Centaur!)**
- **Do your [score checks](#)**
- **Adult amateurs MUST have AA card on file at [RMDS Central Office](#)**

### TIME FOR A HOLIDAY?

by Frances Carbonnel



Have you ever asked yourself "What is my ideal equestrian holiday?"

Chances are that you have, but may also have been a bit intimidated by the subject. Especially if your interests fall out of the usual commercial equestrian tours that consist mainly of a week's trail ride in some exotic location. (Mongolia? Iceland? A working ranch in Montana?)

To be sure some of those tours are very enjoyable, but I suspect the thought of riding for hours and hours in a strange saddle, on an even more unfamiliar steed makes your joints ache and your courage waiver. And while roughing it may appeal to some, at my age I really like

some creature comforts at the end of the day, like a hot shower, a clean bed and a good meal. (Preferably with wine.)

### Watch the slide show!

Or, yes, you can spend a week at a Riding Academy/Resort taking two lessons per day on decent schoolmasters, hanging out at the pool, and maybe taking a side trip or two, but you miss out on the local sights and the unique cultural perspective that is such a satisfying part of international travel.



Besides, isn't part of a vacation the opportunity to immerse oneself in the culture of the country, the making of new friends, the soul connection with the horses, and maybe even the acquiring of new equestrian knowledge gleaned from a locally revered horseman or woman?

So, how do you find that unique combination of all of the above, plus enough adventure to spice things up, but not so much as to be out of your comfort zone?

Now, if you are not an experienced world traveler, finding the people who can make your dream come true can be pretty tough, and you must rely at some point on the experiences of friends. Even if you are intrepid, fearless and love the unexpected, acquiring the necessary contacts is very time consuming and can be expensive. (Picture just deciding to go somewhere and hopping a plane, then "figuring it out" when you get there! Not your bag? I didn't think so.)

Most of us want the following things from our experience:

-A well organized package that eliminates things like having to rent a car and drive in an unfamiliar location, struggle with a different currency, or wondering if we can understand enough of the local language to get around. (These things are stressful at best, and can be very time consuming. A good tour organizer has these details well in hand and your guide/driver can be a priceless trove of knowledge and history, while smoothing the rough patches.)

-An easy payment plan that includes all taxes and transfers.

-Decent, comfortable, clean accommodations, and good food that is different enough from our usual to be intriguing.

-Travel companions (a dozen or less) that share our equestrian passions and our eagerness for novel experiences, but who also hail from different countries or walks of life, so that getting to know them is enriching and fascinating. Few enough to enjoy their company and to not feel like you are being herded around.

-Outstanding equestrian learning experiences on high quality horses, from qualified, experienced teachers in a beautiful, clean, courteous, and iconic setting. Enough to leave us wishing for more, but not so much as to leave us exhausted, saddle sore and mentally worn out.

-A visit to a local exhibition, such as a National Breed Fair, Stallion Selection, Auction, or Competition, or even an exhibition of that country's classical equestrian traditions.

-Great shopping! (tack, clothing, souvenirs, you name it!)

-A bit of free time to savor, meditate and refresh your soul.

-Chances to visit and explore local sights, such as castles, churches, natural wonders, vineyards, olive groves, etc... If you get to know the "lay of the land" a bit, you will go home with a sense of history and intimacy for that country that will warm your memories.

-A surprise or two along the way to delight and enchant. Perhaps a private visit to a famous artist or saddler, or a well-known breeder, with a personalized tour of the property, or the sights of Lisbon or Sintra, or... Whatever it is, it will be listed on the schedule as a SURPRISE!

This kind of premium vacation package is very unique, designed with a desire to Help you reach back into your subconscious dreams, and experience something magical, yet very real.

Lusitano World's Equestrian Holiday packages begin with Golega, November 2018, and continue in 2019 with other exquisite adventures attuned to the rhythm of the Portuguese seasons and the grand annual equestrian traditions. Each will be different and designed to give you an in-depth view into a particular region as you explore the special relationship of the Portuguese people to the Lusitano Horse.

Sound enticing? Why don't you come join us? You won't want to come home!

Frances Carbonnel of Classical Legacy has been awarded the USDF Gold, Silver and Bronze medals, and several Championships at the World Western Dressage competitions. She trains at Mariah Farms in Castle Rock. Contact her at [classicallegacy@aol.com](mailto:classicallegacy@aol.com) for information.



# THE COLORADO HORSE PARK

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