



LONGINES EQUITA LYON CONCOURS HIPPIQUE INTERNATIONAL

LYON
EUREXPO
30th OCTOBER
3rd NOVEMBER
2024

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EQUITA LYON 2024: 30 ESSENTIAL FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EQUITA!

From 30 October to 3 November, Equita Lyon, the Salon du Cheval de Lyon, is celebrating its 30th anniversary! To mark the occasion, let's take a closer look at 30 key facts that have shaped the history and the identity of this Lyon-based exhibition, which over the years, has become Europe's biggest horse event!



A SPRINGBOARD FOR REGIONAL TALENT

Equita has always been committed to supporting promising regional riders, and created its first Grand National FFE circuit team in 2012. Since then, the Equita Riders team has grown and now includes ten regional riders.

In 2019, the GL Events Group confirmed its commitment to equestrian sport by forging a long-term partnership with Olivier Perreau, the GL events rider based in Roanne, who won the team bronze medal at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

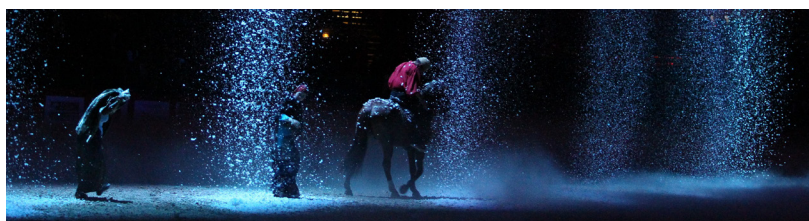


18 YEARS OF LIVE MUSIC

Rodeo, Equita's first equestrian show, dates back to 1995 and featured the Hasta Luego troupe. The first equestrian show performed to live music dates back to 2006. The Cadre Noir of Saumur was accompanied by the Savoie Regional Symphonic Orchestra, conducted by Graziella Contratto, while soprano Marie Devellereau performed some of Mozart's works. Since then, music has played an important role in the shows performed at Equita Lyon!

IT SNOWED IN EQUITA'S HALLS!

In 2012, the creators of the show Donskaya achieved the technical feat of simulating snowfall in Equita Lyon's ring and stands: an image that made a lasting impression on visitors!



33!

That's the number of artists and equestrian troupes who have performed in the ring during the evening shows organised at Equita Lyon. Spectators in Lyon have been able to admire great institutions such as the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art of Jerez de la Frontera, the Cadre Noir of Saumur, the French Republican Guard, the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art and the Alexis Gruss National Circus, Jean-Marc Imbert, Jean-François and Frédéric Pignon, Lorenzo, Alizée Froment, Sylvie Wilms, Clémence Faivre and the Riders from the Museum of the Horse's Equestrian Academy at the Domaine de Chantilly!

HORSES AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS

Animal welfare has always been at the heart of the exhibition! Horse health has always been an integral part of the Salon du Cheval de Lyon.

In 2007, in collaboration with Merial (now Boehringer Ingelheim), the Equine Hub of the Veterinary Campus in Lyon (VetAgro Sup), the Champ du Perier Equine Clinic and Jean-Marc Gentil, physiotherapist and sports coach, Equita created the Health Area, a first for an equestrian exhibition, which is constantly being developed to provide even more knowledge to all kinds of horse enthusiasts.



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ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Nine years after becoming a part of the FEI Jumping World Cup circuit, in 2018, the Lyon event hosted its fourth annual World Cup leg and also became a part of the FEI Driving World Cup™ circuit, after dressage in 2010, and the FEI Jumping Ponies' Trophy in 2017. The four FEI World Cup legs continue to be featured on the programme in 2024.



THE BIGGEST NUMBER OF DISCIPLINES

Since 1995, Equita Lyon has undoubtedly hosted the biggest number of disciplines in the world. Today, there are around twenty, including show jumping, dressage, driving, para-dressage, horse-ball, pony-games, Equifeel, hunter, reining, mountain trail, barrel racing, pole bending, performance, ranch sorting and working equitation.



A BIG-HEARTED EVENT

Every year since its creation, Equita Lyon has supported one or several charities. This year, the Prader Willi France and 111 des Arts charities will once again be in the spotlight.

A PIONEER IN WESTERN RIDING

The exhibition has organised international reining competitions since 2009, but it was in 2017 that Lyon first hosted the grand final of the NRHA European Derby. From then on, the Equita Lyon Western Horse Show became Europe's premier gathering of American disciplines. Once again, this year, the final is combined with a qualification for the competition which boasts the most prize money in the history of reining, The Run for a Million. It takes place every summer in Las Vegas and brings together the best riders in the world.

AN ACCELERATOR FOR YOUNG COMPANIES

Since 2015, Equita Lyon has been hosting the Start-up Village in partnership with the Hippolia competitiveness cluster. This area at the entrance of the exhibition allows visitors to discover ten young companies developing innovative products or services. Each year, the public and a panel of industry professionals are invited to vote for the start-up of the year, and the winner of each edition wins a free stand at the exhibition the following year!

GALOP' WILL SOON BE 10-YEARS-OLD!

The Salon du Cheval de Lyon's mascot was created in 2015. Young and old alike enjoy looking for him in the exhibition's aisles to take a few photos as a souvenir of their visit to Equita Lyon!



ALL THE HORSES, PONIES AND DONKEYS ARE WELCOME

A large number of breeds of horses, ponies and donkeys have been an integral part of Equita every year since it was created in 1995. In 2024, no fewer than thirty breeds will be present allowing enthusiasts to see them again and novices to discover them. As always, the traditional Breed Parade will be held every day in the Equita arena!





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ALEXIS GRUSS: A LOYAL FRIEND

An emblematic figure of bygone circus days and a living symbol of horse lovers, Alexis Gruss performed no less than three shows in the International Arena, including the famous Equita Stars in 2007, accompanied by the French Republican Guard. Alexis was a loyal friend of Equita, who liked to refer to the event as:

'A place where all horse people come together, each contributing to enhancing nature in their own way.'



A TRIBUTE TO NIKITO

Equita Lyon's entertainment arena was named after Nikito, the first star of a show featuring liberty numbers and Jean-Marc Imbert's iconic horse. Every year, the Nikito Arena showcases a famous equestrian cabaret, where established artists try out new acts while younger ones come to make a name for themselves, and all to live music! Some even return a few years after performing at the Nikito Arena, as part of the prestigious Sport & Show evenings!

AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

Since it was created, Equita has been able to count on the loyal support of its volunteers, including students from the Maison Familiale et Rurale in Saint-Flour. They are always motivated, work enthusiastically and come back year after year, generation after generation. Today, there are almost 400 of them who put their hearts into making the event a success!



LIKE A SWISS TIMEPIECE

The collaboration between Swiss watchmaker Longines and Equita Lyon began in 2013, when the company became the competition's Official Timekeeper. It was strengthened in 2019, when Longines became the title partner of the event and gave its name to the horse show: Longines Equita Lyon, Concours Hippique International.



ALL THE CIRCUITS LEAD TO LYON!

Since 2015, Equita Lyon has hosted all the French Equestrian Federation's circuits finals: the Tournée des As, the Grand National FFE - AC Print, the National Style and Equitation hunter, and the Amateur Gold Tour FFE-Estherdorm. They bring all the riders together in Lyon for five days of intense competition!



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EQUITA: JUST A STONE'S THROW FROM AMERICA!

Since 2000, Equita has been introducing visitors to Western Riding through events and demonstrations in a special arena, taking them on a journey to America's Wild West. Today, the Western Area and its Equita Lyon Western Horse Show take up two entire halls, and top-level competitions in the reining, barrel and ranch sorting disciplines take place in three specific arenas.



ALL THE ATHLETES INVITED TO JOIN IN THE CELEBRATIONS

For many years, the International Arena has showcased the French Cup Disabled Show Jumping Finals, and since 2022, it has been hosting para-dressage demonstrations.



WORKING CLOSELY WITH VETS

Equita has always been involved with the veterinary world and developments in equine health. It organised the 1st Equine Veterinary Surgeons Congress in 1997. In 2011, Equita joined forces with Vet2011 to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the teaching of veterinary medicine, which originated in Lyon.

TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

In 2011, the original Iberian Horse Arena, which existed since the outset of the exhibition, featured over 70 Iberian horses over five days. In 2012, this was replaced by two competition arenas, Equita Jump 'and Equita Compet'.



KEY PLAYERS IN EQUINE WELFARE

In line with the initiatives undertaken since it was created, Equita has offered a full day of conferences and round tables on a variety of themes relating to the welfare of sport horses since 2019. At the end of 2023, an Equine Welfare Committee made up of specialists in animal health and welfare was created on the initiative of GL events Equestrian Sport.

POLO HAS ALREADY BEEN PLAYED AT EQUITA!

In 2008, the Salon du Cheval de Lyon hosted the Europolo Masters, a competition featuring the four best European teams in the oldest of equestrian sports.

CHILDREN FIRST!

For the past 30 years, the exhibition has given pride of place to entertaining children and allowing them to discover ponies. The Children's Village has been an essential part of the exhibition since it began, and offers everything to make little ones happy.



MORE THAN FOUR TIMES BIGGER!

The Salon de Cheval de Lyon is now more than four times bigger than when it was first created, in terms of its surface area, its number of exhibitors and its number of visitors! The first edition of the exhibition in 1995 extended over 32,566m², featured 200 breeders and exhibitors, and welcomed 42,000 people. In 2023, over 191,000 people strolled through the 140,000m² of exhibition space at Equita!

STRONG REGIONAL ROOTS

Equita Lyon has developed internationally, but has retained its strong regional identity by involving a large number of regional economic players from the outset, such as Ivanhoe (Rhône), CDR Gauthier (Isère), Créa-Vert (Ain), the MFR Saint-Flour (Cantal) and Chef Matthieu Viannay and Maison Pignol (Rhône) in terms of catering. For over twenty years, the Comité Régional d'Équitation has supported the organisation of regional competitions in a variety of disciplines, such as the Show Jumping Top Ten, the Equita Club Cup and Equita Dressage by Aulion Sellier. A large number of members of the regional sports committees are also involved alongside Sylvie Robert's teams, helping to develop the exhibition from one year to the next. Since 2023, Groupama Rhône-Alpes Auvergne has been one of GL events Equestrian Sport's major partners, demonstrating the significant commitment of these two companies to equestrian enthusiasts and professionals in the region.



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SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

Since 2007, a unique competition has been held on Saturday evening. The Equita Masters brings together the top twenty riders from the weekend's initial classes, for a competition in two rounds at the highest-level in the world. Since 2018, this event has been presented by Hermès Sellier and has become a part of the Sport & Show evenings.



THE LYON KINGS

Swiss show jumper Martin Fuchs and Australian driver Boyd Excell are the only competitors to have won the FEI World Cup leg in Lyon three years in a row! Boyd Excell has even won the last four editions, while Julien Epailard achieved the feat of winning all three major classes at Longines Equita Lyon, Concours Hippique International in 2022.



THE QUEEN OF QUEENS

Germany's Isabel Werth is the only rider to have won the FEI Dressage World Cup leg's Grand Prix Freestyle six times at Equita, including five times in a row between 2016 and 2021, and openly expresses her delight about coming to Equita:

'Lyon, in a word? Wow!'



A FIRST FOR GRÉGORIO BODO

French course designer Grégory Bodo, who officiated alongside Spain's Santiago Varela Ulastres this summer, to design the show jumping courses for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, was responsible for building the FEI Jumping World Cup leg course in Lyon for the first time in 2017.



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