

Zigulì FEI Endurance European Championship 2025 – Press Kit



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FEI
ENDURANCE
EUROPEAN
CHAMPIONSHIP
CASTIGLIONE
DEL LAGO
2025



Introduction

From 20 to 21 June 2025, Castiglione del Lago (ITA) will host the Zigulì FEI Endurance European Championship. The line-up has been confirmed with 74 combinations representing 21 nations ready to challenge for the 2025 Individual and Team European titles on Saturday 21 June 2025.

FEI Endurance European Championship: 41 years of top-class equestrian history

The legacy of FEI Endurance European Championship spans decades, starting with the first edition in Florac (FRA) in 1984. The local athlete Yves Aime and Incompris were the first individual champions, ahead of Hilde Jarc (AUT) and Samum, who were second, and Denis Pesce (FRA) and Al Pomar, third. France took the win in the Team competition after surpassing Great Britain and Germany.

This will mark the second time Castiglione del Lago hosts the FEI Endurance European Championship. The first time was back in 2001 and in 2025 the picturesque Italian town will host the 22nd edition of the European continental championship.

This edition boasts a mostly female field of participants, with 51 women and 23 male athletes entered, and an equally impressive diversity in age range of the participants with 46 years separating the youngest competitors -22-year-olds Manuel María Avo (POR), Federico Valeri (ITA) and Caterina Coppini (ITA) -from the oldest participant, 68-year-old Avril Bray (IRL).

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The full roster of countries participating in the upcoming Zigulì FEI Endurance European Championship 2025 are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Great Britain, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Switzerland and Slovakia.

Zigulì FEI Endurance European Championship 2025 Venue

Castiglione del Lago, in central Italy, will host of the Zigulì FEI European Endurance Championship 2025. Nestled on the southwestern shores of Lake Trasimeno in Umbria, Castiglione del Lago boasts a rich equestrian heritage, particularly in the discipline of Endurance. Over the past two decades, the town has emerged as a prominent hub for international equestrian events.

Equestrian Legacy and Events

Since 2000, Castiglione del Lago has hosted 31 international Endurance competitions, including 12 Italian Championships. Notably, it was the venue for the FEI Endurance European Championship in 2001. This will mark the fifth time Italy hosts the continental championships, with Siena (1989), Pratoni del Vivaro (1997) and Asissi (2009) as well as Castiglione del Lago (2001).

In preparation for the 2025 championship, a test event was held on 31 August 2024, attracting athletes from ten nations, including Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Iraq, Italy, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. The event featured three categories: CEI3* (160 km), CEI2* (120 km), and CEI* (101 km). The CEI3* ride was won by Italian athlete Costanza Laliscia and Zagara di Chia, completing the course in 9 hours, 21 minutes and 30 seconds, with an average speed of 17.097 km/h.

Italia Endurance Stables & Academy

Italia Endurance Stables & Academy keeps the equestrian tradition of Umbria alive with an annual programme dedicated to sports and educational development.

Located in Agello di Magione, this 10-hectare centre of excellence hosts major events and features top-tier facilities, the acclaimed Fuxiateam, leading coaches, and an open-access Academy for equestrian enthusiasts.

Competition Preview

Who will reign in Italy? Line-up announced for Zigulì FEI Endurance European Championship 2025

By Rebecca Kinnarney



With just over two weeks to go until the Zigulì FEI Endurance European Championship 2025, teams and individuals from all over Europe are preparing to make their way to the beautiful venue of Castiglione del Lago (ITA). Set in the heart of the Apennines, on the shores of Lake Trasimeno, the 160km course covers some of the most beautiful, yet technical, riding Europe has to offer.

A course befitting the calibre of horses and riders, who have trained and qualified over years in readiness for this, the ultimate challenge, and for the chance of taking home a European Championship medal for their country. Any European Championship is highly significant in the Endurance calendar and the organisers were delighted that the Zigulì FEI Endurance European Championship 2025 received the High Patronage of the European Parliament, calling it “a prestigious recognition that celebrates the values of sport, sustainability, and European excellence”.

With a total of 21 nations represented, 14 of which are fielding teams of three or more, this is shaping up to be a tight-run competition. Definite entries are now in from all participating nations and there are some fascinating team and individual combinations, together with some interesting changes to the combinations put forward as nominated entries.

The reigning European Champions, France, are fielding an impressive team in their bid to retain the title, which they won in Ermelo (NED) in 2023. Two of their team, Julia Montagne and Melody Theolissat, currently stand in the top ten in the FEI Endurance Riders World Ranking and Philippe Tomas, a stalwart of French Championship teams, finished 3rd and 4th in the last two FEI Endurance European Championships. They have a total of six athletes and seven horses forward, and the team of five who will go forward and battle it out for France will be decided closer to the event. Possibly the biggest surprise in the French team selection is the absence of Virgine Atger, one of France's most renowned Championship team athletes. Nevertheless, this strong set of combinations will, as always, be a team to watch.

So too, Spain, who battled hard for the win in Ermelo but received instead team silver. Like France, they have six athletes and seven horses forward, among them some familiar faces - both human and equine. Jaume Puntí Dachs is entered on British bred Warrens Hill Chayze, a 17-year-old gelding. With seven championships under his belt and a phenomenal turn of speed, this combination could be scintillating to follow.

Dachs' wife, Maria Alvarez Ponton, has two horses forward, one of which, her homebred, JM El Sobrino, while having no Championship experience yet, has a 100% success rate. He could well be one to watch. Ponton has to be one of the most celebrated athletes in the sport of Endurance. She has won four individual gold medals and has been part of numerous gold medal winning teams for Spain. Ponton took individual silver at the last FEI Endurance European Championship in Ermelo (NED) in 2023, beaten by Germany's Sabrina Arnold with a tiny two-second margin. Arnold and her 11-year-old Arab mare, Easy El Boheira, left the final vet gate in fourth place and fought hard to the finish, snatching gold from the Spaniard. Arnold and Easy come forward in the Zigulì FEI Endurance European Championship 2025 to defend their gold medal winning position.

The advantage of home turf can never be ignored in any sport, and Endurance is no exception. The exceptional venue at Castiglione del Lago is familiar territory to the Italian team, with Costanza Laliscia and her 10-year-old Arab mare, Zagara di Chia, crossing the line one second ahead of Spain's Omar Blanco Rodrigo and Fatal, to take the win at the 2024 test event. Laliscia was also individual gold medal winner at the FEI Endurance European Championships 2019 at Euston Park (GBR). This experience should set the combination in good stead for this year's event.

On the Dutch team, there are some highly experienced riders, with Carmen Römer bringing forward her 14-year-old grey Arab, Anissa du Florival, for her Championship debut. This will be only her second start in a 160km event. Similarly, Manuel Maria Avo of Portugal will be riding his mare, Cherie de Ghazal,

in her first Championship alongside Laetitia Gonclaves, whose mare has a 100% completion rate but who, too, will be tackling her first Championship.

The event begins at 6am (CET) on Saturday 21 June, when the combinations will set off on the longest loop of 39km. This loop, of the six they will ride through the day, has the greatest climb and descent and is definitely one which is better tackled in the relative cool of the morning. Whether the combinations are coming forward as part of a team or are riding individually for their nations; the pride, the effort, and care will be the same and riders, horses and crew will all be making good use of those 17 crew points, 20 water points and 97 control points.

So, with the French breeding programme dominating the equine athletes forward, will the French team be able to retain their title and carry home gold again, or will there be a surprise upset on the day? Since only the top 3 horses from each nation will be taken into account in medal placings, it's all to play for.

In the sport of Endurance, anything is possible.

Full Programme

Tuesday 17 June

H 09:00 - 19:30	Stables Opening
H 09:00 - 18:00	Ride Desk Opening
H 15:30 - 18:30	Training Track and Grazing Area Opening

Wednesday 18 June

H 07:00 - 19:30	Stables Opening
H 08:00 - 11:00	Training Track and Grazing Area Opening
H 09:00 - 18:00	Ride Desk Opening
H 15:30 - 18:30	Training Track and Grazing Area Opening
H 16:00	Key Officials Meeting <i>Conference Hall – Endurance Hub</i>

Thursday 19 June

H 07:00 - 19:30	Stables Opening
H 08:00 - 11:00	Training Track and Grazing Area Opening
H 09:00 - 18:00	Ride Desk Opening
H 10:00	Chef d'Equipe Meeting <i>Conference Hall – Endurance Hub</i>
H 15:30	Latest arrival time for horses at the Stables
H 15:30 - 17:30	Training Track and Grazing Area Opening
H 18:00	Opening Ceremony <i>Castiglione del Lago Downtown and Rocca Medievale</i>

Friday 20 June

H 07:00 - 19:30	Stables Opening
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H 08:00 - 11:00	Training Track and Grazing Area opening
H 09:00 - 18:00	Ride Desk Opening
H 10:00	Riders vet gate walk through
H 11:00	Press Conference <i>Conference Hall – Endurance Hub</i>
H 12:00	Concert of the Mounted band of the State Police
H 12:30 - 19:00	Vitakraft Lounge Opening (<i>upon invitation</i>)
H 14:00	Officials Meeting <i>Conference Hall – Endurance Hub</i>
H 16:00 - 18:00	First (pre-ride) horse inspection
H 16:15 - 18:15	Riders weigh-in
Saturday 21 June	
H 04:30 - 21:00	Stables Opening
H 05:00 - 18:00	Ride Desk Opening
H 05:00 - 19:00	Vitakraft Lounge Opening (<i>upon invitation</i>)
H 06:00	Start Zigulì FEI Endurance European Championship 2025 CH-EU-E 160 km
Sunday 22 June	
H 07:00 - 19:30	Stables Opening
H 08:00 - 10:00	Grazing Area Opening
H 09:00 - 13:00	Ride Desk Opening
H 11:00	Prize Giving and Closing Ceremony <i>Rocca Medievale – Castiglione del Lago</i>
Monday 23 June	
H 07:00 - 12:00	Stables Opening

Definite Entries

Check all the athletes participating at the Zigulì FEI Endurance European Championship 2025 in Castiglione del Lago (ITA) [here](#)

FEI World Rankings

[FEI Endurance Riders World Ranking](#)

[FEI Endurance Horse World Ranking](#)

[FEI Endurance Trainer World Ranking](#)

Fast facts about the Zigulì FEI Endurance European Championship 2025

Total number of athletes: 74

Countries represented: 21

Total number of Horses: 81

Youngest Athlete: Manuel María Avo (POR), Federico Valeri (ITA) and Caterina Coppini (ITA) – 22 years old

Oldest Athlete: Avril Bray (IRL) – 68 years old

Number of athletes per gender:

- **Men:** 23
- **Women:** 51

Most Appearances

- **Men:** Jaume Puntí Dachs (ESP) – 8 appearances
- **Women:** Carmen Röhmer (FRA) & María Álvarez Pontón (ESP) – 8 appearances

Nations competing for the first time: None

Athletes competing for the first time: 33

Horses competing for the first time: 65

Past Winners

Most Medals (by country)

Country	Individual	Ind Gold	Team	Team Gold	Total
France	26	7	16	9	42
Spain	16	6	10	6	26
Germany	6	2	7	-	13
Great Britain	4	1	6	2	10
Italy	6	2	2	1	8
Belgium	3	2	3	2	6
Switzerland	1	-	5	-	6
Portugal	-	-	4	1	4
Sweden	1	-	3	-	4
Netherlands	1	-	2	-	3
Austria	2	1	-	-	2
Poland	1	-	-	-	1

Most Medals (by athlete)

Athlete	Country	Total	Gold
María Álvarez Pontón	ESP	13	7
Jaume Puntí Dachs	ESP	10	6
Jean Philippe Frances	FRA	7	3
Angel Soy Coll	ESP	6	4
Bernhard Dornsiepen	GER	5	-

Reigning Champions - FEI Endurance European Championship – Ermelo (NED) 2023

EVENT	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Individual	Sabrina Arnold & Easy El Boheira (GER)	Maria Álvarez Pontón & Bolchoi El Akim (ESP)	Philippe Thomas & Biwaka De Chalendrat (FRA)
Team	France	Spain	Germany

Full Results - FEI Endurance European Championship – Ermelo (NED) 2023

[Individual](#)

[Team](#)

FEI online resources

Keep up to date with the latest news from the Ziguì FEI Endurance European Championship **2025** in Castiglione del Lago (ITA) [here](#)

Schedules and **results** will be available [here](#).

Images & Content: Free images for editorial purposes are available from the [FEI Flickr account](#) in the photostream and in the dedicated album.

Biographies from the main participants are available [here](#)

You can find the **FEI** on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#) and [FEI YouTube](#)

You can access the **"NRH Guidelines for Posting Videos from FEI-Named Events"** [here](#)

Check Endurance Lifestyle [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts

FEI Media & Broadcast Contacts

Didier Montes (*available on-site*).

FEI Sport Communications & Media Relations

didier.montes@fei.org

+41 78 750 61 21

Tobias Friedrich

FEI Broadcast Production Manager

Tobias.Friedrich@fei.org

+41 78 750 61 71

Paul Stretton

FEI Sport Communications & Media Operations Senior Manager

Paul.Stretton@fei.org

+41 78 661 66 53

Organising Committee Media Contacts

Caterina Vagnozzi: c.vagnozzi@gmail.com

Gianluca Laliscia: g.laliscia@sistemaeventi.it

Mariangela Valorosi : m.valorosi@sistemaeventi.it

Vittoria Laliscia: v.laliscia@sistemaeventi.it