

JP & Istoso 2006: Passage



## JP Giacomini: the Life & Times of a Modern Renaissance Man of Horsemanship

In today's overloaded horse training panorama, J.P. Giacomini stands out as a "Renaissance Man" of modern horsemanship. He started riding by the "seat of his pants", yet has studied various training methods in-depth during his many travels and developed a very sound theoretical basis for his methodology. He has an extensive classical dressage foundation, yet he has applied it most successfully to the very competitive field of international Dressage, Eventing and

Show-Jumping. His method has a definite European flair, yet he has adopted both Western and Native American approaches when appropriate. His sessions radically improve the emotional behavior of his equine students, yet JP relentlessly works at enhancing the horses' biomechanics, as often demonstrated by spectacularly better soundness and performance. It can safely be said that "JP's Essential Horsemanship"™ method is a fundamental paradigm shift that blends the Classical Tradition (using the Baroque gymnastics scale), Natural & Sport horse training concepts and behavior modification techniques into a state-of-the-art approach to horsemanship.



Istoso - Extended Trot

~ Jean Philippe (J.P.) Giacomini was born in France where he started riding under the tutelage of French Cavalry officer Hubert Clauzel. Later, he studied dressage with Master Nuno Oliveira for over a year and at the Portuguese National Stud of Alter Real where he was assistant trainer for three-and-a-half years. He rode many green colts, raced in a few steeplechases, evented, show-jumped and trained the first of 15 Grand Prix dressage horses when he was 17 years old. Through his travels, he was fortunate enough to get the "feel" of a variety of horses trained by direct students of French disciples of Baucher; as well as learned on Lusitano horses trained by Oliveira, Guilherme Borba and Don Jose Athayde (founders of the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art). He

JP in Alter, Portugal - 1971



also rode a number of great sport horses, such as the Olympic competitors Liostro (trained by the late German master Herbert Rehbein for whom JP had the greatest admiration), Jenny Loriston-Clarke's Dutch Courage and Margit Otto-Crepin's Caprici – two of the numerous Olympic riders who attended his clinics. Later, JP worked on well over 12,000 remedial horses during clinics given in 12 countries and developed his own training system to improve all types of horses, from pleasure mounts to Western and top 4-In-Hand Driving competitors.

~ While living in England, JP produced international champions in Dressage and Show-Jumping, including the Lusitano stallion Novilheiro, who was his Grand Prix Dressage horse, an intermediate eventer with European Eventing Champion Rachel Bayliss and British Show-Jumping leading money earner in 1983 under the tactful guidance of John Whitaker. JP also coached international event and dressage riders from: England, Canada, the United States, France, Ireland and Portugal. This list includes the 1983 European 3 Day Event multiple Gold Medallist Rachel Bayliss who, aboard four different horses, all trained by JP, placed or won at Burghley, Badminton and Boekelo (\*\*\*) and \*\*\*\* international 3 day events); with JP's help, Bayliss won five gold and silver FEI medals in European and World Championships. She was the first British rider to ever lead the dressage phase of an international 3 Day Event (in the 1980 Alternate Olympics in Fontainebleau, France, as well as in many other major events). Her horse Mystic Minstrel achieved the unique feat of competing internationally in Dressage and Eventing the same year.

~ The competitive facet of JP's work gave him the opportunity to check and develop the validity of his classical training approach against the best in the world, as well as become an innovator in the field of holistic sport horse management and biomechanics development. This combination of theoretical knowledge and empirical experience resulted in the eventual creation of "**JP's Essential Horsemanship Training System**"™. It is centered on the **Relax Reflex Reward Technique**™ that produces relaxation in horse & rider through a simple physical manipulation called **Endotapping**™. It is used throughout a **progressive series of constantly refined lessons** based on a short 'check list' of **unalterable classical principles** applicable to every training situation. This 'Reality Training' approach has resulted in the discovery of some of the simplest, yet most revolutionary solutions ever devised to **resolve specific issues of equine behavior and biomechanics**.



**John Whittaker & Novilheiro at Hickstead -1983**



**JP's student Rachel Bayliss & Mystic Minstrel 3rd at Badminton 1980 - European Champion 1983, Winner 1 Silver & 4 Gold medals in FEI 3 Day Event Champ**

~ In 1992, JP and his wife Shelley founded an educational foundation called **Trophaeum Mundi Int'l**. Its mission has been to promote the **Renaissance of the Baroque breeds, Classical Horsemanship** through a series of competitions (**TM Baroque Manege Classes**™ and **TM Baroque Versatility**™) and develop **innovation in the training of**

**horses.**

~ In 2002, JP created **Equus Academy LLC**, now located in Lexington KY, with the support of a **world class Advisory Board** (such as Arthur Kottas - former chief rider of the Spanish Riding School, John Whittaker – leading British Show jumper, Don Alvaro Domecq - founder of the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art in Spain, Memo Gracida – world's best polo player, etc.. **Equus Academy LLC** is offering a comprehensive curriculum of Equine Science and Equestrian Art and a complete Certification Program for riders and instructors.

~ JP has **published more than 100 articles in 5 languages** on breeding history, training, biomechanics and has lead many horse study trips to Portugal and Spain. He is now in the process of completing a **book on training, focusing on the practical application of classical principles..**

~ JP is widely considered to be **one of the few true masters of training Piaffe and Passage** [the most difficult of the Dressage movements], and is noted for his ability to bring **immediate (AND long-lasting) solutions to previously unsolved behavior or soundness problems** hindering performance. He conducts clinics internationally (in 12 different countries) and is available for study tours and buying trips worldwide. JP trains his four beloved Lusitano stallions (he calls them his 'living laboratory' - you can see them at [www.baroquefarmsusa.com](http://www.baroquefarmsusa.com) or visit them at Pine Knoll Farm in Lancaster (near Lexington, KY). Besides being a distinguished linguist and writer on horse matters, JP is an amateur artist who enjoys writing poetry, sculpting and drawing. He is **married to photographer Shelley Giacomini**. They have five wonderful children: **Colomba, T.J. (In Memoriam), Tegan, Tara & Ruy-Philippe**.

**JP & Hipogrifo 1996**



**Passage**



**Reverence**



**Extended Trot**



**Pesade**