

**CANADIAN CHERYL MEISNER AWARDED
WILDCARD SPOT AT EXQUIS WORLD
DRESSAGE MASTERS IN FLORIDA**

Cheryl Meisner of Blandford, NS, and Paganini, John Risley's 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood stallion (Havidoff x Statuar), will also represent Canada at the \$145,000 Exquis World Dressage Masters, scheduled for February 4–6, 2010 at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center, in Wellington, FL, USA.

The pair, who had a very successful 2009 competition season, was awarded a wildcard invitation to the competition by the Exquis World Dressage Masters (WDM) organizing committee based on their FEI Rider Ranking. Meisner will join Canadian Olympians Ashley Holzer of Toronto, ON, and Pop Art, and Belinda Trussell of Stouffville, ON, and Anton as the Canadian representatives at the prestigious CDI5* competition in Florida.

A maximum of 20 rider/horse combinations, including Steffen Peters (USA) on Ravel, Isabell Werth (GER) on Satchmo and Anky van Grunsven (NED) on Salinero, will compete in the Grand Prix test with prize money of \$14,500. The top eight riders will advance to the \$87,000 Grand Prix Freestyle with the remaining riders performing the Grand Prix Special test with a purse of \$43,500.

The international judging panel will include Dr.

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Wojtek Markowski (FEI O—POL), Gary Rockwell (FEI O—USA), Axel Steiner (FEI O—USA), Victoire Mandl (FEI I—AUT) and Freddy Leyman (FEI I—BEL).

In addition to this competition in Florida, Exquis World Dressage Masters (WDM) CDI5* will also have events in Munich, Germany and Hickstead, England each with €100,000 (US\$145,000) in prize money for 2010 and 2011.

About Dressage Canada

Dressage Canada, as a committee of Equine Canada, is the National governing body for Dressage in Canada. Dressage Canada's objective is to foster the growth of Dressage and the pursuit of excellence in the sport at the local, national and international levels. Dressage Canada provides support and guidance to both amateur and professional through the following programs: coaching education and programs, officials' education and programs, rules & qualifying criteria, sport development, publications & awards. For more information about Dressage Canada, please visit the Dressage section of the Equine Canada site or connect with us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/dressagecanada or Facebook at <http://tinyurl.com/lp8cnd>.