

A rider wearing a red helmet and a red and white competition jacket is jumping a dark brown horse over a wooden obstacle. The horse is in mid-air, clearing the jump. The background shows trees and a clear sky.

FEI
EVENTING
EUROPEAN
CHAMPIONSHIP
HARAS DU PIN
2023

FEI Eventing European Championship 2023
Haras du Pin (FRA)

Press Kit

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Introduction

Exactly 70 years ago, the first edition of the FEI Eventing European Championship took place in the British town of Badminton, one of the most historic venues in this Olympic equestrian discipline. Local athlete Arthur Laurence Rook riding Starlight became the first European champions in history, claiming gold in both the individual and team categories.

Since then, the British have dominated the discipline, accumulating a total of 54 (19 gold) medals in the individual category, more than all other nations combined, including two very high profile wins by members of the British Royal Family – The Princess Royal in 1971 and her daughter Zara Phillips in 2005.. The combination of Germany and the Federal Republic of Germany has won 26 individual medals (6 golds).

In the team category, the British have also been dominant, winning the gold medal in 23 out of the 35 editions of the European Championship. Only in three editions did the British leave empty-handed in the team category. France is the second nation with the most medals, totaling 17 (none of them gold), while Germany (combining Germany and the Federal Republic of Germany) has achieved 16 team medals, six of which are gold.

In 2023, Haras du Pin (FRA) will be the chosen venue to host the 36th edition of the FEI Eventing European Championship, where 56 European athletes and their chosen horses will compete for continental glory. Approximately 30,000 spectators will gather at one of the cradles of equestrian sports in France, which has been home to the Royal Stud since 1715. This is the second time Haras du Pin hosts the FEI Eventing European Championship, with the first occasion dating back to 1969. In more recent times, Haras du Pin has played host to some of the world's most important competitions, including several FEI Driving World Championships with one scheduled for next month, as well as the Eventing dressage and cross-country competitions of the FEI World Equestrian Games™ in 2014.

Between 9 and 13 August, Haras du Pin will be the European epicenter of Eventing and witness the proclamation of the new continental monarchs of the discipline.



FEI Eventing European Championship 2023 preview

European titles and Olympic tickets up for grabs at Haras du Pin

By Louise Parkes

They swept all before them at the 2021 edition in Avenches (SUI), and once again Team Great Britain sends a world-class squad of riders and horses to the 36th edition of the FEI Eventing European Championship which kicks off at Haras du Pin in Normandy (FRA) next Wednesday, 9 August 2023.

However this event won't all be about places on the podium.

There are also two Olympic qualifying spots on offer to countries that have not already booked their tickets to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, and the battle between the four nations competing for those two places is expected to be intense.

A total of 56 athletes from 12 countries will line out at the French venue including teams from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland along with individuals from Denmark and Poland.

In the race for the two Olympic team slots are Austria, Belgium, Italy and The Netherlands.

70th anniversary

This will be the 70th anniversary of this championship which date all the way back to Badminton (GBR) in 1953 where the hosts took individual gold and silver and fielded the only side to finish the team competition.

The sport has come a long way since then, but British dominance has remained a constant theme with 19 individual and 23 European team titles under their belts. And the defending champions are back out in force once more this time around.

For Germany the dream of a seventh team victory didn't come true last time around as they had to settle for silver.

German riders have taken the individual title six times and three of those victories were posted back-to-back by Michael Jung in 2011, 2013 and 2015. The only other three-in-a-row individual champion is Great Britain's Ginny Elliott who reigned supreme in 1985, 1987 and 1989.

The phenomenal Jung is back on the German side again this year with Fischerchipmunk FRH along with longtime team-mate and 2014 double World Champion Sandra Auffarth (Viamant du Matz), Christoph Wahler (Carjatan S), Jerome Robine (Black Ice) and Nicolai Aldinger (Timmo).

Sweden took bronze in 2021, and, partnering Dynamite Jack, four-time Olympian Sara Algotsson Ostholt heads this year's Swedish contingent which includes Frida

Andersen (Box Leo), Lina Forsberg (Kaizen), Sofia Sjöborg (Bryjamolga vh Marienshof Z) and Amanda Staam (Corpoubet At).

After six of the eight legs of the FEI Eventing Nations Cup™ 2023 series, Belgium, Italy and The Netherlands hold the top three placings and Austria lies seventh of the 14 competing countries. The stage is set for a right royal battle between these four nations for the two tickets to Paris next summer as the week progresses.

Never won

The French have never won the team title but have taken team silver eight times. And on the last four occasions when they stood on the second step of the podium - in 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2011 - Nicolas Touzaint was a team member each time.

The 43-year-old five-time Olympian is one of just two French riders to win individual European gold in Eventing. Jean-Lou Bigot and Twist La Beige came out on top in 1993 and Touzaint steered Galan de Sauvagère to victory in both in 2003 and 2007. This year he competes Absolut Gold HDC with which he helped claim team bronze at the delayed Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games two years ago.

The quality host nation squad also includes Karim Florent Laghouag (Triton Fontaine), Stephane Landois (Ride for Thais Chaman Dumontceau), Gaspard Maksud (Zaragoza), Gireg Le Coz (Aisprit de la Loge) and Heloise Le Guern (Canakine du Sudre Z). They'll have their eyes firmly focused on the podium, especially ahead of the 2024 Olympic Games on their home soil.

Haras du Pin

The Haras National du Pin is located in Le Pin-au-Haras district in the Orne department of the southern Normandy region. It is the oldest of the French national studs and, known as the "Versailles for horses", it was established by King Louis XIV in 1715 and stretches over more than 2,471 acres.

Many major events have been staged at the stud including the Grand Complet which was established 25 years ago by the family of Pierre Le Goupil who is cross-country course designer for the European Championship, and who has also been chosen to fill the same role at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

However it has only played host to the FEI Eventing European Championship on one previous occasion, in 1969 when Great Britain claimed all-gold and individual silver.

Everything they have

The British are throwing everything they have at retaining the European titles and look like tough nuts to crack.

Ros Canter is listed with her sensational Badminton 2023 winner Lordships Graffalo, while Kitty King will line out again with Vendredi Biats, better known as Froggy, who finished second at CCI5*-L in Luhmühlen (GER) in June.

In fact the six-strong British selection includes four of the top eleven and six of the top 25 in the current World Athlete Rankings as well as the reigning world championship partnership of Yasmin Ingham and Banzai du Loir.

Tom McEwen (JL Dublin) holds the world number two slot, Canter is number three, Ingham is number six and Tom Jackson (Capels Hollow Drift) is number 11. Laura Collett (London 52) lies 20th in the rankings and King holds 25th place. They are a formidable bunch.

The action will get underway on 9 August with the Draw, First Horse Inspection and the Opening Ceremony followed by two days of Dressage on 10 and 11, the thrilling Cross-Country on Saturday 12 and the deciding Jumping phase on Sunday 13.

Don't miss a hoofbeat....

About the venue for the FEI Eventing European Championship 2023

Haras du Pin has a rich history as an Equestrian center. For over three centuries, this town in northern France has been closely linked to horses. In preparation for this European Championship, the venue has recently been renovated to further improve the facilities.

The complex boasts four well-equipped arenas, consisting of two main arenas dedicated to major competitions and two leisure arenas. To promote water conservation, the latter arenas employ sub-irrigation watering techniques.

For the horses, the upgrade to the facilities will be most appreciated with the construction of 290 permanent boxes, ensuring their comfort throughout their stay. The complex features a convenient central walkway, horse showers, and sanitary facilities for the staff's convenience. Additionally, there is a reception office and a dedicated veterinary area to cater to the needs of the participants.

An integral part of the project has involved the development of a state-of-the-art public reception building, housing a restaurant, ticket offices, toilets, offices, an infirmary, and ample storage space. The ground floor houses a restaurant with a terrace and a fully functional kitchen, providing a pleasant dining experience for everyone.

Finally, the venue includes spacious parking areas and comfortable, functional reception spaces for competitors, fully equipped with modern sanitary facilities to ensure a seamless and enjoyable experience for all.

Full Programme

WEDNESDAY 9TH AUGUST

13:30 Horse Inspection

18:30 Opening Ceremony

THURSDAY 10TH AUGUST

10:00-11:30 Dressage

14:30-17:10 Dressage

FRIDAY 11TH AUGUST

10:00-11:30 Dressage

14:30-17:10 Dressage

SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST

12:00-16:30 Cross-Country

SUNDAY 13TH AUGUST

9:00 Horse Inspection

11:30-12:30 Show Jumping

14:00-15:00 Show Jumping

15:00 Prize Giving

You can check the full programme and competition schedule [here](#).

Definite entries

Check all the athletes participating at the FEI Eventing World Championship 2023 in Haras du Pin (FRA) [here](#).



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Fast facts about the FEI Eventing European Championship 2023

Total number of athletes: 56

Total number of horses: 56

Total competing nations: 12

Total Teams: 10

Athletes participating for the first time: 26

Youngest Athlete: Jennifer Kuehnle (IRL) – 22 years old

Oldest Athlete: Karen Donckers (BEL) – 52 years old

Most Appearances: Karen Donckers (BEL) – 13 appearances

Past Winners

Most medals – Individual Competition

Athlete	Country	Total Medals	Gold medals
Michael Jung	GER	6	3
Ingrid Klimke	GER	4	2
Francis William Weldon	GBR	4	1
Virginia Leng	GBR	3	3
Lucinda Green	GBR	3	2
Pippa Funnell	GBR	3	2
Kristina Cook	GBR	3	1
Ian Stark	GBR	3	1
Horst Karsten	GER	3	0
William Fox Pitt	GBR	3	0

Most medals – Team Competition

Athlete	Country	Total Medals	Gold medals
William Fox Pitt	GBR	8	6
Ian Stark	GBR	6	6
Lucinda Green	GBR	6	2

Reigning Champions FEI Eventing European Championship

Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Indiv	Nicola Wilson (GBR) & JL Dublin	Piggy March (GBR) & Brookfield Inocent	Sarah Bullimore (GBR) & Corouet
Team	Great Britain	Germany	Sweden

DID YOU KNOW?

FEI European Eventing Championships record breakers:

The FEI European Eventing Championship 2023 at Haras du Pin (FRA) is the 36th since the championship began in 1953. This is the second time Haras du Pin has hosted the European Championships, the last time being in 1969. The same venue hosted the Eventing competition at the FEI World Equestrian Games 2014.

Great Britain are reigning team champions and Nicola Wilson (GBR) riding JL Dublin is the reigning individual champion.

In 2015, Michael Jung, who went on to take individual silver in 2017 on FischerRocana and in 2019 on FischerChipmunk, equalled the record set by Ginny Elliot (GBR) in the 1980s of winning three successive European titles on three different horses (La Biosthetique Sam in 2011, Halunke in 2013, and FischerTakinou in 2015).

Great Britain is the most successful nation in this classification, with 23 team golds; Germany has 6, Russia 3, Sweden 2 and Ireland 1. Great Britain has 19 individual titles and has made a clean sweep of team gold and all three individual medals seven times; Germany, which achieved the same result in 2011, has 6 individual titles (three of them won by Jung and two by Klimke); France has 3; Ireland and Switzerland have 2; Poland, Denmark and Russia 1.

The ratio of women to men winning the individual title is 18:17.

Eddy Stibbe holds the record for most European Championship appearances – 12 for the Netherlands; William Fox-Pitt (GBR) and Ingrid Klimke (GER) have ridden at 10 apiece and Jean Teulère (FRA), Piotr Piasecki (POL), Kristina Cook (GBR) and Horst Karsten (GER), who won 5 medals on Sioux, 9 each.

Herbert Blöcker (GER) has ridden at 8 European Championships

Ginny Elliot (GBR) and Ian Stark (GBR) have 7 gold medals each; William Fox-Pitt (GBR), Kristina Cook (GBR) and Michael Jung (GER) have 6; Lucinda Green (GBR) and Pippa Funnell (GBR) have 5.

Lucinda Green (GBR) was the first rider to win her title back (1975-77) on Be Fair and George Pippa Funnell (GBR) and Ingrid Klimke (GER) are the only riders to have won the title back-to-back on the same horse, Supreme Rock (1999 and 2001) and Hale Bob (2017-19).

Nicolas Touzaint (FRA) has also won the title twice on the same horse, Galan de Sauvagère (2003 and 2007).

Mary Gordon Watson (GBR) is the youngest individual winner of a European title; she was 19 in 1969 at Haras du Pin (FRA). Her horse, Cornishman V, never finished lower than 4th in any championships. Mary Gordon Watson (GBR), Ginny Elliot (GBR), Zara Phillips (GBR) and Michael Jung (GER) are the only riders to have held World and European titles simultaneously – Jung is distinguished by combining it with the Olympic title.

Four horses have won four European gold medals: Kilbarry (Frank Weldon, GBR), Supreme Rock (Pippa Funnell, GBR), Over To You (Jeanette Brakewell, GBR) and Hale Bob (Ingrid Klimke) — Over To You won gold in four consecutive Europeans (1999-2005).

Only four horses have held World and European titles simultaneously: Cornishman V (Mary Gordon Watson, 1969-70); Priceless (Ginny Holgate, 1985-86); Toytown (Zara Phillips, 2005-06); La Biosthetique Sam (Michael Jung, 2010-2011). Sam is distinguished by also holding the Olympic title in 2012 (as well as in 2016).

Princess Anne (GBR) and Zara Phillips (GBR) are the only mother and daughter to have won individual titles; Zara's father, Capt. Mark Phillips, was on the winning British team in 1971. Reiner Klimke (GER), father of the 2017 champion, Ingrid Klimke (GER), was a multi-medalled dressage rider. Harry and Virginia Freeman-Jackson (IRL) are the only father-daughter combination to ride on a team together, in 1959 and 1962.

Ireland also fielded the first brother-sister team, with John and Jessica Fowler in 1967 and then Jeremy and Jill Spring in 1991. Mandy and Eddy Stibbe (NED) were the first husband and wife combination (1989-91) and Jean-Yves and Thierry Touzaint (FRA), the first brothers (1975). Switzerland now has the Vogg brothers, Felix and Ben.

Sisters Linda and Sara Algotsson (SWE) regularly competed together in the Swedish team; Linda won individual silver medals in 1999 and 2003 on the home-bred Stand By Me; Sara, the 2012 Olympic silver medallist, is now married to German rider Frank Ostholt. Nicolas Touzaint's father Jean-Yves and uncle Thierry rode in European championships, as did Jean-Lou Bigot's father Armand; William Fox-Pitt's mother, Marietta, represented Britain in 1967; John Watson (IRL) was a member of the winning team in 1979 and his son, Sam, competed for Ireland in 2009, 2011, 2013, 2017 and 2021.

In 2009, Juan Carlos Garcia (ITA) made history by winning team silver medals in both Eventing and jumping. Susanna Bordone (ITA) represented her country in both Eventing and Dressage. Kristina Cook (GBR), the individual champion in 2009, and Ingrid Klimke (GER) in 2017 and 2019 are the only mothers to have won the title, although Mary King (GBR) was five months' pregnant when she won team gold and individual bronze in 1995.

FEI online resources

Keep up to date with the latest news from the FEI Eventing European Championships [here](#).

Schedules and results will be available [here](#).

The FEI Eventing European Championship 2023 in Haras du Pin (FRA) will be broadcast live on [FEI TV](#), the FEI's official broadcasting platform.

Images & Content: Free images for editorial purposes are available from the [FEI Flickr account](#) in the photostream and in the dedicated album.

Video footage will be available at <https://fei.broadcast-content.tv/> with the following login details: media@fei.org Password: FEI2018

Biographies from the main participants are available [here](#)

You can find the FEI on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [FEI YouTube](#)

Join the action on social media by using the hashtags #FEIEventing and #UnitedByEquestrian

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