

Unique breed and classic training celebrate 450 years together.

The Spanish Riding School of Vienna, Austria is celebrating 450 years of classical riding this year. The methods of training and developing the Lipizzan horse have been passed down by mostly an oral tradition. The classical system of training is meant to use the horse's natural movements and strengthen them to provide complete harmony between the horse and rider. The union of horse and rider is slowly developed in careful stages so the utmost trust and unity can be formed.



This kind of systematic gymnastic riding allows the horse time to develop correctly and does not rush their development.

There are 16 riders at the Spanish Riding School of which two are Chief Riders and 12 riders and two assistants make up the rest. In case you are interested in being a rider there are applications online. The SRS also has training courses at their new Heldenberg Training Facility where even amateurs can learn the fundamentals of classical riding.

The horses performing at the SRS come from the Piber Stud Farm in Graz Austria where they are allowed to have three full summers growing up together on the alpine pastures. This affords the young horses a chance to develop good balance and health while being socialized with other horses with whom they will have close contact with during performances. There are eight Lipizzan Stud Farms in Europe. Piber in Austria. The other stud farms include Fagaras near Romania, Szilvasvarad in Hungary, Topolcianky in Czechoslovakia, Lipizza in Italy, and Vucak, Djakovo and Karadjordievo in Yugoslavia. Lipizzans are common in France, the Netherlands and parts of Canada.

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www.lipizzan.org