

Press Release -  
9 September 2019

14 OF THE 20 BEST RIDERS IN THE WORLD  
AND THE NEW EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS IN  
RAMATUELLE THIS WEEKEND,  
FOR THE 6TH EDITION OF THE LONGINES ATHINA ONASSIS HORSE  
SHOW, LONGINES GLOBAL CHAMPIONS TOUR

The start of one of the most glamorous legs of the Longines Global Champions Tour, the last in France for this 14<sup>th</sup> season of the prestigious circuit, with a star-studded line-up. A stone's throw from the renowned Pampelonne Beach, the Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show will play host to 14 of the 20 best riders in the world, as well as the members of the team who were recently crowned European champions.

#### A line-up of champions

The mythical Pampelonne Beach is well-accustomed to stars and since 2014, the greatest riders in the world have also been coming to the place where *And God Created Woman* was filmed, for the annual Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show. The 2019 edition will be no exception to this rule. In Ramatuelle's temporary ring, installed for the occasion by Denis Monicolo's teams, and on courses designed by the Italian maestro, Uliano Vezzani, the German riders for example will be represented by a strong delegation, in a setting where they are frequently successful. The following riders are thus expected: Daniel Deusser, number 3 in the Longines World Rankings, the Kaiser Ludger Beerbaum, Christian Ahlmann, World no. 9, who won here in 2017, Marco Kütscher, victorious in Ramatuelle in 2015, and Marcus Ehning, World no.19, winner of the circuit in 2010, among others. The Germans will come face to face and have to fight it out with those who finished ahead of them on the highest step of the podium, three weeks ago during the Longines FEI European Jumping Championships in Rotterdam, Belgium's Pieter Devos, World no.7, Jos Verlooy, World no.16 and third individually at the Europeans, accompanied by Niels Bruynseels, World no.10. Other major names of the Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show and the Longines Global Champions Tour are also expected such as the World no.5, Great Britain's Ben Maher, the winner of last year's Longines Global Champions Tour Grand Prix of Ramatuelle - Saint-Tropez and 1<sup>st</sup> in last year's Longines Global Champions Tour Ranking, Scott Brash, who was the Champion of Champions in 2014 and in 2013, as well as Australia's Edwina Tops-Alexander, who was the overall winner of the Global Champions Tour in 2012 and in 2011.

As for France, it will be represented by World no.17 Kevin Staut and Julien Epaillard (World no.21), Simon Delestre (World no. 23) and the ideal of a whole generation, the best French lady in in the world rankings, Normandy's Pénélope Leprévost.

**The riders will come face to face on Saturday 14 September at 5.15pm for the highlight of this weekend of great sport, the Longines Global Champions Tour Grand Prix of Ramatuelle - Saint-Tropez, boasting 300, 000 euros of prize money.**

### Everyone behind the Pirates!

The St. Tropez Pirates are the local team competing at the Ramatuelle leg of the Global Champions League, and will be going all out for the glory of a home win, helped on their way by some outstanding riders sporting flamboyant colours with a theme song that is instantly recognisable. At the helm of the St Tropez Pirates, the Australian star Edwina Tops-Alexander can count on Belgium's Pieter Devos and France's Olivier Robert.

**Join us on Thursday 12 September, at 4.50pm, for the first round of the Global Champions League, and on Saturday 14 September at 1.45pm for the second round.**

### The 2019 Global Champions Tour Ranking before the Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show

1. Ben Maher (GBR) - 277 points
2. Pieter Devos (BEL) - 266 points
3. Daniel Deusser (GER) - 259 points
4. Kevin Staut (FRA) - 239 points
5. Maikel van der Vleuten (NED) - 237 points

### The 2019 Global Champions League Ranking before the Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show

1. London Knights - 288 points
2. St. Tropez Pirates - 287 points
3. Shanghai Swans - 277 points
4. Miami Celtics - 267 points
5. Madrid in Motion - 260 points

### Full list of the participants

<https://www.athinaonassis-horseshow.com/ridershorses.php>

### To follow the Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show on social networks

Instagram : longines\_aohs

Facebook : LonginesAOHS

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### **About the Global Champions Tour**

*In 2018, the Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show joined the ranks of the prestigious Longines Global Champions Tour. This international show jumping circuit, created in 2005 by the Olympic team gold medalist Jan Tops, brings together the sport's top show jumpers to compete in 19 legs, renowned for unprecedented prize money. The Championship spans three continents, taking in some of the world's greatest cities—including Paris, London, Madrid, Miami Beach, Shanghai and Rome. Since 2018, the circuit has culminated with the final organised in Prague, the Global Champions Playoffs.*

### **About the Global Champions League**

*Created in 2016, the Global Champions League is the brainchild of its co-founders, Jan Tops and Frank H. McCourt Junior. It takes place alongside each leg of the Longines Global Champions Tour, and aims to bring together the best riders in the world in a team competition with fences standing 1m60 in height.*

*The 2019 Global Champions League features sixteen teams of six riders. For each leg, comprising two classes, the team captain chooses two riders to represent the team. A Global Champions League leg boasts two classes. The team ranking is established by adding the faults of the two combinations in all four rounds together plus both riders' times in the second round. The second class in the Global Champions League also acts as a qualifying round for the Longines Global Champions Tour Grand Prix. The 35 top riders will automatically be qualified for the weekend's leading class, the Longines Global Champions Tour Grand Prix.*

*After the 19 legs, the three best teams will be invited to the overall final, during the Prague Playoffs.*

### **About Longines**

*Longines has been based in Saint-Imier in Switzerland since 1832. Its watchmaking expertise reflects a strong devotion to tradition, elegance and performance. Longines has generations of experience as the timekeeper of world championships and as a partner of international sporting federations. Over the years, Longines has established solid, long-term relationships with the sporting world. Known for the elegance of its timepieces, Longines is a member of the Swatch Group Ltd., the world's leading manufacturer of horological products. The brand, which has a winged hourglass as its emblem, is established in over 150 countries.*

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*Press kits are available at [mediacenter.longines.com/](http://mediacenter.longines.com/)*

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- . The Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show – from 12 to 14 September 2019
- . Pampelonne Beach – Ramatuelle, Var
- . Free admission every day except on Saturday: entrance fee for the seats in the grandstands.
- . Seats in the grandstands on Saturday 14 September 2019: 30 euros for adults and 10 euros for children from 10 to 14-years-old
- . Tickets available at: [www.fnac.com](http://www.fnac.com) – [www.carrefour.fr](http://www.carrefour.fr) – [www.francebillet.com](http://www.francebillet.com)
- . Additional information: [www.athinaonassis-horseshow.com](http://www.athinaonassis-horseshow.com)

