

The magic of Moorlands Totilas

Broken three world records

The sport of dressage has never really pulled spectators in the same way as show jumping. Most people sigh, raise their eyebrows and say 'it's like watching paint dry'. However that has all changed thanks to the black nine year old approved KWPN Trakehner stallion Moorlands Totilas. With his rider Dutch Team member Edward Gal they have turned the dressage world upside down, left observers speechless, worried fellow competitors so much so that one has to ask well how it will ever get better than this. He has broken three world records! First in July 2009 at the World Dressage Masters at Hickstead, with a score of 89.40% next in August at the Alltech FEI European Jumping and Dressage Championships at Windsor Castle with a score of 90.70%, and again at the Olympia Horse Show World Cup Dressage Qualifier with an unbelievable 92.30% giving him a clear win to a standing ovation.

Equine version of Leona Lewis

This horse really is the Leona Lewis of the horse world. I say that because Leona has a range vocally which is as outstanding as the range of movement Totilas has. Like Leona you wonder how much higher she can go and likewise how much higher can Totilas lift those front legs!

Classical purists say no no no!

Classical purists have been up in arms about him saying it is circus dressage, a character of what dressage should be about even likening the audiences' ability to see good work to the story of the Emperor's New Clothes. He is currently the most discussed dressage horse on the planet! Well I challenge anyone to watch this horse and not want to smile, to clap and say thank heaven for something inspiring, a horse that breathes life and excitement into the sport of dressage. So is it the breeding lines, the astrological star sign he is born under, sheer luck, or the Dutch training system?

Moorlands Totilas born on 25th May 2000 a Gemini and now a KWPN recognised stallion. Bred by J.K. Schuil & A. Visser and owned by Moorland BV.

A Gemini a trait is a split personality could this be true of Totilas. He is said to come out every day on an even keel willing to work and never saying no, a joy to ride although he can be rather grumpy and difficult in the stable. It has also been said that as a six year old he was a pretty hot horse and certainly not one for an amateur, which I can quite believe. Looking at him today one has to say he is so relaxed and not fazed by the big crowds, the noise or the clapping.



Edward Gal and Moorlands Totilas. Photo Kjt Houghton

The family tree

Father: Gribaldi by Kostolany out of Gondola II **Mother:** Lominka, by Glendale out of Elsa

As a colt Gribaldi was discovered by Otto Langels of Haemelschenburg stud that also bred Gribaldi's sire Kostolany. Let's look firstly at Gribaldi who went on also under Edward Gal to become an international Grand Prix dressage stallion and see whether Totilas's

good looks and athletic ability came from him. Interestingly he only finished 11th at his stallion test in Ermello with the following scores. 7.5 for his trot and an 8 for walk and canter, which are certainly not the best marks but the comments were that he is an honest, reliable stallion, steady stallion, willing to work and allows himself to be worked well. He has a big walk and active but they thought in the trot he should bring the hind leg underneath more actively. The canter had good scope and power and he carries himself well. "As a

dressage horse furthermore "Gribaldi has a lot of talent and gives his rider a good feeling." Those that kept their faith in this stallion were not disappointed. He was the 1996 Champion at his stallion inspection in Neumünster, has ten licensed sons including Anky van Grunsven's Painted Black and was proclaimed a Keur stallion.

Gribaldi has numerous approved sons and daughters, passing on his extraordinary qualities to his babies including the ability to piaffe and passage. However the mother Lominka by Glendale son of the KWPN stallion Nimmerdor also had great influence. Owned by Jan and Anna Schuil this KWPN elite mare has also produced the full sister to Totilas, Uusminka granted "Ster" status and a further three full brothers, Buzzard, Creon and Danzig. This mare line holds no less than three Prestatie mares, maternal grand dam "Elza" (Akteur x Pericles xx) herself a successful dressage mare, Wuminka and Viola all of whom put their mark on the phenomenon we see today.

Going back further

Lominka's sire Glendale born April 22nd 1988

Comment: *Big fluid mover*

What did Glendale a 17hh Dutch warmblood out of Sijja, a Preferent mare (graded mare) pass on through the blood lines? It was said he was a big fluid mover with elegant good looks and a gentle disposition. Unfortunately he died from colic on October 4, 2002. He was foaled at the VDL Stud in Beers (Friesland) out of KWPN breeding family 716. He passed his stallion test in 1991 (finishing 8th out of 24), and went on to finish second in the 1992/1993 Stallion Competition in Category A (Dressage.) As a four year old in Holland, he served more than 300 KWPN mares. Glendale was imported by Iron Spring Farm in 1995, and was trained and ridden by the farm's owner, Mary Alice Malone who said "He was said to be a real crowd pleaser a farm favourite, a real gentleman with a sense of humour!"

Kostolany, Gribaldi's sire born December 10th 1984

Comment: *Thrilled audiences*

Kostolany is so far my favourite, not that I have ever met him but his photos say it all. He is owned by Beate Langels of Gestüt Hämelschenburg in Emmerthal, Germany. **Born 1984 By Enrico Caruso out of Kapstadt (by Falke x Ibikus x Impuls) all superb breeding lines, this stunning black stallion recently celebrated his 25th birthday.**

You can see photographs of him celebrating with the Langels family at www.gestuet-haemelschenburg.de/html/e_gebkos.html

What a wonderful temperament this much loved stallion has. He was the champion at the Trakehner stallion selection at Neumünster in 1987 and "Stallion of the Year" in 2009. Kostolany competed successful up to Prix St. George level dressage plus he had a talent



Glendale



*The stunning Kostolany at 23 years old
Photo Beate Langels*

Kostolany at 6 years old
Photo Beate Langels



for jumping. He also performed the equine version of the Phantom of the Opera to the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber. Kostolany would not only do piaffes and passages but also sit and lay down. When the show was first presented at the Equitana the audience was thrilled. He is sire of ten approved stallions and has had successful daughters. Over 140 of his daughters are registered as broodmares in Germany, among them many inspection champions and National champions. His offspring include Silver Moon, Bertone, Sans Souci and his bay full brother, the Grand Prix dressage stallion Showmaster. Especially Silver Moon has become a prolific sire of international dressage competitors in Denmark. He still stands at stud in Germany but you can get frozen semen via Janet Lorch, Muschamp Stud, Fulmer Bucks

Gondola II, Gribaldi's dam by dressage progenitor Ibikus

Gondola II became an Elite mare in 1995 on the basis of her offspring. Additionally Gondola II is the dam of the approved stallion Goldino who was performing at Prix St. George level at the age of seven years-old. The first crop from this stallion produced two approved sons (Trakehner Stallion Selections 1995/1996), Up to Date and Uljanoff who became Reserve Champions after Gribaldi! Gondola II is by the dressage progenitor Ibikus who was both "DLG-Sieger" (Champion) and four times "Championatssieger. The famous mare

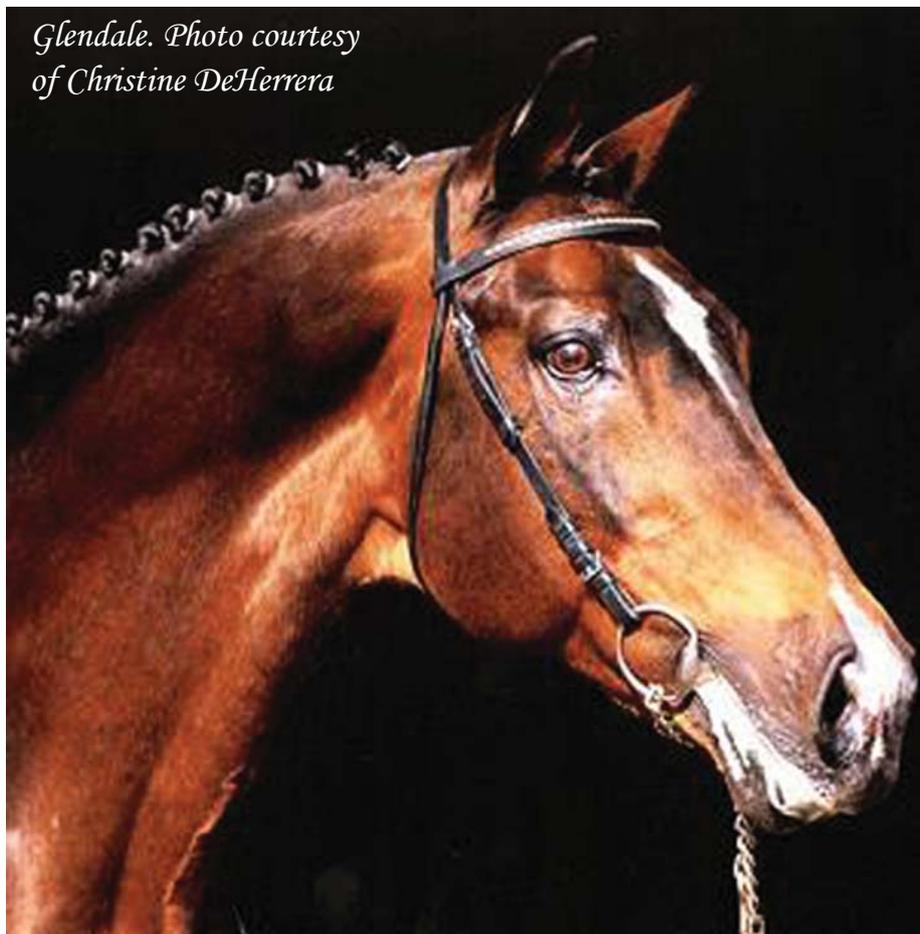


Kassette from "Hauptgestüt Trakehnen" forms the basis of Kostolany's dam line and products of this line include the Olympic Dressage Horse Immanuel (Munich 1972) as well as the Trakehner progenitors Kapitan and Kassius. She too had great influence.

Glendale's sire VDL stallion Nimmerdor (Holstein)

Comment: A wonderful disposition in a powerful package

Glendale's sire, Nimmerdor, was a Preferent stallion and the leading producer of Jumpers in Holland as well as a notable sire of dressage horses. His dam, Silja, was also a Preferent mare. He was the founding stallion of the famous VDL Stud of the Netherlands. He has 18 KWPN approved sons, which includes Ahorn, Wellington, Goodtimes and Heartbreaker. He also has 39 approved KWPN grandsons, including Emilion, Farrington, Glennridge, Kalusha, Londontimes, Matterhorn, Ohorn, Pacific, Radisson and Sydney. Across the whole world Nimmerdor has more than 40 approved stallions. His progeny are known for a wonderful disposition in a powerful package. Thanks to his performance and the performances of his offspring Nimmerdor became the predicate "Preferent". As a reward to his enormous work he was honoured "stallion of the century" in the year 2000. On Friday 25th of April 2003 at the age of 31 years, Nimmerdor, passed away quietly in his sleep sometime before 11am at the VDL Stud in Holland – a peaceful ending to an illustrious life for this great creature of old Holland.



Glendale. Photo courtesy of Christine DeHerrera

Kostolony's sire was Enrico Caruso born 5.5.1978

Comment: A gentle character and very athletic

By Karim Esmailzadeh

At his Koerung at Neumünster, after his approval he was ignored at the auction because of his small size as a 2.5 year old. He was bought at a bargain by Otto Langels of Gestuet Haemelschenburg who only later realized how small he was. He was found to have an extremely gentle character and was very athletic. To everyone's surprise he grew to almost 16.3 hands and produced many good riding horses. He has had a great impact on the Dutch Warmblood Breed in the Netherlands. Enrico's gray son Trocadero (o/o Thirza by Karon) was graded premium and champion of his approval. He now stands at Sian Read's Bluewood Stud in England. He also left two or more approved sons in the U.S. among others, and he produced jumpers as well as dressage horses. The most famous of his daughters was Schwalbenlust out of Elite Schwalbenburg by Ibikus who once reined the Stud at Haemelschenburg. She also passed away not long ago but left her crown behind for her beautiful daughter Schwalbenspiel by Exclusive, the dam of the approved Shavalou. Enrico died on June 14, 2005 at age 28 in a tragic barn fire at Tylord Farm in Vermont, U.S.A. Lightning struck on the stallion barn and caused a sudden fire in the stable, destroying the stallion stable and indoor school of Debra



*Enrico Caruso
Photo Beate Langels*

Tyler's Tylord Farm. Six stallions, including Enrico Caruso and the 2004 Neumunster licensed Cosmopolit (by Peron Junior x Le Duc) perished in this fire. On the same day his beautiful (black with two white socks) daughter (out of Thirza by Karon-Falke, owned and bred by Jutta Langels) was born, in Germany. His death brought tears to many around the world that loved this noble stallion.

Enrico Caruso's sire was Mahagoni by Pasteur XX out of Pr.St. Maharani II. These bloodlines incorporate the thoroughbred, Burgermeister XX, Herold XX, Trakehner, Flaneur, Maharadsch Mahagoni
Comment: Decorated sire of the century

Mahagoni was Champion of his stallion performance test in Germany. He was ranked in the top ten in the world for many years for producing competitive CDI Grand Prix Dressage horses and he stands out as a top producer of stallions. He was also the sire of Olympic bronze medallist Peron. Mahagoni was later decorated with the title "Sire of the Century"

Flaneur:

Comment: : *Quiet, very balanced temperament, playful but good in character.*

Flaneur was Reserve Champion of the 1967 Körnung at Neumünster, and was approved with the comments: "Exemplary model with much significance in the whole appearance. Typey head; good neck; well-positioned, broad, and well-muscled shoulder; good and uniformly conditioned body. Strong and correct in the foundation with good, straight movement. Performance tested at Westercelle 1968, Flaneur was highly scored and described as follows: "Quiet, very balanced temperament, playful but good in character. Constitution tight and firm. Good rideability, balanced, uncomplicated and comfortable to ride. Better

than average jumping ability; good overall performance ability; good ground-covering walk, swinging and correct trot, well-balanced loose canter. A stallion with many possibilities." He sired 15 graded stallions in Germany (the most important generally considered to be Arogno) and 106 Stud Book daughters, including the States Premium Mare Maharani II (dam of Elite Stallion Mackensen and full brothers Mahagoni and Marlon) and Elite Mares Kanconette and Karawane II. His descendents are sought after for competition, and his son Troubadour was Christine Stückelberger's reserve mount for the Seoul Olympics. Flaneur died in 1988.

Maharadsch

Comment: *Extraordinarily beautiful, expressive stallion*

Maharadsch won the second prize at the 1962 DLG Exhibition in Munich. He was of vast importance to the Trakehner breed in the post-World War II period, as a grandson of the extremely significant Arabian stallion "Fetysz ox". "Maharadsch" sired 11 graded sons and 82 stud book mares, including German Elite mare "Abiza" (dam of "Abdullah") and "Fawiza" (dam of Falke and Fabian). He was described

as extraordinarily beautiful, expressive stallion with Arabian stamp, but a large format. Very pretty face, much neck, thoroughly sufficient girth; the way of going is elastic and swinging; the stallion shows the best inclination for riding. His children inherited a pleasant character, good rideability, and good rhythmic movement."

Summing up

Looking at all the above we can see where Totilas's talent comes from so combine that with a little bit of luck plus a good rider and you have the eye stopping performance we see today. What does his rider have to say about him? "Totilas is a very special horse. He has an incredible amount of talent; it's simply a pleasure to ride him. Totilas is everything a rider could want!"

My thanks to Beate Langles of Gestut Haemelschenburg for sending me such beautiful photographs and the help from their website.

www.gestuet-haemelschenburg.de/html/engebkos.html