



PLAGE DE PAMPELONNE

Route de l'Épi - Ramatuelle

FRANCE

BEN MAHER AND WINNING GOOD CLAIM THE €300,000 LGCT GRAND PRIX OF SAINT TROPEZ

RAMATUELLE, FRANCE— Pampelonne Beach may be just a short distance away, but the action inside the arena at the Longines Global Champions Tour Grand Prix of Saint Tropez was anything but laidback. Two rounds of world-class show jumping kept the packed crowds on the edge of their seats, where they watched British Olympic team gold medalist Ben Maher claim his second grand prix victory of the Longines Global Champion Tour.

Riding the 9-year-old NRPS stallion Winning Good (Winningmood van de Arenberg x Sir Corland), Maher outpaced a top class jump-off field to claim the title. The British rider was also victorious in the LGCT Grand Prix of Madrid in May on the KWPN gelding, Explosion W, and finished second with the London Knights in Saturday's GCL Final of Saint Tropez with Winning Good.

"We've had Winning Good just over a year. He was produced in England and had a very good year last year; we brought him up to the bigger classes and he jumped many, many clears," said Maher. "He's new to this level so I keep telling myself that he needs to make his mistakes and learn in the ring."

As has become a hallmark of designer Uliano Vezzani's courses throughout the week, the poles fell fast and furious during the first round of the LGCT Grand Prix of Saint Tropez. Of particular difficulty was one of the final elements on course, a combination featuring two black panels with crosses that Vezzani joked, the riders might enjoy having a bonfire with after the class.

"Uliano did a great job [designing the courses]. In this difficult field of horses and riders, you [sometimes] don't know what to build anymore, it's so high-level," said Global Champions Founder and President Jan Tops. "It's very difficult to get only between 6-8 horses in the jump-off, and I think he did a masterpiece of jump building to get that result."

Seven riders qualified for the shortened course, where Sweden's Peder Fredricson led the charge, laying down the first clear round on Hansson WL. Three riders that followed had rails, leaving only Australia's Edwina Tops-Alexander and California, Carlos Enrique Lopez Lizarazo and Admara 2, and Ben Maher with

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Winning Good to vie for the win. Surprisingly, all three riders said, despite jumping clear, their jump-off rounds did not go according to plan.

"If I could ride as good as [Uliano Vezzani's] builds, I'd probably be doing a lot better!" laughed Tops-Alexander, who ultimately finished third. "I was a little bit slow turning back to the double—I think I gave [the class] away there—but all and all, I can't complain, my horse jumped amazing."

Lopez Lizarazo, who finished second, says that for his part, he added an extra, unplanned stride between jump one and two, an error Maher had also made in the round before him.

"I ended up with one [stride] more, and then I was waiting, and the double was borderline suicidal," Maher joked. "I saw my stride a very long way back, and the closer the double was coming, it kept getting further away. I just don't know how he jumped it, to be honest, but that's the sport! It's my lucky day today."

Event Director Denis Monticolo said he couldn't be happier with the closing class of the 2018 Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show. "It's an honor to be here with these great riders and to celebrate them. I say congratulations to them and thank you to Ben, Carlos, and Edwina for this fantastic moment in sport. The weather has been incredible and we really have to appreciate the opportunity to be here in Saint Tropez."

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ABOUT THE LONGINES ATHINA ONASSIS HORSE SHOW

The event is labeled 5-stars (CSI5*), a pledge of excellence and athletic performance and is organized by Athina Onassis. The Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show moved to France in 2014, to the beautiful Pampelonne Beach in Ramatuelle, associated with international jet-setters and the "Saint-Tropez Legend".

From May 31 to June 2, 2018, the Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show will feature two different levels of competition for a total of € 617,000 in prize money. The world's best riders / horses will compete in the 6

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classes of the CSI5*, all valid for the Longines world ranking - including the leading event, the Longines Global Champions Grand Prix of Saint-Tropez, with €300,000 in prize money - and the new Global Champions League, where the best riders from the different countries will participate in teams for incredible competition during the championship season.

The 9 classes of the CSI2* will be reserved for amateur riders who will have the privilege of competing in the same arena as the best riders. A total of one hundred riders and nearly 200 horses are expected in Ramatuelle, representing more than twenty countries.

For more information, visit our website: www.athinaonassis-horseshow.com

ABOUT LONGINES - TITLE PARTNER FOR THE EVENT

Based in Saint-Imier, Switzerland, since 1832, the Longines watch making expertise reflects a strong devotion to tradition, elegance and performance. Longines has a legacy of many years of experience as a timekeeper for world sports championships or as a partner with international sports federations, developing strong, lasting ties with the world of sports. Famous for the elegance of its timepieces, Longines is a member of the Swatch Group Ltd, the world's leading manufacturer of watch making products. The brand, known for its winged hourglass logo, has outlets in over 150 countries.

For more information, visit our website: www.longines.fr

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