

MOROCCO ROYAL TOUR 2019

FIVE CONTINENTS MEET TO PRESENT TOP SPORT

By Menna Loutfy



OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR MARKS ONE OF THE EQUESTRIAN HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR; WITH THE MOROCCO ROYAL TOUR'S JOURNEY ACROSS THREE AMAZING MOROCCAN CITIES AND THIS YEAR'S CHERRY ON-TOP WAS THE OLYMPIC QUALIFIER IN RABAT .

TETOUAN

Olivier Perreau wins the 4*-W Grand Prix of Tetouan

The first weekend of the Moroccan circuit took place in the facilities of the **Royal Guard of Tetouan**. The exciting Grand Prix designed by Italy's renowned **Uliano Vezzani** ended with triumph for the **French rider Olivier Perreau**

Sixty-eight riders were on the startlist of this challenging 1.60m **CS14*-W Grand Prix** on this sunny afternoon in the beautiful day.

Two rounds whose time was among the challenges at the beginning of the race that made only seventeen pairs qualify for the second round. Unlike the major class of the previous day, the scores had not been reset, so the twelve competitors that completed a perfect initial course fought to win this **Grand Prix SAR le Prince Héritier Moulay El Hassan**.

The first double clear was by Brazil's Felipe Amaral, riding Premiere Carthoes BZ, with a very good time of 49.08 seconds, putting pressure on the rest of the riders. But that was without counting on the French team, who managed to qualify its five representatives in this round against the clock. But Olivier Perreau claimed the gold without touching any fences by setting the record time of **45.15 seconds**.

"This is the second year I've been to the Morocco Royal Tour, and I'm delighted to be back. The program is great, everything is well thought out for horses and riders alike. The course designer is really good. He built a technical and faulty course for us, but one without putting the horses in the red. I saw that Emeric was going very fast when I was waiting at the door, so I tried to do the maximum without pushing my mare too hard and by staying calm, because sometimes I take a little too much risk and make a mistake (laughs). My mare is fast, and I can trust her. She always wants to do the right thing." said Olivier.

The first stop of the Royal tour ended with amazing moments and the following Thursday riders travelled to Rabat for A CSIO4* as well as the Nations cup that was also the **Olympic Qualifier** which everyone waited for eagerly!

All photos by RB Presse/Solenn Respail





RABAT

Prix SAR Princess Lalla Amina

Gold for Brazil's Bernardo Alves

The Prix SAR Princess Lalla Amina, second stage of the Grand Prix of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, was the most important individual competition of this CSIO of Rabat. The class was comprised of two rounds. Sixty-six riders were at the start, seventeen only qualified for the second round on the course that was designed by Ireland's course designer Alan Wade.

This event was particularly international with the five continents represented .. Olympic New Zealander Bruce Goodin, who, riding his Dutch gelding Backatorps Danny V, was the first to set the tone for a second round that had a tendency to purr. Nobody seemed to dare to take the risk of winning. Former Mark Todd's team-mate (at the time when the late also shone at the Olympic level in jumping) was the first to play the game completely by signing a time of 41"84. The answer of Bernardo Alves and his gray stallion, the Belgian El Torreo de Muze, did not wait long, clearly improving the New Zealand time of 1 "37. The Saudi Abdullah Alsharbatly (on Larry 210), reputed not to drag along the way when he rides a jump-off, has tried to tackle the clock of the Brazilian: in vain, he missed him 45 hundredths!

"It is a return that I particularly enjoy; it is true that I was a time long out of the circuit. El Torreo de Muze is currently my only horse; it belongs to Joris de Brabander who is a true friend. Now, I hope to find new sponsors who trust me, maybe here in Morocco. In any case, this circuit is really wonderful". _Bernardo Alves

THE NATIONS CUP OF RABAT

A DOUBLE VICTORY FOR EGYPT

It was a fantastic performance by the **Egyptian team** which has **not only qualified for the Olympic games of Tokyo 2020 but also won the Nations Cup of Rabat** after a super exciting competition with 14 teams including strong ones such as Switzerland who held the nations cup title for the two past editions of the Tour.

The team comprised of **Nayel Nassar** riding Lucifer V, **Abdel Said** riding Venice Reverdy, **Sameh El-Dahan** on Suma's Zorro and **Mohamed Taher Zeyada** with Vizalaty. All four riders came from all over the world to ride the Nations cup to represent their country Egypt. And indeed it was the perfect presentation!

All these riders came from all over the world, Europe (Ireland and Belgium), United States and Egypt, and, as explained by the Head of the Egyptian Equestrian Federation who arrived to Morocco for the Nations cup, **Engineer Hesham Hatab** *"This is the first time we could gather together these four riders, all extremely motivated by the perspective of this Olympic qualification. It's been sixty years since Egypt was last qualified for the Games; none of these riders was even born! This is a great moment for our country and we will receive all the necessary support from the nation to go to Tokyo in the best possible conditions of preparation. "*

"It's the victory of a team in the broadest sense," _ Sameh El Dahan. *"Behind us four, there is a whole staff, grooms, veterinarians, technicians, but also families and supporters; it's really a great moment for all of us "*

All photos by RB Presse/ Jessica Rodrigues



EL-JADIDA

Grand Prix SA Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI

An Italian Triumph!

The Morocco Royal Tour ended with a **double Italian triumph** in the Grand Prix of His Majesty Mohammed VI. **Roberto Turchetto** exceeded “veteran” of Natale Chiaudani after a tough battle.

The stadium was filled with enthusiastic audiences who have the passion for the horse.

A passion also to be seen with the outstanding quality of the facilities built for the Horse Show of El Jadida and desired by **His Majesty King Mohammed VI**. Concerning show jumping, the arena and the footing were perfect. Then it was time for the Grand Prix!

Twelve finalists represented eight nations and four continents. The most represented nation was Italy with three riders and, on courses built by an Italian course designer; Roberto Turchetto (Baron) and Natale Chiaudani (Chopard) have signed two of the only three clear rounds of this second round:

“I love this place,” said the winner. “This is the third time I have come and the second time I have won the Grand Prix here in El Jadida. And I promise you that if I have the horse for that, I will definitely be back here next year. Today, the courses were particularly difficult as we have seen, very technical, difficulties spread over all the fences and you had to be vigilant at all times, but there were still twelve without fault. Then, to win, you had to really tighten all the turns “.

All photos by RB Presse/ Pascal Renoldoan



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