



Newsletter no. 7 – May 2nd, 2022

TEST EVENTS: FIFTEEN DAYS TO GO

The long-awaited **FEI World Championships 2022 for Eventing and Driving** take place on September 15-25 at Praton del Vivaro Sporting Equestrian Centre at Rocca di Papa. However, the **Test Events** for these two disciplines are approaching quickly and will also be held at this splendid location on the Albani Hills. The first will be the Eventing Test Event (May 12-15), followed by **Driving** (May 20-22).



Spectators enjoy the cross-country action at the 2007 FEI European Eventing Championships at Praton del Vivaro – ph. FISE/S. Grasso

Admission for spectators will be **free of charge** for both events. And there are not only the sporting events to be enjoyed on these dates — in springtime these beautiful facilities in the heart of the **Castelli Romani Park** are at their best in terms of nature and the landscape. The Organising Committee has also planned **novelties for food lovers**: 'Il Villaggio del Gusto' — The Village of Taste — is an area in which visitors will become immersed in the food and wine of the Castelli Romani. The area's best farming estates, in cooperation with local restaurants, will provide an opportunity to taste traditional first courses, chopping boards of salami and the characteristic 'frittella', together with local wines. Save the date in your diary ...

EVENTING

The Eventing Test Event will be part of a **CCIO4*-S and valid as the first leg of the 2022 FEI Eventing Nations Cup™**, a series of eight team competitions held in Europe and North America. The competition at Praton will also decide the title and medals for the **2022 Italian Championships**. In just a few days' time (the deadline for entering is today May 2) we will know the names of the top foreign riders who have chosen the Test Event as part of their plans for the 2022 season, as well as which Italians will be attempting to add their names to the Role of Honour in the Eventing Championships. Riders are expected from **13 countries**: Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, France, Great Britain, Germany, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden and of course, Italy. The Eventing Test Event (May 12-15) will also be a rehearsal for the **television production** that will be provided during the FEI World Championships, when there will be 40 cameras around the site, some of which are special and innovative for this kind of event. The Eventing Test Event will therefore be televised in full with **live streaming on FEI TV** (with English commentary) and also on the Praton2022 website.

www.pratoni2022.it

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DRIVING

The Driving Test Event (May 20-22) will be the highlight of the **international event (CAI2* and CAI3*)** open to ponies, singles, pairs and four-in hand. **Nineteen teams of horses** are expected at Pratoni representing **six nations**: Slovenia, USA, France, Belgium and Hungary, as well as Italy, of course.

Germany's course designer, **Josef Middendorf**, will use **six obstacles that have been prepared for use for the World Championships**. The dressage and cones tests will be held in the same grass arena which will also be used at the September World Championships.



One of the new obstacles prepared for the Driving marathon - ph. Massimo Argenziano

CLICK HERE FOR AN AERIAL VIEW OF PRATONI DEL VIVARO <https://fb.watch/cHTuX-4mqn/>

This Test Event is not only a unique opportunity for drivers to become familiar with the area hosting the championships, but is also a greatly appreciated **new entry for Italy** into the international Driving calendar. Portugal's **Manuel Bandeira de Mello**, Director of the FEI's Driving Department, commented: *"I expect the 2022 edition of the Driving FEI World Championships to be a magnificent one. Pratoni del Vivaro is an equestrian centre with great traditions. It is easy to reach and I believe there will be a significant participation from the main federations that are the most active in this discipline. Driving's popularity is increasing all over the world and I am sure that these World Championships will attract a particularly large number of spectators."* – he said.

TEST EVENTS PROGRAMME

Eventing (May 12-15)

- Thursday May 12th at 9.30 am dressage Part 1
- Friday 13th at 9.30 am dressage Part 2
- Saturday 14th at 10.30 am cross country
- Sunday 15th at 3.00 pm show jumping and prizegiving

Driving (May 20-22)

- Friday 20th at 10.00 am dressage
- Saturday 21st at 10.00 am marathon
- Sunday 22nd at 10.00 am cones and prizegiving

TAIT IN PODCAST

The **1960 Rome Olympic Games** resulted in the creation of the **Equestrian Sport Centre at Pratoni del Vivaro**, which on that occasion, however, only hosted the dressage and the cross-country for Eventing. The centre returned to international fame in **1998** during the third edition of the **FEI World Equestrian Games™**, which still remains an honorable occasion for the Italian equestrian world since the country was a last-minute replacement when Ireland withdrew as organizers only four months before the WEG started.

The outcome of these championships was excellent, with the FEI expressing great satisfaction despite the little time available to the Italian Equestrian Sports Federation to prepare.



Blyth Tait riding Ready Teddy and the victorious New Zealand team at the 1998 FEI World Equestrian Games™ - ph. FEI

Eight years after they won double gold in Stockholm in 1990, **New Zealand again** dominated the Eventing competition when **Blyth Tait**, riding Ready Teddy, won a second individual gold and his team mate Mark Todd, riding Broadcast News, took home individual silver. The bronze medal went to Sweden's Paula Törnqvist on Monaghan. The two other Kiwi team members were Sally Clark (Squirrel Hill) and Vaughn Jefferis (Bounce). France and the United States respectively won team silver and bronze.

Tait himself, 37 years old at the time and now 61, plays the leading role in the second episode of the **'Road To Pratoni'** podcast created by **Equiratings**, in which the New Zealand rider speaks of that unforgettable experience.

The podcast is available at the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/Pratoni2022/photos/a.414112447086990/512107133954187/>

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