FEI Jumping European Championship 2023

Milano (ITA)
Press Kit

FEI

JUMPING
EUROPEAN
CHAMPIONSHIP
MILANO
2023

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Introduction

The history of the FEI Jumping European Championships began in Rotterdam (NED) in 1957 for men, where Hans Günther Winkler (GER) became the first male European Champion, with a separate "Ladies Championship" in Spa (BEL) for women, with the Brit Patricia Rosemary Smythe as the inaugural winner, even though they already competed side by side at Olympic Games. The male/female division continued until 1973.

As of 1975, the male and female Championships were united and participation increased steadily, but it was not until Hickstead (GBR) and 1999 that a woman took the individual title, France's Alexandra Ledermann riding Rochet M.

Germany (combined with FRG) has been the most successful nation at this competition, earning 57 medals, closely followed by Great Britain with 54 medals. This edition of the FEI Jumping European Championships will welcome 85 elite athletes, from 24 different nations. They will be competing to become the successors of Andre Thiem and Switzerland as the new continental monarchs.

From 29 August to 3 September, Milano (ITA) will become the epicentre of European Jumping. Benvenuto a Milano!

Road to Paris 2024

The three highest-ranked teams from FEI Olympic Groups A and/or B will each earn a much-sought-after ticket to Paris 2024, excluding countries already qualified.

Sweden, The Netherlands, Great Britain, Ireland and Germany bagged the first five Olympic qualifying spots on offer at the FEI Jumping World Championship in Herning (DEN) last August 2022, while Belgium clinched the single slot up for grabs at the 2022 Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Final in Barcelona (ESP) last September.

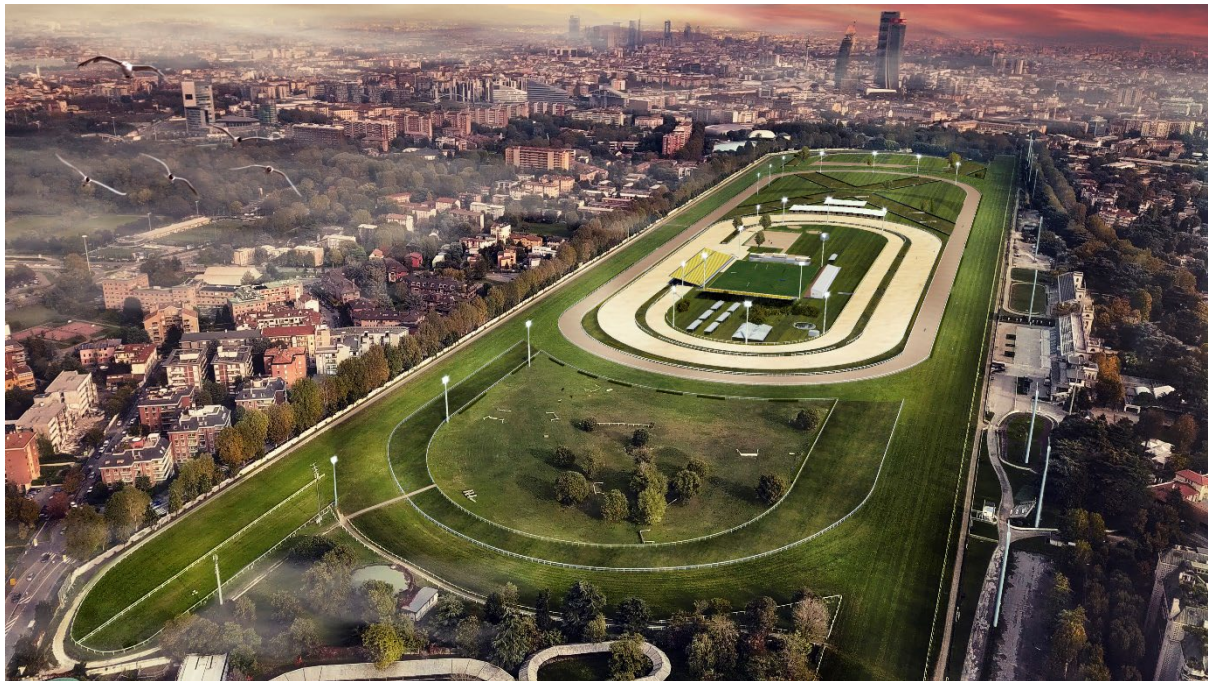France, as host country, is automatically qualified.

About the venue for the FEI Jumping European Championships 2023

Constructed in 1920 under the creative guidance of architect Paolo Vietti, the esteemed Snai San Siro stands as the designated venue for the upcoming FEI Jumping European Championship 2023. Spanning an impressive 1.6 million square meters, this historic site has earned the esteemed title of "Monument of National Interest" as decreed by the Italian authorities. Witnessing a significant transformation in 2021, an ambitious revitalisation project was set into motion, aimed at ushering this establishment into the realm of modernity while retaining its equestrian legacy.

At the entrance to the racecourse is the world's largest equestrian sculpture, cast in bronze by the American sculptor Nina Akamu who was inspired by the ingenious drawings of Leonardo da Vinci.

Leonardo started work on the statue in 1482, but his classic ability to procrastinate saw the project abandoned when the French invaded the city seven years later. However, in 1977 a US civilian pilot, Charles Dent, created a foundation that led to its completion and erection in 1999 - more than 500 years late, but nonetheless glorious…!

The equestrian arena is a more recent addition, sitting in the centre of the race-track where it has replaced a former golf course. It is just two years since the first 3-Star international horse show took place there, with a 4-Star following in 2022 and the FEI Jumping European Championship taking centre stage this year.

More information about the venue available **here**

Preview of the FEI Jumping European Championship 2023

Milan in Full Focus Ahead of European Titles Clash

By Louise Parkes

The build-up is reaching a crescendo one week ahead of the FEI Jumping European Championship 2023 which gets underway at San Siro Racecourse in Milan, Italy on 30 August.

Team and individual medals are up for grabs, and the flags of 24 nations will fly high at this 37th edition of an event that is steeped in the stories of champions.

A total of 85 athletes and their horses are entered, with 15 countries fielding teams and nine more represented by individuals. The chance for three unqualified teams from FEI Olympic Groups A and/or B to pick up a starting spot at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games also adds to the prospect for a super-competitive week of thrilling sport.

History

This is only the third time in its 66-year history for the FEI Jumping European Championship to be staged in Italy. There were only individual medals on offer when the Italy's Graziano Mancinelli and Rockette reigned supreme in Rome in 1963 where two more greats - Germany's Alwin Schockemöhle with Freiherr and Great Britain's Harvey Smith on Warpaint - stood on the second and third steps of the podium.

At San Patrignano in 2005 it was Marco Kutscher and Montender who came out on top ahead of Switzerland's Christina Liebherr in silver while The Netherlands' Jeroen Dubbeldam claimed individual bronze. And Germany took the team title - first introduced in 1975 - that year too when Kutscher was joined by Marcus Ehning, Christian Ahlmann and Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum to pin Switzerland and The Netherlands into silver and bronze.

Ehning has an extraordinary record at European Championships, dating all the way back to Hickstead (GBR) in 1999 when he joined Michaels-Beerbaum, Carsten-Otto Nagel and Ludger Beerbaum to clinch team gold. He did it twice more - in 2003 when he also claimed individual bronze, and in 2005. He was on the silver-medal-winning teams in 2007, 2019 and 2021 and took team bronze in 2009.

Riding the exciting 12-year-old stallion Stargold with which, he won the 5* Grand Prix in Aachen (GER) last month, the 49-year-old Olympic, World and European team gold medallist and three-time FEI Jumping World Cup™ champion and is back in Otto Becker's selection this year. He will be accompanied by Gerrit Nieberg, Jana Wargers, Philipp Weishaupt and Christian Kukuk.

Germany holds pole position on the European Championships Roll of Honour with seven team and 15 individual gold medals collected down the years, three of the latter going to the legendary partnership of Paul Schockemöhle and Deister over three consecutive editions in the 1980s. André Thieme will not defend the individual title he won with DSP Chakaria at Riesenbeck (GER) in 2021.

Defending

The defending team champions are Switzerland, and Chef d'Equipe Michel Sorg brings all four of the side that clinched victory at Riesenbeck (GER) two years ago - Martin Fuchs who also clinched individual silver on that occasion, Steve Guerdat, Bryan Balsiger and Elian Baumann, along with Edouard Schmitz.

The Swiss are in flying form after a summer filled with success including victory in Aachen and three sensational wins in the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Europe Division 1 series. But they know they have no room for complacency because they have a double mission in Milan.

Despite their prominence in the sport, they are still chasing a qualifying spot at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and will be on the hunt for one of the three on offer next week along with teams from Austria, Denmark, Italy, Norway, Portugal and Spain. If they don't make the cut this time around, they only have one more chance when a single spot comes up for grabs at the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Final in Barcelona (ESP) at the end of September. They won't want to leave it that late….

Full list

The full list of teams for the 2023 Championship is Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland and all have entered five athletes except for Portugal who send only three. Individuals will represent Bulgaria, Greece, Israel, Liechtenstein, Macedonia, Slovakia, Turkey, Norway and Ukraine.

There will be seven of the top 10, and 13 of the top 20 riders in the latest world rankings all flying their country's flags

with world number two Julien Epaillard and world number six Simon Delestre amongst Henk Nooren's formidable French quintet while the ultra-dependable Harrie Smolders - currently world number three - is listed on Jos Lansink's Dutch team.

Seventh-ranked Shane Sweetnam headlines Michael Blake's Irish side, while Di Lampard's British team includes reigning Olympic champion and world number nine, Ben Maher. Sweden meanwhile has world number one and double world champion, Henrik von Eckermann, playing a starring role in a side that also includes Jens Fredricson, Wilma Hellström, Rolf-Göran Bengtsson and Petronella Anderson.

The Swedes have never won the European team title, taking silver in 2001 and 2017 and bronze in 2013. They twice won individual gold, Bengtsson and Ninja La Silla in 2011 and Peder Fredricson and H&M All In in 2017.

Timetable

The Championship timetable begins with the first horse inspection on Tuesday morning 29 August which will be followed by a training session before the draw for order-of-go in the evening. The first competition, a Table C Speed and Handiness, is open to teams and individuals and takes place on Wednesday 30 August, with the score for each athlete converted into penalties at the end of the day.

The second competition begins with one round on Thursday 31 August and is open to all teams and individuals, but only the top 10 teams and top 50 individuals go through to the second round on Friday 1 September when the team medals will be decided.

The top 25 go through to the first round of the individual final on Sunday 3 September, with the top 12 returning for a second round to decide the fate of the European individual title for 2023.

It's all about to play out, so don't miss a hoofbeat….

Full Programme

Wednesday 30.08

1:00 PM | **1st Qualifier Individuals & Teams**
FEI European Jumping Championship - Competition 1: Table C

Thursday 31.08

1:00 PM | **Final Teams Round 1, 2nd Qualifier individuals**
FEI European Jumping Championship - Competition 2

Friday 01.09

1:00 PM | **Final Teams Round 2, 2nd Qualifier individuals**
FEI European Jumping Championship - Competition 3

Sunday 03.09

12:30 PM | **Final Individual Round 1**
FEI European Jumping Championship - Competition 4

2:40 PM | **Final Individual Round 2**
FEI European Jumping Championship - Competition 4

Definite entries

Check all the athletes participating at the FEI Jumping European Championship 2023 in Milano (ITA) **here**

Longines Rankings (August 2023)

Ranking	Athlete	Country
1	Henrik Von Eckermann	SWE
2	Julien Epaillard	FRA
3	Harrie Smolders	NED
4	Martin Fuchs	SUI
5	Mclain Ward	USA
6	Simon Delestre	FRA
7	Shane Sweetnam	IRL
8	Kent Farrington	USA
9	Ben Maher	GBR
10	Conor Swail	IRL
11	Maikel Van der Vleuten	NED
12	Steve Guerdat	SUI
13	Daniel Deusser	GER
14	Daniel Bluman	ISR
15	Daniel Coyle	IRL
16	Marlon Modolo Zatonelli	BRA
17	Laura Kraut	USA
18	Kevin Staut	FRA
19	Max Kühner	GER
20	Jur Vrieling	NED

See the full Longines Rankings here

FEI Jumping European Championship 2023 Milano (ITA) in numbers

Total number of athletes: 85

Total number of Horses: 85

Total competing nations: 24

Youngest Athlete: Jennifer Hochstadter (LIE) – 20 years old

Oldest Athlete: Rolf-Göran Bengtsson (SWE) – 61 years old

Most Appearances: Rolf-Göran Bengtsson (SWE) – 9 appearances (1995, 1999, 2001, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2021)

Firsts:

- The first Jumping European Championships were held in 1957 in Rotterdam (NED).
- In the first edition eight athletes took part.
- Individual gold went to Hans Günter Winkler (GER) and Halla.

Facts & Figures FEI Jumping European Championship

In 2011, the Club de Campo in Madrid (ESP) dug up the grass arena that had hosted jumping for 100 years and put down all-weather footing for the European

Jumping Championship. The grass was put back straight afterwards.

The first female Jumping athlete to claim the European title was France's Alexandra Ledermann in 1999.

In 2009 Juan Carlos Garcia represented Italy at both the Eventing and Jumping Championships, winning team silver at both.

Another multi-talented horseman was Switzerland's Bruno Candrian, who won team silver and individual bronze at Munich in 1981. He combined Jumping with a career as a jockey in the 1970s.

Paul Schockemöhle (GER) and Deister are the only jumping combination to have won three individual gold medals, proving invincible between 1981 and 1985.

Michael Whitaker, Jos Lansink and Harvey Smith have all won three European jumping medals without ever winning gold, while Alwin Schockemöhle made it fourth time lucky in 1975 after a bronze and two silvers.

Between them, British brothers John and Michael Whitaker have won seven individual and 19 team European jumping medals.

At San Patrignano (ITA) in 2005, Finnish Jumping athlete Sebastian Numminen made it to the Championships from the reserve list and got all the way through to the individual final with his 16-year-old Cruising son, Sails Away, finishing 18th overall.

Dutch Jumping athlete, the late Toon Ebben, won team gold and individual bronze in Vienna in 1977 aged 47, but started life as an Eventing groom and began competing after grooming at the 1952 Olympic Games. He jumped at top level for 30 years.

Martin Fuchs became the sixth Swiss rider in the 62-year history of the event to claim individual Jumping gold at the Longines FEI European Championship 2019 in Rotterdam.

Belgium not only won their first ever Team gold in the history of the FEI European Championships in Rotterdam 2019, but also secured their Team slot for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Past Winners

Number of Medals (per country)

Country	Individual	Team
Great Britain	39	15
Germany (& FRG)	39	18
France	15	7
Switzerland	14	16
Italy	12	1
Netherlands	8	8
Belgium	6	3
Sweden	4	3

Number of Medals per Athlete

Athlete	Country	Total Medals
Willi Melliger	SUI	11
John Whitaker	GBR	10
Michael Whitaker	GBR	9
Ludger Beerbaum	GER	8
Nick Skelton	GBR	7
David Broom	GBR	7
Markus Ehning	GER	7

Reigning Champions FEI Jumping European Championship 2021 – Riesenback (GER)

EVENT	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Individual	Andre Thieme & DSP chakaria (GER)	Martin Fuchs & Leone Jei (SUI)	Peder Fredricsson & Catch Me Not (SWE)
Team	Switzerland	Germany	Belgium

Competition format

30 August

COMPETITION 1: Speed and Handiness Competition / First Qualifying Competition – Individuals and Teams

31 August

COMPETITION 2: Jumping Competition over Two Rounds without Jump-Off. Round 1, Team Final and Second Individual

1 September

COMPETITION 2: Jumping Competition over Two Rounds without Jump-Off Round 2, Team Final and Second Individual

3 September

COMPETITION 3: Jumping Competition over Two Rounds (A) and (B) without Jump-Off FEI European Individual Championship 2023 Individual Final

FEI online resources

Keep up to date with the latest news from the **FEI Jumping European Championship 2023** in Milano here.

Schedules and **results** will be available here.

The FEI Jumping European Championship 2023 in Milano (ITA) 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 **#Milano2023 and #UnitedByEquestrian**.

Access to the **FEI Jumping European Championship 2023 in Milano (ITA)** press zone here.

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