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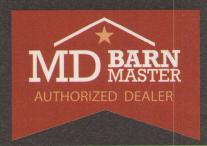
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From the Race to the Ring

New show series celebrates athleticism, versatility and spirit of retired Thoroughbreds.



Ex-racers have a new showcase to strut their post-track talents in the Thoroughbred Classic Horse Show Series, sponsored by the Siegel CARMA Foundation. Slated to debut in April, this three-show series seeks to promote the Thoroughbred breed and the aftercare organizations instrumental in transitioning these horses from the track and into new careers. An equally important goal is the education of the community as to the versatility and suitability of the Thoroughbred as both a pleasure riding companion and talented sport horse.

The shows are open to tattooed or papered Thoroughbreds. Horse's eligibility and identity will be confirmed one of three ways: Proof of Jockey Club Papers, Tattoo Identification or documentation from breeder confirming Thoroughbred breeding and name. Tattoos will be checked to confirm eligibility and identity. Classes will have two separate divisions for amateurs and professionals and will allow for all levels of participants competitive enough for top trainers and accessible enough for the pleasure riding Thoroughbred enthusiast.

Shows will be staged at the Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park in San Juan Capistrano. The first is set for April 20-21, followed by July and October dates, then a year-end championship in November.

Classes are still being finalized but categories are expected to include: hunters, jumpers, equitation, dressage, combined training, conformation, in hand and western. Judging will be of the highest caliber and there will be a point system in place with year-end high-point awards to the champions in each division. Prize money will be awarded as follows: \$1,500 Hunter Derby; \$1,500 Jumper Stakes and \$1,500 Dressage Challenge. Year End Championships will be held.

When retraining Off-Track Thoroughbreds (OTTBs), it is critical to be able to take them to shows and gain experience, exposure and confidence for both horse and rider. This series offers a forum that is supportive to Thoroughbreds as well as cost-effective for their owners as a pathway to transition to the A-rated circuit.

There has been a resurgence in the popularity of OTTBs in the show ring. Up until it became trendy



to import/breed Warmbloods from Europe, show rings were filled with OTTBs and there is a strong, growing base of people that are passionate about the Thoroughbred's talent, athleticism and spirit.

Horses will be permitted to move in to the show facility the Friday prior to the show. Friday will be a schooling day. Competitors will be offered the opportunity to compete in a variety of clinics: horsemanship/groundwork, dressage, hunters, equitation and jumpers. The clinics will be made available to participants for a fee.

Various levels of sponsorship opportunities exist. Space is also available for vendors to participate and promote their products and organizations. The show will commence with a cocktail party and opening night festivities for exhibitors and sponsors.

Proceeds go towards supporting aftercare organizations in California.

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Article provided by the Thoroughbred Classic Horse Show Series. Visit www.thoroughbredclassic.org for more information.

