

JUMPING VERONA

2015

Longines FEI World Cup™
Jumping Verona 5-8 Novembre 2015



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DELESTRE DASHES TO VICTORY IN LONGINES FEI WORLD CUP™ AT VERONA

The French combination of Simon Delestre and Hermes Ryan brought the crowd to their feet at Jumping Verona this afternoon when winning the adrenalin-filled fourth leg of the Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping 2015/2015 Western European League in sensational style.



The 15-horse jump-off against the clock was full of thrills and surprises, with superstars Ludger Beerbaum (Chaman) from Germany and Scott Brash (Hello M'Lady) from Great Britain tied for the lead when breaking the beam in precisely the same time at the halfway stage. But, in a competition that will be remembered for some time to come, they eventually had to settle for joint-third place when overtaken by Sweden's Henrik von Eckermann (Cantinero) who was eventually runner-up and Delestre with his brave and agile chestnut who came out on top.

"Verona is my first show with Ryan since Aachen, and he was a little fresh the first day" said the 34-year-old French who claimed individual bronze at this summer's FEI European Championships at the hallowed German venue. He changed his plan for the weekend when he realised his little French-bred gelding was on his toes. "Usually I would jump him in a small class and then the Grand Prix, but instead I did the big class yesterday because I wanted him to settle and anyway I didn't want to shock him with the size of the fences today", he explained. "He's a small horse with a lot of scope so that always gives you an advantage against the clock. He's always very fast, but before I went into the jump-off I decided I wouldn't push too much - I would just try to be fast without going crazy" he pointed out.

He still managed to shave more than a second off the target-time set by Beerbaum and Brash when third-last to go, and although von Eckermann gave it a great shot with Cantinero when second-last into the ring, the Swedish pair still trailed the winners by just over a quarter of a second.

"Ryan is a typical French horse and the best I've ever had in my life - he's very special" said Delestre who, having already collected points at both the first leg in Oslo (NOR) and the third leg in Lyon (FRA), is already qualified for the Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping 2016 Final in Gothenburg, Sweden next March.

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