

Ina in OSNABRUCKER

Land

“The city of peace and the happiest German citizens, is also a delight to horse lovers”

By: Ina El Kobbia - Germany



The word "Osnabrücker" is a tongue twister in itself for many foreigners, let alone the name of its region, "Das Osnabrücker Land" ... in spite of all that, this region offers sweet delights to a horse lover.

Osnabrück is the third largest city of the State of Lower Saxony in the north of Germany. Osnabrück is known as the city of peace: here and in its better known sister city "Münster" the peace treaty of Westphalia was signed in 1648, which brought an end to 30 years of war between Catholics and Protestants in the heart of Europe. Last year Osnabrück was officially announced to be the city in Germany with the 'happiest' citizens, which means a lot in a country that is known to be critical about itself.

The region is three times the size of the metropolis in New York but with a population of only half a million. It's only 90 Km away from the neighboring Netherlands and is known for its beautiful scenery: forests, mountains, lakes, endless fields, and especially the summer's wonderful blooming meadows. Summer is also the best time to see many horses outdoor that call this place their home. The Osnabrücker Land belongs to the famous breeding area of the Hanoverian horse, which is supported, organized, and carefully watched over by the Hanoverian Breeding Association. As you travel across the land you pass by many farms with the famous double horse sign on the front door. Moreover, the likewise famous breeding area of the Oldenburg Horse is just around the corner in the neighboring region with its association that numbers some 5500 active registered breeders.

The biggest breeder, trainer, and seller of horses and certainly also one of the most distinguished names in horse dealing throughout Germany and beyond is to be found in the very north of the Osnabrücker Land: Heinrich Ramsbrock and his famous Ramsbrock Stables. The list of successful horses that have come out of his stables are endless as well as the prizes and honors that Ramsbrock Stables and foremost the man behind all the successes, Heinrich Ramsbrock, achieved. In the year 2000 Ramsbrock received special honors from the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Gerhard Schröder, for his outstanding achievements as entrepreneur.

Leaving the very north of the region for the south part of it, you soon come to the grounds of another star that is rising in the

Olympus of elite international horse jumping riders: Heinrich-Hermann Engeman. Engeman, aged forty four, is number eighty eight on the current FEI/ Gandini/ World Ranking List. The latter puts him ahead of long known names such as Markus Beerbaum (no.131) the younger brother of no. 1 Ludger Beerbaum, Marcus Merschformann (no.148), Thomas Schepers (no.160), Massimo Grossato (no.123), and Andre Sakakini (no.245). Moreover, Engelman hit the headlines when he achieved the one hundred victory in S-Class (highest class) jumping together with his own trained Westphalia mare "Candela"; that result was stated to be a world record. Engeman runs together with his wife Karin Ernsting - Engeman (a likewise professional and very successful rider) a riding ground, where promising horses and promising skilled riders receive training and education.

Engeman and his wife organized and hosted in May this year the first Jumping-Derby in the Osnabrücker Land on their own ground. The idea of a Derby was first presented and then supported by Paul Schockemöhle and Derby Chief Volker Wulff. The Derby was highly praised by both riders and audience. The course built by Frank Rothenberger was challenging to both horse and rider. The winner of the Derby in clear rounds was Heiko Schmidt from Mecklenburg (in the east of Germany) on his 11 year gelding "Ussul". This victory qualifies him together with Siegmur Stroehmer (second place) and Tim Rieskamp-Goedeking (third place) to participate in the famous Derby in Hamburg that is due just a few weeks later (20-23 May) in which the international elite riders will resume again amongst them Ludger Beerbaum, Marcus Ehning, Markus Fuchs, and Rodrigo Pessoa. Gilbert Bockmann from Lastrup came fourth in the Osnabrücker Land Derby followed by renowned Alois Pollmann-Schweckhort on Montanus Faro, Marc Bettinger came sixth, Holger Wulschner, the winner of the Hamburg Derby 2000, took seventh and the well-known Rene Tebbel ninth place.

The Derby in the Osnabrücker Land, which was considered to be the best preparation for the Derby in Hamburg, "will take place again next year", according to Engeman, thanks to a great sponsor who wishes to remain unknown.

There is even much more to say about Osnabrück and its region "Das Osnabrücker Land", but maybe you would like to see some of that yourself...